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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## U.S. hails Ukraine's parliamentary elections

Following is President Barack Obama's statement on the parliamentary elections in Ukraine released on October 27 by the White House, Office of the Press Secretary.

On behalf of the American people, I congratulate the people of Ukraine on holding successful parliamentary elections on October 26. Despite a challenging security environment in certain regions, millions of Ukrainians turned out across the country to cast their ballots in an orderly and peaceful manner. I commend the government of Ukraine for the conduct of the campaign and election day vote, which international monitoring organizations assess to have been largely in line with international standards.

At the same time, it is clear that Russian authorities occupying Crimea and Russian-backed separatists in parts of eastern Ukraine prevented many Ukrainian citizens from exercising their democratic rights to participate in national elections and cast their votes. I call on Russia to ensure that its proxies in eastern Ukraine allow voters in the parts of Donetsk and Luhansk

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## Parliamentary elections mark turning point in Ukraine's history

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – He said after the Euro-Maidan that he would be leading a kamikaze government because of the unpopular reforms it would have to undertake.

Instead, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk emerged as the winner of the October 26 early parliamentary elections, leading his People's Front party to an unexpected first-place finish that observers said will serve as a counterbalance to the ambitions of Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, whose party finished a close second.

But what is more significant than any particular party's performance is that the October 26 vote proved to be a historic milestone for independent Ukraine. For the first time, pro-Western parties collectively gained more votes in the southeastern oblasts, with the exception of Kharkiv and partially occupied Donetsk and Luhansk.

And for the first time in independent Ukraine, the Communist Party won't be represented in the Ukrainian Parliament.

"Colossal changes have occurred in the consciousness of Ukrainians," said Olexiy Haran, a political science professor at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

Yet the parliamentary elections had a negative side as well, as voter turnout

reached a historic low of 52.4 percent. Meanwhile, the Russian occupation of Ukraine prevented elections from being held in Crimea, as well as in 56 percent of the districts in the Donetsk region and 70 percent of the districts in the Luhansk region.

Euro-Maidan activists such as Ruslana were disappointed that the Civic Position led by former Defense Minister Anatoliy Grytsenko fell far short of the 5 percent barrier needed to qualify, earning only 3.1 percent. The party was considered by experts

to be among the few genuinely committed to conducting the radical reforms needed.

In all, six parties qualified for Parliament, five of which are committed to Ukraine's integration into the European Union. The Opposition Bloc – a collection of former Party of Regions members and eastern Ukrainian oligarchs – pulled off one of the elections' surprises, qualifying with an unexpectedly strong 9.4 percent result.

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### VERKHOVNA RADA ELECTION RESULTS

Party	% support for party list	No. of single-mandate seats	No. of deputies/ % of total
Poroshenko Bloc	21.8%	69	132/31.2%
People's Front	22.2%	18	82/19.4%
Self-Reliance	11.0%	1	33/7.8%
Opposition Bloc	9.4%	2	29/6.9%
Radical Party	7.4%	0	22/5.2%
Batkivshchyna	5.7%	2	19/4.5%
Independents			96/22.7%
Other parties			10/2.4%
<b>Total</b>			<b>*423/100.0%</b>

Source: Central Election Commission of Ukraine

\*Due to the ongoing Russian occupation of Ukrainian territory, elections were not held in certain districts and 27 of the 450 seats in the Verkhovna Rada were not filled.

## New Ukrainian organization transports critical supplies directly to volunteer battalions

by Borys Klymenko

KYIV – At least once a week, Viktoriia Voronovych and Yurii Mosin pack two mini-buses with winter clothing, medical supplies and basic foodstuffs and make the 10-hour trip to the Donbas region. Much as they have done nine times previously, this trip they are carrying a load of portable solar panels, thermal underclothing, U.S.-manufactured work and hiking boots, medical tourniquets and blood-clotting medicines, bottled water, canned food and fresh fruits.

They are traveling with a Ministry of Internal Affairs Alpha Special Forces escort team, which allows them unimpeded access to all the conflict areas. Sometimes they are halted at the military posts that mark the entry point into the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) zone. Most always they are allowed to enter and travel to most points within the ATO – Sloviansk, Debaltsevo, Popasne, Alchevsk, Artemivsk – until they have handed over badly needed supplies to the volunteer combatants. Too often in the past, they have come under enemy artillery or sniper fire. Undaunted, they carry on. Today they laugh uneasily



Viktoriia Voronovych (center) and Yurii Mosin (second from left) at a Debaltsevo checkpoint with members of the volunteer forces. The Ukrainian flag they are holding was signed by the soldiers for a Kyiv church that had donated supplies delivered by the International Alliance for Fraternal Assistance.

when recollecting the situations in which they've found themselves.

"One time we heard explosions nearby and dove into a trench, explained Ms. Voronovych. "When the bombing stopped, the four of us crawled out only to find our driver had somehow managed to don a flack jacket and helmet. It turned out that while we hurtled our bodies into the ravine, he ran to the vehicles and put the stuff on before diving in on top of us!"

Ms. Voronovych and Mr. Mosin are the founders and leaders of the International Alliance for Fraternal Assistance, one of several civil society organizations that have sprung from the Euro-Maidan movement. The IAFA is dedicated to supporting the volunteer battalions fighting the Russian separatist forces in the east with the basic necessities that the government of Ukraine has failed to supply. The IAFA is also providing general humanitarian aid to those affected by the conflict, transporting internally displaced persons out of the ATO and – in response to a growing need – developing plans to modernize amputee rehabilitation in Ukraine.

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## ANALYSIS

# What do Russian probes in the Baltic portend?

by Stephen Blank  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Earlier this month (October 2014), Scandinavian, and especially Swedish, media have focused on Sweden's apparently abortive efforts to locate what was allegedly a disabled Russian reconnaissance submarine off its shores near Stockholm (thelocal.se, October 24). But beyond the glaring evidence of the degradation of Swedish military capabilities – a condition it shares with most if not all of Europe – there is a larger story here. That story is not just the intensification of Russian military adventurism, probes and harassment of foreign ships in the Baltic. Rather, it is the manifestation of this trend on a global level.

As this author has previously observed, there has been a significant increase in incidents of Russian overflights of Japan this year (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, June 10). The same trend is visible for Russian flights and reconnaissance missions directed against installations controlled globally by the United States, as well as targets in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. In other words, what just happened in Sweden is only the latest in a long series of usurpations, abuses and harassments directed against the West as a whole, not just Baltic littoral states. This trend testifies to a steady, long-term (i.e. before the Ukraine war) and dangerous militarization of Russian foreign policy that may yet touch off a major international crisis while Moscow plays chicken in the Baltic or other theaters (theepochtimes.com, October 22).

Clearly, none of this emphasis on the global manifestation of Russian policy should be taken to minimize the salience of the tangible signs of the intensification of such probes in and around the Baltic. But in fact, here, as in Russia's overflights of the U.S., this is only an intensification of a longer-term policy going back years. Scholars have extensively demonstrated that Moscow consistently subjects the Baltic States and other Baltic littorals to a multi-dimensional panoply of pressures, utilizing all the instruments of power. Russia regularly uses military threats, political subversion, pressure by both Russians and compliant locals, large-scale energy threats and espionage. Moreover, Russia financially supports local European political parties, leaders and media – even to the point of inviting Baltic students to Russian "summer camps" for the purpose of political indoctrination (15minutes.lt, October 8).

In the military field, Swedish officials observed that the most recent incident was merely the latest in a series of hitherto unreported episodes. Likewise, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has repeatedly and recently intercepted Russian reconnaissance jets overflying the Baltic States (polski-radio.pl, October 21; defence24.pl, October 25; BBC News, October 23). Overflights of Sweden and Finland have also become commonplace occurrences, and Moscow recently harassed a Finnish research vessel in the Baltic Sea (Svd Online, October 11). Among the most extreme Russian actions has been Moscow's staged provocation, in September 2014, in which it arrested an Estonian intelli-

gence officer (news.err.ee, September 5). Meanwhile, Konstantin Dolgov, the Russian foreign ministry's Special Representative for Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, has publicly threatened the Baltic States with another Crimea-like operation for their supposed "mistreatment" of Russian minorities (mid.ru, September 13). Therefore, this month's incident with the submarine off of Sweden's coast needs to be seen as part of Russia's regional and global policy.

It appears that Moscow has several aims. First, it may be trying to probe the nerves of the new Swedish government and deter Sweden from further military cooperation with Finland and NATO. Second, Moscow probably wants to demonstrate to the entire Baltic region that it holds President Barack Obama and NATO's commitment to defend the Baltics in contempt and that, as Vladimir Putin said, Russia could take these countries over in days, should it want to. Therefore, it endeavors to show NATO's impotence. None of this means that Russia disbelieves in NATO's, and especially the United States', capabilities. Rather, Moscow probably has little respect for NATO's will to act or its cohesion in the face of a crisis – and the Western performance regarding the war in Ukraine has likely only reinforced that contempt for the Kremlin. Furthermore, the recent revelations of the decline of Sweden's real military capabilities as revealed during this month's search for the missing submarine and in Russia's 2013 and 2014 overflights of Sweden, Germany and Denmark only lend additional force to this Russian perception of a lack of will in Europe. Thus, Moscow's mafia-like intimidation tactics intend, inter alia, to reinforce and accelerate this decline of European will and to demonstrate to affected audiences that, in fact, they stand alone despite guarantees to the contrary.

Neither are Russian threats purely military. Energy, subversion, information warfare, espionage, etc. have all figured prominently and presumably still do in Moscow's multi-dimensional Baltic strategy. Yet, European nonchalance and unwillingness to stand up to Russian aggression in Ukraine merely fuels this Russian aggressiveness in the Baltic and cultivates Moscow's contempt for the West. A powerful Europe that is, nonetheless, locked in political drift and irresolution will hardly impress Russia, which is determined to actively defend its interests in Ukraine or the Baltic against both plainly military and non-military threats. And as Russia continues to try to intimidate the West in both Europe and Asia, the West, in turn, needs to decide how to arrest a regime that is now embarking on the classic authoritarian paradigm of accruing ever more power at home and abroad precisely because it cannot stop or control itself. Accordingly, what happens in the Baltic not only will not stay in the Baltic, but will reverberate far beyond Europe to Russia itself, and even as far as Asia.

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

## NEWSBRIEFS

### U.S. urges Russia to free Savchenko

WASHINGTON – Washington has called on Russia to immediately release Nadiya Savchenko, the Ukrainian pilot who was captured in eastern Ukraine and later handed over to Russia, where she is charged with killing two Russian journalists. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said on October 29 that 1st Lt. Savchenko's pre-trial detention in Russia, which was extended this week by a Moscow court, was "an outrage" and violated Russia's commitments under the Minsk agreements. Ms. Psaki also said Washington was "deeply concerned about new criminal charges expected to be filed" against Lt. Savchenko. The pilot was captured by pro-Russian separatists on June 18 near the eastern Ukrainian village of Metalist before turning up in Russian custody in early July. Under Russian court orders, she has been held since October 10 for "psychiatric evaluation" at the notorious Serbsky Institute, a facility behind a wave of diagnoses used to lock up dissidents during the Soviet era. (RFE/RL)

### Biden phones Poroshenko

WASHINGTON – Vice-President Joe Biden on October 27 telephoned President Petro Poroshenko to offer congratulations on the just concluded parliamentary elections in Ukraine. Following is the readout of the vice-president's call with the Ukrainian president as released by the Office of the Vice-President: "Vice-President Joe Biden spoke today with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to congratulate the Ukrainian people for holding successful elections in accordance with democratic electoral standards. The vice-president also noted his planned travel to Ukraine the week of November 17, during which the two leaders will have an opportunity to discuss bilateral relations, Ukraine's reform agenda, and the need for Russia to fully withdraw its troops and permit international monitoring of the border in accordance with the September 5 Minsk agreement." (White House, Office of the Vice-President)

### President for quick creation of coalition

KYIV – President Petro Poroshenko said he is satisfied with the results of his political

force in the elections to the Verkhovna Rada. He is confident that prompt creation of a coalition on its basis will finally allow introducing reforms. "It is a pleasure that my political force gained a convincing victory – the faction will have more than 130 national deputies. But today we should begin the implementation of reforms, not celebrate," he said at a meeting with members of the Judicial Reform Council on October 29. Mr. Poroshenko emphasized that it was important to immediately begin the work of the newly elected Verkhovna Rada, form a coalition and a new government. "We must work efficiently to solve all important issues," he said. "I am confident that we will promptly form a coalition that will be united by common principles and values. In the nearest time, right after the formation of the coalition, we must submit for consideration by the Verkhovna Rada a package of laws and new rules that will let us build a system credible for the public and the world," he emphasized. "I have no doubt that we are one team that wants to build fair society in Ukraine. And fair society can be built only in conditions of the rule of law and fair authorities," the president noted. (Official Website of Ukraine's President)

### Kyiv, U.S. condemn separatist elections

KYIV – Ukraine has condemned as "destructive and provocative" Russia's support for elections organized by pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine, while the United States said a vote by separatists in eastern Ukraine would be unlawful. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on October 28 described the vote planned by rebels as "pseudo-elections," saying they "grossly contradict the spirit and letter" of international agreements reached in Minsk in September. Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov says Moscow plans to recognize the elections that are being organized by separatists in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. In an interview with Russia's Izvestiya daily newspaper published on October 28, Mr. Lavrov said: "We expect the elections will go ahead as agreed, and we will of course recognize the results." Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State

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### EDITOR'S NOTE: Front-page article was analysis

Free-lance writer Zenon Zawada's article headlined "Poroshenko's oligarch alliance, self-interest draw rising criticism" (October 26) should have been labeled as an analysis and not presented as a news story. (The correction has been made online.)

The views expressed therein do not reflect the opinion of the Ukrainian National Association, publisher of The Ukrainian Weekly.

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**UCCA STATEMENT****Ukraine continues on democratic path with free elections**

*The following statement was released on October 27 by the International Election Observer Mission of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.*

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America's International Election Observer Mission, which observed the election in nine regions of Ukraine, including: Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Lviv, Mykolayiv, Odesa, Zakarpattia, Zaporizhia and Zhytomyr, as well as at diplomatic posts in the United States and Dublin – affirms that the October 26 early parliamentary elections met international standards for free and fair elections that accurately reflect the will of Ukraine's electorate.

The UCCA International Election Observer Mission based its preliminary statement on the direct observation of both the pre-election campaign period, as well as on election day. Prior to the October 26 early elections, UCCA long-term observers did not see any evidence of the use of administrative resources, and noted that candidates and political parties had access to the mass media, in contrast to the previous parliamentary elections.

The UCCA's 105 short-term election observers visited close to 300 polling sites in urban, suburban and rural areas, and despite minor infractions deemed that the elections were conducted in a peaceful, transparent and democratic manner.

The UCCA would like to commend the efforts of Ukraine's Central Election Commission to provide every opportunity for Ukraine's electorate to cast a ballot. Despite the ongoing war in the east and efforts by the Russian-backed terrorists to disrupt the vote in Donetsk and Luhansk, we understand that less than 10 percent of Ukrainians were prevented from exercising their right to vote.

The UCCA hopes that the newly elected members of the Verkhovna Rada form a coalition government as soon as possible so that the legislators

**(Continued on page 17)**

**International observers say elections mark an important step in Ukraine**

OSCE

KYIV – The October 26 early parliamentary elections in Ukraine marked an important step in consolidating democratic elections in line with international commitments and were characterized by many positive aspects, including an impartial and efficient Central Election Commission (CEC), competitive contests that offered voters a real choice, and general respect for fundamental freedoms, international observers concluded in a preliminary statement released on October 27.

The new Parliament should ensure that key reforms are passed, and grievances should be resolved with respect for the rule of law and through democratic institutions, the observers said.

"At this crucial moment for the future of their country, Ukraine's institutions and voters responded to daunting challenges with an election that largely upheld democratic commitments," said Kent Hårstedt, the special coordinator and leader of the short-term observer mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). "That response and, in particular, the authorities' determination to enable voting in as many areas of the country as possible, demonstrate a resilience that will help the country overcome its national and international challenges."

Christopher Chope, head of the delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), said: "The somber mood of the Ukrainian people in these elections reflects the gravity of the crisis facing the country. They have chosen a new Verkhovna Rada, which will be very different in composition from its predecessor. By doing so, the Ukrainians have shown their desire for action to address their needs. The Verkhovna Rada must now accept this new mandate in the same spirit and work quickly to implement reforms, many of which are long overdue. The PACE and Venice Commission are ready to assist in this urgent and important work."

In most of the country, election day proceeded calmly, with few disturbances and only isolated security incidents reported. The voting process was well-organized and orderly and was assessed positively in 99 percent of the polling stations observed, although some procedural irregularities were identified, including during the counting and the early stages of the tabulation processes.

Due to the efforts of the election administration to ensure voting in as much of the east as possible under extraordinary circumstances, including through simplified

procedures allowing voters to temporarily transfer their voting address, voting took place in 12 out of 21 election districts in the Donetsk region, and in five out of 11 in the Luhansk region.

"The nearly 30 seats that will be left empty in the new Parliament serve as a stark reminder that illegal armed groups prevented voters in some parts of the country from being able to vote," said Doris Barnett, head of the delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. "These illegal actions do not call into question the validity of the overall election. We look forward to these seats being filled as soon as possible so that representatives of those areas can join their colleagues in an open dialogue to the benefit of all Ukrainians."

Candidates were generally free to campaign in what was a competitive and visible campaign environment. While largely peaceful, there was a marked increase in violence in the last 10 days of the campaign, including cases of intimidation, threats and the targeted destruction of campaign property. The observers noted that no intolerant speech targeting national minorities was used during campaigning, despite the prevalence of nationalistic campaign rhetoric.

"The elections clearly showed the resolve of the Ukrainian society for change – the people have chosen Europe and peace," said Andrej Plenković, head of the European Parliament's delegation. "The new Rada and the future government will have the responsibility to embark on the ambitious European reform agenda and the reintegration of the entire Ukrainian territory. The European Union and the European Parliament will support Ukraine throughout this process."

Rasa Juknevičienė, head of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly delegation, said: "We must not lose sight of the context in which these elections took place. Ukraine is at war. Yet, despite the ongoing violence, voting took place yesterday in a majority of districts in Donetsk and Luhansk. Despite that, the elections marked significant progress for Ukraine's democracy. The Parliament that was elected yesterday will now have the difficult but important responsibility to carry this work forward, and address remaining issues."

In a positive development, the misuse of state resources was not named as an issue of major concern, although the president and prime minister took unfair advantage of their positions on the eve of the elections in televised appeals calling on voters to elect a pro-reform Parliament. A number of

credible allegations of vote-buying were reported and are being investigated by the authorities.

The CEC administered the process in a largely professional and efficient manner. However, the holding of closed-door meetings before CEC sessions and unilateral decision-making undermined the transparency of the process. In commissions at lower levels, the replacement of commission members partly affected the stability and efficiency of election administration. Candidate registration was generally inclusive and offered voters a wide variety of choice among 6,600 candidates. The rejection of more than 640 candidates on the basis of technicalities restricted the choice of candidate and runs counter to international standards, however.

"The impartial management of the process by the Central Election Commission can further contribute to reinforcing public confidence in democratic elections in Ukraine," said Tana de Zulueta, head of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) long-term election observation mission. "Our statement also notes some persisting difficulties, so the positives in these elections can be used as a basis for further improvements. Moving forward, the OSCE ODIHR is ready to provide assistance and expertise in this process."

The media environment was dynamic and diverse and offered voters a broad range of views. However, media autonomy and independent reporting were in some cases inhibited by political or business interests, and some private media outlets demonstrated bias in their campaign coverage. The ongoing hostilities in the east jeopardized journalists' safety and prevented the transmission of Ukrainian broadcasts, while steps taken to prevent certain channels from broadcasting alleged propaganda remain in place. In a positive step, election debates between political parties were held for the first time and broadcast on national television.

The legal framework is generally adequate for the conduct of democratic elections. Recent amendments addressed some previous recommendations by the OSCE ODIHR and the Council of Europe's Venice Commission. A number of concerns remain, however, including with regard to certain candidacy requirements. Persistent issues with electoral district boundaries meant that national minorities were under-represented, the statement noted. Despite recent amendments to increase the transparency of campaign finances, corruption continues to undermine confidence in the electoral process.

**Conflict with Russia reaches Ukrainian stores**

by Yana Polyanska and Claire Bigg  
RFE/RL

The standoff between Kyiv and Moscow has reached food stores in the Ukrainian capital, where Russian-imported goods are soon to be marked with special labels.

The Kyiv city legislature has approved legislation ordering stores to enforce the new measure, which its initiator, lawmaker Ruslan Andriyko, says aims at warning consumers against supporting the "aggressor" by purchasing Russian products.

"Every kopek sent to Russia," Mr. Andriyko told RFE/RL, "is spent by [Russian President Vladimir] Putin on weapons that kill our soldiers."

Under the new rules, Russian-made goods will also have to be displayed on separate shelves.

Mr. Andriyko says supermarket and store owners overwhelmingly back the measure, which he pledges will not hurt Ukraine's economy.

"Enacting this decision won't put any burden on the budget, it won't result in any losses for sellers," he says. "Technically, it can be done in one day, just by marking products made on Russian territory with a little flag or a similar sign."

Stores will be given a month to introduce the changes. After this "adaptation" period, checks will be conducted to make sure retailers are complying.

Stores caught flaunting the new rules will not be fined but, according to Mr. Andriyko, city authorities will "strongly insist" on the need to follow the new recommendations. "I'm sure this measure will be implemented without any coercion," he said.

The idea, in fact, is not new. Similar steps have been taken by local administrations in Lviv, Ivano Frankivsk and Cherkasy.

Many shops in these three Ukrainian cities are already using various markings – some simple hand-made labels saying "Russia," others more elaborate printouts featuring a Russian flag – to identify

Russian products, which range from yogurts to chewing gum, chocolate bars, or children's diapers.

In Lviv, volunteer brigades have also been deployed to enforce the move.

Activists from the Economic Boycott Movement, among others, routinely inspect stores to chastise reluctant shop owners and inform consumers about the alleged danger of buying Russian products.

Some Ukrainians, like social psychologist Viktor Pushkar, have voiced unease about the new rules and warned against the pitfalls of propaganda.

"We already have this experience from the end of the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s, when propaganda was conducted by unprofessional people," he cautions. "In my opinion, instead of fostering pro-Ukrainian feelings they discredited the notion of nationalism."

But so far, the initiative has encountered no real public resistance.

"Most products don't have Russian bar-

codes, and people are not in the habit of reading these small numbers on the packages anyway," says Yekaterina Chapura, an activist in Kyiv. "So it would be very useful if products were marked."

In addition to the marking of Russian-made goods, the new ruling also recommends that media outlets create a new column titled "Down with the Russian Occupiers," and that Ukrainian television and radio broadcast patriotic songs.

It also calls on schools to introduce new lessons on "the aggression against Ukraine, a manifestation of fascism and chauvinism."

Yana Polyanska of RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported from Kyiv and Claire Bigg reported and wrote from Prague.

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# Voters casts their ballots at Embassy of Ukraine

by Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON – Alla Ljungman, who hails from Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, was among the luckiest Ukrainians living in the United States wanting to cast their ballot in the Ukrainian parliamentary elections on October 26. She lives in downtown Washington, not far from the Embassy of Ukraine, in one of the four cities in this country where they could vote. Some of the other voters would have had to travel up to a few hundred miles to vote here or at any of the other three voting locations: Ukraine's Consulates in New York, Chicago and San Francisco.

Accompanied by her 16-month-old son Viktor, she made it to the Embassy that

Sunday morning, despite the street closings and traffic jams in that part of town caused by the annual Marine Corps Marathon that passed right in front of the Embassy in the old Georgetown section of the capital.

Voting at the Embassy began at 8 a.m. and lasted until 8 p.m. The number of voters casting their ballots here that morning was noticeably smaller than in the Ukrainian presidential election held here last May. Indeed, the Embassy press office confirmed that on Monday, noting that 333 of the more than 6,000 eligible voters had cast their ballots in Washington. The voting total in May was a little over 500.

Among those voting were Ambassador Olexander Motsyk and his wife, Natalia Terletska. After casting his ballot, the



Yaro Bihun

Young Viktor assists his mother, Alla Ljungman, in casting her ballot in the Ukrainian parliamentary elections – much to the delight of onlookers at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington.



Ambassador Olexander Motsyk discusses the importance of Ukraine's parliamentary elections with media representatives after casting his ballot at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington.

ambassador answered a few questions posed to him by media representatives.

Asked about the obviously small voter turnout on election day, he said that, as in the May presidential election, no more than 10 percent of the eligible voters in the United States were expected to vote that day, citing the long distances some of the voters would have to travel to cast their ballots.

As for what results are expected from these elections, Ambassador Motsyk said that there are high expectations that a pro-European Ukrainian Parliament will be elected, with many new, young and talented members who are willing to work for reforms, European integration and the

establishment of a European Ukraine.

He added that the U.S. government in Washington has similar expectations and wishes for Ukraine: that the new Verkhovna Rada will listen to and reflect the desire of the people for reform, that it will adopt European standards and work for European integration.

As for Crimea and the eastern areas of Ukraine occupied by terrorists, he said it is impossible to conduct such free elections there at this time. But the overwhelming majority of Ukrainians are participating in these elections, he added, and they will elect the candidates they trust will build a positive future for Ukraine.

## Sywenkyj receives \$30,000 grant from W. Eugene Smith Memorial Fund

**“Verses from a Nation in Transition” examines impact of Euro-Maidan**

NEW YORK – The W. Eugene Smith Memorial Fund announced that Joseph Sywenkyj is the recipient of its 2014 grant in humanistic photography for his project, “Verses from a Nation in Transition,” which takes a sensitive look at families who have been seriously impacted physically, mentally and economically by the crisis they currently endure in Ukraine.

A U.S. citizen who divides his time between New Hampshire and Ukraine, Mr. Sywenkyj has spent more than a decade documenting a country his family called home until after World War II. The \$30,000 grant was presented to Mr. Sywenkyj during a special ceremony at the School of Visual Arts (SVA) Theater in New York City on October 15.

Believing that photographs are unique visual poems, Mr. Sywenkyj applied different approaches to the time he spent with a family in Odesa, compared with his time covering the revolution. “One represents the formalities of domestic life, while my images from the revolution are more immediate, which is the reason I made them in 35mm,” he explained in a recent interview.

“Receiving the W. Eugene Smith Grant in Humanistic Photography is a tremendous honor. The grant will allow me to continue my long-term documentation of Ukraine at this historic time of immense transition,” he said. “The fact that the award went to a project that touches upon life in this nation will hopefully help create more awareness about the situation here and its effects on individuals and families,” Mr. Sywenkyj added.

Smith grant recipients were selected from 170 entries received from 42 countries.

Also honored was Moises Saman, the recipient of a \$5,000 fellowship from the W. Eugene Smith Memorial Fund for “Discordia: The Arab Spring.” Through the eyes of Mr. Saman, “Discordia” takes the viewer on a four-year journey through Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria as these states drift from revolutionary throes to violent fallouts.

This year's Howard Chapnick Grant was presented to Muriel Hasbun for a collaborative arts and lens-based



Joseph Sywenkyj

January 22: University students Sergey, 19, and Victoria, 20, a young couple from the eastern Ukrainian city of Dnipropetrovsk, embrace on Independence Square before Sergey heads off to Hrushevsky Street a short distance away where a street battle raged for a fourth day between demonstrators and police forces in central Kyiv.

media, education and cultural legacy preservation project, consisting of digital photographic archiving of artwork, documenting the histories of artists working in Central America during the Salvadoran civil war and its aftermath.

Award recipients presented their work on October 15 to a capacity crowd at the SVA Theater. Clarissa Ward, CBS News foreign correspondent, gave the keynote presentation. Ms. Ward is among the most intrepid and recognized international journalists working today. She has reported from every major news hotspot in the past decade and has earned numerous honors for her work from inside the civil war in Syria, as well as the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Ukraine.

“Joseph Sywenkyj's ‘Verses from a Nation in Transition’ takes a sensitive and poignant look at how Ukrainian families who are most affected by acts of war and terrorism are not even on the international community's radar,” explained Stuart Alexander, vice-president/international specialist at Christie's, Smith Fund board member, and lead adjudicator for this year's grant. “His images remind us

that in the end it is the citizens, the communities, and the families that are always the ones who suffer most, and forces us to look at who we are as a world community to allow it to continue. His work stood out among many worthy candidates, including Moises Saman, who is receiving the \$5,000 fellowship for his project about Arab Spring,” Mr. Alexander noted.

Now in its 35th year, the grant is a testament to W. Eugene Smith, an acknowledged pioneer in exploring the human condition with his camera. Established in 1979, the grant is intended to support and encourage photographers producing humanistic photo stories in the Smith tradition.

The W. Eugene Smith Memorial Fund is presented annually to photographers whose work is judged by a panel of experts to be in the best tradition of the compassionate dedication exhibited by W. Eugene Smith during his 45-year career in photojournalism. The grant enables recipients to undertake and complete worthy photojournalistic projects.

# Acting Surgeon General Lushniak answers our questions about Ebola

With Ebola continuing to be in the headlines worldwide, *The Ukrainian Weekly* contacted Rear Admiral Boris Lushniak, the Ukrainian American who has been acting surgeon general of the United States since July 2013, to inquire whether he would be willing to answer a few questions for the benefit of readers.

Dr. Lushniak completed residencies in family medicine and dermatology and maintains board certification in dermatology and preventive medicine (occupational). He also holds a Master's of Public Health degree. His Ukrainian community activity includes membership in the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America and Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

As the acting surgeon general, he oversees the operations of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps, which is composed of some 6,800 uniformed health officers who serve in locations around the world. Prior to his current position, he was deputy surgeon general (since November 2010). He began his USPHS career in 1988 as a lieutenant, entering the service as part of the Epidemic Intelligence Service at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In 2004 he joined the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as the chief medical officer of the Office of Counterterrorism, and in 2005 was appointed FDA assistant commissioner and director of the Office of Counterterrorism and Emerging Threats.

Dr. Lushniak told *The Weekly* that, as the acting surgeon general, he meets daily with Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Sylvia Burwell and the heads of National Institutes of Health, FDA and CDC, as well as the assistant secretary of preparedness and response within HHS as they work together to address the Ebola issue.

Below are his answers to our questions. The interview was conducted by Roma Hadzewycz via e-mail.

## As "America's doctor," how concerned are you about Ebola in this country?

I have confidence in the United States healthcare system and firmly believe that Ebola will not become a widespread pandemic in this country. We consider Ebola to



Rear Admiral Boris Lushniak, M.D., M.P.H., acting surgeon general of the United States.

be a top national security priority and, therefore, are taking every measure necessary to assure the health and safety of all citizens. It is important to remember that every outbreak of Ebola over the past 40 years has been contained, and we are confident that this one can – and will be – as well.

## What are you, as acting surgeon general, doing to get the word out about Ebola?

It is an HHS-wide initiative to educate and inform the general public about Ebola and what is being done to help those who have become ill and to keep the virus from infecting others. And while Secretary Burwell is ensuring that all of her senior leaders are kept informed of events and progress on this issue, it is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that possess unique expertise and experience that is serving as the hub for all information regarding Ebola.

## How is the surgeon general working with the CDC to stop Ebola?

There are numerous domestic and international partners working together to address the outbreak more rapidly. Through a whole-of-government approach, we have been mounting an aggressive U.S. effort to fight this epidemic and have devised a clear strategy with four key pillars to stop this crisis:

- controlling the epidemic;
- mitigating second-order impacts, including blunting the economic, social and political tolls;
- coordinating the U.S. and broader global response; and
- fortifying global health security infrastructure in the region and beyond.

Domestically, the CDC is working to ensure healthcare workers and facilities are prepared should we see additional cases of Ebola here in the U.S. A dedicated response team has also been established that within hours would provide in-person, expert support and training to ensure that clinicians, and state and local public health practitioners, consistently follow strict standards of protocol to ensure safety of

the patient and healthcare workers.

## How do you respond to some of the misinformation and what some media outlets have called fear-mongering that we've seen here in the U.S.?

I would like to direct everyone's attention to the CDC's website, which contains all of the facts about Ebola ([www.cdc.gov/ebola](http://www.cdc.gov/ebola)) – and none of the rumors. I urge all Americans to stay informed and trust that we are doing everything in our means to control this epidemic and keep you up to date on the latest facts.

## So, how do you react to CDC Director Dr. Thomas Frieden's comment that "the only thing like this has been AIDS"?

I believe Dr. Frieden made this comparison to stress the severity of Ebola. Like HIV, it is a virus that does not at this time have a vaccine and is fatal if left untreated. The number of those infected in Africa has been increasing at a rapid rate, and it is crucial that we get this outbreak under control for the safety of our nation.

## What about your staff, how are they engaged in combating the outbreak both in Africa and here at home?

As one of the seven uniformed services, the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps stands ready to protect, promote and advance the health and safety of the nation. Selected Commissioned Corps officers are deployed to Africa and will be treating ill healthcare workers who have Ebola Virus Disease. These officers will continue efforts to build capacity for additional care in Liberia so that we can halt the spread of the disease there. This is the best way to prevent transmission in America.

## What is the main message you want to get out to the public about this health crisis?

We are doing everything in our means to address the outbreak more rapidly. I will once again mention that every outbreak of Ebola over the past 40 years has been contained, and we are confident that this one can – and will be – as well.

## Democratic Party reps meet with ethnic community leaders

PHILADELPHIA – Democratic National Committee (DNC) CEO Amy Dacey and Dr. James Zogby, chair of the DNC Ethnic Council and co-founder of the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Council (NDECC) met on October 6 with ethnic community leaders at a roundtable meeting in Philadelphia to discuss the upcoming elections and mobilizing ethnic voters. Ms. Dacey held similar meetings with ethnic leaders in Chicago and Cleveland earlier that month.

"It was an honor to meet so many great leaders who are working to ensure that we elect Democrats up and down the ticket this November. The NDECC is incredibly important in our work to reach out to ethnic communities. The Democratic Party will continue meeting with and engaging leaders across the country, working with the NDECC to keep building on this strong long-term partnership," said Ms. Dacey.

The Philadelphia meeting was hosted by Rep. Robert Brady (D-Pa.) at the Philadelphia Democratic Party Headquarters and organized by NDECC member Marwan Kreidie, who is a leader in the Lebanese American community in the Philadelphia area. It was attended by several elected officials and campaign representatives, including long-time NDECC members and Pennsylvania State Democratic Treasurer Jack Hanna (Arab American), City Councilman James F. Kenney (Irish American), former City Councilman Joe Vignola (Italian American), and senior representatives of the Tom Wolf for Governor and Mike Stack for Lieutenant Governor campaigns, as well as several dozen other prominent Democratic ethnic leaders from around the area.

Attendees represented a diversity of European and Middle Eastern heritages, and

included Albanian Americans, Arab Americans, Armenian Americans, Assyrian Americans, Croatian Americans, German Americans, Greek Americans, Hungarian Americans, Irish Americans, Lithuanian Americans, Macedonian Americans, Polish Americans, Serbian Americans, Sikhs, Slovenian Americans, Slovak Americans, Turkish Americans and Ukrainian Americans. They discussed the importance of mobilizing ethnic voters and how the large ethnic communities in the Philadelphia area can make a tremendous impact on the upcoming election, as well as in 2016 and beyond.

Mr. Zogby, co-founder of the NDECC, said "Pennsylvania's ethnic vote is so important to securing Democratic victories. Across this state dozens of European and Middle Eastern ethnic communities have settled, made their home and helped to build the Democratic Party. Amy and the Democratic

Party are committed to securing our ties with these communities and I'm hopeful of the progress we will make in the coming years."

"It was energizing to hear from Amy Dacey, Jim Zogby, Congressman Brady and other Democratic Party leaders, and to engage in a real dialogue with them on important issues. Now it is our responsibility to remind our communities that the Democratic Party shares our values. We're democrats because we believe in investing in the American dream – we're the ones who fight for small businesses, for access to health care, for affordable higher education, and for equality and justice. These are the strong values that make America the most desirable country in the world to live in and why our families are here today," stated Ulana Mazurkevich, a Philadelphia business owner and Ukrainian American activist.

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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

# The new Verkhovna Rada

The votes in Ukraine's pre-term parliamentary elections have now been counted, and the winners are Ukraine and the people of Ukraine. The results are clear: the people support the country's orientation toward Europe and they elected a strong majority in the new Verkhovna Rada that should implement the vision of the Euro-Maidan and the ideals behind the "Revolution of Dignity."

One look at the chart on the front page of this issue shows that the only pro-Russian force in the new Rada is the Opposition Bloc, which includes ex-Party of Regions members and cronies of the ousted Viktor Yanukovich. Other questionable political forces simply did not reach the 5 percent threshold to make it into Parliament. (To be sure, national deputies elected in the single-mandate races do come from other political forces, and we shall see soon enough with whom they ally.) And the Communist Party for the first time in 96 years, as noted by President Petro Poroshenko, will not be in the Ukrainian Rada.

The free and fair vote on October 26 demonstrated that democracy is alive and well in Ukraine. The elections were hailed by U.S. and Western observers as upholding international standards, offering voters a real choice and respecting fundamental freedoms. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also cited "the authorities' determination to enable voting in as many areas of the country as possible" via alternate voting arrangements that allowed internally displaced people to cast their ballots. The reference was to Russian-occupied territory in Ukraine where Russian and Russian-backed authorities prevented Ukrainian citizens from exercising their rights.

The top three parties winning election to the Rada – the Poroshenko Bloc, the People's Front and Self-Reliance – together account for over 48 percent of the members of Parliament (that's when counting both those elected via party lists and those winning single-mandate seats). And there are other pro-Western forces and deputies that raise that number even more. As Zenon Zawada, our free-lancer in Kyiv notes: of the six parties that qualified for Parliament, five are committed to Ukraine's integration into the European Union.

The election results also give the lie to allegations disseminated by Russia and its sycophants that "fascists" are strengthening their hold on power in Ukraine. Far-right parties were soundly rejected by Ukraine's voters. For example, Right Sector earned about 1.8 percent of the vote. Even the nationalist party Svoboda did not manage to gain the required 5 percent support.

The next all-important step, of course, is to form a coalition. Already there are signs of disagreement as potential coalition members jockey for position. There is much work yet to be done for Ukraine to succeed on its Western path, many obstacles to overcome and many challenges to face. We hope the coalition is created quickly so that it can move as soon as possible on the necessary reforms.

What's needed also is support from the West. In an op-ed in U.S.A. Today (the largest circulation newspaper in the U.S. in terms of total average daily circulation: 4.1 million, which includes print and digital readership), Sens. Ben Cardin and Rob Portman wrote: "If Ukraine is to make her people's choice for freedom and democracy a reality, then the Ukrainian armed forces will need the defensive equipment necessary to secure it." The U.S., they said, must keep its commitment to Ukraine and provide "the capability the Ukrainian military needs to defend her people from the forces that threaten their very existence as an independent state."

Meanwhile, danger continues to lurk just around the corner. On November 2, the "separatist" regions controlled by Russia are holding their own elections. What's more, Russia continues its incursions into Ukrainian territory, repeatedly sending "aid convoys" without the approval of Ukraine's government. All the while, fighting rages in Ukraine's east, and Ukraine's people are being killed.

The October 26 elections, we must underscore, united Ukraine like never before. Many commentators have now noted that the divide between those who look Westward and those who saw the future with Russia, is no more. The people of Ukraine have spoken clearly in this parliamentary election. Now it is up to their elected representatives to act for the good of Ukraine and its people in continuing the country's integration with Europe, ending corruption and bringing stability and peace to the land.

Nov.  
4  
1956

## Turning the pages back...

Sixty-two years ago, on November 4, 1956, Soviet tanks began a six-day siege in Hungary to quash a nearly two-week-long protest demanding a more democratic system and freedom from Soviet oppression. Thousands were killed and nearly a quarter-million Hungarians fled the country.

Clarence A. Manning, a regular contributor to The Ukrainian Weekly, commented: "Once again the world is looking on in amazement and horror because in Hungary the Russian Communists are behaving like Russian Communists. ... The world cannot understand the Russian policy at the present time and does not want to do so or to take steps to make its power effective and render real aid to the unfortunate people of Hungary..."

Prof. Manning explained that Moscow's influence in Hungary became diminished with the unpopularity of its aging leaders, and Moscow needed to rein in the dissent with force in a targeted strike against the opposition. He added, "Yet the present situation does reveal again the basic outlines of Soviet policy. It is another application of the same methods that Lenin employed for the first time against Ukraine in 1917 immediately after he seized power in Petrograd. Infiltration, demoralization and occupation, and all done by 'volunteers.'"

(Continued on page 17)

## COMMENTARY

# How you can help save Ukraine

by Gordon Humphrey

Ukraine desperately needs weapons to defend itself against Vladimir Putin. As of now, 47 United States senators support sending weapons. Does that mean 53 senators are opposed? No. In fact, almost none of those 53 have felt compelled to speak publicly on the subject one way or another.

Already, nine months have passed since Mr. Putin stole Crimea. His troops in the east, armed with the deadliest weapons, continue to abuse and bleed Ukraine every day. Yet, Ukraine fights on bravely, pleading with our country for weapons. Meantime, 53 U.S. senators are silent. They feel no need to say even one word about defensive weapons. Not yes. Not maybe. Not no. Just silence. I find that shocking, don't you?

Whose fault is it? Ours. That 53 U.S. senators feel free to ignore their Ukrainian American constituents, tells us we have not done enough. Ukrainian Americans and Ukrainian American organizations in Washington must get their act together.

Let's start today. The first step is to ask each senator to support defensive weapons. Have you, personally, asked your senators to provide lethal weapons to Ukraine to defend herself?

Recently, a group of private citizens and Ukrainian American organizations in Washington formed the Ad Hoc Committee for Ukraine. Its single purpose is to encourage Congress to assert its constitutional role as an equal branch of our government to change U.S. policy towards Ukraine and send defensive weapons. As a former U.S. senator, I am volunteering my expertise and time. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian American community's principal representative in Washington, is one of the participants.

The Ad Hoc Committee for Ukraine has two near-term goals. The first goal is to encourage senators to form a bipartisan Senate Task Force on Ukraine. While a few senators, including Carl Levin and Robert Menendez, powerful chairmen of the Armed Services and Foreign Relations committees, have spoken out, they have not prevailed by themselves. Clearly, it's going to take a team effort. A bipartisan Senate Task Force on Ukraine will provide a structure where supportive senators and their staffs can work together as a team. Without a team, they're not really in the game. The White House is winning by default. Mr. Putin is winning by default.

The second goal is to encourage senators to support the only bill in the Senate that would authorize defensive weapons, including anti-tank weapons. Sen. Menendez sent his bill, S 2828, to the floor on September 18. But the Senate recessed the next day, so senators could go home to campaign. Whether it will consider S 2828 when it returns on November 12 is not certain. President Barack Obama opposes weapons and Sen. Harry Reid, the majority leader, usually supports the president, so it's by no means certain S 2828 will be debated, much less enacted.

If the Senate does not act on the bill, it dies when Congress adjourns towards the end of November. You can see there is much work to be done and little time. We need your help. It starts with you. You must act.

Here's how. Go to [senate.gov](http://senate.gov). Click the top left button marked "Senators." When the next

(Continued on page 10)

Gordon Humphrey represented New Hampshire in the U.S. Senate in the 1980s. He was Senate chair of the Congressional Task Force on Afghanistan and served on the Armed Services and Foreign Relations committees. You can e-mail him at [gjhumphrey@comcast.net](mailto:gjhumphrey@comcast.net).

### U.S. Senators: those shaded have not taken a position on weapons for Ukraine

BEGICH MARK	AK	D
MURKOWSKI LISA	AK	D
SESSIONS JEFF	AL	R
SHELBY RICHARD	AL	R
BOOZMAN JOHN	AR	R
PRYOR MARK	AR	D
FLAKE JEFF	AZ	R
MCCAIN JOHN	AZ	R
BOXER BARBARA	CA	D
FEINSTEIN DIANNE	CA	D
BENNETT MICHAEL	CO	D
UDALL MARK	CO	D
BLUMENTHAL RICHARD	CT	D
MURPHY CHRISTOPHER	CT	D
CARPER THOMAS	DE	D
COONS CHRISTOPHER	DE	D
NELSON BILL	FL	D
RUBIO MARCO	FL	R
CHAMBLISS SAXBY	GA	R
ISAKSON JOHNNY	GA	R
HIRONO MAZIE	HI	D
SCHATZ BRIAN	HI	D
GRASSLEY CHUCK	IA	R
HARKIN TOM	IA	D
CRAPO MIKE	ID	R
RISCH JAMES	ID	R
DURBIN RICHARD	IL	D
KIRK MARK	IL	R
COATS DANIEL	IN	R
DONNELLY JOE	IN	D
MORAN JERRY	KS	R
ROBERTS PAT	KS	R
MCCONNELL MITCH	KY	R
PAUL RAND	KY	R
LANDRIEU MARY	LA	D
VITTER DAVID	LA	R
MARKEY EDWARD	MA	D
WARREN ELIZABETH	MA	D
CARDIN BENJAMIN	MD	D
MIKULSKI BARBARA	MD	D
COLLINS SUSAN	ME	R
KING ANGUS	ME	I
LEVIN CARL	MI	D
STABENOW DEBBIE	MI	D
FRANKEN AL	MN	D
KLOBUCHAR AMY	MN	D
BLUNT ROY	MO	R
MCCASKILL CLAIRE	MO	D
COCHRAN THAD	MS	R
WICKER ROGER	MS	R
TESTER JON	MT	D
WALSH JOHN	MT	D
BURR RICHARD	NC	R
HAGAN KAY	NC	D
HEITKAMP HEIDI	ND	D
HOEVEN JOHN	ND	R
FISCHER DEB	NE	R
JOHANNIS MIKE	NE	R
AYOTTE KELLY	NH	R
SHAHEEN JEANNE	NH	D
BOOKER CORY	NJ	D
MENENDEZ ROBERT	NJ	D
HEINRICH MARTIN	NM	D
UDALL TOM	NM	D
HELLER DEAN	NV	R
REID HARRY	NV	D
GILLIBRAND KRISTEN	NY	D
SCHUMER CHARLES	NY	D
BROWN SHERROD	OH	D
PORTMAN ROB	OH	R
COBURN TOM	OK	R
INHOFE JAMES	OK	R
MERKLEY JEFF	OR	D
WYDEN RON	OR	D
CASEY ROBERT	PA	D
TOOMEY PATRICK	PA	R
REED JACK	RI	D
WHITEHOUSE SHELDON	RI	D
GRAHAM LINDSEY	SC	R
SCOTT TIM	SC	R
JOHNSON TIM	SD	D
THUNE JOHN	SD	R
ALEXANDER LAMAR	TN	R
CORKER ROBERT	TN	R
CORNBY JOHN	TX	R
CRUZ TED	TX	R
HATCH ORRIN	UT	R
LEE MIKE	UT	R
KAINE TIM	VA	D
WARNER MARK	VA	D
LEAHY PATRICK	VT	D
SANDERS BERNARD	VT	I
CANTWELL MARIA	WA	D
MURRAY PATTY	WA	D
BALDWIN TAMMY	WI	D
JOHNSON RON	WI	R
MANCHIN JOE	WV	D
ROCKEFELLER JAY	WV	D
BARRASSO JOHN	WY	R
ENZI MICHAEL	WY	R



## The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

## PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



### Just a normal day in Winnipeg

I was browsing in one of my favorite stores in Winnipeg a few days ago. Value Village is a thrift store with a difference. It is more like going to a very large garage sale, not knowing what you'll discover. A part of the chain's proceeds go to local charities, and most people I know both shop there and donate items. I have discovered quite a number of Ukrainian items there – from the sublime to the ridiculous: real Hutsul pottery and woodcarving (including portraits of Shevchenko), fine icons, amber jewelry, embroidery and weaving, and the "collectible embroidered" pottery, the decaled kind (you would be surprised how relatively expensive it is). A friend bought a full Bukovynian woman's costume at the local Goodwill. And you never know what Ukrainian treasure you will discover at a local yard sale.

I was in the crafts area of the store when I heard a mother and daughter speaking in Ukrainian. I got the impression that they had arrived from Ukraine fairly recently. After greeting them in Ukrainian, I learned that this was their first time in the store. I mentioned that this is a good place to get many items at very good prices. We continued our conversation about the approaching winter, and the coats and parkas they will need. They said they are from Chervonohrad, near Lviv.

As we were talking away, a woman with a cartful of items stopped near us. "Ya takozh balakayu po-nashomu..." (I also speak our language...), she says in Ukrainian – with an English Canadian accent – but most understandable and grammatically correct. And she didn't stop! She told us she was born in Canada, as were her parents (and she looks about 70+). Her family arrived in Canada around 1904. Her father's family was from "Austria," as the documents said at the time, and her mother's family from around Kyiv. I wondered about someone Ukrainian getting out of the Russian-ruled Kyiv region at the turn of the century. "I know, but they

did, and we have the papers to prove it," she declares. This woman proudly said she knew how to read and write in Ukrainian, and celebrates all the traditions.

The mother and daughter from Ukraine were amazed that someone so far removed in time and generation would still be speaking Ukrainian. The Canadian woman did not think this as unusual at all. "We all grew up Ukrainian."

Not at all unusual – the same can be said for the civic election campaign now going on in Manitoba. A few decades ago, barely any Ukrainian name would have appeared on the ballot. Back in 1957, Stephen Juba (Dziuba) made Canadian history because he was the first non-Anglo and first Ukrainian Canadian to be elected mayor of Winnipeg. He was apolitical, beloved by all Winnipeggers, and was the longest-serving mayor – from 1957 to 1977 (he did not even campaign, but just put up a billboard or two). In this year's civic elections, things are different. Ukrainians are mainstream now. Among the candidates running for city, school board and other positions in and around Winnipeg are many Ukrainian Canadians.

Taking into account the variations in spelling over the last century, these are some of the names in the running: Horechko, Klymenko, Wasylin, O'Grodnick (originally Ohorodnyk), Negrich-Lozinski, Galagan, Hrynyk, Nestruck, Wasylcia-Leis, Babinsky, Wasyliw, Broda, Smukowich, Browaty, Sodomak, Prysizney, Maximowich, Melnyk, Kotyk, Olynik, Zuk, Bilewitch and Feschuk.

This is not unique to Winnipeg and Manitoba. The same can be said for the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, which are also secretly Ukrainian.

(P.S.: I wrote about this back in 1996 <http://www.ukrweekly.com/old/archive/1996/479616.shtml>.)

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### "The Family Hightower" – an appreciation

Brian Francis Slattery came to the Ukrainian Museum-Archives (UMA) about two years ago and introduced himself as a novelist from New England who wanted to write about Cleveland and Ukrainians. Does the UMA have any background material, he asked? We have mountains, I said, and as resident scholar I would be happy to help. I proceeded to show him our collections.

Afterward, I checked Mr. Slattery out online and, sure enough, he was not only a novelist but a distinguished one at that. His first book, "Spaceman Blues" (2007) is a science-fiction- superhero mystery set in New York City. Next, he published "Liberation" about an economic meltdown in America caused by over-borrowing. Published in 2008, just before the near-meltdown, it was eerily prophetic; Amazon editors named "Liberation" the best science fiction work of the year. It was followed by "Lost Everything" about America after climate collapse. It won the prestigious 2012 Phillip K. Dick award for science fiction.

Brian Slattery, I saw, is the real deal. He spent a week researching at the UMA, the Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland Public Library, etc., and conducted interviews. But, to tell the truth, I'd forgotten about him until he came back to Cleveland in late September to deliver "The Family Hightower," which includes a gracious acknowledgement: "everyone at the Ukrainian Museum-Archives could not have been more generous with their time in helping me find what I needed."

Naturally, I read the novel right away, and I think it's terrific, but this is not a review. That wouldn't be appropriate. Instead, let's call it an appreciation, which I hope will inspire someone else to write a review.

So first, I appreciate "The Family Hightower" because it's an American novel about Ukrainians. There are others, notably by Askold Melnyczuk, Irene Zabytko and Alexander Motyl, but not many more. Mr. Slattery's novel is about a Ukrainian immigrant family. The patriarch, Mykhailo Garko, works in the mills in the industrial Cuyahoga River Valley and within walking distance of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, where people marry, baptize their children and conduct funerals. (The actual church is still there, serving the community more than 100 years after it was built; so are the mills.)

The novel involves Mykhailo's two sons. The older one, Petro, aspires to the riches his parents never had and therefore gets involved in Cleveland's Mafia, first bootlegging and then committing numerous other crimes before changing his name and identity to Peter Hightower. He gets into business and acquires untold wealth during Cleveland's rise as an industrial powerhouse in the second world war and post-war economic boom. The other brother, Stefan, retaining his heritage and identity, becomes an accountant for the Ukrainian National Association, selling insurance and helping his people with their problems.

Yes – you read that right. The Ukrainian National Association (UNA) plays a role in the novel. And the author gets it right: the family of a worker killed in an industrial accident in the Flats in 1912 gets insurance from "the Ruthenian National Union of America, soon to be called the Ukrainian

National Association," the author notes.

Brian writes against a broad canvas of Ukrainian history. He quotes Svoboda, "the UNA's newspaper," about the 1922-1923 Famine in Ukraine, the author adding "how it's going to get much, much worse 10 years later." He cites the discovery in the 1990s of the mass graves in Bykivnia, outside of Kyiv, where tens of thousands of victims of Stalin's atrocities are buried. He writes about Rukh and the human chain from Kyiv to Lviv; the emergence of blue-and-yellow flags and typewriters with characters on the keyboard that separate Ukrainian from Russian.

And he writes about the contemporary dark side, the mob, the underworld. This is, after all, a literary thriller about crime and the pernicious people who "can smell chaos coming" with independence in 1991, which for them means "there's a serious buck to be made... and the law isn't going to be able to keep up." And so the sins of the brother who turned his back on his Ukrainian heritage in the 1920s to make a fortune and a place in Cleveland's social elite come back to ensnare two of his grandsons and namesakes in a criminal network whose tentacles stretch from Cleveland to Kyiv, where a mobster called "the Wolf" engages in drugs, money laundering, human trafficking and worse.

The book is also about Cleveland, where landmarks like the West Side Market, Whiskey Island, the Terminal Tower, the art deco pylons on the Hope Memorial Bridge, the old Arena, affluent suburb Bratenahl and blue-collar Tremont play key roles. And because there aren't that many novels about my hometown, I appreciate that as well.

I asked Brian about it. "I wanted to do a spin on the whole self-made man story to involve illegal as well as legal activities," he said. "The story had to take place in the kind of town where, at least at some point in its history, it was possible to move up quick if you were ruthless, or clever, or lucky enough. And I had this idea that part of what can be lost in a person's meteoric rise from poverty to riches is their roots, the culture they came out of and I wanted to talk about what else can get lost when that happens. So I needed a city that had a volatile economy, a rich history of strong ethnic communities, and history of organized crime activity... Cleveland emerged as the best choice."

And why Ukrainians? "I'm a Catholic mutt: Irish, Italian and Ukrainian. The Irish and Italian aspects of my extended family are robust; they're cultures I think of myself as having grown up in. The Ukrainian part of the family, for some reason, was kind of quieter – in part because my great-grandmother talked a lot less about what she called Ruthenia (or Austria) and why she left it – so I've always had a lot of curiosity about what happened there. So in some sense it was me reaching out to my family's past in the hopes of finding a connection."

And hence, "The Family Hightower," which I appreciate, finally, because I enjoy a good read. Decide for yourself. It's available, along with the novels of Mr. Melnyczuk, Ms. Zabytko and Mr. Motyl, for purchase online.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is [afedynsky@gmail.com](mailto:afedynsky@gmail.com)

### UUARC initiates program to help wounded soldiers

PHILADELPHIA – Due to the catastrophic and tragic events in Ukraine, hospitals are filled with men and women who sacrificed much for freedom and are now struggling with devastating injuries.

The Philadelphia-based United Ukrainian American Relief Committee is underscoring: "Now is the time to show them that they are not forgotten. Please support them by donating funds to provide them with critically needed services and programs. It is only with your help that these brave men and women can rebuild their broken lives and a healing process can begin."

For \$25 a month (a yearlong commit-

ment of \$300) the UUARC can help a wounded soldier pay for medical equipment, medicine, clothing, food and other necessities. Upon request, the UUARC will provide donors with the name and location of the soldier whom they helped.

Please make checks payable to UUARC (Memo: Wounded Soldier) and send them to: UUARC, 1206 Cottman Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111;

Attn: Wounded Soldier. Donations are also accepted online at [www.uuarc.org/donate-now](http://www.uuarc.org/donate-now).

For more information readers may contact Nila Pawluk at 215-699-6068.

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

Letters to the editor must include the complete mailing address and daytime phone number of the letter-writer.

## WASHINGTON'S MESSAGE IN KYIV

# Victoria Nuland addresses students at Shevchenko National University

*Below are excerpts of an address at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv on October 7 by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland. (Source: U.S. Department of State)*

...As those of you who have been to Washington know, in the middle of my hometown there is a statute of the namesake of this university, Shevchenko. And on this 200th anniversary it's fitting that we all together recollect one of his great sayings which is imprinted on the bottom of the statute in Washington. It is an inscription to the liberation, freedom and independence of all captive nations. That's what Shevchenko fought for. And you, at this university and across Ukraine, are the successors of his legacy.

It's you, who inspire not only your own country – it's you, the students of Ukraine, who inspired not only your own country but also the entire world that change is possible, and that if you are willing to stand up for freedom, if you are willing to stand up for democracy, if you're willing to stand out in the cold as so many of you did just last winter, things can change. And you are the ones who fought for a clean, democratic, free European Ukraine. A Ukraine with dignity. You are the ones who convinced your parents and your grandparents that it was possible. And you are the ones who convinced my country and countries around Europe and around the world to support you.

So remember that, no matter how hard it gets, that this started with you and it is you who will carry it forward and it is you who will be its beneficiaries.

And there already has been some success. You've had free and fair elections. You have a new president in President [Petro] Poroshenko, who ran on a platform of peace and unity and who has already taken brave and difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions for peace, and Ukraine has benefited. You've had the support of Europe, you've had the support of the world, you've had the support of my country. Ukraine this year has received \$290 million in U.S. financial support plus a billion-dollar loan guarantee. And now you have what so many of you stood on the Maidan for, you have an Association Agreement with Europe and a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. So for that, these are successes of yours. Give yourselves a round of applause.

But I know and we know that Ukraine has paid a high price. And I'm going to guess that in many of your families that price has been felt very personally. Crimea is occupied. The war in the east took more



U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland addresses students at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.

than 3,000 Ukrainian lives and several hundred Russian lives.

Today what Ukraine needs more than anything is peace, is security, is unity, and is a clean and accountable government. ...

You need to fight now for peace. You need to fight for unity. You need to fight against corruption. You need to fight for that clean, accountable Ukrainian government that you stood in the snow for. You need to fight for a free media. You need to fight for justice and accountability for the victims.

Let's start with peace. I know that for many Ukrainians the September 5 Minsk Agreement was controversial, as was September 19. I will tell you that from an American perspective the September 5 Minsk Agreement as written was a very good agreement. The question now is: Will it be implemented as it was written?

We know that it is not being implemented today. The shooting has not stopped and the shooting must stop at Donetsk Airport, at Debaltseve, at Shchastia. All foreign forces and foreign equipment must be withdrawn. All the hostages must be returned. Notably, including Nadiya Shevchenko.

And today, as much attention must be paid to Point 4 of the agreement, that is, the international border and securing it and restoring Ukrainian sovereignty on the international border, as has been paid to securing the line of control and the special status areas. And we are concerned. We are concerned now that that border remains open, supplies and equipment for the separatists continue to be purveyed. And there

will not be peace, there will not be economic sovereignty, there will not be political sovereignty, there will not be unity, there will not be safety and security for the Donbas until that border is closed.

So, when the Ukrainian government puts forward a concrete plan for securing that border, it will have the support of the United States, it will have the support of Europe, it will have the support of the OSCE countries.

And I would venture to guess it will also have the support of the people of the Donbas. How many of you come from the east of Ukraine? Raise your hands. I see at least 10 percent of this audience. I would argue today that it is the people of the Donbas who have been victimized the most in this conflict. They are the ones who are trapped in the middle of this violence and living in cities today and towns and villages with no water, no electricity, no future, barely any opportunity to earn a living.

So Donbas too must be a part of Ukraine's future. And if that border can be secured, if free, fair elections can be held not only on October 26 across Ukraine for the Rada, but also on December 7 out in the Donbas, everybody will benefit.

So we also call on you, even as you work to secure your future here in Kyiv, to reach out to those in the Donbas who are suffering and tell them that you see their future in Ukraine too, and that you want them to come back to a place where they see prosperity, they see a future, they see peace, they see security, as part of a unified Ukraine. ...

Which brings me to a second challenge,

the economy. You all know how much change needs to happen here, how much reform is necessary, how much reconstruction will also be needed in the east. We are committed to being your partners in that, but only you can do the hard work there.

The biggest threat to Ukraine's economic future – I don't have to tell this crew but I will, is corruption. Today, corruption is one of the biggest threats to your future, but it's also one of the reasons that you stood out on the Maidan, was to have a clean and accountable government.

So I say to you as you work for a stronger future for your country, it is in your hands to demand better of your government. So when you go out and vote, when you go on October 26, and I hope every single person in this room will use their franchise, look for those candidates who are promising to bring you a cleaner, more accountable government. Insist that they open their finances, open their accounts, and demonstrate to you that if they get your vote they will work for the people of this country and not for themselves.

The biggest threat to Ukraine in addition to the search for peace, the search for security, the search for reform, is also internal complacency. ...

So I ask each of you. Go out and vote on October 26. Keep pushing for peace. Keep pushing for unity. Keep pushing for accountability. Keep pushing for checks and balances in your internal system. Keep pushing for a clean, accountable judiciary. Be active in your communities. Work for your country. Be builders, not destroyers. ...

We are committed to helping you and supporting you in your effort to build a clean, democratic European future for your country. We don't do this because we like you, although we do. We don't do this because we have deep ties of family and culture with millions of Ukrainian Americans making our own cities strong, although we do, and some of you may have relatives in the United States. We do this because a successful, clean, strong, united, democratic Ukraine is the best antidote to forces of yesterday on this continent, forces of aggression, forces of violence, forces of corruption. Ukraine today, and your success, is the lynchpin to our 20-year dream of a Europe whole, free, and at peace. And not only a Europe: you are also a beacon for people around the world who want to live in greater freedom, who want to live in greater security, who want to live with greater dignity.

So you have a very important future ahead of you. Thanks for all you do every day. We are proud to be your partners. Slava Ukraini!

## U.S. hails...

(Continued from page 1)

subject to the Special Status Law to choose their representatives in legitimate local elections on December 7, in keeping with the agreement that Russia and separatist representatives signed in Minsk, Belarus, on September 5, 2014. The United States will not recognize any election held in separatist-held areas that does not comport with Ukrainian law and is not held with the express consent and under the authority of the Ukrainian government.

Yesterday's parliamentary vote represents another important milestone in Ukraine's democratic development. We look forward to the convening of the new Parliament and the quick formation of a

strong, inclusive government. The United States stands ready to support the choices of the Ukrainian people and Ukraine's new government as it enacts and implements the reforms necessary to promote further democratic development, strengthen the rule of law, and foster economic stability and growth in Ukraine. The United States also will continue to support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity as it works toward a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the east and a return of Crimea, and will stand with its people as they seek to build a more secure, prosperous, and democratic future.

*U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's press statement also was released on October 27.*

I join President Obama in congratulating Ukraine on successful parliamentary elections. The people of Ukraine have spoken,

and they have again chosen to chart the course of democracy, reform and European integration.

We applaud Ukraine's commitment to an inclusive and transparent political process that strengthens national unity. This commitment is essential to resolving the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the country's other challenges. The government of Ukraine's efforts to encourage voter participation deserves great credit, especially in Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk. Their hard work to provide for alternate voting arrangements, including for internally displaced persons, was a particularly laudable effort to overcome actions by Russian authorities occupying Crimea and Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine to prevent voters from exercising their democratic rights.

The United States concurs with the preliminary assessment delivered in Kyiv on

behalf of the OSCE, and echoed by other international monitors, that these elections were in line with Ukraine's international commitments. Local monitoring organizations such as Opora made the same assessment. The government's adoption of new penalties and measures worked to prevent the efforts of those who sought to mar the voting process through fraud or violence. The voting on October 26 was characterized by the general absence of violence, adherence to established procedures, and lower levels of electoral violations than in previous years.

The United States stands ready to work with Ukraine's president, new government and Verkhovna Rada to continue to promote reform and an accountable judiciary to fight corruption, pursue a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the east and oppose the occupation of Crimea.



# Films produced by Babylon '13 group screened at Shevchenko Society

by Ostop Kin

NEW YORK – The Shevchenko Scientific Society on September 27 hosted an event dedicated to a presentation of short films produced by the Babylon '13 group. Established by various directors and cameramen to film protests in Ukraine that started in November 2013, this prolific group filmed many crucial and exceptional events that happened throughout the Euro-Maidan, continued filming events on the Crimean peninsula when it was occupied, and currently is working in eastern Ukraine.

At the beginning of event, Prof. Iryna Vushko of Hunter College introduced Yuri Gruzinov and explained the necessity of demonstrating these films. Yuri Gruzinov, an ethnic Russian raised in the suburbs of Moscow who moved to Ukraine several years ago, is one of the founding members of the Babylon '13 group and was active in the Ukrainian protest movement from the very beginning.

In January, Mr. Gruzinov suffered three bullet wounds while documenting protests on Hryshchivsky Street in Kyiv. When filming in Crimea in March, he was detained and held for six days. Before arriving in the United States in September, Mr. Gruzinov spent six days in Debaltsevo, Donetsk region, where he filmed one of the Ukrainian battalions stationed in the town.



Yuri Gruzinov of the Babylon '13 project speaks at the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

In his brief talk, Mr. Gruzinov emphasized the "humanitarian catastrophe" that might happen in Donbas region. According to him, Luhansk, Donetsk and small towns in the region are cut from communication. If nothing changes, this territory might resemble the blockade of Leningrad during World War II, he noted.

After an introduction, the audience had a chance to watch several short films. "The First Death" shows the first moments after the body of Serhiy Nihoyan, the first pro-

tester killed on the Maidan, was brought to a medical center organized by volunteers in Kyiv. The films "Belbek as it was," "Ukraine with you" and "Democratis" portray the mood and conditions of the Ukrainian army on the Crimean peninsula in March after it was occupied by Russian army.

"The Holiday" shows the celebration of pro-Russian citizens of Sloviansk along with members of Communist Party after the city was taken by separatists. "About Guests" portrays Ukrainian soldiers getting

ready at a military base in the Sumy oblast. "The Gun" shows the monologue of a separatist during fights with the Ukrainian army in Mariupol in May.

The film "Beautiful" tells a story of a woman and her son who fled the city of Sloviansk after the separatists started to control it. "Why am I here" focuses on a Donbas battalion soldier who explains his motive for joining the battalion.

After the screening, the audience asked Mr. Gruzinov many questions.

# Ukrainian Jewish Encounter organizes Graduate Student Symposium

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – Launched in 2008, the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter (UJE) is a collaborative project that seeks to engage scholars, civic leaders, artists, governments and the broader public in efforts to promote stronger and deeper relations between Ukrainians and Jews in Ukraine, Israel and their respective diasporas.

UJE has sponsored research and publication, discussions and public engagement which have often provided the Ukrainian-Jewish relationship with new frameworks.

The latest initiative was the Graduate Student Symposium held on September 30, at the Munk Center, University of Toronto. The purpose of the symposium was to find out what research was being done by new potential scholars. In collaboration with the university's Chair of Ukrainian Studies, UJE brought together graduate students who, in their research, are exploring themes that deal with Ukrainian-Jewish relations. A call for papers was placed on the UJE website and Facebook pages and, as a result, eight graduate students were chosen to give presentations on their research.

The students came from Canada, the United States, Europe and Ukraine. They presented their research topics within two broad contexts: the Ukrainian-Jewish long-term historical relationship and within the context of the Euro-Maidan revolution, the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and its consequences for the future of the relationship. The students were guided by moderator Cassandra Luciuk, while discussions were initiated by discussant Nadia Gereliouk, both doctoral students in history at the University of Toronto.

The first presenter, Daniel Federowycz, is a doctoral candidate at the University of Oxford. He researches questions relating to the causes of violent ethnic conflict. His dissertation analyzes majority-minority ethnic group relations in the Polish-Ukrainian borderlands of Volyn during World War II. Mr.



At the Graduate Student Symposium (from left) are: Daniel Federowycz, Oleksandr Melnyk, Anton Shekhovtsov, Lev Daschko, Gregory Aimaro, Cassandra Luciuk, Stephen Gellner, Miriam Feyga Bunimovich and Vitaly Chernovanenko.

Federowycz spoke about the database that he is building of villages in Volyn to look at where and why violence took place, and where and why it did not take place. He deals with the possible consequences of this violence on Ukraine and Poland's Jewish population.

Lev Daschko is studying modern Eastern European history at Northwestern University, where he is a member of the Jewish Studies Cluster program. He received his undergraduate degree at Toronto and an M.A. from the University of Western Ontario. Mr. Daschko is currently working with his advisor, Prof. Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern, on a topic for his dissertation. His presentation was titled "They Kill Our Jews With Gusto: Ukrainian National Democrats' Depictions of Jews During the Russian Occupation of Bukovina 1914-1916". He challenges the established narrative of Ukrainian-Jewish hostility and instead proposes that Ukrainians and Jews in Bukovyna had a closer relationship than anywhere else in Ukraine.

Gregory Aimaro is a graduate of Lewis University, and his research interests include Eastern European Jewish history and the Ukrainian and Jewish diasporas. To learn about the relationship between Jews and Ukrainians in the American diaspora, he is looking at the advertisements placed by Jewish professionals in Ukrainian American newspapers during the first quarter of the 20th century. He has begun with advertisements placed by Jewish doctors.

Vitaly Chernovanenko holds a doctorate in history from the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, where he is associate professor and coordinator of Jewish Studies. He is the editor of *Judaica Ukrainica* and coordinates academic activities at the Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities of Ukraine. He is exploring the establishment and curriculum building of the Jewish Studies program at Kyiv Mohyla and the way in which the Euro-Maidan protests influenced the direction of the department.

Miriam Fayga Bunimovich is a graduate

of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and has participated in various Jewish studies programs in Halychyna, Podillia and Volyn. She serves as a liaison officer for the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter in Israel. Her presentation showed how the events in Ukraine have advanced self-identity processes for Ukrainian Jews, repatriates from Ukraine to Israel.

Stephen Gellner is a master's student at the University of Toronto. He is examining the debate surrounding Ukraine's national awareness and interpretation of its history, particularly how it relates to Ukrainian nationalism and the impact this will have on its Jewish inhabitants.

Oleksandr Melnyk is a doctoral candidate at the University of Toronto and holds a master's degree from the University of Alberta. He has worked with the UJE as a researcher. He is examining the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, focusing on themes such as anti-Maidan protests, the "Russian Spring," armed insurrections and local contexts of the crisis.

Anton Shekhovtsov is a doctoral candidate at the London School of Slavonic and East European Studies and a visiting fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Austria. He is an editorial board member of *Fascism: Journal of Comparative Fascist Studies* and his research interests include the new radical right wing parties in Europe and the new right in Russia. Anton is examining the participation of the far right in the Ukrainian (Maidan) revolution and the far right's contributions (positive and negative) to the protests. He asked the question whether the far right poses a threat to the democratic development of Ukraine.

Nurturing scholars working in the field of Ukrainian Jewish relations is one of the mandates of the UJE. By organizing this inaugural graduate symposium, the UJE provided a forum for graduate students to introduce their research to the academic community in various disciplines and using a variety of methodologies

# Toronto International Film Festival features two films from Ukraine

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO - The annual Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), this year held on September 4-17, featured about 300 films from around the world. Two of the films were from Ukraine: Sergei Loznitsia's "Maidan" and Myroslaw Slaboshpytsky's "Tribe" (Plemia).

Since many people saw the unfolding story of the Maidan on the Internet or TV, between November 2013 and March 2014, they might think "I've seen it all," but Mr. Loznitsia's version gives viewers a sense of participation in the event, seeing everything from the point of view of the crowd, just as if they were there. The film is shot primarily with a static camera. There are no sweeping cameras or long takes from the roofs, no talking heads, no voiceover and only bare scraps of background information on occasional title cards. An added dimension to the film is size. It is not the same seeing the events on an enormous movie screen as on your iPad.

The events are filmed in three parts, and the lead in each is the singing of the national anthem by the crowd - the "narod." The first part shows volunteers preparing and doling out food, people walking around the square, young girls handing out sandwiches on trays. The third and last part shows a memorial service for those who have died on the Maidan. Between the two, there is an explosion of violence: black-clad metal-shielded riot police tear into the protest camps, snipers on the roofs, firebombs, burning rockets. But you begin to wonder, does this absence of context - which those who watched the Maidan already understand - communicate the emotion of the events to those who are unaware of the back story? Does this purely cinematic approach give the real story?



A scene on the Maidan.

Photo courtesy of TIFF

Mr. Loznitsia explains in the program notes: "Maidan" is the first film in my rather long documentary career, when I actually had to follow the events of 'real life' as they were unfolding. This was a new and nerve-wracking experience for me. Usually when I start on a documentary, I start by laying out a complete structure of the film in my head. I know exactly how the film will begin, how the narrative will develop and how it will end. Making 'Maidan' was a completely different experience. I was receiving new footage throughout January and February and, as the tension was escalating and blood was shed, I was editing the film, not knowing what ending to expect. My goal was to bring the spectator to Maidan and make him experience the 90 days of revolution, as they unfolded. I want-

ed to distance myself from the events and to leave the spectator vis à vis with the events, without any commentary or voiceover. I used long takes in order to immerse the spectator into the narrative."

This paucity of speech - there are only scraps of conversation caught here and there - also means that there is little context for what was happening on the Maidan, even more so for persons unfamiliar with the events on screen.

Mr. Loznitsia was born in Belarus and raised in Ukraine. He directed several documentaries before making his debut fiction feature, "My Joy," in 2010. In 2012, he followed with "In the Fog" which was screened at Cannes. "Maidan" is his latest film. He is currently working on the film "Babyn Yar."

If the second Ukrainian film at the Toronto International Film Festival, "Tribe" (Plemia), had a maxim, it could be "show don't tell." The film's protagonist, Sergey, is a young deaf-mute newly enrolled in a rundown "internat" in Kyiv for deaf-mutes. There is no dialogue in the film. Although there are background sounds, everyone - students and teachers - communicates only in sign language.

After being put through some initiation rites, Sergey is accepted into the reigning clan ("tribe"), whose activities consist of thuggery and prostitution - the boys mug strangers for money and booze, while the girls turn tricks at a local truck stop. Brutal violence and sexually explicit imagery dominate. The kids at the school, apparently almost all of them deaf-mute non-actors, exist in a world of their own. The criminal activities have seemingly no consequences, neither from society nor the invisible

school officials.

As one critic wrote, "Tribe" was "one of the year's most talked-about films." At Cannes, "Tribe" received the Grand Prix Critics Award; it earned prizes at other film festivals also. When the general admission tickets went on sale in Toronto, all three showings of the film had already been sold out. (I had to wait for an hour and a half in a Rush line to finally get one ticket.) It turned out to be a film hard to watch. Violence, sexuality and a toxic combination of the two dominated, with a shocking brutal finale.

The director-writer of the film is Myroslaw Slaboshpytsky. The Kyiv native studied filmmaking at the Kyiv State Institute of Theater and Arts. Although he has made some short films, "Tribe" is his first feature.

Much was made in the write-ups about the film of its deaf-mute context and the absence of any spoken words. But although the story was mostly easy to follow, sometimes things became clear only later, when the story had moved on. For example, there is a scene in which the two girls are in separate rooms speaking separately to someone behind a counter, as a man keeps going from one room to the other. It is only later in the story that it becomes clear they are applying for visas to Italy, actually an important detail as it precipitates the brutal ending of the film. You come to understand that speech is needed to provide the context. And you begin to wonder what purpose the speechless context was supposed to serve as the world created had no relationship to any world we know and does not seem to play any role in influencing the behavior of the juveniles.

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



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

★★★★★ *Goodreads*

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

*Bookviews by Alan Caruba*

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

Available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) in ebook and soft cover versions or at [www.caughtinthecurrent.net](http://www.caughtinthecurrent.net)

## How you can help...

(Continued from page 6)

page appears, choose your state. You will now see the names of your two senators. Click on the first name. When the next page appears, click the button marked "Contact." You can then type a message directly to that senator. Instantly.

Say something like this: Dear Senator XYZ, Ukraine deserves our help. Ukraine's president asked Congress a month ago to send defensive weapons. S 2828 authorizes such weapons. Please become a co-sponsor and ask Majority Leader Reid to bring S 2828 to the floor when Congress returns on November 12. And please join the Senate Task Force on Ukraine, so that senators can bring to bear the full weight of their numbers. There are already 47 senators supporting defensive weapons. We need a team. Please join them.

Then send your message. It's that easy.

Then backspace to the second senator and send the same message to him/her. All of this will take only 10 minutes of your time. If you want the U.S. to send Ukraine the weapons it needs, you need to do this. This is your part in the struggle to save Ukraine.

Want to do more? Make an appointment to see your senators when they're home. Call toll free 866-220-0044 and the operator will connect you to your senator's office. Ask for an appointment next time the senator is back home. When you go, bring a couple of Ukrainian American friends with you.

In Washington, if you don't ask, you don't get. If you want to save Ukraine, the first step is for you to ask each of your two senators to support the bipartisan Senate Task Force on Ukraine and to co-sponsor and vote for S 2828. Too few of us have asked. That's why 53 senators are silent. They're ignoring Ukraine. They're ignoring you.

To save Ukraine, you must ask. I urge you to do so today.

# BOOK REVIEW: Beauty in textiles

*"Flowers and Birds in Ukrainian Kilim Design," introduction by Stefan Taranushenko. Kyiv: Rodovid, 2014. 407 pp., color, illustrated, bilingual, (Ukrainian-English). ISBN 978-966-7845-82-7.*

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Even if you don't know your warp from your weft, your "kudelia" from your "priazha," or your "bavyna" from your "bambak" – this is a book for you. It is a beautifully produced bilingual Ukrainian-English volume on bird and plant motifs in Ukrainian weaving, with excellent photographs of the spectrum of the images. The designers deserve as much credit as possible.

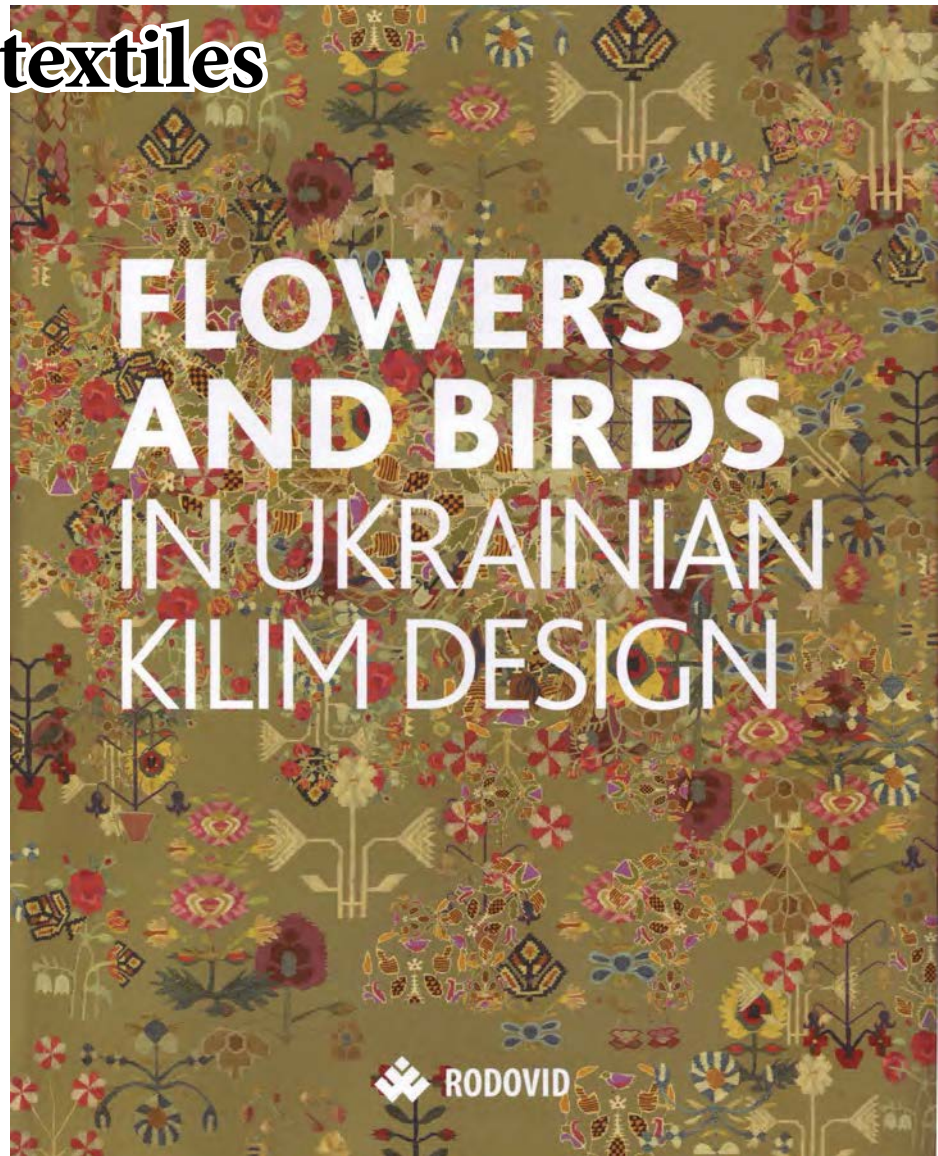
The book is mostly color photographs, including close-ups, of the great variety of Ukrainian folk and artistic kylims. The text comprises a foreword by Natalia Diachenko-Zabashka and an afterword by Serhiy Bilokin.

The main text is more than an "introduction," as it is listed. It is the main section of the book. This text, as noted in the foreword, is "a groundbreaking study, 'Ukrainian Kylyms,' by the distinguished Ukrainian art historian Stefan Taranushenko (1889-1976). Although he spent many years working on this monograph, he never managed to complete it. The original Ukrainian manuscript was prepared for publication by Serhiy Bilokin."

Taranushenko's work was supposed to be published in "The History of Ukrainian Art," a joint publication of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR and the Ukrainian Soviet Encyclopedia. Dr. Bilokin writes that in 1968, "after being subjected to 'editing,' the text of his bowdlerized article appeared under his name in the third volume of the History. In the Bilokin afterword, he says the text "was signed in his [Taranushenko's] name." This is the five-volume edition (in six large grey books) that so many of us have on our shelves. Dr. Bilokin was able to help preserve Taranushenko's papers and have them transferred to the Manuscript Division of the Vernadsky Library of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, where he catalogued them.

"I am delighted that, despite all the tumultuous events of the Soviet and post-Soviet periods, not a single copy or manuscript of Taranushenko's ended up in the incinerator," Dr. Bilokin notes. This chilling comment has one wondering whose papers and how many did end up as ash.

We learn the history of Ukrainian kylims from historical references in the chronicles of medieval Kyivan times. The raw materials are listed, and the personal and commercial production and uses of various kylims in everyday life and in rituals by the ordinary population and by the nobility is covered. Ornamental influences



Some of the textiles featured in the new book.

from Western Europe and from the East are discussed. Dyeing methods and sources of colors are described, as are weaving techniques. Then there are the "kotsy" – a "kots" is a blanket, rather than a kylym.

The photographs are very fine, with close-ups showing the remarkable details of the craft. Shown is a large number of collections from many museums in Ukraine, from private collections and from The Ukrainian Museum in New York.

Kudos to the translator, Marta D. Olynyk (for some reason, her name is listed only in the English, not on the Ukrainian page of credits – there should have been consistency in both languages in the text). Too often, books and other material translated into English in Ukraine are of poor, even embarrassing quality, so this volume is indeed a pleasure to read.

Even though in some circles it is still acceptable to use "Cossack" instead of

"Kozak" in English, the former term includes the many historical Russian tsarist and present Russian Cossacks with whom Ukrainians need no association – not even marginal.

This is the first of a three-volume set on Ukrainian kylym weaving. Readers can look forward to books on geometric ornaments, and on kylyms created by individual weavers over time. Maybe a book on these motifs in embroidery will follow?

A glossary, an index and a map should be included in books of this kind. Hopefully, in succeeding volumes they will be.

As most of Rodovid publications, this gem needs to be promoted to mainstream libraries, folk art and textile museums and libraries, to weaving associations, and to the general public. It makes a perfect gift for any weaver, textile enthusiast, folk artist or anyone interested in textile history and the beauty of this art and craft.

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

John Kerry, speaking in Canada's capital, Ottawa, warned that the vote "will be a clear violation of the commitments made by both Russia and the separatists that it backs in the Minsk agreements." Pro-Russian separatists in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions – who declared independence after Russia annexed Crimea in March – have said they will hold elections in their self-declared "people's republics" in order to elect separate parliaments and their own leaders. Mr. Poroshenko previously has said that any local elections in Ukraine must be conducted according to Ukrainian law, indicating Kyiv does not consider the polls planned for Donetsk or Luhansk as legitimate. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Reuters, the Associated Press, Agence France-Presse, TASS and Izvestiya)

### Ban Ki-moon condemns election plans

UNITED NATIONS – U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has condemned plans by pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine to hold elections. In a statement on October 29, Mr. Ban said the November 2 ballots in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions would breach the Ukrainian Constitution and national law. He said the elections would also "seriously undermine" the Minsk peace agreement. The vote to elect separate Parliaments in Donetsk and Luhansk was scheduled in defiance of Ukraine's parliamentary elections on October 26, which were won by pro-Western parties. Russia, however, said it will recognize the results of the separatist-run elections. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and the European Union warned that Moscow's support for the elections could wreck chances for peace. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Agence France-Presse, Reuters, UNIAN and Interfax)

### Ukraine, Russia resume gas talks

BRUSSELS – Russia and Ukraine have gone into another round of EU-brokered talks over a natural-gas dispute. The negotiations in Brussels on October 29 involve Ukrainian and Russian Energy Ministers Yuriy Prodan and Aleksandr Novak, as well as EU Energy Commissioner Guenther Oettinger. They come after inconclusive talks on October 21, when Oettinger announced some progress, but said a final deal had yet to be agreed. Mr. Oettinger said on October 29 that hurdles included bills that Ukraine has not paid for gas at higher prices demanded by Russia since the ouster of Ukraine's pro-Russian government earlier this year. Russia also is demanding advance payment for new deliveries. Russia cut off gas deliveries to Ukraine in mid-June, citing a \$5.3 billion debt. Mr. Oettinger said that, as part of tentative deals, Ukraine planned to purchase some 4 billion cubic meters of Russian gas before the end of this year. Russia on October 21 said it would sell gas to Ukraine for \$385 per 1,000 cubic meters, much lower than the \$485 that Russia's state-controlled Gazprom was demanding just weeks ago. Moscow said that price would be in force from October 2014 until late March 2015 – but only if Ukraine pays in advance. (RFE/RL)

in Chechnya in 1995 during Russia's own bloody battle with separatists in the restive North Caucasus republic. The image was snapped by photographer Alexander Nemenov on March 31, 1995, at an Orthodox cemetery in Chechnya's capital, Grozny, according to the AFP photo archive. The bodies were those of civilians "killed in winter fighting" that were "exhumed for identification," according to AFP. The soldier was cropped out of the image broadcast October 25 on the Kyiv billboards. Only the dozens of decaying bodies sprawled out in a shallow ditch were shown from the original photograph. A group calling itself "Cyber Berkut" took credit for the billboard cyberattack. It was not the first time that disturbing images of violence in the North Caucasus have been passed off as evidence of atrocities by Ukraine's government in the conflict. The hackers' montage flashed other photographs of the dead and maimed as well, alternating these images with headshots of Ukrainian politicians, including Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, whose People's Front Party was running neck and neck with President Petro Poroshenko's bloc to win the election, according to partial results as of October 27. Each politician's photograph in the video was embossed with a red stamp reading, "War Criminal." John Dalhuisen, the Europe and Central Asia director at Amnesty, singled out the Russian media last week for its reporting on atrocities, saying that "some of the more shocking cases" it has reported "have been hugely exaggerated." Cyber Berkut takes its name from the disbanded Berkut riot-police force, which has been implicated in the February killing of 100 protesters in Kyiv during street protests against then-President Viktor Yanukovich. The group claimed responsibility for cyberattacks on NATO websites earlier this year. (Carl Schreck of RFE/RL)

### Tusk denies claim of Putin offer

WARSAW – Poland's former prime minister, Donald Tusk, has denied that Russian President Vladimir Putin suggested that Russia and Poland carve up Ukraine. Mr. Tusk told Polish Radio TOK-FM on October 24 that Mr. Putin never made such an offer to him. The claim was made by former Foreign Affairs Minister Radek Sikorski, who said in an interview with the U.S. internet magazine Politico on October 19 that the offer was made in a one-on-one meeting between Messrs. Tusk and Putin in Moscow in 2008. But Mr. Sikorski later backed away from the allegation, saying his memory had failed him. Mr. Tusk said October 24 that Mr. Sikorski must have gotten the impression from alarming remarks Mr. Putin made at a NATO summit in Bucharest in 2008 in which he said Ukraine was an artificial country and that Russia has interests there. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by the Associated Press and Interfax)

### U.N.: 800,000 displaced from homes

GENEVA – The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) told a briefing in Geneva that an estimated 430,000 people were currently displaced within Ukraine – 170,000 more than at the start of September. It said at least 387,000 have asked for refugee status, temporary asylum, or other forms of residency permits in Russia. Another 6,600 have applied for asylum in the European Union and 581 in Belarus. Around 95 percent of displaced people come from eastern Ukraine, where government troops have been battling pro-Russian separatists. The agency said it was "racing to help some of the most vulnerable displaced people" as

(Continued on page 13)

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### Poroshenko meets with Inhofe

KYIV – President Petro Poroshenko met with U.S. Sen. James Inhofe, co-chair of the Senate Committee on Armed Services. The two discussed the early parliamentary elections in Ukraine. Mr. Poroshenko noted that he had met with observers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Parliament, who noted that the elections in Ukraine were fair and met international standards. Sen. Inhofe commented: "It is very important. These elections provide for reforms and opportunities you have never had before." Mr. Poroshenko expressed his belief that the new majority in the Verkhovna Rada would be pro-European and ensure the legislative vector of reforms. He also emphasized that pseudo-elections scheduled at the beginning of November in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions grossly contradict the letter and intent of the Minsk protocol of September 5 and threaten the entire peace process. The Ukrainian president stressed that local elections in certain districts of the Donbas could be held solely under Ukrainian legislation. Mr. Poroshenko expressed gratitude to Sen. Inhofe for his support of Ukraine, particularly for his co-authorship of the Crimea Annexation Non-Recognition Act and the bill "to prevent further Russian aggression toward Ukraine and other sovereign states in Europe and Eurasia." He expressed his hope that the U.S. Congress would adopt these important bills. The two men also discussed the reform of defense sector of Ukraine and the issue of energy security. (Official Website of Ukraine's President)

### Hackers use Chechnya war photos

WASHINGTON – A day before the October 26 parliamentary elections in Ukraine, hackers accessed electronic billboards in Kyiv and broadcast gruesome images of what they portrayed as civilian carnage wrought by Ukrainian forces battling pro-Russian separatists in the east of the country. Russian state-owned Channel One television then aired a report on the stunt, describing the photographs as "horrific images of the events in Donbas." At least one of these images, however, predates the Ukraine conflict by nearly two decades. It originally showed a Russian soldier standing over mass graves of civilians

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

winter approaches. It also said the number of displaced people is expected to rise further due to ongoing fighting in eastern Ukraine. (RFE/RL)

### Profits crash at Rosneft after sanctions

MOSCOW – Russian state-controlled energy giant Rosneft says its profits during the third quarter of 2014 crashed dramatically after Western sanctions were imposed over Russia's role in the Ukraine crisis. Rosneft said on October 29 that its third-quarter net profits fell by 99.3 percent – down to \$24.4 million – compared to the same three-month period in 2013. Rosneft's access to Western financing and technology – needed to service its debts and bring east Siberian fields online – has been cut by the sanctions. Rosneft also has been hurt by the falling value of Russia's

ruble. Russia's Economic Development Minister Aleksei Ulyukayev said on October 29 that the government cannot satisfy a request from Rosneft for a further bailout to help it service debts. In August, Rosneft asked the Russian government for a huge financial bailout to help it repay debts of about \$45 billion. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Reuters and Agence France-Presse)

### Heating crisis triggers sale of rare plants

KYIV – The M.M. Grishko Central Botanical Gardens in Kyiv declared a fire sale of exotic plants after it was unable to maintain required heating levels and announced it was shutting down some of its greenhouses. The decision came as the country faces a serious economic downturn and the government is being forced to ration natural gas used to fire central heating. The rationing came after Russia terminated gas supplies over Ukraine's unpaid debts. "Because of the difficult economic

situation and the preparation for the winter period, the M.M. Grishko botanical gardens is obliged to" reduce the heating for its greenhouse, the Botanical Gardens announced in a statement on October 22. "As a result we have the opportunity to cheaply sell plants, which we have in fairly large quantities... and which can improve living conditions for people." Kyiv's horticulturalist hobbyists appear to be the main beneficiaries. A constant stream of local residents emerged from the garden's greenhouse and staggered up the sloping staircase to the front gates clutching tall fronds, ferns and ficuses. The Ukrainian government has delayed central heating season this year in order to conserve its limited reserves of natural gas. Last year, central heating was turned on by October 1. This year, the date was pushed back to October 24. The botanical garden is not plugged into Kyiv's central heating system. But heating prices have risen significantly during the standoff with Russia. (Tom Balmforth of RFE/RL)

### A court challenge of sanctions

MOSCOW – Gazprom Neft, the oil arm of Russia's state-controlled natural gas monopoly Gazprom, said on October 28 that it has challenged European Union sanctions against the firm in the EU's Court of Justice. The sanctions against Gazprom Neft were imposed as part of wider restrictions against Russia over its illegal annexation of Crimea from Ukraine and its support for pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine. The EU sanctions restrict the ability of Gazprom Neft, Russia's fourth biggest oil producer by output, to raise funds on European markets. The United States also has imposed sanctions against Gazprom Neft in response to Russia's role in Ukraine's crisis. The West says Moscow is supplying arms and troops to help pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine battle Ukrainian government forces. Moscow denies that, despite increasing evidence to support the charges. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Reuters, the Associated Press and TASS)

## Parliamentary...

(Continued from page 1)

The Poroshenko Bloc had been projected by polls to earn at least 30 percent of the vote, but instead earned 21.8 percent. The People's Front's ratings had been consistently reported at about 10-12 percent, but the party received 22.2 percent.

During the last weeks of campaigning, the People's Front succeeded in swiping many of the Poroshenko Bloc's votes, as well as much of the 32 percent of undecided votes estimated by polls.

Just why these voters went for Mr. Yatsenyuk is still under debate. Yet observers credited the campaign strategy of Kyiv political consulting guru Sergey Gaiday, who said the result surpassed even his expectations.

"Somehow everything worked out with our targeted messages," he said in an interview with the TVi television network.

Mr. Gaiday was referring to his campaign's strategy of turning the elections into a popular vote on who would be prime minister. In late September, the Razumkov Center in Kyiv released a poll indicating that Mr. Yatsenyuk was by far the most popular choice for prime minister.

The People's Front campaign staff began flexing that strong point, which also turned out to be an Achilles' heel for the Poroshenko Bloc, which failed to tell the public who its likely nominee would be, said Petro Oleshchuk, a political science lecturer at Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv.

"They gave the public the clear message that a vote for the People's Front is a vote for Yatsenyuk as prime minister," he said. "You might support the politics of the president, but he won't be the prime minister. Society had a lot of doubts, and the People's Front filled the void. Why guess when you can vote for Yatsenyuk as prime minister?"

The People's Front also played to the fears of voters, particularly when just before the elections Mr. Poroshenko made it clear that he wanted a constitutional majority of 300 votes.

The statement was intended as a signal to voters to cast their ballots for the Poroshenko Bloc in order give him enough authority to pursue the constitutional changes he was seeking. Yet it backfired.

"Poroshenko voters switched to Yatsenyuk out of fear of excessive concentration of power," suggested Taras Chornovil, a former national deputy who served in both the pro-Western and pro-Russian camps.

"During the last week of elections, they employed a clear technology of stirring the electorate. The People's Front knew how to stir feelings to boost its support, sending experts to forums and telling journalists

that Poroshenko is turning into a dictator."

Mr. Poroshenko's campaign offered a similar deal to voters ahead of the May 25 presidential election, telling them that a 50 percent victory in the first round would avoid a costly and unnecessary second round run-off during a time of war. While voters obliged in May, they declined the favor the second time around.

"A lot voted for him in May not because they supported him, but they wanted a president in a single round," said Mykhailo Basarab, a Kyiv political consultant who worked for a People's Front candidate during the campaign. "Poroshenko probably perceived his strong result as gratitude for being who he is, rather than an advance of the voters' trust. That's why he didn't listen to experts, journalists and the public's rejection of such appointments as [Valerij] Heletei as defense minister. The president simply hasn't met the heightened expectations after his landslide victory."

Besides questioning the president's personnel decisions, the public apparently lost trust in his ability to conduct the Donbas war, particularly after the September 5 Minsk ceasefire protocol surrendered a third of the territory but brought no peace. Instead, Ukrainian soldiers have been dying on a daily basis in back-and-forth attacks and shooting.

"Like many, I don't understand what the president is thinking and how he sees resolving this situation in the east," Mr. Basarab said. "I have many doubts about whether he has any idea of how this has to be resolved. I am concerned how this person with an obvious business mentality is leading the country in this difficult time. There's an absence of a fiercely persistent position that needs to be demonstrated, particularly with [Vladimir] Putin."

As a result of its first-place finish, the People's Front made it clear that it expects to form the next parliamentary coalition with Mr. Yatsenyuk remaining as prime minister.

Despite finishing second in the closed list voting, the Poroshenko Bloc will gain the most deputies' seats – 132 (compared to 82 for the People's Front). Yet it seems likely to cede to Mr. Yatsenyuk the prime ministership, as reported by the Obozrevatel news site.

The biggest opposition force will be the Putin-aligned Opposition Bloc, the party that took the most votes in the Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhia oblasts, and parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Incredibly, it was led by Yurii Boiko, the former vice prime minister who stood accused of stealing hundreds of millions of dollars in corrupt schemes but was never criminally charged following the Euro-Maidan. He now will enjoy immunity from prosecution as a national deputy.

Though the Opposition Bloc only became a

factor in the final round of polling before the elections, it succeeded in taking all the wind out of the Strong Ukraine party (which didn't qualify with its 3.1 percent result) as the top Russian-oriented force with an aggressive and remorseless advertising campaign.

Besides its campaign strategy of blaming the Euro-Maidan for Ukraine's troubles and criticizing the Ukrainian army's actions in the war, the Opposition Bloc had access to the Party of Regions' networks and organizations that remained intact.

For instance, the oligarchs who control the immense factories and mines in these regions, particularly Rinat Akhmetov, gave the order down the chain of command for hundreds of thousands of industrial workers to vote for the Opposition Bloc, Mr. Oleshchuk said.

Meanwhile in Kharkiv, political kingpin Mykhailo Dobkin and his close associate, City Council Head (Mayor) Hennadii Kernes, still retain control of the levers of power, including the ability to bring out the necessary votes for the Opposition Bloc, he said.

Former Party of Regions politicians won 13 of the 14 single-mandate districts in the Kharkiv Oblast, running as independents but likely to join the opposition. In the oblast's closed-list voting, pro-Russian forces won 40.7 percent of the vote, compared to 37.2 percent for pro-Western forces.

"The Opposition Bloc would want to join the coalition in theory because they like being in power and having their share," Mr. Oleshchuk said. "But they won't be invited. So they will bide their time and wait, hoping that Poroshenko and Yatsenyuk will argue and the coalition falls apart."

About 62 national deputies who voted on January 16 to establish a virtual dictatorship in Ukraine will return to Parliament, esti-

mated Victoria Siumar, an elected national deputy from the People's Front. Many of these deputies were elected in the south-eastern regions of Ukraine. Yet most of these same regions now favor integration with the European Union instead of Eurasia.

In the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, pro-Western parties earned 47.9 percent compared to 29.6 percent for pro-Russian forces. In the Zaporizhia Oblast, pro-Western forces earned 42.4 percent compared to 39.1 percent for pro-Russian forces, according to Central Election Commission figures.

For the first time in independent Ukraine, the most popular party in the Odesa, Kherson and Mykolayiv oblasts was a pro-Western party – the Poroshenko Bloc.

"The elections were adequate and corrected the situation well," said Mr. Chornovil. "We have a European majority and absolutely Ukraine-centric Rada in which the Opposition Bloc won't be able to play pro-Russian politics."

Another key conclusion to be drawn from the elections, observers said, is that Ukrainians firmly rejected those parties that called for the most aggressive stance in the war with Russia.

Oleh Liashko's Radical Party, the Batkivshchyna party led by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and the Svoboda nationalist party all fell short of the poll ratings they had leading up to election day. What they had in common was that they all favored declaring martial law.

Expected to win around 12 percent, the Radical Party earned 7.5 percent. Expected to gain as much as 8 percent, Batkivshchyna earned 5.7 percent. And the Svoboda party, projected by all four exit polls to gain 6 percent, finished just short of qualifying for Parliament at 4.7 percent.



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## New Ukrainian...

(Continued from page 1)

As the caravan of four vehicles passes through Sloviansk and moves eastward, the passengers in one truck notice that the local residents are giving them dirty glances, making obscene gestures and even hooting. Ms. Voronovych makes a quick phone call to the local Aidar Battalion officer in charge, who tells her that her group has stumbled into enemy territory and must quickly get out. After 20 tense minutes, the caravan is back on a more secure road.

The names of the volunteer battalions fighting with Ukraine's armed forces on the Donbas frontlines have become familiar to those following the war between Russia and Ukraine - Aidar, Donbas, Azov, Prykarpattia, OUN, etc. What is less known is how these non-regular forces receive the supplies that allow them to function. More so than Ukraine's regular armed forces, the battalions that sprang from the Maidan movement are almost totally dependent on volunteer and humanitarian donations. One soldier told the Kyiv Post recently that "probably 99 percent of our supplies are



Combatants in the city of Popasne with Viktoriia Voronovych after the International Alliance for Fraternal Assistance delivered badly needed water and other supplies.

donated by volunteers."

Ms. Voronovych, who was born in Kyiv, said that because the Soviet Union and Ukraine both have a history of military leadership taking the best for themselves, she doesn't trust the officers to deliver the much-needed supplies to the fighting troops. History tells her that they will skim the best for themselves and send the rest to the frontlines.

"We hand the things directly to the soldiers," she said. "This is the only way to be sure the goods get to them."

To hand deliver all the supplies to the frontline soldiers, Ms. Voronovych and Mr. Mosin must expend extra effort and resources to reach the areas where the volunteer combatants are located. To allow the drivers time to rest, they generally overnight in a city just outside the ATO zone. This time they spent the night at the Ukraina Hotel in Artemivsk, a city once within the war zone, but now securely in Ukrainian hands.

The IAFA closely cooperates with other volunteer organizations associated with the Euro-Maidan to gather the supplies they transport to the east. Ms. Voronovych says she is in constant contact with organizations like SOS Skhid, Samo-Oborona, Vilni Liudy and the Information Center of the Maidan (Informatsiynyi Tsentr Maidanu) to coordinate pick-ups of supplies and clothing donated by Ukrainians and foreigners.

She and her people also talk regularly with representatives of the Ukrainian American communities of Chicago and Detroit and California. These communities - like the Ukrainian diaspora as a whole - have contributed substantial amounts of money, clothing and medicine in support of the Ukrainian volunteer battalions through organizations like the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America branches in Detroit and Chicago and the California Association to Aid Ukraine.

Ms. Voronovych, 38, and Mr. Mosin, 31, met on the Euro-Maidan on December 10, 2013, during the second attempt by the Berkut to disperse demonstrators. Both wanted to support the movement ever since the demonstrations began on Kyiv's Independence Square, after now-deposed President Viktor Yanukovich unexpectedly reneged on his long-voiced intention to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union.

"One night I just wandered over to the Maidan from my house to volunteer, not



Yurii Mosin and Viktoriia Voronovych hand over water and food supplies to a volunteer combatant in Debaltsevo.

knowing what I wanted or could do to help," explained Ms. Voronovych. That evening she latched on to a medical brigade and within hours was attending to injured demonstrators as they took over the Kyiv City Administration Building on the Khreshchatyk.

Mr. Mosin felt the need to join the Maidan demonstrators from his home in Donetsk, where he was employed as a critical-care medical worker. He traveled by train, and as destiny would have it, ended up on the Khreshchatyk with Ms. Voronovych that same evening.

"I am an emergency medical worker by profession and I just wanted to help in some way," he explained. "I had sat in my apartment in Donetsk watching the events unfold on the Khreshchatyk and telling myself I needed to be there. After the Berkut beat the students on December 1, I pretty much knew that I was going to Kyiv."

The pair worked side by side through the cold winter nights, attending to the ills and ailments of the Maidan demonstrators, helping meet the needs of what quickly became a small village. As the Maidan organized into a series of battalions, demonstrators and volunteers took on specialized tasks. Ms. Voronovych and Mr. Mosin became part of the medical team on the night shift.

They were both present on the Maidan and in the adjoining neighborhoods when Berkut militia and government snipers slaughtered protesters on February 19-20. The two helped set up makeshift field hospitals and transported the wounded from the killing streets.

When Mr. Yanukovich fled unexpectedly and a new, ostensibly reformist government took over, the pair felt flush with victory, but remained wary of what would come next. After Vladimir Putin's Russia attacked Crimea, both controlled strong urges to join the Maidan battalions that were now moving there to fight the invaders. As the violence continued, they joined groups in Kyiv that were identifying victims of the violence on the Maidan, who had remained in hiding still fearful of government retribution, sending scores of them for medical treatment abroad.

When the Donbas region turned violent, Ms. Voronovych's focus shifted again. As rumors abounded of ill-equipped and often undernourished volunteer battalions, she and Mr. Mosin began gathering supplies for them.

"I couldn't watch helplessly as our boys went into battle so ill-prepared. I decided that I needed to contribute in some way," explained Ms. Voronovych.

A breakthrough moment occurred when Winner Ford Automotive Group in Kyiv agreed to provide the still unregistered

IAFA with two minibuses to deliver humanitarian goods to the frontlines. Soon afterwards, the IAFA was registered with the government of Ukraine and a new organization was born.

Today, the IAFA's two founders, along with a half dozen volunteers, are part of a network of volunteer groups that coordinate supplies to the volunteer battalions. While Ms. Voronovych and Mr. Mosin plan to continue running supplies to the east as long as the conflict continues, they have also identified other critical areas that need addressing.

One of Ms. Voronovych's mid-term goals for the IAFA is to help establish modern prosthetics centers in Ukraine. Currently Ukraine has 16 such centers, most delivering shabby, post-Soviet level services and providing basic prosthetics that are far from state-of-the-art.

Today the IAFA is working with Ukraine 3000 in Kyiv and the Philadelphia-based Ukrainian Federation of America to train Ukrainian orthopedic and trauma surgeons and prosthetics specialists in Ukraine and the U.S. Two Ukrainian specialists will soon travel to Philadelphia to receive initial training, after which a team of U.S. medical experts will travel to Ukraine to develop a needs assessment. More extensive specialist training will follow, as will a plan for facilities modernization. Currently, the IAFA is looking for a partnership with U.S. private companies to bring the latest prosthetics materials and development technologies to Ukraine.

Even as the fighting in eastern Ukraine continues, Ms. Voronovych has turned her attention to the future of those soldiers who have sacrificed so much to ensure Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. She wants to position the IAFA to advocate for their needs once a new Verkhovna Rada is seated. Eventually, she would like to provide the soldiers with some security by having them recognized as combatants by the Ukrainian government. This would guarantee the soldiers' pensions and monetary compensation to the families of those who sacrificed their lives for a free and independent Ukraine.

Ms. Voronovych does not admit to carrying a heavy load, even as she regularly works seven-day, 80-hour weeks. "What I do is not a burden when compared to what those young men defending Ukraine in the ATO are going through," she explained.

\* \* \*

For more information on the International Alliance for Fraternal Assistance, readers may go to the IAFA Facebook page: Міжнародний Альянс Братської Допомоги. For information or to make a donation, contact Viktoriia Voronovych at vitulja.v@gmail.com.

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## Conference in Toronto discusses “Communism and Hunger”

TORONTO – Scholars from Canada, France, Italy, Hong Kong, England, Ukraine and the United States gathered in Toronto on September 26-27 to examine and compare the Ukrainian, Kazakh, Chinese and Soviet famines at the conference “Communism and Hunger” organized by the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium (HREC) of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), University of Alberta.

This conference explored the similarities and differences between these political famines, which were examined both individually and in relation to one another. Day one of the conference, held at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, began with a panel titled “The Soviet, Kazakh, Ukrainian, and Chinese Famines Compared.” It featured Nicolas Werth (Institut d’Histoire du Temps Présent, Paris), Lucien Bianco (l’École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris) and Andrea Graziosi (Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of University Research, Naples). Olga Andriewsky (Trent University) served as the discussant.

The second panel, titled “Aspects of the Soviet, Kazakh and Chinese Famines,” included presentations by Niccolò Pianciola (Lingnan University, Hong Kong), Sarah Cameron (University of Maryland), Zhou Xun (University of Essex) and Ralph Thaxton (Brandeis University, Boston). Kimberley Manning of Concordia University was the discussant.

On Friday evening, Mr. Bianco, an eminent Sinologist, gave a public lecture titled “How Soviet and Chinese Communists Dealt with the Peasantry: A Comparison”



“Communism and Hunger” conference presenters, discussants, stipend recipients and organizers.

before a full house at the Munk School.

The second day, held at St. Vladimir Institute, began with a question-and-answer session especially for graduate students and early career scholars. HREC provided stipends to 10 academics, including two from Ukraine, to support their attendance. A roundtable featuring all of the conference presenters followed in the afternoon. The conference concluded with a public lecture by Dr. Graziosi on “Stalin and Hunger as a Nation-Destroying Tool.”

The open sessions, round table, and public lectures were recorded and will be available at the Munk School website (<http://munkschool.utoronto.ca>) as well as the HREC website ([www.holodomor.ca](http://www.holodomor.ca)).

The conference succeeded in its primary objective of generating high-level presentation and discussion regarding the similarities and differences between the famines

under consideration. Moreover, its sessions were well-attended.

A number of major interpretive points came to the fore. Among the issues noted by the panel discussants, two stand out. The first was the question of ideology and the belief that the state could quickly and fundamentally transform society. The second concerns the issue of governance and governing structures, specifically the expanded capacity of the Communist states (specifically the USSR and China) to carry out policy, as well as the impunity afforded these regimes owing to their ability to eliminate resistance and cover up their actions.

Numerous other issues were raised during the course of the conference. There was repeated reference to the fact that Stalin and the central Soviet authorities were antagonistically disposed to the peasantry, particularly in Ukraine, where widespread rural uprisings against the Bolshevik regime had occurred in 1919 and the peasantry was clearly linked to the nationality question. Consequently, when the crisis of collectivization came to a head in Ukraine, Stalin proceeded with deliberate measures to destroy Ukrainian peasant resistance there, using famine as a tool. His intentionality was clear, all

(Continued on page 18)

## Conference focuses on Ukrainian dimension of the first world war

LVIV – The Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Modern Ukrainian History and Society, together with Institute for Historical Research, Ivan Franko Lviv National University, and the Humanities Department of the Ukrainian Catholic University, organized a conference on “The First World War: The Ukrainian Dimension.”

The conference, held on September 12-14, had an international character and drew scholars from Austria, Canada, Germany, Israel, and the United States. The core of conference was, however, made by mostly younger historians from different regions of Ukraine, including those that are now in the zone of the anti-terrorist operation.

The conference was opened with a keynote speech titled “A Forgotten War, a Forgotten Peace and Making of Modern Ukraine” by Prof. Mark von Hagen, a renowned specialist on World War I in Eastern Europe.

The conference panels focused on the Ukrainian issue in the World War I, analyzed changes brought by the war on various traditional national and social groups (such as Ukrainian peasants and Eastern European Jews), as well as the formation of new groups (refugees and prisoners of wars), and discussed the ways the Great War has left its imprint on folklore and historical memory.

The event’s program was concluded with a roundtable discussion on “How to Write the History of World War I.” Selected conference papers, together with roundtable discussion proceedings, are to be published in the next issue of the peer-reviewed international journal *Ukraina Moderna*.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Austrian Bureau for Academic Cooperation and the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine.

## Roundtable in Lviv discusses the “new Eastern Europe”



At the Lviv conference on the “new Eastern Europe” (from left) are: Adam Reichhardt, editor-in-chief, *New Eastern Europe*, and Profs. Andreas Kappeler, Frank Sysyn, Yaroslav Hrytsak and Mark von Hagen.

LVIV – “A New Eastern Europe? Eastern Europe in World History and World Politics, 1914-2014” was the title of a roundtable discussion organized by the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Modern Ukrainian History and Society, together with the bimonthly English-language journal *New Eastern Europe* (Wrocław and Gdańsk, Poland). It took place within the framework of the Lviv Book Forum on September 12.

The discussion was inspired by a suggestion from Prof. Roman Szporluk, a member of the *New Eastern Europe* editorial board, that the word “Eastern” be dropped from the title of the journal, the better to reflect current realities in the context of the Euro-Maidan and its aftermath.

The discussion was moderated by Adam Reichhardt, editor-in-chief of *New Eastern Europe*. The four panelists were Profs. Andreas Kappeler (University of Vienna),

Mark von Hagen (University of Arizona), Frank Sysyn (Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta) and Yaroslav Hrytsak (Ukrainian Catholic University). They addressed the question: What does “Eastern Europe” mean in 2014?

Obviously, significant changes are taking place in this region, especially in the context of recent events in Ukraine. Even though these events symbolize a certain break in political development, one cannot help noting a number of historical continuities since 1914, when Eastern Europe played a central role in world politics.

The discussion will provide the basis for a special issue of *New Eastern Europe*. A transcript of the discussion will be published simultaneously in an issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Ukraina Moderna* that is planned as a Festschrift in honor of Prof. Szporluk.



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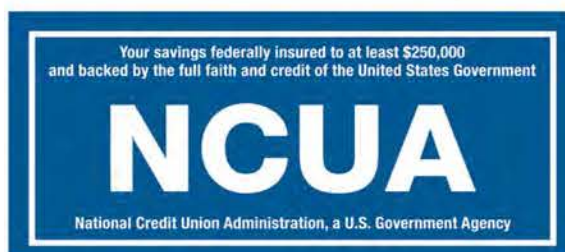
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# “Separatist” power play ices Donbas season

by Ihor N. Stelmach

When we last checked in on the Kontinental Hockey League's (KHL) Ukrainian franchise, Donbas (Donbas, in keeping with Ukrainian transliteration) Donetsk was exceeding expectations, finishing fourth in the Western Conference and qualifying for the playoffs for the first time. Donbas set a league record for the fewest goals allowed in a regular season with 99. It went on to defeat Dinamo Riga 4-3 in the first round, before falling to Lev Prague in the semi-finals, 4-2. At the end of the season, HC Donbas was named the 2013 Best Sports Club of Ukraine at the Heroes of Sports Year awards.

These days, the hockey club's offices have been occupied by armed men believed to be the same pro-Russian “separatists” who looted and set fire to the club's arena back in May. The damage to Ice Palace

Druzhba Donetsk led to the club's withdrawal from KHL competition for the entire 2014-2015 season.

Donbas Donetsk has gone from icing an exciting hockey team to being put on ice for one full year.

The plundering of the arena on May 26-27 was caused, at least in part, by team owner and president Boris Kolesnikov comparing the Donetsk People Republic separatist forces to Somali pirates and wishing them out of the country, thus strongly supporting Ukraine's unity. The entrepreneur and National Deputy Kolesnikov is a high-profile persona in the city, region and country. His personal fortune will allow him and his hockey club to easily overcome the arena damage, a cost estimated at between \$5 million and \$6 million. More challenging to overcome would be the actual state of war in and around the city of Donetsk: the logistics of

the material necessary to rebuild and the safety of the workers in a life-threatening environment.

HC Donbas is suffering more than just financial setbacks. The club decided to miss the current hockey season, electing not to play all of its games away for security reasons. Being a KHL shareholder permits Donbas to play in the league down the road, once the city is again a safe place.

Donbas Head Coach Andrey Nazarov and many of the top players found employment with other organizations. NHL veteran and team captain Ruslan Fedotenko accepted an invitation to attend the New Jersey Devils' training camp with the hope of earning an NHL roster spot. Next season will be critical for Donbas as a test of survival and remaining Ukraine's driving force in hockey. The team will be participating in the national championships, though this competition is several notches below the KHL.

Three silver linings from this disaster: the Ukrainian national championships will be the central focus of Ukraine's hockey fans; a weakened HC Donbas is still a strong squad and will be tough to beat; and many key players have already confirmed their intentions to stay with the team for the 2015-2016 season (Pavlo Padakin, Serhiy Varlamov, Viktor Zakharov, Oleksandr Materuhin and Oleksandr Toryanyuk, to name five). Officially all club contracts were frozen with players and coaches permitted to sign one-year contracts with other clubs, but otherwise remain under contract with Donbas. The team's new home, Kalmius Arena, will seat 12,800 for hockey and be operational in the summer of 2015.

In order for all of the above to happen, there must be peace in the region and political stability in Ukraine. If these objectives are reached, all other tasks should be quite manageable.

## Sitch men's soccer team defeats Vistula Garfield S.C. in 6-4 thriller

by Bo Kucyna

MORRIS PLAINS, N.J. – The Chornomorska Sitch men's soccer team recorded its fourth win of the season with an exciting 6-4 victory over Vistula Garfield S.C. on a cold, chilly evening game at Central Park of Morris County in Morris Plains, N.J., on October 19.

Sitch, which plays as the Union Ukrainians in the Garden State Soccer League's Super Division, came out attacking and had several scoring chances early, but could not convert any of its quality chances into goals. As fate would have it, Vistula was the team to score first on a beautifully executed counter-attack goal to put the visitors ahead 1-0. Five minutes later, it was Vistula that scored again on a very similar counterattack goal to jump off to a 2-0 lead, stunning the Sitch players and fans.

Down two goals, Sitch began to play desperate soccer, looking for any type of spark to change the momentum. That spark came in the 25th minute when Anthony Correale placed an accurate shot into the lower corner of the goal to get Sitch on the scoreboard. With the first goal under its belt, Sitch continued to press and in the next 25 minutes, scored three goals to take a 4-2 lead into halftime.

Dima Tereschuk led the charge scoring twice in that 25 minutes, while new-comer Franklin Castellanos scored his second goal of the season with a beautiful curling shot past the reach of the Vistula goalie. The fourth goal started with a fantastic long ball pass from defender Zach Bakun. The second half started as the first with Sitch missing a few early chances and Vistula counterattacking with their speedy forwards.

At the 10-minute mark, Vistula was awarded a penalty kick for a hand-ball in

the box, which was easily converted to close the gap to 4-3. With Vistula now pressing for the equalizer, Sitch was able to counterattack freely and George Mikula converted one of these chances to increase the lead to 5-3. However, the pesky Vistula team would just not go away as they scored on a corner kick header to once again come within one goal. With less than 10 minutes to play, Mykola Kucyna scored on yet another counterattack goal to seal the game, 6-4.

The Union Ukrainians (Sitch) players for the Vistula match were: Zach Bakun, Anthony Correale, Andres Callejas, Franklin Castellanos, Marco Hordynsky, Salim Kouidri, Mykola Kucyna, Andrew Kudryk, Andrew Mandzy, Jay Mansilla, Alex McDonald, Geroge Mikula, Andrew Panas, Olesh Postolan, Erick Solis, Roman Tabatchouk and Dima Tereschuk.

Sitch won 2-1 against Portuguese Sports

Association on October 24, with both goals by Tereschuk. The Ukrainian club improves its record to 5-1-1, and sits in third place in the 10-team GSSL Super Division league with 16 points, with 21 goals for and 14 against.

Previously, Sitch lost 3-4 against F.C. Motown, tied 1-1 with Jersey Shore Boca, won 4-1 against Polonia Wallington, won 3-2 against Sport Club Portuguese, and won 2-1 against Bergen S.C.

Sitch has three matches scheduled for the remaining fall season: Go Soccer on November 9 (no field listed); Eskisehispor U.S.A. (Greeks) on November 13 at the Athenia Complex; and Den of Lions Legends on November 23 (no field listed). Matches may be delayed or changed due to weather and other factors. Readers may find out the current schedule from the Union Ukrainians Facebook page [www.facebook.com/UnionUkrainians](http://www.facebook.com/UnionUkrainians).

## Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

Comparisons between Hungary and the conflicts between Israel and Egypt, as well as other parts of the Middle East, and how these are used by the Soviets in its policy were also drawn by Prof. Manning.

He continued: “So we must ask ourselves which of the two centers of activity is in the Soviet eyes the more important – Central Europe with the possibilities for the destruction of the intellectual opponents of the Soviet regime or the Middle East with the possibilities for the rallying of the forces of the Asian and African peoples against the West. ...In Egypt [the United Nations] has condemned Great Britain and France and it is trying to prevent the Israeli-Egyptian War by the recruiting of an international force to separate the combatants. In Hungary it has condemned the Soviet Union and called for it to withdraw its troops from that unfortunate country. Yet it has not found the way to send real help to the desperate people who are fighting almost unarmed for their lives and liberty. Resolutions and even financial supplies and food are no match for Soviet tanks. ...It is now in [the Soviets'] hands to force World War III or to compel a humili-

ating retreat of the West, and a Western acceptance of Soviet methods, and a new Western abandonment of those peoples who have dreamed of freedom.”

“It is a hard choice that confronts the Western statesmen. They have consistently refused to take the offensive against the Soviet juggernaut because of their love of peace and their hope that the Soviets this time meant what they said. All the people who have fallen under the Russian Soviet yoke know better. They know that Russian Communism must be crushed once and for all, and they believe that a firm hand in dealing with and definite policy toward the Soviets will reveal Soviet inherent weakness, especially if the West takes steps to enlist the aid of the non-Russian nationalists of the Soviet Union, first and foremost Ukraine, and brings into the United Nations the true exponents of the people's will and then excludes from it the hand-picked delegations who speak for no one but the will of the Kremlin. Bad as the situation is, it may still turn out for the best and give Ukraine and the other oppressed nations that freedom for which they have long been struggling.”

Source: “The Leopard Cannot Change Its Spots,” by Clarence A. Manning, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, November 10, 1956.

## UCCA statement...

(Continued from page 3)

can institute the much-needed reforms to end the endemic corruption, stabilize the situation and ensure Ukraine's continued Euro-Atlantic integration.

And finally, the UCCA would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to all of our international election observers for volunteering their time and money to participate in our mission. Their commitment to Ukraine and its democratic process is

greatly appreciated.

\* \* \*

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) – is a not-for-profit organization representing the interests of the over 1 million Americans of Ukrainian descent for almost 75 years. As one of the few non-governmental organizations, and the only Ukrainian American community organization, registered with Ukraine's Central Election Commission, the UCCA has been actively involved in hosting delegations of international election observers to Ukraine since 1991.

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At the "Communism and Hunger" conference, Dr. Frank Sysyn (foreground) introduces a roundtable session.

## Conference...

(Continued from page 15)

the more so since the policy of Ukrainization was dismantled at the same time.

In China the leadership, much of which had come from the countryside, had a more positive opinion of the peasantry. Nevertheless, it also unleashed a vicious assault on the rural population with catastrophic results, although not targeting a specific group as in the Holodomor situation.

The political impact of these events on the Communist leaders was dramatically different. Stalin was successful in his assault against the peasantry and consolidated his personal power. Mao was forced to retreat, and only after several years was he able to regain his stature.

Kazakhstan's great famine of 1931-1933 claimed the lives between 1.15 million to 1.5 million Kazakhs, approximately one-third of the population, as well as a much smaller and as-of-yet uncertain number of the European settlers (primarily Russians and Ukrainians) there. The famine was brought on by high livestock procurement quotas to feed Moscow, Leningrad and other Russian cities whose impact was compounded by an underestimation of the live weight and actual number of animals in Kazakhstan. This resulted in the elimination in a few short years of 90 percent of the livestock there. The campaign did not target the nomadic Kazakhs per se, although it was accompanied by a project for their "total sedentarization" that might have been regarded as "legitimizing" such excessive requisitions.

Various manners of commemorating or remembering the famines also generated consideration. In Ukraine, the Holodomor is commemorated at the personal and civic level, although its memorialization has had

inconsistent support from the state. In Russia, the pan-Soviet famine is not a public issue. Kazakhstan went through a period in which its famine was examined as a major concern, but then left in limbo as if the matter had been resolved. The issue was later reprised, but not pursued because of the potential consequences of "politicizing" the issue. In China, the famine came out into the open after Mao's death, but it has not developed into a public concern. Rather, it has been "contained."

In the course of discussion, it was noted that the conference might also have considered the ongoing North Korean famine, as well as the Ethiopian famine of the 1980s. As well, the question of imperialism emerged, particularly its applicability to the situation in the Soviet Union (specifically within the framework of center-periphery relations regarding Ukraine and Kazakhstan). Further to this, a call was put out for a future comparative examination of famine in the context of empires from the director of the newly established Ukrainian Center for Holodomor Studies at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Liudmyla Hrynevych.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine at the Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (CERES) and the Asian Institute, both at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto. The Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center, St. Vladimir Institute and the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies also provided support.

The conference organizer, the HREC, which was established through generous funding from the Temerty Family Foundation, conducts and supports research and the study of the Holodomor and engages in a range of activities to promote the teaching of the Holodomor in schools.

### December 2014 Workshops at The Ukrainian Museum

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MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY:

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Gloria Horbaty - UNA Advisor

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Cambridge, MA  
Lecture by Volodymyr Paniotto, "Ukrainian Society Today and Its Main Social Indicators, 1994-2014," Harvard University, 617-495-4053
- November 5  
Scranton, PA  
Lecture by Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev, "The Ukrainian-Russian Conflict and Global Security," Lackawanna Bar Association, University of Scranton, 570-941-7401 or 570-969-9161
- November 6  
Stanford, CA  
2014 Alexander Dallin Lecture by Volodymyr Dubovyk, "Ukraine: What is the Fighting All About?" Stanford University, 650-725-2563 or creeesinfo@stanford.edu
- November 6  
New York  
Discussion by Anya von Bremzen, "The Poisoned Madeleine: Food, Family, History in the USSR," Columbia University, 212-854-4623
- November 7  
New York  
Lecture with Anton Dolin, "Film in Putin's Russia: Conformism and Resistance," Columbia University, 212-854-4623
- November 7  
New York  
Book presentation by Alexander Motyl, "Fall River," Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660 or www.ukrainianinstitute.org
- November 7  
Whippany, NJ  
Documentary screening on beekeeping methods, "Bee Dance," Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, www.facebook.com/uaccnj
- November 7-8  
Sonoma, CA  
Festival of Ukrainian Culture, Sonoma-Kaniv Sister City Program, Northern California Branch of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, 707-935-1225 or http://sonomaukrfest.bpt.me
- November 8  
Alexandria, VA  
Concert with pianists Anna and Dmitri Shelest, The Washington Group Cultural Fund, The Lyceum, events@twgculturalfund.org or 301-229-2615
- November 8  
New York  
Multimedia evening, "Fight and you shall overcome! Shevchenko as Revolutionary in Today's Ukraine," The Ukrainian Museum, www.ukrainianmuseum.org
- November 8  
New York  
Lecture by Mykhailo Yakubovych, "Lost Crimea: Political, Cultural and Religious Challenges for Ukraine," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
- November 8-9  
St. Petersburg, FL  
34th annual Ukrainian AutumnFest, Epiphany of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church, john7119@hotmail.coim or 727-576-0400 or 727-576-1001
- November 8-9  
Lackawanna, NY  
Bazaar, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 716-852-7566 or www.stnbuffalo.com
- November 9  
New York  
Benefit concert to inaugurate new Steinway piano donated by Jaroslaw and Alla Leshko, featuring cellist Natalia Khoma and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky, The Ukrainian Museum, www.ukrainianmuseum.org
- November 10  
Cambridge, MA  
Seminar with Orest Zayets, "Human Mosaic of an East European City: Social Groups in Early Modern Lviv," Harvard University, 617-495-4053
- November 14  
Whippany, NJ  
Tricky Tray event, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-590-9456
- November 15  
Whippany, NJ  
90th anniversary banquet, Ukrainian Athletic Educational Association Chornomorska Sitch, Ukrainian American Cultural Center, 973-867-8854 or sitchjubilee@gmail.com
- November 15-16  
Jamaica Plain, MA  
Annual bazaar, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church, www.ukrainianorthodox.org
- November 16  
Scranton, PA  
Harvest dinner, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, 570-346-2414 (advance only)
- November 17  
Cambridge, MA  
Symposium, "Information Wars and Propaganda: Lessons from the Ukraine-Russia Crisis," Harvard University, 617-495-4053

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



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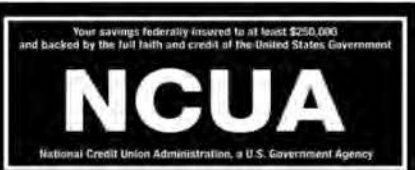
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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

### Saturday, November 8

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture, "Lost Crimea: Political, Cultural and Religious Challenges for Ukraine" by Prof. Mykhailo Yakubovych. A historian, translator and researcher of doctrinal and philosophical thought of the Islamic world, Prof. Yakubovych teaches at the National University of Ostroh Academy in Ukraine. He is the first translator of a full version of the Quran (Koran) into Ukrainian (2012). Prof. Yakubovych was a research fellow at Warsaw University (Poland) and the King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Quran (Medina, Saudi Arabia) and currently is a Willis F. Doney Member, School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. Lecture 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.

**NEW YORK:** "Fight and you shall overcome! Shevchenko as Revolutionary in Today's Ukraine," is an evening of poetry, music and images dedicated to Ukraine's ongoing struggle for freedom and depicting the revolutionary, militant side of Taras Shevchenko. The evening will be conducted in Ukrainian and English, and will include readings by Vasyl Makhno and Alexander Motyl, and visuals by Vasyl Lopukh. Admission (including reception, gallery access) is \$15; \$10 for members and seniors; \$5 for students. Join us at 7 p.m. at The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. Sixth St. For more information see [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org).

### Saturday-Sunday November 8-9

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.:** The 34th annual Ukrainian AutumnFest will be held at Epiphany of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church at 434 90th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. The festival will feature authentic Ukrainian food (borshch, holubtsi, varenyky and potato pancakes - all available for take-out), Ukrainian beer, Ukrainian arts and crafts, vendors, church tours, children's rides and games, polka lessons, music for dancing both days by Cathy and the Lorelei Band, and dance performances by the Kalyna Ukrainian Dancers. A silent auction and raffle will be held Sunday. Hours are: Saturday, noon to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information call 727-576-1001 or 727-576-0400 or [john7119@hotmail.com](mailto:john7119@hotmail.com).

### Sunday, November 9

**NEW YORK:** Join us at 2:30 p.m. for a benefit concert with Natalia Khoma, cello, and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano, who will perform works by Bach, Chopin, Popper, Tchaikovsky and Smetana. This is the debut concert for the museum's new addition - a Steinway grand piano generously donated by Jaroslaw and Alla Leshko. Proceeds will be allocated in support of special exhibitions focusing on the current situation in Ukraine. Admission (including reception, gallery access) is \$25; \$20 for

members. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St. For information see [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org).

### Thursday, November 20

**NEW YORK:** Don your black turtlenecks, berets and dark glasses for the Poetry Café at 6 p.m. at The Ukrainian Museum - a fun evening of poetry readings with Olena Jennings, Vasyl Makhno, Alexander Motyl, Maria Rewakowicz and Al Rosenblatt. The event is free with museum admission (\$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students, free for members). The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St. For information see [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org).

### Friday, December 5

**NEW YORK:** The 1964 film "The Dream" ("Son") will be screened at 7 p.m. This Ukrainian-language production (no subtitles), is director Volodymyr Denysenko's interpretation of Taras Shevchenko's satirical poem written in 1844 exposing Russian tsarism as a ruthless and authoritarian regime, which led to Shevchenko's arrest and 10-year exile. An introduction will be given by Dr. Vitaly A. Chernetsky, University of Kansas, with Q&A after the screening. Admission (includes reception and gallery access) is \$15; \$10 for members and seniors; \$5 for students. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St., between Second and Third avenues; phone number, 212-228-0110; website, [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org).

### Saturday, December 6

**NEW YORK:** At 7 p.m., join us for "Hutsuls on the Barricades: Songs, Music and Rituals from the Carpathians and the Maidan," a Yara Arts Group concert featuring the Koliadnyky, an ensemble of winter-song singers from Kryvorivnia (a Ukrainian village in the Hutsul region of the Carpathian Mountains) and Yara artists. Hear traditional winter songs from the Koliada rituals celebrating the winter solstice and scenes from contemporary Ukraine. Admission (includes reception, gallery access) is \$20; \$18 for members, seniors, students; \$10 for children up to age 12. Seating is limited and tickets will go on sale November 15 (Note: a matinee may be scheduled for noon. Please call ahead or check the museum's online calendar). The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St., between Second and Third avenues; phone number, 212-228-0110; website, [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org).

**NEW YORK:** A Ukrainian Christmas Traditions Workshop with hands-on participation in the baking of traditional Ukrainian Christmas breads will take place at The Ukrainian Museum at 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Students learn about customs and rituals practiced during this joyous holiday. The workshop is open to adults and children over the age of 16. Fee: adults, \$25; students over 16 and seniors, \$20; members, 10 percent discount. Pre-registration is required. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St., between Second and Third avenues; phone number, 212-228-0110; website, [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org).

### Saturday-Sunday, December 6-7

**NEW YORK:** Do not miss the Christmas Bazaar and its unique gifts at 11 a.m.-5 p.m. This annual sale organized by The Ukrainian Museum's "Wednesday Volunteers" is a great opportunity to purchase folk art items, ornaments, Christmas cards, books, artwork, contemporary crafts and jewelry, home-baked goods and much more. Come early for the best selections, or check the online gift shop at [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org). Admission is free. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St., between Second and Third avenues; phone number, 212-228-0110; website, [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org).

### Thursday, December 11

**NEW YORK:** Join us at 7 p.m. for a special screening of "The Guide" ("Povodyr"), Ukraine's official submission for the 2014 foreign language Oscar. An American boy, Peter, and blind minstrel (kobzar) Ivan Kochera are thrown together by fate in turbulent mid-30s Soviet Ukraine. The film's director, Oles Sanin, will present the film. The audience will also have a chance to meet Anton Sviatoslav Greene, the young star of the film who plays the kobzar's guide. This event is co-organized with Dr. Yuri Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University and the Harriman Institute at Columbia University. Admission (including reception) is \$15; \$10 for members and seniors; \$5 for students. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St., between Second and Third avenues; phone number, 212-228-0110; website, [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org).

### Friday, December 12

**NEW YORK:** Join us at 7 p.m. for a concert with Solomia Soroka, violin, and Arthur Greene, piano, who will perform a program of classical works including Ukrainian composer Mykola Lysenko's "Elegy," a piece commemorating Taras Shevchenko's death. Mr. Greene will be playing a Steinway grand piano generously donated by Jaroslaw and Alla Leshko. Admission (includes reception and gallery access) is \$15; \$10 for members and seniors; \$5 for students. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St., between Second and Third avenues; phone number, 212-228-0110; website, [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org).

### Saturday-Sunday, December 13-14

**NEW YORK:** Create your own traditional Ukrainian Christmas tree ornaments such as spiders, cradles, stars, mobiles and garlands using beads, walnut shells, colored ribbons and paper. Sign up for this great activity for the entire family (children ages 7 and up) on Saturday, 2-4 p.m., or Sunday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. or 2-4 p.m. Fee: adults, \$15; students over 12 and seniors, \$10; children age 7-12, \$5; members - 10 percent discount. Pre-registration is required. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St., between Second and Third avenues; phone number, 212-228-0110; website, [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org).

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