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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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

Vol. LXXXIII

No. 11

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2015

\$2.00

NEWS ANALYSIS: The plot to seize Crimea

by Robert Coalson
RFE/RL

In early 2014, the world was caught off guard by one event after another in a crisis that culminated with Russia's annexation of the Ukrainian Black Sea peninsula of Crimea.

Moscow also claimed to be caught up in events beyond its control.

On March 13, just eight days before the annexation, Russian President Vladimir Putin told a meeting in Moscow that "we cannot ignore the situation evolving around Ukraine, Crimea."

"I want to emphasize that this crisis is not of our making," Mr. Putin said. "Nevertheless, one way or another we are being dragged into it." A bit earlier, on March 4, Mr. Putin told journalists that the idea of annexing Crimea "is not being considered."

But a year later, new revelations, including disclosures from Mr. Putin himself, are reshaping this part of the Kremlin's Crimea narrative and other key aspects as well.

A new documentary that is to be aired by Russian state television in the coming days is being teased with clips of Mr. Putin claiming he made the decision to annex Crimea in the early morning hours of February 23.

"When we were parting, I told all my colleagues, 'we are forced to begin the work to

bring Crimea back into Russia,'" a confident-looking Mr. Putin says in the promotional clip.

Saying "begin the work," Mr. Putin seems to be implying that no preparation had been made for this contingency. However, other evidence suggests that detailed plans had been drawn up and that Mr. Putin's order to "begin the work" more likely meant to start the process of implementing those plans.

Russian security analyst Andrei Soldatov told The Moscow Times in March 2014: "The Kremlin always has several plans on various issues that may not be in use for years. But then when some trigger appears, Putin asks to put one of the plans into action. So the Crimea operation may have been prepared long ago, but the decision on it was made very quickly."

The medals that the Russian military awarded to service personnel – which Mr. Putin initially denied were involved in the Crimea annexation at all – says the operation "for the return of Crimea" began on February 20, 2014. Putin advisor Vladislav Surkov was in Crimea the week of February 14, and the first pro-Russian demonstrations on the peninsula materialized on February 21.

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Ukrainian American activists demand implementation of Freedom Support Act



Recently elected Rep. Ryan Costello (fourth from left), Republican of Pennsylvania, meets with Ukrainian American constituents from his district in Pennsylvania.

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – Since President Barack Obama signed the Ukraine Freedom Support Act (UFSA) into law on December 18, 2014, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and its Washington public affairs bureau, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), have been monitoring the imple-

mentation of the law. On March 4, UNIS organized a Ukrainian Day advocacy event on Capitol Hill to express concerns about the negligible implementation of the law, as well as to establish better contacts with Ukrainian Americans' elected representatives in Washington.

Nearly 50 community activists from

(Continued on page 9)

Refugees, now in Kramatorsk, recall their experiences in war-torn east

by Yana Sedova

KRAMATORSK, Ukraine – Nikita Suprun is a lucky boy, having survived three months of artillery fire that rained down upon his hometown of Artemivsk in the Donetsk region in the autumn.

At the same time, he is burdened with having seen more tragedy at the age of 8 than most people do in their entire lives. He saw how his school was destroyed before he himself was wounded by shrapnel and shell-shocked. Doctors were pessimistic, expecting that he would have to learn to walk normally again.

At a refugee camp in Kramatorsk (a second city that was freed from the separatists in the northern Donetsk region), there was nothing unusual in Nikita's behavior. He is more interested in the packages of food brought to the camp from Kyiv than in recalling the details of that awful day he was wounded.

About 100 bright bottles of yogurt, more than 30 kilos of chicken and 1,000 eggs suddenly placed on the kitchen table also attract the undivided attention of the other kids. They have plenty of cereal and canned food, thanks to the generosity of local



At a Kramatorsk shelter, Donbas war refugees – mostly women and children – gather at a table with donated food.

Pentecostal Christians, but rarely do they see milk or meat.

In the weeks leading up to the February 12 Minsk 2 ceasefire, war in the Donbas region escalated to unprecedented levels, resulting in a fresh wave of refugees pour-

ing into the protected cities and towns of the northern Donetsk region, which is still under Ukrainian control.

(The total number of refugees is estimated at 1.04 million since the start of the Donbas war in April, according to the

Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, an international NGO.)

Their harrowing stories of violence, proven by their bodies damaged by armed attacks or rape, make it all the more apparent that a full-scale war is under way, which is not tangibly felt in the relatively peaceful streets of Ukraine's capital.

The Kramatorsk shelter is a two-story, Soviet-era building that belongs to Pentecostals, who have taken upon themselves the sometimes risky task of evacuating refugees from the hot spots of the war zone. Their entire building is now being transformed into a refugee camp.

On a late January afternoon, there are 45 people in the camp, mostly women with kids. The youngest is only 7 weeks old, while the eldest is 92, a blind and deaf man. Both are unaware of what is going on around them.

The children have already grown accustomed to their situation, and resemble little Spartans who rarely show any sorrow. But their mothers cry as they share their accounts of a world turned upside-down. Yana Suprun, Nikita's mother, lifts his shirt

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ANALYSIS

Free rein of special services makes Russia ungovernable

by Pavel K. Baev
Eurasia Daily Monitor

It took a week for the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) to produce a pair of plausible suspects in the shocking murder of Boris Nemtsov on February 28 (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, March 2). On March 7, FSB Director Aleksandr Bortnikov reported to President Vladimir Putin that two men implicated in the crime were under arrest; on the following day, another man killed himself with a hand grenade in Grozny (Newsru.com, March 7). The authoritative statement put an end to the flurry of wild speculations in the mainstream media, which had been eager to mix rumors about Mr. Nemtsov's private life with all sorts of conspiracy theories. Rather, the official announcement focused attention on the "Caucasian connection," since the names of the suspects – Zaur Dadayev and Anzor Gubashev – appeared distinctly Chechen (Rbc.ru, March 3).

This breakthrough in the completely non-transparent investigation fit well with the instant solution found by Chechnya's despotic ruler Ramzan Kadyrov, who accused Western special services of organizing the murder in order to provoke internal conflict in Russia (Gazeta.ru, February 28). It remains only to connect the murder suspects to the Chechen rebels or the wider North Caucasus insurgency for this tragedy to morph into a story perfectly catered to the needs of the Russian propaganda machine.

Too many loose ends in this crime persist, however, for one to have any confidence in the official version (Moskovsky Komsomolets, March 5). Arguably, the area around the Kremlin is too tightly controlled and Mr. Nemtsov was too closely followed by the FSB to believe that a gang of freelancers would dare to stage such a demonstrative execution (Moscow Echo, March 7). Video evidence showing numerous people and cars at the crime scene also conflicts with the story about a single killer making a fast hit and escaping in a car registered in Ingushetia (Moscow Echo, March 6).

It was Alexei Navalny, an anti-corruption blogger and outspoken leader of the democratic opposition, who first concluded that the murder was nothing other than an operation by the special services (Rbc.ru, March 3). On March 6, he was released from his two-week-long detention and told a small crowd of journalists that the act of terror that was the Nemtsov murder would not scare the opposition from doing its work (Novaya Gazeta, March 6).

The conclusion about a professionally executed special operation is logical and consistent with the proposition that the executioners were too arrogant and confident in their status as "untouchables" to prepare in advance a workable cover story (Slon.ru, March 5). It assumes, however, that the FSB is a well-functioning and disciplined hierarchy, which translates the wishes expressed by the supreme leader into fool-proof plans and acts on them unerringly (Forbes.ru, March 4). In reality, corruption has spread so deep inside this super-structure that it has mutated into a loose constellation of predatory factions pursuing their own and often violent agendas. Illustratively, the Federal Anti-Narcotics Service was the target of several recent hostile takeover attempts; and it is only by directly soliciting help from President Putin that its chief, Viktor Ivanov, has managed to fend off such challenges (RBC.ru, March 7). Often, the real agendas of maverick siloviki (security services personnel) are concealed in Russia by building up a case of "treason" – hence, investigations against "NATO spies" within the security services are already quickly proliferating (Newsru.com, March 7).

The Ukraine crisis has produced a plethora of new opportunities for Russian special services, and many of them are enthusiastically waging their own "mini-hybrid wars" with great zeal and scant attention to political guidelines. Multiple networks have arisen inside Russia to recruit "volunteers" for the Moscow-backed rebel forces in eastern Ukraine. Though, on the whole, these

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WINDOW ON EURASIA

No thinking person can believe Chechens killed Nemtsov, says Chechen activist

by Paul Goble

Akhmed Zakayev, who was a close aide to Dzhokhar Dudayev and who leads the anti-Moscow Chechens from London, says that Moscow's suggestion that Chechens were responsible for the murder of Russian opposition figure Boris Nemtsov last week is "pure propaganda which has nothing in common with reality."

Any thinking person can see that this is only the latest example of Vladimir Putin's long-standing demonization of the Chechens who fought for their own independence and who are now fighting for that of Ukraine, actions Mr. Putin couldn't forgive or fail to exploit in his propaganda exercises (ru.krymr.com/content/article/26890173.html).

There is even evidence that some close to the Kremlin are ashamed by the absurdity and brazenness of this action: Kremlin-controlled television channels have not shown a single report about Mr. Putin presenting a state award to his Chechen,

Ramzan Kadyrov, despite their penchant for boosting everything the Kremlin leader does (echo.msk.ru/news/1508588-echo.html).

Perhaps some Kremlin propagandists concluded that it was just too much to show Mr. Putin honoring the Chechen head, who had called into question the very idea that there was "a Chechen link" in the Nemtsov case, at the very same time that the Russian government was pedaling the idea that Chechens were the shooters.

But they shouldn't have been so worried. Many of the reliable supporters of the Kremlin and indeed many others could be counted on to ignore such self-evident contradictions just as they have so many other Putin duplicities and to swallow the increasingly Orwellian version of reality now on offer in Moscow.

Paul Goble is a long-time specialist on ethnic and religious questions in Eurasia. The article above is reprinted with permission from his blog called "Window on Eurasia" (<http://windowoneurasia2.blogspot.com/>).

NEWSBRIEFS

NATO says Russia 'still in Ukraine'

MONS, Belgium – NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has said that "Russia is still in Ukraine" and urged Moscow to withdraw all its forces and to end its support for separatists in eastern Ukraine. Mr. Stoltenberg said on March 11 that NATO "has seen and still sees a strong Russian presence and strong support for separatist forces in eastern Ukraine." U.S. General Philip Breedlove, the supreme allied commander of NATO troops, said at the same press conference in Mons, Belgium, that the alliance has "seen some success" with a ceasefire deal agreed in Minsk last month that has greatly reduced fighting and led to the withdrawal of some heavy weapons. But Gen. Breedlove said it was "difficult to know" where the heavy weapons moved from the front line have been taken. He added that the border between Russia and much of eastern Ukraine was wide open, making it difficult to monitor and hard to determine how many Russian troops are in Ukraine. Gen. Breedlove said it was imperative that monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) be given full access and freedom of movement in eastern Ukraine to verify the withdrawal of heavy weapons. Mr. Stoltenberg said that the "monitoring of the ceasefire is in no way sufficient today." (RFE/RL)

U.S.: More tanks cross into Ukraine

WASHINGTON – The United States says Russia has transferred more weapons to separatists in recent days despite an ongoing ceasefire. "We can confirm new transfers of Russian tanks, armored vehicles, heavy artillery and rocket equipment over the border to the separatists in eastern Ukraine," said Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs Victoria Nuland at a U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on March 10. She said that the transfers were "not compatible with either the spirit or letter" of the ceasefire reached in Minsk. Ms. Nuland said that Crimea, which Moscow illegally annexed a year ago, and parts of eastern Ukraine are living under a "reign of terror," adding, "Today Crimea remains under illegal occupation and human rights abuses are the norm, not

the exception, for many at risk groups there." Ms. Nuland said the United States had begun initial conversations with European allies on more sanctions should Russia fail to implement the ceasefire or take more land. She said there was "incomplete compliance" by Russia on the Minsk agreements. Brian McKeon, deputy under-secretary of defense, said it was "correct" that the United States has not been successful in getting Russia back into compliance with the Minsk agreements. He said that the United States was still "trying" to get Russia to comply with the ceasefire. Ukraine's army said on March 10 that Russian-backed separatists violated the ceasefire by shelling government positions in eastern Ukraine, including attacks near the city Mariupol. (RFE/RL, with reporting by the Associated Press)

U.S. to send more nonlethal aid

WASHINGTON – The United States has announced it will send more nonlethal aid to Ukraine, including unarmed drones and Humvee vehicles. The White House released a statement on March 11 saying Vice-President Joe Biden had telephoned Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to inform him of the decision. Administration officials were quoted as saying the \$75 million package includes unarmed Raven drones, which can be launched by hand, 30 heavily armored Humvees and 200 other regular Humvees, as well as radios, counter-mortar radars and other equipment. The armored Humvees were expected to be delivered within a few weeks but other equipment will take longer to arrive. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Reuters, Agence France-Presse and the Associated Press)

IMF approves \$17.5 B loan program

WASHINGTON – The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a \$17.5 billion bailout of Ukraine. IMF chief Christine Lagarde said on March 11, the new four-year aid program "will support immediate economic stabilization in Ukraine and a set of deep and wide-ranging policy reforms aimed at restoring robust growth over the medium term and improving living standards for the Ukrainian people."

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

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

Yearly subscription rate: \$90; for UNA members – \$80.

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

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

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

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

Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
Editor: Matthew Dubas

e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, March 15, 2015, No. 11, Vol. LXXXIII

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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

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Bipartisan group of House leaders supports lethal defensive aid for Kyiv

WASHINGTON – A group of House leaders and committee chairs in the House of Representatives on March 4 sent a letter to President Barack Obama urging him to approve lethal defensive aid for Ukraine. “In the wake of a ceasefire agreement that appears only to have consolidated Russian and separatist gains since the first Minsk agreement,” the eight Republicans and three Democrats wrote, “we urge you to quickly approve additional efforts to support Ukraine’s efforts to defend its sovereign territory, including through the transfer of lethal, defensive weapons systems to the Ukrainian military.”

The letter noted that “Congress has already, with overwhelming bipartisan support, provided you with the authorities, resources and political support to provide assistance, including lethal, to the government and people of Ukraine.”

The bipartisan letter was signed by Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio); House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.); Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-Calif.); Rep. Eliot L. Engel (D-N.Y.), ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry (R-Texas); Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.), ranking member of the Armed Services Committee; Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Devin Nunes (R-Calif.); Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), ranking member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.); Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Rodney P.

Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.); and State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee Chairwoman Kay Granger (R-Texas).

The full text of the letter follows.

* * *

Dear Mr. President:

From the very beginning of the crisis in Ukraine, a bipartisan majority in Congress has indicated it understands the crisis in Ukraine to be about more than a Russian assault on the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine. It is even more than simply a component of a revisionist Russian strategy to redraw international borders and impose its will on its neighbors. It is a grotesque violation of international law, a challenge to the West and an assault on the international order established at such great cost in the wake of World War II.

On September 18, 2014, President Petro Poroshenko addressed a Joint Meeting of the United States Congress. He made a passionate plea for the United States and other nations to put action behind their commitment to freedom, democracy, and human dignity. He thanked the Congress for its steadfast, bipartisan support for the people in Ukraine struggling to recapture the freedom and territorial integrity of Ukraine, but he also reminded us and the world that words alone do not beat back aggression and violence. He, like so many friends and allies in Eastern Europe, the Baltic states and the South Caucasus, remind us daily that the cost of freedom is high and, like any virtue, it is

compromised by a lack of vigilance.

The Congress responded to his call to action, and we sent you the Ukraine Freedom Support Act in December. To date, the administration has not utilized the authorities provided in the Ukraine Freedom Support Act to provide defensive military systems to the Ukrainian government.

This week, shortly after the one-year anniversary of the Revolution of Dignity,

To date, the administration has not utilized the authorities provided in the Ukraine Freedom Support Act to provide defensive military systems to the Ukrainian government.

members of the Ukrainian Rada visiting Washington reiterated President Poroshenko’s longstanding plea for assistance to the Ukrainian military. We understand these officials discussed a list of military equipment at the Pentagon and with National Security Council staff, and we understand these longstanding requests await a political decision from you.

In the wake of a ceasefire agreement that appears only to have consolidated Russian and separatist gains since the first Minsk agreement, and in anticipation of the near certainty that Russia and its separatist proxies continue their efforts to destabilize Ukraine and seize additional territory, we

urge you to quickly approve additional efforts to support Ukraine’s efforts to defend its sovereign territory, including through the transfer of lethal, defensive weapons systems to the Ukrainian military.

We should not wait until Russian troops and their separatist proxies take Mariupol or Kharkiv before we act to bolster the Ukrainian government’s ability to deter and defend against further aggression.

We understand your desire to prioritize unity of effort with Europe, and we believe our European and NATO allies should make clear that Russian aggression in the heart of Europe is unacceptable with deeds as well as words. But we urge you to lead Europe in challenging this assault on international order, lest our foreign policy be held hostage by the lowest common denominator of European consensus. In the face of Russian aggression, the lack of clarity on our overall strategy thus far has done little to reassure our friends and allies in the region who, understandably, feel vulnerable. This needs to change.

The Congress has already, with overwhelming bipartisan support, provided you with the authorities, resources, and political support to provide assistance, including lethal, to the government and people of Ukraine. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to use those authorities and resources to meet the specific and direct requests the government of Ukraine has made of your administration.

Rada vice-chair completes official visit to Canada

OTTAWA – First Vice-Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Andriy Parubiy completed an official visit to Canada (February 21-24). Mr. Parubiy came to Canada prior to an official visit to Washington.

Invited by House of Commons Speaker Andrew Scheer, Mr. Parubiy arrived in Canada on Saturday, February 21, and was greeted at Pearson International Airport by a delegation led by Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) Toronto President Taras Bahriy. During his two-day stay in Toronto, Mr. Parubiy also met with UCC National President Paul Grod, Euromaidan Canada Chair Marc Shwec, Charge D’Affaires of the Ukrainian Embassy in Canada Marko Shevchenko and UCC Executive Director Taras Zalusky.

On the evening of February 21, an expanded meeting of UCC’s Advisory Council was held with Mr. Parubiy to discuss the current situation in Ukraine.

A busy Toronto schedule continued on Sunday with a meeting with community members at Buduchnist Credit Union. After this, Mr. Parubiy attended divine liturgy at St. Demetrius Church. Following the church service, a panakhyda was held at the Holodomor monument outside the church to pay respects to those who perished as part of the Heavenly Brigade (Nebesna Sotnia), as well as those who have perished defending Ukraine from Russian aggression over the past year.

Mr. Parubiy met with Toronto’s Euromaidan activists for a vibrant question and answer session at the Huculak Center. This was followed by a series of media interviews. Sunday’s highlight was undoubtedly the fund-raising reception and dinner “Tribute to the Brave Defenders of Ukraine” held at the Golden Lion restaurant. Attended by 400 people, the event was



At a meeting of Ukrainian Canadian Congress leaders with the Verkhovna Rada’s first vice-chair (from left) are: UCC National President Paul Grod, Advisory Council Member George Myhal, Andriy Parubiy and UCC Advisory Council Vice-Chair Ian Ihnatowycz.

emceed by Mr. Shwec and was a solemn commemoration of the Nebesna Sotnia.

“Andriy Parubiy brought with him a true spirit of the new generation of politicians in Ukraine, free of corruption and dictatorship, with a European democratic tradition,” said Mr. Shwec.

Mr. Parubiy was the keynote speaker and the event also featured speeches by Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Chris Alexander, who gave an impassioned speech about Canada’s support for Ukraine, and UCC leaders Messrs. Grod and Bahriy.

Addressing the assembled crowd, Mr. Parubiy expressed gratitude to Canada and the Ukrainian Canadian community for their assistance and support during the Maidan, as well as assistance during the

the situation in Ukraine a century ago. “Today, Ukraine has a unified government and united society, modern army and the support of the international community,” he said.

Mr. Grod noted: “The Ukrainian Canadian community is working closely with the leadership of Ukraine’s new government and the government of Canada to ensure continued strong support for Ukraine’s independence and democracy. We have embarked on a historic new era of cooperation between Ukraine and the Ukrainian Canadian community, as well as Ukraine-Canada relations.”

Visit to Ottawa

A delegation from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress accompanied Mr. Parubiy for his meetings in Ottawa. On Monday, February 23, Mr. Parubiy met with the chair of the Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group, MP Ted Opitz.

In an interview with The Globe and Mail, Mr. Parubiy told the newspaper, “We think this is a global challenge, a global fight, not just a Russia-Ukraine fight. We believe we are fighting not only for Ukraine but for

(Continued on page 5)

Quotable notes

“...we would like to have more leadership of the United States in solving problems around Ukraine, because it actually has to do with not only the fate of that country in the middle of Europe, but also with our credibility and what we have to do facing this very unusual situation in 21st century during the aggression against a sovereign country. And we’re going to have to do the best in order to contain Russian aggression in Ukraine.”

– Lithuanian Foreign Affairs Minister Linas Linkevicius, speaking on March 9 in Washington during an appearance with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

Jewish Ukrainian leader Zissels calls for united effort to confront Russian aggression

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – On March 3-7, the vice-president of the World Jewish Congress and chairman of the Confederation and Communities in Ukraine, Josef Zissels, spoke to both Ukrainian- and Russian-speaking communities in Toronto and Ottawa. During the Soviet period, he was active in the dissident movement, serving six years in penal colonies. In 1988 he set up Ukraine's first Jewish organization and has been a fervent defender of Ukraine's independence and democratic path. Mr. Zissels' visit to Canada was sponsored by the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter (UJE) and supported by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) and the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center (UCRDC).

An interview with Mr. Zissels was published in The Ukrainian Weekly on August 17, 2014, when he last visited the UCRDC and explained how former Soviet Jews in Ukraine have today become Ukrainian Jews and are identifying with Ukraine and its struggle against Russian aggression.

The purpose of his visit this time was to propose a project – the Coalition for Democratic Choice – to stand up to Vladimir Putin's armed aggression. He suggested that countries and communities which oppose Mr. Putin's belligerence should unite and form a coalition. Because Ukraine is the first post-Soviet country that has been able to resist Russia's aggressive policy aimed at re-integrating post imperial territories into a new Eurasian Union, Mr. Zissels proposed that such an initiative should come from Ukraine.

He explained that the war launched against Ukraine is a new type and is being waged on three fronts: propagandistic, economic and military. The most wide-ranging aspect of this war is propagandistic, and Russia is using many channels to disseminate its propaganda – the media, diplomacy, intelligence, culture and corruption. The propaganda war is global and is being waged in many languages, with old and new technologies. In order to obtain a fair reaction from the global community, Ukraine needs to find solutions to this propaganda. Fortunately, Ukraine has a well-developed civil society, but it also needs material and intellectual resources and allies, he noted.

To organize this coalition, Mr. Zissels proposed a systemic search for potential allies, involving not only other governments and countries, but ethno-cultural, religious and inter-governmental approaches to engage them in a system of informational security, and in learning



Oksana Zakydalsky

Josef Zissels

from others how to use informational campaigns to defend national interests.

Mr. Zissels advised that there was a possibility of creating many Coalitions for Democratic Choice in various countries, using the example of the formation of the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition in the U.S. that succeeded in persuading the U.S. Congress to graduate Ukraine from the

Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

[Passed in 1974, the Jackson-Vanik Amendment imposed trade restrictions on the Soviet Union in response to its poor human rights policies, particularly restrictions on the emigration of religious minorities. The amendment stated that non-market economies that continue to impose emigration restrictions on their citizens would not be granted permanent normal trade relations or most favored nation status by the U.S. The Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition created a network of support, made up of 250 businesses – Ukrainian American, Jewish American and non-governmental organizations – and developed an action plan to work with Congress to remove Ukraine from the restrictions of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and grant normal trade relations treatment to the products of Ukraine. It was passed in 2005.]

He outlined some goals and aims of the coalitions: to attract allies who are interested in strengthening democracy; to counter Russian propaganda in their respective countries; to put pressure on their own governments to do more to protect the interests of countries that chose the democratic

path of development; and to force NATO to return to the principles it was founded upon, i.e. to the defense of people who chose the democratic path of development.

Mr. Zissels also proposed where to look for members of these coalitions. He said that the Ukrainian World Congress member groups could become the core of coalitions in different countries and added that he could see the following groups as potential allies in the coalitions: governments, embassies and diaspora groups of the Turkic-speaking states, Eastern European countries, post-Soviet countries that are trying to follow the democratic route, Jewish organizations and wide profile human rights organizations.

Their possible venues of activity could be the Internet, TV, radio and printed media. They could hold rallies, events and marches to attract mass public attention and use them as news hooks, and they could lobby through parliamentary and government channels.

His proposed project is a massive initiative, but Mr. Zissels said he sees Russian aggression as a long-term problem that requires the marshalling of all possible resources to combat it.

Is a Savchenko deal in the offing?

by Daisy Sindelar
RFE/RL

Mark Feigin, a lawyer for the jailed Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko, claims to have new evidence proving that his client was not involved in the deaths of two Russian journalists.

Speaking to Ukraine's 24 TV, Mr. Feigin said a video shot in June 2014 in the Luhansk Oblast shows Ms. Savchenko, then a member of the Aidar volunteer battalion, being taken prisoner hours before the journalists, Igor Kornelyuk and Anton Voloshin, were killed.

The shaky video, shot during a roadside battle, shows a female figure dressed in a striped paratrooper's shirt and a camouflage jacket, her face covered with a blue-and-yellow scarf printed with the words "Maidan Self-Defense."

"I'm not a sniper," the figure says in response to a volley of questions from her apparent captors. Asked who she is, she replies simply, "I'm a gunner."

The fleeting exchange is just a tiny fraction of a seven-minute video reportedly shot on June 17 in the village of Metalist, the scene of heavy fighting between Ukrainian soldiers and militia-men from the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic.

The video, which intermittently shows the logo of Russia's pro-Kremlin Life News channel, was apparently posted online on June 19, 2014.

With her face completely covered, the woman in the video cannot be positively identified as Ms. Savchenko. But speaking to 24 TV, Mr. Feigin said the video shows specific details of the day's fighting that can be traced to 10 a.m. – a full two hours

before his client she is accused of phoning Aidar commander Serhiy Melnychuk with the coordinates of the two Rossiya TV journalists, who then died in a shelling attack.

"They died around 12 o'clock," Mr. Feigin said. "By then, Savchenko had already spent more than two hours in captivity. Of course, she wasn't able to make any kind of phone call. They had taken her mobile phone. In that video, you can see that they've put that balaclava or whatever on her and that she's in the custody of the [pro-Russia] Zarya battalion."

"Inconvenient people"

Mr. Feigin says the footage will be submitted to experts to determine if the voice is, in fact, Ms. Savchenko's and to check for any altering of the video, which was reportedly shot by a Russian citizen, Yegor Russky, now serving as the self-declared mayor of the Luhansk village of Lutuhino.

If valid, the video may add to speculation that Ms. Savchenko, 33, is soon to be released from Russian pretrial detention, where she has spent the past eight months, including 83 days spent on a highly publicized hunger strike aimed at securing her release.

Mr. Feigin himself has hinted a deal may be in the offing. Speaking on March 9, he said he had already begun the first steps toward her transfer back to Ukraine, adding that a "secret protocol" prevented him from giving further details.

Days earlier, on March 5, the United States, Britain and the United Nations had called for an emergency session of the U.N. Security Council to pressure Russia for Ms. Savchenko's release.

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The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: January 2015

Amount	Name	City	State	Name	City	State	Name	City	State
\$250.00	Bihun Yaro	Washington	DC	Oharenko Maria	Redondo Beach	CA	Skuzka K	Douglas	WY
\$110.00	Nowadly John	Fairfax	VA	Shepelavy Julianne	Niskayuna	NY	Soleiman Andrea	Pound Ridge	NY
\$100.00	Buniak Gregory	Morris Plains	NJ	Nebesh Chrystyna	Parma	OH	Strilbyckyj Alexander	Fort Wayne	IN
	Pankiw Andrew	Upper Arlington	OH	Sos John Y & Ulana	Providence	RI	Tatchyn Stephania	Timonium	MD
	Pokrifcak Helen	East Chicago	IN	Sybydlo Bohdan	Mississauga	ON	Zozulak Maria & Irene	Ellicott City	MD
\$90.00	Worobec Sophie	Chicago	IL	Tkaczyk Gregory	St Catharines	ON	Cap Bohdan	Roxboro	QC
\$70.00	Peleschuk Stefan	Stamford	CT	Bilynsky Michael	Hollywood	FL	Daisak Stephen	Freehold	NJ
\$60.00	Dykyj Daria	Forest Hills	NY	Dziwak Walter	Lake Hiawatha	NJ	Kokolskyj Roman	Sicklerville	NJ
\$50.00	Halaburda-Patti Daria	Clifton	NJ	Martyniuk Irene	Fitchburg	MA	Oleszko Oksana	Berkeley	CA
	Majuk Zenowij	Capitola	CA	Mirchuk Mykola	Livingston	NJ	Saldyt Myron	Corrales	NM
	Myskiw Peter	Phoenix	AZ	Nychay Irena	Bayonne	NJ			
	Olijnyk Roman	Radnor	PA	Polansky Larysa	Cleveland	OH			
\$45.00	Sorobay Roman & Chrystyna	New York	NY	Cap Demetrius	Newburyport	MA			
\$40.00	Sochaniwsky Daria	Mississauga	ON	Horbachevsky Andrew	Yonkers	NY			
\$35.00	Laschuk Bill	San Francisco	CA	Soltys George	Montreal	QC			
\$30.00	Murskyj Mykola	Troy	MI	Woloschuk Peter	Dorchester	MA			
	Murskyj L	Troy	MI	Lepki Stephen	Cambridge	OH			
				Makuch Anna	Glendale	CA			
				Melnycky Peter	Edmonton	AB			
				Sachno Joseph	Flushing	NY			

TOTAL: \$1,715.00

Sincere thanks to all contributors to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund.

The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund is the only fund dedicated exclusively to supporting the work of this publication.

Photo exhibit in Ottawa marks anniversary of Euro-Maidan

Canada's minister of defense expresses support for Ukraine

OTTAWA – EuroMaidan Ottawa organized a photo exhibit and fund-raiser marking the first anniversary of the brutal sniper attacks in Kyiv that killed over 100 peaceful protesters on the Maidan in 2014. The February 23 exhibit followed events earlier in the day with Verkhovna Rada First Vice-Chairman Andriy Parubiy, who was in Parliament on an official visit. The former secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, and co-founder of the People's Front party, who now is vice-chairman of Ukraine's Parliament, also participated in a remembrance ceremony at the Confederation Flame in front of Parliament's Center Block.

"It was an exceptional honor to have Mr. Parubiy present as we commemorated the heroes of the Maidan. He is a genuine leader, and he stood with the people at Independence Square in Kyiv," said Anna Dombrowska, co-founder of EuroMaidan Ottawa.

Defense Minister Jason Kenney, Immigration Minister Chris Alexander, and MPs James Bezan and Ted Opitz of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group joined the commemorative photo

exhibit, demonstrating the strong support of the government of Canada for a free and democratic Ukraine.

Canada has been one of the foremost leaders in supporting Ukraine since the beginning of Russian aggression against the country. "Canada will always recognize Crimea as sovereign Ukrainian territory," Defense Minister Kenney said in his keynote remarks that evening.

Ukrainian Canadian Congress National President Paul Grod was also in attendance at the event.

The commemorative exhibit comprised 20 works by Maria Arseniuk, photographs taken in the days after the shooting on Independence Square. Ms. Arseniuk was born in Kyiv, but has lived in Ottawa most of her life, where she is currently completing a master's degree.

"In choosing these particular pieces for exhibition, we were consciously trying to capture the zeitgeist of the Euro-Maidan," noted Yaroslav Baran, one of the exhibit organizers. "Tremendous things happened on that square. A revolution was born, and many lost loved ones. We wanted to ensure these events were given the proper respect."



Andriy Parubiy and the Ukrainian community of Ottawa pay tribute to the Euro-Maidan's heroes on Parliament Hill.

EuroMaidan Ottawa is a grass-root organization in solidarity with the Ukrainian pro-democracy movement; it seeks to help raise awareness and assist in the strengthening of democracy and rule of law in Ukraine. Since November 2013, EuroMaidan Ottawa has organized over 20 demonstrations, commemorative services and public speaking events to raise awareness in Canada about

the Ukraine crisis.

With the support of the Ukrainian Canadian community and its friends, EuroMaidan Ottawa has raised over \$25,000 in support of Ukraine – ranging from medical supplies and sleeping bags for Ukrainian soldiers on the front to direct support for internally displaced Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars.

EuroMaidan Ottawa partners with multiple organizations in Ukraine to ensure that aid is received by those who need it most.

"In these critical times, we have every intention of continuing our work for as long as it is required. We will carry on with new initiatives, and are always looking for new ideas and partnership opportunities," said Yaroslav Bezverkhnyev, one of the group's founding members.



EuroMaidan Ottawa activists at the photo exhibit with MPs and community leaders (from left): Natalia Stepaniuk, MP James Bezan, photographer Maria Arseniuk, Yaroslav Bezverkhnyev, Minister of Defense Jason Kenney, Bohdan Tomiuk, Natalia Romas, Anton Sestritys, MP Ted Opitz, Yaroslav Baran, Ukrainian Canadian Congress National President Paul Grod and Anna Dombrowska.



Minister Jason Kenney speaks at the photography exhibit of Maria Arseniuk (left) that was organized by EuroMaidan Ottawa.

Rada vice-chair...

(Continued from page 3)

Euro-Atlantic and European values. So I think it's fair for us to expect support."

Mr. Parubiy met with MPs James Bezan, parliamentary secretary to the minister of national defense, and Dean Allison, chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs.

As part of his official visit at the invitation of the House of Commons speaker, Mr. Parubiy was hosted by Mr. Scheer for a lunch in the speaker's dining room along with dignitaries including members of Parliament from all parties: Wladislaw Lizon, Mr. Opitz, Geoff Regan, Mike Wallace, Mr. Bezan, Marc Garneau, Alexandrine Latendresse and Bernard Trottier (parliamentary secretary to the minister of foreign affairs), and Sen. David Tkachuk.

After the luncheon, Mr. Parubiy attended the daily Question Period in the House of Commons and was formally recognized and welcomed by Speaker Scheer. Afterwards he met with Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Rob Nicholson. At the joint media availability Mr. Nicholson said Ottawa is against any violation of the Minsk ceasefire. "Any attempt to reduce or take away Ukraine's sovereignty in that way is



At the panakhyda at St. Demetrius Church for the Heavenly Brigade and others who have perished in Ukraine.

completely opposed by Canada."

Mr. Parubiy then braced the frigid Ottawa cold (close to minus 40 degrees Celsius) and attended a solemn commemoration of the Nebesna Sotnia at the Centennial Flame, organized by UCC Ottawa and EuroMaidan Ottawa.

In addition to Mr. Parubiy's official meetings, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress delegation met with MP Ed Fast, minister of international trade, to discuss Canada-

Ukraine bilateral economic relations; MP Jason Kenney, minister of national defense, to discuss Canada's leadership and support for Ukraine in the face of Russia's invasion and continued aggression; and Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his office. Members of the delegation also met with MPs Ralph Goodale and Garneau on February 24, and with MPs Paul Dewar (official opposition foreign affairs critic), Peggy Nash and Linda Duncan on February 26.

Saakashvili lobbies for arms to Ukraine

RFE/RL

WASHINGTON – Former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili says he is meeting with U.S. lawmakers and officials in Washington to discuss "increasing legislative pressure" to provide weapons to Ukraine.

Mr. Saakashvili wrote in a February 25 post on his Facebook page that "never have so many [U.S.] lawmakers agreed to meet with me, even when I was president: 34 meetings in three days."

Many prominent members of the U.S. Congress have advocated providing arms to the Ukrainian government in its standoff with pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine that Washington accuses Moscow of backing.

The Facebook post featured a picture of Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.), a vocal Kremlin critic, standing next to Mr. Saakashvili, who wrote that his "meetings have begun." Mr. Saakashvili is currently serving as an adviser to Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko.

In a February 24 op-ed published by The Washington Post, Mr. Saakashvili said opponents of Moscow's actions in Ukraine must raise "the military cost" for Russian President Vladimir Putin "by supplying Ukraine with defensive weapons, specifically antitank weapons that can halt the further advance of the Russian tanks and armored vehicles."

The pro-Western Mr. Saakashvili served as Georgia's president during the country's brief war with Russia in 2008, after which Moscow recognized Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as sovereign states.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Still waiting... as war goes on

The Obama administration continues to stall on making a decision about providing lethal defensive weapons to Ukraine. Or, perhaps it has already made its decision, which is to not provide those weapons, but prefers not to admit it publicly. (Indeed, there were reports that Mr. Obama had assured German Chancellor Angela Merkel that the U.S. would not send arms to Ukraine while the Minsk 2 ceasefire was being negotiated and put into effect. Now, many observers are wondering whether those assurances were more far-reaching.)

The administration's pondering persists despite the fact that numerous credible sources are reporting continued Russian troop movements and while attacks go on against pro-Ukrainian activists in areas outside the war zone such as Odesa and Kharkiv.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland told a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on March 10: "We can confirm new transfers of Russian tanks, armored vehicles, heavy artillery and rocket equipment over the border to the separatists in eastern Ukraine." NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on March 11 that "Russia is still in Ukraine" and noted that NATO "has seen and still sees a strong Russian presence and strong support for separatist forces in eastern Ukraine." Assistant Secretary Nuland further noted: "Since the February 15 ceasefire, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission has recorded hundreds of violations. Debaltseve, a key rail hub beyond the ceasefire lines, fell to the separatists and Russian forces six days after Minsk was signed and three days after the ceasefire was to come into effect. In Shchastia, in villages near the Donetsk Airport, in Shyrokyne and other towns around Mariupol the shelling continues, as verified by OSCE Special Monitor Authority."

Why, even Secretary of State John Kerry had stated back on February 24 that the Russians "have been persisting in their misrepresentations, lies, whatever you want to call them, about their activities there [in Ukraine] to my face, to the faces of others, on many different occasions."

And still, the Obama administration sees only what it wants to see.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee members, who unanimously support sending lethal weapons to help Ukraine defend itself against continuing Russian aggression, are not pleased. Nor are leaders in the House of Representatives, who underscored in a bipartisan letter (see page 3) sent to President Obama: "We should not wait until Russian troops and their separatist proxies take Mariupol or Kharkiv before we act to bolster the Ukrainian government's ability to deter and defend against further aggression."

An article by David Francis posted on March 10 on foreignpolicy.com, began with these words: "Republicans and Democrats on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee are already angry at the White House for its failure to deliver arms to Ukraine. The administration's admission that it has also failed to send about half of the \$118 million in non-lethal assistance it promised Kiev [sic] isn't helping matters. ... Brian McKeon, the principal deputy undersecretary of defense, said that some of the assistance, which includes radar systems and night-vision goggles, hasn't been sent to Ukraine because of U.S. logistical or supply chain problems."

To be sure, the administration did announce, the very next day, that it would send another \$75 million worth of nonlethal aid (radios, first-aid kits, surveillance drones, counter-mortar radar systems, military ambulances and Humvees) to Ukraine's military. And that was welcome. However, stalling on the decision about whether to send lethal defensive arms to Ukraine is the same as saying no. And that is simply unacceptable.

Deputy Undersecretary of Defense McKeon told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the administration was wrestling with the consequences of sending weapons to Ukraine (that's according to The Washington Post's account). But we must ask: What are the consequences of NOT sending those weapons? The answer, we believe, is evident in the scenario that unfolded in Crimea.

March
19
2008

Turning the pages back...

Seven years ago, on March 19, 2008, 10 NATO member-countries wrote to the alliance's Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, urging that Georgia and Ukraine be granted Membership Action Plans at the NATO summit in Bucharest on April 2-4, 2008. Canada was joined by Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovenia in signing the document.

Noticeably absent was Hungary, whose Socialist government "conducts a Hungarian mini-version of Ostpolitik with Russia," wrote Vladimir Socor of the Eurasian Daily Monitor. Other doubters included Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Spain.

Mr. Socor noted: "...Real differences over the Georgian and Ukrainian MAPs could have been resolved in the course of existing NATO consultation processes, without public confrontation among allies. However, the German government and Chancellor Angela Merkel personally short-circuited those consultation processes, which were set to continue after the March 6 Brussels meeting of ministers of foreign affairs of NATO countries. Instead, Ms. Merkel held talks two days later with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow to establish a common front against the Georgian and Ukrainian MAPs."

President George W. Bush said during Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili's March 19-20, 2008, visit to Washington, "I believe that NATO would benefit from Georgian membership." The U.S. was set to press for a political decision regarding Georgian and Ukrainian MAPs that would have been adopted at the Bucharest summit.

The letter's signatories argued that it is in NATO's interest and to the benefit of Euro-Atlantic security and stability to integrate Georgia and Ukraine further. Each round of

(Continued on page 12)

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY: Victoria Nuland before Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Below are excerpts of testimony by Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, delivered on March 10 before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Chairman [Bob] Corker, Ranking Member [Robert] Menendez and members of this committee – thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on the situation in Ukraine and for your personal investment in that country's future. As many of you know from your travels, your meetings and the establishment of the bipartisan Senate Ukraine Caucus last month, Ukrainians deeply appreciate this committee's support for their country's security, democracy, sovereignty and future prosperity. ...

First – a quick reminder of why we're here. Sixteen months ago, the Kyiv Maidan and towns across Ukraine erupted in peaceful protest by ordinary Ukrainians fed up with a sleazy, corrupt regime bent on cheating the people of their sovereign choice to associate with Europe. They braved frigid temperatures, brutal beatings and sniper bullets. The leader of that rotten regime fled the country, and he was voted out by the Parliament – including most members of his own party. Then, Ukraine began to forge a new nation on its own terms – signing an Association Agreement with the European Union; holding free and fair elections – twice – even as fighting raged in the east; and undertaking deep and comprehensive economic and political reforms.

Against the backdrop of Russia's aggression, the situation in the country remains precarious. Ukraine's leaders, in the executive branch and the Parliament, know they are in a race against time to clean up the country and enact the difficult and socially painful reforms required to kick start the economy, and meet their commitments to their people, the IMF and the international community. The package of reforms already put forward by the government, and enacted by the Rada, is impressive in its scope and political courage. ...

With U.S. support – including a \$1 billion loan guarantee last year and \$355 million in foreign assistance and technical advisors – the Ukrainian government is: helping insulate vulnerable Ukrainians from the impact of necessary economic reforms; improving energy efficiency in homes and factories with metering, consumer incentives and infrastructure improvement; building e-governance platforms to make procurement transparent and basic government services cleaner and publicly accessible; putting a newly trained force of beat cops on the streets of Kyiv who will protect, not shake down, the citizens; reforming the Prosecutor General's Office (PGO) – supported by U.S. law enforcement and criminal justice advisors – and helping energize law enforcement and just prosecutions; moving to bring economic activity out of the shadows; supporting new agriculture laws – with the help of USAID experts – to deregulate the sector and allow family farms to sell their produce in local, regional and wholesale markets; and helping those forced to flee Donetsk and Luhansk with USAID jobs and skills training programs in places like Kharkiv.

And there's more support on the way. The president's budget includes an FY16 [Fiscal Year 2016] request of \$513.5 million – almost six times more than our FY14 request – to build on these efforts.

...the most lasting antidote to Russian aggression and malign influence in the medium term is for Ukraine to succeed as a democratic, free-market state and to beat

back the corruption, dependence and external pressure that have thwarted Ukrainians' aspirations for decades. For this to happen, we must ensure that the government lives up to its promises to the Ukrainian people, and keeps the trust of the international financial community. And, at the same time, the United States, Europe and the international community must keep faith with Ukraine, and help insure that Russia's aggression and meddling can't crash Ukraine's spirit, its will or its economy before reforms take hold.

Which brings me to my second point – even as Ukraine is building a peaceful, democratic, independent nation across 93 percent of its territory, Crimea and parts of eastern Ukraine are suffering a reign of terror. Today Crimea remains under illegal occupation and human rights abuses are the norm, not the exception, for many at-risk groups there – Crimean Tatars, Ukrainians who won't surrender their passports, journalists, LGBT citizens and others.

In eastern Ukraine, Russia and its separatist puppets unleashed unspeakable violence and pillage. This manufactured conflict – controlled by the Kremlin; fueled by Russian tanks and heavy weapons; financed at Russian taxpayers' expense – has cost the lives of more than 6,000 Ukrainians, but also of hundreds of young Russians sent to fight and die there by the Kremlin, in a war their government denies. When they come home in zinc coffins – "Cargo 200," the Russian euphemism for war dead – their mothers, wives and children are told not to ask too many questions or raise a fuss if they want to see any death benefits.

Throughout this conflict, the United States and the EU have worked in lock-step to impose successive rounds of tough sanctions – including sectoral sanctions – on Russia and its separatist cronies as the costs for their actions. In Crimea, we have shown through our investment sanctions that if you bite off a piece of another country, it will dry up in your mouth. Our unity with Europe remains the cornerstone of our policy toward this crisis.

And it is in that spirit that we salute the efforts of German Chancellor [Angela] Merkel and French President [Francois] Hollande in Minsk on February 12 to try again to end the fighting in Ukraine's East. The Minsk package of agreements – September 5, September 19 [2014] and the February 12 implementing agreement – offer a real opportunity for peace, disarmament, political normalization and decentralization in eastern Ukraine, and the return of Ukrainian state sovereignty and control of its territory and borders. Russia agreed to it; Ukraine agreed to it; the separatists agreed to it. And the international community stands behind it.

For some eastern Ukrainians, conditions have begun to improve. Along long areas of the line of contact, particularly in Luhansk Oblast, the ceasefire has taken hold; the guns have quieted in some towns and villages; some weapons have been withdrawn; some hostages have been released.

But the picture is very mixed. Since the February 15 ceasefire, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission has recorded hundreds of violations. Debaltseve, a key rail hub beyond the ceasefire lines, fell to the separatists and Russian forces six days after Minsk was signed and three days after the ceasefire was to come into effect. In Shchastia, in villages near the Donetsk Airport, in Shyrokyne and other towns around Mariupol the shelling continues, as verified by OSCE Special Monitor Authority.

(Continued on page 16)

FOR THE RECORD: Samantha Power speaks at Security Council debate

Following are excerpts of remarks at the United Nations Security Council debate on Ukraine on March 6, as delivered by Samantha Power, U.S. permanent representative to the U.N.

...For the first time since the Minsk Implementation Package was signed on February 12, we have seen a reduction in violence. Of course no one forgets that Russia and the separatists they trained, armed, directed and fought alongside, started violating their commitments in the package from the first minutes and hours after the deal was signed – by laying siege to Debaltseve, a city dozens of kilometers beyond the contact line, with their deadly and indiscriminate pummeling. Violations started on day one, and violations of the ceasefire continue in a number of places, particularly outside Mariupol, where Russian-backed separatists have engaged in intense fighting attacking the village of Shyrokyne in recent days.

Unfortunately, although the violence has decreased, there has been only partial compliance with the Minsk Implementation Package. As members of this council know, the package calls for, “an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire,” not a gradual and partial reduction in fire. It does not say that Russian-backed separatists can continue to shell, engage in sniper fire, or use barrel and rocket artillery – yet they have carried out all of these attacks in recent days. Since February 20, Russian separatist attacks like these have killed 15 Ukrainian military personnel and wounded nearly 100 more.

A second condition in the Minsk Implementation Package is full, unfettered access for OSCE monitors to the entire conflict zone. While there have been occasional instances when the SMM has been stopped at Ukrainian checkpoints, the restrictions on the SMM by Russia and the separatists are documented as widespread. ...

To date, the separatists have granted OSCE monitors sporadic access limited to certain roads, when and where it suits them. As we have asked before, it bears asking again: Who obstructs an objective observer other than someone who has something to hide from an unbiased eye?

The Minsk Implementation Package also calls for the full pullback of all heavy weapons. That, too, has not happened.

Two days ago, Russia sent its 17th so-called humanitarian convoy into Ukraine, once again denying international observers and Ukrainian border guards the right to conduct a full and complete inspection of its contents. Russian convoys that should be coming out of Ukraine are instead going in. If these convoys are carrying humanitarian assistance, why not allow a full inspection?

Colleagues, the ceasefire, weapons pullback and OSCE verification – none of which are complete – are all among just the immediate steps in the Implementation Package. Further, all of the Minsk agreements to date have called for the release of all hostages by all sides. Nadiya Savchenko and other Ukrainians being held in Russia are hostages, just as surely as those being kept in basements in Donetsk and Luhansk. Again, we

call on Russia to release Nadiya Savchenko, who has been on hunger strike for over 80 days, and her Ukrainian counterparts. This is something Russia can do today. ...

The devastating consequences of this conflict are brought into sharp relief by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' most recent report. More than 1.7 million people displaced. More than 5,800 people killed – a casualty count that does not include the hundreds of bodies found once Russian-backed separatists finished their deadly siege of Debaltseve.

An OCHA [Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs] report from the end of last month said that 500 bodies had been found in houses and basements at the end of the siege – 500 bodies. Homes and basements where people took shelter from the endless barrage of Russian-made mortars and rockets as they rained down on the city's residents – residents who could not escape. Weeks into the siege, at the end of January, the self-declared leader of the Russian-backed separatists had announced, “Anybody who leaves... will be in the interlocking field of fire of our artillery. From today, the road is under fire.” And so those inside were left with a choice: risk your life by staying, or risk your life by leaving. Civilians were killed doing both, and again, 500 bodies found in homes and basements where people took shelter.

And the casualties and the displaced are one of the devastating consequences of this conflict. Another – and one we rarely speak about in this council anymore – is the ongoing illegal occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea by a permanent member of this Council.

Crimea is important not only because it constitutes the continuing violation of the territorial integrity of a sovereign nation – a violation orchestrated in Moscow, and dressed up in a sham referendum – but also because it offers a preview of the kind of rule that we can expect in the other parts of Ukraine seized by those who see themselves as part of Novorossiya. ...

So, occupy territory, unilaterally attempt to annex it, and then retroactively and arbitrarily apply your laws to those who dared to question your takeover as it was occurring. It does not get much more Orwellian than that. And as anyone who has read the human rights report knows, this is just one in a long list of repressive tactics – including torture, enforced disappearances, and targeted political killings – that have defined Russia's occupation.

It is to avoid an Orwellian world like this – where we talk of peace while undermining it – that we must ensure that Minsk is implemented. The council members around this table must confront the situation on the ground as it exists rather than as we wish it were. Peace will not come from more words – and there have been so many words in this chamber. It will come from the long-awaited and faithful implementation of the many agreements that have been entered into, and renewed respect for the territorial integrity of a member state of the United Nations.



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Shevchenko and song

It would not be an exaggeration to say that almost every Ukrainian child in the world knows at least one Taras Shevchenko poem set to music. It could be “Zapovit” (Testament), “Dumy Moyi” (My Thoughts), or “Reve ta Stohne Dnipro Shyrokyi” (The Wide Dnipro Roars and Moans). For most children it would probably be “Sadok Vyshnevyy Kolo Khaty” (The Sour Cherry Orchard near the House).

Shevchenko did not intend to write songs, but the language of his poems was so musical – as Ukrainian is – that they became beloved Ukrainian folk songs, some already during his lifetime. Music had always been a part of his life. When he was a child, he was surrounded by Ukrainian folk songs, and mentioned them often in his poetry. A lullaby he remembered, the songs his mother, sisters and playmate Oksana sang, the dumy from Kozak times that his grandfather remembered, the folk songs he heard all around him – they all found their way into his works. He either just mentioned them, or actually included the lyrics in his poems.

In writing about his childhood, Shevchenko remembered his mother's song: “As my mother swaddled me she sang, and poured her melancholy and grief into her child” (“Yakby vy znaly, panychi” – If you only knew, lords). Shevchenko listened to the songs sung by the serfs in his village both during their work and at short-lived rest. In his travels he met Ukrainians, and they often sang. He wrote in his journal that, returning from exile, by chance he listened to a Ukrainian violinist, a serf: “I will never have enough of these sincere, deeply moving songs. I thank you, my fortuitous gracious serf Paganini.”

Ukrainian songs were a balm to Shevchenko when he was exiled and imprisoned. In Kos-Aral, Kazakhstan, he wrote: “I will walk along the sea, and think of my woe, will remember Ukraine, and will sing a song. It will console me.”

Artist Viktor V. Kovalyov, who lived with Shevchenko in 1841, reminisced that the latter liked to relax by singing, and would say “Now, boys, let's sing!” The friends would forget their hard life by singing away. Shevchenko would include his own poetry, which he set to music, such as “Oy, poviy vitre, z dalekoho luhu ta rozlyi nashu tuhu” (O, blow wind from the far meadow, and take away our sadness). Shevchenko's friend, composer Semen Hulak-Artemovsky (known for the opera “Zaporozhets za Dunayem” -- The Zaporohian Kozak beyond the Danube) dedicated his composition “Stoyit Yavir nad Vodoyu” (The Maple Stands at the Riverbank) to Shevchenko.

He especially loved singing to his brother serfs. During his infrequent trips to Ukraine, Shevchenko, already a free man, visited Kachanivka, the park on the estate

of the Tarnovsky family in the Chernihiv region. Andriy Kot, the old nurseryman of the park, pointed to the Shevchenko Oak and remembered his own father telling him about that visit: “Here, under this oak, my father and other serfs gathered in the evenings to listen to Shevchenko sing to them. He sang, and the people wept.”

When in St. Petersburg, in 1858 Shevchenko met Ira Aldridge, the black Shakespearian actor from New York who performed in Europe. They became friends and found a common language – singing traditional Ukrainian folk melodies and Negro spirituals to each other.

Shevchenko had a beautiful dramatic tenor and loved to sing. He had a phenomenal memory and remembered a song after hearing it once. He felt the emotion of the songs. One of his contemporaries wrote, “As if just now, I see him finishing a song, with his voice trembling and a tear running from his eye onto his long mustache.” After winning his freedom, when he attended receptions among the nobility, he was often requested to sing Ukrainian folk songs – and everyone stopped to listen. Among his beloved folk songs were: “Oy, ziydy, ziydy, ty, zirochko ta vechirniaya” (Come out, come out, evening star), “Ta nema hirsh v sviti nikomu, yak siroty molodomu” (No one in the world has it worse than a poor young wretch), “Ta zabilily snihy” (The snows glow white), “Teche richka nevelychka” (The little river flows), “Oy, hylia, hylia, siri husy, hylia na Dunay” (Go, grey geese, to the Danube), “Shumyt hude dibrovonka” (The grove rustles and hums) and “Oy, ne shumy luzhe, zelenyi bairache” (O, don't rustle, meadow, you green ravine).

It would be a fulfilling, beautiful event if someone organized a concert not only of the many compositions set to Shevchenko's poetry, which we have heard so often, but also of the many folk and historical, chumak and other songs that Shevchenko loved and sang.

“Our дума, our song will never die, never perish. People, in it is where our glory lies, the glory of Ukraine” (from Shevchenko's poem “Do Osnovianenka” – Dedicated to Osnovianenka)

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Quotable notes

The victim of hybrid aggression is also victimized by Western caution and prevarication. While Russia has introduced thousands of weapons into the conflict, European and American political hesitation in helping Ukraine acquire replacements for its losses (and the political message it sends to others who would like to help) serves as a virtual military embargo on Ukraine. Ironically, the most successful Western sanction has been in preventing a friendly country from defending itself.

– Dr. Phillip A. Karber, speaking on March 10 at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington on “Russian Hybrid War Campaign: Implications for Ukraine and Beyond.” (To watch video of his speech, see <http://csis.org/event/russias-hybrid-war-campaign-implications-ukraine-and-beyond>.)

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

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

Refugees...

(Continued from page 1)

to reveal the scars on her son's back left by shrapnel. She recalls what happened as if she were reliving the horror, partly out of therapy.

"I ask Nikita not to go to school that day, December 8, because I hear shooting in the distance. Then it's quiet for some time. He's very bored and pleading to let him go outside. So I let him. Suddenly I hear window glass breaking, I come out to the balcony, everything is in smoke and I start calling my son: 'Nikita! Nikita!' and he doesn't come. And then I see him crawling back and standing up to lean on a handrail. I see that he is limping, and I think that he twisted his ankle. I see that his four layers of clothes have been pierced and there is a piece of shrapnel in his back. We call an ambulance," she said in a monotone, staring at some invisible spot in front of her.

It was painful for Nikita to even lie down after his surgery in December and he suffered from shellshock afterwards for more than a month.

The boy quickly recovered, despite the doctor's prognosis, but he still has nightmares. The family left Artemivsk after a mortar shell crashed into their apartment one January day. It destroyed the roof, landed in their pantry and luckily didn't explode, but it made the apartment uninhabitable.

The Suprun's new roommate Tetiana sat in the kitchen with them, holding her infant son, asleep under a blanket and unaware of the dangers of the world into which he entered seven weeks earlier.

Tetiana recalled her months of pregnancy spent in a basement in her native town of Avdiyivka that so far is under Ukraine's control but under heavy bombardment since the New Year by the Russian-backed separatists.

The factory town was under fire even as she was in labor with her son at the local maternity hospital in January. "I didn't want to go back to the basement with a baby," she says, deciding to leave Avdiyivka after a shell ruined her house right after she gave birth. Tetiana's husband decided to stay and keep going to work at the local coke plant, the largest of its kind in Ukraine, that has been attacked by artillery fire on a weekly basis, as recently as March 7.

Refugees are allowed to stay at the camp until they succeed in renewing their social payments (for newborns, for example) at a local Oschadbank (the state savings bank).

Then they usually rent a small apartment, try to find a job and start a new life, usually in Kramatorsk. They have more chances of finding a job in the city, but it isn't always easy. In their rooms at the refugee camp, at least it's warm, though tables, beds and baby carriages are lacking. Normally, two or three families share one room and all their belongings are on the floor or on windowsills in bags and packages.

In a room near the kitchen, there are piles

of second-hand clothes and shoes brought to the camp by citizens of Kramatorsk who can empathize with the refugees after having their city taken over by the separatists between April and July of last year.

A few women with children sort out and choose something for themselves. Here we meet Oksana Ageyeva, a mother of three children age 2, 13 and 14. With their grandma, they escaped from Yenakiyev, the hometown of Viktor Yanukovich that is now under separatist control.

Ms. Ageyeva's husband didn't survive the constant bombardment; he died while trying to fight a blaze that ignited on their street. Ms. Ageyeva decided to go to the Ukrainian side of the war zone after experiencing life in the so-called Donetsk People's Republic (DNR).

"There are no jobs and no future for the kids," she explains. "The separatists do that on purpose so that men could be easily recruited to their squads."

She recalled waiting in a line in Yenakiyev for a couple of days just to get aid, brought to the city by the foundation of billionaire Rinat Akhmetov, the only organization that has provided food for civilians in the occupied territories. (Mr. Akhmetov is also widely suspected of having ties to the terrorists.)

Many elderly passed out in the frost after standing in line for so many hours. Ironically, Ms. Ageyeva managed to escape from the DNR owing to a one-time payment from separatists of 1,000 hrv to pensioners, which had amounted to a handsome \$40 in January. It was Ms. Ageyeva's mother who received the money that enabled them to pay for their escape to Kramatorsk.

"In that car, I was thinking, 'Am I doing the right thing?' At first, it was difficult, but now I am sure that I was right. My elder daughter, 14 years old, had a nervous breakdown because of continuous shelling outside our home. Now she feels better and is no longer afraid to go outside. I need a peaceful place for my children," she says.

Ms. Ageyeva wants to go to work in the springtime at the local supermarket, which will allow her to rent an apartment and move on. Until that time, she will collect her payments for newborns, which are for the first three years after childbirth. She didn't get them for more than six months in Yenakiyev.

As with other refugees, she believed that she finally had escaped the war, once and for all. And when we talked to her in the camp, it seemed they had.

However, only a few days later, on February 10, 17 people died in Kramatorsk and 34 were wounded in attacks from the separatist side. Throughout the Ukrainian-controlled Donbas, the war continues to produce new refugees, who remain afraid that their hometown will turn into the latest battle zone on the east Ukraine map.

Among those is Sviatohirsk, located 21 miles north of Kramatorsk, which is surrounded by a pristine pine forest covered by snow that could have easily been transplanted from the Carpathians.

Although the Donbas landscape was



Nikita Shulyagin

Nikita Suprun, 8, survived the three-month bombardment of his hometown of Artemivsk in the autumn, but not without the scars of shrapnel shards in his back and suffering shell shock.

often ridiculed by Ukrainians for its mounds of spent coal and other industrial waste, this northern region – which serves as a buffer between the industrial south and the ethnically Ukrainian steppes of the Slobzhanshchyna region – is free of industry and is among the best-kept secrets of Ukraine's natural wonders.

It remains untouched by war, and it's hard to believe that the road here is guarded by soldiers posted at roadblocks and lined on either side with bombed-out villages and towns.

Sviatohirsk's campgrounds, which used to draw kids from all over the Donbas for summertime enjoyment, were hosting refugees on a late January evening. One of them, Camp Little Hawk, has accepted 115 from the ruined town of Debaltseve, offering shelter and food.

Our volunteer group, Wings of Generosity and Care, brings washing machines and electric stoves. We arrive while women are cooking dinner in the kitchen. Residency is free for as long as the refugees choose to stay; most will remain for a long time since their homes have been destroyed.

Kids of all ages are running in a long corridor with about 14 rooms on both sides. A knock on the nearest room in the corridor reveals two families with four kids, who said they recently arrived from Debaltseve, after the attacks escalated.

There are only beds, a few bags on the floor and a little table near the door where they cook meals for the baby.

"We put a white ribbon on a car and wrote 'dyeti' (children) on a piece of paper, attached it to a window and left the city in the morning, when it was rather quiet," says Vita Borysenko.

Her husband, Pavlo, used to work as a locomotive driver, but separatist-launched Grad missiles destroyed the train station.

"In recent weeks, all the shops were closed, there was no electricity and the gas stations didn't work. Even those who had cars could not leave because they had no gasoline. We were lucky because we had some saved up," he notes.

Another escapee, Svitlana Petrianyk, says the family moved to a basement in their Debaltseve apartment building after the first bombardment on July 27 and lived there since. "We didn't want to leave our apartment for months because we worked so hard to buy all our stuff, but we were finally forced to go" by the bombings, she said. "We could only take a bag with disposable diapers and a few clothes."

When asked if they have any money, Mr. Borysenko shows their savings of around 800 hrv (\$30). The Petrianyks are in about the same financial situation as the Borysenkos. Their youngest baby, Yelizaveta, was born last spring in the occupied city of Horlivka. Ms. Petrianyk said she often saw separatists with rifles in the maternity hospital, having brought women from other occupied cities and villages.

"I remember the separatists also gave us

peaches. We always had plenty of peaches," she said rather skeptically, not understanding how they could think the peaches could somehow compensate for the destruction they caused.

It took the war for many refugees to realize that life wasn't so bad under the Ukrainians. "Now we think that we had a wonderful life. Yes, we had some troubles, but we lived in peace. We still want to live in Ukraine and want this war to stop," Ms. Petrianyk said.

Tetiana, who has a room down the hall, asks us not to take her photo. She came to the camp a couple of weeks ago, escorted by Ukrainian soldiers. But she is still afraid that separatists can find and kill her. For months, she helped the Ukrainian army by revealing hidden forest paths and passing on information about separatist locations.

She lived in the village of Kamianka, which was under Ukrainian control and is located about 20 miles east of Yenakiyev, which was under separatist control.

The village was under Ukrainian army control when one January evening two Chechens broke into her house, raped and tortured her, shot her dog and destroyed all the furniture as part of the terror raids they've become notorious for.

"They were high," Tetiana recalls through tears. "They even showed me their documents first and ordered me to reveal Ukrainian army locations." But she says she didn't say a word to the terrorists who weren't afraid to reveal their identity.

When Ukrainian soldiers heard gunshots fired following the rape, they quickly came, but the Chechens managed to flee. They wore camouflage and the Ukrainian soldiers didn't want to shoot because they were afraid to kill Tetiana by accident.

"I didn't want to go to the hospital and at some point was close to committing suicide," she says, sobbing, as she recalls the first days afterwards. She says that she's ashamed to have been raped. The men who guarded her after the attack found a safe place in Sviatohirsk and drove her there a week later.

Tetiana adds that she knows the snitch who passed on the information about her activity to the Chechens, but refuses to name the person, stating only that he's a former classmate. Another local helped the Chechens sneak inside the village for the attack.

Ukrainian soldiers said there were no footprints from the forest into the village that day, which means that the Chechens were hiding in somebody's house before the attack. Tetiana is convinced they came with only one aim: to punish her for her supporting Ukraine.

Tetiana wonders aloud how many local people hate Ukraine despite the fact that Ukrainian soldiers often provide them with food and medicine. Now she wants to evacuate from Donetsk her two sons who are staying with a sister, the only one in her family who supports her. Her two other sisters support the separatists and don't talk to her any more.



Svitlana Petrianyk (left) and Vita Borysenko escaped with their kids from their hometown of Debaltseve after attacks on the railroad hub escalated.

BOOK REVIEW: Jewish and Gentile Ukrainians, and the Euro-Maidan

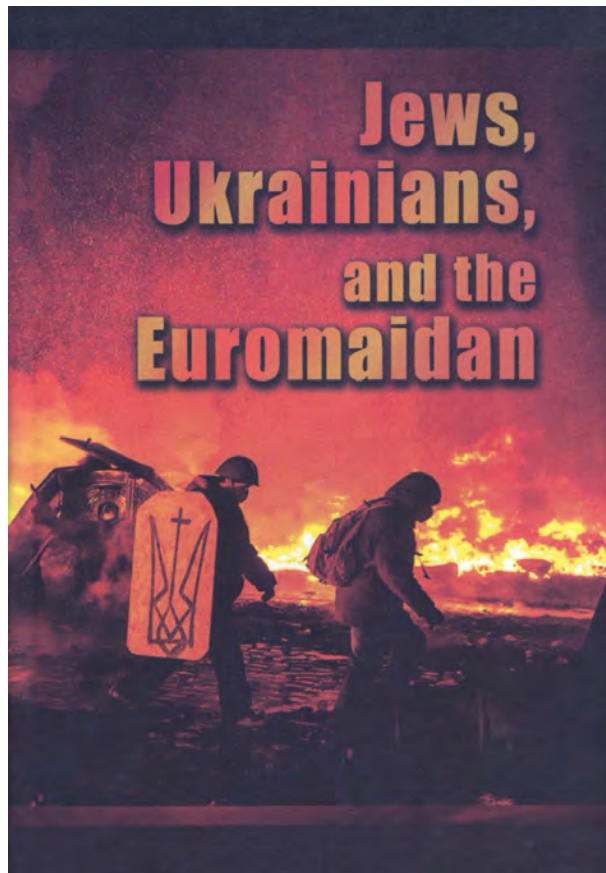
"Jews, Ukrainians, and the Euromaidan," Lubomyr Y. Luciuk, editor. Kingston, Ontario: Kashtan Press in cooperation with the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Toronto, 2014. ISBN 978-1-896354-13-2. Hard-cover, 258 pages. \$45.

by Bohdan Vitvitsky

Prof. Lubomyr Luciuk of the Royal Military College of Canada is the editor of a volume titled "Jews, Ukrainians, and the Euromaidan" (hereafter "Euromaidan") that is both fascinating and richly informative. What is more, in contrast to the writings of various academics, whose knowledge and understanding of Ukraine barely rises above the level of malpractice yet who don't have the decency to keep quiet, Prof. Luciuk's volume has the added attractions of being highly relevant, accurate in its comprehension of the state of relations between Ukraine's gentile and Jewish citizens, and important in noting a kind of sea change in relations.

Perhaps nothing captures this sea change more than the picture found in the introductory section of the book on page xvi. The caption to that photo reads: "Right Sector activists pay their respects at burial of Alexander Scherbaniuk, a Ukrainian Jew killed on 20 February 2014 by a sniper on the Euromaidan." A Jewish Ukrainian had laid down his life for a brighter Ukrainian future. And Ukrainian nationalists proudly participated in and paid their respects to their compatriot, a Ukrainian openly and proudly commemorated as a member of the Jewish community.

"Euromaidan" is a compilation of 42 articles, statements and reflections about, variously, Jewish and Ukrainian relations, perceptions and opinions in the context of the Euromaidan from its beginning in November 2013 to March 2014, at which time the materials for publication were assembled. The volume begins with a foreword penned by Serhiy Kvit, then the president of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and now the minister of education. Titled "The Euromaidan Revolution and the Struggle for Ukraine's Place in Europe," the foreword does an excellent job of providing a short historical and political analysis of the context in which the Euro-Maidan arose and of its extraordinarily inclusionary character once it evolved into a revolutionary movement intent upon changing the nature of contemporary Ukraine.



The 42 items included in the volume were penned by a wide variety of authors. They include Jewish Ukrainians such as the former Soviet dissident and prisoner of conscience Josef Zissels; Jewish Frenchmen such as the philosopher and public intellectual Bernard-Henri Levi, who has since the appearance of Prof. Luciuk's volume written additional op-ed articles in defense of Ukraine; Jewish Americans such as Abraham Foxman, the director of the Anti-Defamation League in the United States; and the author of numerous books and a columnist for The Washington Post, Anne Applebaum.

Other authors include Mychailo Wynnyckyj, the always thoughtful Canadian Ukrainian sociologist who now teaches at Kyiv Mohyla Academy; Halyna Coynash, one of the

leaders of the truly intrepid Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group; the Ukrainian American scholar Alexander J. Motyl, a premier analyst of contemporary events in Ukraine and a professor at Rutgers University, and many others.

The volume concludes with an afterword by Prof. Robert Paul Magocsi, the historian who holds the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Toronto. Although written almost a year ago, Prof. Magocsi's last paragraph seems particularly apt today:

"The United States, Canada and the European Union should do what is their own best interest: support in whatever way possible the increasing number of Ukrainian citizens, regardless of their ethnic or religious background, who reject Putin's 'Little Russian' scenario and who prefer to live in a pro-Western independent Ukraine."

I have two tiny quibbles with the book. It would have been helpful to include short, one- or two-sentence biographical descriptions of the authors of the items included in "Euromaidan." And, although it didn't occur to me until after I had read "Euromaidan," instead of naming the volume "Jews, Ukrainians, and the Euromaidan," perhaps the title should have been something along the lines of "Gentile and Jewish Ukrainians, and the Euromaidan."

Quibbles aside, "Euromaidan" contains innumerable gems. I will close this short review with the ending from Prof. Wynnyckyj's "Philosophical Thoughts from Kyiv" dated March 20, 2014:

"Perhaps the 'beacon on the hilltop' of the future will be in Kyiv – a place that offers the world a new civilizational principle of 'spravedlivist' (natural justice) and 'hidnist' (individually realized/collectively recognized – dignity). Or maybe I'm being too optimistic..."

"If only the Kremlin would allow us to find out!"

Prof. Luciuk has performed an invaluable service by gathering and publishing a really extraordinary collection of statements, opinions and photographs from and about the most recent events in Ukraine. "Euromaidan" was published jointly by the University of Toronto Chair of Ukrainian Studies and Kashtan Press. The book can be purchased directly from the Kashtan Press at 849 Wartman Ave., Kingston, ON, Canada, K7M 2Y6 at \$45 a copy plus shipping and handling (\$10 for U.S. orders). The publisher advises that there is a limited supply of the book.

Ukrainian American...

(Continued from page 1)

throughout the United States participated in the event, which began with an opportunity to attend a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC).

Testifying that morning at the HFAC hearing titled "Ukraine under Siege" was Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland. Members of Congress questioned the Obama administration's implementation of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act, inquired about military assistance to Ukraine, and probed about additional sanctions against Russia for the illegal annexation of Crimea and the continuous invasion of eastern Ukraine.

During the day, community representatives split into groups and held meetings at the congressional offices of their senators and representatives, among them: Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Richard Burr (R-NC), Mark Warner (D-Va.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.) Patrick Toomey (R-Pa.) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.); and Reps. Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.), Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.), Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.), Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.), Charlie Dent (R-Pa.), Mike Turner (R-Ohio), Chaka Fattah (D-N.Y.), Robert Brady (D-Pa.), Brendan Boyle (D-Pa.), Brian Higgins (D-N.Y.), Mike Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), Michael Hanna (R-N.Y.),

Matt Cartwright (D-Pa.), Barbara Comstock (R-Va.), Grace Meng (D-N.Y.), Ryan Costello (R-Pa.), Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.), Steve Stivers (R-Ohio), Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) and Nydia Velazquez (D-N.Y.).

A special meeting was arranged with Rep. Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.), ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, at which UNIS Director Michael Sawkiw Jr. and Andrew Horbachewsky, chairman of the board of the SUM-A Yonkers Federal Credit Union, presented the ardent supporter of Ukraine the Friend of UNIS award. The award is an opportunity to recognize and thank those who have provided leadership and have shown unwavering support of the Ukrainian American community's concerns.

At an evening reception at the Embassy of Lithuania, Ukrainian Day participants were warmly welcomed by Zygimantas Pavilionis, Lithuania's ambassador to the



Rep. Louise Slaughter (third from left) meets with constituents from Rochester/Buffalo, N.Y., area. On the left are Andriy Dobriansky, UCCA executive board member, and Ivan Radichenko, volunteer from the Kyiv Rus' Battalion.

United States, who urged them to continue their advocacy for the implementation of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act. Mr. Pavilionis requested the advocacy participants to make a short video clip titled "We believe in freedom." The video was broadcast throughout Lithuania to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

The director of UNIS presented the Friend of UNIS award to Ambassador Pavilionis for his unwavering support of Ukraine.

Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Olexander Motsyk, also took to the podium to deliver a few remarks. "We have a common goal before us. We are all striving to integrate Ukraine in Euro-Atlantic structures and return its former status of a prominent European state. Together, I am confident we will successfully resolve our issues," he stated.

The second Friend of UNIS award was presented to the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) for its strong support of Ukraine throughout the Euro-Maidan – the Revolution of Dignity – and the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. Coalition members took turns at the podium expressing their solidarity with the Ukrainian community expressing such sentiments as: "We are in this together" and "Your fight, is our fight." The CEEC embodies 18 national ethnic organizations that represent nearly 22 million Americans of Central and East European descent.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America was a founding member of the CEEC in 1994. Together, the CEEC and the UCCA have co-sponsored advocacy events in Washington and issued policy briefs on issues the CEEC ardently advocates.

UNIS Director Sawkiw also introduced Ivan Radichenko, a volunteer with the 25th Volunteer Battalion Kyiv Rus', who spoke about the role of volunteers in defending Ukraine's territorial integrity and independence.

Following the formal presentations, Ukrainian Day participants were hosted to traditional Lithuanian fare, and sampled Lithuanian beverages and Georgian wine.

In all of their meetings on Capitol Hill, the participants of Ukrainian Day presented members of Congress with various policy papers on issues related to the implementation of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act, as well as informational brochures about the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian National Information Service and the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933. Policy paper topics included: an overview of the UFSA law; military assistance to Ukraine; economic sanctions against Russia; lists of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus and the newly formed Senate Ukraine Caucus; and an overview of Russian aggression in Ukraine and Russia's human rights violations, as evidenced by the detention of Nadiya Savchenko and other Ukrainian POWs. A complete lists of congressional actions to support newly introduced bills and resolutions in support of Ukraine was also included in the advocacy folder.

Understanding that not everyone was able to attend the Ukrainian Day on March 4, UNIS is urging Ukrainian American community members to make every effort to meet with their elected officials at their respective district offices. Copies of the policy papers presented at this latest advocacy event may be obtained at the Ukrainian National Information Service.

Due to a snowstorm in the Washington region that closed the U.S. federal government, the second day of what was scheduled to be a two-day advocacy event had to be postponed for a future date. The second day's program was to include a breakfast meeting with the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, as well as a rally in support of Ukraine in front of the White House. A new date for the White House rally is pending.

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Exhibit showcases artists who shaped theater of early 20th century

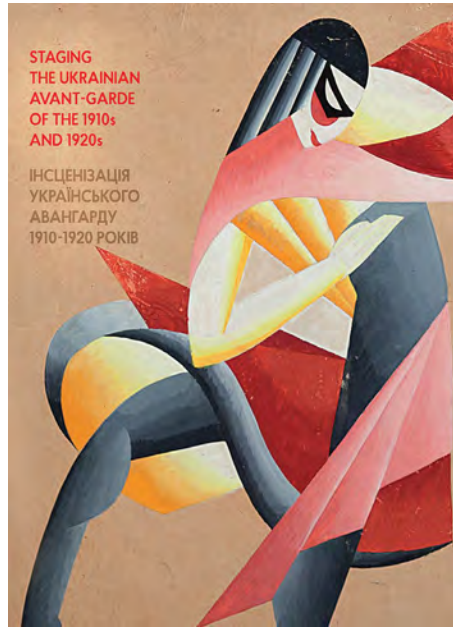
NEW YORK – The Ukrainian Museum is presenting the first comprehensive exhibit showcasing avant-garde artists who shaped early 20th century Ukrainian theater and, ultimately, influenced the theatrical world stage. “Staging the Ukrainian Avant-Garde of the 1910s and 1920s” was organized by The Ukrainian Museum with guest curators Myroslava Mudrak, professor emerita, Department of History of Art, The Ohio State University; and Tetiana Rudenko, chief curator of the Museum of Theater, Music and Cinema Arts of Ukraine in Kyiv.

The exhibit, which opened on February 15, will be open to the public through September 13.

The first of its kind outside Ukraine to feature important contributions to the theater arts in the 1910s and 1920s by modernist Ukrainian artists, the exhibition tells the story of an avant-garde that generated innovation, entrepreneurship and, to a large extent, social engagement with contemporary issues.

“Staging the Ukrainian Avant-Garde” showcases 125 original art works for the theater by 13 artists, many of them exiled or executed during Stalin’s purges of the 1930s for their perceived political beliefs. The exhibition comprises 142 objects on loan from the collection of the Museum of Theater, Music and Cinema Arts of Ukraine in Kyiv, including art works on paper of costume, set and make-up design, photographs and original posters.

A historical trajectory serves as the organizing principle for the exhibition, beginning with experimental designs for dance and culminating with theatrical spectacle at its most innovative period in the theaters of Kyiv, Odesa and Kharkiv. Three aspects of



Cover of the catalogue for the exhibit “Staging the Ukrainian Avant-Garde of the 1910s and 1920s.”

early 20th century Ukrainian stage design are specifically highlighted, each intermingling formalist and socio-cultural issues of the day.

The first examines the period of enterprising collaborative projects initiated by experimental theater and dance, wherein the cubo-futurist painter Alexandra Exter and dancer and ballet choreographer Bronislava Nijinska revolutionized the balletic stage. While these figures have become well-known in theater and dance history in the last few decades, the exhibition introduces Exter’s protégé, Vadym Meller, who would become the premier designer for the Berezhil Artistic Association, led by visionary director Les Kurbas.



Artist Borys Kosarev’s sketch (gouache on paper) for costumes for three witches in Ivan Kocherha’s “Marko v Pekli” (Marko in Hell), State Red Factory Theater, Kharkiv, 1928.

In adopting expressionist drama, which makes up the second aspect of the exhibition, constructivist aesthetics and contemporary social content, the productions of Berezhil shaped the distinct modernist landscape of theater in Ukraine. Berezhil represents the apogee of Ukrainian theatrical arts on par with the best contemporary productions of Erwin Piscator in Berlin and Vsevolod Meyerhold in Moscow. In 1933 the Bolshevik government shut down the Berezhil theater in Kharkiv and sent Kurbas into exile and the gulag, where he was later executed. Repression and execution were the weapons used by the Soviet regime against an entire generation of artists and writers of the early 20th century, abruptly halting the exuberant modernist expression of Ukrainian culture.

Ukrainian theater set itself apart by exploiting Ukraine’s own popular culture, its traditions and customs, including folk costume, puppet theater, and the Kozak

(Continued on page 16)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

ple." Earlier on March 11, Ukrainian Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko said her country expects to receive \$5 billion in credit from the IMF in the coming days to boost its international reserves, which are at their lowest level in more than a decade. The Ukrainian economy is forecast to contract by 5.5 percent in 2015 as government forces fight pro-Russian separatists in the country's east and trade with Russia has almost ceased. Last week, Ukrainian lawmakers passed austerity measures, including pension cuts and tax increases, intended to help secure the fresh IMF bailout package. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Agence France-Presse and Reuters)

Savchenko may resume hunger strike

MOSCOW – On March 11, Nikolay Polozov, a lawyer for Nadiya Savchenko, met with his client, who gave him another letter addressed to the people. The letter, tweeted by lawyer Mark Feigin, reads: "To Ukrainians, to the people. Starting from March 5, 2015, I agreed to eat broth, to avoid getting hospitalized in a Russian hospital and force fed, and also in order to be visited by Ukrainian doctors, since German and Russian doctors already had the oppor-

tunity to examine me. Today is already March 11, 2015, and yet Russia still won't grant Ukrainian doctors permission to examine me! Meanwhile, Russian doctors are taking me off the hunger strike by introducing more and more new products into my diet. They aren't always good for me – in fact, they are already causing me acute pancreatitis! I understand that for the doctors here, as well as the Russian Federation's investigative committee and the Russian government, the most important thing is switching me back to [eating from] the regular prison pot and shipping me off to jail again, to make sure the investigation can last forever! Unless Ukrainian doctors are granted access to me before the end of the week to correct the way I am being reintroduced to food, then, starting from Monday, March 16, 2015, I am refusing food again and resume my hunger strike – until I can meet with doctors from Ukraine! I have submitted an appropriate statement to the FSIN [Federal Penitentiary Service] of Russia." (maidantranslations.com)

More individuals, entities sanctioned

WASHINGTON – The United States has issued a new list of individuals and entities to be sanctioned over Russia's interference in Ukraine, including Kremlin-connected nationalist ideologue Aleksandr Dugin and former Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola

Azarov. The Treasury Department on March 11 also sanctioned a bank in Crimea – the Russian National Commercial Bank – two other former officials from the government of ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, eight Ukrainian "separatists," and two other leaders of Mr. Dugin's Eurasian Youth Union. Any U.S. property held by those individuals is frozen, and U.S. citizens are prohibited from doing business with them. The United States took the action to "hold accountable those responsible for violations of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity." Russian FSB chief Aleksandr Bortnikov, who has been targeted by sanctions in the European Union and Canada, was not on the list of individuals targeted by the Treasury Department in this latest round of sanctions. (RFE/RL)

EU removes four from sanctions list

BRUSSELS – The European Union has removed four Ukrainians from a sanctions list due to lack of evidence. The EU list, announced in March 2014, had targeted 22 Ukrainian officials suspected of embezzling state funds and illegally transferring the funds outside Ukraine. The EU has frozen their assets held in the 28-nation bloc. The four men, whose names didn't appear in the updated list on March 6, are: Oleksiy Azarov, the son of former Prime Minister Mykola Azarov; former presidential advisers Andriy Portnov and Ihor Kalinin; and former security chief Oleksandr Yakymenko. The EU said another four people will remain on the list for three months, during which the Ukrainian Procurator General's Office is required to provide more evidence against them. The list will be updated after 12 months. It includes ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and Mykola Azarov as well as the former head of the Ukrainian Security Service, a former prosecutor-general, a former internal affairs minister and a former justice minister. (RFE/RL)

Ukrainians with Czech roots leave

PRAGUE – Ukrainians of Czech descent have started leaving eastern Ukraine for the Czech Republic. Czech Radio reported on March 1 that a bus carrying 40 people whose ancestors came to Ukraine when it was part of the Russian empire in the 19th century left the village of Chekhohrad – which means Czech city – in the southeastern Zaporizhia region. The village, populated mainly by descendants of Czech immigrants, lies about 200 kilometers west of the front line in the conflict between government forces and Russian-backed rebels, which has killed more than 6,000 people since April. At total of 138 Ukrainians of Czech descent are expected to arrive in the Czech Republic in the coming weeks. Czech officials say all repatriates will be provided with housing, jobs, and medical insurance.

Ukrainian media reports say some 20,000 Ukrainians have Czech roots. In late 1990s, the Czech government repatriated some 200 citizens of Kazakhstan who had Czech roots. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Czech Radio and newsmir.info)

Interest rates hiked to stabilize hryvnia

KYIV – Ukraine's central bank has sharply raised the country's interest rate in an effort to stabilize the national currency and halt inflation. National Bank of Ukraine chief Valeriya Hontareva said in Kyiv the benchmark interest rate would be increased from 19.5 percent to 30 percent as of March 4. The move is aimed at stabilizing the value of the hryvnia, which has lost 80 percent of its value against the dollar since January 1. Prices in January were 28.5 percent higher than in January 2014. The Ukrainian economy – forecast to contract by 5.5 percent in 2015 – has suffered in the past year as government forces fight pro-Russian forces in eastern Ukraine and trade with Russia has almost ceased. The interest rate increase comes ahead of a decision by the International Monetary Fund, expected on March 11, to release a \$17.5 billion loan that Kyiv needs to avoid a default on its debts. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by the Associated Press and Agence France-Presse)

Russia, Ukraine reach gas deal

BRUSSELS – Russia and Ukraine have reached an agreement to ensure Russian gas supplies to Ukraine for the month of March, averting possible cuts that could have hit supplies to the European Union. The breakthrough followed EU-mediated talks in Brussels on March 2 involving Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak and his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Demchshyn. Moscow threatened to turn off the taps to Ukraine on March 3 unless it received outstanding pre-payments, as agreed in a deal last October. Complicating the dispute has been deliveries to Ukraine's rebel-held east. The previous week, Russia began directly pumping gas to rebel-held areas after Kyiv cut them. Moscow said those deliveries should be counted in gas exports to Ukraine. Under the agreement, Kyiv and Moscow agreed the supply issue in eastern Ukraine "is highly complex in legal, technical and political terms," and that more talks would be required. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Reuters and Agence France-Presse)

Ukraine pays for gas supplies

MOSCOW – Russian gas giant Gazprom said on March 6 it had received a pre-payment for gas from Ukrainian state energy company Naftohaz, ensuring supplies to Ukraine through mid-March. Gazprom spokesman Sergei Kupriyanov said Ukraine

(Continued on page 13)

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Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

NATO enlargement has strengthened the alliance, despite initial doubts, they added.

A negative response to Georgia and Ukraine would generate doubts about NATO's continuation of its open-door policy, would deprive Ukraine and Georgia of a chance to choose their place in the European security architecture, and would leave the impression that outside factors were able to exert influence on the alliance's decision-making.

The signatories also underscored the value of MAPs as a tool in promoting internal reforms in the aspirant countries and stimulating them to improve relations with neighboring countries. Ukraine and Georgia compared favorably with the situation in current MAP countries that were at

the beginning of their first MAP cycles.

The document also warned that the MAP debate was testing NATO's adherence to its own principles and procedures, and urged inviting Ukraine and Georgia to participate in MAPs at the Bucharest summit.

Moscow suggested that the Georgian and Ukrainian MAPs were essentially a U.S. project that would spoil European relations with Russia. These "newcomers" to the alliance were portrayed by Moscow as an erosion of Germany's and France's influence.

The document was denounced by Moscow as a Washington-directed move to divide Germany and France from other countries in the alliance, as stated by Dmitry Rogozin, Russia's envoy to NATO, who is now deputy prime minister of Russia.

Source: "NATO members stating the case for Georgian and Ukrainian MAPs," by Vladimir Socor (Eurasia Daily Monitor), The Ukrainian Weekly, March 30, 2008.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

had made another \$15-million advance payment, enough to receive an additional 45.6 million cubic meters of gas. The announcement came as Ukraine was facing an impending suspension of gas supplies that could have started as early as March 6. Under the terms of an agreement the European Union (EU) helped mediate between Russia and Ukraine in October 2014, Russia agreed to reduce the price it charges Ukraine for gas but Kyiv must pay in advance for gas it receives from Gazprom. Ukraine faced a cut-off at the end of February but made a \$15 million prepayment that at the time Mr. Kupriyanov said would give Ukraine an additional 24 hours of gas. The EU has been concerned about its own supplies as 40 percent of the Russian gas the EU purchases is carried by pipelines transiting Ukrainian territory. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Interfax and Reuters)

NATO naval drills start in Black Sea

BRUSSELS – Seven NATO members started a naval exercise in the Black Sea on

March 10. The naval rapid reaction force in the drills comprises a U.S. flagship, the guided-missile cruiser USS Vicksburg, and ships from the six other participating states – Black Sea countries Turkey, Romania, and Bulgaria, plus Canada, Germany and Italy. NATO has held a series of exercises in Eastern Europe, aimed in part to reassure members concerned about Russian intentions following Moscow's annexation of the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea in March 2014 and its moves in support of separatists fighting government forces in eastern Ukraine. A Bulgarian navy spokesman said the training would include simulated anti-air and anti-submarine warfare exercises, as well as simulated small boat attacks and basic ship handling maneuvers. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Reuters, digi24.com)

Ukraine's war focus of EU ministers

RIGA – European Union foreign ministers met for a second day in the Latvian capital, Riga, on March 7 for talks focusing on the war in eastern Ukraine. The gathering of ministers from the EU's 28 member states came amid heightened tensions between the EU and Russia over Moscow's support for separatists in Ukraine. Implementation of the Minsk ceasefire agreements brokered

in September of last year and February of this year were high on the Riga agenda. On March 6, Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov and German Foreign Affairs Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier agreed in a telephone conference on the need for the European security organization, the OSCE, to double the number of its monitors in Ukraine to 1,000. Kyiv and the West accuse Russia of deploying troops and weaponry in Ukraine's east to the support the separatists. Despite daily evidence supporting the allegations, Moscow denies sending Russian troops or weaponry into eastern Ukraine. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Agence France-Presse, the Associate Press and Reuters)

Car bomb explodes in Kharkiv

KHARKIV – A senior special-police officer loyal to Kyiv was injured along with his wife in a car-bomb blast in the eastern city of

Kharkiv. Police told RFE/RL that Andriy Yanholenko and his wife, Inna, were hospitalized after a bomb under Mr. Yanholenko's car exploded on March 6. City officials said they suffered shrapnel wounds. Mr. Yanholenko commands Slobzhanshchyna, a police battalion whose members refused to participate in a crackdown on the protests that led to the ouster of President Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014. An aide to Internal Affairs Minister Arsen Avakov said on Facebook that authorities were treating the blast as a suspected terrorist act. Four people have been killed and 14 wounded in three apparent bombings since January 19 in Kharkiv, which lies northwest of the site of the conflict between government forces and Russian-backed rebels. Ukrainian authorities have blamed a series of bomb blasts in Kharkiv and the southern city of Odesa on Russia and the rebels. (RFE/RL Ukrainian Service, with reporting by UNIAN)



Ділимося сумною вісткою що 20 грудня 2014 року в Гамільтоні, Онтаріо, на 93 році життя відійшла у вічність наша найдорожча Мама і Бабця

СВ. П.

Дарія Хризанта Горнич (з дому Ціховляс)

дружина покійного Романа (2009)
нар. 1 квітня 1922 року в Ярославі.

Похоронні відправи відбулися 23 грудня 2014 року в Українській католицькій церкві св. Духа в Гамільтоні, Онтаріо, а відтак на цвинтарі св. Володимира в Oakville, Онтаріо, Канада.

У глибокому смутку залишені:

- дочка - Марта Гуменюк з чоловіком Орестом
- син - д-р Адріян Горнич з дружиною Іриною (з дому Макогон)
- внуки - Дам'ян з нареченою Найомі
- Рената
- Маркіян

Та ближча і дальша родина в Канаді, Америці і Бельгії.

Вічна їй пам'ять!



It is with deep sorrow we share with family and friends that on Thursday March 5, 2015 passed into eternity our beloved mother, grandmother, and aunt.

Anastasia Hrybowych

Born October 20, 1930, in Peremyshl Ukraine.

Anastasia emigrated to the U.S. in 1949 and settled in Detroit, Michigan. Besides her family and friends, she loved Ukraine and was a supporter of its democracy and freedom.

Surviving are:

- daughters - Melaniya Temnycky with husband Vlodko, daughter Sophia and son Nicholas
- Natalia Hrybowych,
- niece - Mary Kelley with husband Charles, son Ryan and daughter Alison
- nephew - George Burke
- niece - Lesia Fodell with husband Tom, sons Patrick and Nicholas, daughter Stephanie
- nephew - Douglas Fejer with wife Beth, son Alex and daughter Lesia
- grand nieces - Laura and Alyssa Fejer
- extended family in Ukraine and Poland

Funeral services will be held on March 14, 2015, 2 pm. at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in South Bound Brook, New Jersey.

Eternal Memory – Вічна пам'ять!



With heavy hearts and deep sorrow we announce that our beloved mother

SOPHIE SKOP

passed away on February 16, 2015.



Funeral services were held on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, at St. John the Baptizer Ukrainian Catholic Church, La Mesa (San Diego) CA.

Predeceased by her beloved husband Alexander, Sophie leaves her grieving daughters Vera (Bohdan Knianicky) and Nadia (Peter Shlichta.)

Вічна їй пам'ять!

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Smolokyp, P. O. Box 561, Ellicott City, MD 21041



With deep sorrow we announce that on February 28, 2015, in Meadowbrook, PA,

OLGA FYLYPOWYCZ née LOZA

peacefully fell asleep in the Lord, having received the Holy Eucharist and Last Rights.

She was born on February 18, 1918 in Lviv (then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire) where she graduated from the Gymnasium of the Basilian Sisters; in the 1930's was a secret member of the Plast Scouting movement which had been outlawed by the Polish government; in 1938 participated in the march to restore the graves of the Sich Riflemen on Makivka; in 1941, together with her late sister, Osypa, sheltered their Jewish co-worker, Ruzia Lekhman, saving her from the Holocaust; in 1944 was forced to flee under the threat of bolshevik bayonets; arrived in Chicago in 1955 where she was a longtime member of the Catholic Action group at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral; despite modest means, together with her late husband, generously supported Basilian religious and priests in Brazil and Poland, the Ukrainian Catholic University, and the acquisition of the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, D.C.; was recognized by the UUARC for continuous support of its "Grandfather and Grandmother" project; and at age 91, at the request of her granddaughter, sewed neckerchief prototypes for the uniforms of the revitalized Plast Scouting junior sorority #24 named after Princess Olga of Kyivan Rus.

FUNERAL SERVICES were held on March 7, 2015, at Annunciation B.V.M. Ukrainian Catholic Church, Melrose Park, PA followed by interment at Lawnview Cemetery, Fox Chase, PA

Olga was predeceased in 2003 by her husband of 60 years, Eugene.

She is survived by:

- son - ANDREW FYLYPOVYCH with wife, CHRISTINE SHUST
- granddaughters - ANDREA and ALEXANDRA
- nieces and nephews - ROXOLANA FYLYPOWYCZ HARASYMIW and family TARAS FYLYPOWYCZ
- Dr. DARIA FYLYPOWYCZ MONTERO
- Dr. YAROSLAW ZALIPSKYJ with wife NADIA and family MARTHA STADNYK with husband SLAVKO

family in Germany and Ukraine

ВІЧНА ЇЙ ПАМ'ЯТЬ!

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to: Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622

Family contact: Andrew Fylypovych, 905 Manor Ave., Meadowbrook, PA 19046; aftato@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Short Hills rally for Savchenko *Solidarity hunger strike in Toronto*



SHORT HILLS, N.J. – The Short Hills Ladies Club and members of the New Jersey Regional Council of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America rallied in support of Nadiya Savchenko in front of Millburn Town Hall on March 8, International Women's Day. They were heeding the call of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations – which links 27 NGOs in 17 countries on three continents – to demand the release of Ms. Savchenko from Russian detention.

– Roksolana Misilo



The keynote speaker, Member of Parliament Chrystia Freeland, with organizers of the event in solidarity with Nadiya Savchenko: (first row, from left) Anna Kupreeva, Luba Kelebay, Olya Grod, Renata Roman, Marijka Lalka-Wynnyckyj, Oksana Rewa, (second row) Lesia Danylak, Ms. Freeland, Marijka Stadnyk, Lydia Falcomer and Alexandra Chyczij.

TORONTO – The World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations announced that its call to stand in solidarity with Nadiya Savchenko on March 8, International Women's Day, met with strong support in Toronto.

An ad hoc committee quickly organized an event at the UNF Trident Banquet Hall that featured Member of Parliament Chrystia Freeland as the keynote speaker. Several videos about the inspiring life of Nadiya Savchenko were shown.

Bohdan Cherniawsky and Alexandra Stadnyk of Patriot Defence spoke to the

large group of assembled men, women and children about the IFAK training project they are both involved with and provided insight into both the need and the benefit of this life-saving project for Ukrainian soldiers.

Donations equivalent to the cost of food a person would have consumed on this day were made to the Patriot Defence Fund (www.patriotdefence.org) in support of Ukraine's army. Organizers said \$5,000 was raised for this World Congress of Ukrainians project led by Ukrainian American physician Ulana Suprun.

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DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

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All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

MEETING WILL BE ATTENDED BY
members of the UNA Executive Committee

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Ukrainian pro sports update: tennis and hockey by Ihor Stelmach

Svitolina a rising star in women's tennis

Nineteen-year-old Elina Svitolina reigned supreme after the two-set contest in Baku, a final that saw two of the WTA tour's rising stars collide. The Ukrainian youngster retained the maiden title she won at this same event in 2013 with a strong showing against Bojana Jovanovski of Serbia.

At the time ranked No. 37 in the world, Svitolina had lost only one set in Baku and was clearly the stronger competitor from the start of the match. She breezed through the first set in a mere 22 minutes. The second set saw no breaks of serve as Jovanovski found some rhythm on serve and forced a tiebreak. Svitolina jumped on the opportunity to take a 4-0 lead in the tiebreak and closed out the match 6-1, 7-6(2).

According to WTATennis.com, Svitolina is the first teenager to win multiple WTA titles since Anastasia Pavluchenkova of Russia.

Svitolina is one of the brightest young stars in women's tennis today and has secured her position as the WTA's highest ranked teenager in the world. She made her top-100 debut in February 2013, and hit a ranking of No. 37 after the 2014 Family Circle Cup, where she registered an upset of upcoming American Sloane Stephens. The rest of her 2014 included wins over Roberta Vinci at the Open GDF Suez in Paris and WTA's 2013 newcomer of the year, Eugenie Bouchard, at the Sony Open in Miami. At the Western and Southern Svitolina recorded the first top-10 victory of her career, defeating Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova in the second round. Elina entered 2015 with a new career high ranking of No. 28, which she maintained after reaching the semifinals at the Brisbane International and the third round of the Australian Open.

Svitolina first drew attention when she won the 2010 Roland Garros girls' event at the young age of 15. At 18 she won her first Baku Cup, making her the first teenager to win a WTA tournament since February 2012. In January 2013 she reached the

third round of her first Grand Slam, having defeated Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia.

The young Ukrainian is having fun playing tennis and taking advantage of the opportunities to compete against some of the better professional ladies on the tour. She's worked diligently to improve her game, has demonstrated an aggressive competitive streak and should continue to improve her ranking further by the end of the current year.

Early in 2014 Svitolina was announced as the latest ambassador for global sportswear brand Ellesse, whose president, Marco Ellerker, issued the following statement: "Ellesse has a rich heritage in tennis and as we look to the future, we are delighted to be supporting such an exceptional young talent in Elina. Her determination and positive attitude to life embodies everything Ellesse stands for, and, of course, she looks fantastic in our new designs!"

Getting personal: 10 things to know about Elina Svitolina

1. Vital stats: born in Odesa, Ukraine, on September 12, 1994; lives in Kharkiv.
2. Early years: started playing tennis at age 4 due to her brother being a pro player. Her goal was to be better than her brother.
3. Junior success: won Roland Garros girls' title in 2010 at age 15.
4. Pro Success: won her first ITF event in Kharkiv (2010), then won total of nine ITF tournaments over the next three years; big breakthrough came in 2013 when she won the Baku Cup for her first WTA title.
5. Making history: by winning the Baku Cup, she became the first teenager to win a WTA main tour title since February 2012.
6. Rankings Watch: reached career high rank of No. 28 at end of 2014/ beginning of 2015.
7. Favorites: surface to play on is clay, food is Chinese, musician is Eminem.
8. Idol Worship: favorite players are Andre Agassi and Roger Federer; admires Kim Clijsters' groundstrokes and Serena Williams' serve.
9. Off-Court: enjoys movies, reading,

going to the beach and wake boarding.

10. Social Savvy: follow Elina on Twitter and on Facebook.

Hawryluk a perfect fit for Florida Panthers

The Florida Panthers asked Jayce Hawryluk to keep a secret the weekend of June 27-29, 2014. On Saturday morning of the 2014 NHL Entry Draft, the secret was revealed to the rest of the hockey world. On Friday, Panthers General Manager Dale Tallon told the aspiring Ukrainian hockey player that he would be their selection if he was still around come the start of the second round.

"They tell you that, but anything can change. They honored their promise, and it means a lot to me," said Hawryluk in a draft day interview with the Winnipeg Sun. The half-Ukrainian (from father Terry) led the Brandon Wheat Kings (WHL) with 24 goals and 64 points in 59 games last season. "It was unbelievable. I've got a lot of emotions going right now."

If you got to your seat late Saturday morning (your sports correspondent did), you missed Hawryluk being called to the podium with the second pick of the second round, following Brandon Lemieux, son of Claude Lemieux. A few minutes later when he met the media, one couldn't have wiped the smile off Hawryluk's face if one tried.

Hawryluk is a proud Manitoban who was actually born in Yorkton, Saskatoon. He is gifted with superior skills, but also plays a tenacious game, a trait he developed from playing with three older brothers. He should mesh well with new Panthers head coach Gerald Gallant who played with a chip on his shoulder back in the day.

Florida's scouting director Scott Luce praised Hawryluk's pre-draft interview as one of the best he's witnessed in the last 10 years. "He was phenomenal. He knew about our team and he knew that he was a fit. It was great give-and-take," said Luce in a June 28, 2014, interview with the Winnipeg Sun. "He plays the game the way he lives life. When you have that, it makes it easier for him to be an effective player because he comes by that naturally."

Jayce needs to work on his skating, but one will never question his desire to improve and do whatever it takes to make the step to the NHL.

"We all know he's going to put the work in because that is the type of kid he is," said Luce, very impressed by Hawryluk's upbeat demeanor. "At the under-18 tournament he really stood out to us as the type of player that has that sandpaper with skill. He was a perfect fit for us."

Up and down in 2013-2014

The past year was a roller coaster for Hawryluk. He began the season with Team Canada at the Ivan Hlinka Tournament. He played on a rebuilding WHL club, helping Brandon into the playoffs and a first-round upset of the Regina Pats. He experienced shortness of breath and collapsed in the dressing room after a first star performance in game three. Hawryluk spent three days in the hospital, watching his team complete the sweep without him before returning for the second round and a five-game loss to the Edmonton Oil Kings. He would show no ill effects, scoring in his first game back. He would finish the playoffs with five goals and 12 points in eight games. His busy campaign concluded back with Team Canada where he helped the squad to a bronze medal at the U-18 World Championships.

Scouting report

An undersized forward, he must be a strong skater to make it in the NHL. He has good speed with good acceleration, which complements his grit and agility. His top assets are his core strength and balance – he is hard to knock off the puck, forechecks hard, wins battles along the boards and plays a strong cycle game. He is strong enough to fight through checks, go to the net, battle for pucks in the corners and gain position in the front of the net when battling defenders. Hawryluk doesn't allow his size (5-foot-10, 190 pounds) to detract from his game.

Ihor Stelmach may be reached at iman@sfgsports.com

SPORTSLINE by Matthew Dugas

Soccer

- Shakhtar Donetsk lost 0-7 to Bayern Munich on March 10 at Allianz Arena in Munich during the UEFA Champions League knockout stage before the quarterfinals. The match was off to a rocky start when Olexandr Kucher received the fastest red card in a UEFA Champions League match, at 2-minutes, 39 seconds (a new record) during the first half. Shakhtar was down 0-2 at the half and, playing with a 10-man squad, the pitmen were at the mercy of one of Europe's top clubs until the final whistle. Shakhtar tied 0-0 with Bayern on February 17 in the first-leg match that was played at Arena Lviv. The quarterfinals are set to begin on April 14-15, with second-leg matches on April 21-22. The final is set for June 6 in Berlin at Olympiastadion.

- Andriy Pavelko, 39, was selected as the new president of the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) on March 6 after receiving 122 out of 137 votes by delegates during the XVII Extraordinary Congress of the FFU in Kyiv. Pavelko, who will serve a four-year term as president of the FFU, brings experience as a well-known Ukrainian politician and lawmaker, having served as the chairman of the Football Federation of Dnipropetrovsk since 2001. Other candidates for the post of president of the FFU

included Ihor Kolomoisky (eight votes) and Yaroslav Hryso (seven votes).

- During the UEFA Europa League play, Dynamo Kyiv lost 1-2 to French club Guingamp on February 19 at Roudourour arena in Guingamp, France, in the first-leg match, and Dynamo won 3-1 against Guingamp on February 26 in the second-leg match at Olympic Stadium in Kyiv. In the Round of 16, Dynamo plays Everton on March 12 at Goodison Park in Liverpool, England. Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk won 2-0 against Greek club Olympiacos on February 19, and tied 2-2 on February 26 in the second-leg match. Dnipro plays against Dutch club Ajax on March 12 at Olympic Stadium in Kyiv. Second-leg matches are scheduled for March 19.

- Ukraine's U-19 men's team is in Group 5 of the UEFA U-19 Elite Round, with Bosnia and Herzegovina (May 14), Montenegro (May 19) and Poland (May 16). Locations of matches are to be determined. Greece hosts the final tournament on July 6-19.

- In the UEFA Youth League, Shakhtar Donetsk won first place in Group H with 14 points, ahead of Portuguese club Porto (nine points), Spain's Athletic Club (nine points) and Belarus' FC BATE Borisov (one point). After a 1-1 draw with Greek club Olympiacos (Group A runner-up) on February 23 in Kyiv, Shakhtar won the

match 5-4 in penalty kicks to advance to the quarterfinals. Shakhtar plays against Portuguese club Benfica in the quarterfinal on March 17 at Caixia Futebol Campus in Seixal, Portugal. Other teams in the quarterfinals include Italy's Roma, England's Manchester City, Belgian club Anderlecht and Porto. England's Chelsea defeated Atletico Madrid 2-0 on March 10 to secure its spot in the semifinal.

- Ukraine's U-17 men's team is set to play against Italy on March 21 at Stadion Wetzlar in Wetzlar, Germany, as part of its UEFA U-17 Group 8 Elite Round matches with Germany (March 23) and Slovakia (March 26). Bulgaria hosts the tournament final that is set for May 6-22.

- Ukraine's women's U-19 team is set to play against Belgium on April 4 at Waldseestadion, in Forst, Germany, as part of its UEFA Group 5 Elite Round. Other teams in Group 5 include group host Germany (April 6) and Scotland (April 9). The final is set for Israel on July 15-27.

Futsal

- Ukraine, in Group 4 of the UEFA Futsal Euro Cup is set to play against Belgium, group host Azerbaijan and Denmark. Ukraine's opener will be against Denmark on March 18; Ukraine will play against Belgium on March 19 and against Azerbaijan on

March 21. Ukraine got a bye to the main round, along with 21 other teams that had the highest coefficients based on the Futsal Euro 2014 and 2012, and Futsal World Cup 2012 (Ukraine ranked fifth, behind Portugal and ahead of Croatia). The tournament had 24 other teams that competed in the preliminary round, in addition to the 21 in the main round, with a record-setting 45 countries competing.

Athletics

- Nataliya Pyhyda won gold in the women's 400-meter race on March 5-8 at the 33rd European Athletics Indoor Championships at O2 Arena in Prague. Natalia Lupu won third place in the women's 800-meter race. Alina Fyodorova won first place in the women's shotput with a distance of 15.09 meters.

- Andriy Protsenko won silver in the men's high jump (2.26 meters) at the Malmo Games at Malmo Arena on February 25 in Malmo, Sweden. Nataliya Pohrebnyak won silver in the women's 60-meter race.

- Hanna Platitsyna won third place in the women's 60-meter hurdles at the IAAF Permit Indoor Meeting at XL-Galan in Stockholm on February 19. Oksana Okuneva won third place in women's high

(Continued on page 17)

BOOK NOTES

A novel based on biography

"And I Was There: A Novel Based on the Life of a Ukrainian Immigrant," by Martha Elliott. Virtualbookworm.com Publishing Inc., 2014. 482 pp. ISBN: 978-1-62137-575-3, paperback, \$19.95.

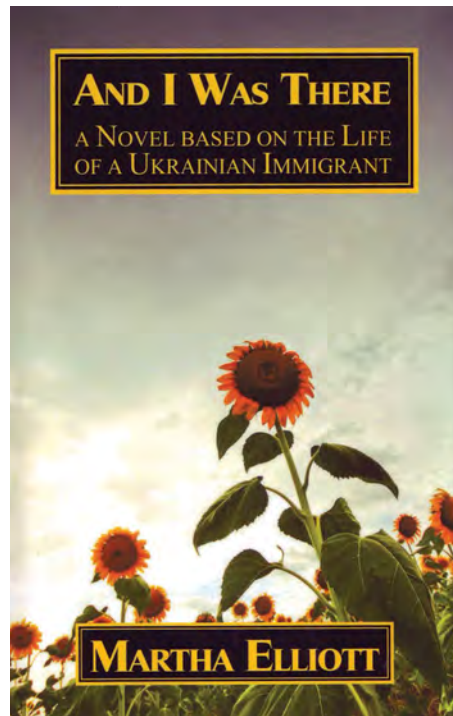
The cover of "And I Was There," the debut novel by Martha Elliott, describes the work as "a novel based on the life of a Ukrainian immigrant." It is, in fact, a novel based on the real-life events in the life of the author's grandfather, Stepan Bemko.

Bemko was born in 1885 in the tiny village of Vivsia in Galicia (Halychyna), left his family at the age of 12, came to America in 1903 and died in 1978 at the age of 93 – a life full of struggles and changes, beginning with peasant life in "the heart of Ukrainian nationalism" in what was then part of Austria-Hungary and transitioning through the many changes in America through most of the 20th century.

Two of Bemko's brothers were able to join him in America. As the Bemko family grew, Stepan never tired of telling stories to his children, and later to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren – not only fairy tales and stories about brave Kozaks, but also about his life. His stories inspired the book's title – many of them ended with, "There was a big feast. And I was there."

From the time he first left home, Bemko corresponded with his parents. Although distance and circumstances, particularly those in Ukraine, slowed the exchange of letters, correspondence with his family in Ukraine continued throughout Bemko's life, first with his parents and later with his sister.

Ms. Elliott's mother – Stepan's daughter Anastasia, in whose home Bemko lived during the author's childhood and teenage years – faithfully kept all his letters, along with photographs and other important



family documents. It is these preserved mementos, together with Bemko's stories, that form the basis of the book.

Often, when reading a "fictionalized biography" or "story based on real events," the reader is left wondering what might be true, and what is fiction. To answer such questions, Ms. Elliott has thoughtfully provided a short afterword to the book, summarizing the actual known events in Bemko's life. The story of Stepan Bemko's life is no doubt similar to the life story of many immigrants; at the same time, it is unique because "we were there."

"And I Was There" is currently available through Amazon.com, \$9.99 for e-book (Kindle) and \$19.95 for the paperback edition, as well as directly from the publisher at Virtualbookworm.com for \$19.95.

At the same time, the dangerous fall in Russians' real incomes and the clear rise in poverty are seemingly of little concern for the Kremlin's billionaire-courtiers (Gazeta.ru, March 6). They tend to dismiss warnings from such think tanks as the Gaidar Economic Policy Institute that the country's 19-percent contraction in investment activity (caused not by a shortage of capital but by prohibiting risk assessments) could translate into a 6.8-percent fall in GDP by the end of 2015 (Slon.ru, March 6). Rather, the siloviki pay particularly close attention to the European Union's sanctions policy. Consequently, Russia's attempts to increasingly coerce Ukraine by using gas exports as a tool of political pressure was abandoned last week after a firm warning signal from Brussels (Rbc.ru, March 2).

Mr. Putin is no more able to assert effective control over rogue elements within the special services than his subordinates are able to turn Rosneft or Russian Railways into modern, efficiently managed corporations. The best he can hope for is to keep up the appearance of firm leadership: and pinning the blame for the elimination of a brave dissident on Western-sponsored Chechen rebels is a convenient means toward this end. Such a policy, however, cannot alter the reality of the ungovernability of the siloviki-dominated Russian state, which oversees a degenerating crony capitalist economy.

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Exhibit showcases...

(Continued from page 11)

lyrical burlesque and gritty local variety show. The avant-garde artists translated these into a modernist idiom, exercising formalist hyperbole, bright colors and vulgate forms to create a lively and provocative theater dynamic, a performative forum that was both cosmopolitan and distinctively local. This third, folk-inspired, aspect of the exhibition is illustrated by the singularly rich works of Anatol Petrytsky, the productions of Berezil, and similarly showcased in the works of Matvii Drak, Marko Epshtein, Borys Kosarev, Oleksandr Khvostenko-Khvostov, Vasyl Krychevsky, Nisson Shyfrin, Valentyn Shklyiaiev, Maia (Militisa) Symashkevych and Kost Yelava, who designed for other theaters in Ukraine, including the Jewish theater of Odesa.

The bulk of the exhibit's works focuses on the designs of Vadym Meller, who won a gold medal for his scenography at the International Exposition of Modern Industrial and Decorative Arts in Paris in 1925. The following year, his designs were exhibited as part of the "foreign" and "radically modernistic" section of the International Theater Exposition in New York (The Little Review, Winter 1926). Special emphasis will be placed on Meller's designs for Berezil's productions of Upton Sinclair's "Jimmie Higgins" (1923), Georg Kaiser's "Gas" (1923), Fernand Crommelynck's "Golden Tripe" (1926), and the revue, "Hello, from Radiowave 477!" (1929).

Historical background

As revolution brought an end to the Empire, and Ukraine declared independence for the first time in the 20th century, an intellectual avant-garde produced an energetic (though ill-destined) cultural renaissance. Theater was central to this phenomenon. After years of interdiction and censorship, the Ukrainian language was finally allowed to flourish on the stage, and translations of the world's most momentous dramaturgy – from classics such as Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex" and Shakespeare's "Macbeth," to contemporary German drama – brought a new and unprecedented theatrical experience to the public.

The Soviet government instituted a policy of "Ukrainianization" in the 1920s as a way of recognizing, on the surface of things, the USSR's indigenously distinct peoples. This allowed the use of national languages and the cultivation of native traditions for the purposes of defining "Soviet" identity along national lines. The Ukrainian theater prospered under these conditions, marking the apogee of Ukrainian modernist art. It was

not long, however, before triumph turned to tragedy. The policy that once promoted the arts ultimately proved to be a ruse, laying the groundwork for Stalin's planned extermination of the Ukrainian elite that began in the 1930s and leading to what is now called the "executed renaissance."

Almost a century has passed since the vibrancy of the avant-garde of the 1910s and 1920s afforded new hope for the future directions of Ukrainian art and culture. Ukraine's current revolutionary struggle for independence makes the preservation of that legacy ever more precious. The collaboration between The Ukrainian Museum in New York and the Museum of Theater, Music and Cinema Arts of Ukraine in Kyiv in the presentation of this exhibition signals a strong belief in and commitment to a flourishing national culture in Ukraine.

Exhibit catalogue

A full-color illustrated, bilingual (English and Ukrainian), 276-page, softcover catalogue accompanies "Staging the Ukrainian Avant-Garde of the 1910s and 1920s." The publication features critical essays by consultative curators Prof. Mudrak and Ms. Rudenko, and includes contributions by these acknowledged experts: Nicoletta Misler, professor of Russian and East European art at the Istituto Universitario Orientale, Naples (University of Naples); John E. Bowlt, professor, Department of Slavic Languages at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, director of the Institute of Modern Russian Culture, and specialist in the history of modern Russian art; Valentyna Chechyk, professor, Department of Art History and Theory at Kharkiv State Academy of Art and Design; Hanna Veselovska, professor, Department of Theater Theory and Criticism, Karpenko-Karyi National University of Theater, Cinema and Television in Kyiv; Mayhill Fowler, Department of History, Stetson University, specializing in the cultural history of Russia, Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

The catalogue, priced at \$49, is available in the museum shop and online at ukrainianmuseum.org.

* * *

"Staging the Ukrainian Avant-Garde of the 1910s and 1920s" is made possible by major support from Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union and numerous private donors.

The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St. (between Second Avenue and the Bowery); telephone, 212-228-0110; e-mail, info@ukrainianmuseum.org; website, www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

Admission to the exhibit is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students, free for children age 12 and younger.

Victoria Nuland...

(Continued from page 6)

In the coming days, not weeks or months – here is what we need to see: a complete cease-fire in all parts of eastern Ukraine; full, unfettered access to the whole conflict zone including all separatist-held territory, for OSCE monitors; and a full pull-back of all heavy weapons – Ukrainian, Russian and separatist – as stipulated in the agreements, under OSCE monitoring and verification.

If fully implemented, this will bring greater peace and security in eastern Ukraine for the first time in almost a year. And with it, Ukraine will once again have unfettered access to its own people in the east, and the opportunity for dialogue and political normalization with them. That's what Minsk promises. Peace, then political normalization, then a return of the border. But first, there must be peace.

Russia's commitments under the Minsk agreements are crystal clear and again the choice is Russia's. As the President has said,

we'll judge Russia by its actions, not its words. The United States will start rolling back sanctions on Russia only when the Minsk agreements are fully implemented.

But the reverse is also true. We have already begun consultations with our European partners on further sanctions pressure should Russia continue fueling the fire in the east or other parts of Ukraine, fail to implement Minsk or grab more land as we saw in Debaltseve.

Mr. Chairman, members of this committee, America's investment in Ukraine is about far more than protecting the choice of a single European country. It's about protecting the rules-based system across Europe and globally. It's about saying "no" to borders changed by force, and to big countries intimidating their neighbors or demanding spheres of influence. It's about protecting our 25-year American investment in the prospect of a Europe whole, free and at peace and the example that sets for nations and people around the world who want more democratic, prosperous futures.

I thank this committee for its bipartisan support and commitment.

Free rein...

(Continued from page 2)

volunteers are still ineffective enough that the Russian Ministry of Defense had to deploy whole battalions in order to achieve success on the Debaltseve battlefield (Novaya Gazeta, March 2).

Meanwhile, disregarding any ceasefire agreements, the Russian propaganda machine keeps running its hate-filled campaign under the watchful eyes and approving nods of minders from the special services. No commander-in-chief or general staff commands this blend of local war and global confrontation. And seemingly, each time Mr. Putin has tried to take control and ensure his orders were being properly executed, it turned out that the only order that could be carried out was to prepare a new offensive, which would be launched whenever some local warlord/special agent decided that the moment was right.

Running the war as an assortment of special operations, Mr. Putin's siloviki are confronted with the fact that the Russian economy cannot be run the same way – resulting in their apparent confusion about the trajectory of the recession. They continue their feuds over those business enterprises that are still lucrative. Notably, Sakhalin's governor, Aleksandr Khoroshavin, who failed to build a proper connection with one or another special services branch, has fallen victim to these rent-capturing attacks camouflaged as the government's struggle against corruption (Vedomosti, March 4).

Leader of Ukrainian citizens' network to tour Canada

TORONTO – Serhiy Kuzan, the leader of the Free People network in Ukraine and a national activist in the civil society movement, will be touring Canada and speaking about “Ukraine’s citizen response to Russia’s war in eastern Ukraine.”

The 11-city national tour in March and April includes: Toronto, March 22; Vancouver, March 23; Calgary, March 24; Edmonton, March 26; Winnipeg, March 28; Ottawa, March 31; St. Catharines, April 2; Etobicoke, April 4; Oshawa, April 6; London, April 7; and Hamilton, April 8.

During his visit to Ottawa, Mr. Kuzan will be hosted in Parliament by the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group and will meet with government officials.

Mr. Kuzan will discuss Ukraine’s citizen response to Russian aggression and civic support for Ukraine’s military, including his first-hand experiences in eastern Ukraine’s war zone. He will also share with the Canadian public the deep appreciation for the humanitarian support provided to Ukraine’s military personnel and injured soldiers.

The tour is organized by the League of

Ukrainian Canadians, under the auspices of the International Council in Support of Ukraine (ICSU). The principal sponsor of the tour is the BCU Foundation. The ICSU’s member organizations are founders of two important humanitarian projects. The League of Ukrainian Canadians oversees the Friends of Ukraine Defense Forces Fund, providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine’s defense personnel and their families. The League of Ukrainian Canadian Women operates the Guardian Angels Ukraine Project, focusing on rehabilitation medicine to treat injured Ukrainian soldiers and victims of the Euro-Maidan attacks.

Based in Kharkiv, Mr. Kuzan is a leader in the national volunteer network Free People which provides direct support to Ukrainian defense forces fighting the Russian army and its surrogates in the Donbas region of Ukraine. He and his fellow volunteers deliver supplies directly to soldiers on the front-lines in the war zone.

When the Yanukovich regime’s special forces began launching attacks on the Euro-Maidan protesters, Free People established

one of the first self-defense units of Euro-Maidan: the 14th Company, Euromaidan Self-Defense.

After Russia occupied Crimea by force and then attacked the Donbas region of Ukraine, many members of Euro-Maidan Self-Defense set out to defend Ukraine against Russian invaders and their surrogates by forming and joining volunteer battalions, National Guard units or the special forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. With the state coffers looted by the former regime, and a new Ukrainian government in the process of formation, Ukrainian citizens took it upon themselves to provide their defense forces with the material support to carry on the fight to rid Ukraine of the Russian military occupation.

Free People is a network that brings together volunteer groups throughout Ukraine to coordinate and pool resources in order to provide humanitarian assistance to the troops on the front lines and in the forward bases. Free People is registered with the government of Ukraine and works in cooperation with the national govern-

ment and local units of the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Security Service of Ukraine.

Mr. Kuzan, 30, is an attorney by training. He graduated with high honors from the Institute for Prosecutors at the prestigious National Law University of Yaroslav the Wise in Kharkiv and worked as an assistant prosecutor. As a law student he was active in the Kharkiv chapter of the Nationalist Youth Congress, a civically focused, democratic, patriotic student organization. He continues to chair the organization, which in 2011 was listed as one of the top 20 civic organizations in the country. He was among the founders of the Kharkiv affiliate of Our Ukraine, the lead political party of the Orange Revolution, and in 2005-2006 he served as its legal counsel. In 2013 he was awarded a certificate of recognition by the Parliament of Ukraine for his civic endeavors. In 2014 he was appointed as an adviser to the Secretary of the National Defense and Security Council of Ukraine.

For information about Mr. Kuzan’s tour, readers may e-mail luc@lucorg.com.

The plot to seize...

(Continued from page 1)

Reviving the Russian empire

In addition to the documentary, the liberal newspaper Novaya Gazeta has published a strategy memo on Ukraine that was purportedly drafted under the auspices of Russian oligarch Konstantin Malofeyev and discussed in the Kremlin in February 2014, before Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich fled from Kyiv. The newspaper vouches for the document’s authenticity, although Mr. Malofeyev denies any connection and has threatened to sue.

Also, in January, Russian researcher Aleksandr Sytin published an insider account of the workings of the Russian Institute for Strategic Research (RISI), an influential presidential think tank that provides strategy memos to the Kremlin.

Mr. Sytin argues that, since 2009, RISI has become increasingly interested in the revival of the Russian empire and bolstering the role of the Russian Orthodox Church. According to Mr. Sytin, RISI joined forces with Mr. Malofeyev and other oli-

garchs in November 2013 to appeal to Mr. Putin to adopt a constitutional amendment on the status of Orthodoxy.

RISI’s leadership discounted the independence of all the former Soviet states and argued that their sovereignty “does not deserve serious attention.”

“The overwhelming majority of Ukrainians remember our common history and the Great Patriotic War, and dream of the rebirth of a common Imperial/Soviet state structure,” ran RISI’s analytical take, according to Mr. Sytin. He says the think tank was arguing throughout 2013 that Western security agencies were undermining Russian interests in Ukraine and that it was essential to bring Crimea into the Russian Federation.

The purported Malofeyev strategy document also indicates that Russia was developing plans for pursuing economic and geopolitical goals in Ukraine. The document advocates the incorporation into Russia of Crimea and large parts of eastern Ukraine, particularly the Kharkiv Oblast. It argues that if Russia loses control over the natural-gas transport network in Ukraine, it would bring “enormous harm to the economy of our country.”

“Russia’s participation in the highly likely disintegration of the Ukrainian state will not only give new impetus to the Kremlin’s integration projects but will also enable our country to preserve, as mentioned earlier, control over the gas-transport system of Ukraine,” the paper states. “At the same time, it will fundamentally change the geopolitical layout of central and eastern Europe, returning to Russia one of its main roles.”

Fomenting tensions

The document also cites the need to maintain the integrity of Russia’s military-industrial complex, some of which is located in eastern Ukraine, in order to “accelerate rearmament.” It also cites the desirability of reducing Russia’s dependence on Central Asia migrant workers by replacing them with Slavs from Ukraine as a reason to incorporate eastern Ukraine and Crimea into Russia.

The authors of the document do not bring forward the need to protect ethnic Russians as a motive for aggression in Ukraine. Instead, it advocates fomenting tensions and creating pro-Russian groups and demonstrations complaining of persecution. Such movements should organize

referendums to “give this process ‘political legitimacy’ and ‘moral justification,’” the document says.

Political analyst Andrei Piontkovsky says Mr. Putin’s decision to annex Crimea was part of a larger strategy in response to the political crisis in Ukraine.

“[Putin’s] goal was to block the European vector of Ukrainian development,” Mr. Piontkovsky told Voice of America on March 10. “He thought he achieved the goal by bullying and bribing Yanukovich in November 2013... But everything changed with the anti-criminal Maidan revolution, which culminated with the events of February 20-23. Then he understood that it was necessary to destroy the Ukrainian state.”

“That is, the goal of annexing Crimea was not an end in itself,” Mr. Piontkovsky adds, “but the most effective tool for weakening and, in the long run, destroying the Ukrainian state.”

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Is a Savchenko...

(Continued from page 4)

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power expressed grave concern about Ms. Savchenko’s state of health, calling her “gaunt-looking” and criticizing a Russian court’s rejection of her appeal on March 4.

Also on March 5, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko sent a letter to Russian leader Vladimir Putin asking specifically for Ms. Savchenko’s release. A day later, Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed a reply had been sent to Kyiv, but refused to reveal its contents.

By then, Ms. Savchenko – who had repeatedly vowed that she was prepared to die for her cause – had reportedly abandoned her hunger strike.

Mr. Feigin tweeted on March 5 that she had begun drinking broth, and the Russian tabloid Moskovsky Komsomolets printed the text of a handwritten letter from Ms. Savchenko in which she explained her decision to change “strategy.”

“I’m drinking broth in order to live – and to fly,” said Ms. Savchenko, one of the first women to graduate from Ukraine’s prestigious Kharkiv Air Force Academy. “And if I die, then I will die healthy. And if I fight, then I will be strong... We will live!”

(Interfax reported on March 11 that another of Ms. Savchenko’s lawyers, Nikolai Polozov, says she has threatened to resume her hunger strike on March 16 if she is denied access to Ukrainian doctors.)

Under the terms of the Minsk 2 ceasefire agreement signed last month, Russia is obligated to release all Ukrainian prisoners, which Kyiv says should include Ms. Savchenko.

But with Moscow appearing deeply uncompromising on any of the Minsk conditions, Ms. Savchenko’s release would be viewed by many as a surprising capitulation – particularly given what experts said is a profound disregard for hunger strikes.

“Collective conscience does not exist in modern ruling bureaucracy,” Russian politician and economist Mikhail Delyagin wrote, “For a member of the ‘cattle’ to threaten suicide is not something unacceptable for the bureaucracy; to the contrary, it’s a realization of the bureaucracy’s own secret desire to minimize the number of inconvenient people.”

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Sportsline

(Continued from page 15)

jump (1.89 meters).

- Iryna Kovalenko won third place in the women’s high jump (1.84 meters) at the IAAF Permit Indoor Meeting at the New Balance Indoor Grand Prix on February 7 in Roxbury, Mass.

- Vasyl Ivanytsky won silver in the men’s long jump (7.42 meters) at the International Combined Events Meeting Indoor Championships on February 6-7 in Tallinn, Estonia.

- Andriy Protsenko won silver in the men’s high jump (2.33 meters) at the Banskobystricka Iatka Indoor tournament on February 4 in Banska Bystrica, Slovakia.

- Olesya Povkh won gold in the women’s 60-meter race at the Russian Winter IAAF Permit Indoor Meeting in Moscow on February 1. Hanna Platitsyna won silver in the women’s 60-meter hurdles.

Shooting

- Olena Kostevyck won gold in the women’s 10-meter air pistol event at the European Shooting Championship on March 2-8 in Arnhem, the Netherlands. Ihor Kizyma won silver in the 10-meter

running target for mixed men’s juniors and bronze in 10-meter running target men’s juniors. Kizyma, Volodymyr Strutskyi and Dmytro Melnyk won gold in the 10-meter running target men’s junior team event and silver in the 10-meter running target mixed men’s junior team event. Polina Konarieva, Olena Yakusheva and Viktoriya Savosta won bronze in the 10-meter women’s air pistol team event. Ukraine finished in fifth place in the medal standings with six medals – gold, silver and bronze medals in both individual and team events.

Gymnastics

- Oleh Vernyayev, 21, of Donetsk on March 7 won first place in the AT&T American Cup in Arlington, Texas, with a score of 90.597 points. In parallel bars at the event, he scored 15.900 points for first place. In the other events he scored: 14.766 (fifth place), floor routine; 14.366 (fourth place), pommel horse; 15.266 (second place), rings; 15.233 (fourth place), vault; and 15.066 (third place), high bar. Vernyayev is the 2014 World Champion and 2014 European Champion in parallel bars. Having won the three World Cup tournaments in 2014, Vernyayev won in November in Stuttgart, Germany; in December in Glasgow, Scotland; and in March in Arlington, Texas.

OUT & ABOUT

- Through April 30
New York Pysanka exhibit, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or www.ukrainianmuseum.org
- March 15
Rochester, NY Benefit concert for Ukraine, featuring the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, Rochester Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, Rochester Hochstein School of Music, 585-544-9518 or www.rufcu.org
- March 15
Philadelphia Poetry reading by Serhiy Zhadan with Frank Sherlock, Vox Populi Gallery, ma2634@columbia.edu
- March 15
San Francisco Benefit concert, "Songs for Peace," with Anastasiya Prykhodko, Nova Ukraine, Neck of the Woods, www.novaukraine.org
- March 15
Jenkintown, PA Taras Shevchenko concert, featuring the Prometheus Ukrainian Male Chorus of Philadelphia and the Dumka Ukrainian Chorus of New York, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, www.ueccphila.org
- March 17
Washington Conference, "Current Challenges to Euro-Atlantic Security: Strategies for Cooperation and Joint Solutions," Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 202-691-4188
- March 20
Los Angeles Benefit concert, "Songs for Peace," with Anastasiya Prykhodko, Ukrainian Cultural Center Los Angeles, www.paypal.com
- March 20
Ottawa Film screening with Lada Roslycky, "Tortured Ukraine," Ukrainian National Foundation - Ottawa-Gatineau branch, Vkarpiak@rogers.com
- March 20-22
Sloatsburg, NY Lenten retreat, "Fellowship of the Holy Spirit," League of Ukrainian Catholics, St. Mary's Villa Retreat Center, 201-843-3960 or mc.hrubic@att.net
- March 20-
April 12
New York Art exhibit, "Icon Art: Visions of a World Unseen," featuring works by 18 artists from Ukraine, Ukrainian Institute of America, www.ukrainianinstitute.org or 212-288-8660
- March 21
Seattle Benefit concert, "Songs for Peace," with Anastasiya Prykhodko, University of Washington, Kane Hall, <https://www.facebook.com/events/773873439367117>
- March 21
Lehighton, PA Pysanka workshop, Ukrainian Heritage Studies Center at Manor College, Ukrainian Homestead, 215-235-3709 or www.ukrhomestead.com
- March 21
Somerset, NJ Genealogy workshop, "Nashi Predky - Our Ancestors Genealogy Spring Workshop," Family History Group, Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center of New Jersey, Ukrainian Cultural Center, www.ukrhec.org or 732-356-0132
- March 21
New Britain, CT Ukrainian Easter Festival, St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 860-229-3383 or 860-677-2138
- March 21
New York Lecture by Tetiana Shestopalova, "Poetry as Self-Making' in Yuri Sherekh's Critics (An Attempt in Explication of Literary Dialogue with Bohdan Rubchak)." Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
- March 21
Washington Taras Shevchenko event, "Shevchenko: Prophet of Freedom - Cultural Exploration into an Iconic Ukrainian Figure," National Monument to Taras Shevchenko, Bier Baron Tavern, www.facebook.com/events/686066991503257
- March 22
Whippany, NJ Centennial Art exhibit and sale, "Jacques Hnizdovsky: Flora and Fauna," Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 75, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, uaccnj.org
- March 22
Houston, TX Pysanka workshop, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of Houston, AvantGarden, www.uacch.net

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.



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UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Students touch modern Ukrainian history

by Daria Kozak-Tymets

NEW YORK – On Saturday, February 28, high school students of the Selfreliance School of Ukrainian Studies in New York City had a historic meeting with Andriy Parubiy, first vice-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada and former secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine.

The students anxiously awaited the arrival of a living legend of the Maidan. Hearing the story of the modern-day struggle for Ukrainian freedom, the formation of a Ukrainian army and the Revolution of Dignity from the lips of an actual freedom fighter and leader of the Euro-Maidan was an unparalleled experience for the young audience. Mr. Parubiy’s warm, fatherly approach only enhanced the exchange.

Mr. Parubiy emphasized the vital importance and influence of youth organizations in cultivating a new



Verkhovna Rada First Vice-Chairman Andriy Parubiy (center) with students of the Selfreliance School of Ukrainian Studies in New York City.

generation of Ukrainian patriots, full of love and loyalty to their country. He reminded the group that patri-

otic young people who grew up in youth organizations were always on the vanguard of Ukrainian history,

ready and willing to fight for change. As a memento of his visit, Mr. Parubiy gave the school a flag from the Maidan.

Father and daughter collaborate on children’s storybook

by Anya H. Szul

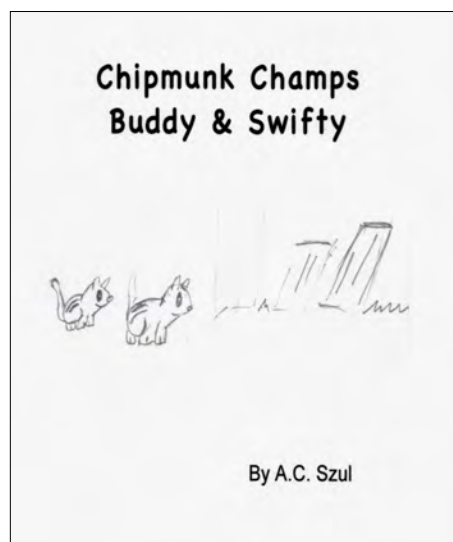
DERWOOD, Md. – An illustrated children’s book published via the Amazon website features two fictional chipmunk characters who live in Beach Lake, Pa., a summer vacation destination for Ukrainian families.

The book, “Chipmunk Champs Buddy & Swifty,” is available in paperback and for Kindle download at www.amazon.com/Chipmunk-Champs-Buddy-Swifty-Szul/dp/1508558825.

The two enthusiastic, friendly chipmunks show the benefits of working as a team and getting along.

The story is based on true events, said Andy C. Szul, who collaborated with his 3-year-old daughter Victoria on the writing and illustrations. “From start to finish, it took us about six months to storyboard and then draft, edit, revise and draw these two furry critters as best we could,” he said. Victoria provided creative input and also helped with the book’s art.

“Last summer at Barkley Lake we started sketching these two little animals as they scurried near the bungalow’s front porch and climbed a hammock to get to a hanging bird feeder,” Mr. Szul said. “Their



Cover of the children’s book “Chipmunk Champs Buddy & Swifty.”

teamwork was obvious – and just absolutely adorable.”

Barkley Lake is located in the Beach Lake area in the Pocono Mountains, about 60 miles west of the Soyuzivka Heritage Center in Kerhonkson, N.Y.

“It’s something special when you can work closely with your child on a project like this, and then get to live it during the summer months at a place as gorgeous as Beach Lake,” said Mr. Szul.

The book’s profits will be donated to two charity organizations: the Wounded Warrior Project and Saving Moses.

Mishanyna

With March comes warmer weather, and with warmer weather come flowers. Find the names of these spring flowers in the Mishanyna grid.

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| ANEMONE | HYDRANGEA | LILY |
| CROCUS | IRIS | PANSY |
| DAFFODIL | JONQUIL | SNOWDROPS |
| FORSYTHIA | LENTEN ROSE | TRILLIUM |
| HYACINTH | LILAC | TULIP |

F	L	O	W	E	R	S	Q	U	C	H	Y	R	L	A
O	I	L	E	N	L	J	O	O	R	I	S	N	O	W
R	L	H	S	E	J	O	N	S	Y	R	N	E	D	P
O	A	C	T	J	O	N	Q	U	I	L	A	D	I	L
D	A	F	O	N	S	I	R	I	L	E	P	L	Y	S
L	A	L	I	L	I	L	Y	O	G	N	U	S	I	S
E	N	F	F	U	R	C	R	N	O	T	H	Y	U	N
Q	E	L	F	Q	U	I	A	O	W	E	R	C	R	O
U	M	F	W	O	S	R	S	Y	T	N	O	R	E	W
I	O	Q	U	I	D	A	L	T	H	R	N	Q	U	D
L	N	U	N	Y	S	I	I	H	C	O	R	U	C	R
L	E	A	H	I	R	N	L	I	L	S	Y	A	R	O
I	F	O	R	S	Y	T	H	I	A	E	L	N	O	P
U	Q	I	Y	H	T	R	I	L	L	I	U	M	A	S
M	U	L	I	S	U	Q	U	I	L	Y	M	O	N	E

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, March 20-Sunday, April 12

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America invites the public to a group exhibition of 18 artists from Ukraine "Iconart: Visions of a World Unseen." Independently working in different media, the artists focus on spiritual and religious concerns within the contemporary cultural context in which they live. The exhibit will take place at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. Exhibit hours are noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. General admission is \$8; seniors, \$6; students, \$4; free for members. For more information visit www.ukrainianinstitute.org.

Saturday, March 21

SOMERSET, N.J.: The Family History Group of the Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center of New Jersey presents its Nashi Predky - Our Ancestors Genealogy Spring Workshop. There will be lectures by Michael Buryk and Aleksandra Kacprzak on the history of Ukrainians in the U.S. and tracing Galician-Lemko roots using resources in the Polish State Archives. The event is at 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Registration and breakfast are at 8:30 a.m. Venue: Ukrainian Cultural Center, 135 Davidson Ave., Somerset, NJ 08873. Cost is \$35 (early bird registration is \$30 until March 10). Register online at www.ukrhec.org/family-history-group/nashi-predky-2015-workshop or call 732-356-0132. Seating is limited.

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture "Poetry as Self-Making" in Yuri Sherekh's Critics (An Attempt in Explication of Literary Dialogue with Bohdan Rubchak)" by Prof. Tetiana Shestopalova. Prof. Shestopalova teaches at Taras Shevchenko Luhansk National University and is a 2014-2015 Fulbright scholar. 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.

Wednesday, March 25

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America presents the screening of the documentary "Crimea Unveiled" by Olga Morkova, followed by a talk about the current situation of the Tatars in occupied Crimea presented by Ayla Bakkalli, the U.S. representative of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis. The 20-minute documentary is in Ukrainian with English subtitles. The event will take place at 7 p.m. at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. Admission is free; RSVP required. For more information visit www.ukrainianinstitute.org.

Saturday, March 28-Sunday, April 12

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America presents "Mystical Power of the Pysanka" - a Ukrainian Easter egg exhibit by Sofika Zielyk. Pysanka-decorating is one of the most interesting expressions of Ukrainian folk art. This tradition reaches back to antiquity, when the egg was perceived as the source of life, the sun and the universe. The exhibit will take place at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. Exhibit hours are noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. General admission is \$8; seniors, \$6; and students, \$4; free for members. For more information visit www.ukrainianinstitute.org.

Tuesday, March 31

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Institute of America announces the continuation of its Ukrainian language course. We have classes for both beginners and people with advanced knowledge. The courses last for 10 weeks and cost \$350. To enroll, e-mail mail@ukrainianinstitute.org or call 212-288-8660.



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*Not available in all states.

www.UkrainianNationalAssociation.org
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WHIPPANY, NJ: Departs at 7:30 AM from Ukrainian Cultural Center, 60 N Jefferson Rd, Whippany, Reservations: UNA- 800-253-9862, Checks can be mailed to: UNA, PO Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054 or dropped off at Selfreliance UAFCU-Whippany branch

Bus departs Washington D.C. between 4:00-5:00 PM

Cost : \$25 per person

Ukrainian National Association, UCCA-Morris County, UCCA-Passaic-Bergen, New Ukrainian Wave - Passaic Br.