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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## New bill in House mirrors Senate bill on aid to Ukraine

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, on December 2 introduced HR 5782 "to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes."

Though the text of the new House bill is not yet available, observers have said it is a companion to the Senate's bill, S 2828, known as the "Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014." Both bills provide for defensive military assistance to Ukraine and would grant Ukraine major non-NATO ally (MNNA) status.

HR 5782, which has 10 co-sponsors, was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as well as to the committees on Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the speaker. Each committee will consider those provisions of the bill that fall within its jurisdiction.

The bill's original co-sponsors are: Reps. Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.), Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.), Sander M.

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## Canada announces more non-lethal aid to Ukraine's military

OTTAWA – Canada's Minister of National Defense Rob Nicholson, on November 26 announced an additional \$11 million in aid to Ukraine's armed forces.

"Our government is committed to supporting the Ukrainian people as they fight for democracy and the sovereignty of their country in the face of the Putin regime's military aggression. These contributions are a clear demonstration of our support for the people of Ukraine, and their pursuit of a secure and stable future."

The new assistance includes: \$5 million for protective gear, including surplus Canadian Forces cold weather gear – about 30,000 coats, 30,000 pairs of pants, 70,000 pairs of Gore-Tex boots and 4,500 pairs of gloves; \$3 million for explosive ordinance disposal equipment; \$1 million for communications equipment; \$1 million for night and thermal vision equipment and binoculars; and \$1 million for medical training, and a mobile field hospital.

The first shipment of equipment and supplies was to arrive in Ukraine by the end of November.

"The support provided by the government of Canada will be of enormous help to the brave men and women in uniform in Ukraine at a critical time. As Ukraine continues to face invasion by the Russian Federation, this gear will increase the effectiveness of Ukraine's military," stated Paul Grod, national president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. "We are thankful to the government of Canada for this latest assistance package and their steadfast support of the people of Ukraine as they continue their brave struggle to protect their country's independence and territorial integrity."

## Newly formed parliamentary majority approves Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers

### Ukrainian American tapped as finance minister

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – Ukraine's coalition government emerged this week as the national deputies elected in late October formed the parliamentary majority on November 27, then voted to approve the new Cabinet of Ministers five days later. Five pro-EU factions claimed 302 deputies among them, enough to amend the Constitution.

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, 40, was re-elected to his post on November 27, prompted by his People's Front party's strong performance in the October 26 election. Volodymyr Hroisman, 36, was elected as chair (speaker) of the Parliament that same day, representing the Petro Poroshenko Bloc. (The average age of the Cabinet of Ministers is 44.)

Never has a Ukrainian government been faced with such serious challenges, observers said. It's expected to overhaul not only state bodies, but the way officials approach their work, with corruption continuing to be a

cancer plaguing the Ukrainian state.

The government will also have to deal with restricted sources of financing and falling budget revenue while fighting a war with Donbas "separatists," who continue to be supported by the Russian government.

"The new Ukrainian rulers have no choice but to act fast and hard because Ukrainians are likely to show very little understanding if they do not," Dr. Anders Aslund, a fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, commented in late November.

So far, President Petro Poroshenko has shown little interest in changing the way politics are handled in Kyiv, according to the Parliament's most reform-oriented deputies, who criticized his maneuvers during the coalition's formation.

While claiming that the new Cabinet wouldn't be formed based on party quotas, as had been done for the past decade, that's precisely how it was handled, with the president filling

nine out of 20 total posts with his trusted allies (and 12, including three foreigners, falling under his quota).

When it came time to approve the new Cabinet, the president advocated a single vote for the entire list of candidates, rather than a separate vote for each minister.

Mr. Hroisman, the president's close ally leading the Parliament, arranged the single vote on December 2, sealing the passage of the president's most controversial proposal – the creation of an Information Policy Ministry – which is drawing fierce criticism from the nation's journalists. The ministry will be led by Yuriy Stets, the godson of Mr. Poroshenko's wife.

"Instead of creating new ministries, their number should be reduced, such as combining the economy ministry with the energy ministry, as it was done in Germany," commented Dr. Oleh Soskin, the director of the Institute of Society Transformation in

(Continued on page 3)

## Yevhen Sverstiuk, civic activist, writer, Soviet political prisoner, dies at 85

by Halya Coynash  
Kharkiv Human Rights  
Protection Group

KHARKIV, Ukraine – Yevhen Sverstiuk, Ukrainian writer, philosopher and civic figure, a man who spent years in the Soviet labor camps for his commitment to truth and to Ukraine and who became a moral beacon for very many in Ukraine and beyond, died on December 1 in Kyiv.

Mr. Sverstiuk had been suffering for some time from a serious illness, and died in a Kyiv clinic a few days before what would have been his 86th birthday.

He had followed all the developments in Ukraine over the last few years, and in a recent Radio Svoboda interview spoke of the "huge social test of strength" that Ukraine was undergoing. "Both the struggle with the authoritarian regime and the victory of the Maidan revolution are imbued with the long familiar historical set-up of foreign intervention. All of this is logical and one of the classic



Roma Hadzewycz

Yevhen Sverstiuk at the offices of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly in 1990.

turns of history, which is a test for perhaps all peoples in our Europe. All of that together makes for an incredibly responsible test of the freedom and independence of Ukrainians which needs to be passed through with dignity," he said.

He was one of the members of the

December 1 Initiative, a group formed of highly respected Ukrainian intellectuals, including former political prisoners and the former primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Patriarch and Cardinal Lubomyr

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## ANALYSIS

# Ukrainian Donbas becomes a Russian protectorate

by Pavel Felgenhauer  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

In a transcript of a TV interview to German journalists published by the Kremlin in mid-November, President Vladimir Putin declared: "There is war in the east of Ukraine. The Ukrainian government is using its army and even ballistic missiles. You [the West] are silent. Do you want the Ukrainian authorities to destroy everyone there [in eastern Ukraine], all their political opponents? You want that? We do not. We will not allow [this to happen]." Mr. Putin was replying to Ukrainian accusations that Russia was supporting the rebels with Russian arms and servicemen (kremlin.ru, November 17).

Since the Moscow-backed separatist rebellion began in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donbas (area including the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts) last April, Russia has been sending in volunteer fighters, heavy weapons and munitions. Last August, the Ukrainian military seemed close to crushing the Donbas rebellion, but Russian regular army units crossed the border and turned the course of the battle in a short but deadly counteroffensive. Ukraine's military was routed; thousands of Ukrainian soldiers were killed, wounded or captured; and the siege of the main rebel-held cities – Donetsk and Luhansk – was broken. The Russian authorities stringently deny any direct Russian involvement in the fighting, though the facts on the ground seem undeniable (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, November 13). Now Mr. Putin has made Donbas an official Russian protectorate by declaring that Moscow "will not allow" a defeat of the rebels, implying more military support in the future.

In the same interview, Mr. Putin dismissed as "unimportant" allegations of Russia supplying the rebels with arms. He insisted: "People fighting for a just cause will, in the modern world, always find arms." Mr. Putin agreed that the Donbas ceasefire agreements, signed last September in Minsk, are being violated by both sides and demanded the Ukrainian military withdraw further out of Donbas and surrender contested positions on the line of control, while vindicating the rebel ceasefire violations, "because they are fighting for their homes, families and their rights." Mr. Putin called on Kyiv to stop playing with words and "federalize Ukraine" as the only possible way to solve the present crisis (kremlin.ru, November 17).

Russia's long-term policy in Ukraine has been to press for "federalization," turning the country into some loose confederacy where Moscow would continue to act as protector of Donbas and possibly other Russian-speaking regions in Ukraine's southeast (see EDM, March 21, May 14). This could give the Kremlin veto power over all major political and economic decisions in Kyiv, using pro-Russian regional authorities as proxies.

The main strategic purpose of Mr. Putin's involvement in Ukraine, the occupation of Crimea, and the escalating military support of the rebels is to prevent Ukrainian integration into European security, economic and political institutions (see EDM, November 13). Kyiv must stay within Russia's sphere of influence, totally separate from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union. Speaking last July in Moscow at a gathering of Russian top diplo-

matic representatives of foreign countries, Mr. Putin declared the annexation of Crimea was "to prevent NATO troops from swiftly deploying in Sevastopol, dramatically changing the regional balance of power and erasing everything Russia has been fighting for since Tsar Peter the Great" (kremlin.ru, July 1).

This week, the Kremlin stated its demands with utmost clarity: Mr. Putin's press secretary Vladimir Peskov told the BBC: "We want to receive 100 percent guarantees that no one is thinking to bond Ukraine to NATO." According to Mr. Peskov, Russia is concerned about NATO forces moving closer to Russia, and his country may take additional countermeasures. Officials in Kyiv denounced Mr. Peskov's demand, insisting they are a sovereign state that can make its own decisions and, in turn, demanded guarantees from Russia that it will stop interfering in Ukraine.

In Brussels, North Atlantic Alliance officials expressed surprise, since Ukraine's NATO membership is not being discussed at present; but they insisted NATO's "open door policy" does not preclude Ukraine from perhaps joining someday (rbc.ua, November 19). Still Mr. Peskov was publicly supported by Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov, who said, "Non-alignment is in Ukraine's national interests and essential to the stability of the Euro-Atlantic region" (Moskovsky Komsomolets, November 19).

The open guarantee of support Mr. Putin has given the rebels in effect means they can continue to violate the increasingly wobbly ceasefire in Donbas, allowing them to shell and attack Ukrainian forces virtually with impunity, since Russian forces are apparently ready to intervene, if the rebels find themselves in serious trouble.

Ukraine is today a vibrant revolutionary democracy, and the rulers in Kyiv cannot ignore public opinion. According to fresh polls, some 36 percent of Ukrainians, apparently fed up with the constant deadly shelling and fighting in Donbas, want the resumption of hostilities to crush the rebellion – an increase of 14 percent since last month. Some 43 percent today support the Minsk ceasefire agreements and an approximately equal number (44 percent) opposes them (news.liga.net, November 20).

The rebels, in turn, appear opposed to sustaining the ceasefire. The future of the Minsk agreements is dim, as Mr. Lavrov accused Kyiv of preparing an invasion of Donbas (Interfax, November 19).

Today, Ukraine is constitutionally a non-aligned country, and it historically never had a majority supporting NATO membership. The confrontation with Russia over Crimea and Donbas has been changing public attitudes over the course of this year: According to a latest national poll, some 51 percent are ready to vote "yes" in support of NATO membership if a national referendum were held tomorrow, and only 25 percent would vote "no." Another 25 percent are undecided or would abstain.

A real referendum on NATO membership could receive some 60 to 70 percent votes in favor: A year ago, only 20 to 25 percent of Ukrainians supported membership. In the Russian-speaking south and east of the country, the Alliance enjoys less support, but the national trend is clear (news.liga.net, November 20).

Russian actions have accelerated Ukraine's Westward drift, which Mr. Putin

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Biden on Ukraine's new government

WASHINGTON – U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden on December 2 commented on the formation of Ukraine's new government. The full text of his statement reads: "I welcome today's announcement on the formation of a new Ukrainian government. The Ukrainian people demonstrated their clear preference for democracy, political and economic reform and self-determination at the ballot box during the October 26 parliamentary elections. Today's announcement on the formation of a new government sets the stage for the difficult but necessary process of implementing reforms and delivering results. The United States will support Ukraine's new government to stabilize its economy, strengthen democratic institutions and fight corruption. We will also continue to stand for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of Russian aggression, and support the aspirations of Ukraine's citizens for a secure, democratic, prosperous, European future." (White House, Office of the Vice-President)

### Opposition to new Ministry of Information

KYIV – Ukrainian journalists are up in arms over the government's creation of a new Ministry of Information that it says is needed to counter a steady stream of Kremlin propaganda and misinformation. About 40 journalists and activists demonstrated outside the Verkhovna Rada on December 2 as lawmakers approved the ministry along with the government's new Cabinet of Ministers. The journalists, who held up posters with the slogan "Hello, Big Brother," likened the new agency to the Ministry of Truth in George Orwell's classic novel "1984." The new ministry is headed by Yuriy Stets, a close ally of President Petro Poroshenko and formerly the chief producer for Channel 5, the TV network that the president still owns. Journalists say they fear the new bureaucracy could seek to increase government influence and possibly control over what appears in the Ukrainian media. They say their fears are increased by the little information available about how the new ministry will function. The international media rights group Reporters Without Borders has also criti-

cized Kyiv's decision to establish the Information Ministry. The group's secretary-general, Christophe Deloire, said in a press release on December 2 that "in a democratic society, the media should not be regulated by the government." The government says the ministry is needed to counter a steady stream of misinformation about events in Ukraine by Russia's powerful state media. Russian television channels are easily accessible in many parts of Ukraine, where 20 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union most people continue to understand Russian. Internal Affairs Ministry adviser Anton Herashchenko said on November 30 that the main task of the new ministry would be "protection of Ukraine's information space from Russian propaganda and counterpropaganda in Russia [and] in the temporarily occupied territories" of Crimea and the Donbas region. (Charles Recknagel of RFE/RL)

### Kyiv: no danger from N-plant accident

KYIV – Ukraine's Volodymyr Demchyshyn said on December 3 that an accident at a nuclear power plant in the southeastern city of Zaporizhia last week did not involve a nuclear reactor and caused no radiation leakage. Mr. Demchyshyn told reporters the accident on November 28 occurred in the energy transfer system of the plant's No. 3 power-generating unit, not a reactor. "There is no radiation leakage," he said, and nobody was hurt. Mr. Demchyshyn's statement followed reports that Ukraine had introduced rolling blackouts across the country – including in Crimea, which Russia annexed in March – due to shortages in the power grid. Media reports said the shortages were caused in part by the shutdown of the 1,000-megawatt power generating unit at the Zaporizhia plant. Mr. Demchyshyn says it is expected to resume operations by December 5. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by UNIAN and Interfax)

### Russia nixes South Stream pipeline

BRUSSELS – The European Union said Russia's surprise abandonment of the South Stream pipeline project underscored the need for diverse energy sources, while Moscow vowed to find other ways to get its

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# Who are Ukraine's new foreign-born ministers?

by **Claire Bigg**  
RFE/RL

Three foreigners – Natalie Jaresko, Aivaras Abromavicius and Aleksandr Kvitashvili – were approved as ministers by Ukraine's Parliament on December 2.

President Petro Poroshenko said their appointment, which has raised some eyebrows in Ukraine, was part of an effort to find "innovative solutions in the government" due to the "extraordinary challenges facing Ukraine."

Mr. Poroshenko naturalized all three hours before their confirmation by the Verkhovna Rada. All have given up their citizenships to comply with Ukraine's constitutional ban on dual citizenship.

## **Natalie Jaresko, United States – finance minister**

Ms. Jaresko, who has Ukrainian roots, has lived in the country for more than two decades. She moved to Kyiv in 1992, just months after Ukraine gained independence from the Soviet Union, to head the economic department of the newly opened U.S. Embassy.

Prior to her relocation, she held various economic positions in the U.S. State Department.

She holds a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and a bachelor of science degree in accounting from DePaul University in Chicago.

In 1995, she left the U.S. Embassy to work for the Western NIS Enterprise Fund (WNISEF), an equity fund financed by the U.S. government, where she rose to the position of chief executive officer.

She established her own fund, Horizon Capital, in 2004.

During the Orange Revolution, Ms. Jaresko made no secret of her sympathies for the pro-Western uprising. She went on to serve on then-President Viktor Yushchenko's Foreign Investors Advisory Council.

With the U.S. facing accusations of political meddling in Ukraine, Ms. Jaresko's new role has raised eyebrows. State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf has already denied Washington had any hand in her appointment.

Ms. Jaresko says the new Cabinet of Ministers intends to "change the country, improve transparency and eliminate corruption." Speaking to Parliament on December 2, she declared her readiness to "take on challenges."

Ms. Jaresko faces a tough job warding off economic collapse, battling corruption and reforming Ukraine's economy as the country continues to fight an armed insurgency in the east.

## **Aivaras Abromavicius, Lithuania – economy minister**

Like Ms. Jaresko, Mr. Abromavicius is no newcomer to Ukraine.

Born in Vilnius, the investment banker has lived in Kyiv since 2008 and has a Ukrainian wife.

He is a partner and fund manager at the East Capital asset management group. The group is a major player in Ukraine, where it invested almost \$100 million in 2012.

Mr. Abromavicius describes himself as a Ukrainian patriot and has pledged "radical measures" to overhaul the country's battered economy.

He claims he hasn't yet discussed his ministerial salary, which he said he expected to be "very small."

He has voiced hope that his "efforts and experience will help Ukraine reach a totally different level of economic development, bring transparency and openness to government's work."

## **Aleksandr Kvitashvili, Georgia – health minister**

Mr. Kvitashvili served as health minister in his native Georgia between 2008 and 2010, under then-President Mikheil Saakashvili.

He holds a bachelor's degree in history from Tbilisi State University and a master's degree from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service in New York.

After graduating in 1993, he did a brief stint working in the United States at the Atlanta Medical Center as an administrative and finance officer.

He returned to Georgia the same year to work for the United Nations Development Program.

He has since held positions at a number of healthcare-related organizations, including the United Methodist Committee on Relief, the Curatio International Foundation, the East/West Institute in New York and the Transatlantic Partners Against AIDS organization.

Mr. Kvitashvili was rector of Tbilisi State University between 2010 and 2013.

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk has tasked Mr. Kvitashvili with introducing sweeping reforms to tackle rampant corruption among health authorities.

Despite his recent arrival in Ukraine, Mr. Kvitashvili, who does not speak Ukrainian, professes "deep respect for Ukraine and its people."

"I've been working on reforms in Ukraine for the past three months, but my love [for] this country has a much longer history," he said on December 2.

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## Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers

*Following is a list of the members of Ukraine's new Cabinet of Ministers and their political affiliations. The Cabinet was approved by the Verkhovna Rada on December 2.*

**Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk**, People's Front

**Vice Prime Minister/Regional Development, Construction, Utilities and Maintenance Minister Hennadii Zubko**, no party, president's quota

**Vice Prime Minister/Culture Minister Viacheslav Kyrylenko**, People's Front

**Vice Prime Minister Valerii Voshchevskiy**, Radical Party

**Foreign Affairs Minister Pavlo Klimkin**, no party, president's quota

**Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak**, no party, president's quota

**Internal Affairs Minister Arsen Avakov**, People's Front

**Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko**, People's Front

**Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko**, no party, president's quota

**Infrastructure Minister Andriy Pyvovarov**, no party, president's quota

**Energy and Coal Industry Minister Volodymyr Demchyshyn**, Poroshenko Bloc

**Social Policy Minister Pavlo Rozenko**, Poroshenko Bloc

**Health Minister Alexander Kvitashvili**, no party, president's quota

**Education and Science Minister Serhiy Kvit**, Poroshenko Bloc

**Agrarian Minister Oleksii Pavlenko**, Samopomich

**Economic Development and Trade Minister Aivaras Abromavicius**, no party, president's quota

**Ecology Minister Igor Shevchenko**, Batkivshchyna

**Youth and Sports Minister Ihor Zhdanov**, Batkivshchyna

**Cabinet of Ministers Minister Anna Onyshchenko**, People's Front

**Information Policy Minister Yuriy Stets**, Poroshenko Bloc

## Newly formed...

(Continued from page 1)

Kyiv. "Maybe Poroshenko needs to establish censorship so that no one finds out about his deals? Those who want to create such ministries and lead them are enemies of the Ukrainian people."

In the ministry's defense, Mr. Stets told a roundtable of his critics that it's needed to address the government's information needs related to the Donbas war – particularly after failures this year – by working with the mass media and educational institutions. It will develop and implement a program of positioning Ukraine in the world, as well as develop and implement a strategy of protecting Ukraine's information space from foreign information influences.

Mr. Stets promised not to use the ministry to engage in censorship or require registration of Internet news sites and insisted it will only operate for the war's duration.

That didn't convince National Deputy Svitlana Zalishchuk of the Poroshenko Bloc, who insisted that the ministry's statutes indicate its aim "is to usurp power, not fight against Russian propaganda."

Some opponents dismissed claims the ministry was for wartime since the government has so far only declared an anti-terrorist operation. Moreover, the occupied territories of the Donbas have no legal status distinguishing them from the peaceful regions of Ukraine.

The Cabinet's emergence was long

awaited by global players and Ukraine observers. Even U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden, when visiting Kyiv on November 21, complained that four and a half weeks was too long for the government of a country as vulnerable as Ukraine to take in forming the parliamentary majority.

The country faces a financial meltdown, Dr. Aslund warned in late November. He recommended measures that most economists agree upon, including closing failing banks, restructuring the banking sector, drastically cutting public spending (by 25 percent, in his view), cutting pension payments and state benefits to the wealthy, and eliminating energy and industrial subsidies.

Indeed, on the night her nomination was approved, Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko assured the public that her first steps would be to submit tax code amendments to boost state revenue and sharply cut spending in the 2015 budget, which she promised to submit by December 20.

Should the budget meet International Monetary Fund (IMF) requirements, the next \$2.8 billion tranche out of its \$17 billion stand-by loan program with the Ukrainian government could arrive around New Year's Day, said Dmytro Boyarchuk, the executive director of the CASE Ukraine Center for Socio-Economic Research.

Yet some economists said they're not optimistic for the prospects of drafting and approving the 2015 budget, considering just how difficult the measures will have to be.

Moreover, populists in the Parliament, as well as the pro-Putin Opposition Bloc, may

take advantage of the cuts in social spending to improve their standing among voters – particularly pensioners – by attacking the government for such measures, observers said.

"The pro-Russian opposition is going to criticize anything the coalition does, but it doesn't mean the people will follow them," said Mykhailo Basarab, a Kyiv political consultant. "If the painful reforms are done as part of a broad package and are explained by the government, society will accept them a lot easier. But if corruption continues and oligarchs get richer, a social protest will erupt."

Whether the Parliament has the will for the "tectonic changes" called for by the president is questionable. Yet the numbers to approve the legislation are there, with the majority purportedly consisting of 302 deputies, which would be capable of fulfilling the president's declared goal of adopting constitutional amendments.

### Verkhovna Rada factions

The parliamentary majority includes members of five factions based on five pro-EU parties elected to the Verkhovna Rada: 144 deputies of the Poroshenko Bloc, 83 deputies of the People's Front, 32 deputies of the Samopomich party, 22 deputies of the Radical Party and 19 deputies of the Batkivshchyna party.

The Opposition Bloc has 40 deputies, based on its election list and single-mandate winners. In addition, two deputies' groups emerged that are aligned with the pro-Putin opposition: the 20 deputies of

the People's Will led by Volyn oligarch Ihor Yermeyev and the 19 deputies of Economic Development led by Donetsk insider Vitalii Khomutynnik.

These final figures are the results of election list voting (in which the People's Front led by Mr. Yatsenyuk finished first) and single-mandate district voting (in which the Poroshenko Bloc gained the most seats).

Mr. Hroisman earned the support of 359 deputies on November 27 to become Rada chair. Long considered to be a rising star in Ukrainian politics, he became the Vinnytsia City Council chair (mayor) in 2006 at the age of 28. He was so popular that he was re-elected four years later with 78 percent support – an unprecedented result for a mayoral election in an oblast center.

Mr. Poroshenko has extensive ties to the Vinnytsia Oblast, having been elected three times to represent its citizens in the Verkhovna Rada, and he has numerous assets located there. His links to the region enabled him to form a close alliance with Mr. Hroisman, who will defend the president's interests in Parliament, experts said.

"He is responsible for ensuring that the majority moves in the direction that the president wants," said Petro Oleshchuk, a political science lecturer at Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv.

Moreover, Mr. Hroisman fits the category of officials that suit the president, he said, namely those with checkered pasts or lack of experience, as in the case of Mr.

(Continued on page 13)

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# The Holodomor is remembered in Washington



WASHINGTON – The 81st anniversary of Stalin’s Famine-Genocide, which killed millions of Ukrainians in 1932-1933, was solemnly commemorated at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington on November 21, concluding with the lighting of a cross in the Embassy courtyard led by Ukrainian diplomats, U.S. officials and members of the Ukrainian American community. The commemorative evening began inside the Embassy with prayers and a moment of silence led by Washington-area Ukrainian clergy, a historic analysis of the Holodomor by the Embassy’s Deputy Chief of Mission Yaroslav Brisiuck and the reading of the official White House statement for the occasion by Alexander Kasanof, the U.S. State Department’s East European affairs chief. There was also a presentation by Mary K. Lanzillotta of Hartman-Cox Architects about the progress in the construction of the Holodomor Memorial in Washington designed by Laryssa Kurylas, which, she said, should be completed by April of next year and officially dedicated in the fall.

– Yaro Bihun

# Metropolitan taps Bishop Bura as ambassador in Washington of Ukrainian Catholic Church

PHILADELPHIA – With the ordination and installation of Bishop Bohdan Danylo as eparch of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Parma, Ohio, Bishop John Bura, who was the eparchy’s apostolic administrator, will continue to serve as auxiliary bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. Bishop Bura will reside in the former convent addition at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington, D.C.



Bishop John Bura

According to a news release from the archeparchy, Bishop Bura’s primary ministry will be to reach out to the many Ukrainian organizations now providing varied services in Washington. He will serve as an ambassador to the U.S. State Department and to other federal and state government organizations in matters relating to the interests and needs of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and of the Ukrainian community in Ukraine and in the U.S.

The archeparchy noted that Patriarch Sviatoslav is pleased with Bishop Bura’s willingness to fulfill this need and that it is anticipated that the patriarch and Bishop Bura will develop close ties and contacts on matters concerning the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in Ukraine and worldwide.

In addition to these responsibilities, Bishop Bura will assist at the seminary and in the ministerial team approach of the clergy in the parishes in the District of Columbia and Virginia.



## UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC., SEARCHING FOR OUR MEMBERS

We ask these members or relatives. PLEASE CALL - 973-292-9800

Name	Branch	State	Name	Branch	State	Name	Branch	State	Name	Branch	State
ARNOLD, NATALIE	070	NJ	HOLOWACKY, MICHAEL	133	NJ	LUTZKY, ANNA	267	NY	SAWCHUK, OLGA	083	PA
ASETO, MARY	316	NY	HOLOWKA, SOFIA	116	PA	LUZECKY, FRANCES R	452	CA	SEIFERT, MARY L	076	NY
BALLAS, ANNA	305	PA	HOSCH, JOHN	083	PA	MALARSKY, ANNA	234	CA	SEMCZYSZYN, JOANNA	039	VA
BARAN, MYRON	005	NY	HOSHOWSKY, MYKOLA	005	NY	MATKOWSKYJ, EUDOKIA	015	DC	SHACHMUT, MARY F	327	FL
BECHETTE, ANNA E	362	PA	HRANCHOOK, MICHAEL MD	292	MI	MAYKOWSKYJ, EMILIAN	102	WA	SHELLHORN, MARY P	005	NY
BILOUS, MICHAEL	316	NY	HRYSZKO, AMIL	005	NY	MELLEN, ANNE K	271	NY	SHULHA, ANDREW	267	NY
BOBERSKI, MARY	271	NY	HUCULAK, MARIA	432	ON	MELNYK, ESTELLE	367	NY	SKALLY, KATIE	341	ON
BOBERSKI, NICHOLAS	164	FL	HUMENICK, MICHAEL	305	PA	MELNYK, STEFAN	473	QC	SKOCZYLAS, MICHAEL	131	IL
BOGDA, VALERIE	112	OH	HUMENNA, PARASKA	221	WI	MEUTER, JANET E	042	NJ	SKURA, ANNE	407	ON
BOGDANOW, GRIGORIJ	153	PA	ILNYCKYJ, WASYL	053	PA	MEYER, ANNA	362	PA	SLOBODIAN, DIMITRO	292	CA
BORK, MARY	127	NY	IWANUS, EWHEN	379	IL	MICHALUK, DMIETER	292	MI	SMEREKA, MICHAEL	096	PA
BUDULYCZ, JULIA	379	IL	JANIS, MARY	292	MI	MOLODOSHANIN, LEONID	445	MB	SMOLINSKY, VICTORIA M	039	NY
BYCOK, MARIA	461	ON	JANKOWSKI, STEFAN	445	MB	MUSKA, HELEN	409	PA	SOLHAN, JAROSLAWA	472	MD
CAMPO, ANNETTE	174	OH	JAWORSKYJ, WASYL	175	MI	MUSKA, HELEN	409	PA	SOLTYS, ANNA	005	NY
CHRUCKY, OLHA	005	ON	KASTL, HELEN L	452	MO	MUZYKA, ANTONIA	465	QC	STASYNA, WOLODYMYR	379	IL
CHURCHMAN, MICHALINA	231	PA	KESTER, ANNA	409	PA	NYKYFORUK, WASYL	194	NY	STEFURAK, PEARL	432	ON
CHZRESKA, MARY	292	MI	KINNAS, STEPHEN	253	MA	OLINYK, JOE	401	BC	STRILKA, MARIA	230	QC
CIHLAR, GEORGE	005	NY	KLIM, ANNA	096	PA	ORLIWSKY, PAUL	473	QC	STRYKOWSKY, HELEN	083	PA
CRUISE, OLGA	155	NJ	KMON, STELLA	253	MA	PANCO, MARY	007	PA	SZWAN, MARIA	238	MA
CULUPA, MARY	096	PA	KOERBER, KATHERINE	161	PA	PARASINK, PAULINE	173	PA	SZYPULKA, KATERYNA	240	OH
CZERCHAWSKI, MARIA	238	MA	KOLISNYK, IDA	083	NJ	PARIS, MARION	102	OH	TITOW, IWAN	055	MD
CZYPYHA, KATHARINE	401	ON	KOLOHRYWENKO, STEFANIA	423	IL	PASTUSHENKO, JAROSLAW	005	NY	TYMCZYSZYN, STELLA	027	NJ
DE VOE, DORA D	039	NY	KOLYNKO, MICHAEL	401	ON	PAUL, MICHAEL G	102	OH	TYMKO, JULIA	173	DE
DEMCHYK, WASYL	147	PA	KORDUBA, MARIA	102	OH	PAWUK, MICHAEL	291	OH	URICK, ANNIE	407	ON
DOSKOTZ, JOHN	253	MA	KORNYLO, PAUL	461	ON	PETROW, FRANK T	367	NY	WASHLESKI, OLGA	409	PA
DUBB, WILLIAM	053	PA	KOROLYSHYN, MYRON	407	ON	PHILLIPS, NATALIA	161	FL	WASIUNYK, JOHN	240	OH
DUSCHENCHUK, WILLIAM	327	NY	KOZAK, ANNA	037	NJ	PIHIL, ZOFIA	379	IL	WATSON, MARGARET	385	MN
DWORCZYN, PETER	292	MI	KOZAR, JUSTINA	130	NY	PLEKAN, STELLA	316	NY	WECAL, STEPHEN	206	RI
DYCZKO, WALTER	096	PA	KULYK, IWANNA	042	NJ	POPOWYCZ, WARWARA	379	IL	WIATR, JULIA	137	PA
ELIASHEWSKY, MARIA	083	NJ	KUZMA, STEPHANIE	221	IL	PRENETA, ANNA	067	CT	WILKERSON, JULIA	325	NY
FEDAK, TYMKO	230	PA	KYRYLCZUK, OLGA	287	NJ	PROCANYN, ANASTASIA	088	NY	WITKOWSKI, CHESTER	039	NY
FEDESON, MICHAEL	292	MI	LAJACK, ANN	120	PA	PYRTRKO, IWAN	397	PA	WOLOCH, STELLA	441	ON
FEDORCZAK, JOHN	240	OH	LASHENKO, OLGA	114	IL	REDOSH, ANN	325	CT	WTORAK, PETRO	445	MB
GALARNYK, ANDREW	445	MB	LAZAR, REV JOHN	083	MI	REGUSZ, STEFANIA	125	IL	YASINSKI, ANNA	164	CA
GAMULA, STEPHEN	461	ON	LEHACH, OLGA C	037	FL	RENNARD, OLGA	161	FL	ZACHARKO, MARY	217	NY
GAWARECKI, MARTHA	266	NY	LENCZYCKYJ, EUGENIA	399	IL	ROHOWSKY, VICTOR	076	NJ	ZAHAJEWCZYK, TARAS	112	OH
GOSPODAREC, ANNA	088	NY	LEWIS, ANNA H	055	MD	ROSZCZAKOWSKY, ANNA	240	OH	ZAMORYLO, GEORGE	292	OH
GRECZYN, OLGA	287	NJ	LIBOWICZ, SEMEN	005	NY	RUMIAN, MARIAN	234	PA	ZAPOTICZNY, JOSEPH	175	MI
GREGORYNSKA, YUSTYNA	407	ON	LITYNSKY, WOLODYMYR	341	ON	RYDER, OLGA	287	FL	ZELENY, ANASTAZIA	407	ON
HAMERA, NELLIE	292	MI	LOBUR, ANDREW	364	OH	SALAK, HELEN	242	PA	ZELTONOGA, JEAN	257	CA
HANAK, JENNIE	397	NJ	LOZOWY, JOSEPH	112	OH	SARABYN, MARIA	379	WI	ZELTWAJ, DR LUDWIG M	015	VA
HNATIW, ROSE	409	PA	LUCIW, NICHOLAS	142	NJ	SAWCHAK MARY	076	NJ			

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Action needed now!

With the U.S. Congress in session for only one more week (through December 11), there was good news from Washington this week. On December 2, Rep. Marcy Kaptur of Ohio introduced HR 5782 "to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes." The bill, which has 10 original co-sponsors (see the story on our front page), mirrors S 2828, known as the "Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014," introduced back in September by Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In a nutshell, HR 5782 provides over \$350 million in U.S. aid to Ukraine, designates Ukraine as a major non-NATO ally, reduces Ukraine's dependence on Russian gas, and provides assistance for Ukraine's military and those who've fled regions of Ukraine invaded by Russia. Most importantly, it opens the door to providing defensive weapons to Ukraine. What is most needed now is the support of the House leadership to move that bill forward without delay.

In the Senate, where S 2828 was unanimously supported by the Foreign Relations Committee, the prospects for its passage are better, but let's not assume the best-case scenario. (If the 113th Congress does not pass these bills, we will have to press our case all over again once the 114th Congress begins its work in January.)

The Ukrainian American Bar Association has issued a statement urging swift passage of both bills – which have bipartisan support – because "they will greatly enhance the United States' national security interests and will promote peace on the Eurasian continent and throughout the world." The UABA underscores: "It is obvious that economic sanctions in and of themselves are woefully deficient and will not stop Russia's unlawful aggression against Ukraine."

What we all need to do now is the following. Contact your representative in the House and ask for his/her co-sponsorship of HR 5782. Contact the House leadership to press for their support: call Speaker of House John Boehner (Ohio) at 202-225-0600 and House Major Leader Kevin McCarthy (California) at 202-225-2915. Contact Foreign Affairs Committee Chair Ed Royce (California) at 202-225-4111 and the House Foreign Affairs Committee at 202-225-5021. Also, call your two senators to seek their support for S 2828. In addition, call President Barack Obama regularly (the White House comment line, 202-456-1111, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday) to stress that the U.S. should send defensive weapons to Ukraine and that the non-lethal assistance provided thus far is just not enough.

Finally, share this information with your family, friends, colleagues and other like-minded individuals so that they can do the same.

As the recently created Ad Hoc Committee for Ukraine (see our November 23 issue) and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America have noted, Ukrainian Americans and other supporters of Ukraine must act now. With the end of the 113th Congress and the holidays fast approaching, we must keep our eyes on the ball. Ukraine needs our help today. If the U.S. truly supports Ukraine's independence and sovereignty, and the aspirations of its people for democracy, dignity, rule of law and peace, it must heed Kyiv's repeated requests for more substantive and effective assistance.

Dec.  
10  
1984

### Turning the pages back...

Thirty years ago, on December 10, 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation on International Human Rights Day and condemned the Soviet oppression within the borders of the USSR, as well as outside its borders in its "barbaric war" in Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union, he added, was among those countries that refuse to admit injustices and that justify "assaults on individual liberty in the name of a chimeric utopian vision." Officials and President Reagan did not hold back criticism of the Soviet record on human rights. "The critical moral distinction of our time" Mr. Reagan said, was while there might be human rights abuses within democracies, these can be debated and corrected in contrast to other governments that refuse to "admit to such injustices" and assault liberty in the name of utopianism.

"Such brutal affronts to the human conscience as the systematic suppression of individual liberty in the Soviet Union, and the denial of religious expression by Christians, Jews and Muslims in that country are tragic examples," Mr. Reagan continued.

Citing the example of Dr. Andrei Sakharov, a physicist and rights activist who was forced to reside in Gorky (a city off limits to foreigners), Mr. Reagan stated, "Nothing more clearly illustrates the absence of what our founding fathers called a 'decent respect to the opinions of mankind' than that cruel treatment of this great humanitarian."

Mr. Reagan stated: "So, today we the people of the United States, in conjunction with other freedom-loving people everywhere in the world, rededicate ourselves to the cause of human rights, to the cause of democratic self-rule and human freedom. We reassert our belief that some day the repression of the human spirit and the special tragedy of totalitarian rule will be only a distant chapter in the human past. In doing so, we're deeply aware of our nation's long struggle toward achieving these goals and our own heritage of seeking to promote these ideals throughout the world."

Mr. Reagan met with 12 rights activists from various parts of the world, including Avital Shcharansky, the wife of imprisoned activist Anatoly Shcharansky. Her husband had served 13 years at the time of the proclamation after being convicted by the Soviets of espionage for the United States.

Human Rights Day commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948. The observance began in 1950, when the General Assembly invited all nations to observe December 10 as Human Rights Day. Previously, there had never been a dedicated statement on human rights at the international level.

Source: "Reagan marks Human Rights Day," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 16, 1984.

## FOR THE RECORD

### Polish American Congress voices concern about Russian aggression

The following "Open Letter to the U.S. Congress and President of the United States" was released by the Polish American Congress on November 24.

The Polish American Congress expresses its deep concern over the recent military and political acts of aggression of the Russian Federation towards its European neighbors. We are alarmed by the violations of territorial integrity of its contiguous sovereign states and the blatant impudence of the information warfare conducted by the Russian Federation worldwide.

We object in strongest terms to the recent attempts by President Vladimir Putin to justify the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact of August 23, 1939, pursuant to which Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union secretly agreed to "a territorial and political rearrangement of the areas belonging to the Polish state" and left a decision as to "whether the interests of both parties make desirable the maintenance of an independent Polish state and how such a state should be bounded" to be determined by the two aggressors. The Nazi-Soviet Pact led to the joint Nazi-Soviet aggression on the sovereign Polish state in September 1939. The two aggressors divided Poland between themselves and closely cooperated in combating Polish resistance, in particular the extermination of Polish elites. Those treacherous pacts led to the unprecedented genocide committed on the Polish civilian population by both Nazi Germany's Gestapo and the Soviet Union's NKVD.

While crimes committed by the Nazi regime have been disclosed, adjudicated and condemned, the crimes committed by the Soviet regime have not been fully disclosed and were never properly adjudicated and condemned by the international community. To this day, no justice has been served for the Katyn Massacre crime, one of the most heinous crimes of World War II, when an estimated 22,000 Polish intellectuals and leaders were mass murdered by the Soviet NKVD secret police by a pistol shot to the back of each of their heads and buried in unmarked secret mass graves.

Today's Russia uses historical propaganda as an effective weapon to regain the status of a world power once again at the expense of her Central and Eastern European neighbors. Today's Russia denies the historic reality of Soviet responsibility for its trademark crimes of World War II and attempts to justify the annexation of half of Poland, occupation of the Baltic states and the Katyn Massacre, just to name some of the Soviet Union's

unaccounted for liabilities.

In light of the traumatic experience of the Polish people subjected to massive extermination by both Nazi and Soviet regimes in the aftermath of the Nazi-Soviet Pact of August 23, 1939, the recent statement by the Russian president that "there is nothing wrong with the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact" is not only offensive but also very dangerous to the peace and security of today's world. Such a statement sends a message that criminal practices symbolized and viciously implemented by the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact are acceptable.

The people of Europe unequivocally condemned the criminal Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact by designating August 23 as the Black Ribbon Day commemorating the victims of Nazi and Soviet totalitarian regimes. The Black Ribbon Day was introduced in the European Parliament by a resolution on European Conscience and Totalitarianism on April 2, 2009. A similar resolution establishing August 23 as the Black Ribbon Day was adopted by the Parliament of Canada on November 30, 2009.

The Polish American Congress strongly condemns in unequivocal terms this 21st century Russian attempt to justify and rehabilitate the immoral Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact that led to the mass extermination of millions of people in Europe. The lessons of Poland's tragic past must not be forgotten. We shall honor the victims of Soviet oppression, condemn the perpetrators, and lay the foundation for reconciliation based on truth and remembrance.

Accordingly, we urge the United States Congress to designate August 23 as "Black Ribbon Day" so as to never forget the Soviet terror experienced by millions of people of Central and Eastern Europe during the 20th century. We must remember, honor and learn from the experience of the people subjected to the Soviet Union's ruthless military, economic and political repression through mass exterminations, arbitrary executions, mass arrests, deportations, the suppression of free speech, confiscation of property, and the destruction of cultural and moral identity and civil society, all of which deprived the vast majority of the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe of their basic human rights and dignity.

We must ensure that this cruel history never repeats itself and that the memory of these crimes is never forgotten.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Spula  
President

Polish American Congress

### Quotable notes

"...when this ministerial last convened, tens of thousands of Ukrainian citizens were on the Maidan. And they were not intimidated by police violence, the threat of further repression, or the freezing weather. They were warmed by a simple desire: to live in a country with an honest government. The people of Ukraine continue to persevere. ... tested by external aggression, they are casting off the shackles of repression and opening a new and promising chapter in their nation's history. Twice in the past year, they have chosen new leaders through genuine democratic elections, and President Poroshenko and Prime Minister Yatsenyuk have pledged to implement a robust agenda of reforms designed to make Ukraine more secure, just, inclusive, prosperous, and free.

"...The international community is united in condemning the violence that has led to so much needless suffering in Ukraine, but the violence continues. Regrettably, Russia continues to supply new weapons and increase support for armed separatists. In doing so, it fails to meet its international and OSCE obligations and to live up to an agreement that it actually negotiated and signed. The result is damage to its credibility, and its own citizens wind up paying a steep economic and human price, including the price of hundreds of Russian soldiers who fight and die in a country where they had and have no right to be. ..."

– Secretary of State John Kerry, speaking on December 4 in Basel, Switzerland, at the Ministerial Plenary Session of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

## From a Canadian Angle

by Oksana Bashuk Hepburn



## CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

### Self-imposed impotence

Lately, Canada has been gaining international prominence. Prime Minister Stephen Harper made news by telling Russia's President Vladimir Putin to "get out of Ukraine." Then Canada dropped a bomb on an ISIS stronghold and destroyed a training facility. The strikes demonstrate its "firm resolve to tackle the threat of terrorism and stand with our allies," said Defense Minister Rob Nicholson.

Not all terrorism. The coalition mission against ISIS in Iraq and Syria, led by the United States and comprising over 10 states, lies in stark contrast to the West's zero military action against Russia, whose terrorists wage war against Ukraine's sovereignty, which is so highly prized by the West. Canada and other friends have yet to assist militarily against President Putin, the world's most powerful and dangerous terrorist.

In Ukraine, there are no Western fighter jets, no Aurora intelligence platforms, no coalition of the willing aiming to disrupt, degrade and destroy the aggressor. For over six months its freedom fighters have battled the aggressor. Meanwhile, Western democracies remain on the sidelines full of "admiration for its bravery," as participants at the recent Ottawa conference of NATO opined, rather than offer more clout.

Most useless are repetitive confirmations like that of Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO's top commander in Europe, that "there is no question anymore about Russia's direct military involvement in Ukraine."

Under the circumstances, such words only fuel the sneering from Mr. Putin and company. Their latest salvo: we've stopped paying attention to the commander-in-chief of NATO.

Why should they? None of the atrocities committed in Ukraine have persuaded NATO, the United States, or other alliance members that Mr. Putin is already at war with Europe – for what else is the invasion of Ukraine? And he is advancing further with flyovers, a marine vessel chase and a training base in Serbia.

A new Russian naval base is planned

*Oksana Bashuk Hepburn may be contacted at oksanabh@sympatico.ca.*

### New bill in House...

(Continued from page 1)

Levin (D-Mich.), Mike Quigley (D-Ill.), Steve Stockman (R-Texas), Gerald E. Connolly (D-Va.), Bill Pascrell Jr. (D-N.J.), Eliot L. Engel (D-N.Y.), William R. Keating (D-Mass.) and James P. Moran (D-Va.).

S 2828 was introduced on September 16 by Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and two days later was passed unanimously by that committee's 18 members. It had three original co-sponsors – Sens. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.) and Edward J. Markey (D-Mas.) – at the time of its introduction and currently has 13 co-sponsors.

The bill would impose broad sanctions on Russia's defense, energy and financial sectors, as well as increase military and non-military assistance for Ukraine. The

some 400 miles off Alaska and discussions with Canada on the Arctic are sharpening. According to Reuters, Mr. Putin's buddies are capitalizing on U.S. defense contracts with million-dollar mark-ups on military rocket engines.

Mr. Putin has broken all relevant agreements regarding Ukraine and disregards international institutions. He's insulted every democratic leader with his lies. Their retaliation is mild. So why would he stop?

Last week Mr. Putin cut a handsome deal with China in the energy, high technology, aerospace and finance sectors. The seriousness of the rapprochement between the giant dictatorships was in evidence when Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's friendly greeting in Beijing was met with a cobra-like expression from China's Chairman Xi Jinping. Did this mean that Russia's move on Crimea could be echoed by China in the Senkaku islands?

Mr. Putin poses a great global danger, yet his terror has not been met with the same resolve accorded the rag-tag ISIS. Who is the greater threat becomes more evident by linking the globe's key hot spots.

Here are some facts.

Russia backs President Bashar al-Assad's bloody regime. Russia has had a long history in Iran's nuclear sector and now is to build several additional installations there. Reports claim Russia's planes have carried weapons to ISIS and assisted in reselling the energy it steals.

Russia is not a credible partner, yet Western powers keep hoping. The West's failure to take the offensive is not a strategy for peace. It is capitulation to a terrorist state with state resources at its disposal and a dictator's command over national policy, media and its huge nuclear arsenal.

Mr. Putin is a criminal. His end is personal enrichment, as well as that of his tight criminal circle. He makes enormous sums of money – over \$40 billion at last public report. A recent article in Windows on Eurasia by the knowledgeable Paul Goble points out that Mr. Putin is prepared to do whatever it takes to protect himself and his ill-gotten wealth – he's even threatened a nuclear war. Yet the West is more willing to deal with ISIS guerrillas rather than with Putin's terror.

legislation authorizes the president to provide military assistance to Ukraine, to include: providing defense articles, defense services and training to the government of Ukraine for the purpose of countering offensive weapons and re-establishing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including anti-tank and anti-armor weapons; crew weapons and ammunition; counter-artillery radars to identify and target artillery batteries; fire control, range finder, and optical and guidance and control equipment; tactical troop-operated surveillance drones, and secure command and communications equipment.

In an e-mail message sent on December 3, the Ukrainian National Information Service encouraged Ukrainian Americans and supporters of Ukraine to contact their members of Congress and ask for their support of HR 5782. "Time of the essence, as Congress is in session for one more week," wrote Michael Sawkiw Jr. director of UNIS.

### Does modernization mean Westernization?

Recently, Anton Shekhovtsov recalled in his blog that the concept of the "Russian world" ("russkii mir") had not always been understood in its present sense. In 2000, he noted, the Moscow philosopher Piotr Shchedrovitskii saw it as a form of modernization through mobilization of Russian human, cultural, intellectual and organizational capital, expressed in the unique properties of the Russian language. This "lone voice," however, had been superseded by President Vladimir Putin's understanding of the "Russian world," both as a term for the Russian diaspora enlisted to support Russian foreign policy, and for nearby Eastern European countries that Russia must keep under its control. ([http://anton-shekhovtsov.blogspot.com/2014\\_08\\_01\\_archive.html](http://anton-shekhovtsov.blogspot.com/2014_08_01_archive.html))

From the Western geopolitical point of view, the military, political and economic threat of Russia could be neutralized through modernization. This would also serve Ukrainian security. In fact, Ukraine could even participate in that process. Just as Byzantium made medieval Rus' less dangerous by "civilizing" it through Christianization, Ukraine could help make Russia less dangerous by modernizing it. True, a modernized nation can still be dangerous – in the 1930s, the world's most modern nation was arguably Germany. And modernization enabled Japan to build a Pacific empire. Nevertheless, the conventional type of modernization includes rationalization, democratization and secularization. These processes are believed to temper, respectively, irrational nationalism, irresponsible authoritarianism and religious extremism. Those are three common sources of aggressive state behavior.

This conventional understanding of modernization, however, is decidedly Western, and rests on Western assumptions originating in the Enlightenment: that reason can resolve conflicts; that democracy prevents tyranny; and that secular ideas, unlike religious ones, are rational. All of these assumptions have been questioned, if not disproved. Moreover, representatives of non-Western countries have challenged the Western model of modernization and, indeed, modernization itself.

According to Mr. Shekhovtsov, Mr. Shchedrovitskii conceived of the "Russian world" as an alternative model of modernization, one built on Russian national tradition. In this he was following Asian countries which, seeking to emulate their European colonizers' scientific, technological and economic progress, yet wary of Western social and cultural values, legitimately asked whether modernization necessarily means Westernization. In 1921, reissuing his 1908 booklet titled "What is Swaraj?" ("self-rule" or "independence"), Mohandas K. Gandhi went further. He condemned Western civilization as a whole, contrasting the material achievements of oppressive British rule (e.g., railways and hospitals) with the liberating spiritual values of India.

There is an echo of this sentiment in Russian nationalists' condemnation of Western materialism and their assertion of the superiority of traditional Russian religious values. In this they resemble some Muslims, who eagerly seize the technological and economic benefits of moderniza-

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tion, while resisting Western political, social and cultural ideals such as democracy, women's equality and secularization. But what about countries like Japan, which has successfully modernized without renouncing tradition?

Perhaps the dichotomy of tradition vs. modernization is a false one. Tradition is not the same thing as traditionalism. Traditionalism resists change. But those who truly honor tradition welcome change as long as it represents the organic growth of a culture, rather than the indiscriminate destruction of the old simply to make way for the new. Ironically, those who cut themselves off from tradition are more likely to repeat the horrors of the past than those who conserve tradition in order to grow beyond it.

Which of these two approaches should be termed modernization? If modernization is a renunciation of all previous culture, as was envisioned by some intellectuals in the first decades of the 20th century, then it is obviously opposed to tradition. But if modernization is simply a word for the organic growth of a civilization in its political, economic and social as well as its cultural aspects, then it does not oppose tradition; rather, it is nourished by it and develops it further.

For a country like India or Japan, or Russia or Ukraine, modernization in this sense cannot be reduced to Westernization, because that implies a renunciation of at least part of its tradition. This is even true for politics. As Gerard de Groot notes in his review of Francis Fukuyama's new book "Political Order and Political Decay" (The Washington Post, October 24, 2014), Dr. Fukuyama does not believe that Western-style democracy and its institutions can be exported. Each society, says Dr. Fukuyama, must adapt Western models of development to its own conditions "and build on indigenous traditions." ([http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/book-review-political-order-and-political-decay-by-francis-fukuyama/2014/10/24/57414b58-4e35-11e4-aa5e-7153e466a02d\\_story.html?wpisrc=nl-pmopns&wpm=1](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/book-review-political-order-and-political-decay-by-francis-fukuyama/2014/10/24/57414b58-4e35-11e4-aa5e-7153e466a02d_story.html?wpisrc=nl-pmopns&wpm=1))

But even a borrowing and adaptation of Western-style change does not exhaust the possible meanings of modernization. Granted, the very idea of the modern arose in the West and was developed there. But today, models of modernization that take issue with fundamental Western assumptions are possible too. Thus, for example, democracy need not take the form of contemporary European or American liberalism; there may be forms of self-government more protective of community and culture. Economic justice and freedom can be better served by fostering small-scale local entrepreneurship than by protecting global corporate capitalism in the name of "growth," devastating the environment in the process. Culture can develop without being shorn of spirituality. This, apparently, is the kind of alternative modernization that Mr. Shchedrovitskii envisioned for Russia.

If today's Russia has chosen not to follow this path – preferring mere authoritarianism and aggression – couldn't Ukraine do so? Under better circumstances, perhaps it could. In fact, in the 17th and 18th centuries, a Western-influenced Ukraine (and individual Ukrainians) contributed to the religious and cultural modernization of

(Continued on page 18)

# INTERVIEW: Reflections on the Ukrainian Film Club's first decade

by Ali Kinsella

## Part 2

*In this two-part interview, Yuri Shevchuk, founder and director of the Ukrainian Film Club at Columbia University, reflects on the club's first decade in New York. Since its beginnings, the club has only gained in popularity, yet it continues to be a cultural institution in exile, a lonely beacon in a field of ever-present Russification. Both by serving as a forum in the United States and a sounding board of sorts in Ukraine, the club works to counteract commonly held and reproduced misconceptions about this place called Ukraine. For more information, please visit the club's website: [www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc/](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ufc/).*

*Whereas Part 1 of this interview delved into the history of the club itself, here Prof. Shevchuk, who teaches courses in Ukrainian language and culture, outlines the state of national identity and politics in contemporary Ukraine, approaching it through cinema, language, and cultural production.*

*Ali Kinsella is a recent graduate of the interdisciplinary Slavic studies program at Columbia University's Harriman Institute.*

### Can you explain what you mean by "Ukrainian national film"?

At the time we started, the club was keenly aware of the intellectual and cultural discussions underway in Ukraine in that time: "What is a national film?" And the shrillest and loudest voices that were advocating a redefinition of what would be a logical understanding of Ukrainian film. That is, something along the lines the way the French national film is understood, or American or Polish. Yet those voices were actively trying to impose on all the rest of Ukraine their colonial concept of Ukrainian film as something purely geographic.

I was once present at a press conference when one of the leading such proponents, Andrii Khalpakhchi, who has for years headed the Ukrainian international film festival, Molodist, said, "Every film that is made in Ukraine is thus Ukrainian." And that was exactly the kind of colonial vision of Ukrainian film, but also "Ukrainian culture" that we wanted to undermine, deconstruct, expose as essentially colonialist, as perpetrating the old patterns of enslavement and cultural control of Ukraine by Russia. We instead propose and promote a liberating understanding of Ukrainian film, one which is on par with the views in other free, democratic countries.

And we immediately started broadcasting that message both in the United States where we had, of course, a very limited audience, but also in Ukraine, where we also became known almost from day one, thanks to the enthusiasts in the Ukrainian filmmaking community who thought we were doing a very good job. As the director, I was featured on several television programs and I voiced those ideas openly. Every time I went to Ukraine, I deliberately sought forums – and in a way single-mindedly – to voice these ideas, which were then walled off by entrenched Ukrainian filmmaking establishment that was supported by the oligarchic money. They had all the support of the richly financed television production studios and companies like 1+1, Inter, ICTV and whatnot.

I remember the great enthusiasm with which the filmmaking students at the Karpenko-Karyi University reacted to my lecture on what national film is, because that kind of gave them a new understanding, not only of film, but of their own purpose, of their own vision of themselves as future professionals. The lecture was supposed to be an hour and a half – it lasted for

three hours because they kept asking me questions, kept talking. It was almost tragic to see what the level of thirst for these ideas that, in my mind, were nothing novel given the American academic level of thinking about film, but there it seemed like a vacuum.

### How else does the club contribute to the field?

Initially, we had a concept of what to do, but also were open to feedback and when ideas arose, we implemented them. From being very primitive, this website grew and now, even today, is the only English-language Internet resource on the Ukrainian film. I don't know of any other. There are Russian-language resources on Ukrainian film, Ukrainian-language, Surzhyk-language on Ukrainian film, but no English-language websites even remotely similar to ours, however modest ours might still look. And this remains a very important presence on Ukrainian film on the World Wide Web.

Secondly, I also thought, and I kind of felt the interest of our audiences not only in the films that are produced in Ukraine, but also how filmmakers of other countries viewed Ukraine in their films. So we very early in the day introduced a special series, "Ukraine through the eyes of the world," within which we started screening films that showed Ukraine, and not necessarily in a positive way. Very many films show Ukraine in defaming, racist sometimes, sometimes very stereotypical or colonial manner. Most of the films that we have offer a positive and very often unexpected view of Ukraine and that is hugely provocative for our viewers because it's always interesting to take a new perspective on something that you think you know.

Also I tried to encourage my students to think of Ukrainian film outside their immediate academic program and get them interested in reviewing the films and, in that way, providing something that the Ukrainian filmmakers dramatically lack: feedback on what they're doing from the international community. Because Ukrainian film criticism in Ukraine is still very underdeveloped and Ukrainian criticism outside of Ukraine simply doesn't exist. Everything that these self-appointed, or enthusiastic film reviewers do – which they often don't realize – is number one, a huge source of inspiration for Ukrainian filmmakers. To know that somebody in New York or in the United States, not only watches your film, but thinks about it, and produces a coherent criticism, is hugely inspiring. Number two, it creates almost automatically, the kind of perception that you are functioning not in the stifling and often Byzantine-esque world of Ukrainian filmmaking, where you depend on the mood of a deputy minister or a director or an oligarch, but suddenly you feel like you're part of the larger international filmmaking community. And that also is an entirely novel sensation that anyone who does Ukrainian culture has. And it's absolutely priceless. And so we do it deliberately.

Then we felt almost like painfully that there was this level of provinciality in Ukrainian filmmaking, manifested in the fact that very few films were made with subtitles, so we felt we needed to remedy that situation. Very early in our existence, I announced the so-called International Translation Workshop. And there was an incredible reaction from people from all around the world. I had responses from the Czech Republic, from Poland, from Ukraine of course, from England, from the United States, from Canada; everybody just wanted to participate in translating Ukrainian-

language films into English for free. We generated subtitles and supplied with subtitles quite a number of important films. Then we started also working, cooperating with a very important, the biggest Ukrainian film archive actually, the Oleksander Dovzhenko Center in Kyiv.

### I understand the club still collaborates with the Dovzhenko center.

This cooperation became particularly fruitful with the arrival of the enthusiast of film preservation and Ukrainian film, Ivan Kozlenko, a young Ukrainian-speaking gentleman from Odesa. Before even becoming the director of that center, he organized the unprecedented Ukrainian silent film festival in Odesa called the Mute Night (Hіма ніч). It was supposed to be a pun: the mute culture, which is Ukrainian, and the silent film. And he openly declared that one of the purposes of that festival was to reappropriate the jewels, the gems of Ukrainian silent film that were made in Ukraine with Ukrainian talent, participation, but have been grabbed by Russian imperial culture and presented to the rest of the world as Russian.

Needless to say, that kind of declaration of purpose appealed to me. He invited me to participate in the festival, to be one of the guests, and then we started very closely cooperating, becoming a conduit here in the West for these films, to reinject them into international circulation. Every now and then I get letters from different libraries asking me where to find this film collection, and I'm only too glad to channel their enquiries to the Dovzhenko Center.

### Wait, you disagree with Khalpakhchi when he says all films are Ukrainian, yet you agree with Ivan Kozlenko who's trying to reclaim films made in Ukraine. How do explain this?

Two different realities: Kozlenko meant films made in Ukraine with Ukrainian talent, like Vira Kholodna, a woman who was born in Poltava and moved in her childhood to Moscow but then again came back to Ukraine and had a husband who was Ukrainian and could plausibly be also thought of as a Ukrainian in the traditional sense of the word. Films made in Ukraine by Dzyga Vertov with Ukrainian sensibilities, featuring Ukraine, using Ukrainian material. That's something that I agree with; that's not the geographic understanding of identity, it's the essential understanding of identity, identity built on features that are essential to any identity.

Whereas for Khalpakhchi, the reality today is geographical identity, encompassing films that are made for Russian television, the Russian film market, with the Russian consumer in mind, with Russian spectator in mind, not only that, the films that would deliberately be cleansed of any visual or audio cues that might place them in Ukraine because, "Russian viewers are irritated by such cues." So those films are not only not Ukrainian, but they are in a sense anti-Ukrainian and to instill the notion of such films as being Ukrainian national cinema, to me, is not only colonialist by its logic, but plainly insulting.

Now there is a necessity, a kind of imperative to clear to the water and outline, articulate an understanding of what it means for a film to be a national film.

### Does this stance not come from a position of defense? Is Khalpakhchi perhaps not afraid that there is no Ukrainian cinema, so he wants to grab whatever he can?

No, that's not quite the situation. The situation is that such a view is used to siphon

what little money there was for Ukrainian filmmaking into Russian projects. And that's outrageous and also insulting given the dearth, the chronic dearth of Ukrainian film that compels many film commentators to say that Ukrainian film has been in a state of coma for decades. It even serves to justify that situation and to give the money that is at a premium to the films that have nothing to do with Ukrainian national film or to giving voice to Ukrainians and their stories.

### What is going on in Ukrainian cinema today? How has the Maidan and the subsequent war affected the arts, the cinematic arts in particular?

What's going on in Ukrainian film is exactly what was going on up until today: nothing's changed, really. What has happened is nothing short of absurd. Under the repressive regime of Yanukovich, the Ukrainian film industry was much better funded. There was something to the tune of 250 million hrv allocated for filmmaking, an unheard of sum of money. Even though the Ukrainian agency for film was adhering more to the Khalpakhchi conception of national film than to my conception of film, in between some films with Ukrainian attributes were made.

Now that same agency is headed by a person with impeccable Ukrainian credentials, Pylyp Illienko, the son of the Ukrainian classic, Yuri Illienko. He has a vision, and the energy and dedication, and a sense of mission, but what he doesn't have is money. He has zero budget and the new Ukrainian government is very similar to all the previous governments in one essential sense: culturally it's not Ukrainian. It looks at the culture, at best, as something of a bother, something that has no consequence, something that has to be marginalized lest it be allowed to distract you from things more important.

Of course, they're fighting a war, but the war is also waged in information and culture. There has always been war in Ukrainian filmmaking between the Moscow agents of the influence and those who believe that Ukraine is entitled to have its own film and its own expression in film. Paradoxically enough, the proponents of the colonialist film oriented toward Russia, culturally Russian, have been particularly vocal since the Maidan. The other obvious tendency is for them to pretend that nothing happened, that no revolution happened, that dignity was not the center of that revolution. They continue to churn the films that are indistinguishable from Russian products – language-wise, message-wise, by their consistent ignoring the sensibilities of Ukrainian public.

They are using this Ukrainian willingness to accommodate the Russian-speaking part of the country as license to stay the same, as license to justify the absolutely unjustifiable state of things where the entire information space, the entire media, distribution of language programs and everything else, are formatted in a way so as to facilitate a very rapid Russification of the entire society. And by Russification I don't only mean linguistic Russification, because linguistic Russification always brings in mental Russification, the appropriation of values, civilizational and moral values, that are not Ukrainian, but Russian, and are very often antagonistic and inimical to Ukrainian values.

**There's this mantra, though – you see it a lot in feminism – that the nation must come first, and then we can talk about feminism, or women's rights, or**

(Continued on page 18)



# Pittsburgh Hoverla film fest showcases Ukrainian filmmakers

by Tetyana Shlikhar

PITTSBURGH – The 2014 Hoverla Ukrainian American Film Festival held during the four Sunday evenings of October (October 5, 12, 19, 26) featured a diversity of styles and genres in contemporary Ukrainian cinema – documentaries, psychological short films, animation, as well as an adventure story and a thriller.

The festival kicked off on October 5 with a screening of the “Babylon’13” documentary short film series about Ukrainian protests during the fall-winter of 2013-2014 and recent events in eastern Ukraine, followed by an interview session with Yuriy Gruzinov, lead cameraman for the “Babylon’13” series.

The birth of civil society in Ukraine has become a powerful source of inspiration for Ukrainian filmmakers. Among them are the “Babylon’13” filmmakers who have been covering events in Ukraine from the first protests in November 2013; the first deaths and killings in January-February of this year; the annexation of Crimea in March; the Ilovaik tragedy, where thousands of Ukrainian patriots were killed and hundreds had gone missing; and the most recent events in eastern Ukraine, where the Ukrainian army, National Guard and volunteer battalions are fighting the Russian invasion.

The documentaries show an unadorned truth of self-sacrificing struggle and heroism, as well as atrocities of war and the pain of loss.

When asked “Why did you join the army?” a Ukrainian volunteer doesn’t hesitate to reply that he is proud of Ukrainians and wants his country finally to become a country.

Filed interviews with representatives of the Ukrainian army manifest that the language – Russian or Ukrainian – is not an issue; it did not cause the conflict, since most Ukrainian soldiers, actually, speak Russian. As Mr. Gryzunov noted during the interview session, Ukrainian identity has become a much broader notion than just a language question – it is a matter of attitude toward the country, its traditions and heritage, as well as aspiration to make it better. “Everything will be all right” – the statement repeatedly resounds in the documentaries and somehow fills the audience with unbounded optimism and hope.

Another documentary about civic resistance was “Maidan: Women” by Natalia Piatygina and Natalya Sukach. The film tells an impressive story about the revolution in Ukraine of 2013-2014 as told by seven women. Their personal experiences intricately intertwine into a powerful narrative depicting revolutionary events from different perspectives.

There is the story of a girl who fell in love with a guy during the protests on Independence Square, who even introduced her as his future wife to his friends. She will never become his wife, though – shortly afterwards Serhii Nihoyan, the love of her life, became the first victim of sniper shootings on the Maidan. Another story is told by a woman whose son was fighting in the ranks of military forces against protesters, while she came to the Maidan to support protesters. In spite of the danger of being shot, she approached the military men to look into the eyes of her son. Perhaps the most thrilling story is told by a woman who lost her 19-year-old son, who was shot dead among other protesters in February – a loss she will have to endure throughout her life. Yet, one can only envy this woman’s inner strength and power to keep on going.

“The Island of Crimea. Déjà Vu” (2014) is a documentary by Ihor Chaika, a journalist and civic activist. The film traces the recent annexation of Crimea by Russia back to 2010, when President Viktor Yanukovich was elected in Ukraine. Documentary footage from 2010 through the present shows that the annexation did not happen overnight – it was a consistently planned action, with “The House of Moscow” opened in Sevastopol in 2006 and proliferation of pro-Russian attitudes and hatred towards everything Ukrainian, including Ukrainian passports.

The director draws a parallel with Russian writer Vasiliy Aksyonov’s fantastic novel “The Island of Crimea” (1979) in which the author envisaged the peninsula as an isolated Russian state. It took 35 years for this prediction to come true. Another coincidence that Mr. Chaika emphasizes is the fact that the surname of the prime minister of the Republic of Crimea is also Aksyonov, although his criminal background makes any connections with the renowned Russian writer impossible. First

screened in Belarus, the film provides an outstanding political and social analysis of the Russian invasion into Ukraine.

Luckily, not all Ukrainian cinema is marked by gloomy consequences of the Russian military invasion. The adventure film by Viktor Andriyenko and Ihor Pysmenny “Ivan the Powerful” (2013) tells the true story of a western Ukrainian strongman, Ivan Fritsak, who was acknowledged as the strongest man on earth in 1928, but stopped performing abroad and returned to his native land at the peak of his career. The film is set in Europe at the beginning of 20th century, and all of the actors, including numerous crowds in mass scenes, are dressed in period suits of those times, provided by the Czech Barrandov Studio, which creates a magical atmosphere for the film and turns it into a beautiful visual image reinforced by stylized colors with a slightly brownish tint. The directors, together with the film’s perfect cast, take the audience on a beautiful trip to a country of magic and fairy tales, a country where truth defeats evil.

“Shadows of Unforgotten Ancestors” (2013) by Lubomyr Levytsky, who has already enriched Ukrainian cinema with such films as “Shtolnya” (2006) and “Lombard” (2013), became an impressive finale of the festival on October 26. The film spurs the audience to laugh, feel scared and get involved in unraveling mysterious events happening after demons get released and a group of college students fall victim to the malicious powers. To reverse the curse and save themselves, the young people travel to a forbidden mystical forest in western Ukraine. Danger lurks in the forest, and personality clashes add to the ten-

sion as the young students fight for survival. Although the film is claimed to be set in western Ukraine, it gives very few references to the actual Ukrainian reality, and is more likely to resemble an American or Western European lifestyle instead. However, the quality of production is remarkable and gives hope for the future development and financial survival of Ukrainian filmmaking.

The Hoverla Ukrainian American Film Festival – organized by the Ukrainian Community of Western Pennsylvania (UCOWPA) and sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh Film Study Program, the Global Studies Program and the Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies, as well as the Pittsburgh branch of the Ukrainian Technological Society and individual donors – has become an annual event in Pittsburgh.

The event brings together Ukrainians and all those interested in Ukrainian culture to discover amazing selections of films, get to know Ukrainian filmmaking, as well as share their ideas and impressions in a relaxed atmosphere during intermissions. Films were presented by Dr. Hanna Chumachenko Lassowsky, president of the Ukrainian Community of Western Pennsylvania, and Ukrainian filmmakers.

For more information about the Hoverla Film Festival and the Ukrainian Community of Western Pennsylvania, readers can visit [www.ucowpa.org](http://www.ucowpa.org).

Tetyana Shlikhar is a research scholar at the University of Pittsburgh who focused on translation studies at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and the State University of New York at Binghamton.

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## Shelest Piano Duo performs at The Lyceum



Yaro Bihun

The Anna and Dmitri Shelest Piano Duo performs at The Lyceum.

by Zdana Krawciw-Skalsky

ARLINGTON, Va. – The second concert of the 2014-2015 Music Series sponsored by The Washington Group Cultural Fund in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine was a recital by the husband-and-wife duo piano team of Anna and Dmitri Shelest here at The Lyceum on Saturday, November 8.

Both artists began studying piano in their native Ukraine and completed their musical education in the United States. They have performed extensively as soloists and chamber musicians throughout Europe and in the United States, and have garnered awards in numerous competitions. Their program at The Lyceum featured works for solo piano, as well as music written or arranged for four hands.

The opening work of the afternoon was a vigorous rendition of Mykola Lysenko's overture to the opera "Taras Bulba," arranged for piano four hands by Levko Revutsky, followed by a heartfelt interpretation by Anna Shelest of the "Ukrainian Rhapsody" written for solo piano by an early 19th century Ukrainian composer, Oleksandr Zhuk.

Myroslav Skoryk's "Three Extravagant Dances" for piano duet is delightful music, and the Shelest team performed it with lightness and grace, clearly underlining the various rhythms while at the same time evoking the whimsical character of each of the dances. The ensemble work was quite impressive.

After a brief intermission, each of the artists presented some solo piano works. The aria "Sheep May Safely Graze" from a cantata by Johann Sebastian Bach was originally scored for soprano, recorders and continuo but has been adapted over the years for various instruments. Dmitri Shelest played an arrangement for piano by Egon Petri. After this quiet piece, Mr. Shelest performed Franz Liszt's transcription of "Miserere" from Giuseppe Verdi's "Il Trovatore," a composition which permits the pianist to exhibit his virtuosic skills. Liszt paraphrased some of the best-known music in the operatic repertoire, creating works that explore the technical possibilities of the piano while preserving the beautiful melodic lines of the original.

In her group of solo pieces, Anna Shelest included arguably the most popular operatic transcription of Liszt, Richard Wagner's "Liebestod" from "Tristan und Isolde." Her performance communicated the deep emotional content of this music.

Works by George Gershwin completed the program: two songs, "The Man I Love" and "Embraceable You," transcribed for solo piano by Earl Wilde, were performed by Ms. Shelest, and the final work in the program was "Rhapsody in Blue," arranged for piano four hands by Henry Levine. It was interesting to note the comparison between Skoryk and Gershwin. Both 20th century compositions abound in soulful melodies and jazz rhythms. However, Gershwin draws on Afro-American idioms, while Skoryk derives his inspiration from his Ukrainian roots.

A reception after the concert provided an opportunity for the members of the audience to meet the artists.

## "Ukraine Trunk" at center of Emilie Brzezinski's art exhibit

by Marta Fedoriw

WASHINGTON – "Ukraine Trunk – 2014" is the centerpiece of the solo exhibition by artist Emilie Brzezinski, wife of former National Security Advisor Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski. The comprehensive exhibit, which opened on September 18 at the Kreeger Museum in Washington, is titled "The Lure of the Forest" and features monumental wood sculptures – some exhibited outdoors and many indoors.

The sculptor uses a chain saw to create her works of art – sculptures fashioned from large trunks of wood, as well as others from moody bark cloths. Of her smaller pieces, some are playful, some – such as whimsical benches – are quite practical.

The exhibit is underwritten by none other than Stihl Corp., which is more known for supporting trade groups and contests for lumberjacks. The sculptor owns six chain saws – all made by Stihl and each designed for a different job.

The "Ukraine Trunk – 2014" is a hollowed, sanded maple trunk with a news photo of the many people of the Maidan, anonymous faces, all upturned, all wondering what might lie ahead for Ukraine. "And not one face is smiling. Not one face," Ms. Brzezinski says.

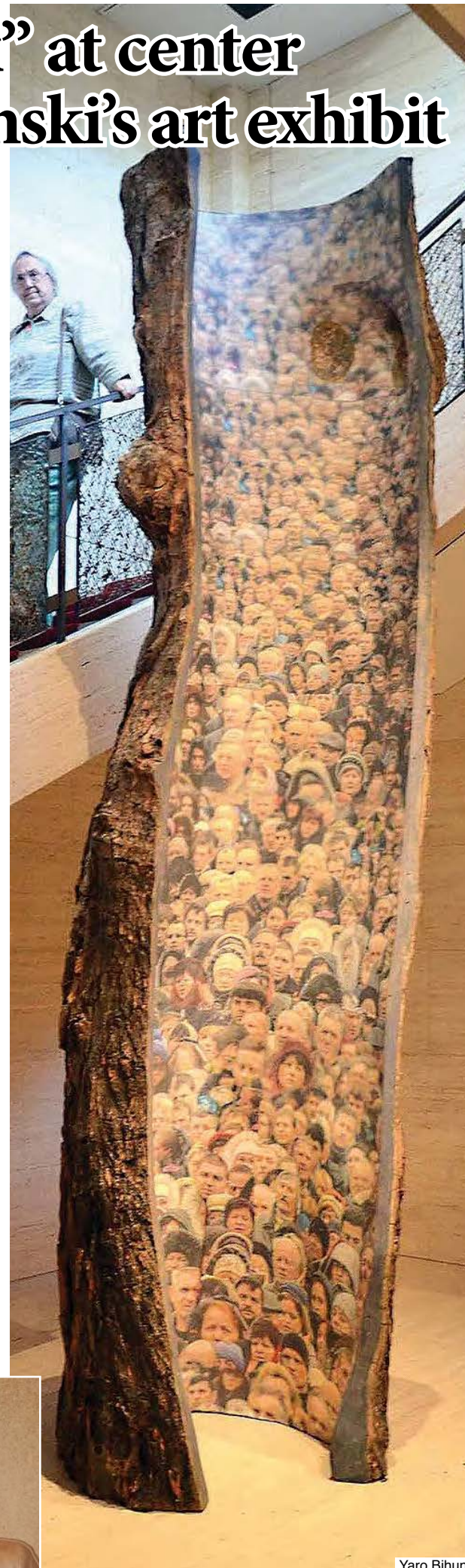
The trunk with the photos of the Maidan people draws its viewers into its interior. Ms. Brzezinski expresses compassion and anguish over present-day conditions in Ukraine, and the faces of those affected stare back from within the void. It is a moving, breathtaking piece standing close to three stories high.

"As I carve the trunk, I retain the essential outline and gesture of the tree, uncovering within its form a symbol of its history. The final iconic shapes enshrine this existential cycle, [acting] as metaphors for human experience." – Ms. Brzezinski notes.

The exhibit opening coincided with President Petro Poroshenko's visit to Washington. At the opening Ms. Brzezinski presented a lavishly illustrated book, conceived and edited by her daughter, Mika, that provides a retrospective look at her career. Her trees, Mika Brzezinski writes, represent an extended story, and she believes it is her mission to tell that story. Indeed, every sculpture is from a tree – whether a huge three-story tree trunk or pieces of bark. And each piece of sculpture tells a story.

The exhibit has received publicity all over the world as the central focus of the exhibit is the "Ukraine Trunk – 2014," which expresses the inspirational longings of the people not only in Ukraine but all over the world for a better future for their children.

The exhibit is open to the public until December 27, at the Kreeger Museum, 2401 Foxhall Road NW, Washington, DC 20007. For more information readers may call 202-337-3050, ext. 10.



Yaro Bihun

After viewing the works of such famous impressionists as Monet, Renoir, Picasso and others in the entrance level galleries of Washington's Kreeger Museum, art lovers proceed to the lower level galleries to see "The Lure of the Forest" collection of Emilie Brzezinski's modernistic wood sculptures. Descending the stairwell, they come upon her "Ukraine Trunk." The towering sculpture was inspired by a New York Times photograph by Bulen Kilic of the mass demonstrations on Kyiv's Maidan, which she incorporated into her maple tree trunk sculpture.



Artist Emilie Brzezinski is flanked by Dr. Marta Bohachevsky-Chomiak (left) and Marta Fedoriw.



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## Shevchenko Foundation presents literary perspective on World War I at Festival of Authors

by Oksana Zakdalsky

TORONTO – As the year 2014 marks the centenary of the first world war, the 35th International Festival of Authors in Toronto featured panels relating to that war. On November 2, the Shevchenko Foundation sponsored a literary perspective on World War I and the Internment of Ukrainian Canadians.

There were presentations with readings by Prof. Bohdan Kordan, author Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch and Jars Balan, co-director of the Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Center at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies in Edmonton, Alberta. The session was moderated by Prof. Alexander Motyl from Rutgers University, Department of Political Science.

Prof. Kordan, chair of the Department of Political Studies, St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan, has written two books on internment in Canada: "Enemy Aliens, Prisoners of War: Internment in Canada During the Great War" and "A Bare and Impolitic Right: Internment and Ukrainian-Canadian Redress." He has recently completed the manuscript "No Free Man: Internment and the Enemy Alien Experience in Canada, 1914-1920."

Dr. Kordan provided the broad historical context at the time of World War I and described not only the experiences of the Ukrainians interned but the strictures put on those who were branded "enemy aliens," that is, anyone who had come from Austro-Hungary to Canada, no matter if they supported its war effort or not. His reading revealed the psycho-social effects of this experience for internees, many of which ended with devastating results.

Ms. Skrypuch is the author of three works of historical fiction set during the internment: "Dance of the Banished," "Silver Threads" and "Prisoners in the Promised Land." The latter two books focused on the Canadian Ukrainian internment experience. She read from her latest book, "Dance of the Banished," which focuses on the Turkish experience as enemy aliens. As the Ottoman Empire is fighting Britain, Ali, who emigrated from Anatolia to Canada, is branded an enemy alien and thrown into an internment camp, although he is a refugee from an oppressive regime. Ali provides an accounting of life in the internment camp in Kapuskasing.



At the International Festival of Authors in Toronto (from left) are: Dr. Christine Turkewych, Jars Balan, Prof. Alexander Motyl, Marcia Forchuk Skrypuch and Prof. Bohdan Kordan.

Ms. Skrypuch, whose own Ukrainian Canadian grandfather was interned as an enemy alien, provided personal reminiscences of his account and highlighted what the long-term consequences of that experience meant in her own family's life and relationships in Canada.

The last presentation by Mr. Balan, a freelance writer, editor and translator, was introduced by Prof. Motyl as a shift from what happened to Ukrainians on Canada's home front to the Ukrainian experience on the wartime fronts in Ukraine. Mr. Balan started with a quote from the 1929 Maclean's article about Myroslav Irchan's stature as a writer in Canada, published on the eve of his return to Soviet Ukraine.

"Two books of wartime memoirs were published by Irchan in North America, 'Den Pershoho Travnia' (Molot, New York, 1923), and 'V Burianakh' (Toronto: Komitet Budovy Ukrainskoho Robitnychoho Domu, 1925), having first been serialized in the Winnipeg newspaper, Ukrainski Robitnych Visti in 1924. In Canada in 1923-1929, Irchan lectured widely before large crowds in Ukrainian Labor Temples across the country, giving first-hand accounts of

the great war and the civil war in Ukraine.

The fact that he was a veteran and had served in two armies, gave him cachet in the left wing of the community, political stature in the ULFTA and sex appeal with women – all of which played a role in his ultimate downfall. Irchan's extremely popular anti-war play, Rodyna Shchitkariv was published and widely produced in Canada and Soviet Ukraine." (Jars Balan, 2014, unpublished manuscript)

The moderator of the panel, Prof. Motyl is a writer, painter and professor. He is the author of six novels and is probably best known for his blog "Ukraine's Orange Blues" on the current situation in Ukraine which appears on the World Affairs website.

This panel was presented as part of the Literary Arts program sponsored by the Shevchenko Foundation and organized by its director, Dr. Christine Turkewych. For those present, the topic was well presented with significantly memorable information on the intergenerational and long-term effects of internment in Canada during World War I.

## Pavlo Hunka continues Art Song Project

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – "Galicians I" – the fourth issue of the Art Song Project – was premiered on November 2 at Koerner Hall in Toronto. The selection included the works of Denys Sichynsky, Stanyslav Liudkevych, Vasyl Barvinsky and Stefania Turkewich.

In 2004, bass-baritone Pavlo Hunka embarked on the Art Song Project – a documentation of all the art songs by Ukrainian composers – with the intention of creating a complete anthology of Ukrainian art songs written by 26 Ukrainian composers.

The art song is distinguished from the folk song in that the latter has simple melodies and expresses emotions in a general way. In contrast, the art song (lied, lieder in German) is a poem set to music, for a trained voice, with piano or other musical instrument accompaniment – a combination of music and literature. The art song genre was established by Franz Schubert at the beginning of the 19th century.

Thus far, the following recordings of Ukrainian composers of art songs have been issued by the Art Song Project: Kyrylo Stetsenko (2006), Mykola Lysenko (2010) and Yakiv Stepovyi (2011). When completed, the entire three-volume Galicians collection will include the works of 12 composers. Galicians II and III will be recorded in the summer of 2015.

The Galician I composers were centered in Lviv, but had different styles.

Denys Sichynsky (1865-1909) was a late romantic. During 1890s he led an unsettled life with various music-related occupations in Lviv; most of his art songs originate from this period. In 1902 he organized a Ukrainian music school in Stanyslaviv (Ivano-Frankivsk), where he settled.

Stanyslav Liudkevich (1879-1979) was a post romantic, studied in Vienna and became the director of the Lysenko

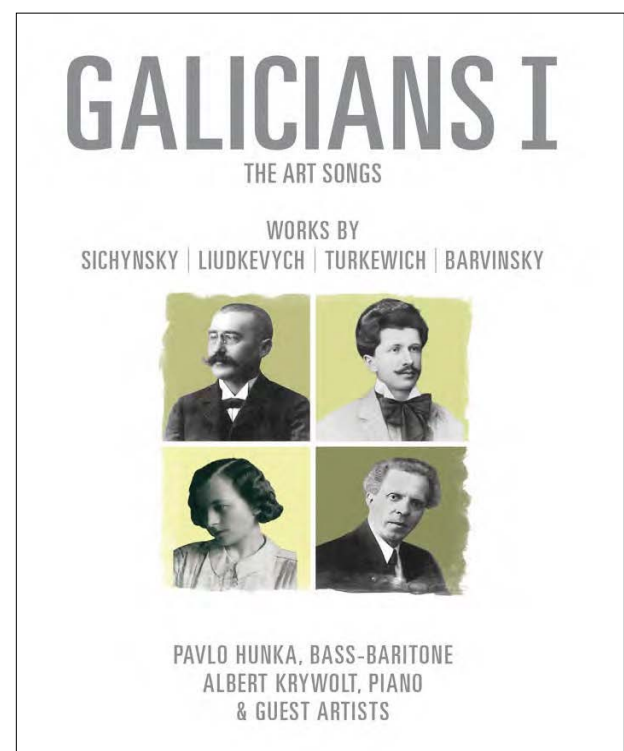
Institute in Lviv. Drafted into the Austrian army, he was captured by the Russians and spent time in Kazakhstan as a prisoner of war. He returned to Lviv and became head of the musicological commission of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and later taught at the Lviv Conservatory.

Vasyl Barvinsky (1888-1963) was an impressionist. He was exiled to a labor camp in the Mordovian ASSR and all his musical scores were publicly burned. He returned to Lviv in 1958 and tried to recreate his lost works.

Stefania Turkewich (1898-1977) was more modern than the other Galician composers. Although she also lived in Lviv, she spent time in Berlin, Vienna and Prague. In 1946 she fled the Soviets and immigrated to England with her husband. Many of her works have never been performed. Thanks to Mr. Hunka, her two daughters – Zoya Lisowsky de Nyzankowsky (who lives in Geneva) and Maria Lukianowicz (of Cambridge, England) – attended the Toronto concert.

One measure of the success of the Ukrainian Art Song project is the fact that non-Ukrainian professionals are performing the art songs in the original Ukrainian. In addition to Mr. Hunka, the Canadian opera stars who have taken part in the project include soprano Monica Whicher, mezzo-soprano Krisztina Szabo and baritone Russell Braun. The singers were accompanied by pianist Albert Krywolt and violinist Marie Bérard, concertmaster of the Canadian Opera Company orchestra. The producer of the project is Roman Hurko, who has himself composed and recorded five major pieces of sacred music. The co-producer is musicologist and choral director Melanie Turgeon.

Previous volumes of recordings have been dedicated by Pavlo Hunka to persons whom he had known and who played a role in his musical life. For example, the first collection – Kyrylo Stetsenko – was dedicated to "my beloved teacher, the late Maria Sandulescu"; the Mykola Lysenko volume is "dedicated to the dear memory of Richard Bradshaw"



The cover of the fourth issue of the Art Song Project.

But Mr. Hunka has not forgotten the reason he initiated and become involved in this project: "Galicians I" is dedicated to "the heroes of the Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity 2014 'The Heavenly Hundred' – 'Небесна Сотня' who bravely sacrificed their lives on the streets of Kyiv, protesting for freedom; and to the countless others who have fought and are fighting today to live in freedom and dignity. We hope that this celebration of Ukrainian Classical song offers strength to all, builds yet more pride in the Ukrainian nation, and displays to the whole world the cultural wealth of the Ukrainian people."

More information on the Ukrainian Art Song Project can be found on <http://www.ukrainianartsong.ca>

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

natural gas to paying clients. Russian President Vladimir Putin said in Turkey on December 1 that Moscow was shelving plans for South Stream, a multibillion-dollar project to pipe gas under the Black Sea to Bulgaria and then deeper into the EU, which relies on Russia for almost a third of the natural gas it consumes. The decision followed years of wrangling between the EU and Russia over energy supplies, which many in the West say Moscow uses as a geopolitical tool, and reflected severe

strains in ties caused by Russia's annexation of Crimea and support for separatists in eastern Ukraine. "The decision that was taken and announced by Russia yesterday [December 1] tells us that it is urgent not only to diversify the routes but also the sources of energy for the European Union," EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said in Brussels on December 2. Mr. Putin blamed the EU for the decision, saying European opposition to the project had forced the Kremlin's hand, and Russia repeated that accusation on December 2. "You can't force people to like you," Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Aleksandr Lukashevich said. "We will find

other forms to achieve our plans in connection to supplying gas to other regions. The consequence should rather be calculated by those who, as a matter of fact, drove the project to the grave." Doubts about the project deepened in June when the EU said Bulgaria had breached the bloc's rules by the way it awarded contracts for its leg of the pipeline. Mr. Putin suggested Bulgaria had ceded its sovereignty to Brussels, but European Commission Vice President Kristalina Georgieva said Russia was using this as an excuse. In Sofia, Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev suggested the South Stream project could be saved if Russia were to follow the rules. "I am pointing your attention to the fact that, if Russia agrees to comply with European law, I do not imagine anybody having objections to this project," he said. "At the same time, up until this moment, Russia has not given indications of its intention to comply with EU law." (Rikard Jozwiak of RFE/RL, with reporting by Agence France-Presse, the Associated Press and Reuters)

search of candidates for the new government not only in Ukraine, but also abroad, especially in the countries with a rich experience in overcoming systemic crises of internal and external origin." Mr. Kvitashvili noted: "I've been working over reforms in Ukraine for the last three months, but my love for this country lasts much longer. I've accepted the proposal to work in the Ukrainian government because of my deep respect for Ukraine and its people. I am proud to become a citizen of this great country with a great future." Mr. Kvitashvili has served as Georgia's minister of labor, health and social affairs. Mr. Abromavicius has solid experience in investment activity in the countries of Eastern Europe. "I am proud and honored to be granted Ukrainian citizenship. I've been married to a Ukrainian for 10 years. All three kids were born in Kyiv and feel very patriotic about this beautiful country that is experiencing challenging times. I hope my efforts and experience will help Ukraine reach a totally different level of economic development, bring transparency and openness to government's work and finally do the much needed reforms fast," he said. Ms. Jaresko, a Ukrainian American, has been working on attracting and managing foreign investments in Ukraine for more than 20 years. She enjoys the trust of the Ukrainian business community and international investors. She graduated from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government with a master's degree in public policy. "Having grown up in a Ukrainian family in the United States, and spending my adult life living and working in Ukraine, I am honored to accept Ukrainian citizenship. I am committed to Ukraine. With my heart, and with my work. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve the Ukrainian people," she said. (Ukraine Crisis Media Center)

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#### President signs decrees on citizenship

KYIV – President Petro Poroshenko on December 2 signed decrees granting Ukrainian citizenship to three foreign citizens – candidates for the posts in the new Cabinet of Ministers. Under those decrees, Ukrainian citizenship was granted to Aivaras Abromavicius of Lithuania, Aleksandre Kvitashvili of Georgia and Natalie Jaresko of the United States. Commenting on his decision, Mr. Poroshenko said: "Ukraine faces extraordinary challenges – an extremely difficult economic situation, Russian aggression, an urgent need for radical reforms and a struggle against corruption. These challenges require extraordinary decisions in public administration, which provide for the

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## Newly formed...

(Continued from page 3)

Hroisman, who will need to undergo a period of adapting to his new job after serving in exclusively administrative positions.

"He has no prospects for an independent role and will be in the shadows of the president," Mr. Oleshchuk commented. "The president likes to surround himself with such people. He picks people who won't become powerful political players in the future or potential competitors."

Mr. Hroisman will also play a key role in the president's rivalry with Mr. Yatsenyuk, Mr. Basarab said. The two are in "serious competition for influence and positions," with the heads of the parliamentary committees yet to be determined, he explained.

Another key rivalry in the government became apparent on the eve of the parliamentary majority's emergence, when National Deputy Borys Filatov announced he was leaving the Poroshenko Bloc. Though he won in a single-mandate district as an independent, he signed up to join the faction on November 26, the same day its deputies blocked him from attending a party meeting.

What makes the conflict significant is that Mr. Filatov is a close adviser to Dnipropetrovsk oligarch Igor Kolomoisky, serving as his deputy in managing the state oblast administration. (The state and district oblast administrations form the network of the Presidential Administration's representative bodies on the regional level.)

There was other evidence of a rift between Mr. Kolomoisky's team and the Presidential Administration.

Two national deputies of the Pravyi Sektor paramilitary force (that has aligned with Mr. Kolomoisky) – leader Dmytro Yarosh and spokesman Borislav Bereza – didn't vote to approve the candidacy of Mr. Hroisman (who is aligned with Mr. Poroshenko).

The Poroshenko-Kolomoisky alliance is largely credited with ensuring the success of Ukraine's military defense, particularly in the vulnerable oblasts bordering Donetsk, such as Zaporizhia and Dnipropetrovsk.

Rather than joining the coalition, those like Messrs. Filatov, Yarosh and Bereza said they will form a deputies' group, Ukrop (which means "dill" in Russian), that will

also include those like Euro-Maidan legend Volodymyr Parasiuk and Azov Battalion Commander Andrii Biletskyi.

Mr. Filatov's conflict with the Poroshenko Bloc is based on a nasty battle that Mr. Kolomoisky's state oblast administration team (which includes deputy heads Svyatoslav Oliynyk and Gennadiy Korban) is waging against local prosecutors.

On his Facebook page, Mr. Oliynyk accused them in late September of covering for drug traffickers, tax evaders and corruption that has cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars. He has also alleged that the corruption – led by Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Procurator Roman Fedyk – has been occurring with the approval of Procurator General Vitalii Yarema.

In response, the Procurator General's Office in Kyiv called Mr. Oliynyk in for questioning on November 26 in regard to his claims and alleged threats against local prosecutors; the next day Mr. Korban was questioned.

"It looks like they were settling scores," Mr. Basarab said. "Their conflict could sharpen. Unfortunately, Poroshenko hasn't risen to the occasion. He remains an oligarch who is waging battles for resources and assets, alongside Kolomoisky. The Procurator General's Office is a totally corrupt structure that feeds corruption rather than fights it, and it's logical to think Yarema is involved."

### Coalition agreement

The coalition agreement that was initiated on November 21 by the five coalition faction leaders was supposed to be signed on November 27, but that never happened. Experts dismissed it as a declarative document with no legal standing. Instead, the Cabinet is currently preparing a program of its work that will be released soon, Mr. Oleshchuk said. If approved by Parliament, it will give the Cabinet a year of immunity from a no-confidence vote.

The program will need to be far more specific than the coalition agreement, judging from the criticism of Ukraine experts who said it doesn't offer a strategy, or even priorities, for dealing with the crisis.

"Such a conservative document will never bring reform. The document does not even start with a set of goals but with a bureaucratic laundry list," Dr. Aslund wrote in mid-November. "No mention of either

Russia or the financial crisis is to be found in its 66 pages, while Brezhnevite bureaucratic expressions such as 'inventarization' and 'strengthening of the control' abound."

(A text of the initialed coalition agreement can be viewed at: [http://samopomich.ua/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Koalicyina\\_uhoda\\_parafovana\\_20.11.pdf](http://samopomich.ua/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Koalicyina_uhoda_parafovana_20.11.pdf).)

With the parliamentary majority having emerged, deputies spent the weekend determining the Cabinet of Ministers.

Mr. Yatsenyuk was fiercely advocating his interim team of Internal Affairs Minister Arsen Avakov and Justice Pavlo Petrenko remaining in place – a demand that was met in exchange for the Poroshenko Bloc gaining twice as many Cabinet posts as his party.

Three distinct forces become apparent at the December 2 parliamentary session to approve the nominees. The Opposition Bloc demonstratively abandoned the session hall, claiming afterwards it was in protest against the single vote for the Cabinet, "which has nothing to do with democracy," said National Deputy Yurii Miroschnyenko.

A second group – radical reformers that include nationalists, soldiers and civic activists – also refused to support the vote to approve the Cabinet by a single vote. They include those who said they plan to form the Ukrop group.

The measure drew 229 deputies' votes in favor, a number that did not include the Samopomich deputies, who also demonstratively left the session hall in protest. Mr. Basarab dismissed the stunt as an expression of their dissatisfaction with not having gained enough Cabinet seats. The Samopomich deputies soon afterwards returned to their seats and later voted to approve the Cabinet.

When that vote finally occurred at about 8 p.m., it was apparent that the parliamentary majority truly has a core of 288 deputies (who voted in approval of the Cabinet via the single vote), which can be considered Ukraine's third largest parliamentary group ever that is loyal to a current government.

"Only about 10 percent of the Parliament is committed to radical reforms," Mr. Basarab commented.

Earlier in the session, Parliament voted to keep Pavlo Klimkin as foreign affairs minister and Stepan Poltorak as defense minister.

Then, at the December 4 session, the coalition selected former National Security and Defense Council Secretary Andrii Parubii to be the Rada's first vice-chair and Self-Reliance National Deputy Oksana

Syroid as vice-chair.

The biggest surprise among the Cabinet nominees was the inclusion of three foreigners, all of whom have experience working in Ukraine and became citizens via a presidential decree signed the morning of the Cabinet's approval. The measure drew criticism from pro-Russian deputies and nationalists alike.

"We don't understand why 10 ministerial candidates weren't found among 300 members of the ruling coalition – and the main thing, among the 40 million people who live in Ukraine – who are citizens of Ukraine, or at a minimum ethnically Ukrainian," said the Opposition Bloc faction head, Yurii Boiko, during the session.

Yet the oligarch – who had spent his political career defending Russian people and culture in Ukraine – failed to notice that American-born Finance Minister Jaresko is, in fact, ethnically Ukrainian.

Afterwards, the segodnya.ua news site reported that the Presidential Administration had hired a recruiting agency to find foreign-born professionals to lead the finance ministry (Ms. Jaresko), economic development and trade ministry (Lithuanian Aivaras Abromavicius) and health ministry (Georgian Alexander Kvitashvili).

Mr. Abromavicius said he was personally approached by the head of the Presidential Administration, Borys Lozhkin. At a press conference following his approval, Mr. Abromavicius said his ministry will need to be overhauled.

The three ministers also acknowledged they haven't prepared their own teams to implement the reforms. And Ms. Jaresko and Mr. Kvitashvili are likely to be the target of public ire since their positions will require the most painful measures – social spending cuts in Ms. Jaresko's case and health spending cuts in Mr. Kvitashvili's case.

"Foreigners were invited to the government not only for the experience with reforms, but because trust in them is greater than in our own politicians," said Volodymyr Fesenko, the director of the Penta Center for Applied Political Research in Kyiv.

"There's the risk that the start of reforms inevitably will create conflict within the coalition, as well as in society. There will be a great deal of criticism and dissatisfaction, and that will be a very serious trial," Mr. Fesenko said. "Losses are inevitable – some ministers will either resign or be dismissed."

## Yevhen Sverstiuk...

(Continued from page 1)

Husar. The group was formed during the regime of President Viktor Yanukovich and on a number of occasions issued statements regarding the highly contentious language law, clearly rigged elections and other subjects of concern.

Mr. Sverstiuk was one of the "Shistdesiatnyky" (the 60s group), members of the intelligentsia whose cultural and political activities provided a vital form of moral opposition to the Soviet regime during the 1960s. Many, including Mr. Sverstiuk, paid for their independent thinking with periods in the Soviet labor camps.

Mr. Sverstiuk was the author of several crucial samvydav texts, and public speeches, for his example, at an evening in memory of the poet Vasyl Symonenko were major events.

One of the samvydav works, written together with Ivan Svitlychny and others, was titled "On the trial of Pohruzhal'sky" and was about an arson attack on the Kyiv Central Scientific Library in May 1964 that destroyed a large number of Ukrainian studies works and archival material. The author believed that the fire was part of a policy to destroy the Ukrainian heritage. It appears that Pohruzhal'sky, the man convicted of the crime, was in fact working for the KGB.

Mr. Sverstiuk took part in literary evenings, meetings and prohibited gatherings, such as those at the monument to Taras Shevchenko and in September 1966 in memory of the Jews massacred by the Nazis at Babyn Yar, which the Soviet regime preferred to ignore.

He was arrested on January 14, 1972, and convicted of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" to seven years' labor camp (the maximum term) and five years' exile. The charges were over articles, in particular "Sobor u Rystovanni" (Cathedral in Scaffolding), as well as public addresses to teachers in 1965, in which he had criticized ideological stereotypes and the system of lies in the work of schools.

He served his sentence in the Perm political labor camps. From the camps, he continued to defend victims of political repression, signing various appeals and letters in support of particular individuals.

He was later the president of the Ukrainian PEN Club and editor of the Christian newspaper Nasha Vira (Our Faith).

Speaking to Radio Svoboda, former Soviet-era dissident and psychiatrist Semyon Gluzman, said: "The fact is that in Ukraine there are very many professional patriots. Different sorts – conscious, mercantile, various. But there was also Sverstiuk. And now we no longer have him. This is a tragedy for the country."



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## COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

# Fund-raiser benefits Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Schools

by Marie Zarycky Cherviovskiy

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. – For many years the Immaculate Conception (IC) Schools benefit banquet organizers invited former students, successful graduates and loyal supporters to share their fond memories and to reunite with their classmates. Dr. Natalya Brezden, IC Class of 1981, was instrumental in bringing together three such alumni – Olena Kalytiak Davis, Ksenia Rychtycka Horobchenko and Natalia Iwanycky Tegler – and on Sunday, October 26, they were honored by the Ukrainian American community at St. Josaphat Church Banquet Hall.

This festive gathering commenced with a warm welcome by mistress of ceremonies Vera Andrushkiw, who taught all three honorees at IC High School. Current eighth grade students Yulia Mytryfai, Matey Jacks and Ivan Zaryckij welcomed the honored guests with warm greetings in both languages and flowers.

The Rev. Daniel Schaikovski, pastor of IC Church, superior of the Order of St. Basil the Great and administrator of IC Schools, conducted the opening prayer.

After dinner, Ms. Andrushkiw returned to the podium. She stated: "In looking back at the 1970s and 1980s our school played a very important role in not only teaching Ukrainian language, history, literature and culture, but also creating an awareness and understanding of events behind the Iron Curtain. These were the times of the dissident movement. The school hosted numer-

ous important guests, the students participated in various demonstrations, performed at various community events, staged plays and promoted Ukrainian culture by singing 'koliady' and 'hahilky' at different public venues like Somerset and Oakland malls. This was the atmosphere in which our honored guests grew up. They were outstanding students, were members of the National Honor Society and displayed their creative talents early on in the school newspaper and yearbooks. They were all active members of Plast, completed the 'matura' in 'Ridna Shkola,' participated in various community events and were recipients of the Merit Scholarship to Wayne State University and after that their paths diverged."

The first keynote address was by Ms. Tegler, who was born in Detroit and graduated as valedictorian in 1987. She graduated with a B.S. in chemistry and an M.A. in hazardous waste management, and worked in cancer research in the environmental field. She married Michael Tegler and job-related moves took them from Michigan to Florida, to Wisconsin and back to Michigan.

They have three children, Stefania, Andrew and Joseph. Her unique situation with her children led her to explore holistic medicine and study homeopathy and bioenergetics. It was her children who spurred her toward writing about her experiences and sharing her insights in her book "Swan Mothers: Discovering Our True Selves by Parenting Uniquely Magnificent Children," written under the pseudonym Nata Erehnah.



The three honorees with the mistress of ceremonies (from left): Natalia Iwanycky Tegler, MC Vera Andrushkiw, Olena Kalytiak Davis and Ksenia Rychtycka Horobchenko.

The second speaker, Ms. Horobchenko, attended Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Schools, graduating in 1981. She graduated with a B.A. in journalism in 1985 and took off to explore Europe, backpacking through 12 countries, crossing many borders both physically as well as psychologically. She worked in Ukraine as an editor for the Eastern Economist and the Ukrainian Legal Foundation for three and a half years. She has an M.A. in creative writing from Columbia College in Chicago. Her debut collection of short stories, "Crossing the Border," was selected as a finalist in the 2013 Next Generation Indie Book Awards in the category of short story-fiction.

Ms. Horobchenko's short stories and poems have appeared in numerous publications, and she was a finalist in the 2008 Blue Mesa Review Fiction Contest and a "featured poet" in the spring/summer 2011 issue of River Poets Journal. Her works have appeared in numerous publications. She resides in metro Detroit with her husband, Volodya, whom she met in Ukraine and her daughter Lina. She works as a freelance copy editor.

The last speaker was Ms. Davis, who graduated as co-valedictorian in 1981. After this rigorous and auspicious start, she graduated summa cum laude from Wayne State University in 1985, from the University of Michigan Law School in 1987, and obtained a Master of Fine Arts from Vermont College in 1995. She is the author of four collections of poetry: "The Poem She Didn't Write And Other Poems" (Copper Canyon Press, 2014); "On the Kitchen Table from Which Everything Has Been Hastily Removed" (Hollyridge Press, 2009); "Shattered Sonnets, Love Cards, and Other Off and Back

Handed Importunities" (Tin House/ Bloomsbury Press, 2003); and "And Her Soul Out Of Nothing" (University of Wisconsin Press, 1997), which was selected by Rita Dove for the Brittingham Prize in Poetry. Her poems have appeared in numerous newspapers, journals and anthologies (including The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Paris Review and The Harvard Review), have been included in seven volumes of Best American Poetry and have won a Pushcart Prize.

The recipient of a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers Award, several Rasmuson Foundation grants, as well as numerous grants from the Alaska and Juneau Arts Councils, Ms. Davis currently writes, practices law and raises her two children, Avgustyn Kalytiak-Davis, 15, and Olyana Kalytiak-Davis, 13, in Anchorage, Alaska.

The author spoke about the influence of her teachers on her life and writing, and read two of her moving poems, delighting the appreciative audience. She also shared the good news that her latest collection of poetry will be reviewed in The New Yorker magazine.

Ms. Andrushkiw concluded by thanking the honored guests for their interesting presentations and insightful remarks, which, she said, will remain with us for a very long time. She expressed the community's pride in the achievements of these young authors. She then thanked all benefactors for their generous support of Immaculate Conception Schools through the years, underscoring their understanding of the importance of a Ukrainian Catholic education.

After a joyous "Mnohaya Lita," the participants showed their support by purchasing the available books and congratulating the three young women for their success.



Students Matey Jacks, Yulia Mytryfai and Ivan Zaryckij greet the honorees.

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## COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

# Massachusetts parish celebrates 100th anniversary

by Peter T. Woloschuk

FALL RIVER, Mass. – The parishioners of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Fall River, Mass., celebrated the 100th anniversary of the formal establishment of their parish and the completion of their church building with a pontifical divine liturgy followed by a commemorative banquet on Sunday, October 5.

The main celebrant of the festive 10 a.m. liturgy was Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, eparch of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, Conn. He was assisted by the church's pastor, Msgr. Roman Golemba. As the celebrants entered the church, they were greeted by parish trustees Helen Love and Ihor Slabicky with the traditional ritual bread and salt.

During the liturgy, choir director Yuri Minyaluk of St. Michael's Parish in Woonsocket, R.I., and his wife, Lida, sang the responses. Clifford Corvalho, Grant Kokoszka and Stefan Minyaluk acted as altar servers.

In his homily, Bishop Chomnycky praised the parishioners for their continued support of their parish and their church and for their maintenance of their Ukrainian language, rituals and traditions. "For more than 100 years, successive generations of parishioners in Fall River have manifested their love of God, their Ukrainian Catholic Church and their heritage," Bishop Chomnycky pointed out. "It is now up to you to continue this proud tradition and pass on what you have received to future generations," he added.

A celebratory banquet was held following the liturgy at Magoni's Restaurant in Somerset, Mass. Former parish trustee John Kokoszka, who is also a third-generation member of the parish, was the main speaker and gave an overview of the history of the parish. At the dinner, Bishop Chomnycky was presented a gift by the parish trustees,



Parishioners with Bishop Paul Chomnycky and Msgr. Roman Golemba at the conclusion of the divine liturgy celebrating the centennial of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Fall River, Mass.

and each parishioner was given a commemorative icon of the parish's patron, St. John the Baptist.

In commenting on the celebration, parish trustee Mr. Slabicky said, "Although our parish is very small now, we are here and our centennial is a celebration of our presence, and the presence of the Ukrainian community and the Ukrainian Catholic rite in the Fall River region."

Ukrainians from the Austro-Hungarian provinces of Halychyna began arriving in Fall River in the last decade of the 19th century, attracted by work in the various mills and factories of the city. Eventually, a community began to

develop in the Globe section of the city, and in 1905 a group of men founded the Brotherhood of St. John the Baptist and formed a committee to begin the organization of a Ukrainian Catholic parish and begin the construction of a church.

At first, a Ukrainian priest would come occasionally from St. Michael's Parish in Woonsocket, and hold services in one of the three local Latin Rite parishes (St. Stanislaus, St. Anne and St. Mary). Finally, on June 21, 1914, the broth-

(Continued on page 16)

# Philadelphia UNWLA presents exhibit of Kapschutschenko sculptures

by Petrusia Sawchak

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – On October 31, a gala opening night reception was held in the Alexander Chernyk Gallery at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC) to view the sculptures of the late Peter (Petro) Kapschutschenko from the private collection of Andrew and Sophia Melnychuk of Brewster, N.Y.

More than 100 guests attended this festive exhibition presented by the Philadelphia Regional Council of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA). The exhibition was made possible mainly by a grant from the Ukrainian Community Foundation of Philadelphia. Other sponsors were the UECC, MB Financial Bank and Meest-US. The exhibition was on view through November 2.

The 40 magnificent sculptures on display were presented by Phyllis Doherty and Joan DeCosa, daughters of the Melnychuk family, who inherited the collection (which spanned the period 1972-1976) from their parents. According to Mrs. Doherty, this unique collection was commissioned by her father from Maestro Kapschutschenko in 1972, and this is only the second time it has been exhibited.

Ms. Doherty said, "This collection is very dear to us – it is a very important and moving part of our family's history." She added that this is a tremendous responsibility and that she wants to share Petro Kapschutschenko's artistry with the entire Ukrainian American community, which has long appreciated the scope of his work.

During the reception, the opening remarks were given by Halyna Keller, and the mistress of ceremonies was Olenka Karpinich, both members of UNWLA Branch 88.

The chair of the Ukrainian Community Foundation of Philadelphia, Roman Petyk,

gave a brief biographical description of the artist's life in the keynote address.

Kapschutschenko was born in Ukraine in 1915 and completed his studies in sculpture at the Dnipropetrovsk Fine Arts Institute. After World War II, he lived in Regensburg, Germany, at a displaced persons' camp for four years, where he continued his artistic endeavors among other talented people in the community.

In 1949, he immigrated with his family to Buenos Aires, where he was known by his pseudonym Pedro Enko. There he was appointed honorary member of the Universidad Libre de Humanidades de Buenos Aires for his artistry and contributions to Argentina's culture.

In 1963, Kapschutschenko settled in Philadelphia, taught at the Ukrainian Art Studio with Prof. Petro Mehyk, opened his own studio, and created the majority of his works. His most famous sculptures were the large monuments to Metropolitan Vasyl Lypkivsky and St. Olha, Kyivan princess, on the grounds of the St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church in South Bound Brook, N.J.

In 1996, Kapschutschenko returned to Ukraine to exhibit his works at the Taras Shevchenko National Museum in Kyiv and later in other museums throughout Ukraine. There are now nine museums in Ukraine that include his works in their permanent collections. Among them are the Hetman Museum in Kyiv, the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Kaniv, the National Expocenter of Ukraine, and more recently, the National University of Ostroh Academy, which added a piece in 2013.

In 2005, he was awarded the prestigious Presidential Order of Artistic Merit by President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine. He passed away in 2006 in Lawrenceville, N.J., leaving his wife, Zoia, and daughter, Dr. Ludmila Schmitt, both of whom have passed away since that time.

Personal reflections were given by Ms. Doherty and John Bruce Schmitt, the maestro's son-in-law. Mr. Schmitt described his father-in-law as a humble man, who was never arrogant about his accomplishments or abilities. He emphasized qualities of his works which make him exceptional: the form, the expressions and details on the faces that capture the precise moment and situation of the piece. He also talked about Kapschutschenko's great patriotism, devotion and love of Ukraine, which he carried with him for his whole life.

The elegant reception featured the sounds of the Ukrainian bandura performed by Halyna Bodnar and Yuliya Stupen, and Argentinean acoustic guitar music provided by Pedro Martinez and Joseph Costillo. Live art installations of Ukrainian and Spanish couples from the

Voloshky Dance Ensemble offered homage to the artist who was born in Ukraine but lived part of his life in Argentina. Completing this scene was an elaborate culinary assortment of scrumptious appetizers and sweets.

The exhibition was organized by Halyna Henhalo, president of the UNWLA Philadelphia Regional Council; co-chairs were Eryna Korchynsky and Ms. Keller, assisted by Petrusia Sawchak. Other members of the committee included Oxana Farion, Oksana Henhalo, Halyna Karaman, Iryna Konyk, Andriy Korchynsky, Daria Lissy, Mariana Mokritski, Marta Pelensky, Halyna Pupin, Nadia Rusinko, Zoriana Sohatska, Oksana Voroch and Bogdanna Yudina.

For more information about the exhibit, readers may refer to [www.Kapschutschenkosculptures.com](http://www.Kapschutschenkosculptures.com).



Committee members with John Bruce Schmitt, son-in-law of sculptor Peter Kapschutschenko (from left): Halyna Karaman, Oksana Henhalo, Co-Chair Erna Korchynsky, Andriy Korchynsky, Petrusia Sawchak, Co-Chair Halyna Keller, Mr. Schmitt, Halyna Henhalo, Oksana Voroch, Halyna Pupin and Bogdanna Yudina.

# Team Ukraine cyclists raise over \$8,500 for MS

by Damian Handzy

NEW YORK – In the chilly twilight before dawn on October 5, the 11 members of Team Ukraine joined other cyclists in the Multiple Sclerosis Society's Bike MS New York City 2014 charity ride. Seven members rode in a 30-mile loop around Manhattan, while four rode in a 100-mile course through the Holland Tunnel and up the scenic Palisades into New York state before returning over the George Washington Bridge.

Team Ukraine raised over \$8,500 in donations that the MS Society will use to provide services for those afflicted and for much-needed research toward a cure. This year's entire cycling event attracted over 5,000 cyclists who collectively raised almost \$500,000.

Two years ago, Dr. Bohdar Woroch of West Orange, N.J., inspired the first Team Ukraine MS cycling event in the City to Shore ride from Cherry Hill to Ocean City, N.J. This year, the team decided to move to the New York City ride both to attract more

tri-state cyclists and to take advantage of either a completely traffic-free ride on the West Side Highway and the FDR Drive or a challenging course through the rolling hills of the Palisades.

The team's riding jerseys, designed by artist Roman Hrab, feature the Ukrainian tryzub prominently displayed on both the front and back. Team Ukraine's riders included five minors: Sofia Handzy and Melania Wowk (both 12), Kyril Yurchuk (13), Stephen Handzy (14) and Matthew Handzy (17).

The team's co-captains, Roman Hrab and this writer, considered the appropriateness of asking Ukrainian Americans to donate to the MS Society in a year during which the diaspora has already given so much to causes in support of Ukraine. The decision was made to proceed in an attempt to demonstrate that Ukrainian Americans not only support their own but are also active and contributing members of American society. Riding in such a public event with the Ukrainian symbol on display would help send the message that Ukrainians are



Team Ukraine cyclists at the Bike MS New York City charity ride.

woven into the wider American fabric and that we care about others' needs. The results speak for themselves: raising over \$8,500 by just 11 people, five of whom are minors, puts the team on the high end of

fund-raising for this event.

This year's Team Ukraine adult riders included Mr. Hrab, Taras Ferencevych, Bohdan Skoratko, Andy Wowk, Dorian Yurchuk and Damian Handzy. The team is actively searching for new members for next year's ride, when it hopes to have over 25 Team Ukraine riders. Anyone interesting in joining Team Ukraine 2015 can contact the writer by email, [dhandzy@alumni.upenn.edu](mailto:dhandzy@alumni.upenn.edu).

## Massachusetts...

(Continued from page 15)

erhood took the unusual step of writing a letter to Bishop Soter Ortynsky of Philadelphia, saying: "We have the honor to inform your Excellency that we have completed the construction of a church and request that you send us a resident priest..."

Bishop Ortynsky dispatched Father John Zarkharko as the first pastor and a short time later dedicated the church building. Initially, the parish community numbered 199 members and it continued to grow. In 1918 the parish installed the church bell and christened it "Vasyl," and in 1924 the first women's guild, the Sisterhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was founded. Over the years, the parish prospered, built a rectory, opened a Ukrainian National Home, acquired picnic grounds in Tiverton, R. I., and initiated a second women's guild, the Sisterhood of St. John the Baptist. Two of the sons of the parish were killed fighting for the United States during World War II.

However, after the second world war, Fall River went into decline and much of its industry relocated to the South. The city's population contracted, and the number of parishioners of St. John the Baptist's also began to drop. The parish also saw acculturation and intermarriage, and some further decreases in overall numbers.

Because Fall River was not a magnet for the Fourth Wave of Ukrainian immigration, the members of the church in Fall River are the descendants of the original parishioners and now represent the third, fourth, fifth and, in some cases, even sixth generations of Ukrainian American members of the parish.

St. John's has been aided in its continuous growth and development by the establishment of a very generous foundation by lifelong parishioner Olga Hoffman, who was concerned with the future of the parish in Fall River.

Located at 339 Centre Street, St. John's warmly welcomes all to its Sunday liturgy at 8:30 a.m., which is said in Church Slavonic and English and which is followed by a coffee hour in the church hall. For further information, see St. John's Parish website at <http://www.stmichaelsri.org/STJOHN.php>.



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# Plast scouts compete in 52nd Orlykiada

by Lydia Rezie

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Fourteen teams of Plast scouts from across the U.S. and Canada gathered on November 8-9 on the grounds of the Soyuzivka Heritage Center to participate in “Orlykiada,” an annual competition aimed at challenging its participants both intellectually and creatively. Orlykiada is sponsored and organized by the Plast fraternity Orlykivtsi, and for the second consecutive year the organizers were joined by the Plast sorority Verkhovynky, who helped run the event.

This year’s theme, “Break Your Chains: The Rise of the Ukrainian Nation,” focused on the development of Ukrainian national identity over the last two centuries, culminating in the Euro-Maidan and Ukraine’s current battle to forge a new state independent of Russian influence. The theme’s name was borrowed from Taras Shevchenko’s poem “Testament,” reflecting Shevchenko’s profound and continued influence on Ukrainian identity.



Natalka Halatyn



Representatives of the teams report their readiness for the opening ceremony.

The boys’ team from Toronto and the co-ed team from Chicago compete in the academic bowl.

Current events in Ukraine weighed heavily on the participants, and the opening ceremony concluded with a moment of silence in memory of the three Plast members who have died in combat during the anti-terrorist operation in eastern Ukraine.

The opening ceremony was followed by three team competitions: an academic bowl, theatrical performances and exhibits. While the academic bowl focused solely on the participants’ knowledge of the theme, the performances and exhibits also relied on creativity to capture the attention of judges. Performances were punctuated by artistry, imagination and even humor, while the exhibits turned the venue into a veritable museum.

In addition to the team competitions, individuals also competed for the title of “hetmanych” and “hetmanivna,” awarded to Orlykiada’s most outstanding male and female scout, respectively. Candidates were judged based on their activity and leadership roles in Plast and the broader Ukrainian community; their ability to converse with judges

(Continued on page 19)

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## Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

### Zajac a dynamic Devil

There have been several dynamic duos in the history of the New Jersey Devils: Gomez and Mogilny, Arnott and Elias, Zajac and Parise. Jaromir Jagr and Travis Zajac have worked well together since coach Peter DeBoer paired them in October 2013. Jagr, it is safe to say, exceeded expectations in his first season with the Devils. He has been part of numerous dynamic duos over his storied career, teaming up with Mario Lemieux, Ron Francis and Adam Oates, so it was no surprise he fit in so well with the Ukrainian Zajac. The two displayed consistency throughout the 2013-2014 season.

Entering his ninth NHL season, the 29-year-old Zajac has been the setup man for Patrik Elias, Zach Parise and Ilya Kovalchuk prior to Jagr entering the scene. Although his point totals have dropped in recent years, he contributes more in other ways, including defensive duty against the opponent's top line, winning face-offs and performing as a key penalty killer.

Zajac has been soaking up all of the knowledge and experience he can from Jagr. The two sit side-by-side in the locker room and Zajac frequently joins No. 68 in his post-game workouts. He correctly figures there are reasons why Jagr has been so very successful for so long, thus accepting any tips he receives from the future Hall of Famer.

Both are strong on the puck, hanging on to it until there is a play to make; they do not dump the puck just to get rid of it. Both read the game well, both are aggressive on the forecheck, usually on the same page, getting the pucks back into the opponent's end.

The Devils are hoping the top line of Jagr, Zajac and a third member have continued success in the 2014-2015 campaign.

### Boychuk a salary cap casualty

In the running for a playoff spot in 2014-2015, the New York Islanders bolstered their chances at the end of training camp when they acquired defenseman Johnny Boychuk and Nick Leddy. The two skated together their first day of practice (October 6), a defense pairing likely to stay together heading into the new season. The two will learn new systems, get adjusted to new surroundings and get to know each other real fast.

Boychuk will be counted on to have a bigger role on the Island than what it was in Boston. He is expected to become an unrestricted free agent next summer and might not be re-signed. For at least one season his focus will be on helping the Islanders get back to the playoffs and himself a lucrative new contract.

The Islanders gave up second-round selections in the 2015 and 2016 NHL drafts plus a conditional third-round pick. Boychuk, 30, set career highs last season in goals (5), assists (18), points (23) and plus/minus (+31). It was his 10th professional season and sixth with the Bruins.

In 321 career NHL games with Boston and Colorado, Boychuk has 75 points (19 goals). In 79 career playoff games he has scored 27 points (13 goals). Boychuk won the American Hockey League's Eddie Shore Award in 2009, given to the league's outstanding defenseman. He was selected in the second round (61st overall) of the 2002 NHL Entry Draft by the Colorado Avalanche.

It took him some time and lots of hard work, but Johnny "Rocket" finally carved a place for himself in the NHL. He will forever be grateful to the Bruins for the opportunity they gave him after the Avs gave up on him way too soon.

### Ukrainian player rankings

Every year hockey periodicals publish lists of the NHL's top players. The Hockey News selected Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby as the best player in the world going into the current season. Their criteria factor in past achievements and career potential, but for the most part ask which current player would be the choice if one was starting a new franchise today.

In lieu of a preview of the 2014-2015 NHL season, The Weekly has decided to rate our Ukrainian pro hockey stars in a first-ever ranking. We're limiting ourselves to 14 players who started the new season skating in NHL rinks. Minor leaguers and prospects can look forward to being included in future rankings. Here we go:

1. Travis Zajac, N.J. Devils: He's counted on for offense, defense and leadership these days in New Jersey.

2. Joffrey Lupul, Toronto Maple Leafs: If he avoids injuries, this winger is capable of 30 goals and 60+ points on club's second line.

3. Bryce Salvador, N.J. Devils: His age is catching up to him, but he's the captain and, when not hurt, a top-four defender.

4. Johnny Boychuk, N.Y. Islanders: Finally given a chance at a full-time job, he made the most of his opportunity. He owns a lethal shot and will mentor young Isles.

5. Tyler Bozak, Toronto Maple Leafs: He centers the top line with Kessel and van Riemsdyk – he surprised with 49 points in 58 games last year.

6. Lee Stempniak, N.Y. Rangers: His scoring skills are still in demand, although these days he only rates one-year deals; should help new squad on power play.

7. Kyle Brodziak, Minnesota Wild: He knows his role: third line, a checking center who occasionally will chip with a point.

8. Daniel Winnik, Toronto Maple Leafs: Toronto acquired this wily, gritty center late in the summer to bolster its bottom six forward unit and penalty killing.

9. Jordin Tootoo, N.J. Devils: He makes the team on a try-out – his feisty style of play adds toughness to New Jersey's skilled forward roster. He's happy to be out of Detroit.

10. Dave Schlemko, Phoenix Coyotes: This journeyman defenseman has played his way onto the team's third pairing on the blue line.

11. Matt Halischuk, Winnipeg Jets: He has a 50-50 chance at sticking with Winnipeg; another Ukrainian with bad injury luck in recent years.

12. Tyson Strachan, Buffalo Sabres: The ultimate journeyman defender is either the last guy in Buffalo or the top guy in Rochester (AHL).

13. Zach Boychuk, Carolina Hurricanes: He's trying to take advantage of a second life with Carolina; a former first-round pick and one-time top AHL prospect could finally make it.

14. Brandon Kozun, Toronto Maple Leafs: He made the final cut out of training camp after toiling in the minors for four seasons. He's a vertically challenged speedster who adds zip to Toronto's line-up.

Ukrainian Utterings: Jordin Tootoo spent about 10 days in early October looking for a house in New Jersey after earning a one-year contract with the Devils. He previously played for the Nashville Predators and Detroit Red Wings, the latter club buying out his contract, claiming it had too many

right wingers. Unlike veteran Ruslan Fedotenko, Tootoo earned his deal as a non-roster invitee to training camp...

Lee Stempniak came to the N.Y. Rangers with close-up knowledge after skating for the Pittsburgh Penguins and being eliminated in a seven-game playoff series last June. Stempniak signed with the Blueshirts on July 19 after playing 21 regular season games and 13 playoff games with Pittsburgh following a trade from the Calgary Flames. The N.Y. Rangers are his sixth NHL team. The 31-year-old has lots of friends from college (Dartmouth) living in the New York area and has always loved playing in New York. Attacking off the rush and speed are the keys to his game – he's scored 50 goals and 191 assists in 637 NHL games...

Toronto signed Daniel Winnik to a one-year contract late this past summer. He played in 76 games for the Anaheim Ducks in 2013-2014, notching career highs in assists (24) and points (30) while compiling a plus-six rating. The 6-2, 207-pound center has amassed 150 career NHL points and 226 PIM's in 490 games with four NHL clubs...

Buffalo added defensive depth by signing Tyson Strachan to a one-year deal. He appeared in 18 games with the Washington Capitals in 2013-2014, spending most of the year in Hershey (AHL), dressing in 60 games, tallying 19 points with 56 PIM's and a plus-13 rating. Strachan has played in 138 NHL games in parts of six seasons with three organizations. Originally drafted by the Carolina Hurricanes in 2003, Strachan has played in parts of eight AHL seasons with four clubs, compiling 87 points and 326 penalty minutes in 276 regular season games. He began 2014-2015 with the big club in Buffalo... After spending the last four seasons in the AHL, Brandon Kozun made the cut and started the current campaign with the Toronto Maple Leafs, giving the club a fourth Ukrainian skater (Bozak, Lupul and Winnik being the other three). Kozun displayed great speed, a solid work ethic and scoring potential during Leafs training camp. The 24-year-old registered 17 goals and 46 points with the AHL's Toronto Marlies last season...

Ihor Stelmach may be reached at [iman@sfgsports.com](mailto:iman@sfgsports.com).

## Reflections...

(Continued from page 8)

**equality. So first we have to save Ukraine as a sovereign nation, and then we can talk about making movies, right. If Ukraine loses the war that Russia has waged against it, there will be no Ukrainian cinema, so how do we reconcile these two issues?**

There's nothing to reconcile. Making Ukrainian films is a powerful way of mobilizing the Ukrainian nation all across the board. Appealing to things Ukrainian as infinitely superior as values over the values of the aggressor is a powerful mobilizing force. Even Stalin in his day of war against the Nazis, knowing the incredible power of nationalism, allowed for nationalist expression in film, allowing such of his court filmmakers as Ihor Savchenko to make "Bohdan Khmelnytskyi," allowing Mikheil Chiaureli to make a film that appeared to Georgian nationalism called "Giorgi Saakadze." But now, to deny Ukrainians – that is not simply stupid, but it's suicidal. There is no conflict whatsoever between

making films and surviving as a nation. In fact one thing helps the other, never mind feminism!

**In your opinion, what is the most exciting thing happening in Ukraine today? In any sphere, cinematic or otherwise?**

Well, I belong to the definite majority of people who treat what's going on in Ukraine as singularly a war of aggression; therefore, it's difficult to find anything exciting about war. Ignoring that, what is exciting is the long overdue process of crystallization and consolidation of the national identity in Ukraine. There is a kind of emerging national unity that we haven't had, at least we hadn't had the feeling of it before. Maybe it was there, but it took this war and this atrocious behavior of the formal imperial power who refuses to become former but wants to be future and present imperial power to give Ukraine a sense of purpose as a nation, a sense of solidarity as a nation, a sense of shared systems of value as a nation. And for me – though I would object to the word "exciting" given the war – had there been no war, that would be very exciting.

## Ukrainian Donbas...

(Continued from page 2)

tried to reverse by political, economic and military pressure that escalated into an invasion. Now, Russian foreign and defense policies seem to be at a dead end, which is highly dangerous, since it leaves little room for any meaningful negotiated outcomes. Moscow claims it wants a sustainable ceasefire in Donbas, but its open-ended support of the rebels turns the Minsk agreements into nonsense.

Top Moscow-based Western diplomats

told Jamestown that Russian officials are constantly trying to place a map on the negotiation table to carve up Ukraine and the rest of Eastern Europe into "spheres of interests," Molotov-Ribbentrop style. Moscow seems to be sincerely demanding an everlasting "non-NATO" pledge for Ukraine, which no one can legally provide – effectively ruling out the possibility of reaching a comprehensive, negotiated solution of the Ukrainian crisis.

The article above is reprinted from *Eurasia Daily Monitor* with permission from its publisher, the *Jamestown Foundation*, [www.jamestown.org](http://www.jamestown.org).

## Does modernization...

(Continued from page 7)

Muscovy, as it turned Westward and became modern Russia. Something analogous could happen today. As civil society activist and historian Vladimir Kara-Murza commented last year, both Russia and Ukraine are European countries, and the future of both belongs in Europe (<http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/blog/vladimir-kara-murza>).

mir-kara-murza/both-ukraine-and-russia-belong-europe). There is no reason – again, in better circumstances – why Ukraine could not once more lead the process of modernization, and why Russia – given more sober and humble rulers – could not follow. But today, modernization can take a new form, moving beyond Westernization to models better suited to indigenous culture and tradition. This would mean not a renunciation of Europe, but its enrichment and redefinition.

# OUT & ABOUT

- Through January 25, 2015 Chicago Children's exhibit, "From Past to Present: Ethnic Heritage Through the Eyes of My Elders," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 312-421-8020
- December 9 New York Holodomor commemorative event, Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, United Nations Headquarters, pmukrainersvp@gmail.com or 212-759-7003 ext.115 (must RSVP by December 7)
- December 10 New York Performance by jazz pianist John Stetch, "Off with the cuffs," Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660
- December 10 New York Discussion, "Soviet Symbols After the Soviets," City University of New York, John Jay College, <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/soviet-symbols-after-the-soviets-tickets-14489641909>
- December 11 New York Film screening, "The Guide," with director Oles Sanin and Anton Sviatoslav Greene, Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University, Harriman Institute at Columbia University, The Ukrainian Museum, [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org) or 212-228-0110
- December 11 Ottawa Christmas dinner and presentation of awards, Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Ottawa, Marconi Center, Cornell.Popyk@gmail.com or 613-851-9171
- December 11 Annandale-on-Hudson, NY Performance, "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians," featuring Yara Arts Group and the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia, Bard College, msonevyt@bard.edu or 845-752-2405
- December 12 New York Concert featuring classical works performed by violinist Solomia Soroka and pianist Arthur Greene, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org)
- December 12 Chicago Ukrainian Festivities on the Eve of St. Andrew, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 312-421-8020 or [curator@ukrainiannationalmuseum.org](mailto:curator@ukrainiannationalmuseum.org)
- December 13 New York Yalynka Christmas celebration, Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, Ukrainian Institute of America, [www.uesa.org](http://www.uesa.org)
- December 13 Warren, MI Concert, "A Bandura Christmas," Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 734-953-0305 or [www.bandura.org](http://www.bandura.org)
- December 13 Amsterdam, NY Christmas Bazaar, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 518-842-8731
- December 13 New York Lecture by Natalia Laas, "Politics Serving Science The Harvard 1950s Project to Study the National Question of the Soviet Union," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
- December 13 Philadelphia Performance, "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians," featuring the Yara Arts Group and the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia, Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, 215-776-1004
- December 13-14 New York Family activity for making Ukrainian Christmas tree ornaments, The Ukrainian Museum, [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org) or 212-228-0110
- December 13-14 Silver Spring, MD Christmas Bazaar, Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 301-717-2537
- December 14 Washington Performance, "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians," featuring the Yara Arts Group and the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia, Ukrainian National Catholic Shrine of the Holy Family, [ukelivingsong@gmail.com](mailto:ukelivingsong@gmail.com) or [www.ucns-holyfamily.org](http://www.ucns-holyfamily.org)

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).

## Ukrainian Plast...

(Continued from page 17)

on topics in Ukrainian history, culture and current events; and how their attitudes and behavior reflect the ideals of Plast.

After a rigorous weekend of interviews, quizzes and stage performances, Andriy Stasiuk of the Plast branch of Newark, N.J., was named hetmanyh, and Dorota Andrusiak of Montreal was named hetmanivna.

The newly named hetmanyh and hetmanivna immediately assumed their roles as honorary hosts of the closing ceremony, during which the results of the competition were announced, beginning with the winners in each of the three categories.

The winner of the academic bowl was the girls' team from Passaic, N.J.; first place for theatrical performances was awarded to the co-ed team from Chicago; and first place for exhibits was awarded to the girls' team from Toronto.

Excitement mounted as the overall results were announced, beginning with fifth place. The girls' team from Toronto came in fifth; the girls' team from Newark took fourth; the co-ed team from Chicago came in third; and the boys' team from Newark took second. The first-place winner of this year's Orlykiada was the girls' team representing Passaic.

The victors of the 52nd Orlykiada could not conceal their excitement at the outcome, which, in their view, was no accident: "Our kurin [troop] competes in Orlykiada every year, but this year, we worked harder than ever - we came to win!" exclaimed Lena Wanio from the Passaic team. The effort paid off, and their mission was triumphantly accomplished.

Participants were invited to return for next year's competition, celebrating the music of Volodymyr Ivasiuk and his influence on the development of contemporary Ukrainian music.



Natalka Halatyn

Andriy Stasiuk and Dorota Andrusiak are named hetmanyh and hetmanivna, respectively, of the 52nd Orlykiada.

## Chornomorski Khvyli enjoy reunion at St. Mary's Villa in Sloatsburg, N.Y.



SLOATSBURG, N.Y. – Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization's senior sorority of Chornomorski Khvyli welcomed this year's autumn equinox over the weekend of September 20-21 with a reunion and conference here on the grounds of the beautiful estate of the Sisters-Servants of Mary Immaculate. At St. Mary's Villa, the Khvyli held an official session during which members presented reports on their recent activities and resolved to continue their work in promoting Plast ideals and sea scouting rituals and traditions, particularly among younger members of the organization. A new leadership was elected for the next two years, headed by Zirka Klufas as "kurinna." In the evening, sorority members enjoyed an informal get-together, with everyone recounting their adventures and experiences. A spontaneous three-part choir came into being when all sang beloved Plast songs, as well as Ukrainian folk and contemporary songs. See above are the Chornomorski Khvyli with their sorority flag.

– Zirka Klufas

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

### Saturday, December 13

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture "Politics Serving Science: The Harvard 1950s Project to Study the National Question in the Soviet Union" by Prof. Natalia Laas. Prof. Laas is a candidate of historical sciences, a research fellow at the National Academy of Science in Ukraine and the 2014-2015 Carnegie Fellow at Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. The 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.

**PHILADELPHIA:** Yara Arts Group presents "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians" featuring the Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia Ivan and Mykola Zelenchuk, with "troista" musicians Mykola Ilyuk, Vasyl Tymchuk and Ostap Kostyuk. They will be joined by the Accolada Chamber Choir. The program is at 7:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, 800 N. 23rd St. Tickets: \$25; \$20 for seniors, students and children. For information call 215-776-1004.

### Sunday, December 14

**CHICAGO:** The Chicago Business and Professional Group invites members and the community to a presentation by Dr. Roman Cybriwsky on his new book "Kyiv, Ukraine: The City of Domes and Demons" - an anthropological and sociological study of urban change from socialism to a particularly rapacious market economy that helped fuel the civic revolt on Maidan. Dr. Cybriwsky is professor of geography and urban studies at Temple University and former Fulbright Scholar at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. The presentation will be held at 1 p.m. at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 2320 W. Chicago Ave. Admission: \$10. For additional information contact chicagogroup@comcast.net.

**WASHINGTON:** Yara Arts Group presents "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians" featuring the Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia

Ivan and Mykola Zelenchuk, with "troista" musicians Mykola Ilyuk, Vasyl Tymchuk and Ostap Kostyuk. They will be joined by the SPIV-Zhyttia vocal ensemble, as well as bandurist Julian Kytasty. The program is at 2:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian National Catholic Shrine of the Holy Family, 4250 Harewood Road NE. Tickets: \$25; \$15 for seniors and students. For information e-mail ukelivingsong@gmail.com.

### Saturday, December 20

**WASHINGTON:** Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies will host a Mykolai show and holiday bazaar. Students will present a Mykolai show at noon. Sviaty Mykolai (St. Nicholas) will then meet with each grade/age group (non-students welcome). The Heavenly Office will be open at 9:15-11:45 a.m.; only one item per child (\$2 fee), labeled (child's name, grade/age). The bazaar/bake sale at 9:30 a.m. to noon will feature a variety of home-baked treats and holiday foods, as well as books and gift items. Location: Westland Middle School, 5511 Massachusetts Ave., Bethesda, MD 20816. For further information visit ukrainianschoolbazaar.weebly.com or contact Lada Onyshkevych, lada2@verizon.net or 410-730-8108.

### Saturday-Sunday, December 27-28

**NEW YORK:** Yara's new theater piece

"Winter Light" with koliada and vertep featuring Koliadnyky, Yara artists and special guests. The program is on Saturday at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. La MaMa Experimental Theater is located at 66 E. Fourth St. Admission is \$25; \$20 for seniors, students and children. Tickets may be purchased by calling 212-475-7710 or at www.lamama.org.

### Wednesday, December 31

**PERTH AMBOY, N.J.:** A New Year's Eve dance (zabava) will be held by Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church, 380 Meredith St., Perth Amboy, N.J., beginning at 8 p.m. Music will be by Oberehy. Tickets are \$80 per person; children (age 5-12), \$40. (Tickets purchased after December 25 will be \$90). A TV will be raffled off as a door prize. Menu will include: main course - stuffed salmon, French-style pork, roasted chicken, chicken with barbeque sauce, chicken loaf, meatloaf, stuffed cabbage, pyrohy, roasted potatoes, cheese blintzes, puffs with meat, mushroom gravy, borshch; European salads - salad olivier, cold feet (studynets), "shuba," carrot salad with raisins, cold cuts, pickled cucumbers and tomatoes; desserts - cakes, fresh fruit and champagne. For tickets call 732-826-0767 or 202-368-2408. All seats reserved; no tickets will be sold at the door. For information see www.assumptioncatholicchurch.net.

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Items must be **no more than 100 words** long.

Preview items must be received **no later than one week before the desired date of publication**. Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published.

Information should be sent to [preview@ukrweekly.com](mailto:preview@ukrweekly.com). When e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments - simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message. Preview items and payments may be mailed to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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"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*

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