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## Kyiv erupts in violent clashes after “dictatorship laws” are passed

**Five protesters dead,  
 more than 1,300 injured**

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – The Euro-Maidan protest movement erupted in violent clashes this week as armed police clashed with government opponents on Hrushevsky Street, just beneath the Cabinet of Ministers building in Kyiv, resulting in at least five deaths and more than 1,300 injured protesters, as well as at least 120 injured police.

The conflict – the most violent since Ukraine re-established independence in 1991 – was ignited by draconian laws eliminating basic freedoms of speech and assembly that were approved by Parliament in a phony vote on January 16. Faced with arrest and the liquidation of the Euro-Maidan, which had been largely nonviolent, young radicals attempted to storm government buildings on January 19, igniting violence from both sides.

“The people were psychologically exhausted after they were called two months ago to a revolution that instead resulted in the establishment of a dictatorship after peaceful protest,” said Petro Oleshchuk, a political science lecturer at Shevchenko National University in Kyiv. “Out of that came complete disappointment that spilled into aggression.”

The Ukrainian government responded with a campaign of state terror in which activists were subjected to beatings, kidnappings, torture, shootings and murder carried



The scene on January 20 on Kyiv’s Hrushevsky Street, where violent clashes between the Berkut and protesters broke out on January 19 and were continuing.

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## U.S. government reacts to Kyiv’s “anti-democratic maneuvers”

by Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON – The U.S. government did not hesitate in expressing its disapproval of Ukraine’s recent actions aimed at suppressing the rights of its people to openly protest against its government’s decisions. The sharp criticism came from the White House and the State Department, as well as the U.S. Senate.



Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland testifies about developments in Ukraine before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Sitting next to her is Deputy Assistant Secretary Thomas Melia.

On January 17, a day after the Verkhovna Rada passed the controversial law aimed at curtailing protest demonstrations in Ukraine, Secretary of State John Kerry voiced his position on it to the press in his remarks prior to a meeting with Greek Foreign Affairs Minister Evangelos Venizelos at the State Department.

“The legislation that was rammed through the Rada without transparency and accountability violates all the norms of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and the EU [European Union],” with whom the Ukrainian people want be associated with in the future, he said.

“So we will continue to stay focused on this issue, but this kind of anti-democratic maneuver is extremely disturbing and should be a concern to every nation that wants to see the people of Ukraine be able to not only express their wish but see it executed through the political process,” he added.

Two days later, the White House went a step further in expressing its concern, and mentioned the possibility of U.S. sanctions if things do not improve.

In a statement released by the White House Press Office, National Security Council spokesperson Caitlin Hayden said: “We are deeply concerned by the violence taking place today on the streets of Kyiv and urge all sides to immediately de-escalate the situation.”

She said that the increasing tension in Ukraine is a direct consequence of the government failing to acknowledge the legitimate grievances of its people. “Instead, it has moved to weaken the foundations of Ukraine’s democracy by

criminalizing peaceful protest and stripping civil society and political opponents of key democratic protections under the law.”

Ms. Hayden said that Washington urges the Kyiv government “to take steps that represent a better way forward for Ukraine, including repeal of the anti-democratic legislation signed into law in recent days, withdrawing the riot police from downtown Kyiv and beginning a dialogue with the political opposition.”

From its first days, the Euro-Maidan movement “has been defined by a spirit of non-violence, and we support today’s call by opposition political leaders to re-establish that principle,” Ms. Hayden said, and added, “The U.S. will continue to consider additional steps – including sanctions – in response to the use of violence.”

### Senate hearing on crisis in Ukraine

On January 15, the day preceding the Verkhovna Rada’s vote on curtailing protest demonstrations, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing on the crisis in Ukraine which included testimony by two senior State Department officials directly involved with these issues – Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland and Deputy Assistant Secretary Thomas Melia of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor – and by former U.S. national security advisor and recognized expert on this region Zbigniew Brzezinski.

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## FOR THE RECORD: U.S. reaction to developments in Ukraine

### Passage of undemocratic legislation

Press statement by Jen Psaki, State Department spokesperson, January 16.

The United States expresses its deep concern that the Ukrainian Rada pushed through several controversial measures today without adhering to proper procedures. Some of these measures will restrict the right to peacefully protest and exercise the freedom of speech, constrain independent media, and inhibit the operation of NGOs. If Ukraine truly aspires to a European future, it must defend and advance universal democratic principles and values that underpin a Europe whole, free and at peace, and not allow them to be systematically dismantled.

We call on the government of Ukraine to ensure its legislation reflects Ukraine's democratic commitments to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the wishes of its people to exercise their fundamental freedoms of speech, assembly, and association. Both the process and the substance of the Rada's actions today cast serious doubt on Ukraine's commitment to democratic norms. A true democracy cannot function without dialogue, compromise, the right to peaceful dissent, and a legislature that enjoys the people's trust.

### Urging calm and political dialogue

Statement by U.S. Embassy Kyiv, January 19:

The United States Embassy calls for an end to ongoing violent confrontations between protestors and police in Kyiv. We urge calm and call on all sides to cease any acts provoking or resulting in violence. We further urge the government of Ukraine to immediately start negotiations with all sides to resolve the political standoff, address protestors' concerns and prevent violence from spreading. Violence only serves to foster fear and confusion, and distracts from the need for a political solution, which is the best way to carry out the will of the Ukrainian people.

### Urging de-escalation of the situation

Statement by National Security Council Spokesperson Caitlin Hayden, January 19:

We are deeply concerned by the violence taking place today on the streets of Kyiv and urge all sides to immediately de-escalate the situation. The increasing tension in Ukraine is a direct consequence of the government failing to acknowledge the legitimate griev-

ances of its people. Instead, it has moved to weaken the foundations of Ukraine's democracy by criminalizing peaceful protest and stripping civil society and political opponents of key democratic protections under the law. We urge the government of Ukraine to take steps that represent a better way forward for Ukraine, including repeal of the anti-democratic legislation signed into law in recent days, withdrawing the riot police from downtown Kyiv, and beginning a dialogue with the political opposition. From its first days, the Maidan movement has been defined by a spirit of non-violence and we support today's call by opposition political leaders to reestablish that principle. The U.S. will continue to support additional steps - including sanctions - in response to the use of violence.

### Reported deaths in street clashes

Statement by Marie Harf, deputy spokesperson of State Department, January 22:

The United States strongly condemns the increasing violence on the streets of Kyiv, which has led to casualties and the shooting deaths of two protesters. We urge all sides to immediately de-escalate the situation and refrain from violence. Increased tensions in Ukraine are a direct consequence of the Ukrainian government's failure to engage in real dialogue and the passage of anti-democratic legislation on January 16. However, the aggressive actions of members of extreme-right group Pravy Sektor are not acceptable and are inflaming conditions on the streets and undermining the efforts of peaceful protestors. We likewise deplore violence by unofficial groups known as "titushki."

We also condemn the targeted attacks against journalists and peaceful protesters, including detentions. The Maidan movement has been defined by a spirit of non-violence that we strongly support.

We urge the government of Ukraine to take steps that represent a better way forward for Ukraine, including repeal of the anti-democratic legislation and beginning a national dialogue with the political opposition. The United States has already revoked visas of several people responsible for violence, and will continue to consider additional steps in response to the use of violence by any actors.

## Reaction from around the globe

### Freedom House: Ukraine moves closer to outlawing dissent

Release dated January 16:

Freedom House strongly condemns the approval by Ukraine's Rada (Parliament) of legislation that criminalizes libel, imposes Russian-style "foreign agent" restrictions on civil society groups receiving foreign funding, and punishes civic participation in protests. Freedom House calls on the Speaker of the Rada, Volodymyr Rybak, and Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich to reject the legislation, which would violate Ukraine's commitments to uphold universal human rights.

On January 16, in violation of legislative rules and procedures, the Rada narrowly approved the legislation designed to limit dissent and opposition protests in the country and tightly regulate freedom of speech. The bill also allows authorities to fine organizers for unauthorized public meetings and the use of equipment such as stages or tents. It also expands the definition of extremism, banning the distribution of print or online

material that the government considered to be "threatening the constitutional order."

"It is disheartening to watch the democratically elected government of Ukraine moving further away from the democratic aspirations of the people of Ukraine," said David J. Kramer, president of Freedom House. "Not only was the law passed in violation of normal procedures, the Rada offered a glimpse of the dark times awaiting Ukraine if the bill is signed into the law."

### National Deputy Lesia Orobets: the ruin of democratic freedoms

Statement issued on January 16:

To whom it may concern: A really unprecedented change happened today in Ukrainian Parliament. With no regard for any legal procedure, amendments to the Criminal Code and other laws were adopted, which are aimed to ruin basic democratic freedoms.

Mass media will suffer a lot: journalists will now receive criminal punishment for

(Continued on page 15)

## NEWSBRIEFS

### U.N. commissioner condemns laws

UNITED NATIONS - According to January 21 news release, the United Nations high commissioner for human rights, Navi Pillay, has called on Ukrainian authorities to suspend implementation of new laws imposing strict conditions on the ability of antigovernment demonstrators to hold protests. In a written statement, Ms. Pillay described the package of measures as falling short of international human rights standards. She said she is "particularly concerned by the potential that these laws have to curtail the right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, the right to information, [and] the right of civil society to work freely." Ms. Pillay cited concerns over a recent law forcing NGOs that receive international funding to register as "foreign agents." The statement also described as "very worrying" the past several days of clashes in Kyiv between protesters and security forces. (RFE/RL)

### Patriarch Filaret calls for talks

KYIV - Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) on January 21 called on the president and the opposition to start direct talks to find a way out of the crisis and reminded the parties to the conflict of responsibility for the use of force. "At the moment we can confidently say that the current crisis is the worst since Ukraine's independence of 1991 ... Society is approaching a point beyond which civil war begins. Therefore, the Church calls upon the president as head of state and the opposition to immediately start direct and, most importantly, fruitful negotiations to achieve a way out of

the crisis," Patriarch Filaret said. (Ukrinform)

### Lavrov chides Ukraine opposition

MOSCOW - Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov harshly criticized Ukraine's opposition and countries in Europe for social tensions in Ukraine. Speaking at a news conference on January 21, he called the demonstrators who occupied the Kyiv mayor's building and a government building in the capital "militants" and said their behavior was beyond what would be considered acceptable in European countries. "There are pogroms now, attacks against police, arsons, Molotov cocktails, explosive devices - this is scary," Mr. Lavrov said. "This is a total violation of any European norms." Mr. Lavrov also criticized European support for Ukraine's opposition, which has rallied around the catchphrase "Euro-Maidan" to press for President Viktor Yanukovich's ouster and a return to the pro-EU path. "We would prefer that some of our European colleagues refrained from acting unceremoniously over the Ukrainian crisis, when, without any kind of invitation, members of certain European governments rush to the Maidan, take part in anti-government demonstrations in a country, with which they have diplomatic relations," Mr. Lavrov said. "It is just indecent." Mr. Lavrov called on all parties in Ukraine to engage in dialogue to resolve their differences among themselves, without meddling from outside the country. "We are convinced that internal problems of any country, including Ukraine, should be resolved through dia-

(Continued on page 15)

## U.S. Embassy revokes visas

The statement below was issued by the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv on January 22.

In response to actions taken against protestors on the Maidan in November and December of last year, the U.S. Embassy has revoked the visas of several Ukrainians who were linked to the violence. Because visa records are confidential under U.S. law,

we cannot comment on individual cases.

We would like to underscore that the Department of State has broad authority to revoke visas based on information indicating that a visa holder may be inadmissible to the United States, and we are considering further action against those responsible for the current violence.

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## ANALYSIS

# Ukraine's ruling majority slips in dangerously repressive law

by Halya Coynash

A draft law "passed" in full by the ruling majority in Parliament on January 16 criminalizes libel, labels and restricts civic associations receiving foreign grants as "foreign agents" and imposes and substantially increases liability for any forms of protest. If the draft bill is signed by the Parliamentary Chair Volodymyr Rybak and President Viktor Yanukovich, it will set Ukraine's democracy back by years. [Editor's note: The law was signed by Messrs. Rybak and Yanukovich on January 17.]

The bill was registered on January 14 by Party of Regions National Deputies Volodymyr Oliynyk and Vadym Kolesnichenko. The latter is well-known for legislative initiatives which are the worst offenses against democracy in neighboring Russia. This law is no exception.

The number of sheer procedural infringements is simply staggering. The draft bill "On Amendments to the Law on the Judicial System and Status of Judges and Procedural Laws on Additional Measures for Protecting Citizens' Safety" has not passed through any profile committees or parliamentary hearings. There have been no assessments or legal analyses, and it was voted on straight after the budget law, without any discussion. There was no electronic record of voting, but only a show of hands with no real attempt to count the actual number of votes, and a strong likelihood that national deputies recorded as having voted for the law were in fact absent (this being in breach of the law and Constitution).

## Criminalization of libel

Just over a year after mass protest forced the Party of the Regions to back down over plans to criminalize libel, these plans have been "adopted" via a law which was effectively slipped into Parliament.

The bill introduces Article 151 "Libel" to the Criminal Code. This establishes criminal liability for "deliberately circulating

knowingly false information which denigrates the honor and dignity of another person. While the penalty for this is a fine, or maximum corrective work for up to one year, the fine for libel in the media or Internet is considerably higher, from 50 to 300 times the minimum monthly wage before tax.

"Libel linked with accusations of committing a serious or particularly serious crime is punishable by corrective work from one to two years or restriction of liberty for up to two years."

While this bill does not, as it stands, propose imprisonment for libel, it is a clear offense against freedom of speech. Its immediate targets are easily guessed, given the protests over the violent dispersing of peaceful protesters on November 30, 2013, the savage attack on investigative journalist Tetiana Chornovol and others. With the courts in Ukraine increasingly subservient, all it will take is for a court ruling to formally absolve those widely suspected of liability for any public allegations against them to become criminally punishable "libel."

## "Foreign agents"

Mr. Kolesnichenko has, as usual, taken Russia as his model, for a particularly regressive step.

The draft bill passed in full only two days after being introduced increases regulation of the work of civic organizations in Ukraine. It introduces amendments to the law on civic associations, including the concept of "a civic association which fulfils the function of a foreign agent."

This applies if the organization "in order to ensure its activities receives money or property from foreign states, their state bodies, NGOs of other states, international NGOs, foreign citizens, stateless persons, or persons authorized by them who receive money or other property from the above foreign sources, and also takes part, including in the interests of foreign states, in political activities on Ukrainian territory."

Such civic organizations (which include

virtually all Ukrainian NGOs) must include in their title the term "civic organization which fulfils the functions of a foreign agent." This title will be inserted in the register of civic organizations.

Such organizations will be obliged every quarter to post on the Internet or publish in an official newspaper a report on their activities. An article will also be added to the Tax Code regarding such "foreign agents."

The law also deems civic organizations (other than political parties) as those taking part in political activities if they take part (including through financing) in the organization and holding of political protests.

Lest anybody be under any illusions about what this law is designed to prevent, "political actions" are specified as those "which are aimed at influencing decision making by state bodies, a change in the state policy which those bodies have defined, as well as forming public opinion for those purposes."

## Fighting peaceful protest

The first clauses of the bill propose amendments to the Code of Administrative Offenses which are clearly directed at imposing large penalties on peaceful protesters. Article 122 is to be supplemented with a fifth paragraph which states: "movement by a person driving a vehicle in a procession made up of more than five vehicles without agreeing the conditions and procedure of movement with the relevant division of the Internal Affairs Ministry in charge of traffic safety which created obstructions to traffic should be punishable by a fine from 40 to 50 times the minimum wage before tax, or the stripping of the person's license for a period of between one and two years with the confiscation of the vehicle, or without this." There are some seriously steep increases in fines.

It should be noted that since the Auto-Maidan car procession to outside the president's controversial residence at Mezhyhiria and other high-ranking officials' sumptuous residences on December

29, 2013, the traffic police have been actively pursuing drivers who took part. The fact that the car procession broke no laws has not stopped the traffic police, nor unfortunately Ukrainian judges, who have already stripped drivers of their licenses for up to six months.

Other restrictions include penalties up to 15 days' imprisonment ("administrative arrest") for putting up tents or wearing masks or helmets on Independence Square.

If this new law comes into force, all such legitimate peaceful protests will become unlawful since there is no likelihood at all that they will be "agreed" with the authorities. This means that any Auto-Maidan car procession or similar, containing more than five cars, will automatically be in breach of this appallingly repressive law.

## "Extremism"

The law also proposes serious penalties for what is called "extremist activities." This includes circulation of something called "extremist material" including at rallies, demonstrations, street processions, etc. Those accused of "extremist activities" will include those who provide information services, donations, property, educational, printing or material basis, telephone, fax or other forms of communications.

The penalties are draconian, from 200 to 800 times the minimum wage before tax if "committed" once, to from one to 3,000 times the minimum wage before tax, restriction of liberty or imprisonment for up to three years.

"Extremist material should be understood as documents in paper, electronic or other forms, intended for publication, which contain information of an extremist nature. That is, they call for, justify or argue in favor of the need to carry out activities to plan, organize, spur people to prepare or carry out actions aimed at a violent change or overthrow of the constitutional order, encroachment on the territorial integrity,

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## FOR THE RECORD

# Statement from human rights organizations of Ukraine

The statement below was issued by three human rights organizations of Ukraine on January 17. The groups invited other rights organizations to endorse the statement by signing it online at [helsinki.org.ua](http://helsinki.org.ua). The English translation of the statement was provided by the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group ([khpg.org](http://khpg.org)).

Law No. 3879, hastily voted on and signed on January 16, indicates that Ukraine has entered a period of reaction and obscurantism.

This law was adopted in breach of due procedure for preparation, expert assessment and consideration by the country's legislative body. The law flagrantly violates fundamental freedoms of conscience and views, speech, information, peaceful assembly, association, movement, property rights and the right to privacy. It thus ignores the relevant norms of Ukraine's Constitution and articles of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, as well as Article 22 of Ukraine's Constitution.

Of particular note is the addition made by this law to current legal language through the new term "foreign agent." This applies to those civic associations "which receive money or other property from 'foreign' sources ...and also take part, including in the interests of foreign sources, in political activities on Ukraine's territory."

A simple linguistic and legal analysis of the last sentence which uncovers the legal content of the term "foreign agent" gives grounds for believing that from now on any civic organization that receives grants from a foreign fund, embassy or organization, or donations from an individual will assume this new, discriminatory status. The law demands that civic organizations register and imposes sanctions for failure to do so.

This law infringes the most important principle of constitutional legal order, namely the principle of rule of law. It violates the constitutional rights of Ukrainian citizens and stateless persons living in Ukraine. The term "foreign agent" has the negative connotation of a sign branding a person from whom the public should expect a threat, and therefore such an orga-

nization will be subject to aggressive social ostracism, expulsion and destruction.

Let us look truth in the eye - this means that the ruling coalition has declared war on civil society.

In view of this, we would state that we have no plan to sign a capitulation agreement in a war which we did not begin. We will never agree to have the authorities push us into a social ghetto and pin a sign around our necks saying "foreign agent," like the Nazis hung a yellow Star of David on Jews during World War II.

To agree in this case to take on the status of a "foreign agent" would on our part be an insult to the memory of our great predecessors - Oleksiy Tykhy, Yuriy Lytvyn, Valeriy Marchenko, Vasyl Stus, Vyacheslav Chornovil - who gave their lives in fighting for human rights in Ukraine.

We understand the underlying motivation behind the obscurantist actions of the ruling coalition. In a state of panic-stricken fear in the present situation of wide-scale and organized public protest, they plan at any price to hold on to their privileges and to the neo-feudal structure of power and

division of property built up over the last three years.

All these unwise and shortsighted actions by the ruling coalition have one aim alone: to win the 2015 elections. It is for this reason that the coalition has already now mobilized criminal forces for fighting with the maidan, and is bringing organizations with primitive, pogrom-provoking ideology under their banners. These poachers of Ukrainian society have now targeted civic organizations which without any expense to the state create jobs and make up a significant part of the gross national product.

This is why society will be forced to move to new forms of non-violent resistance.

**Mykola Kozyrev**

head of the board of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union

**Arkady Bushchenko**

executive director of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union

**Yevhen Zakharov**

director of the Kharkiv Human Rights Group

## Kyiv erupts in violent...

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out by the Berkut special forces, turning the nation's capital into a war zone in which it became dangerous to walk at night.

The outbreak of violence threw the Euro-Maidan into a crisis, as its leaders hoped the resistance would remain nonviolent.

As their main response to dealing with the state-sponsored violence, opposition leaders declared on January 22 that they would lead the formation of a People's Council and People's Election Commission as parallel structures to the Verkhovna Rada and the Central Election Commission.

The declaration came after failed negotiations that afternoon with National Security and Defense Council Secretary Andrii Kliuyev, Justice Minister Olena Lukash and Andrii Portnov, director of the Main Administration of Judicial Issues of the Presidential Administration.

They also set an ultimatum to the government to either hold pre-term elections or face an offensive strike, without elaborating what form that strike would take.

"We have two paths: the first is to stop the bloodshed, criminally prosecute all those who killed people and save

the lives of each person on this Maidan and in Ukraine," Arseniy Yatsenyuk, parliamentary faction chair of the Batkivshchyna party, declared from the Maidan stage on January 22.

"24 hours are left for that path. If that won't happen, then I'll say for myself... I'm not going to live with shame. Tomorrow we're going forward: if a bullet to the head, then a bullet to the head. But honestly, justly and bravely," he yelled to thunderous approval of the Maidan crowd.

Much evidence mounted that the government was planning for thousands of police to engage in a forceful dispersal of the Maidan that evening. State offices in the city center released their employees two hours early and an armored personnel carrier was brought into the city center for the first time, along with thousands of police.

Yet more than 50,000 supporters responded to the call of opposition leaders to protect the Maidan, swarming it amidst falling snow and cold (16 degrees Fahrenheit) for the 6 p.m. "viche" (public meeting). The Maidan remained intact by the next morning.

"Pre-term elections will change the situation without blood," Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform (UDAR) Chair Vitali Klitschko said from the stage during the viche, addressing President Viktor Yanukovich.

"We will do everything to achieve this. Listen to the people. Don't ignore them. If you don't listen to the people, they will do everything so that you hear them. Tomorrow, if the president doesn't attempt to compromise, we will go on the offensive. There's no other way out," he underscored.

What have been labeled the "dictatorship laws," signed by President Viktor Yanukovich on January 17, created the legal pretext for the government to launch a widely anticipated mass police operation to forcibly clear the Euro-Maidan territory in central Kyiv occupied by the opposition, namely the capital's main boulevard – the Khreshchatyk, the Kyiv City Council building and Independence Square (Maidan), including the adjacent Trade Union Building that serves as the Euro-Maidan's headquarters.

The laws outlawed the Euro-Maidan's unique nonviolent protest methods, such as mass auto caravans – known as the Auto-Maidan protest – to the suburban mansions of ruling politicians and oligarchs and exposing corrupt police and judges on the Internet. They sought to eliminate defense tactics, such as wearing helmets and masks, as well as the free and fast exchange of photos and videos via the Internet.

The dictatorship laws came as a surprise to opposition national deputies, who had been blocking the parliamentary presidium and tribune that week to prevent the approval of the 2014 state budget. The morning of the January 16 vote, they blocked Verkhovna Rada Chair Volodymyr Rybak in his own office.

The majority pulled off the budget's approval by designating Verkhovna Rada First Vice-Chair Igor Kaletnik to lead the vote from his seat in the last row of the session hall, surrounded by his colleagues.

The majority's attempts to get more laws passed failed as opposition deputies began swiping the voting cards of their opponents, prompting Mr. Kaletnik to announce that Parliament would hold all further votes by a show of hands because the opposition was stealing cards and blocking the tribune.

Party of Regions National Deputy Volodymyr Oliinyk, the chair of the counting committee who also co-sponsored the main dictatorship bill (No. 3879), declared that a 235-vote majority had approved the legislation within seconds of the deputies' hands being raised, obvious to all that it was impossible for him to have counted them all, let alone accurately.

Mr. Oliinyk admitted as much in a hromadske.tv interview on January 21, stating, "In such conditions, when they began to interfere with voting even with personally raised hands, we adopted the principle of which factions support this decision." He was referring to the total number of Party of Regions and Communist Party deputies in Parliament.

Another eight bills were subsequently approved this way, including tougher restrictions on soccer fans, tougher traffic laws, in absentia prosecution of criminal defendants, as well as criminal responsibility "for denying or justifying fascist crimes" and "the destruction of monuments erected in memory of those who fought against Nazism in the second world war, Soviet liberators, participants of the partisan movement, members of the underground, victims of Nazi persecutions, as well as international fighters and peacekeepers."

Amidst the session's chaos, Party of Regions National Deputy Volodymyr Malyshev had his forehead bloodied by a fellow faction member who was trying to injure an oppo-



**Serhii Nihoyan, an Armenian from a town outside of Dnipropetrovsk, was one of two people killed by sniper fire on January 22.**

sition deputy, reported Batkivshchyna National Deputy Oleksander Bryhynets.

Needless to say, the opposition leaders declared the session an example of how the government has ruined democracy in Ukraine.

"After what happened in Parliament, Ukraine can soon become a dictatorship, and the single way to avoid this is the active opposition of its citizens," Mr. Klitschko said.

The dictatorship laws were part of a government plan to provoke the opposition into violence, some observers said, which is where the government has a clear advantage with its exclusive access to firearms and professionally trained fighters.

"The opposition was forced to either strengthen the protest and formally become criminals, or remain aside and become traitors in the eyes of its supporters," Mr. Oleshchuk said. "The situation is almost unwinnable. The opposition is rapidly losing its authority. But the government showed its voters 'Banderite horrors,' mobilizing them."

The frustration with the dictatorship laws was palpable among the tens of thousands attending the weekly viche on January 19. Opposition leaders had been squabbling with each other in the last weeks, without having produced any concessions from the government through their two-month non-violent campaign.

Several signs in the crowd declared, "Plan of Action!!!" Dmytro Bulatov, leader of the Euro-Maidan, demanded that the political leaders declare a Euro-Maidan leader, which was followed by chants of "Klitschko" and "Tiahnybok."

"It's obvious that they simply couldn't propose an effective plan and were also afraid to disband the Maidan," said Mr. Oleshchuk, assessing the actions of the opposition leaders during the last two months.

"They didn't know what to do, which is why they allowed the situation to unfold as it did. Obviously, there was a lack of leadership and unpreparedness for responsibility."

The crowd's frustration reached its peak when Mr. Yatsenyuk offered as his response to the calls for a leader, "There is a leader here. It's the Ukrainian people!"

"One of my friends couldn't restrain herself and simply began hysterically laughing on the street," Taras Vozniak, a Lviv editor, wrote on his blog. "A patriot to her bones and blood, she couldn't take it. Laughter amidst tears."

The plan of action offered by the opposition leaders was to launch a People's Council made up of opposition deputies, returning to the 2004 Constitution that split authority between the president and prime minister and eliminating single-mandate voting districts in the parliamentary elections.

They also proposed pre-term presidential elections organized by the citizenry, which would also hold elections for the Kyiv City Council and its chair. Yet that wasn't enough to pacify the radically oriented portion of the opposition.

A few hundred activists belonging to Pravyi Sektor, a coalition of nationalist organizations, decided to take things into their own hands, leading thousands from the Euro-Maidan to Hrushevsky Street in what is now largely viewed as a senseless attempt to storm the Cabinet of Ministers and Parliament higher up on the slope.

In their way stood several hundred Internal Army soldiers with shields, whom the radicals began beating with wooden sticks.

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## Prohibitions, punishments of new "dictatorship laws"

*KYIV – What have been dubbed the "dictatorship laws" approved by Parliament on January 16 in dubious fashion make crimes out of the following activities, according to Chesno, a non-governmental organization that monitors the state's legislative activity.*

- Driving in caravans of five or more participants will result in loss of driver's license and vehicle for two years.
- Operating an information agency without state registration – confiscation of equipment and materials, with a large fine.
- Participation in peaceful assemblies in helmets, uniforms, masks and with an open flame or pyrotechnic devices – up to 10 days' arrest.
- Setting up tents, stages or speakers without police permission – up to 15 days' arrest.
- Disrespecting a judge – 15 days' arrest.
- Violating Internet access restrictions – \$830 fine.
- Failing to fulfill the demands of Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) agents – \$244 fine.
- Blocking access to a residence – up to six years' incarceration.
- Criminal slander – up to two years' imprisonment.
- Distributing extremist literature – up to three years' imprisonment.
- Violation of civic order in a group – two years' imprisonment.
- Participation in a mass disturbance – 10-15 years' imprisonment.
- Collecting information about Berkut special forces and judges – up to three years' imprisonment.
- Threatening a police officer – up to seven years' imprisonment
- Civic organizations and churches cannot be involved in "extremist activity."
- Financing the political activity of a civic organization requires state permission.
- A defendant can be convicted and sentenced in absentia.
- National deputies can be deprived of their immunity and arrested during parliamentary sessions.
- A car's owner, in addition to the driver, can be held responsible for traffic violations.
- The government establishes the conditions of peaceful assemblies 24 hours before their launch.
- The police are no longer required to file a report in an arrest.
- Confirmation of receiving a summons no longer requires just a signature, but any other information.
- "Foreign agents," or non-governmental organizations financed by foreign funds, pay a tax.
- Police and authorities who committed crimes against Euro-Maidan activists are freed from criminal responsibility.

– Zenon Zawada

## 2013: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### Academia: a focus on the Holodomor

Being the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor, 2013 was notable for the many conferences, events and projects commemorating this historic genocide.

In commemoration of the anniversary of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) Press published "The Holodomor Reader," the first comprehensive English-language source-book on this tragedy of the Ukrainian people. The materials are grouped in six sections: scholarship; legal assessments, findings and resolutions; eye-witness accounts and memoirs; survivor testimonies, memoirs, diaries, and letters; documents; and works of literature. Each section is prefaced with introductory remarks describing the contents. The book also contains a bibliographic note and a map showing the intensity of the famine by region.

Only recently has much of this material become available to the public through the tireless efforts of Ukrainian scholars who, from a huge and scattered array of materials, selected 200 texts that in their totality fulfill the following objectives: 1) present a "broad picture of the Holodomor" from a variety of sources and perspectives; 2) provide the larger context of the event and resulting consequences, particularly through the perceptions of contemporaries outside the borders of Ukraine; and 3) "highlight the national characteristics and consequences of the Famine and its relation to nationalism and the nationality question in the Soviet Union."

The CIUS at the University of Alberta on February 25 announced the establishment of the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium (HREC), made possible by a generous gift of \$1,062,000 from the Temerty Family Foundation based in Toronto. The mandate of the HREC, which began its work in January, is to research, study, publish and disseminate information about the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, ensuring that the Ukrainian experience receives greater recognition in society at large and that it is represented in the teaching of history and genocide.

Approximately 50 educators, community activists and students from Canada and the United States gathered on May 10-12 in Toronto for the Holodomor Education Conference – the first conference in North America devoted to the teaching of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. The conference was organized by the HREC of the CIUS, together with the National Holodomor Education Committee (NHEC), Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center (UCRDC) and St. Vladimir Institute, with generous support from the BCU Foundation and the Ukrainian Credit Union. A line-up of experts shared knowledge and experience on the following topics: "Promoting Inclusion of the Holodomor in Curricula," "Teaching Methodologies and Approaches," "Commemorating Holodomor Memorial Day," "New Resources and Introduction to the Holodomor Workbook and Teaching Kit" and "The Holodomor and Emerging Technologies." The conference was designed to encourage the active exchange of ideas,



The establishment of the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium at the University of Alberta was announced on February 25. Its executive and staff members are (from left): Andriy Makuch, Bohdan Klid, Marta Baziuk, Valentyna Kuryliw and Frank Sysyn.

with numerous small group discussions that allowed participants to build on what speakers had presented at each session.

Back in 2010 the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) had launched a new project, "The Atlas of the Holodomor" which, according to its head, Dr. Serhii Plokhii, the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History at the History Department of Harvard, can contribute to the understanding of the nature and repercussions of that tragic event. It is an interactive Geographic Information Systems (GIS)-based series of maps of the Great Ukrainian Famine. Dr. Plokhii discussed the progress of the project during an interview in 2013. The short-term goal of the atlas project sets a priority for producing a pilot set of maps that will highlight key topics: demographic losses, the extent of the use of punitive measures against those who failed to meet highly inflated state grain quotas and changes in the ethnic composition of the most affected areas. But this is only the first step in a much more ambitious project, which will include digitized maps of Ukraine in many different periods. The main goal of the project is to present various types of data pertinent to understanding the nature and effects of the Holodomor in a comprehensive and coherent manner, and to use all of the advantages of a cartographic interface to discern chronological, spatial and other kinds of relationships that are not immediately obvious. The atlas was conceived as an ongoing interdisciplinary, multilingual, interactive, web-based resource that will be updated and expanded constantly as new data become available. It is meant to serve as a depository of all the available and relevant Holodomor data, and to introduce academic and general audiences to unique visual forms of data analysis. It is also designed to assist in the study of such often controversial matters as the scale of demo-

graphic losses, the root causes of the Famine and the issue of genocide.

New research on the Holodomor was accentuated at the conference of the Canadian Association of Slavists (CAS) held at the University of Victoria in Victoria, British Columbia, on June 1-3. At the annual conference, CIUS scholars associated with the Toronto-based Holodomor Research and Education Consortium organized a panel on "The Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933: Metamorphosis, Politics and Acknowledgement." The first paper titled, "The Metamorphosis of a Famine: Or, How the Famine of 1931-1932 Became the Holodomor of 1932-1933," was presented by Bohdan Klid; it included excerpts from Soviet government and Communist Party documents, featuring correspondence between Stalin and Lazar Kaganovich, supporting the contention that a famine that began in late 1931 was transformed over time into the Holodomor and that this was an act of deliberate starvation.

Andriy Makuch's presentation on "Academic Aspects of the 1980s North American Ukrainian Famine Awareness Campaign" examined four efforts to increase knowledge about the Famine during its 50th anniversary in the early 1980s. Notwithstanding its achievements, Mr. Makuch continued, the Famine awareness campaign was attacked by critics, who charged that the Famine issue was being raised to deflect attention from the question of Ukrainian participation in the Holocaust. The third presentation, by Serge Cipko, was titled "The Famine of 1932-1933 and the Question of the Admission of the USSR to the League of Nations." Two other papers on collectivization in Ukraine were delivered at the CAS conference. Jars Balan of CIUS gave a paper on "Collectivizing the Peasantry of Ukraine as Reported by the Mainstream Canadian Press, 1928-1932" and Olga Bertelson of the University of Nottingham presented a paper on "Concealing the Realities of Collectivization in Ukraine from Foreign Journalists: The State, Secrecy and the Soviet Secret Police, 1928-1933."

"Contextualizing the Holodomor – A Conference on the 80th Anniversary" was organized by the HREC in Toronto on September 29-30. The aim of the conference was to examine the Holodomor in several different contexts, including Soviet history, Stalinism and genocide. Norman Naimark (Stanford University), author of the book "Stalin's Genocides," enumerated its six aspects of how "the Holodomor fits well into the general taxonomy of genocide." To encourage graduate students to pursue studies and research on the Holodomor and other Ukrainian topics, the HREC provided 17 young scholars with stipends to support their attendance at the conference and engage with the leading specialists. Among them were present graduate students in psychology, sociology, law, theater, film and political science. At the conclusion of the conference the HREC presented Roman Serbyn (University of Quebec at Montreal) with an award (a reproduction of the Holodomor monument in Kyiv) in recognition of his contributions to the study and understanding of the Holodomor.

A landmark conference presenting new research and newly discovered information about the Holodomor, or



Dr. Andrea Graziosi of the University of Naples and author/columnist Anne Applebaum speak at the conference "Taking Measure of the Holodomor," which was held in New York on November 5-6.



Alexander Balaban/CUSUR

## 2013: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, brought more than 50 prominent scholars from around the globe to the Princeton University Club of New York on November 5-6. The two-day conference, titled "Taking Measure of the Holodomor," was part of the Ukrainian Historical Encounters Series, whose program coordinator is Dr. Walter Zaryckyj, executive director of the Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations. It was presented by the center in collaboration with the HURI, CIUS, HREC and National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

Day one focused on why, how and where the genocide occurred. The conference opened with "A First Word Concerning the 'Great Famine of 1932-1933,'" featuring Prof. Mark von Hagen (Arizona State University), who provided the historical background and context for the discussions that were to follow. Dr. Lubomyr Hajda (Harvard University), who served as chair for the conference opening, noted the importance of moving Ukrainian studies more into the realm of comparative studies, stating the need to look at the policies that created the Holodomor. Dr. Serbyn (University of Quebec at Montreal) continued by noting that there had been attempts to explain the famine as the result of economic policy, however, Soviet leaders did not want to simply starve Ukrainian peasants but to destroy the Ukrainian nation.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Anne Applebaum, who is now working on a book about the Holodomor, was the featured speaker. Ms. Applebaum said she is interested in pursuing the motivations and mechanisms behind the Famine, while Dr. Robert Kusnierz (Pomeranian University, Poland) provided the Polish perspective on the Holodomor, citing reports by Polish diplomats in Ukraine. Dr. Oleh Wolowyna (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Center for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research of Ukrainians in the U.S. Shevchenko Scientific Society) pointed out that there still are many original documents stored in different archives and this has revitalized the search for and analysis of these documents, while Cheryl Madden (Shevchenko Scientific Society) cited the lack of records on deaths, or even sizes of families, which makes it hard to come up with a "definitive number" for the number of the Holodomor's victims.

On view during the conference was an exhibit of historic news reports, publications and books about the Holodomor that was prepared by the Ukrainian National Association. On the evening of the conference's first day, November 5, The Ukrainian Museum was the venue for a special program on the theme "The Holodomor's Impact on General Political Discourse Over the Decades," which was hosted by Valentina Kuryliw, director of education for the HREC. Herman Pirchner, president of the American Foreign Policy Council, was the featured speaker. The evening also included "A Tribute to Pioneers of Holodomor Awareness" that recognized the work of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America in relief efforts and awareness campaigns at the time of the Famine-Genocide and in subsequent decades, as well as the key role of attorney Victor Rud in the campaign to air a special about the Holodomor on William F. Buckley Jr.'s TV show "Firing Line."

Day two (November 6) of the scholarly forum "Taking Measure of the Holodomor" explored social, psychological, economic and legal aspects of Holodomor. The two-day conference at the Princeton University Club ended with sessions on remorse and reconciliation, and future challenges and approaches to the study of this genocide. Oxana Shevel (Tufts University) noted how the discourse on the Holodomor has evolved through the years, always dictated by those in power. The term "genocide," when referring to the Holodomor, wasn't even used by the leadership until 2003. President Viktor Yushchenko took it to a new level under his leadership, including the establishment of criminal charges for the denial of the Holodomor, Prof. Shevel said, while under President Viktor Yanukovich, there was a notable shift and the genocidal nature of the Holodomor was denied. Dr. George Grabowicz of Harvard University noted that the Holodomor is unique among genocides, because for 30 to 40 years after the Famine-Genocide, the victims praised the regime responsible. This type of "Stockholm Syndrome" is a result of suppressed knowledge, the lack of national identity and symptoms of historical amnesia that will eventually phase out with Ukraine's Europeanization.

That evening, more than 100 people attended the



Prof. Marta Dyczok (right) speaks on August 23 at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum about the plight of Ukrainian forced laborers repatriated to the Soviet Union after World War II.

Holodomor commemorative event at the Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA), hosted by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA). The Student Organization of Mykola Mikhnovsky (TUSM) prepared a reading of Holodomor victims' names from just one village in Ukraine.

The HREC organized a scholarly conference in Toronto on November 27-28 to mark the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor. In addition, the HREC developed training modules aimed at history and social studies teachers and is working with teachers' associations and school boards to ensure that the Holodomor is addressed during professional development days at the provincial and board levels. The plan is to prepare and disseminate authoritative and accessible Holodomor resources for students, educators, schools, school boards, ministries and other institutions and engage in ongoing outreach activities to support the inclusion of the Famine-Genocide in school curricula.

### Conferences, major lectures

The Ukrainian Studies Program, Harriman Institute at Columbia University organized a conference titled "Braking' News: Censorship, Media and Ukraine" in New York City on February 21-22. The conference gathered the world's top analysts on Ukrainian media at Columbia for two days to examine the contemporary state and functioning of Ukrainian media.

Andriy Kulykov, host of the "Svoboda Slova" (Freedom of Speech) talk show on ICTV Ukraine, delivered the keynote address on "Ukrainian Media: Old Pressures, New Challenges." He clarified that it is not direct interference, but the ownership of media outlets that is most dangerous. He also cautioned that change will only come from within, regardless of international monitoring. Anastasiia Grynko, who holds a Ph.D. in journalism and teaches at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, stated that ethics don't exist in Ukraine. The most popular channels are owned by oligarchic clans and the state plays a secondary role in the pressure placed on media freedoms. Volodymyr Kulyk, research fellow at Harvard University and at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, noted that younger people are more inclined to read Ukrainian better than those who are the product of the old Soviet identity. The conference concluded with a screening of the film, "Ukraine: When the Countdown Began" (2011 by Serhiy Bukovsky), presented by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk of Columbia University.

In light of the political developments in Ukraine, Ukrainian language politics was a timely topic to explore in greater detail at the biennial Petro Jacyk Memorial Symposium, held in February at the HURI. Titled "Politics of Language in Contemporary Ukraine: Practices, Identities, Ideologies," the symposium featured six distinguished speakers from the United States, Canada and Ukraine, who presented the results of their most recent research in this area of sociolinguistics and political science.

Aneta Pavlenko (Temple University) spoke about the impact of language policies on young Ukrainians. Debra A. Friedman (Indiana University) stated that "in post-independent Ukraine the meaning of 'ridna mova' (native

language) is undergoing a subtle shift that is tied to a change in the referent for the term 'Ukrainian,' which no longer refers solely to an ethnic category, but also to a civic category based on citizenship." The conclusion reached by the speakers is that no matter what laws politicians enact or what conclusions scholars come to, the fate of the language is ultimately in the hands of the people who choose to use or discard it.

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Institute of Historical Research (IHR) at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, a conference was held on March 14-15 on "19th and 20th Century Ukrainian History: New Approaches and Interpretations." Presentations and discussions focused on the following themes: Church history, the first and second world wars, Ukrainian history after the collapse of the Soviet Union and Ukraine's independence, and an examination of the Ukrainian national movement, focusing on biographical studies of its various leaders. With reference to the last conference topic, a launch was held to mark the publication of the first volume of the collected works of the prominent social activist and scholar Mykhailo Zubrytsky (1856-1919).

The 50th anniversary of the W. K. Lypynsky East European Research Institute was marked by a grand celebration at the institute's headquarters in Philadelphia. This was also the 25th anniversary of the death of one of the institute's founders, Eugene Zyblykevych. Dr. Zenon Kohut gave a presentation on March 17 in memory of Mr. Zyblykevych titled "Habent sua fata libelli: The Long Road of Two Monographs Devoted to Hetman Petro Doroshenko." He presented an intriguing history of two biographies of Hetman Doroshenko (1665-1676), one written by a distant relative, the famous Ukrainian historian and political figure Dmytro Doroshenko (1882-1951), the other by the Polish scholar Jan Perdenia (1898-1973). The texts of both monographs barely survived and were not published until decades after the deaths of their authors. Both monographs provided a basis for the most recent study of the life and work of Hetman Doroshenko issued in 2011 by the Ukrainian historians Valerii Smolii and Valerii Stepankov.

In 2013 Ukraine was the chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and among the main topics of its leadership, Ukraine chose trafficking of human beings, a very real problem not only for Ukraine but for all OSCE member countries. The University of Alberta's CIUS on March 22 brought together scholars, community groups and government officials from Ukraine and Canada to find ways to solve the problem of human trafficking in Ukraine. Researchers in women's and gender studies, law and political science were among the participants spending the day defining the scope of the problem and searching for solutions. Political science professor Siobhan Byrne said that a comprehensive approach to the issues of human trafficking involves examining the local, national and international dimensions to get at the root causes.

Serhii Plokhii, the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard University, shared his insights on why Russia allowed the Soviet Union to fall

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apart during a Kennan Institute discussion on April 29 at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington. Some of his conclusions were based on new source material he found in Russian and Ukrainian archives, as well as in the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library in Texas. Contrary to the popular view that the disintegration of the Soviet Union was due to a loss of power of the Communist Party, Dr. Plokhii believes that the Soviet Union “was defeated at the ballot box” in Ukraine in 1991, when more than 90 percent of the participants in the national referendum voted for Ukraine’s independence. Once Ukraine voted for independence, Russia did not want to remain in a union with the remaining majority of Muslim states.

World War II displaced or made homeless more than 30 million Europeans, among them millions of Ukrainians. Their plight and how their lives evolved since then was the subject of a two-week workshop in Washington at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, that brought together an international team of specialists to discuss how they can integrate their research findings and illuminate the profound human cost of that war and its aftermath. Prof. Marta Dyczok of the University of Western Ontario, who spoke on August 23, stated that one of the problems she and her colleagues encountered in their research of this subject was that most of these refugees and immigrants did not always have the opportunity to put their remembrances on the historical record. And that was especially true for the largest such group – the “Ostarbeiter,” forced laborers from the East under German rule. Most of them were repatriated after the war – some by force, some voluntarily. Prof. Dyczok noted that the official Soviet line was that they were liberated, welcomed home, given housing and jobs, and were enjoying a wonderful life, when in fact, “they were treated as traitors, they were reclassified into the Red Army, into labor battalions...and their narratives are only now starting to come out.”

The Ukrainian National Museum (UNM), located in the heart of Chicago’s Ukrainian Village, was the setting for the third annual conference of the Ukrainian Heritage Consortium of North America (UHCNA), with representatives from key Ukrainian museums and libraries from the United States and Canada. The three-day conference convened on October 4, with a tour of the impressive collections and exhibits of the UNM and the opening of the exhibit “Artists Respond to Genocide,” commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor, at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA). Sessions included technical presentations by museum professionals and a discussion of next year’s plans by individual museums and the consortium to commemorate the bicentennial of Taras Shevchenko’s birth in 2014. A lively panel discussion “The Life of Ukrainian Books” addressed the future of Ukrainian libraries and books in the diaspora, and the challenges of preserving precious items from private collections.

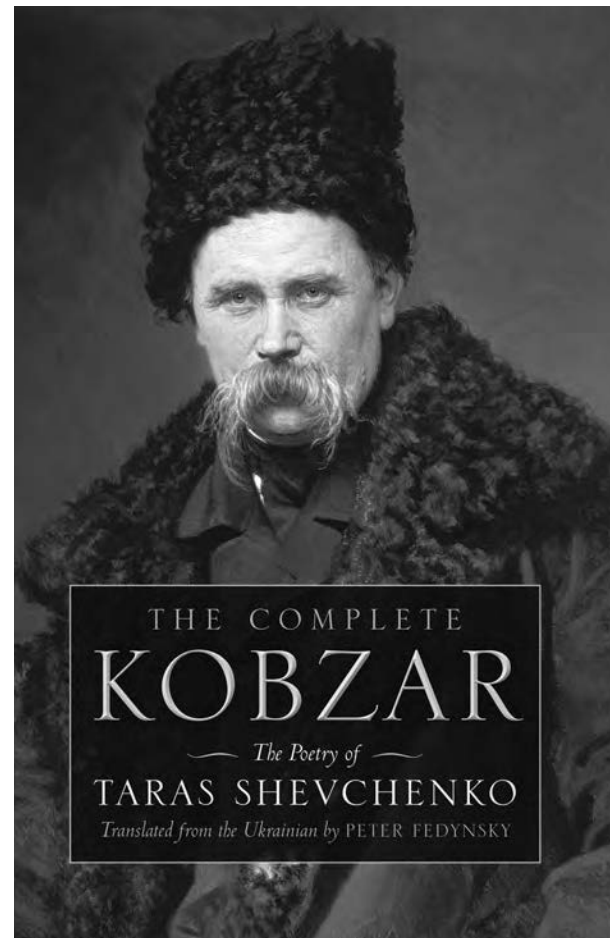
### University news

Dr. Taras Dobko, senior vice-rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), announced at a January 12 meeting in Chicago that UCU had received its re-accreditation from the Ukrainian Ministry of Education after an extensive accreditation process. Although the university has won international acclaim for the excellence of its programs and for its firm commitment to academic freedom, the ministry required the university to undergo a rigorous review before granting re-accreditation. Dr. Dobko reported that the ministry also approved the university’s request to open two new programs: one in psychology and another in IT management.

Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y., and the National University of Ostroh Academy, in Ukraine have established a cooperative relationship to promote the development of collaborative educational projects for the benefit of both institutions’ faculty members, departments, institutes, and students. The Memorandum of Understanding signed on January 22 envisions faculty exchanges for teaching and research projects and internships for professional and administrative staff. It is anticipated that study and research opportunities will also be explored for undergraduate and graduate students as well as joint sponsorship of courses, short-term educational programs, conferences, seminars, research projects and applications for governmental and foundation funding.

As of February 1, Dr. Heather Coleman is the new director of the Research Program on Religion and Culture at the CIUS. Dr. Coleman is a historian of religion in Ukraine and Russia. She is an associate professor and Canada Research Chair in Imperial Russian History in the Department of History and Classics at the University of Alberta. “Under my leadership,” says Dr. Coleman, “the program will continue to support the sanctuary project, while also encouraging exploration of religion in contemporary Ukrainian life, on the one hand, and the relationship between religion and region in Ukraine, past and present, on the other.”

During the week of February 11 to 16, over three dozen Ukrainian universities met in Kyiv and Lviv with a delegation of 12 Canadian universities. There they expressed their desire and willingness to cooperate both in faculty and graduate student exchanges and joint research projects. Three specific suggestions were given on how best to establish a system that would benefit the faculty and students from many institutions in various regions of Canada and Ukraine. First, many agreed that thematic consortia or networks of researchers should be financed, created and allowed to manage themselves. Second, many speakers referred to Ukraine’s experience with double diplomas and encouraged Canadians to use this method more actively. A third suggestion was that universities might also develop a system of distance education to allow greater access for more students to participate and save students some of the costs of travel, learning materials and housing.



Cover of the first-ever English translation of Taras Shevchenko’s complete “Kobzar.” Peter Fedynsky’s translation was presented at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York on October 11.

From March 10 to 17 eleven students from Fordham University met with faculty and students of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv. During their weeklong stay, they attended lectures on Ukrainian history and politics and interacted with young people to understand how much they are engaged in the political processes of the country. As part of the course “Youth and Politics,” students were required to compare political behavior and attitudes of Ukrainian and American youth.

The Kyiv Mohyla Business School (KMBS) launched Ukraine’s only MBA program focused on the needs and characteristics of corporate governance and management of the agricultural sector. Food and agribusiness relate to one of the largest industries in Ukraine and in the world. The program aims to prepare Ukraine’s executives and managers in the agricultural sector to successfully lead in today’s complex food and agribusiness marketplace, and to promote general business management expertise, as well as industry-specific knowledge. This is the first such program in Ukraine, a country that has long been known in the world as one of the most powerful players in the agricultural market. News of the program appeared in April.

Although at that time they were tackling organizational, technical, and financial challenges, CIUS announced in August that in early 2014 it would launch a new online scholarly journal, East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies, which will replace two venerable publications – Skhid/Zakhid (East/West), issued by the Kowalsky Eastern Ukrainian Institute in Kharkiv since 1998, and the Journal of Ukrainian Studies, published by CIUS since 1976. Dr. Oleh S. Ilyntzkyj, professor of Ukrainian literature in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta, has been appointed editor of the new journal. The aim is to create an attractive venue for scholars, who will see their work published in timely fashion and disseminated widely, as well as a valuable resource for readers and researchers around the globe. Journal of Ukrainian Studies will be a scholarly, peer-reviewed, online periodical publishing original research articles, reviews and review articles. Submission of previously unpublished work by academics, graduate students and policy-makers will be encouraged. Although this will not be an open-access journal, it will be inexpensive for individuals to access through the Internet on computers and mobile devices.

On October 11, at the Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA) in New York, Peter Fedynsky, now retired from his over 30-year career as a journalist, introduced the first-ever English translation of the entire “Kobzar,” Taras Shevchenko’s iconic collection of poetry. The book presentation was one in a series of events the UIA has



Fordham University students, in Lviv to visit the Ukrainian Catholic University, pose in front of the city’s opera house during their visit to the Ukrainian city on March 10-17.

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planned to mark the bicentennial of Shevchenko's birth in 2014. Mr. Fedynsky sees parallels between the dark side of life in Shevchenko's day as described in the "Kobzar" and the social and political upheavals in today's Ukraine. Still, said Mr. Fedynsky, despite the "downers," Shevchenko leaves the reader "with a sense of beauty and hope that those problems can and will be solved." Of added interest to non-Ukrainians, Mr. Fedynsky noted, Shevchenko's poetry spans a broad geography, taking the reader "on a journey involving about 20 countries." While previous translations of some of Shevchenko's poetry tried to retain the rhyme of the original work, Mr. Fedynsky opted for free verse. So, "instead of focusing on how Shevchenko wrote, I decided to translate what he wrote."

As part of the inauguration of the forthcoming celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, with the support of the UIA, presented a festive evening with a book launch and piano recital devoted to its patron. The celebration took place on November 9, at the UIA in New York City. Two new publications prepared by the society especially for the bicentennial were presented: the three-volume edition of Shevchenko's "Haidamaky," which includes a facsimile of the original 1841 edition, Oles Fedoruk's historical account "The Making of the Book" and Dr. Grabowicz's literary study "The Poem and Its Critical Reception"; and the first volume of the magisterial collection "Taras Shevchenko: The Critical Reception (1839-1861)" encompassing all published references to Shevchenko during his lifetime and in the year of his death. In addition, there was a solo musical performance of works that resonate with Shevchenko's oeuvre by the award-winning pianist and Shevchenko Scientific Society grant recipient Pavlo Gintov.

### Research

A group of six interviews, videotaped in August of 1989 by Prof. Peter J. Potichnyj, surfaced as the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center (UCRDC) continues with the digitization of its archives. The interviews tell the story of 10 Dutch officers who escaped a German POW camp in Stanislav (today's Ivano-Frankivsk) in 1944 and were rescued by the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA). Their stories of the rescue were recorded as part of the UCRDC World War II Oral History project. In their interviews, the Dutch officers shared their stories about the hospitality and generosity of the Ukrainians they met in their wanderings in the vicinity of the Black Forest. News about the project was published in February.

An objective survey of religious affiliation and practice of the Ukrainian diaspora in the United States was undertaken in the winter and spring of 2012 to gain an understanding of why Ukrainian church membership in North America is in such a steep decline. Results of the survey were reported in *The Ukrainian Weekly* in February 2013. Although they serve, respectively, as chairwoman and vice-chairman of the Ukrainian Patriarchal Society, Roma Hayda and Andrew Sorokowski decided to conduct this survey as private individuals, in order to avoid any appearance of bias. In all, 221 responses were received. Although it is not a sufficiently large sample to be representative of Ukrainian Americans, it did allow a suggestion of some trends. The organizers hope that in the near future, professional sociologists will undertake a more thorough and methodologically sophisticated survey of religious affiliation, attitudes and practices of the Ukrainian diaspora in the United States to better understand the shifts in our communities.

### Commemorating a scholar

The Ukrainian American community of the Greater Washington area honored the memory of the prominent Ukrainian literary scholar Hryhoriy Kostiuk on the occasion of the 110th anniversary of his birth. The commemoration, organized by the Washington chapters of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences (known by its Ukrainian acronym as UVAN) in the U.S. and the Shevchenko Scientific Society, with the assistance of his son Theodor Kostiuk, was held April 4. The event, which included a photo and publications exhibit and lectures, was preceded by a panakhyda. A similar commemoration took place December 8, at the UVAN building in New York City. Prof. Kostiuk's academic and literary work spanned close to 80 years. He became known and respected for his relentless work in collecting, editing, publishing and preserving the works of important Ukrainian writers.

## Arts and culture: screens, stages and more

### Screen and Stage

Arts and culture events kicked off in 2013 with the February 3 premiere of Ukrainian American filmmaker Andrea Odezynska's documentary "Felt, Feelings and Dreams" at the Princeton Environmental Film Festival. The film, made in collaboration with the Yara Arts Group, follows Kyrgyz women as they make traditional felt rugs ("shydraks"). Other Ukrainians collaborating on the project included musicians Andriy Milavsky and Slau Halatyn, who provided music for the score.

The fourth Kinofest NYC film festival, which highlights independent films from Ukraine and the broader post-Soviet region, began at the Ukrainian Institute of America. Other films were screened at the Anthology Film Archives and The Ukrainian Museum, with screenings held April 4-7. The festival featured 25 films screened during 11 sessions, including the premiere screenings of "Pit No. 8" by Estonian Marianna Kaat, "Business As Usual" by Valentyn Vasyanovych and Iya Myslytska. Ms. Odezynska's film was also screened at the festival.

Actresses Nina Arianda and Olga Kurylenko, pianist Anna Shelest and ballet dancers Christine Shevchenko, Denis Matvienko, Irina Dvorovenko and professional dancer Valentin Chmerkovskiy were profiled by Helen Smindak in our June 30-July 7 issue.

Ms. Arianda was to star in "Tales From Red Vienna" at the Manhattan Theater Club March 18 through April 20. In 2013 she was chosen for the title role as Janis Joplin for the upcoming film "Joplin," wrapped up filming of "The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby" and "Lucky Them," and made a guest appearance on an episode of the NBC sitcom "30 Rock." Ms. Kurylenko, a Berdiansk native, appeared in the 2013 films "To the Wonder," starring Ben Affleck, and "Oblivion," starring Tom Cruise. Another film Ms. Kurylenko completed in 2013 was the action-thriller starring Pierce Brosnan, "November Man."

Ms. Shelest, who was born in Kharkiv, is part of the Shelest Piano Duo, with her husband, Dmitri, and the couple was anticipating the birth of their first child, Ivan. Understandably, their concert schedule was abridged for 2013, however, they planned a whirlwind tour that included stops in Europe with the Janacek Philharmonic at Wiener Konzerthaus in Vienna and at the orchestra's home in Ostrava, Czech Republic, with a recording of the works of Prokofiev from the concerts.

Ms. Dvorovenko, the longtime principal dancer for the American Ballet Theater, retired from the ABT in May with an evening concert at the Metropolitan Opera House. During the farewell performance, Ms. Dvorovenko, a Kyiv native, played Tatiana in Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin." Ms. Dvorovenko, joined by her husband Maxim Belotserkovky, directed 50 students at the International Ballet Summer Intensive program at the Manhattan Movement and Arts Center. Ms. Shevchenko, who is from Odesa, was accepted as a full member of the ABT in 2008 and Mr. Matvienko, from Dnipropetrovsk, was a guest performer with the ABT in 2013.

Mr. Chmerkovskiy won runner-up with Zendaya Coleman in the 16th season of "Dancing With The Stars." During the program, the couple was noted for its salsa, samba, hip hop, freestyle and jive performances. Mr. Chmerkovskiy, along with his brother, Maxim, has been on

DWTS for four seasons, with the same outcome for the performances. The brothers own Dance With Me Studio in Stamford, Conn., the fourth chain of dance studios they started with Tony Dovolani.

The Yara Arts Group's Virlana Tkach and her production of "Fire. Water. Night." opened on June 7 at La MaMa ETC in New York. The production was based on Lesia Ukrainka's "Lisova Pisia," and incorporated the summer solstice celebration of Ivan Kupalo. The lead roles of Sylph and Luke were played by Jenny Leona and Jeremy Tardy. Alla Zagaykevych, from Kyiv, was the sound designer, which added aural atmospheres during the performance.

### Opera

Award-winning composer Virko Baley's opera "Holodomor. Red Earth. Hunger." premiered on February 5 at the Gerald W. Lynch Theater at John Jay College in New York. The one-act opera with three scenes, based on Bohdan Boychuk's 1985 play "Holod," tells the story of three starving strangers during the Famine-Genocide of Ukraine in 1932-1933. Dr. Alex Motyl introduced the audience to the historical facts of the Holodomor prior to the performance.

### Music

Washington-area concerts included: The Lyceum in Alexandria, Va., featured soprano Oksana Krovtytska who sang Italian arias on February 10; violinist Dasol Jeong, a student of Oleh Krysa at Rochester's Eastman School of Music, performed at the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater on February 12; the Gerdan ensemble sang Ukrainian and other Eastern European songs at Georgetown University's McNeir Hall on February 15; the London Royal Opera House film production of "La Boheme" was screened at the West End Cinema in Washington, and featured soprano Stefania Dovhan as Musetta and Dmytro Popov as Rodolfo; on February 22 pianist Zdana Krawciw-Skalsky joined Bonnie Kellert in a four-hand piano performance at the Calvary Baptist Church in Washington's Chinatown district; on March 24 pianist Oksana Skidan, violinist Ivanna Husar, soprano Oksana Kryvytska, flutist Andrei Pidkivka and the cappella ensemble Spiv-Zhyttia honored the compositions of Bohdana Flits at The Lyceum; on March 28, composer Myroslav Skoryk was honored with a concert performed by violinist Solomia Soroka and pianist Arthur Greene at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington; on April 10 Ms. Krawciw-Skalsky joined pianist Boris Skalsky for a concert in North Bethesda, Md.; on April 21 pianist Mykola Suk performed selections of Beethoven and others at the National Gallery of Art. Many of the concerts held at The Lyceum are sponsored by The Washington Group Cultural Fund's Sunday Music Series.

On March 2, the Music at the Institute concert series, known as MATI, presented "Beethoven, Barvinsky, Brahms and More" at the Ukrainian Institute of America. The concert featured violist Steven Teneborn, cellist Peter Wiley and pianist Lydia Artymiw.

In April, the Ukrainian Art Song Project, founded by bass-baritone Pavlo Hunka and produced by Roman Hurko, announced the digital release of the complete art songs of Ukrainian composers Mykola Lysenko, Kyrylo Stetsenko and Yakiv Stepovy. The written music for the songs were also made available for digital download on the project's website [www.uasp.ca](http://www.uasp.ca). The project is supported by the Canadian Ukrainian Opera Association and plans to release a commemorative CD marking the 200th anni-



Virko Baley conducts the New York premiere of the concert version of his opera "Holodomor. Red Earth. Hunger." On February 5 at John Jay College's Gerald W. Lynch Theater.



## 2013: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Vadym Kholodenko of Ukraine (right) winner of the 14th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition held May 24 through June 9 in Fort Worth, Texas.

versary of Taras Shevchenko's birth as well as other Ukrainian composers.

The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus marked 2013, and its 95th anniversary season, with the concert series "Sounds of Spring: Songs of Easter, Nature and Shevchenko" held April 19-21. The tour began at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Windsor, Ontario, stopping in Detroit at the Sterling Heights Performing Arts Center and ending at the Cleveland Museum of Art in Cleveland. While in Detroit, the chorus performed a mini-concert for the students at the "Ridna Shkola" Ukrainian school in Warren, Mich., assisted ethnomusicologist Dr. Laurie K. Sommers' research on the bandura, and met with members of the Ann Arbor Boychoir who attended the concert in Detroit. Readers also learned about the behind-the-scenes elements that make the volunteer-based UBC concerts possible and members' views on the spring tour and the future of the bandura, thanks to a series of articles by Matthew Dubas.

Bandurist Borys Ostapienko, 19, of Toronto won first place in the instrumental category at the Mykola Lysenko International Music Competition in Kyiv on April 28-30. The unanimous decision came from the four judges from the Lviv and Odesa conservatories, the Ivan Kotliarevsky University of Culture in Kharkiv and the Vasyl Stefanyk University music department in Ivano-Frankivsk, who noted Mr. Ostapienko's clarity, musicianship and high level of musical expressiveness. The trip to Ukraine was made possible with support from Boris Hordynsky of Hordynsky Farms in Holland March, Ontario. A member of the Ukrainian Canadian Capella, under the direction of Dr. Victor Mishalow, Mr. Ostapienko continues to diversify his performance studies in addition to pursuing an engineering degree at Ryerson University.

On May 14, the Royal Philharmonic Society presented its Conductor Award to Kirill Karabits, the principal conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, for his work in the United Kingdom during 2012. Mr. Karabits, whose father was Ukrainian composer and conductor Ivan Karabyts, had guest conducted the Royal Philharmonic and BBC Symphony orchestras, as well as the London Philharmonic Orchestra at Glyndebourne Festival Opera. In 2013 Mr. Karabits toured major European venues and conducted in the United States before returning to the U.K. to conduct the BBC Proms concert series.

On June 9, 26-year-old Vadym Kholodenko became the first pianist from Ukraine to win the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. The competition was held in Fort Worth, Texas, starting on May 24. More than 30 pianists convened for the 14th quadrennial competition. Mr. Kholodenko resides in Moscow and studies at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory, where he also is an assistant teacher. During the competition, Mr. Kholodenko performed Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major, and won awards for best performances of a new work and chamber music. Mr. Kholodenko also was awarded \$50,000, a live recording of the competition performances, a studio recording and performance attire.

On October 19, pianist Valentina Lisitsa performed her New York solo recital debut at the 92nd Street YMCA with a program of Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich, Chopin and Liszt. The concert was streamed online, and viewers

selected Ms. Lisitsa's encore, Liszt's arrangement of Schubert's "Ave Maria." Ms. Lisitsa added another selection to end the night, Liszt's "La Campanella." A Kyiv native, Ms. Lisitsa has risen to Internet stardom by targeting new fans on YouTube and has been selling DVDs and CDs through Decca Records.

The Ukrainian Museum in New York hosted the eighth season of the Bandura Downtown performance series with the concert "Songs of Truth: The Art of the Kobzari" on October 26. Presented in conjunction with the museum's Holodomor exhibit "Give Up Your Daily Bread," the concert featured bandurist Julian Kytasty who played a wide selection of songs to highlight the wealth of kobzar songs, and Sean Eden, who read English translations of the words the kobzari had written themselves about their lives and art.

### Fetes

Composer Virko Baley's 75th birthday was celebrated with a concert at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York on February 2. The concert featured sopranos Fiona Murphy and Laura Bohn, tenor John Duykes, violinist Marta Krechkovsky, pianists Mr. Baley and Steven Beck, flutist Jennifer Grim and oboist James Roe.

Conductor Volodymyr Shesiuk marked two anniversaries in 2013: the 40th anniversary of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra and his 20th anniversary as music director and conductor, with a concert on April 27 featuring Ukrainian music at Louis Schmidt Auditorium at Clarenceville High School in Livonia, Mich. Mr. Shesiuk is also a longtime conductor of the St. Josaphat Church Choir and the Immaculate Conception Schools' choirs.

The Rusalka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Winnipeg, Manitoba, celebrated its 50th anniversary on May 11 with a spring gala dinner at the Metropolitan Entertainment Center in Winnipeg and an anniversary concert on October 27 at Centennial Concert Hall in Winnipeg. The festivities – dubbed "The Spirit of Rusalka: Celebrating 50 Years!" – aided in the creation of the Rusalka Foundation to ensure this legacy continues beyond the first 50 years.

The Philadelphia-area based Voloshky School of Dance celebrated its 40th anniversary with a concert on May 19 at the Keswick Theater in Glenside, Pa. The concert featured performances by the school's 150-plus members age 4 through 14, as well as the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, founded in 1972, and musical selections performed by gypsy-jazz guitarist Kruno Spisic.

The Poltava Ukrainian Dance Company of Pittsburgh celebrated its 50th anniversary with a gala commemorative concert on May 26 at the Music Hall of the Andrew Carnegie Free Library in Carnegie, Pa. Invited musicians who performed during the concert included bandurist Borys Ostapienko of Toronto and the Gerdan Trio. A gold- jubilee dinner followed the concert at a local hotel.

### Art exhibits

The Ukrainian Institute of America in New York hosted the Constructivist exhibit "Ron Kostyniuk: Art/Nature/Art," on March 22 through April 7. The exhibit, which originated at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago as "Ron Kostyniuk: Construction/Neo-Construction," subsequently traveled to The Ukrainian Museum in New York

under the title, "Ron Kostyniuk: Art As Nature Analogue." A companion catalogue of the works, "Ron Kostyniuk: Relief Structures," was published by the UIA, and featured 28 of the exhibit items.

Andrei Kushnir, a Ukrainian American artist, exhibited "River Visions," at the American Painting Fine Art gallery in Washington, which ran April 1 through June 1. The collection featured 40 works by the painter, and the opening reception was attended by Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Olexander Motsyk. (Mr. Kushnir's works are regularly displayed at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington). Mr. Kushnir's painting style is en plein air, meaning he paints outdoors and what he sees, without photographic or other equipment. His works were accepted at other galleries and a book on his Shenandoah valley scenes is to be published in 2014.

Ukrainian artist Andriy Maday's exhibit "Woodcuts & Drawings: Works on Paper and Their Process" was featured at the Morgan Art of Papermaking Conservatory and Educational Foundation in Cleveland and was held April 12-June 4. The exhibit showcased the artist's passion as an instructor, and many of the woodcuts were shown in process, with woodblocks carved in reverse to show the intricacies and the artistic approach. Mr. Maday also exhibited paintings, watercolors and giclees at the Environments by Design Showroom in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, from September 1, 2013, through January 1, 2014.

On April 28-September 29, the exhibit "Out of Tradition: Contemporary Decorative and Applied Art" opened at The Ukrainian Museum in New York. The exhibit featured more than 150 pieces of Ukrainian folk art with a catalogue of the collection prepared by the museum. The Museum hosted "Fashion, Ukrainian Style" on September 29, featuring Ukrainian designers Oksana Karavanska, Katya Pshechenko and Elena Vasilevsky. Nearly 200 people came to the runway show that was held in conjunction with the aforementioned exhibit.

The Ukrainian Museum's exhibits "Give Up Your Daily Bread... Holodomor: The Totalitarian Solution," and "Evocations" by Lidia Bodnar-Balahutruk opened on October 20 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine of 1932-1933. The exhibits ran until December 29 and featured archival material with the artistry of Ms. Balahutruk's iconographic selections inspired by the Holodomor.

A new exhibit, "Propaganda and Slogans: The Political Poster in Soviet Ukraine, 1919-1921," was hosted by The Ukrainian Museum beginning on November 2. The collection, curated by Dr. Myroslav Shkandrij of the University of Manitoba, features 27 examples donated to the museum by Dr. Jurij Rybak and Anna Ortynskyj. It runs through February 2, 2014.

Ukrainian American photojournalist Joseph Sywenkyj's documentary exhibit "Verses: A Family in Odesa, Ukraine" was held at the Camera Club of New York on May 9-25. The exhibit was the culmination of a yearlong documentation of 11-year-old Masha, who is HIV positive, along with her parents, Sasha and Ira, who also are HIV-positive.

The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago featured the exhibit "Artists Respond to Genocide," which commemorated the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor, and was on display from October 4 through December 1. Twenty artists, including local, national and international, were featured in the exhibit. Also on display was a model of the Holodomor Memorial in Washington by architect Larysa Kurylas, which is to be completed in 2014.



"Composition-1" by Andriy Bokotey, featured in the "Out of Tradition" exhibit that opened on April 28 at The Ukrainian Museum in New York.

## 2013: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### Sports: top athletes and major victories



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**Ganna Rizatdinova, who won gold in the individual hoop event at the Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships on August 28-September 2.**

Soccer made the top sports headlines during 2013. Mikhail Fomenko's hiring sparked Ukraine's national team to an undefeated eight-match run in their attempt to qualify for the 2014 World Cup of soccer. The disciple of his legendary mentor, Valeri Lobanovsky, confounded Ukraine, shooting a thousand volts of energy through a fledgling national squad, transforming their fortunes in a little over 10 months, while seriously threatening the World Cup ambitions of both England and France.

Granted, Fomenko's Ukraine team fell just short of reaching the World Cup, a most disappointing ending to an amazing streak of eight consecutive victories. The heart-wrenching short-term loss, however, will be more than offset by a solid long-term prognosis of continued development for the national team.

The 2013 sports year also saw Ganna Rizatdinova win a major award for elegance in rhythmic gymnastics, Wladimir Klitschko fight off two more challengers to retain his four world heavyweight titles, and Canadian youngster Kelly Olynyk go from overlooked back-up to Gonzaga University's star hoopster to first-round draft pick by the Boston Celtics. Perhaps the greatest achievement in 2013 was Bohdan Bondarenko's being named European Athlete of the Year by the European Athletics Association.

Winners of The Weekly's fifth annual sports awards:

- Outstanding Male Athlete: **Bohdan Bondarenko** – athletics (track and field).
- Outstanding Female Athlete: **Ganna Rizatdinova** – rhythmic gymnastics.
- Coach of the Year: **Mikhail Fomenko** – soccer.
- Most Improved Athlete: **Johnny Boychuk** – hockey.
- Rookie of the Year: **Kelly Olynyk** – basketball.

Following are the highlights of the Ukrainian sports world in 2013 (alphabetically by sports) plus top sports stories from our diaspora.

In **ATHLETICS**, pole vaulter Sergey Bubka and race walker Volodymyr Golubnychiy were inducted into the International Association of Athletics Federations Hall of Fame in Spain. Nataliya Lopu won the gold medal in the women's 800-meter race at the 2013 European Athletics Indoor Championship in Sweden on March 1-3. Olha Saladuka won the women's triple jump final. Serhiy Smelyk won gold in the men's 200-meter race at the DN Galan meet of the IAAF Diamond League in August 22 in Sweden. High jumper Bohdan Bondarenko set a new record at the IAAF Diamond League event in Switzerland on July 4 with a 2.41-meter jump. Bohdan Bondarenko was awarded the title of European Athlete of the Year by the European Athletics Association during an awards ceremony October 12 in Estonia. His father and coach, Viktor,

received a trainer's award. On October 23 Ukraine's Mariya Ryemyen was confirmed as the new 60-meter European indoor champion after the IAAF stripped Bulgarian gold medalist Tezdzhana Naimova for her second doping offense.

In **BASKETBALL**, Alina Ingupova was voted the 2012 FIBA Europe Young Women's Player of the Year. She led Ukraine to a spot at Euro Basket Women 2013, topping her team in scoring and rebounding. Ukraine will host the Euro Basket 2015 championship with six cities in line for hosting honors.

Olena Pidhrushna won gold in the women's 7.5-kilometer sprint on February 9 at the International **BIATHLON** Union World Championships in the Czech Republic. Ukraine's women's team won gold medals in the 4-by-6-km relay at the Biathlon World Cup in Germany on January 3.

In the world of **BOXING**, flyweight Olexandr Gryshchuk defeated Gabor Molnar to win the WBA Intercontinental title in two rounds on April 5. Artem Dalakian defeated David Kanals in the first round to win the WBA International title in the flyweight division on April 5. Wladimir Klitschko TKO'd Francesco Pianeta in Manheim, Germany, on May 4, stopping the undefeated Italian challenger in the sixth round. He then unanimously trounced Alexander Povetkin in a bout held in Moscow on October 5, knocking down the Russian three times in the seventh round. Olympic champion Oleksandr Usyk signed a professional contract with K2 Promotions (Klitschko brothers) on September 25. Stasyslav Kashtanov retained his WBA Super Middleweight title against Jaime Barboza on August 26 at Donbas Arena in Donetsk. Viktor Postol defeated Iguneio Mendoza at Sport Life Club in Kyiv after a 12-round unanimous decision to retain his WBC intercontinental super lightweight title. Cruiserweight Oleksandr Usyk made his professional debut on November 9 with a fifth round TKO over Mexico's Felipe Romero. In a somewhat surprising development, WBC heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko announced on December 16 that he was vacating his title belt in order to pursue a career in Ukrainian politics.

Martyna Kravtsiv won the 2013 Andranik Margaryan Memorial **CHESS** tournament in Armenia on January 15. Grandmaster Pavel Eljanov won the 2013 Reykjavik Open tournament in late February. Ukraine's chess team won first place on March 2-12 at the world chess championship in Astana, Kazakhstan, in the women's competition.

In **CYCLING**, Tetyana Riatchenko won the Chongming Island World Cup on May 13 in China.

Ganna Rizatdinova won gold in the individual hoop event at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Rhythmic **GYMNASTICS** World Championships in Kyiv on August 28-September 2. She was awarded the Longines Prize for Elegance in rhythmic gymnastics.

HC Donbas won the International Ice **HOCKEY** Federation Continental Cup for the first time in January 2013, defeating France's Rouen Dragons, 7-1.

Nine boys and one girl, representing children age 11-12 from Ukrainian orphanages, competed as an all-star team at the 13<sup>th</sup> Ukrainian **LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL** Championships on May 27-30 in Nove Selo, Ukraine. The Ukraine Little League Baseball Championship for children

from orphanages was won by the team from Donetsk. The tournament was held on September 18-21 in the town of Kremenets, Ternopil Oblast. Boys and girls age 10-12 from four orphanages participated in the sixth annual event.

In **MOTORSPORTS**, Team Ferrari Ukraine won first place in the GT Sprint International Series Championship on October 14 in Maranello, Italy. Team Ukraine won with 286 points and the driver's title went to Ferrari's Andriy Kruhlyk.

In **OLYMPICS**-related news, Ukraine's Yuriy Bilonoh (shot put) was stripped of his gold medal from the 2004 Athens Games after testing positive for steroids. Sergey Bubka was a candidate for the presidency of the International Olympic Committee. The International Swimming Federation (FINA) supported Bubka's candidacy for the IOC presidency. Five other sports dignitaries were in the running for this prestigious post. Thomas Bach of Germany was elected in the September voting. President Viktor Yanukovich signed a decree in early June on preparations for the holding of the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Ukraine. Preparations include construction of infrastructure, sports and tourist facilities in accordance with international standards.

Ukraine's **RUGBY** Federation on May 21 was accepted as a full member of the Rugby League European Federation.

Mikhail Fomenko was unanimously elected coach of Ukraine's national **SOCCER** team to replace Oleh Blokhin. The Football Federation of Ukraine added Hoverlia Uzhhorod and Metalurh Zaporizhzhia to the Ukrainian Premier League for the 2013-2014 season. Hoverlia replaced Kryvbas Kryvyi Rih following the latter's bankruptcy. Dynamo Kyiv was disciplined by UEFA on March 21 and told to play two European Cup home matches without spectators due to racist behavior of fans during games this season. Kyiv and Donetsk were confirmed as candidates for host cities of the 2020 UEFA Euro Cup along with 32 other member associations.

Ukrainian Canadian Alexandra Komarnycky won the gold medal in the women's 400-meter individual medley at the U.S. Grand Prix **SWIMMING** competition on January 20. Viktoriya Solntseva won gold medals in the women's 50-meter and 200-meter breaststroke at the European Junior Championships in Poland on July 10-14.

Sergiy Stakhovsky made history at Wimbledon in 2013 with a second-round upset win over Roger Federer, ending the latter's 36 successive Grand Slam quarterfinal appearances. In other **TENNIS** news Elina Svitolina defeated Shahar Peer 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Baku Cup on July 28 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Markian Kuzmowycz is a Ukrainian professional **ULTIMATE FRISBEE** player who plays offensive cutter for the MLU's N.Y. Rumble.

#### Sports in the diaspora

In diaspora sports news, there was the following news during 2013, presented in chronological order.

In early February USCAK announced plans to host the fifth International Ukrainian Football (soccer) Tournament in New York's Hudson Valley region from June 30 through July 6. On February 16, for the first time in 15 years, the Chornomorska Sitch Men's Volleyball



Christine Syzonenko

**The champions of the International Ukrainian Football Tournament held June 30-July 6, Team U.S.A.-Blue.**

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Bohdan Bondarenko, who was awarded the title of European Athlete of the Year by the European Athletics Association on October 12.

Team out of Whippany, N.J., played in a U.S. Volleyball Association tournament. The team comprised four sets of fathers and sons. Stamford Levy won the seventh annual Chornomorska Sitch Five-a-Side Indoor Soccer Tournament on March 2 in Whippany for the sixth time in seven years. The Ukrainian Wings SC juniors went 1-2 at the 20th annual President's Cup indoor soccer tournament in Madison, Wis., in mid-February, one of 32 men's amateur/college clubs competing in the event. More than 50 players and 100-plus fans gathered on March 10 in Yonkers, N.Y. for the inaugural Steven Howansky Memorial Soccer Game/Krylati Reunion between a team of Ukraine-born players and players from other parts of the world.

Sixty-four skiers age 3 to 75 competed in the 59th annual ski races of the Carpathian Ski Club (KLC) at Hunter Mountain on March 3. A total of 122 boys' and 80 girls' teams played in the Ukrainian Nationals Memorial Day Weekend Tournament in Horsham, Pa. The tourney received acclaim when Got Soccer online magazine elevated it to the ranks of gold in the boys' category and silver in the girls'. On June 15-80 golfers from five states gathered at Limekiln Golf Club to play in the Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub's annual outing. The USCAK East Tennis Tournament was held at Soyuzivka on June 29-30 with players competing in 10 categories and various age groups.

Tryzub archers Ilya Buynevich and Eugene Luciw won gold and bronze medals, respectively, at the July 31-August 4 archery competitions of the State Games of America. Yonkers Krylati won the inaugural Ukrainian Heritage Festival Tournament in memory of Steven Howansky on June 15 in Yonkers, N.Y. More than 50 athletes competed in the annual tennis and swimming championships hosted by the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S. and Canada (USCAK) at Soyuzivka during Labor Day weekend. Chornomorska Sitch overwhelmed the competition in the swim events. In tennis Mykola Stroynick, a tennis pro from New York, outpointed lefty Marko Krasij from Texas, in an exciting three-set match to regain the men's title. Tetiana Sawchak bested Catherine Popow to take the women's crown.

Team Old Style (Plast) won the second annual USCAK National Beach Volleyball Tournament held in Wildwood, N.J., on August 23 with nine teams participating. On September 5 coach Gene Chyzowych announced the 2013 season coaching soccer at Columbia High School in Maplewood, N.J. would be the final one of his illustrious career.

"80 in 80"

Wayne Gretzky (hockey's greatest player), Wladimir Klitschko (boxing's reigning heavyweight champion for the last eight years) and Sergey Bubka (the world's top athlete in the 1980s), were three of the top Ukrainians listed in the three-part special feature "80 in 80" - the top 80 sports persons of Ukrainian descent in the past 80 years (1933-2013) - in honor of The Ukrainian Weekly's 80th anniversary. In all some 21 different competitive disciplines were represented by these 80 competitors. The sport of hockey (12) led the way with the most outstanding achievers, followed by soccer (nine), and athletics and gymnastics (seven each).

The UNA: highlighting a proud 119-year history

During 2013 the Ukrainian National Association, a fraternal organization with a proud history of 119 years of service to our community, expended much time and effort on reintroducing itself to its members and potential members.

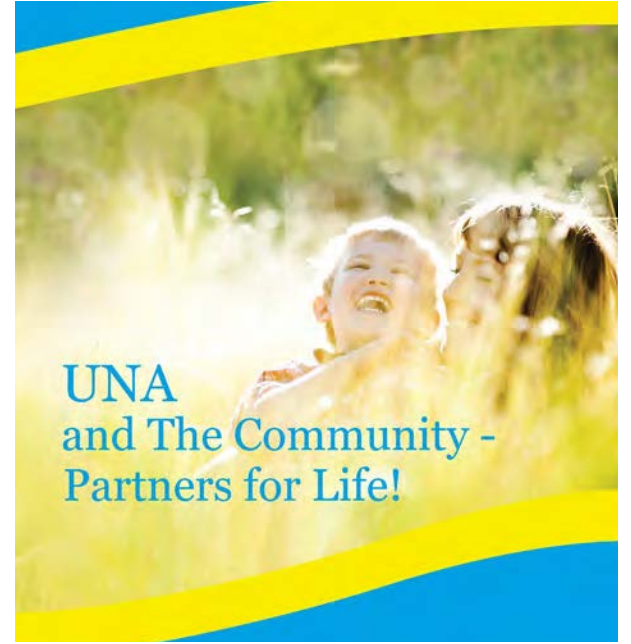
Foremost among those efforts was the release, at the start of Ukrainian festival season in North America, of what came to be known as the UNA's 2013 summer magazine, called "UNA and the Community: Partners for Life." The brainchild of UNA National Secretary Christine E. Kozak, the publication made its debut at the Ukrainian Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka, where it was distributed to festival-goers.

The 32-page magazine contained information about the Ukrainian National Association, notes from UNA executive officers, informative articles about the UNA's insurance offerings, interviews with some of the UNA's insurance professionals, a page featuring the UNA's Home Office staff and a section on member benefits, including the Soyuzivka Heritage Center and the newspapers Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, both of which are published by the UNA. The editor of the publication was Irene Jarosewich, a former editorial staff member of The Ukrainian Weekly and former editor-in-chief of Svoboda, while the magazine's graphic design was the work of Stefan Slutsky, layout artist of The Ukrainian Weekly. Partners for Life was available at all Ukrainian festivals where the UNA was represented during 2013.

Along with the UNA's other recent innovations - an updated website (ukrainiannationalassociation.org), a Facebook page and new promotional materials that feature a QR code that enables Smartphone users to quickly connect to the UNA's website - the magazine's aim was to increase the UNA's reach and public awareness of its work.

The UNA's Northern New Jersey District Committee, chaired by Yuriy Symczyk, an employee of the UNA Home Office who was later promoted to fraternal coordinator, was involved also in organizing community outreach events, such as a coffee hour after Sunday liturgy at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark and an information table at the Providna Nedilia (St. Thomas Sunday) pilgrimage at the Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolia Center in South Bound Brook, N.J. Professional insurance agents and branch representatives were available to speak with the public at these events.

The UNA's efforts to enroll members were in the spotlight in June when the UNA Organizing Report for 2012 was published. UNA National Secretary Kozak congratulated and thanked all of the members of the UNA General



The cover of the UNA's summer 2013 magazine, which was released at the start of the summer festival season.

Assembly, UNA districts, UNA branches, branch secretaries, UNA field agents, UNA Home Office insurance and sales staff, and all those who through either sales or its support have been a part of the UNA's tradition of providing high-quality, solid, secure and straightforward life insurance and annuity products to its members; to preserve the principles of fraternalism through branch affiliations, which allows members to support each other and people in their communities in time of need; and to preserve the American, Canadian and Ukrainian heritage and culture. But special congratulations were extended to the top organizers: UNA Advisor Lubov Streletsky, UNA Second Vice-President Eugene Oscislawski and Pittsburgh District Chairman Nick Diakiwsky.

The Ukrainian National Foundation, the charitable arm of the Ukrainian National Association, reached a significant milestone in November of 2013 when Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, president of the Friends of Ostroh Foundation, on November 21 announced a donation to the foundation of \$300,000 from the Fischer-Slysh Memorial Fund. The donation brought to \$1 million the total collected by the foundation for the National University of Ostroh Academy, which is located in the Rivne region of Ukraine. The moving force behind the donation was the late Dr. Maria Fischer-Slysh, a retired pediatrician who lived in Toronto. She was well-known in Ukraine and the diaspora for her charitable giving. Dr. Kuropas commented on the generosity of Ukrainian diaspora donors: "My wife, Lesia, and I have been collecting donations for Ostroh Academy since 1997. ... The Fischer-Slysh donation is by far the largest we have received thus far. ... Lesia and I are hopeful that other Ukrainian Americans will be encouraged by this donation to also donate to the fund."

Meanwhile, UNA scholarship winners were featured in a special section published in The Weekly on April 7 and in Svoboda on April 5. The 2012-2013 crop of UNA student-members comprised 71 young scholars from throughout North America. More than \$15,000 in scholarship funds was distributed to deserving undergraduate students.

The Soyuzivka Heritage Center held its seventh annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival on July 12-14, once again attracting guests from near and far to this beautiful venue in New York state to see and hear top performers from Ukraine and North America. Headlining the show were singer/songwriter Vika Vasilevych of Ukraine and virtuoso violinist Vasyly 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. Each group of dancers presented its unique version of the "Pryvit" (Welcome) number at the start of the program - the workshop dancers resplendent in their costumes modeled on garb worn by Kozak nobility and the Dunai members in a variety of folk costumes representing diverse regions of Ukraine.

Other performers included the Ukrainian Chorus Dumka of New York, the Dzvin Male Chorus of Philadelphia, bandurist/kobzar Julian Kytasty, the Lisova Pisnia duo of Alla Kutsevych and Ludmyla Hrabovsky, the duo of Erko (Severyn Palydowych) and Ms. Hrabovsky, the Nebozir (HeavenStar) Family Trio (comprising Andriana Gnap, her mother, Halyna Gnap, and her aunt,



The front page of the 120th anniversary issue of Svoboda, which marked the anniversary of its founding on September 15, 1893.

## 2013: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Wolodymyra Gnap) and 11-year-old singing phenom Xenia Kaczurak.

Scores of volunteers and employees of Soyuzivka and the UNA made the seventh annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival possible. Most important to the success of the festival was the financial support of its major sponsor, Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, as well as the sponsorship of the UNA and its Ukrainian National Foundation.

Also at Soyuzivka, 2013 marked the 30th annual Club Suzie-Q Week. A network of friends from the U.S. and Canada, Club Suzie-Q was first billed as a group of mostly single young professionals. This year some 50 people gathered for their 30th annual get-together week to catch up with old friends and forge new friendships, go hiking on the Soyuzivka grounds and other venues in the Shawangunk mountains, enjoy the Miss Soyuzivka weekend and have dinner at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y.

Speaking of the Miss Soyuzivka event, Natalie Serdiuk of Plymouth, Mich., who come the beginning of the new academic year would be attending Michigan State University in pursuit of a degree in criminal justice, was crowned as Miss Soyuzivka 2014. Laryssa Drocak of Auburn, N.Y., a sophomore at Rutgers University in New Jersey, was chosen as runner-up.

In other Soyuzivka-related news, the Ukrainian heritage center was featured in the July-August issue of Ulster Magazine. The magazine, which focuses on upstate New York's Ulster County, published a full-color feature about the Soyuzivka Heritage Center, spotlighting the upcoming Ukrainian Cultural Festival. The article by Deborah J. Botti, with photos by Michael Bloom (and other photographers), was headlined "Suzy-Q honors Ukrainian heritage; Continuing the culture."

A special feature highlighting doings at Soyuzivka appeared in the September 1 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly. Ms. Jarosewicz penned the story "A natural host: Stefko Drabyk, assistant manager of Soyuzivka." The 27-year-old Mr. Drabyk told his interviewer: "I caught my first fish at Soyuzivka, attended 'Tabir Ptashat' here, would come here to be with my friends. Basically, I grew up with Soyuzivka." Soyuzivka regulars praised the young assistant manager as "extremely hard-working," "extremely dependable," "the nicest guy you'll ever meet." His boss, Soyuzivka Manager Nestor Paslawsky, said of Mr. Drabyk: "Stefko works long, hard, demanding hours... He tries to anticipate my thoughts and on occasion, when he's right on, I call him Radar, after the TV character on 'MASH.'"

At the UNA's Ukrainian-language weekly newspaper, Svoboda, 2013 was the year of its 120th anniversary. It was on September 15, 1893, that the first issue of Svoboda – the oldest and largest continuously published Ukrainian-language daily newspaper in the world – first appeared. "It was indeed a true beacon of light in the prevailing darkness of hopelessness and despair among Ukrainian immigrants in America," noted Anthony



Lev Khmelkovsky



Christine Syzonenko

**Violinist Vasyl Popadiuk and singer-songwriter Vika (Vasilevich) perform during the seventh annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival that was held at Soyuzivka on July 12-14.**

Dragan, longtime editor-in-chief of the newspaper (writing in "Ukrainian National Association: Its Past and Present," published on the association's 70th anniversary in 1964). From the very start, the newspaper's editor-in-chief, the Rev. Hryhoriy Hrushka, stated that Svoboda should be the people's newspaper. He delineated the paper's goals as defending national interests, encouraging the people to community activity and socially useful work, and raising national consciousness. Thus, from its very inception, Svoboda was, as the late Mr. Dragan was to write decades later, "a crusading newspaper" (hazeta khrestonosnykh pokhodiv). In 2013 Svoboda published a special anniversary issue on September 13, and its sister publication, The Ukrainian Weekly, spotlighted the anniversary in its September 15 issue. The Weekly columnist Dr. Myron B. Kuropas weighed with his tribute to Svoboda and its pioneering editors in a column titled "Thank you, Svoboda" that was published on September 22.

Also at Svoboda, 2013 was a time to bid farewell to Chrystyna Ferencevych, a member of the newspaper's editorial staff since 1986. On June 25 her co-workers at Svoboda, colleagues from The Ukrainian Weekly, and executive officers and employees of the UNA offered thanks and best wishes to Mrs. Ferencevych at a retirement luncheon held at the UNA Home Office.

The UNA General Assembly convened at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center on December 6-8 for its regular annual meeting to review the fraternal benefit society's activity for the past year and to adopt a plan of action for 2014.

Reports were delivered by the three full-time executive officers of the UNA; all other General Assembly members – executive officers, advisors and auditors – as well as the editor-in-chief of the UNA's official publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, had the opportunity to deliver addenda to their written reports. Soyuzivka Manager Paslawsky also addressed the General Assembly.

UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj said: "To guarantee the future of the UNA, the organization has to be financially sound, and that means improvement of our bottom line and increase in surplus. This is not an easy task in an economy where returns on investments are low, where the regulatory environment is changing, where the unemployment rate is 7.3 percent and the number of unemployed persons is in excess of 12 million, and where the economy is improving at a snail's pace." However, he underscored, "The UNA is moving in the right direction by repositioning itself in this new financial environment."

Similarly, UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich stated: "The UNA continues to make progress as we navigate through difficult times. Regulatory changes not favorable to small fraternal societies and continued stagnant economy continue to be our greatest challenges. ...In order to meet the demands of new capital requirements, an expense reduction initiative was implemented in 2012." She added: "UNA sales are increasing over 2012 and we have been successful in reducing UNA's expense levels. This was quite a challenge, but I am happy to report that general administrative and fraternal benefit expenses fell from a high point of \$3.7 million at the end of 2011 to \$2.65 million at the end of 2012, and \$1.9 million as of September of this year. Progress is being made and we must continue to be adaptable during these changing and challenging times."

UNA Secretary Kozak focused on growing the UNA's membership. "Complementing the branch secretary (the traditional core of the UNA membership base), the UNA contracts with professional agents in states where the UNA is licensed to do business. The UNA continues to grow and develop a separate production arm utilizing contracted field agents." This, she explained, "is carefully fostered in order to build a basic core of loyal agents."

The 2013 annual meeting ended with a look ahead to the 2014 convention of the Ukrainian National Association, which will be held May 16-18 at Soyuzivka, as well as with the decision to send a greeting to the Euro-Maidan taking place in Kyiv.

The UNA message to the protesters in Ukraine, which was sent via an e-mail to Ruslana Lyzhychko in Kyiv, read: "Dear Ukrainian brothers and sisters on the Euro-Maidans of Ukraine: We are with you. The General Assembly of the Ukrainian National Association in the United States and Canada, with its membership of 50,000, greets you, dear Ukrainians on the day of the 'March of Millions' [Sunday, December 10]. We express our solidarity with all democratic forces in Ukraine and throughout the world who support Ukraine's course toward integration with the European Union. We add our voices and prayers to yours. Victory will come!"



Roma Hadzewycz

**Members of the UNA General Assembly – executive officers, auditors and advisors – after the opening of their 2013 annual meeting at Soyuzivka on December 6-8.**

# MATI concert series celebrates 25th anniversary

by Bohdan Pechenyak

NEW YORK – The year 2013 marked the 25th anniversary of the Music at the Institute (MATI) concert series at the Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA) in New York City. This fantastic program presents many opportunities for attendees to get acquainted with both Ukrainian and world music – all in the magnificent architectural setting of the UIA building on 79th Street and Fifth Avenue (next to Central Park and Museum Mile).

Add to other visual stimuli (thought-provoking artwork on the walls of the UIA throughout the year) and top it off with the auditory delight of the most immediate and emotional of the arts and you have a winning combination.

MATI's mission is to expose the New York audience of art and music lovers to the Ukrainian culture. The current director of the program, Dr. Solomiya Ivakhiv, a violinist, alumna of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, assistant professor of violin and viola at Ohio University, systematically implements her vision by inviting world-famous musicians, of both Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian background, to perform in the MATI series. Her way of giving back to the Ukrainian community is by advancing MATI to be listed among the top professional series in the country.

MATI opened its 25th anniversary season on January 17 with a performance by the Canadian award-winning Gryphon Trio, which, in collaboration with bassist Robert Pomakov, performed music by Silvestrov and Mussorgsky. The event was co-produced with the prestigious Chamber Music America Society and featured Roman Borys, a Canadian Ukrainian cellist and a founding member of the trio.

Not losing any momentum, the series continued on January 27 with a celebration of the 170th anniversary of the birth of Mykola Lysenko, considered the founder of Ukrainian classical music. A lecture-recital was accompanied by a presentation of "The World of Mykola Lysenko: Ethnic Identity, Music and Politics in 19th Century Ukraine," a book by Dr. Taras Filenko, a Fulbright scholar and a professor at Duquesne University.

The festive mood continued on February 2, as MATI celebrated the 75th birthday of Virko Baley, a composer and MATI artistic advisor; with the program "Of Song, Dance and Remembrance." Prof. Baley himself, on piano; Steven Beck, piano; Fiona Murphy,

soprano; James Roe, oboe; and Marta Krechkovsky, violin; performed various pieces composed by the honoree.

Excerpts from Prof. Baley's recently finished opera about the Holodomor were also performed as part of worldwide 80th anniversary commemoration of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. The entire opera – "Holodomor. Red Earth. Hunger:" – was performed on February 5 in the Gerald Lynch Theater, John Jay College, with the UIA among the event sponsors.

The next event, on March 2, "Beethoven, Barvinsky, Brahms and More," showcased Lydia Artymiw, a Ukrainian American pianist and faculty member at the Juilliard School of Music; Steven Tenenbom, violist; and Peter Wiley, the cellist from the Guarneri Quartet; who performed music by such Ukrainian composers as Kolessa, Revutsky, Kossenko, Lysenko and Barvinsky, as well as by Beethoven, Schumann, and Brahms.

The second event of the month, on March 27, was the CD release of Myroslav Skoryk's "Complete Works for Violin and Piano," with performances by Solomia Soroka, a Ukrainian-born violinist, and her husband, Arthur Greene, an award-winning American pianist.

The last two events before the summer break took place on April 6 and 14. The first event – "Lyatoshynsky and Shostakovich – Symbolism in Eastern Europe" – featured Lucy Shelton, a soprano and one of MATI's first performers. Dr. Ivakhiv on violin, cellist Yi Chun Chen from Hong Kong and Ukrainian pianist Angelina Gadelija joined Ms. Shelton in the performance. The special event titled "Rising Stars of Tomorrow" – a vocal evening presented by the Curtis Institute of Music Vocal Department – was very well attended and helped MATI acquire many new fans.

The fall program began on October 5, when MATI celebrated the esteemed past president of the UIA Yaroslav Kryshtalsky. Pianist Mykola Suk, MATI artistic director during Mr. Kryshtalsky's presidency, performed at the event. He also gave a poignant speech about Mr. Kryshtalsky's love for music and support of MATI. Ukrainian-born Oleh Kaskiv, currently professor of violin in Geneva, and Dr. Ivakhiv performed pieces by Bach, Skoryk and Beethoven, accompanied by a wonderful ensemble comprising Emilie-Anne Gendron and Mario Gotoh, violins; Borys Deviatov, viola; Michael Haas, cello; and Ryan Kamm, dou-



Olena Sidlovych

A MATI concert in memory of Jaroslav Kryshtalsky featured violinists Oleh Kaskiv, Solomiya Ivakhiv, Emilie-Anne Gendron and Mario Gotoh, violist Borys Deviatov, cellist Michael Haas and double bassist Ryan Kamm.

ble bass. Prof. Kaskiv, a friend of the Kryshtalsky family in Lviv, flew in from Switzerland to perform at this memorial concert, which was a wonderful treat for the audience.

November was marked by three events. To begin the busy month, supporters filled Carnegie Hall on November 2 to celebrate MATI's 25th anniversary. Pianists Mr. Suk and Meng-Chieh Liu, the latter a recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant, faculty at Roosevelt University; violist Roberto Diaz, president and CEO of the Curtis Institute of Music; cellist Peter Wiley, professor at Bard College Conservatory of Music; and Dr. Ivakhiv performed compositions by Liszt, Brahms, Stankovych and Mozart. Liszt and Mozart were chosen particularly due to their connections to Ukraine, as mentioned in the program notes.

To commemorate the anniversary, the UIA had commissioned a work for violin and piano, "Angel's Touch," by the prominent Ukrainian composer Yevhen Stankovych. For an encore, Dr. Dan Swistel, UIA president, surprised and delighted the audience by performing Massenet's "Meditations" on piano with Dr. Ivakhiv on violin.

On November 7, the Mannes School of Music presented the program "Sounds of Change: Music in Transition from Baroque to the Present," including music by Silvestrov, Baley, Chopin and C.P.E. Bach.

A special event on November 30 capped the month's offerings, presenting a collaboration among Muzychna Ukrayina Publishing House, the Ukrainian Music Institute (Donna Wolanska, director),

Bohdan Kryvopust (pianist and lecturer), Michael Carrera (cellist and judge of 2013 Lysenko Competition in Ukraine), and Dr. Ivakhiv. Works by Kossenko, Kolodub, Yakymenko, Stankovych, Skoryk, and Kryvopust were performed by the students of the Ukrainian Music Institute. MATI also presented newly released children's books published by Muzychna Ukrayina.

On December 7, "Music from the New World," the last event of the season, presented new music by composers Adam Silverman and Ukrainian American Borys Sklasky, performed by Charles Castleman and Yuriy Bekker, violins; Amy Sue Barnston, cello; and Daniel Farina, viola.

MATI events are usually followed by a friendly reception – prepared by the UIA staff and volunteers: Marta Salyk, Michael and Ulana George, Mary Pressey, Maryanne Hoydysh, Alice Swistel and Valentyna Nalywajko – which are great opportunities to socialize, often including the performing musicians.

Dr. Ivakhiv must be credited for creating all of the programs throughout the year, Lew Rakowsky for designing the beautiful posters that usually hang outside the UIA, Marta Skorupsky for preparing the performers' bios and program brochures, Tania Krawciw for designing the beautiful celebratory MATI flyer, and Bohdan Markiw for being a loyal supporter, traveling from Connecticut to attend the performances, and writing reviews.

MATI is sponsored and supported by the Ukrainian Institute of America and the UIA board of directors.

## Ukraine's ruling...

(Continued from page 3)

inviolability, sovereignty of the state; the violent seizure or retention of power or authority; unlawful interference in the activities or obstruction of the legitimate activities of the authorities, bodies of local self-government, others in authority; call or argue for or justify the need to stir up social, racial, national, ethnic, language or religious enmity and hatred; hold mass disturbances; disrupt public order; hooliganism and acts of vandalism out of social, racial, national, ethnic, language or religious enmity and hatred; infringe the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of people, including direct or indirect restriction of rights or establish direct or indirect privileges for a person and citizen on the basis of race, skin color, political, religious or other views, gender, ethnic and social origin, financial position, place of residence; on the basis of language or other factors; propaganda of exclusiveness and

superiority, advantage or lower value of a person (social group) on the basis of their social, racial, national, ethnic, language, religious affiliation or attitude to religion."

### "Interference in the work of the courts"

This is interpreted as circulating information about a judge which is of an "overtly offensive nature and demonstrates disrespect for the judge and justice system for the purpose of revenge, obstructing the judge from carrying out his or her official duties or in order to achieve a wrongful ruling." The penalties range from a fine to up to two years' imprisonment.

This will almost certainly include information of public significance such as the fact that the new president of the Constitutional Court, Viacheslav Ovcharenko was the head of the court which "lost" the documents about Viktor Yanukovich's convictions and prison terms, or that his watch cost \$27,000.

It could include details about the lifestyle, promotion, etc. of Rodion Kireyev, the

young judge who passed sentence in the politically motivated prosecution of Yulia Tymoshenko. This and similar success stories for the prosecutor in the Tymoshenko trial are of undoubted public importance. The reasons why such "secrets" might be jealously guarded are all too clear.

### Internet

Oksana Yefimchuk and Yury Krainyak from the law firm Jurimex explain that now all Internet providers will need to undergo licensing procedure. The experience of how the National Broadcasting Council does this suggests that it will be easy to refuse requests for a license for no reason whatsoever.

Internet sites can be blocked without a court order on the basis of a decision from the national commission for state regulation regarding communications and automated systems.

This commission will be able to block access to sites "which circulate information, the circulation of which runs counter to the law or through which the activity of an

information agency without the legally envisaged registration certificate is carried out."

The scope is enormous for asserting that the circulation of any information is unlawful. The Jurimex lawyers point out that if a photo which shows a particular person is taken during a journalist investigation and then posted on the site, it will be possible to legally close the site.

The law also forces all cable communications and Internet providers to purchase and install equipment for secret interception of information.

More details can be added to the above list of direct threats to democratic rights contained in this bill adopted with grave infringements on January 16. It is a gravely retrograde step with serious repercussions for all Ukrainians.

The article above was posted on January 16 on the website of the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (khp.org). Source: <http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1389942149>. Translated by: khp.org.

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## U.S. government...

(Continued from page 1)

Secretary Nuland, who personally met with President Viktor Yanukovich, as well as with the protesters on the maidan, when she visited Kyiv in December, recounted some of the major issues and recent developments in Ukraine and focused the official U.S. reaction to them.

"Like the vast majority of Ukrainians, the United States and our partners in the European Union want to see the current stand-off resolved politically, democratically and, above all, peacefully," she said, adding that the last point applies to both the government and protesters alike.

"However, 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," she added.

She expressed the Obama administration's gratitude for the Senate's leadership role on Ukrainian issues and for passing on January 7 Senate Resolution 319, which "sent a strong, bipartisan message of concern and support to the Ukrainian people at a key moment," she said.

She also thanked and commended two senators participating in the hearing – John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) – "for bringing that bipartisan support directly to the people of Ukraine on a key weekend in December, and engaging with President Yanukovich, his government, the opposition, the business community and civil society in support of a peaceful, democratic way out of the crisis." The two senators were visiting Kyiv at the same time that she was there.

"The people of Ukraine saw America stand up with them at a critical moment when they could have felt very alone," Secretary Nuland said.

Analyzing the growth of the Euro-Maidan demonstration over the last two months, she noted that what started as a movement demanding a European future for Ukraine, grew into a protest "for basic human dignity and justice, clean and accountable government, and economic and political independence of Ukraine."

"Why does the United States have an interest in how this turns out?" she asked. "Because these same principles and values are the cornerstone of all free democracies, and America supports them in every country on the planet. Countries that live freely and independently and respect the rule of law are more stable and make better partners for the United States."

And the official use of violence and repression against the Euro-Maidan protesters, Secretary Nuland said, "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."

Washington has also commended the European Union and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for leaving the European door open for Ukraine and their willingness to help it solve its "serious structural and macro-economic problems," she said.

### U.S. investment noted

Deputy Assistant Secretary Melia noted in his testimony that since Ukraine's independence in 1991, the United States has invested more than \$5 billion to help Ukraine develop into a "secure, prosperous and democratic" country – much of it in technical assistance programs and working



Yaro Bihun

**Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski makes a point about Ukraine in response to a question by a senator on the Foreign Relations Committee.**

with its non-governmental organizations.

He said that many of these programs have been successful, while others, like those dealing with press and media freedom are less so. "Interference with and pressure on media outlets by the government has increased, including the government's tolerance of increased levels of violence toward journalists," he said. He pointed out that there have been more than 100 attacks and cases of intimidation against journalists in 2013, nearly half of them in December, which included the vicious beating of Tatiana Chornovol in Kyiv on December 21.

Mr. Melia also raised the issue of politically motivated imprisonment of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and the necessity of having her released for medical treatment.

### Brzezinski weighs in

Also sharing his views about the situation in Ukraine with the Senate committee was Dr. Brzezinski, the former national security advisor to President Jimmy Carter and an internationally recognized expert on foreign policy who now serves as counselor and trustee at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Dr. Brzezinski pointed out that, when looking at the many problems facing Ukraine today, one should know that Ukrainian self-awareness is not something that developed recently and that the roots of Ukrainian independence go back a thousand years.

Russia's Vladimir Putin, however, sees Ukraine as a "strategic state," without which building a Russian "supranational empire" is impossible. But that is not the way the young generation of Ukrainians who grew up in an independent Ukraine view their country. "They feel themselves to be Ukrainians," Dr. Brzezinski explained, adding that Mr. Putin displays his historical ignorance when he perceives Ukraine and Russia as just one nation.

The new generation and middle class in Russia is different as well, he added – it's educated and internationally oriented.

Dr. Brzezinski shared his "gut feeling" that Mr. Putin's nostalgia for resurrecting the Russian/Soviet past ignores today's realities, and that Russia's "quest for a supranational union" will pass away in time, along with Putin's presidency.

### Sen. McCain comments

Recalling his recent visit to Ukraine and his meetings with Ukrainian leaders and the demonstrators on the maidan, Sen. John McCain said he came away convinced that this is a country that wants to be European. "They don't want to be Russian – this is what it's all about."

The Russians have bullied them and continue to do so, using Ukraine's need to import Russian energy resources, banning

the import of Ukrainian chocolates to Russia and taking advantage of corruption – "which is rampant in Ukraine" – to its advantage. He cited as an example President Yanukovich's son, a dentist by profession, who became a billionaire and now lives in a \$100 million home.

"This is not about what the Ukrainian people decide for themselves. This is about whether we will stand up for the Ukrainian people," Sen. McCain said. "We want to be assisting morally the Ukrainian people for seeking what we want everybody on this earth to have."

"So it's not just up to the Ukrainian people," he stressed. "They cry out for our assistance and our moral support in a struggle which is totally unfair, which has been characterized by brutal crackdowns of demonstrators – whose leaders I met with and are hospitalized."

The ranking member of the committee, Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), repeatedly criticized President Barack Obama's administration for not pursuing an active policy with respect to Ukraine.

"In my view, what has transpired in Ukraine is one of the most recent examples of where U.S. leadership at the right moment could have been decisive," he said.

"Apparently overly concerned with offending Russia, the administration seems to have somehow made the calculation initially that a passive response might yield more than assertive U.S. leadership," Sen. Corker commented.

The hearing was conducted by the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.). In his opening remarks, he pointed out some of the prominent guests in the audience, among them Ukraine's former foreign affairs minister and now a member of the opposition, Borys Tarasyuk; Ukraine's current ambassador in Washington, Olexander Motsyk; and a number of noteworthy representatives of the Ukrainian American community, among them Ukrainian Congress Committee of America President Tamara Olexy and other members of the UCCA leadership, including Ukrainian National Association President Stefan Kaczaraj, who chairs the UCCA National Council.

Sen. Menendez said that during a meeting with members of New Jersey's Ukrainian diaspora in early January (see The Weekly, January 19) he was asked to bring Washington's attention to the thousands of protesters on the maidan who want their voices to be heard in determining the future of their country.

"I'd like to assure them today that this committee isn't deaf to those brave people whose capacity for hope and appetite for freedom has compelled them to take to the streets," he said. "The world is, indeed, watching."

## Reaction to laws...

(Continued from page 2)

defamation. Independent websites will be banned/blocked even without court decisions. The gathering of information about employees of law enforcement agencies as well as courts is also punished.

NGO independence will be fully destroyed by the special and more complicated tax money accounting. The money received by NGOs from foreign funds will be taxed. Such NGOs will obtain the binding status of "foreign agent." This is a real Russian scenario.

These laws are also to introduce a simplified procedure for cancelling the immunity of oppositional MPs. Moreover, the notion of distant court trials becomes our new reality. It seems that they deliberately do not leave any legal space for peaceful protest.

### European Parliament's president: Kyiv moves away from civilized world

Statement issued on January 17 in Brussels by European Parliament President Martin Schulz:

I am deeply worried by the Ukrainian Parliament's adoption of draft laws that could limit the basic freedoms of citizens, impede freedom of assembly and speech, and curtail the activities of NGOs. If they become law, they would push Ukraine back towards its authoritarian, Soviet past. Haste, a lack of transparency and violation of parliamentary procedures are not the way to make sound laws.

I call on President Yanukovich not to sign the draft laws and ensure that any legal changes are compatible with Ukraine's international commitments.

The door to Ukraine's integration with the European Union remains open. Yet we need to see a clear commitment from the Ukrainian authorities that they are serious and sincere about Ukraine's European integration. These latest developments not only disrespect the will of people protesting on the Maidan Square, but also could move Ukraine away from its European path and, indeed, away from the civilized world.

### OSCE representative calls on Yanukovich to veto legislation

News release issued on January 16 in Vienna:

OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović today said she was concerned about the adoption of legislative amendments in Ukraine, including re-crimi-

nalization of libel, that endanger free speech. "I am worried about today's decision of Verkhovna Rada and call on the Ukrainian authorities to stop attempts to restrict free expression and free media," Ms. Mijatović said.

Today the Parliament, Verkhovna Rada, adopted amendments to the Criminal Code which introduce provisions recriminalizing defamation and provide additional protection for public officials from critical speech. The amendments also introduce criminal responsibility for distributing extremist materials, which are broadly defined in the law, through the media and the Internet.

"In 2001 Ukraine was among the first OSCE participating states to decriminalize libel. This important reform was the starting point for Ukraine to have one of the most liberal legal environments for media in the region," Ms. Mijatović said.

The Verkhovna Rada also introduced amendments to the law on the National Council on Television and Radio Broadcasting, allowing the president and parliament the early and arbitrary dismissal of the members of National Council. Ms. Mijatović pointed out that these amendments undermined the independence of the broadcasting regulator.

"I sincerely hope that President Yanukovich will veto the amendments, which might be arbitrarily interpreted and lead to disproportionate restrictions on media freedom, stifling debate and critical views," Ms. Mijatović said.

Ms. Mijatović also noted that the amendments have not been publicly discussed with civil society and the media community.

### OSCE chairperson-in-office expresses "concern" over Ukraine

News release issued January 17 in Vienna:

Didier Burkhalter, Swiss foreign minister and OSCE chairperson-in-office, has expressed concern at recent legal measures taken in Ukraine which contain provisions which recriminalize libel and could impose serious restrictions on fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

"I encourage the authorities of Ukraine to consult with relevant OSCE executive structures on the compatibility of the recently adopted legal measures with common OSCE commitments," said Mr. Burkhalter.

Making the case for defusing tensions through dialogue and compromise, the chairperson-in-office called upon all sides to refrain from measures that could contribute to a further polarization in Ukraine.

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

logue, within the constitutional and legal framework, without any foreign interference," he said. However, he added that Russia stood ready to help create a dialogue between the Ukrainian opposition and government. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Reuters, ITAR-TASS and Interfax)

### Sikorski, Brok condemn legislation

BRUSSELS – Following a morning meeting of foreign affairs ministers of the European People's Party (EPP) on January 20 in Brussels, the co-chairmen, Radosław Sikorski, foreign affairs minister of Poland, and Elmar Brok, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, made the following statement regarding the alarming developments in Ukraine: "The EPP condemns the adoption by the Ukrainian Rada, without respecting the appropriate legal procedures, of new legislation restricting basic democratic principles and human rights such as the freedom of speech and the freedom of assembly. This 'Belarusification' of Ukraine endangers the future of the country, its independence and the European aspirations of its citizens. Violence and repression will lead the country into tremendous chaos. Negotiations between the opposition and the Ukrainian regime, based on a true and open democracy, are the only way to overcome the current confrontation. Therefore, we welcome the recent launch of talks between President Viktor Yanukovich and the opposition leaders. All possible solutions must be considered, including early elections. We call on the president of Ukraine to refrain from

using violence and repression and to respect the international commitments of Ukraine in the field of human rights, democratic freedoms and the rule of law."

### Zakharchenko pledges harsh response

KYIV – Violations will be met by the Internal Affairs Ministry with a harsh response under the current legislation of Ukraine. Internal Affairs Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko said on January 18 at a meeting of the ministry's officials. He said the ministry is interested in a constructive dialogue with all who want peace and tranquility in the country, "however, each offense will be met by our side harshly according with the law." (Interfax-Ukraine)

### RFE/RL condemns harassment of journalists

WASHINGTON – RFE/RL on January 15 condemned the harassment and intimidation of independent journalists in Ukraine, including a smear campaign targeting RFE/RL contributor Vitaliy Portnikov. In December 2013, a video containing intimate and illegally obtained images of the journalist appeared on the Internet. His Kyiv apartment was also picketed in January by some 50 protesters who carried threatening posters and accused Mr. Portnikov of "immoral behavior." RFE/RL President Kevin Klose called the actions "an orchestrated effort to discredit independent, professional journalists, reminiscent of the most reprehensible tactics of Soviet times." Mr. Portnikov is a prominent Ukrainian journalist who heads the TVi channel. He began working with RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service in the early 1990s. He is a member of the public committee of Euro-Maidan, the organizing body of pro-European Union demonstrations that emerged after President Viktor Yanukovich rejected an agreement on closer ties with the European Union in November 2013 (RFE/RL)



Ділимось сумною вісткою з родиною та знайомими, що 2 січня 2014 року, проживши 99 років, відійшла у вічність наша дорога Мама, Бабуня та Прабабуня

св. п.

## Мирослава Цибрівська

з дому Бачинська

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- син - Роман з сином Адріаном з дружиною Наталією Віблею сином Олесем і донею Марусею
  - донька - Гандзя Скубяк з донею Таїсою Скубяк з чоловіком Джеродом Кенардом і сином Матейком, з сином Марком Скубяком з дружиною Джозі і донею Вірою
  - донька - Христина Єрмихов з чоловіком Николаєм Єрмиховом з донею Катериною з чоловіком Семом Дженсеном, з донею Анею з чоловіком Алексом Гилдретом, з сином Павлом
  - син - Зенон з дружиною Оленкою Сайкевич з донями Меласею і Андреюкою
- та ближча і дальша родина.

Похоронні відправи відбулися 11 січня 2014 року в церкві св. Володимира і Ольги в Чикаго.

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Dear Christmas Appeal Recipients,

Due to a computer program malfunction in our Annual *Christmas Appeal* Address List, some of you may have received *UCCA Christmas Appeal* that are addressed to a different individual other than yourselves but still display your current address. We sincerely apologize for this grievous error.

We are currently working to correct the problem, however, there is not much that can be done on our part to remedy that issue for the *2014 Appeal* that have already been sent.

Once again, please accept our sincere apologies. We thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter and for your continued support of the work of the UCCA.

UCCA National Office

### DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

# NYC School of Ukrainian Studies dedicates its Christmas concert to Euro-Maidan

by Xenia Ferencevych

NEW YORK CITY – The School of Ukrainian Studies of the Samopomich Association joyously welcomed the Christmas season with a holiday concert on Saturday, December 14, 2013. Attendees packed St. George Academy's gymnasium in order to enjoy a lively program of Ukrainian carols and poems, and an impressive presentation of the Nativity by the school's upperclassmen.

As is customary, Principal Ivan Makar opened the concert with a few welcoming words, and in a show of solidarity with the Euro-Maidan under way in Kyiv, ceremoniously lit the Christmas tree and dedicated that day's performances to all Ukrainians demonstrating for human dignity, freedom from corruption and closer ties with Europe.

Gesturing to a lantern representing the Bethlehem Peace Light, Mr. Makar said, "May this light warm our brothers and sisters who stand on the maidan, working for a better Ukraine." His stirring dedication was followed by an emotional rendition of the Ukrainian national anthem, "Shche Ne Vmerla Ukrayina," sung by all present.

The program, emceed by history teacher Valentyna Hlushak, opened with a traditional Ukrainian Christmas greeting or "vinshuvannia" by sixth and seventh grade students. That was followed by a colorful montage of carols and poetry about Christmas and St. Nicholas, presented by students of the lower grades. Choir director



The Nativity play (vertep) performed by upperclassmen.

Elya Romanyshyn led the students in song, accompanied by Dr. Marta Maczaj on piano.

In the second half of the program, members of the upper grades presented a moving depiction of the Nativity story, or "Vertep." Those students in leading roles, displayed an impressive understanding and portrayal of the miraculous story of the birth of Jesus under threat of Roman king Herod.

The concert concluded with a school-wide performance of "Koliada" (lyrics by H.

Kanych, music by S. Petrosian). Mr. Makar expressed sincere thanks for continued cooperation and support, and on behalf of the school administration wished everyone good health, much happiness and "Pure water from the well, a field full of spring wheat, salt and bread on the table and fine spirits! Christ is Born!" A final sing-along of "Boh Predvichnyi" capped off the festive program.

Thanks were expressed to the parents'

committee led by Yaryna Glum, young and old alike were treated to delicious baked goods, and a fund-raising raffle, organized by committee member Katya Nalywajko, helped raise much-needed funds for the school. The lucky winners took home gift baskets, while every student was given chocolates as a Christmas treat.

For more information on the school, readers may visit its website: [www.ukrainianschoolnyc.org](http://www.ukrainianschoolnyc.org).

## Hartford museum features "didukh"



HARTFORD, Conn. – The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art sponsors the Festival of Trees and Traditions, a yearly event featuring Christmas trees decorated in themes of various cultures and traditions from America and throughout the world. This year, thanks to the members of the Hartford branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, the festival featured a traditional Ukrainian "didukh." The scouts worked under the direction of "Bratchyk" (Cubmaster) Petro Gluch to turn 10 pounds of loose wheat stalks into a complex and ornate didukh, with the final product reaching almost five feet in height. The didukh was wrapped with a traditional embroidered ritual cloth (rushnyk) and displayed with a wooden spoon and an icon. The entry was titled "Spirit of Ancestors – Didukh" and was one of the most unique displays in the festival.

– Nadia Gluch

## Rochester credit union to offer 15 scholarships for 2014-2015

by Tamara Denysenko

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – In 2014, 15 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 will be offered to Ukrainian Federal Credit Union (UFCU) student-members who plan to attend college during the 2014-2015 academic years. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors with a minimum, cumulative grade point average of 85, or full-time undergraduate students with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

The eight-member Scholarship Selection Committee (Tania Dashkevich, Tamara Denysenko, Yaroslav Fatyak, Christine Hoshowsky, Ann Kornlyo, Evhen Lylak, Nadia Tratch and Bohdan Zakharchishin) will review applications based on three separate categories: academic performance, community and UFCU Common Bond involvement, and two original essays on the following topics: "What financial services, credit union benefits and community activities are important to you today and in the future to keep you an active and lifelong member of the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union?" and "Ukraine and Ukrainians, a perspective on: history, religion, literature, culture, traditions or current events."

For the first time in 2014, all scholarship winners will be required to participate in a Ukrainian FCU "Products and Services Focus Group" initiative.

Applications are available on the Ukrainian FCU website, [www.rufcu.org/](http://www.rufcu.org/)

Tamara Denysenko is president of the Ukrainian American Community Foundation Inc.

[scholarships.php](http://scholarships.php), via links on its Facebook page and at each of the eight UFCU branch locations in Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany, Boston, Sacramento, Calif., and Portland, Ore. The deadline for applications is March 1.

Since the late 1970s, the Ukrainian FCU has awarded hundreds of scholarships to student-members, initially to attend the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) summer school and then to a broad spectrum of colleges and universities across the United States. The scholarships were helpful to many students in achieving their educational goals.

Ivan Shevchyk, a 2010 scholarship recipient writes: "I am now a senior at University of California at Davis pursuing a degree in neurobiology, physiology and behavior. I will be applying to medical school next year. When I received the scholarship during my first year, it made a significant financial impact as well as relieving a major financial burden on my family. This allowed me to stay focused on school and not have to worry about expenses. This was an amazing gift and I want to thank UFCU again for making this possible."

In the future, through its Ukrainian American Community Foundation, the UFCU plans to recognize and encourage excellence in the study of Ukrainian language, literature, culture, heritage, religious traditions and history by awarding Ukrainian Culture, Heritage and History Research Awards for undergraduate and graduate studies at domestic universities and institutes, in conjunction with their international studies programs.

# Columbia University's Ukrainian Studies Program to offer eight courses in spring semester

NEW YORK – Eight courses in Ukrainian studies will be offered at Columbia University in the spring semester. Two of the courses will be taught by Dr. Oksana Mykhed, a promising young historian who recently obtained her Ph.D. from Harvard University. Another course will be taught by Prof. Alexander Motyl, one of the most active and respected Ukrainian studies scholars in North America today.

Dr. Mykhed will serve as an assistant professor in history at Columbia University in the spring semester. Her appointment is generously supported by the Ukrainian Studies Instructional Fund. She completed her Ph.D. dissertation titled "Not by Force Alone: Russian Incorporation of the Dnieper Borderland, 1762-1800" at the History Department of Harvard University in 2013.

Her primary research and teaching interests are in Ukrainian, Russian and Polish histories. In her research, she explores the growth of the Russian, Hapsburg, and Ottoman empires, and the formation of imperial boundaries and borderland communities. Her current work focuses on the history of migration control, public health and commerce in the Ukrainian territories of the Russian Empire and Poland-Lithuania in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Both of the courses that Dr. Mykhed will be teaching at Columbia are seminars.

The first course (Thursdays, 2:20-4 p.m.) is titled "Early Modern Eastern Europe: 1500-1800." This course concentrates on the early modern period and addresses the history of the region, which includes mainly the territories of present-day Poland, Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. The course presents the history of the region through the analysis of such important pan-European processes as the growth of empires and absolutism, the Reformation and revival of Catholicism, the Enlightenment, and urbanization. It also emphasizes that that region's culture and society were in many ways unique and distinctive from Western European patterns.

Dr. Mykhed will also teach a course titled "Ukraine Since 1800" (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-12:50 p.m.). This course puts the history of modern Ukraine into the context of East European and Soviet histories. The course highlights the political and ethnic complexities of the Ukrainian lands, tracing the collapses of the Russian and Hapsburg empires, the formation and disintegration of the USSR, shifting borders, ethnic cleansing, deportations and national revivals. It also presents various peoples of Ukraine, and the diversity of their economic and cultural lives, and explores social mobility and modernization.

A new course will be offered by Prof. Motyl of Rutgers University (Newark).

"Post-Sovietological Debates: Contentious Issues and Non-Issues in Soviet and Post-Soviet Studies" (Wednesdays, 6:10-8 p.m.) is an interdisciplinary course that examines some of the major controversies and "non-controversies" in the study of the Soviet Union and its successor states – including East Central Europe – and thereby traces the evolution of post-Soviet studies in general and Ukrainian studies in particular in light of actual political, historical and artistic developments within the region. The course explores how scholarly disciplines, academic discourses, political controversies and normative predispositions affect academic debates, as well as how scholarship and the objects of scholarly study interact to affect conceptual, methodological, theoretical and empirical understandings.

Dr. Mark Andryczyk will teach a course titled "The Aura of Ukrainian Soviet Modernism" (Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:10-2:25 p.m.). This course studies the renaissance in Ukrainian culture of the 1920s – a period of revolution, experimentation, vibrant expression and polemics. Focusing on the most important developments in literature, as well as on the intellectual debates they inspired, the course will also examine the major achievements in Ukrainian theater, visual art and film as integral components of the cultural spirit that defined the era. Additionally, the course looks at the subsequent implementation of socialist realism and its impact on Ukrainian culture and on the cultural leaders of the renaissance. The course treats one of the most important periods of Ukrainian culture and examines its lasting impact on today's Ukraine. This period produced several world-renowned cultural figures, whose connections with 1920s Ukraine have only recently begun to be discussed. The course will be complemented by film screenings and by presentations of visual art and rare publications from this period.

Another course to be offered in the spring is Ambassador Valeriy Kuchynskyi's "Today's Ukraine: Power, Politics and Diplomacy" (Tuesdays, 2:10-4 p.m.). His newly revised course will provide answers to the following questions: What's going on in Ukraine now? Will the country manage to put things in order? What are the causes of the current turmoil? Is strategic partner-



Dr. Oksana Mykhed

ship with Russia a temporary ploy or is it a change of course? Will the authorities heed to the demands of the Euro-Maidan? These and other issues, including behind-the-scenes politics, power struggles and diplomatic activities are dealt with in the course delivered by a career diplomat.

Three levels of Ukrainian language instruction will be taught this spring by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk: elementary on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:40-9:55 a.m.; intermediate on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:10-11:25 a.m.; and advanced on Mondays and Wednesdays at 2:40-3:55p.m.

As usual, the Ukrainian Studies Program will organize a series of events at Columbia, covering various topics in the study of Ukraine that are open to the public. One such event is a lecture to be delivered on January 23 by Oleskandra Kunovska (Ph.D. candidate at University of Fribourg and Swiss National Science Foundation Research Fellow at Columbia University [Harriman Institute]) titled "Consumption and Newspaper Advertising in Interwar Lviv." Additionally, in commemoration of the bicentennial of Taras Shevchenko's birth, the Ukrainian Studies Program will present a special event on February 20 when Prof. Taras Koznarsky (University of Toronto) will present "Shevchenko and His Readers (Revisited)," focusing on the reception of pre-exile Shevchenko by the Ukrainian intelligentsia and Russian critics. Both events will be at noon and will take place in the Marshall D. Shulman Seminar Room (Room 1219, International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St.).

Throughout the semester, the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University will be marking its 10-year anniversary with a series of special events. Its director, Dr. Shevchuk, will continue to provide fans of film with consistent programming featuring Ukrainian cinema both on and off campus.

Courses at Columbia are open to students from other universities in the New York metropolitan area seeking credit. Readers are advised to contact the university at which they are enrolled to determine whether it participates in this manner with Columbia University. Some courses are also open to outside individuals interested in non-credit continuing studies. Additionally, through the Lifelong Learners program, individuals over age 65 who are interested in auditing courses may enroll at a discount rate as Lifelong Learners (visit the Columbia University School of Continuing Education (<http://www.ce.columbia.edu/auditing/?PID=28>) for more details).

January 21 was the first day of classes and January 31 was the final day to register for a class. For more information about courses or the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, readers may contact Dr. Andryczyk at [ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu](mailto:ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu) or 212-854-4697.

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# OUT & ABOUT

Through April 21 Winnipeg, MB	Exhibit, "Money, Sovereignty and Power: The Paper Currency of Revolutionary Ukraine, 1917-1920," University of Saskatchewan, Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 204-942-0218	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
January 27 Cambridge, MA	Presentation by Serhiy Leshchenko and Nadia Diuk, "Global Warning, Hot Winter in Ukraine: The Maidan Protests and Their Impact," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu	February 8 Chicago	Film screening, "The Lion and the Lioness" by Irena Kowal, Ukrainian National Museum, www.ukrainiannationalmuseum.org
January 28 Cambridge, MA	Lecture and book presentation by Serhiy Leshchenko, "The American Saga of Pavlo Lazarenko: Investigating Corruption Charges and Judicial Proceedings against a former Prime Minister," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu	February 8 New York	Book launch, "100 churches by Nahriniy. First edition. Churches of Vasyl Nahirny" by Khrystyna Lew, Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
January 29 Ottawa	Round-table discussion on the Euro-Maidan, Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa, 613-562-5800 ext. 3692 or chairukr@gmail.com	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
January 31 Chicago	Book launch, "Being" by Ksju Kami, Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020	February 8 New York	Book presentation, "Strings Attached: One Tough Teacher and the Gift of Great Expectations," by Joanne Lipman and Melanie Kupchynsky, Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 11, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or www.ukrainianmuseum.org
February 1 Hamilton, ON	Volleyball tournament and dance, with music by Zapovid, McMaster Ukrainian Students' Association, Cathedral High School, macmusa1280@gmail.com	February 9 Trenton, NJ	Concert, featuring pianist virtuoso Roman Rudnytsky, St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church hall, 609-695-3771
February 1 New York	Performance by bandurist Borys Ostapienko, Bandura Downtown, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110	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
February 1 Chicago	Presentation of debutantes, Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, Palmer House Hilton, 773-486-7929 or umanadeb@aol.com	February 15 Washington	Winter Debutante Ball, with music by Hrim, Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies of Greater Washington, Omni Shoreham Hotel, zabavadc@gmail.com or 703-867-6847
February 1 Rochester, NY	Presentation of debutantes, "Chervona Kalyna," Radisson Rochester Riverside Hotel, www.rochesterukrainiandeb.org or 585-872-0240	February 15 New York	Lecture by Volodymyr Mezentsev, "National Sculpture and Decoration of Mazepa's Chambers in Baturyn," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
February 1 New York	Round-table discussion, "Euro-Maidan: Social and Political Crises or Revolution?" Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130		
February 1 Whippany, NJ	Malanka, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 201-213-4321		

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to [mdubas@ukrweekly.com](mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com).

## Kyiv erupts...

(Continued from page 4)

This time, the opposition leaders couldn't blame the violence on state-sponsored provocateurs (as was the case near the Presidential Administration on December 1), prompting the 6-foot-7 Mr. Klitschko to insert himself between the radicals and police, waving his long arms in a plea to stop the attacks.

Instead of heeding his advice, the nationalists sprayed him with a fire extinguisher and shouted, "Shame," still resentful of those who stopped the December 1 storming of the Presidential Administration.

Berkut forces eventually began firing tear gas canisters and stun grenades to force the demonstrators away from their barricade, which became a constant feature of the battles on Hrushevsky.

They also rocked their buses, on which journalists and photographers stood, causing a few to fall and become injured.

As the sun set on January 19, a police bus caught fire, which the nationalists reported as a provocation from their opponents. Yet what they could not deny was that many radicals were digging out cobblestones and flinging them at police, along with Molotov cocktails that became a more common weapon deeper into the night.

The nationalists were soon joined by soccer hooligans, also targeted by the January 17 laws, as well as Euro-Maidan activists.

By midnight, at least half a dozen buses - placed by police to form a wider barricade against demonstrators - were thoroughly burnt, making for the war-zone

images that appeared in the international press the next day. They were either intentionally set ablaze or unintentionally ignited by the hurled Molotov cocktails.

No other section of Kyiv beyond Hrushevsky Street at the entrance to the Lobanovskiy Stadium, where Dynamo Kyiv plays, was involved in conflict.

Berkut upped the ante against demonstrators by spraying water from water cannons in their direction (amidst freezing temperatures) and firing rubber bullets (which by the next night would become

metal bullets shot by snipers) and live metal cartridges, which are cylindrical, flat-top bullets designed to injure.

Batkivshchyna National Deputy Lesia Orobets suspected Berkut forces were using more than just stun grenades as victims reported getting hurt by fragments and shrapnel.

She reported being beaten by the Berkut as she tried to photograph the grenades being distributed among them with her mobile phone.

"A pack of at least five big Berkut in masks and equipment threw themselves at me, throwing me off my feet," she tweeted.

"I fell on the cobblestones and hit my head hard. My helmet rescued me. Three men defending me were beaten worse, on their heads and bodies. Helmets also saved them from serious trauma. They forced my phone from my hands and destroyed it."

Batkivshchyna National Deputy Andrii Parubii, who moonlights as the Maidan's commander, reported wounds on his hand and fragments in his nose from the alleged stun grenades during the night battles on Hrushevsky Street. He reported 30 to 40 injured from the Euro-Maidan's defense

Verbytskyi were kidnapped on January 21. Mr. Lutsenko surfaced a day later and reported being tortured, while Mr. Verbytskyi was found murdered. Mr. Bulatov, the Auto-Maidan leader, disappeared on January 22.

Two other activists, ethnic Armenian Serhii Nihoyan of the Dnipropetrovsk area and Belarusian citizen Mykhailo Zhyznevskiy of Bila Tserkva, were killed by sniper fire during battles on January 22, which happened to mark the Unity Day holiday in Ukraine.

On the night of January 19, Mr. Klitschko insisted on a meeting with Mr. Yanukovich, telling him the crisis would be resolved if the entire government resigned and new elections were held. "Yanukovich made a look as though he didn't hear it," the opposition leader told hromadske.tv, saying the president appeared to be concerned with the violence.

Mr. Yanukovich charged Mr. Kliuyev with leading working group negotiations to resolve the conflict, prompting many Euro-Maidan leaders to demand a boycott of the talks given Mr. Kliuyev's suspected role in the November 30 violent dispersals that ignited the protests.

By the morning of January 20, hundreds of street battlers reported being in a state of shellshock, or suffering from wounds or grenade fragments. At least three were reported to have lost an eye in the battles. By January 21, the estimate of injured activists swelled to 1,200.

Initial police reporters of 30-40 injured swelled to 119 as they released photos of their officers being burned by Molotov cocktails.

## Quotable notes

"The authorities have declared war on the Ukrainian people, and this has led to terrible consequences. ...The authorities are sending fighters from across the country, but there are more of us and we will be together. Get in cars, minibuses and buses, because you are needed here so that Ukraine - and not Yanukovich - wins."

*Vitali Klitschko in an appeal to the people of Ukraine issued via YouTube on January 19.*

units.

Police also incurred injuries, whether having their uniforms set ablaze by the Molotov cocktails or being caught and beaten by the radicals during the scuffles.

That night, the first kidnappings by Berkut forces were reported. They destroyed a car participating in the Auto-Maidan protest and arrested its driver. Auto-Maidan tweeted that he was severely beaten before he managed to escape and flee the Berkut.

Such kidnappings and beatings would escalate significantly the next few days. Civic activists Yurii Lutsenko and Yurii

BOOK PRESENTATION WITH CO-AUTHORS  
**Joanne Lipman and Melanie Kupchynsky**  
 Saturday, February 8, 2014 at 7 p.m.

# Strings Attached

One tough teacher and  
 the gift of great expectations



Joanne Lipman & Melanie Kupchynsky

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Saturday, February 1**

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a roundtable titled "Euro-Maidan: Social and Political Crises or Revolution?" Participants include Adrian Karatnycky (Atlantic Council's Program on Transatlantic Relations), Ambassador Valery Kuchynsky (Columbia University) and Prof. Alexander J. Motyl (Rutgers University). Exhibition of photographs by Anton Trofymov (Kyiv-New York) titled "The Euromaidan Chronicles." The roundtable will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

**Saturday, February 8**

**NEW YORK:** Come to The Ukrainian Museum at 7 p.m. to meet co-authors Joanne

Lipman and Melanie Kupchynsky, who will present their book "Strings Attached: One Tough Teacher and the Gift of Great Expectations," the inspiring story of remarkable music teacher Jerry Kupchynsky. Featuring a beautiful recording of Ms. Kupchynsky, a violinist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, performing "Méditation" from the opera "Thaïs." The New York Times called the book "inspirational"; The Wall Street Journal commented on it in "Why Tough Teachers Get Good Results." The event is co-sponsored by Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 113. Admission (includes reception and gallery access): \$15; \$10 for members, seniors; \$5 for students. Tickets are available at [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org) or by calling 212-228-0110. The Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St.

## 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.

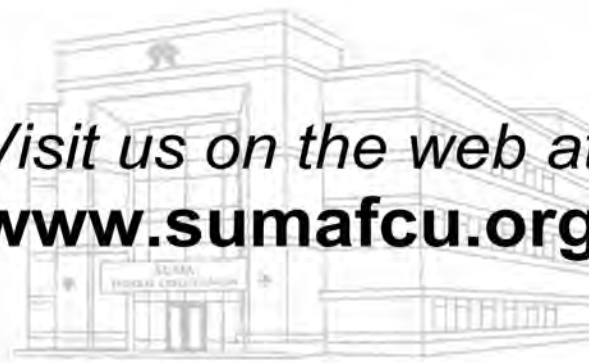
To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers 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](mailto: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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