

INSIDE:

"A UKRAINIAN SUMMER" –
a special 24-page pullout section.



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Putin and Merkel differ over Ukraine peace talks

RFE/RL

Russian President Vladimir Putin met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in the Russian Black Sea port of Sochi for talks focusing on the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria, as well as on strained bilateral relations.

Both leaders said after their May 2 meeting that it is essential for all parties to fulfill their commitments under the Minsk process to regulate the conflict in eastern Ukraine between government forces and Russia-backed separatists.

"Today we once again reiterated the necessity of the strict observation of the Minsk agreements by the parties to the conflict [in eastern Ukraine]," Mr. Putin told journalists.

Ms. Merkel said Moscow and Berlin "are of differing opinions about the cause of the conflict." She said it was essential for Kyiv to regain complete control of its border, including the portion between the separatist-controlled areas and Russia.

The two leaders also discussed the six-year-old civil war in Syria. Mr. Putin repeated Russia's calls for an "impartial investigation" into the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria's Idlib province last month that left about 80 people dead.

Mr. Putin also said Russia was counting on the United States to help find "efficient solutions" to the conflict in Syria.

Ms. Merkel said she spoke to Mr. Putin about domestic developments in Russia, including the arrests of demonstrators at recent anti-corruption rallies and media reports about the persecution of homosexual men in the Russian North Caucasus region of Chechnya.

"The possibility of the right to demonstrate is a part of civil society," Ms. Merkel said.

She also urged Mr. Putin to "use his influence" to put an end to the abuse of homosexuals in Chechnya. Russia's Novaya Gazeta reported in April that at least 100 gay men had been abducted by security forces in Chechnya and at least three had been killed.

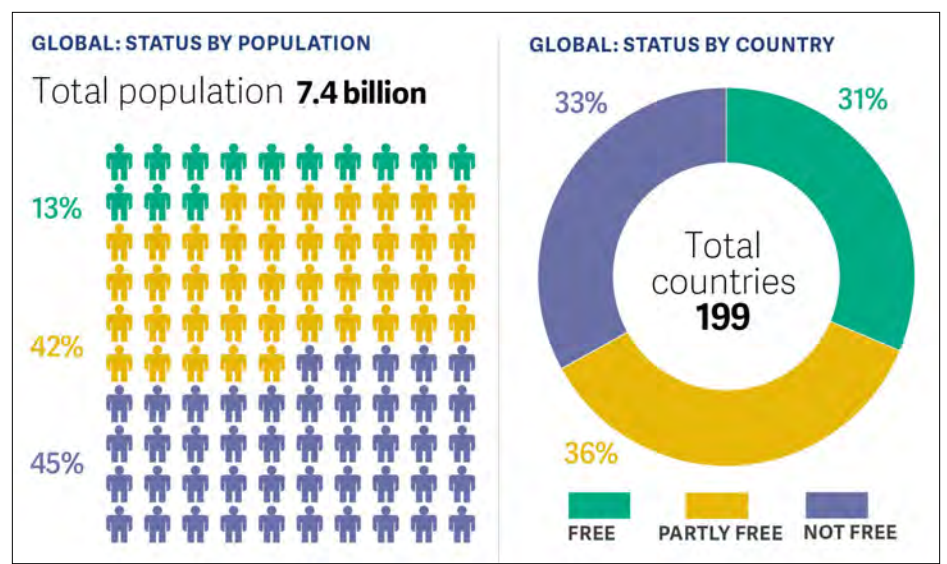
Mr. Putin defended the actions of Russian police, saying they acted within the framework of the law and showed "far more restraint than their colleagues in other European countries."

Mr. Putin also categorically rejected allegations that Moscow interfered in the U.S. presidential election in November or was playing any role in Germany's domestic politics.

The Russia leader said it was "unthinkable" that Russia would interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries. He dismissed the reports of interference in the

(Continued on page 7)

Ukraine media environment improved, challenges remain, says Freedom House



Freedom House's graphics about press freedom worldwide in 2016.

Occupied Crimea among worst in press freedom

by Mark Raczkiewicz

KYIV – Crimea is the fourth least press-friendly territory or country in the world, independent democracy watchdog Freedom House found in its latest report on press freedom published in April.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's media environ-

ment, according to the Freedom of the Press report, "has significantly improved since a change in government in 2014, and ongoing reforms continue to strengthen the legislative environment for journalists and outlets."

Notably, only North Korea, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were rated worse than Crimea, which was rated separately from Ukraine.

Human Rights groups in and outside Ukraine have said civil liberties, including

(Continued on page 10)

Scholar speaks on the Holodomor in the context of 20th century genocides

Holodomor Research
and Education Consortium

TORONTO – Dr. Myroslava Antonovych delivered a lecture titled "Specificities and Commonalities of the Holodomor in the Context of Genocides in the First Half of the 20th Century" at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, on April 19. Dr. Antonovych is director of the Center for International Human Rights and associate professor of the Faculty of Law at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

Dr. Antonovych presented a comparative analysis of the Holodomor with other genocides in the first half of the 20th century – namely, the Armenian genocide of the Ottoman Empire and the Holocaust of Nazi Germany. The Holodomor has yet to be thoroughly examined in comparative perspective as a crime of genocide committed by Joseph Stalin's regime against the Ukrainian nation, she noted.

Among the reasons for this, Dr. Antonovych explained, was that for more than 50 years the Holodomor was a hidden genocide, denied by the Soviet Union and, after its break-up, by



Dr. Myroslava Antonovych of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy delivers her lecture on the Holodomor as a genocide against the Ukrainian nation in the context of international law and 20th century genocides.

the Russian Federation. Although many scholars have agreed that the Holodomor constituted genocide, they have categorized it together with crimes such as dekulakization, deportation and extermination of political opponents that do not fit the legal definition of genocide as found in the 1948 United Nations Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Dr. Antonovych stated that in all three genocides there was intent to destroy a relative group, either in whole (the Armenians and Jews) or in part (the Ukrainians). As the legal scholar Raphael Lemkin wrote, the Ukrainian national group was "too populous to be exterminated completely with any efficiency. However, its leadership, religious, intellectual, political, its select and determining parts, are quite small and therefore easily eliminated."

Dr. Antonovych's analysis found that the nature of the intent differed in the three genocides. While the intent was explicit in the Armenian and in the Jewish cases, the intent was implicit in the Holodomor and may be inferred from resolutions and directives of the All-Union Communist Party of

Bolsheviks and the Council of Peoples' Commissars, as well as from their conduct and consequences.

Dr. Antonovych emphasized that the key commonality between the genocides perpetrated in the Ottoman Empire, the Soviet Union and the Third Reich was that in each case a hegemonic ruling party, rather than a state organization, was responsible: the Ittihadists, the Communists and the Nazis were the authors of the three genocides. Dr. Antonovych concluded that if lessons from the past are not heeded and genocide is not punished, aggressors will continue to be emboldened, as can be seen in Ukraine's eastern regions and in Crimea, where the successor state of the Soviet Union – the Russian Federation – persists in attacking Ukraine and its people.

Dr. Antonovych is currently in Toronto as a visiting scholar of the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine at the Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, sponsored by the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta.

ANALYSIS

Relations between Russia and Turkey undermined by status of Crimea

by **Ridvan Bari Urcosta**
Eurasia Daily Monitor

By certain measures, Russian-Turkish relations appear to be firmly developing in a positive direction, but in fact serious points of contention continue to undermine this rapprochement.

On the one hand, earlier this year, Russia conducted its first ever joint military operations with a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization – Turkey – against militant targets in Syria (RT, January 18). Moreover, the Turkish frigate *Barbaros* and the corvette *Buyukada* recently moored at the Russian port of Novorossiysk to subsequently take part in bilateral joint naval drills in the Black Sea (RIA Novosti, April 3). Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's visit to Moscow on March 10 was again a symbolic sign of the restoration of relations.

On the other hand, the range of difficult issues dividing the two countries is quite broad. Turkey nervously reacts to any possibility of Russian support for Syrian Kurds and has rebuked the existence of a quasi-diplomatic representative office of Kurds in Moscow (see *Eurasia Daily Monitor*, February 17, 2016; February 15, 2017). The proposed Turkish Stream natural gas pipeline is still up in the air; and the Kremlin has reportedly begun to question the wisdom of turning Turkey into a regional hub for Russian gas, thus making Moscow dependent on Ankara (Vz.ru, March 11). Recently, the Russian International Council published an analysis of the current state of relations, but the study notably avoided the issue of Crimea (RussianCouncil.ru, April 3). Indeed, evading questions surrounding Crimea, which Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in early 2014, has become an unofficial guiding principle in bilateral Turkish-Russian relations.

For the two sides, a key problem regarding Crimea is the peninsula's political status. Turkey tirelessly reiterates that Crimea is an integral part of Ukraine. But at the same time, Turkey is the only NATO member state that had not joined the Western sanctions against Russia to punish the latter for annexing the Ukrainian region.

Turkey even had a direct ferry connection with Crimea (Sevastopol-Zonguldak) until the shoot-down of a Russian Su-24 jet by a Turkish F-16 caused this maritime link to be terminated in November of 2015.

Correction

In the story "New exhibit tells the stories of Ukrainian immigrants to Canada" by Marianna Zaparyniuk (April 30), the caption to the photo that appears on the bottom left should have read: Gadacz family photos and immigration documents from the personal collection of Dr. Ihor Gadacz. (It was not the Canadian Certificate of Naturalization of Andrew Zaparyniuk, 1939.) The error was the result of improper labeling of photos and captions by the sender. The correction has already been made in our online edition.

Nevertheless, following the August détente in 2016, both countries agreed to resume the ferry line, and service recommenced on October 28, 2016. Suddenly in March, however, after operating for almost half a year, Ankara banned Crimea-bound shipments from the Turkish port of Zonguldak without any explanation (Hurriyet, March 9).

Aside from the period of deterioration of relations ever the downing of the Russian Su-24, Turkey has retained a strong economic footprint in annexed Crimea. According to the Russian Federal State Statistics Service, exports of goods being shipped out of Sevastopol in 2015 were being sent mainly to Turkey (45.8 percent), Vietnam (16.8 percent), Lebanon (9.1 percent), Ukraine (5.4 percent) and India (4.8 percent). The main sources of imports came from Turkey (35.1 percent), Ukraine (29.1 percent) and Spain (11.1 percent) (Sevastopol.gov.ru, accessed April 5).

The Sevastopol-Zonguldak ferry line was a crucial supply link for Turkish products to Crimea after the annexation; it allowed Turkey to strengthen its position on the peninsula's market. Last year, 680 ships from Crimea moored at the Zonguldak port (Hurriyet, March 9). Usually, the ferries from Crimea to Turkey sailed mostly empty. But from Turkey, the ferries were routinely loaded up with vegetables and citrus fruit, household chemicals, furniture, electronic components, electrical appliances, textiles and the like (RIA Novosti, November 23, 2015). It should be noted that during the 10-month halt of the Crimean ferry service, all Turkish goods and products were received at the Russian mainland Black Sea port of Novorossiysk.

On March 9, half a year after the Sevastopol-Zonguldak ferry resumed operation, the Turkish newspaper *Hurriyet* reported that local authorities in Zonguldak were not permitting the ships to moor at the port (Hurriyet, March 9). The authorities could not provide any official explanation for why the trade had been halted. The same puzzling reaction was expressed in Crimea. Stanislav Gvozdilov, the director of the ferry operator company, confirmed this information and stressed, "They are not mooring any ships from Crimea, and it turns out that the main reason is that Turkey does not recognize that Crimea is Russian territory" (Primechaniya.ru, March 9).

It is unclear what lies behind Ankara's decision. It is possible that Ankara has come to the conclusion that it is better to close the ferry line rather than continue Turkey's risky double standard policy of previous years – declaring Crimea an integral part of Ukrainian territory, while maintaining trade links with Russia via Crimean ports. Or, perhaps, blocking the ferry service is just a temporary measure designed to push Russia to alleviate its restrictive trade sanctions on Turkish goods. More likely, Ankara is pursuing both and maybe even several goals at once. Indeed, of par-

(Continued on page 9)

NEWSBRIEFS

Kyiv returning assets stolen by Yanukovich

KYIV – Ukraine on April 28 started returning an estimated \$1.5 billion in assets allegedly stolen from the Kyiv government by ousted former President Viktor Yanukovich and his associates. "This money was stolen from the Ukrainian people," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said in an address. "It was pulled out of the pocket of every Ukrainian." The National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) said the state savings bank Oschadbank had begun confiscating the Russia-backed president's holdings in line with an earlier court ruling. NSDC chief Oleksandr Turchynov said the \$1.5 billion would be returned to the state budget. Mr. Poroshenko's press service put the exact amount at 40 billion hrv – a figure that was worth about \$5 billion (U.S.) when Mr. Yanukovich was still in power. The assets belonging to Mr. Yanukovich and his cronies had been frozen in Ukraine since their government was forced out in February 2014 by street protests and they fled to exile in Russia. The exact amount the old guard may have pocketed remains unknown. Ukraine's acting chief prosecutor in April 2014 accused Mr. Yanukovich's inner circle of heading a criminal gang that had cost Ukraine up to \$100 billion. Switzerland also froze assets linked to Mr. Yanukovich and 19 members of his entourage less than a week after his four-year tenure in office ended and Mr. Poroshenko's pro-Western government took over. In Ukraine, Mr. Yanukovich led a lavish lifestyle, building himself an opulent palace outside Kyiv that included a petting zoo and a collection of classic cars worth millions of dollars. A golden replica of a loaf of bread that Mr. Yanukovich displayed to his guests became a symbol of his government's excesses. Mr. Yanukovich's lawyer Vitali Serdyuk denied that his client had anything to do with the \$1.5 billion being confiscated, maintaining that the amount of money that remains in Mr. Yanukovich's personal bank account is much smaller. (RFE/RL, with reporting by AFP and Interfax)

Kyiv: Yatsenyuk warrant 'politically motivated'

KYIV – Ukraine charged on April 28 that Russia's effort to have international authorities arrest and extradite former Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk is "politi-

cally motivated." A Russian court issued an international arrest warrant and extradition request for Mr. Yatsenyuk in February, claiming he killed Russian soldiers in Chechnya in the 1990s – an allegation that Mr. Yatsenyuk has called "total absurdity." Ukrainian Internal Affairs Minister Arsen Avakov, who said Interpol sent him a copy of the Russian request, said Mr. Yatsenyuk has never been to Chechnya. "Yatsenyuk's persecution by Russia is politically motivated," Mr. Avakov said. Russia was criticized in a Council of Europe report this week for using the Interpol international policing system for political purposes rather than to pursue criminals. Ukrainian Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko said he believes Interpol will dismiss Russia's request for Mr. Yatsenyuk. Mr. Yatsenyuk was a leading figure in the massive protests that drove Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich, who was friendly to Russia, out of office in 2014. Mr. Yatsenyuk became prime minister and held that office until April 2016. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by AP, Interfax and TASS)

McMaster: Putin acts against people's interest

WASHINGTON – The U.S. national security adviser, Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, says Russian President Vladimir Putin is "acting against the Russian people's interest" in his relationship with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his policies to aid the Taliban in Afghanistan. Gen. McMaster, speaking on April 30 on the Fox News Sunday television program, also said the United States needed to see a "change in behavior" by the Russian president before relations could improve. Gen. McMaster's comments about Mr. Putin are closely watched for signs of President Donald Trump's posture toward Russia. During the U.S. presidential campaign and in his early days in office, Mr. Trump highly praised Mr. Putin, calling him a strong leader. But relations have frayed, with Washington and Moscow clashing over policies regarding Syria, Iran, Ukraine, Afghanistan and elsewhere. When asked how relations have progressed with Russia since Mr. Trump's January 20 inauguration, Gen. McMaster said, "Well, I don't think they've gotten really either better or worse." He added, "The

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Two years on, no second thoughts on opening Ukraine's KGB archives 'to everyone'

by **Dmitry Volchek**
RFE/RL

Just over two years ago, on April 9, 2015, Ukraine's Parliament adopted a historic law on opening up the country's Soviet-era secret-police archives. In the new law's first full year in effect, requests for information and access boomed by 138 percent.

"It is very important for us that everyone has the chance to look at the complex history of the 20th century through the prism of their own family," says Andriy Kohut, director of the historical archives of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU). "It is one thing when they speak of enormous historical events without any connection to real people. It is something else entirely when you see how these historical events are connected to you."

The new rules of archive access could hardly be simpler, Mr. Kohut said.

"The law contains the formula 'everything open to everyone,'" he explained in an online interview with RFE/RL's Russian Service. "It doesn't matter if you are a citizen of Ukraine or not, if you are a relative or have some other relationship to those mentioned in the documents. Everyone has an equal right to access."

Under the law, the archive is not even allowed to charge for providing copies of its documents. Eventually, the entire archive will be transferred from the SBU to the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory.

There are no exemptions for privacy or other such considerations. The law prioritizes "the right of society to know what happened under the totalitarian regime,"

Mr. Kohut says. Access to documents also cannot be restricted based on Soviet secrecy classifications.

The new system has been welcomed by researchers.

"It is simply a pleasure to work in the Ukrainian archives," says Czech historian Stepan Cernousek. "While in Russia everything is 'top secret,' in Ukraine, everything is freely available."

Mr. Cernousek is researching the fate of a Czechoslovak citizen named Albert Bloch, who escaped from a Nazi concentration camp only to be arrested by Stalin's secret police and sent to the gulag.

"There are thousands of cases like his," Mr. Cernousek says.

Mr. Kohut warns, however, that the Ukrainian archives are not complete.

"Documents weren't always saved in their entirety through World War II [when Ukraine was occupied by Nazi Germany]," Mr. Kohut says. "Moreover, after the democratic opposition captured the Stasi archives [in East Germany], the KGB in 1990 ordered a purging of some records."

Although it is not known exactly what was destroyed at that time, Mr. Kohut says the deeper back the records go, the more intact they seem to be.

"The cases of the Great Terror period [of the mid-1930s] seem to be fairly well preserved," he says.

The new openness law also covers all denunciations written by ordinary citizens and preserved in the KGB's files. It particu-

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FOR THE RECORD

Illinois congressman writes to Tillerson about why Ukraine needs U.S. support

The following letter was sent by Rep. Peter J. Roskam (R-Ill.) to U.S. Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson on April 13.

Dear Secretary Tillerson:

As you conclude your official visit to Europe and the Russian Federation, I write to express my strong support for Ukraine and the U.S.-Ukraine relationship. The United States must do everything we can to stop Russia's hybrid warfare against Ukraine. As Vladimir Putin seeks to destabilize Europe, undermine democratic governments across the region and rebuild an expansionist Russian empire, the U.S. and our allies must remain resolute in our commitment to the Ukrainian people and Ukrainian democracy.

At a recent Group of Seven (G-7) meeting, you reportedly raised the rhetorical question to G-7 Foreign Ministers, "why should U.S. taxpayers be interested in Ukraine?" I have held numerous meetings with Ukrainian officials, discussed issues with my Ukrainian constituents and led several solidarity missions to Ukraine. I can tell you the answer to this question is abundantly clear. Ukraine is a cornerstone in the global struggle for freedom and democracy. A secure and democratic Ukraine is paramount to U.S. national security and international stability. The U.S.-Ukraine relationship sends a powerful message to our allies and foes alike, it is pivotal that we continue to strongly oppose Russia's illegal occupation of Crimea and military aggression in the Donbas region.

While Ukraine is on the frontlines of the battle against Russian expansionism, Putin's objectives do not end with Ukraine. The Kremlin explicitly claims it wants a sphere of influence in the post-Soviet space. Moscow claims the right and obligation to protect ethnic Russian and Russian speakers wherever they live. Over 25 percent of the population in Latvia and Estonia, our NATO allies, are ethnically Russian. Putin would like to rearrange the peace established at the end of the Cold War to weaken NATO and the EU. If we raise the cost of Putin's adventure in Ukraine, he is less likely to cause trouble in the Baltics or elsewhere, including Syria. The forward defense of NATO requires us to help Ukraine stop Kremlin aggression before it reaches Poland and Central

Europe. The world is watching Russia's attempts to challenge international order and expand its influence across Europe. The time has come to strengthen our support for Ukraine and make clear the United States will strongly support those around the world who yearn for freedom, democratic governance and the fundamental right of self-determination. Our actions to support Ukraine today will demonstrate clearly our determination to push back against authoritarians and despots seeking to undermine our democratic allies around the world.

There remains broad bipartisan support for Ukraine amongst the United States Congress and the American people. In 2014, Congress adopted the Ukraine Freedom Support Act (H.R. 5859), which authorized enhanced military and economic assistance for Ukraine. In the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Congress supported an increased security assistance package for Ukraine, and has since expanded this package in both the FY 2016 and FY 2017 NDAA. Popular support for Ukraine remains robust and unwavering. Assistance should remain at this high level.

Providing Ukraine additional economic and military support is also important for our nonproliferation policy. In the Budapest Memorandum and pertinent side letters, the U.S., U.K. and France – along with Russia and China – gave Ukraine assurances of its sovereignty and territorial integrity in exchange for Ukraine surrendering its large nuclear arsenal. Moscow's aggression towards Ukraine made a mockery of this agreement and provided a clear disincentive for countries to give up weapons of mass destruction in the future. Greater support for Ukraine can help redress this.

I applaud your recent statements indicating the United States will hold Moscow accountable to its Minsk agreement commitments and oppose Russian belligerence towards Ukraine. I encourage you to continue your work supporting our democratic allies and combating autocratic regimes around the world. I can assure you – U.S. taxpayers, and their representatives in Congress, stand firmly in support of a strong, independent and democratic Ukraine. I look forward to working closely with you on these important issues.

SEVENTY YEARS AGO

UCC statement on Akcja Wisla

The following statement was released by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress on April 28.

April 28, 2017, marks the 70th anniversary of the beginning of Operation Vistula (Akcja Wisla), the forcible deportation by the Soviet-backed Polish government of Ukrainians from their ancestral lands in what is today eastern Poland. Ukrainians living in the Lemko, Boyko, Nadsiania, Kholm and Pidliashia regions were deported to territories in the north and west of post-World War II Poland.

The forced deportation of the ethnic Ukrainian population from the region known as Zakerzonnia was followed by the expropriation of Ukrainian property by the Polish state and the intentional assimilation of the Ukrainian ethnic population.

Some 150,000 Ukrainians were forcibly deported. The development of the Ukrainian language, culture and faith were prohibited in Communist Poland. Today we remember and honor the victims of this dreadful period of history.

The UCC is encouraged by the recent meeting (April 11) of the Consultative Committee of the Presidents of Ukraine and Poland, where representatives of Presidents Petro Poroshenko and Andrzej Duda agreed to develop a roadmap of reconciliation between the Ukrainian and Polish peoples. The goal of this document is to "ensure the constructive character of bilateral dialogue and promoting mutual understanding between the two peoples to further strengthen the strategic partnership between Ukraine and Poland."

Quotable notes

"To put it bluntly, Russia invaded Ukraine. Russia illegally occupies Crimea. Russia provoked and now supports a separatist movement in eastern Ukraine that did not previously exist. Russia is the aggressor, and Ukraine is the victim. Modern Ukraine represents the idea in Europe that each country has the sovereign ability to determine its own path and to decide with whom it has relations and how and by whom it is governed. No outside actor (in this case Russia) should have a veto on membership or closer relations with organizations like the European Union (EU) or North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In many ways, the future viability of the trans-Atlantic community will be decided in the Donbas, the region in eastern Ukraine where the fighting has been taking place. It is in America's interest that Ukraine remains independent and sovereign and maintains the ability to choose its own destiny without outside interference. ...

"The U.S. can and should help Ukraine by continuing (and expanding when necessary) economic sanctions against Russia over its ongoing aggression in Ukraine and annexation of Crimea; continuing military training programs and providing advanced weaponry to the Ukrainians; providing diplomatic support by issuing a nonrecognition statement, based on the 1940 Welles Declaration, on Russia's annexation of Crimea; pressuring Russia to live up to its commitments under the Minsk II ceasefire agreement; and helping Ukraine to uproot entrenched corruption and cronyism within the economy and government system. ...

"The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 authorized up to \$350 million in security assistance to Ukraine through the end of 2018. The administration should use a healthy portion of the authorized security assistance to provide weaponry to Ukraine. The exact types of weapons needed are best determined by experts on the ground with detailed knowledge of the local security situation, the capabilities of the Ukrainian military, and the capabilities of both the separatists and the Russian forces supporting their attacks. ...

"Recent events in eastern Ukraine have confirmed what many already knew: Ukraine will provide an early test for the Trump administration. How the new administration and Congress act now will set the tone for the next four years. Russia's behavior is a direct violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and shows that Moscow has no genuine interest in bringing the conflict to a peaceful resolution. ..."

– Report by The Heritage Foundation titled "The Trump Administration and the 115th Congress Should Support Ukraine," written by Luke Coffey and Daniel Kochis, and released on April 11. The full report is available at <http://www.heritage.org/global-politics/report/the-trump-administration-and-the-115th-congress-should-support-ukraine>

Thousands come to annual St. Thomas pilgrimage

by Elizabeth Symonenko

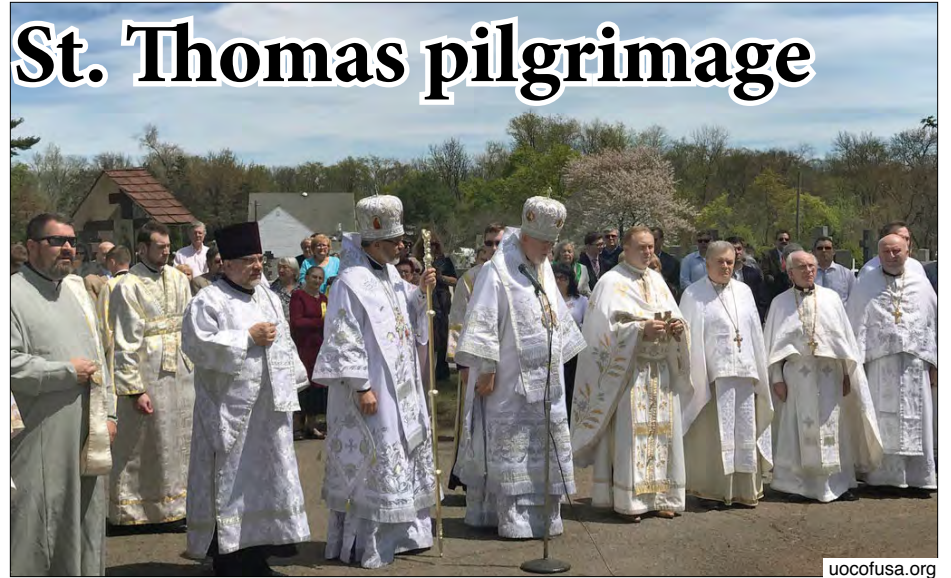
SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – Early Saturday morning, as the robins were singing their songs and the geese were flying overhead, silhouetted against the darkening clouds, the words “Христос Воскрес/ Christ is Risen” echoed cheerfully through the Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., echoing through the damp air across the complex.

As the bells of St. Andrew Memorial Church began to chime, the faithful made their way up the steps and with awe entered the newly renovated church. The icons twinkled in the candlelight as Archbishop Daniel began the divine liturgy. The church was filled with the members of the Metropolitan Council, who had remained after their meeting that had concluded on Friday, as well as individuals who had arrived for the St.

Thomas weekend activities.

After divine liturgy, Archbishop Daniel along with the faithful proceeded to the cemetery to serve memorial services at the gravesites of loved ones. While serving a “panakhyda” at the grave of Protopresbyter Michael Zmlachenko, the heavy grey skies opened up, drizzling cool sweet water over the faithful, hiding the tears of many of the mourners.

Throughout the cemetery, umbrellas popped open and while the conditions became wet, it did not dampen the spirits of the faithful who carefully walked among the graves, visiting and praying for the departed. As the sweet chords of “Christ is Risen” traveled in the damp air over the river and to the Metropolia Center, a multitude of vendors were arriving and setting up shop in the Ukrainian Cultural Center. With damp hair, but warm hearts, those



uocofusa.org

Metropolitan Antony (fifth from right) and Archbishop Daniel (left of Metropolitan Antony), joined by area clergy, lead a memorial service at the Great Memorial Cross, located in the center of St. Andrew Cemetery.

present happily prepared for Sunday's warmer temperatures, and anticipated greater crowds.

Nearly 100 people arrived at St. Sophia Theological Seminary for a picnic, sponsored by the Ukrainian Orthodox League. Seminarians treated everyone to the traditional barbecue. The evening concluded with the celebrations of vespers at the Seminary's Three Holy Hierarchs Chapel.

As the bells of St. Andrew Memorial Church began to peal, echoing throughout the Metropolia Center, the faithful who had arrived for the St. Thomas Sunday festivities gathered at the foot of the church steps to greet their hierarchs. The children of St. Andrew Memorial Church School under the leadership of Director Halyna Martynec, dressed in Ukrainian “vyshyvanky” (embroidery), squirmed and rehearsed the words they would say upon greeting Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel.

The hierarchs, preceded by clergy from local parishes, where resplendent in their

Paschal white vestments as they walked up to the steps to the church. Both hierarchs smiled broadly as the youth of the parish came forward greeting them and handing them bouquets of roses. Having happily accepted the gifts, the hierarchs spread their arms wide enclosing the children in a wide group hug.

The hierarchs were welcomed to the parish by “Pani Matka” Lesia Siwko, along with the parish elder Dmytro Kozluk, and finally by the parish pastor, the Very Rev. Yuriy Siwko. Metropolitan Antony thanked everyone, and prayed that God blesses the parish family of St. Andrew Memorial Church, along with all the guests, with much health, happiness and many blessed years. With the clergy leading the way in to the church, the choir, under the leadership of Dr. Michael Andrec, exploded in a joyous and magnificent rendition of “Christ is Risen”!

The divine liturgy, which is always glori-

(Continued on page 5)



The choir of St. Andrew Memorial Church sings responses during the memorial service at the Great Memorial Cross.

Family members remember UPA soldiers with panakhyda

by Christina Kotlar

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – St. Thomas Sunday, one week after Easter, annually brings together family members honoring their loved ones at St. Andrew Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J. The UPA family also came together that weekend, with the Rev. Andriy Dudkevych reading the names of deceased Ukrainian Insurgent Army members during a panakhyda (memorial service) at the UPA memorial.

The commemoration focused on the sacrifices made by the UPA and the 75th year since its founding; the 70th year since Akcja Wisla, the forced deportation of over

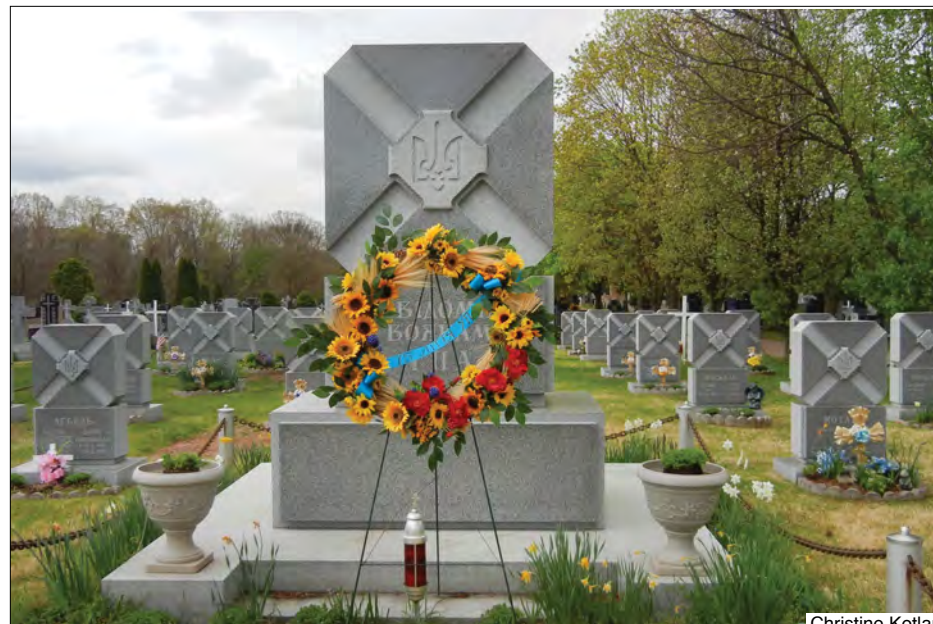
150,000 Ukrainians from their ancestral lands then located in Polish territory; and the 70th year since the Great Raid – the UPA's final directive in 1947 to save and spread primary source material about the UPA struggle for Ukraine's independence to the West.

According to Litopys UPA (Chronicle of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army), Volume 53, the UPA raid into Western Europe was the final chapter in the activities of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army in the Czech Republic. During the second half of 1947, several units of Ukrainian insurgents crossed Czechoslovak territory and reached the West. This march was under-



Yuri Turchyn

Family members pay homage to their loved ones in the UPA memorial section of St. Andrew Cemetery.



Christine Kotlar

The memorial to the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.

taken as a result of a general Communist Polish government offensive against the UPA. Beginning in April 1947, the goal of Akcja Wisla (Operation Vistula), a forced resettlement operation, was the total deportation of the Ukrainian minority population from southeastern Poland (also known as Zakerzonnia), which would result in the ultimate liquidation of the Ukrainian resistance movement in the country.

A recent initiative by Ukrainian community organizations, along with the Society of Veterans of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army Inc. and Former Members of Ukrainian Insurgent Army – UPA, took place to plan a cultural evening of solidarity and a com-

memoration with a focus on the two aforementioned events for Saturday, October 14, the Day of the Holy Protectress, which is historically identified as the date when the UPA was created.

This is a commemorative year and a national committee has issued an appeal to the Ukrainian diaspora to plan community events. For more information about the academic and cultural events scheduled for October 14, readers may contact Zenia Kowalczyk Brozyna at UPA.Wisla@gmail.com. For matters regarding Litopys UPA (Chronicles of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army-UPA), contact Christina Kotlar, christinakotlar1@gmail.com.

Klitschko falls to Joshua in epic slugfest

by Ihor N. Stelmach

Heading into the 12-round heavyweight contest on April 19 with the IBF, IBO and WBA world titles on the line, 27-year-old British boxer Anthony Joshua was the overwhelming favorite with the bookmakers because of his undeniable talent and surrounding hype. His opponent, Wladimir Klitschko, should not have been underestimated while on a mission to reclaim two title belts he held for four-plus years. Klitschko may be 41, but with those years comes great experience and smart game plans to frustrate opponents.

In perhaps the biggest heavyweight fight since Lennox Lewis knocked out Mike Tyson to retain the world title in 2002, Joshua, the young British star, and Ukraine's Klitschko, the regal former long-time world champion and future Hall of Famer, collided in a once-in-a-generation showdown. The fight took place at sold-out Wembley Stadium in London, England, with 90,000 sports fans in attendance.

Youth prevailed, and the odds makers rejoiced when Joshua defeated Klitschko by TKO in round 11. Joshua retained his IBF heavyweight title and won the vacant WBA and IBO belts with his victory. Joshua dropped Klitschko twice in the 11th round before the referee stopped the bout with

Joshua punching Klitschko against the ropes.

Joshua had Klitschko (64-5, 54 KO) in big trouble early in the fifth round, dropping him with a combination. Klitschko gathered himself and rallied late in the round, landing a left hook and right uppercut to stun Joshua. The Ukrainian rode the momentum into the sixth round, knocking Joshua down with a straight right early and hurting him badly. This was the first time Joshua had ever been knocked down.

Klitschko was by far Joshua's toughest opponent, but was coming off a disappointing performance 17 months ago when he lost his title belts to England's Tyson Fury by unanimous decision in a major upset – and then had Fury twice call off the rematch.

Klitschko was valiant in defeat even after failing in his quest to join brother Vitali as a three-time heavyweight champion.

"The best man won tonight, and it's an amazing moment for boxing," Klitschko said in a post-fight press conference. "Anthony was better today than I. It's really sad that I didn't make it tonight. I was planning to do it. It didn't work. But all the respect to Anthony."

The 6-foot-6, 240-pound Klitschko, who extended his heavyweight division record by participating in his 29th world title fight, did damage in the sixth round with Joshua



Wladimir Klitschko parries a left shot by Anthony Joshua at Wembley Stadium.

bent over and exhausted as the round ended. The pace slowed starting in the seventh round as both fighters had poured out tons of energy by this time.

In the 11th round Joshua (19-0, 19 KO's) took complete control, blasting Klitschko with a right uppercut and he went down hard. Joshua continued to rain punches on Klitschko before landing a huge left hook that knocked him down again. Klitschko showed heart by getting to his feet, but Joshua hammered away at him along the ropes and referee David Fields stepped in and waved it off at 2 minutes, 25 seconds.

Joshua landed 107 of 355 punches (30

percent), and Klitschko landed 94 of 256 (37 percent). Joshua led 96-93 and 95-93 on two scorecards, and Klitschko was ahead 95-93 on the third scorecard. The fighters have a two-fight deal, so there is a possibility of a rematch if Klitschko desires to pursue it.

Joshua's camp has expressed interest in a future bout with Tyson Fury.

After the slugfest, Klitschko was uncertain if this was his last time inside a boxing ring. Joshua and Klitschko put on a show labeled as the best heavyweight title fight in a very long time.

Who wouldn't mind seeing another one?

Thousands...

(Continued from page 4)

ous, seemed even more so, with both hierarchs concelebrating, surrounded by a cloud of clergy and altar servers. The faithful filled the church, pushing forward as far as they could, while many overflowed onto the front porch and entry steps.

At the conclusion of liturgy, Metropolitan Antony took the opportunity to remind everyone of just how blessed we are here in the United States, living in relative peace and comfort, while others in the world are suffering, wars are raging, and people are dying. He instructed us to be kind, loving and generous, concluding by assigning us all with a relatively simple, yet, crucial duty.

Before concluding the service and heading outside, the hierarchs took a moment to greet a couple of special guests – Rem Bahautdinov and his wife, Margareta. Mr. Bahautdinov had created a large bronze icon, which now hangs on the wall near the church entrance, depicting the history of Christianity in Kyivan Rus'. In addition to the above-mentioned iconographic depiction, Mr. Bahautdinov presented the Metropolia Center of the Church with six other works, which will be displayed at the

Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center of New Jersey. The faithful made way as the hierarchs headed to the back of the church, where they blessed the icon, as well as the newly renovated side chapel.

The faithful then poured out of the church, milling about the steps, awaiting their hierarchs, who emerged and led the procession around the church, through the St. Andrew Cemetery to the Great Memorial Cross in the center that in 1971 was erected in memory of those who gave their lives fighting for the independence of Ukraine. Here, the hierarchs stopped and served a short memorial service, asking God's mercy on the souls of those who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

Completing the service, the hierarchs led the way down to Holy Resurrection Mausoleum to serve a panakhyda at the tomb of Patriarch Mstyslav. Gathering around his tomb, Metropolitan Antony's, and Archbishop Daniel's voices swirled around the small chamber, echoing off the marble walls, carrying through the halls of the mausoleum and up through the open doors to the faithful standing outside.

While some people lingered at the patriarch's tomb to pray, others walked to the side room to look at archives pertaining to the patriarch's life, including his vestments



Ukrainian American Veterans serve as a color guard to lead the procession around St. Andrew Memorial Church to the Great Memorial Cross.

and miter. The hierarchs proceeded back to the front of the church property to the Ukrainian American Veteran's Memorial, where they served yet another memorial service in gratitude to all those who laid down their lives protecting their country and loved ones. With flags sharply flapping in the breeze, people prayed as Archbishop Daniel censed the monument, and Metropolitan Antony placed a wreath before the memorial. Everyone fell silent at the conclusion, as a lone trumpet played Taps. The lonely melody echoed off the black marble of the monument, touching the hearts of all present.

As the hierarchs walked back towards the church, having concluded the general ceremonies, the people spread out along the cemetery, to visit various gravesites. The cemetery, which is usually thought of as a dark and lonely, if not spooky place, reserved for the dead, was overflowing that day with life. People were singing, talking, re-telling stories and episodes from the lives of the departed, as priests prayed at various graves, and children darted among the headstones, squealing with joy and laughter. The cemetery was not dead today, but very much alive.

For those who did not pack a meal, the Sisterhood hall was once again offering super delicious Ukrainian fare. The hall quickly filled to capacity as patrons enjoyed

varenyky, holubtsi, pork cutlets, sauerkraut, sausage, and countless other dishes and desserts.

Having prayed for their loved ones, many people walked over the bridge to the Consistory Complex, climbing the steps to the Cultural Center, pausing to take photos at the "Ukrainian Hut," and then wandering inside the center to purchase any number of Ukrainian gifts. The stalls overflowed with jewelry, embroidered shirts, pysanky, T-shirts, scarves, embroidered tablecloths, as well as all manner of religious items such as icons, service and prayer books, and church supplies such as incense, candleholders and icons.

The day concluded peacefully with an ice-cream social, as the hierarchs, along with many from their flock, relaxed on the veranda of the St. Sophia Theological Seminary, enjoying refreshments as the youth played soccer below, while other children played with balloons, balls and yet others enjoyed their second bowl of deliciously cold ice-cream.

As the sun began to set in the west, painting the sky in various shades of purple and red, the faithful began packing up and departing the Metropolia Center. The hub-bub of human laughter and activity was slowly replaced by the songs of the birds, and the honking of the geese. Hours of festivities seemed to fade away in minutes.



Metropolitan Antony (right) and Archbishop Daniel (left) lead a memorial service at the crypt of Patriarch Mstyslav located in Holy Resurrection Mausoleum, underneath St. Andrew Memorial Church.

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Putin and Merkel...

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. election as "rumors." Mr. Putin added that Moscow would not tolerate outside interference in its own domestic affairs.

In January, the U.S. intelligence community issued an assessment charging that the Russian president "ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the U.S. presidential election." Security agencies in Germany, France and other countries have also alleged Russian efforts to influence their electoral processes.

For her part, Ms. Merkel said she was confident Germany could handle any disinformation campaigns and would take "decisive measures" in the event of interference. She also noted that "hybrid warfare plays a role in Russia's military doctrine."

The two leaders also discussed preparations for the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg on July 7-8. The G-20 is now the chief format for Russia to meet the other world powers after its exclusion from the G-8, which is now the G-7.

The German chancellor's one-day trip was her second visit to Russia since Moscow seized the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine in March 2014.

Russia and Germany have scaled back ties and Ms. Merkel has strongly backed European Union sanctions on Moscow for seizing Crimea and for its involvement in the war that has killed more than 9,900 people in eastern Ukraine since 2014. A key mediator in the conflict, Ms. Merkel is a major proponent of keeping the sanctions on Moscow in place until a stalled peace plan is fulfilled.

Merkel has attended several meetings with Mr. Putin, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, and France's President Francois Hollande aimed at implementing the Minsk II agreement, which she and Mr. Hollande brokered in February 2015.

The most recent such meeting was held in October 2016, and the four leaders spoke by phone in April, agreeing to step up implementation of the peace deal.

Putin and Trump discuss Syria

Later in the day, President Putin spoke by telephone with U.S. President Donald Trump. It was the third time the two presidents had spoken by telephone since Mr. Trump took office in January.

The scheduled phone conversation on May 2 was the first between the two leaders since the United States carried out a missile strike against a Syrian air base in retaliation for what Western countries charged was a chemical-weapons attack against civilians by Syrian government forces.

A White House statement described the conversation as "a very good one" - including discussions on the war in Syria, "working together to eradicate terrorism throughout the Middle East," and "how best to resolve the very dangerous situation in North Korea."

The White House also announced that Washington will send a representative to Syria peace talks scheduled in Astana, Kazakhstan, on May 3 and 4.

A Kremlin statement said the emphasis of their phone conversation was on coordinating Russian and U.S. actions in the fight against terrorism.

It said the two agreed to increase dia-

logue between U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov in an attempt to bring a resolution to the war in Syria.

[Editor's note: There was no indication from the White House that Ukraine and the war in the country's east was a topic of discussion.]

Moscow also said Messrs. Trump and Putin both expressed support for the idea of organizing their first face-to-face meeting on the sidelines of the July 7-8 summit of the G-20 in Hamburg, Germany.

On North Korea, the Kremlin said Mr. Putin called upon the U.S. president to show restraint and make an effort to reduce tensions that have been raised in the aftermath of North Korea's nuclear-weapons and ballistic-missile tests.

With reporting by DPA, AP, TASS and Reuters.

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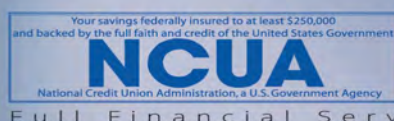
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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Russian behavior as we've seen, you know – the annexation of Crimea, the invasion of Ukraine, the support for this murderous regime in Syria, and now arming the Taliban – these are all things that's clearly cut against Russian interest, especially in connection with the relationship with Assad in Syria and to arm the Taliban." He said the groups Moscow supports in one region can hurt Russia in others. "The Taliban groups are not monolithic or homogenous. They overlap with others," he said. "In the Taliban's case, they overlap with groups like the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, and then other terrorist groups that posed a great threat to Russia." Gen. McMaster added, "So, here you have a Russian president acting against the Russian people's interest and doing it I think kind of just reflexively." He said that for relations with Russia to improve, "what we really need to see is a change in behavior." (RFE/RL, with reporting by Fox News)

Atlantic Council on Surkov e-mail leaks

WASHINGTON – An article by Aric Toler and Melinda Haring posted on the Atlantic Council website on April 24 reported, "Hacked e-mails show that the Kremlin

directs and funds the ostensibly independent republics in eastern Ukraine and runs military operations there." The Atlantic Council went on to note: "In late 2016, Ukrainian hacker groups released e-mails purportedly taken from the office of Kremlin official Vladislav Surkov, who oversees Ukraine policy for Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Surkov leaks confirm what many have long suspected: the Kremlin has orchestrated and funded the supposedly independent governments in the Donbas, and seeks to disrupt internal Ukrainian politics, making the task of rebuilding modern Ukraine impossible. Russia has consistently denied accusations from Kyiv and the West that it is providing the separatists with troops, weapons and other material support or meddling in Ukrainian affairs. The e-mails from Mr. Surkov's office betray the official Kremlin line, revealing the extent of Russian involvement in the seizure of Ukrainian territory, the creation of puppet 'people's republics,' and the funding to ensure their survival. ... In his own words, the Surkov leaks show that the Kremlin directs and funds the ostensibly independent republics in eastern Ukraine and runs military operations there." The writers also pointed out: "Yet nearly all media in the West speak about the war in the Donbas as being run by Kremlin-backed separatists, but this

isn't a true characterization. Moscow is actively guiding and managing this break-away state, down to paying invoices for office equipment. The leaks provide clear, irrefutable evidence that the Donetsk People's Republic is not an independent actor; it is a creature of the Kremlin and should be treated as such. It's time for the media and foreign governments to catch up and call it what it is: a Russian hybrid war. The full article is available at <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/russia-funds-and-manages-conflict-in-ukraine-leaks-show>. (Atlantic Council)

Poland arrests war crimes suspect

WARSAW – Polish authorities say they have arrested an Austrian man suspected of committing war crimes in eastern Ukraine, though there were conflicting reports about whether he fought with Kyiv's forces or alongside Russia-backed "separatists." The Polish border service said in an April 30 statement that the 25-year-old man was arrested at Austria's request two days earlier as he was trying to cross into Ukraine at the Polish border post of Dorohusk. The man is suspected of participating in the fighting in eastern Ukraine, where he allegedly "killed the wounded and prisoners," the statement said. Both the killing and the torture of prisoners of war constitute war crimes under the Geneva Conventions. The war between Kyiv's forces and Russia-backed separatists has killed more than 9,900 people since April 2014. There were contradictory reports about which side the Austrian man fought for. Polish border police spokesman Dariusz Sienicki was quoted by the AFP news agency as saying that "he was a member of a separatist group." But Erich Habitzl, a spokesman for Austrian prosecutors, said on April 30 that the man had fought on the Ukrainian side, including in the brutal, protracted battle for Donetsk airport. A United Nations report last year found evidence of arbitrary killings by Russia-backed forces, Ukrainian troops, police forces and volunteer battalions of fighters. The report cited executions of prisoners by both sides and the indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas using imprecise weapon systems. Austria is seeking the suspect's extradition, Polish border police said. (RFE/RL, with reporting by AFP, DPA and Reuters)

U.S. notes Poland's Constitution Day

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson on May 2 issued a statement on Poland's Constitution Day. He stated: "On behalf of the United States of America, congratulations to the people of Poland on the 226th anniversary of your historic Constitution. The United States and Poland are close friends, and our partnership continues to strengthen. We share democratic values, strong cultural and historical ties, and a security relationship based on mutual commitments. The United States is particularly proud to have U.S. troops deployed in Poland, working alongside their Polish counterparts to protect Poland, the United States, and all of our NATO allies. As we work together to ensure our security and combat terrorism and other threats, we reaffirm our shared commitment to uphold democratic values and the rule of law, setting a standard in defense of freedom for others to emulate." The secretary of state also noted: "The U.S.-Poland friendship is also grounded in an economic relationship that makes both countries stronger. More than half of the top 100 U.S. companies are invested in Poland, and Poland is the leading trade partner of the United States in Central Europe. In the coming years, we hope to expand opportunities for economic growth between our two countries. The United States looks forward to a future of continued cooperation and friendship with Poland." (U.S. Department of State)

Groysman on police raid of major bank

KYIV – The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) raided the Kyiv offices of the country's largest investment bank looking for illegal software on April 26, drawing a dismayed reaction from Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman. The SBU announced it had discovered eight companies using what it said was illegal, Russian-made software that can be used for hacking into private computers and phones, prompting the raid on Dragon Capital and seven other companies it did not name. Bank spokeswoman Olha Beloblovska said Dragon Capital, which is affiliated with the Wall Street firm Goldman Sachs, has always operated within the law. "They have a court order to remove computer equipment.

(Continued on page 9)

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Two years on...

(Continued from page 3)

larly states that privacy laws do not apply to anyone who participated in political repressions in any way.

"This is not very pleasant news for those who wrote denunciations," Mr. Kohut says. "But if we don't open these closets with skeletons in them, if we do not speak about the complex history of Ukraine in the 20th century, then it will speak for us. As our current situation shows, it won't just speak for us, it will manipulate us."

He warns that such documents, however, can be the most problematic, as denunciations as a rule contain a mixture of truth, half-truths and lies.

The archives also contain a wealth of records relating to the Holodomor, the 1932-1933 famine in Ukraine that killed millions. These documents, Mr. Kohut said, can be upsetting to read.

"There are many cases related to charges of cannibalism," he says. "Of course, these documents are shocking.

"These are the archives of the Communist special services," he adds. "Very often, what they did does not make very pleasant reading."

In addition to responding to research requests from citizens, the archive also

responds to inquiries from state agencies pertaining to a 2014 lustration law that bars former KGB employees from working in state institutions. The archive carries out background checks and reports on prospective employees.

"We've even had cases when individuals wrote to us to ask us if we have any information on whether they were a KGB employee because they want to apply for some state position," he notes.

Mr. Kohut's archive has no contact with similar archives in Russia, which remain strictly closed.

"The development of our region – Ukraine, Belarus, the Baltic states – shows that we are moving in the direction of acknowledging the Communist regime for what it really was – a criminal regime," Mr. Kohut says. "It acted in a criminal manner and it was fundamentally criminal. I hope Russia will come to this awareness as well."

RFE/RL senior correspondent Robert Colson contributed to this report.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 8)

They say it's about the illegal use of software. But the firm bought this program legally and officially. They want to take all the computers and paralyze our work," she said on Facebook. Dragon Capital's website says it handles the largest share of trades on the Ukrainian stock market, carrying out about a third of all transactions. It said it has raised more than \$5 billion in new capital for the crisis-battered country. News of the raid prompted Prime Minister Groyzman to interrupt a Cabinet meeting and express his surprise, warning that such raids could hurt business and investor confidence in Ukraine. "This doesn't help to build the investment climate," he said. "I don't have the right to meddle in the work of the SBU, but I think that everything should be done properly, without paralyzing [Dragon Capital's] work." Ukraine has a reputation for endemic corruption, and businesses often complain of harassment from law-enforcement bodies. The SBU defended what it said were court-approved raids on Dragon Capital and other firms it said are using the prohibited Russian software. "Russian special services are interested in getting access to information on critical infrastructure and also on businesses that have great defensive value," it said. "Information gained clandestinely is used to damage the sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability, defense capability, and the state, economic, and information security of Ukraine." Gas producer Ukrhazvydobu-

vannya said the SBU had also raided its office and removed computer equipment. "These actions could destabilize" the company, it said, adding that all company software had been purchased legally. (RFE/RL, with reporting by AFP and Reuters)

Semena trial adjourned yet again

KYIV – The trial of RFE/RL contributor Mykola Semena, a Crimean journalist who is fighting what he says is a politically motivated separatism charge on the Russian-controlled peninsula, has again been adjourned. Mr. Semena's trial has been adjourned three times due to various reasons since it started on March 20. The trial resumed on May 3, but the judge adjourned it for one week after two witnesses for the prosecution did not show up in the courtroom. The judge ruled that the witnesses must be forcibly brought to the courtroom if need be. Mr. Semena faces up to five years in prison if convicted by Russia, which has jailed several Crimeans who have opposed or criticized Moscow's 2014 seizure of the Black Sea peninsula from Ukraine. The charge against 66-year-old journalist stems from an article he wrote for RFE/RL's Krym. Reali (Crimea Realities) website in 2015. The Kremlin-installed authorities in Crimea have charged that the article called for the violation of Russia's territorial integrity. Mr. Semena insists he is innocent, saying Crimea's status was and remains in dispute – and that he has the right to openly express his opinions. The United States, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and international media watchdogs have

expressed concern about the prosecution of Mr. Semena. Activists say his trial is part of a persistent Russian clampdown on independent media and dissent in Crimea since Moscow's takeover. RFE/RL President Thomas Kent has described the case against Mr. Semena as "part of a concerted effort by Russian and Russian-backed authorities to obstruct RFE/RL's journalistic mission to provide an independent press to residents of Crimea." (RFE/RL)

Ukraine's representatives at Chornobyl event

WASHINGTON – Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Valeriy Chaly took part in a commemorative event dedicated to the 31st anniversary of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster organized by U.S.-Ukraine Foundation in Washington on April 26. The roundtable was held to discuss priorities in providing humanitarian assistance for Ukraine. Delegations of parliamentarians from Ukraine and Lithuania joined the event. The Ukrainian Parliament was represented by Hanna Hopko, chair of the Verkhovna Rada's Foreign Affairs Committee; Nataliya Katser-Buchkovska, chair of the Subcommittee on Sustainable Development, Strategy and Investment of the Committee on Fuel and

Energy Complex, Nuclear Policy and Nuclear Security; and Yevhen Rybchynskyi, deputy chair of the Committee on Veterans, Combatants, AntiTerrorist Operation Participants and Disabled People. Ambassador Chaly emphasized that the profound cause of the Chornobyl accident was the Soviet system that operated on the basis of mercilessness toward human beings. The current system of government in Russia, in the ambassador's words, is a return to Soviet times and puts into practice the mercilessness toward humans that is being so clearly demonstrated in the continued Russian aggression against Ukraine. Ms. Hopko drew attention to the fact that 3.5 million Ukrainians are in need for humanitarian aid as a result of the Russian aggression. She stressed that there no signs of that aggression's cessation; on the contrary, Russia's concentrated forces on the territory of Belarus point to the probability of a new attack against Ukraine. Ms. Katser-Buchkovska spoke about Ukraine's efforts aimed at diversifying energy sources, protecting critical infrastructure from Russian cyberwarfare and reform of the energy sector as a whole. (Embassy of Ukraine in the United States)

Relations...

(Continued from page 2)

ticular concern for Turkey remains Russia's continued restriction on Turkish tomatoes (Interfax, April 3).

The case of Crimea and the ongoing "tomato wars" highlight the existing deep grievances between Turkey and Russia; both countries are artificially and adroitly

keeping these issues unresolved. In recent years, Ankara and Moscow were pushed into the same corner because of tensions with the West. But Western powers still have the capacity to bring Turkey fully back into the Western camp, if they act quickly and resolutely.

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



With sorrow we announce the passing on April 15, 2017 of our beloved husband, father, uncle and cousin

Wolodymyr Bohdan Lechman

born on April 25, 1932 in Berezhany, Ukraine

industrial engineer, manager, president and CEO of manufacturing corporations, member of numerous professional associations, faithful son of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, community activist, true patriot, benefactor of many religious and civic organizations.

in deep sorrow he leaves:

- wife - Nelia
- sons - Rev. Deacon Bohdan with wife Lydia and children Roman, Andrew and Marianna
- Dr. Peter with wife Toula and sons Andrew and Matthew
- Michael John
- Mark with wife Rebecca and daughters Juliana, Lily and Alexandra
- sister-in-law - Lydia Dychdala with family
- family in Ukraine and diaspora - Tarnopilsky, Lewycky, Melnyk, Dachniwsky, Korchynsky and Choma

Panakhoda and Holy Liturgy were served at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in North Port, FL on April 17 and 18 and the funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Bridgeport, PA on April 20, followed by burial at the parish cemetery in a family plot.

**Vichnaya Pamyat to a Life Well Lived
and a Most Beautiful Person Deeply Loved!**



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що в суботу, 18 березня 2017 року, після короткої недуги в Арізоні, на 88-му році життя спокійно відійшла у вічність наша дорогенька Мама і Баця

св. п.

Анна Стасів

народжена 7 лютого 1929 року в Стрию, Львівська область, Україна.

Панахида відбулася у Williams Funeral Home в Бронксі, Н. Й.

Похоронні відправи відбулися 25 березня 2017 року в церкві св. Андрія і на Українському цвинтарі св. Духа в Гемптонбургу, Н. Й.

Залишилися у глибокому смутку:

- дочка - Ліда з чоловіком Андрієм Павлишином
- Лариса з чоловіком Вораном Ровч
- син - Андрій
- внуки - Леся, Мелася, Мелодія і Александер
- ближча і дальша родина в Україні.

Вічна їй пам'ять!

Для вшанування пам'яті Покійної просимо складати пожертви на Ukrainian Catholic University та посилати на адресу:

Andrew Stasiw, 3437 Tibbett Ave., Bronx, NY 10463



With deep sorrow we announce that

Peter Pytel

age 92, of Twin Lakes, WI, passed away Monday morning, April 10, 2017 at the Atrium Post Acute Care of Williams Bay, WI.



Peter was born on December 25, 1924 in Novosilka, Ternopil Oblast, Ukraine, the son of the late Andrew and Natalie Tracz Pytel. On December 23, 1945 in Germany, Peter was united in marriage to Maria Poswistak. They came to the United States in 1949.

Peter formerly worked as a tool and die maker for the Fel-Pro Company in Skokie, IL. Peter and Maria moved to Twin Lakes in 1976. They were members of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Chicago, IL.

Peter was one of the founding members of the Ukrainian Country Club, now Ukrainian Village in the Town of Randall, WI. Peter was secretary for over 50 years of the Ukrainian National Association Branch 139. He was also a founding member of the Ukrainian Concert Band, president and a long time member of the Holy Name Society.

Peter is survived by: his wife of 71 years, Maria; son, Eugene of Twin Lakes, WI; daughter in law, Eileen Pytel of Oceanside, CA; grandchildren, John and Maura; great grandsons, Eli, Joseph, Anthony and Andrew Paul – all of Oceanside, CA.

He was preceded in death by 1 son, Paul on August 15, 2015.

Funeral services were held on Thursday April 13, 2017 at Haase-Lockwood & Assoc. Funeral Home in Twin Lakes. Interment was in St. John's Cemetery.

May His memory be eternal.

Yuriy Tarnawsky Manuscript Collection exhibited at Columbia University

by Karina Tarnawsky

NEW YORK – Columbia University's Rare Book and Manuscript Library hosted a poetry reading by the Ukrainian American writer, linguist, computer scientist and literary scholar Yuriy Tarnawsky in conjunction with an exhibition of material from his collection housed in the Bakhmeteff Archive Division of the library that was open to the public on March 1-31.

Dr. Tarnawsky's collection is part of the archive of the New York Group, which he was instrumental in founding in 1996 while a professor of Ukrainian literature and culture at the university. The archive was opened officially in March of that year with a retrospective exhibition curated by him.

This year's exhibition, curated by the head of the Bakhmeteff Archive, Tanya Chebotarev, which was housed in the Chang Octagon on the library's premises at the Butler Library, showcased the highlights of Dr. Tarnawsky's 60-year professional career. The exhibition concentrated on various aspects of his activities, displaying manuscripts, books, correspondence,

photographs, and artifacts in the areas of poetry, fiction, theater, travel, as well as scientific and scholarly work.

The poetry material ranged from the manuscript and the 1956 publication of his first book of poetry in Ukrainian, "Life in the City," through his 2013 English-language collection "Modus Tollens"; and fiction – from his 1961 Ukrainian-language novel "Roads," through his recent English-language "Placebo Effects Trilogy" and the collection "Crocodile Smiles." Dr. Tarnawsky's portrait by Jurij Solovij was augmented by the artist's letters.

The theater exhibit concentrated on the 1998 performance of his play "Not Medea" at the renowned New York City avant-garde theater Mabou Mines, where he was artist in residence. Travel through Spain and Latin America, countries which have exerted strong influence on Dr. Tarnawsky's work, was exemplified by photographs and numerous artifacts.

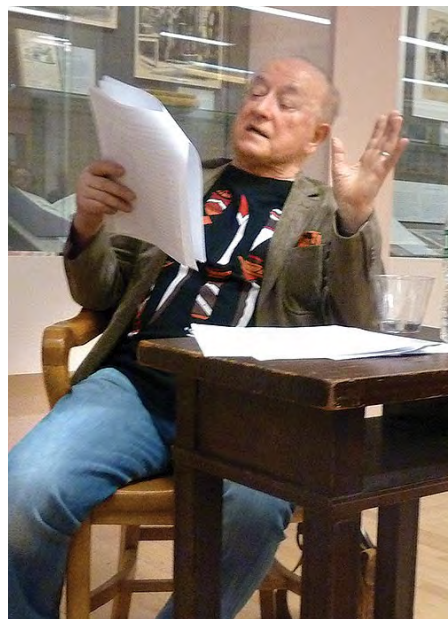
The non-literary section displayed, among other things, an Outstanding Contribution Award certificate from the IBM Corp. presented to Dr. Tarnawsky for his work on automatic language transla-



A view of the exhibition of materials from the Yuriy Tarnawsky Manuscript Collection.



Prof. Maria Grazia Bartolini introduces Yuriy Tarnawsky.



Yuriy Tarnawsky reads his poem "Stephen Hawking Goes Flying."

tion, a sample syllabus from a course he taught at Columbia, and the original of his 1982 New York University Ph.D. dissertation in linguistics, "Knowledge Semantics" and its Ukrainian translation, "Znannieva Semantyka," recently published by the

National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

The well-attended poetry reading on March 23, which was held at the spacious Kempner gallery of the library, included a lengthy overview and analysis of Dr. Tarnawsky's work by Prof. Maria Grazia Bartolini of Milan University, who wrote her Ph.D. dissertation on Dr. Tarnawsky's poetry and published a monograph on the subject, as well as a speech by Prof. Ray Dougherty, Dr. Tarnawsky's dissertation adviser, who explained the importance of his dissertation.

The reading concluded with Dr. Tarnawsky's reading of the long poem "Stephen Hawking Goes Flying" from his still unfinished book of poetry in English titled "Modus Quasi Ponens." A tour of the exhibition and a reception followed the reading.

Dr. Tarnawsky is the author of more than three dozen books of poetry, fiction, drama, essays and translations in Ukrainian and English. He is known as a radical modernist innovator who brought to American literature the strict attention to form and spirit characteristic of experimental European fiction, in particular in the use of language.

Ukraine media...

(Continued from page 1)

freedom of the press, have sharply deteriorated since Russia illegally occupied the Ukrainian peninsula of 2.3 million people in March 2014.

Crimean Tatars, who numbered around 300,000 before the Russian invasion, and ethnic Ukrainians have been subject to kidnappings, arbitrary detentions and prosecution on trumped up charges of either "extremism" or "terrorism." Only Russian state-controlled media currently operate in Crimea.

Over all, the report covering the year 2016 said, only 13 percent of the world's population lives in countries that boast a free press. Forty-two percent live in countries whose press is "partly free," and 45 percent in countries where the media is "not free." Freedom House noted that "Eurasia continues to be the worst-performing region in the world for press freedom."

The Washington-based non-profit hasn't

yet published a full report on Crimea or Ukraine.

The report made available did state that Ukraine remained in the "partly free" bracket with a score of 53 out of 100, where the highest score denotes a total clampdown on media freedom. Geographically, Ukraine is in the Eurasia category of the report where Georgia and Moldova are the only other countries that are partly free – the remaining 10 countries or territories in this region, including Russia (with a score of 83), are "not free."

In particular, Ukraine was criticized for banning certain Russia media outlets that are considered independent, like the Dozhd television station because it used a "map depicting Crimea as part of Russia."

"Meanwhile, faced with Kremlin-controlled outlets that disseminate disinformation, undermine the legitimacy of Ukrainian institutions and exacerbate Ukraine's security crisis, Kyiv has turned to restrictions, limiting access to numerous Russian outlets and denying entry to dozens of Russian journalists," the Freedom House report stated.

Kyiv's reaction, according to the report, was prompted by the "Kremlin's propaganda drive" that aims to control "narratives on Crimea and Donbas, as well as perceptions of Russia and the West," and which is "attempting to undermine the country's sovereignty and the legitimacy of its institutions."

Ukraine was praised for making media ownership transparent and for making progress toward establishing a public broadcaster. Freedom House also cited Kyiv's plans to sell 244 state-owned print outlets to safeguard their "editorial independence from state influence."

Criticism focused on authorities attempting to foster so-called patriotic reporting in which only positive stories are reported, which raises "questions about the government's commitment to media autonomy." For example in June 2016, President Petro Poroshenko asked that journalists "refrain from covering negative stories about Ukraine," the report noted.

Other concerns were that journalistic access to the war zone in the Russian-occupied Donbas remained restricted. The democracy watchdog also voiced concern when in May 2016 the website Myrotvoret published the personal information of "5,000 Ukrainian and foreign media professionals who had received accreditation from separatist authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk to report on the conflict."

Violence, harassment and other abuses of journalists are "challenges" that Ukrainian authorities still face, the report stated.

"In the most alarming case of the year, a car bomb killed prominent journalist Pavel Sheremet in July," according to Freedom House.

The Freedom House report released on April 28 is titled "Freedom of the Press 2017: Press Freedom's Dark Horizon." It may be read at <https://freedomhouse.org/>.

The worst and the best

Freedom House explains: "The level of press freedom in each country and territory is evaluated through 23 methodology questions divided into three broad categories: the legal environment, the political environment and the economic environment."

Of the 66 countries and territories designated by Freedom House as not free, the following 10 have the worst total scores: North Korea (98), Turkmenistan (98), Uzbekistan (95), Crimea (94), Eritrea (94), Cuba (91), Equatorial Guinea (91), Azerbaijan (90), Iran (90) and Syria (90).

The top 10 countries rated as free are: Norway (8), the Netherlands (11), Sweden (11), Belgium (12), Denmark (12), Finland (12), Switzerland (13), Luxembourg (14), Andorra (15) and Iceland (15).

The United States had a press freedom score of 23, while Canada scored 18.

Want to keep up to date on developments in Ukraine?

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OUT & ABOUT

Through March 31, 2018 Toronto Exhibit, "Trunk Tales: Leaving home... finding home," Ukrainian Museum of Canada, 416-923-3318, ext. 105

May 10 New York Tatar music celebration, "Traditional Music of the Crimean Tatars - A Concert and Interview," Center for Traditional Music and Dance, The Ukrainian Museum, www.ukrainianmuseum.org or 212-228-0110

May 11 Washington Paint Night, United Help Ukraine, Restaurant Agora, www.unitedhelpukraine.org

May 12 New York Performance, "Out of the Studio: Process and Practice," Bandura Downtown, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or www.ukrainianmuseum.org

May 12 through June 1 New York Art exhibit, "Max Vityk: The Warriors of Light/Outcrops," Ukrainian Institute of America, www.ukrainianinstitute.org

May 13 New York Spring dance with Hayivky and Vesnianky, with Music by Anna Maria Entertainment, Ukrainian National Home, 212-505-0767 or http://domivka.fm/party

May 13 Jenkintown, PA Community breakfast, Ukrainian National Association, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, www.ukrainiannationalassociation.com or www.ueccphila.org

May 13 Ottawa Plant sale, Ukrainian Canadian Women's League of Canada, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, 613-225-3988

May 13 New York Lecture by Ostap Sereda, "From Slovo to Dilo: Early Narodovtsi (populists) and Formation of Ukrainian Identity in Galicia in the 1860s-1870s," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130

May 19 Chicago Museum Day and Ukrainian Embroidery Day celebration, "Paint Me a Night at the Museum," Ukrainian National Museum, www.ukrainiannationalmuseum.org

May 19-21 New York St. George Ukrainian Festival, Seventh Street (between Second and Third avenues), St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, www.facebook.com/stgeorgeukrainianfestivalnyc

May 20 Washington Once in a Generation Ukrainian Freedom March, Washington Monument to the Holodomor Memorial, kris10skib@gmail.com or edskbicki@icloud.com

May 21 Alexandria, VA Concert with violinist Oleh Krysa, The Washington Group Cultural Fund, The Lyceum, twgculturalfund@gmail.com

May 21 Cleveland 50th anniversary luncheon, featuring keynote speaker Myroslava Gongadze, Ukrainian National Women's League of America - Branch 12, St. Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall, 440-237-2598 or nadiawd@outlook.com

May 23 Ottawa Lecture with Wasył Sydorenko, "Ukrainian Tango," Shevchenko Scientific Society, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, 613-723-1673

May 25 Ottawa Book launch, "The Linnet" by Chris McNaught and "Here and There" by Walter Kish, Ukrainian National Federation - Ottawa-Gatineau, Remax Core Realty, 613-794-5135

May 25 Chicago Art exhibit, "The Stick Up! Chicago," by Oscar Arriola, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, www.uima-chicago.org

May 26 Ottawa Album release party by Ukraine, "Shadow Era," House of Targ, www.ukrainia.org

May 26 Toronto Dance, "Evening in the Carpathians," with music by Zapovid, Help Us Help the Children, Trident Banquet Hall, 416-604-4611

May 26 New York Film screening, "Mustafa (2016)," Ukrainian Institute of America, www.ukrainianinstitute.org or 212-288-8660

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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Students wishing to apply for a UNA scholarship or award must meet the following criteria:

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The application for a UNA scholarship or award must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2017**.

For complete details and applications, please call the UNA headquarters or visit the *Our Benefits* page on the UNA website at:
www.UkrainianNationalAssociation.org

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Friday, May 12, 2017 at 7 p.m.

CONCERT
The Ukrainian Museum and Bandura Downtown present
OUT OF THE STUDIO: Process and Practice

An evening of current work by performing composers, choreographers, video artists, and a luthier. The concert is organized in conjunction with the Museum's exhibition *CIM*.

PERFORMERS
Katja Kolcio and Oksana Kazmina (dance and interactive video), Solomiya Moroz (flute, video, electronics), Jurij Fedynskyj (historical instruments: kobza, bandura, torban), Julian Kytasty (kharkiv bandura).

Admission (includes gallery access and reception): \$15; members and seniors – \$10; students – \$5. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

THE UKRAINIAN MUSEUM
222 East 6th Street
New York, NY 10003
212.228.0110
www.ukrainianmuseum.org

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Wednesday, May 10

NEW YORK: "Traditional Music of the Crimean Tatars – A Concert and Interview" will be presented by The Ukrainian Museum and the Center for Traditional Music and Dance (CTMD). Join us at 7 p.m. for an evening celebrating one of New York City's greatest under-the-radar cultural treasures: exciting and enchanting traditional Crimean Tatar music, featuring violin virtuoso Nariman Asanov accompanied by accordionist Patrick Farrell. Pete Rushefsky of CTMD will interview the performers about the music and its place in the local Crimean community. Tickets, at \$10, are available in advance online or at the door one hour before the event. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St.; telephone, 212-228-0110; website, www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

Friday, May 12

NEW YORK: Join us at 7 p.m. when The Ukrainian Museum and Bandura Downtown present "Out of the Studio: Process and Practice," an evening of current work by performing composers, choreographers, video artists and a luthier, presented in conjunction with the exhibit "CIM." Performers are: Katja Kolcio and Oksana Kazmina (dance and interactive video), Solomiya Moroz (flute, video, electronics), Jurij Fedynskyj (historical instruments: kobza, bandura, torban) and Julian Kytasty (Kharkiv bandura). Admission (includes light reception) is \$15; \$10 for members and seniors; \$5 for students. Arrive early to view the current exhi-

bitions. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St.; telephone, 212-228-0110; website, www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

Saturday, May 13

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture, "From Slovo to Dilo: Early Narodovtsi (populists) and Formation of Ukrainian Identity in Galicia in the 1860-1870s," by Dr. Ostap Sereda, (Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv). Dr. Sereda is chair of modern and contemporary history at UCU. 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.

Sunday, May 21

ALEXANDRIA, Va.: The Washington Group Cultural Fund Sunday Music Series concludes the 2017-2018 Sunday Music Series with a recital by acclaimed and legendary violinist Oleh Krysa, in a program featuring works by Brahms, Prokofiev, Skoryk and Ravel. The Ukrainian American violinist Oleh Krysa was long esteemed in the former USSR as a distinguished soloist, chamber musician and teacher. A prominent student of David Oistrakh, he won major prizes in numerous international competitions. The concert will be held at 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314. A reception to meet the artist will follow the performance. Suggested donation: \$30; free for students; unreserved seating. For more information contact twgculturalfund@gmail.com.

Check out the websites of the UNA, its newspapers and Soyuzivka!

- www.ukrainsnationalassociation.org •
- www.svoboda-news.com • www.ukrweekly.com •
- www.soyuzivka.com •

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**. Preview items must be received **no later than one week before the desired date of publication**. Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Information should be sent to: preview@ukrweekly.com.

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