

INSIDE:

- Senate resolution honors Revolution of Dignity – page 3
- At the heart of the Ukrainian Cultural Festival – page 11
- Our community: Oregon and Florida – page 15

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association, Inc., celebrating its 125th anniversary

Vol. LXXXVII

No. 31

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2019

\$2.00

Experts ask: After the elections, what comes next in Ukraine?

by Adrian Karmazyn

WASHINGTON – Speaking to audiences in the United States and Ukraine via video link, experts in Kyiv said they see a window of opportunity for reforms now that the Ukrainian presidential and parliamentary elections have been completed and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Servant of the People party has gained a majority in Parliament.

The July 24 teleconference took place under the auspices of the Transatlantic Task Force on Elections and Civil Society in Ukraine.

Since November of last year, this Transatlantic Task Force has conducted a series of international video conferences aimed at encouraging Ukraine to stay on the path of reform during the 2018-2019 presidential and parliamentary election cycle. Two key components of that effort were helping make sure that the voices of Ukrainian civil society are heard in Washington, Kyiv and Brussels, and emphasizing the importance of conducting free and fair elections in Ukraine.

In the latest discussion, held just three days after Ukrainians elected a new national legislature, the conclusion was that Ukraine had accomplished the latter with flying colors. And that creates new opportunities for Ukrainian think tanks and NGOs, as well as Ukraine's Western partners, to engage with the Ukrainian

government and Parliament on the reform process.

As stated by Eugene Czolij, head of the Ukrainian World Congress International Observer Mission to Ukraine's 2019 elections: "This was a watershed year. Ukraine has pulled [off] another incredible feat. It has conducted three rounds of elections – the two rounds of presidential elections and then parliamentary elections – in a fair, democratic, transparent, free manner, notwithstanding the fact that Ukraine is the object of Russian aggression for now over five years."

Vasyl Babych of the Reanimation Package of Reforms (RPR), a coalition of leading civil society organizations, characterized the post-election situation in Ukraine as a "window of opportunities" for change that can be guided by a "visionary document" prepared by RPR and others at the recent Ukraine Reform Conference in Toronto.

"We very much hope that this is the time to reshape communication and partnership between civil society, government [and] business associations. We started this process, we very much hope, with the Toronto Principles. And we as a coalition now advocate it as priorities for reforms," expertise that will be available "to decision makers in the office of the president and, hopefully, with the new government

(Continued on page 8)

Zelenskyy and Servant of the People party prepare for new Parliament's convocation

by Bohdan Nahaylo

KYIV – As the implications of the historic landslide victory by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Servant of the People party sink in, important clues and details have been emerging about how its leaders see their next steps, priorities and challenges.

The crucial issue for them at this stage is to have the new Verkhovna Rada in place as soon as is possible and for their victorious and majority party to put its representatives in key positions both within the Parliament and in the new government. Only then will it be possible to move ahead with promised new laws and a revamping of institutions and policies.

President Zelenskyy and others have expressed the hope that the new Verkhovna Rada could be convened on Ukrainian Independence Day on August 24. But this now seems unlikely because several of the results in the parliamentary elections are still being contested in court. The head of the Presidential Office, Andriy Bohdan, said on July 30 that, because of the lawsuits, he doubts the new Parliament will be able to start its work by September 1.

In the meantime, the new president and his lieutenants have acknowledged that their hastily cobbled together party, with its diverse composition and its vul-

nerability to internal fragmentation, requires consolidation, orderliness and a clearer sense of direction.

Right now the question of who will be President Zelenskyy's chief officers in the new Parliament and government is uppermost in minds of both his party and its potential allies and opponents. What is at stake is not only the positions of speaker of the Verkhovna Rada and two deputies, but also the head of the party's parliamentary faction, and chairs of various parliamentary committees. And then there are posts of prime minister and other members of the Cabinet.

According to the 24Kanal TV Channel, at his first meeting with all the newly elected national duties from his party on July 25, Mr. Zelenskyy "devoted quite a lot of attention to the question of unity and discipline." This week, all of them were taken for a retreat in the Carpathian resort town of Truskavets, not only for a crash course in governance and economics, but evidently also for team-building purposes.

The question of appointments is linked to whether Servant of the People will decide to enter into a formal coalition with other parties in the Rada, the two logical candidates being rock star Svyatoslav Vakarchuk's Holos party with 20 seats and Yulia Tymoshenko's

(Continued on page 14)

Ukrainian sailors in U.S. for training on Coast Guard cutters

by Eugene Z. Stakhiv

WASHINGTON – On Sunday, July 21, one of the hottest days on record in Washington, 34 sailors of Ukraine's Military Naval Forces voted at the Embassy of Ukraine in Georgetown, and followed up with an excursion to Arlington National Cemetery. They were accompanied by the two military attachés from the Embassy, Col. Andriy Ordynovych and Naval Capt. Oleksandr Korneichuk.

The sailors are here for 10 weeks of training in Baltimore, learning how to operate the two Coast Guard cutters that the U.S. had donated to Ukraine's Navy for patrolling Odesa's coastal zone.

The two Ukrainian Coast Guard crews were selected because of their experience and availability. They will man and operate the two cutters, and are already in their fourth week of training. They are enjoying their stay in Baltimore and have enough free time for an occasional excursion to



The Ukrainian crew's flag-raising ceremony aboard a U.S. Coast Guard cutter.

Washington and Baltimore.

All the crew members were required to take a three-month immersion course in English before their assignment to Baltimore. All the instrumentation and machinery on the cutters are in English, as is their instruction. This is a very rigorous training course, as each participant must take a series of proficiency exams in English before they can be certified in their respective areas of expertise. The group is led by Lt. Commander Ihor Trukhan.

The two commanders of the cutters are training with their crews. Lt. JG Pavlo Hladchenko is from Zhytomyr, and Lt. JG Dmyr Aulin is from Kirovohrad. Both are married and are stationed in Odesa; they speak excellent Ukrainian and English.

The two Coast Guard crews visited some of the well-known sites at Arlington, including the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Iwo Jima Marine Memorial. They also

(Continued on page 13)

ANALYSIS

True to 'tradition,' Russia prepares to again change parliamentary election rules to keep Putin in power

by Vladislav Inozemtsev
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Recent Western commentary suggests that Russian President Vladimir Putin is preparing to change parliamentary election rules after his second two-term tenure in the Kremlin finally expires in 2024; but such news is hardly revelatory. In Russia, this scenario has been debated by experts since his return to the presidency in 2012 (Vedomosti, March 6, 2012); and in 2013, this author co-wrote a piece predicting that Mr. Putin would stay in power until at least 2030 (Cairn.info, 2013).

But in recent months, leaks from multiple high-profile officials elaborating on various scenarios to perpetuate Mr. Putin's rule have appeared in the Russian media almost every week (Forbes.ru, June 21, 2018; RBC, April 23, 2019). Many insiders now indicate that the Constitution will definitely be rewritten prior to the upcoming parliamentary elections of 2021 (T.me/rus-sica2, June 13).

And here, it is worth noting the "conceptual" article on constitutional "adjustments," written on July 17 by the chairperson of the State Duma, Vyacheslav Volodin, in *Parlamentskaya Gazeta*, that the Kremlin is reportedly now "acquainting itself with" (*Parlamentskaya Gazeta*, RIA Novosti, July 17).

But Mr. Putin's tenacious hold on power aside, the peculiarities of the Russian parliamentary system also deserve a closer examination because they suggest that the legislature was never considered to be a meaningful branch of authority inside Russia. It was always seen as a tool for preserving the ruling regime. And the legislative and administrative procedures carried out to ensure this date all the way back to the twilight of the Soviet Union.

Between 1989, when Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika ("restructuring") was in full swing, and today, Russians have gone to the polls eight times to elect their Parliament, which (to stress Russia's "federal" nature) consists of two chambers – one representing the people, and another the regions.

During the 1990 elections to the Parliament (Supreme Soviet) of the then-Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, the ruling Communists designed a two-step voting system: 1,068 people's deputies were all elected in single-seat electoral districts by an absolute majority and requiring at least 50 percent turnout to make the vote effective. But of these, 252 Supreme Soviet members were chosen by the people's deputies, with 126 allocated to the Soviet of the Republic and another 126 to the Soviet of Nationalities.

This system, however, was used only once: afterwards, then-President Boris Yeltsin dissolved the Supreme Soviet and crushed the armed revolt of the deputies by military force. A new bicameral Parliament (Federal Assembly) was created, consisting of the lower State Duma and the upper Federation Council.

The first elections to both chambers occurred in December 1993; the Parliament was thought to be an interim one, so 450 Duma members and 171 Federation Council deputies were elected for only two years. Half of the Duma legislators were elected from party lists (the electoral threshold was set at 5 percent), and another half via direct vote in single-con-

stituency districts. All Federation Council members were elected in two-seat electoral districts congruous with federal-level entities composing the Russian Federation.

The next elections, in 1995, differed greatly from the first: the Duma was elected by generally the same rules but for a four-year term, but the electoral turnout requirement was lowered from 50 to 25 percent. The Federation Council, meanwhile, was completely reworked: it would now be composed of the governors and the heads of regional legislative assemblies instead of separately elected representatives.

Further reforms were implemented between 1999 and 2001. And since then, the Federation Council is composed of individuals sent there by the regional authorities – one selected by the governor and the other by the local assembly (the terms of eligibility for these appointees have undergone further adjustments almost yearly).

Since 2003, new electoral changes have applied mostly to the Duma. In 2003, it was elected by the same rules but with a reformed Federation Council. But in 2007, elections in single constituencies were abandoned: the chamber was elected only by party lists, while the electoral threshold rose to 7 percent, with the minimum participation requirement completely terminated. Furthermore, the previously available option to vote "against all" was outlawed. Then, in 2011, the tenure of the deputies was extended from four to five years. The threshold that year remained at 7 percent; but any party that managed to win 5-6 percent of the vote would be entitled to a single seat, while a party with 6-7 percent of ballots could obtain two parliamentary seats (no faction fit into these ranges, however) (Europarl.europa.eu, March 4, 2011; Cikrf.ru, accessed July 24, 2019).

In 2016, the old principle of composing the chamber of both party candidates and individual deputies – in force before 2007 – was restored with the same term of five years. And throughout the decades since the collapse of the Soviet Union, hundreds of minor changes were introduced into the electoral laws, with the aim clearly to reduce the ability of independent candidates to infiltrate ballot lists. The ongoing battle and mass street protests over bans to opposition candidates registering for this year's Moscow City Council elections proves this quite well (RFE/RL, July 20).

But, returning to the matter of the 2021 national parliamentary election, the above-mentioned leaks suggest the share of the Duma deputies elected by party lists would decrease to 25 percent, while the Federation Council might be elected by the popular vote – as had happened once, almost 30 years ago, in 1993. Assuming those changes are actually adopted, it would mean that no Federal Assembly has ever been elected according to the same rules.

What all this illustrates is that the past three decades of constant parliamentary election amendments have been a key tool in assisting the executive in retaining power. Particularly (although not exclusively) since Mr. Putin's rise to the Kremlin, the level of democratic access to the legislature has fluctuated with the relative power dominance of the presidency. When the president is more popular than is his trusted party, the share

(Continued on page 17)

NEWSBRIEFS

Court approves seizure of tanker

A Ukrainian court has formally approved the seizure of a Russian tanker that was detained by Ukrainian authorities at the Danube River port of Izmayil last week, Ukraine's Chief Military Prosecutor Anatoliy Matios said on July 30. According to documents posted on social media by Mr. Matios, the court in Ukraine's southern city of Odesa issued the ruling on July 29 regarding the seizure of the tanker Nika Spirit. "The court seized the said vessel," Mr. Matios said. "We did it legally." The Russian vessel was seized on July 25 by Ukraine's SBU security service and the Military Prosecutor's Office for its alleged involvement in an incident in November 2018 off the coast of Ukraine's Russia-occupied Crimean Peninsula. The SBU says the Russian tanker is material evidence in a case over the November 2018 Kerch Strait incident, alleging that the tanker was used to block three Ukrainian naval ships as they attempted to transit the Kerch Strait from the Black Sea to reach the Sea of Azov. The Russian Navy fired at the Ukrainian ships in the altercation and seized the vessels along with 24 Ukrainian sailors on board. Russia continues to hold the Ukrainian sailors in detention and plans to put them on trial, despite a May 25 ruling by the United Nations' Hamburg-based International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea that Russia must "immediately" release the sailors and Ukrainian ships. The Russian Embassy in Ukraine told TASS on July 30 that Russia's Consulate General in Odesa has lodged a note with Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry demanding explanations for the seizure of the Russian tanker. Ukrainian investigators seized documents on board and questioned its 10 crew members. The 10 Russian crew members were later released and were allowed to return to Russia. The Embassy said Russia has "not received any official documents" from Ukraine concerning the seized tanker and has not yet replied to the diplomatic note. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Reuters, AFP, Interfax and TASS)

Kyiv to launch Russian-language TV

A senior aide to Ukraine's president says

Kyiv plans to launch a worldwide Russian-language television channel in an attempt to counter Russian state-controlled media broadcasts to people living in separatist-controlled parts of eastern Ukraine and in Russia. "It must be admitted that Ukraine practically lost the information war for the minds of people in the occupied territories of Donbas and in occupied Crimea," Kyrylo Tymoshenko, newly elected President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's deputy chief of staff, told the Interfax Ukraine news agency on July 29. "But there is still a chance to turn the situation around." He added, "We have developed the option to launch a Ukrainian Russian-language channel, with which we will be able to cover the Russian-speaking population throughout the world." The channel should be state-run but would source some content from private Ukrainian television channels, Mr. Tymoshenko said. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Reuters)

Trump, Zelenskyy discuss meeting

U.S. President Donald Trump congratulated his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, on his parliamentary victory as the leaders discussed the agenda of their first tête-à-tête. Presidents Trump and Zelenskyy spoke by phone on July 25 to discuss "ways to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Ukraine, including energy and economic cooperation," the White House said in a statement. No date has yet been set for their first meeting, which will take place in Washington most likely before the end of the summer. Mr. Zelenskyy will come to the White House with a strong mandate for change after his Servant of the People party swept a majority of the seats in Parliament during the July 21 elections, the first party in the history of independent Ukraine to control the Rada. Mr. Trump congratulated Mr. Zelenskyy on his party's success, the White House said. Mr. Zelenskyy's office said in a statement that Mr. Trump voiced confidence that the new Ukrainian government could improve the nation's image and complete the investigation of corruption cases that have "held back U.S.-Ukrainian

(Continued on page 12)

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, August 4, 2019, No. 31, Vol. LXXXVII

Copyright © 2019 The Ukrainian Weekly

ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator
and advertising manager

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040
fax: (973) 644-9510
e-mail: adukr@optonline.net

Subscription Department

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040
e-mail: subscription@ukrweekly.com

Ukrainian authorities seize Russian tanker implicated in seamen's detention

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service

A Russian tanker, now called Nika Spirit and formerly named Neyma, has been detained by the Ukrainian security services in the port of Izmayil.

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) said it seized a Russian tanker that Moscow allegedly used to block three Ukrainian naval vessels before detaining them and 24 Ukrainian seamen in November 2018 near Crimea.

The SBU said in a statement posted on its Facebook page on July 25 that an investigation revealed that Russia's Federal Security Service and Border Guard Service used a tanker named Neyma to "illegally block the movement of the Ukrainian naval vessels Nikopol and Berdyansk, and the military tug Yani Kapu, in the Kerch Strait" before "illegally" detaining Ukrainian sailors and the three vessels.

According to the statement, the tanker, which has since changed its name to Nika Spirit, was seized by Ukrainian authorities after it arrived under the Russian flag at the Ukrainian port city of Izmayil on the Danube River on July 24.

When contacted by RFE/RL, Olena Hitlyanska, a spokeswoman for the SBU, said she could not yet share information about the sailors on board the ship.

A source told Russia's Interfax news agency that the crew aboard the tanker comprises approximately 15 Russian citizens.

Russia's human-rights commissioner, Tatyana Moskalkova, said the crew was released without being charged and that they were to travel to Moscow via Moldova. Denis Golenko, the press attaché at the Russian Embassy in Kyiv, confirmed their release to Interfax. Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry said it was investigating the incident and warned Kyiv of a harsh response.

"If we are talking about taking Russians hostage, this would be qualified as a flagrant violation of international law and consequences will come quickly," it said in a statement carried by state media.

The incident follows negotiations over the release of the Ukrainian sailors that have gained momentum. Ukraine's human-rights commissioner, Lyudmyla Denisova, told the Hromadske TV channel that "agreements have already been reached on returning the sailors."

A United Nations maritime tribunal on May 25 ruled that Russia must "immediately" release the 24 Ukrainian sailors and three Ukrainian naval vessels that were captured.

On November 25, 2018, Russian forces fired on, boarded and seized the three Ukrainian naval vessels near the Kerch Strait. Russia has been holding 24 Ukrainian sailors, who face up to six years in prison if convicted, since then.

Moscow claims the Ukrainian vessels illegally entered Russian territorial waters near Crimea, the Ukrainian peninsula that Russia now occupies after seizing it in 2014.

The Kerch Strait is the sole passage from the Black Sea to the Sea of Azov. It runs between Russia and Crimea, the Ukrainian peninsula that Russia took over by force in March 2014 after sending in troops and staging a referendum

(Continued on page 17)

Lawmaking 101: Before Parliament convenes, Ukraine's incoming freshmen are getting schooled

by Christopher Miller
RFE/RL

KYIV – President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's Servant of the People party won Ukraine's first-ever majority in Parliament in elections this month, giving it unprecedented power.

But before its 254 deputies are seated in the Verkhovna Rada and get down to governing, they're going back to school.

At the initiative and expense of the party, the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE) is opening its doors, so to speak, in summer to give Servant of the People's incoming neophyte deputies a crash course on economics and lawmaking.

The endeavor is part of a broader approach being undertaken by some of the five parties that won seats in Parliament to prepare first-time lawmakers, who account for about 75 percent of its make-up, for work inside of an institution that is among the country's least trusted and is notorious for the fistfights that erupt in its session hall.

When the new Parliament convenes in late August or early September, these newcomers will have their work cut out trying to reform the country.

They will almost certainly face great resistance from powerful tycoons in their efforts to enact progressive policies, crack down on endemic corruption and fix the economy. And they are likely to be targeted by public criticism when making tough decisions about how to end the half-decade-long war with Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine.

No political experience

Like Zelenskyy, a former comedian who rose to prominence by playing a fictional president in a television comedy series after which his party was named, many of Servant of the People's new lawmakers had no political experience before their history-making victory on July 21.

They include an actor, a wrestler, a wedding photographer, a pizzeria owner and a fitness-club director, as well as others from various non-political backgrounds.

"We are trying to give the people who are responsible for our state the best instruments and identify international practices that will help address the challenges facing them now," KSE President Tymofiy Mylovanov wrote of the upcoming training for the group in an announcement on Facebook. He said the intensive, week-long program was inspired by Harvard University's adult learning courses.

In a separate post, he said training would be conducted in bucolic Truskavets, a resort city in western Ukraine's Lviv Oblast, since its classrooms in Kyiv are not big enough to accommodate 254 people. But with a grueling schedule, it will be no summer vacation, he said.

His colleague, Olha Faryatyeva, head of KSE's public policy and governance department, told RFE/RL that the course would run all day, every day from July 27 to August 4, and that it would cover political strategy, budgeting, public policy, lawmaking and strategic communication.

Depending on each lawmaker's interests and planned focus once in parliament, they will also get training on issues such as regulation, decentralization, education, and security and defense.

"The key is to build on what skills they already have," Ms. Faryatyeva said.

No politician professors

Teaching the lawmakers will be some 30 to 35 professors, faculty members and practitioners with expertise in necessary fields – none of whom worked previously as a member of Parliament.

"We try to exclude those professors who are involved in politics," Ms. Faryatyeva said. That also means former members of Parliament.

One KSE official who will not be conducting any of the sessions is Inna Sovsun, its vice-president, who was elected to the Verkhovna Rada for the first time on the Holos (Voice) party ticket of rock star Svyatoslav Vakarchuk.

But Ms. Sovsun is participating in her party's own training course. Finishing fifth in elections with 5.8 percent of the vote in party-list balloting, Holos will get 20 seats in the Rada.

The party required that all its candidates had not previously been elected to Parliament in an effort to bring people without connections to establishment elites to the 450-seat legislature. It is seen as a possible ally or even a coalition partner of Servant of the People, should the latter decide to try and further strengthen its position.

For at least one day a week over the course of the past month, Holos has been training its candidates and now-elected national deputies on the ways of the

Verkhovna Rada, says Mykola Davydyuk, a Holos political advisor who studied at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. The party will continue with the training until the new Parliament is convened.

The topics studied include those that will be covered for Servant of the People lawmakers at KSE.

Also similarly, Mr. Davydyuk said Holos is not involving former members of Parliament in the exercises.

"Their experience is not so good for the future of Ukraine, because a lot of them were very corrupt," he said. "But it's quite easy to find some good people who worked in the Parliament and may share some good experiences," he added, referring to aides of past national deputies.

While the Holos training sessions have been mostly kept under wraps until now, the KSE course for Servant of the People lawmakers has been widely discussed since Mr. Mylovanov's announcement this week.

Mixed reaction

Public reaction to the latter has been mixed.

"Fine. But how can all this be learned in a week?" one Facebook user commented on Mr. Mylovanov's post.

"To save time and money, let's just replace their pituitary glands," quipped

(Continued on page 19)

Senate passes resolution marking anniversary of Revolution of Dignity

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Senate on July 17 passed by unanimous consent S. Res. 74, "A resolution marking the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity by honoring the bravery, determination, and sacrifice of the people of Ukraine during and since the Revolution, and condemning continued Russian aggression against Ukraine."

The resolution was co-sponsored by 20 senators and resolves to: remember the courage and resolve shown by the Ukrainian people in the Revolution of Dignity; affirms the U.S. government's unwavering commitment to supporting the continuing efforts of the government of Ukraine to implement democratic and free market reforms, restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity, as well as providing additional lethal and non-lethal security assistance to strengthen Ukraine's defense capabilities on land, sea and in the air in order to improve deterrence against Russian aggression; condemns the Russian Federation's ongoing malign activities against Ukraine and renews its call on the government of the Russian Federation to immediately cease all activity that seeks to undermine Ukraine and destabilize the European continent; and, affirms the State Department's Crimea Declaration, announced on July 25, 2018, that rejects Russia's attempted annexation of Crimea and pledges to maintain this policy until Ukraine's territorial integrity is restored.

This resolution was advocated during the Ukrainian Day advocacy event in Washington in June.

Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), co-chairs and co-founders of the Senate Ukraine Caucus, praised the passage of S. Res. 74

"I am proud to see the Senate pass this

resolution in a strong, bipartisan manner," said Sen. Portman. "This resolution honors the courage of the thousands of Ukrainians who, five years ago, braved a fierce winter and even fiercer government repression to fight for a brighter future for their country. Despite Russia's attempts to destabilize Ukraine, since 2014 Ukraine has made great strides in tackling corruption and strengthening the rule of law, and I urge the country to continue along this path to fulfill the promises of the Revolution of Dignity. The United States stands firmly with Ukraine, and I was pleased to reinforce this pledge on my recent visit to the country."

"I will never forget walking through the Maidan with Sen. [John] McCain shortly after the momentous events that occurred there five years ago," said Sen. Durbin. "Passage of this bipartisan resolution sends a strong message that the U.S. Senate stands with the many brave Ukrainians who lost their lives in the hopes of a more democratic and open country – an aspiration we should continue to advance and protect."

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee had approved the resolution in May. Sens. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), Ben Cardin (D-Md.), Bob Casey (D-Pa.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Susan Collins (R-Maine), Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Doug Jones (D-Ala.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.), James Inhofe (R-Okla.), and Pat Toomey (R-Pa.) also co-sponsored the resolution.

Sources: Ukrainian National Information Service, Senate Ukraine Caucus.



SELF RELIANCE NEW YORK
Federal Credit Union

САМОПОМІЧ - НЬЮ ЙОРК
Федеральна Кредитова Кооператива

Serving our Members & the Ukrainian American Community since 1951!
Promoting Savings and Providing Credit with Quality Financial Products & Services at Great Rates!

**START SAVING FOR TOMORROW WITH
HIGHER IRA SHARE RATES TODAY!**



IRA
Share Account

3.46% APY*

**APY – Annual Percentage Yield based on a 3.40% rate, subject to change without prior notice, dividend must remain on deposit.*

Visit or Call any of our Conveniently Located Branches:

MAIN OFFICE:
108 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10003
Tel:(212) 473-7310
Fax:(212)473-3251

ASTORIA:
32-01 31ST Avenue
Astoria, NY 11106
Tel:(718) 626-0506
Fax:(718)626-0458

LINDENHURST:
225 N 4TH Street
Lindenhurst, NY 11757
Tel:(631) 867-5990
Fax:(631)867-5989

UNIONDALE:
226 Uniondale Avenue
Uniondale, NY 11553
Tel:(516) 565-2393
Fax:(516)565-2097

KERHONKSON:
6329 Route 209
Kerhonkson, NY 12446
Tel:(845) 626-2938
Fax:(845)626-8636

Toll Free:(888) SELF-REL Email: Info@selfreliancenyc.org Website: www.selfreliancenyc.org



Self Reliance New York FCU
108 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10003-8302
212-473-7310
888-735-3735



INSURING OUR COMMUNITY



The Ukrainian National Association FORUM

UNA CELEBRATES 125 YEARS: A snapshot from history, 1985

In 1985, Ukrainian National Association Branch 206, the Zaporozska Sicz Society, of Woonsocket, R.I., celebrated its 75th anniversary. Seen above (from left) with the branch's anniversary banner are Russell Hreczuk, Alexander Kokolski, Peter Kindeforski, Dmytro Sarachmon and Leon Hardink. The jubilee was marked on May 18, 1985, with a social hour, banquet and dance at the Embassy Club in Woonsocket that was attended by more than 250 members and friends. Mayor Gaston Ayotte of Woonsocket expressed greetings to the members and guests, and read a proclamation declaring May 18 as "Ukrainian Day" in honor of the 75th anniversary of UNA Branch 206. The Rev. Myron Oryhon of St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church gave a brief history of the Woonsocket branch, saying: "The Ukrainian immigrants who came to Woonsocket found a new commitment and inspiration which led them to continue to carry God's love to all in the Ukrainian community." The main speaker at the event was UNA Supreme President John O. Flis, who traced the history of the UNA, which began with the formation of self-aid associations in the coal mining regions of Pennsylvania. These associations became the nucleus of a national fraternal organization today known as the Ukrainian National Association. Mr. Flis also presented special awards for outstanding work to Mr. Hardink, Branch 206 secretary, and Dmytro Sarachmon, Branch 206 president.



A photo archive of UNA history has been launched on the UNA website. It is a work in progress that will be expanded and refined. To take a look, go to unainc.org/una/the-una-is-125-years-old/.

LONG TERM ANNUITIES

*FIRST YEAR RATE
ALL ANNUITY RATES
SUBJECT TO CHANGE
NOT AVAILABLE
IN ALL STATES

4.00%*
9 YEAR

3.75%*
7 YEAR

3.25%*
5 YEAR

CALL US TODAY!

888-538-2833

INSURING OUR COMMUNITY

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
2200 ROUTE 10, PARSIPPANY, NJ 07054 • WWW.UNAINC.ORG

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

A fund-raiser for UNA publications

At the recent Ukrainian Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka, the traditional gala fund-raiser – the sixth such annual benefit – was dedicated to the two newspapers published by the Ukrainian National Association. The goal was to raise funds for the UNA Publications Endowment Fund that exists under the aegis of the Ukrainian National Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) organization that performs charitable activities on the UNA's behalf.

It is worth noting that this year, in celebrating the 125th anniversary of the UNA, we are also celebrating the jubilee of Svoboda, the world's oldest Ukrainian newspaper, which has been published since 1893. Why? Because it was that Ukrainian-language newspaper which gave birth to the UNA – in the beginning was the word. Already in its fourth issue, dated November 1, 1893, Svoboda stated in a front-page editorial, "We need a national organization." The word became deed on February 22, 1894, with the establishment of a Ukrainian fraternal organization then known as Ruskyi Narodnyi Soyuz.

We are also celebrating The Ukrainian Weekly, which was born in 1933 with a dual mission: to keep new generations of Ukrainians born in America involved in community life and – what was even more important – to inform the English-speaking public about the Holodomor decimating the population of Ukraine. The idea of an English-language publication was proposed at the UNA's 1933 Convention by Svoboda Editor-in-Chief Luke Myshuha, and the idea became reality less than five months later.

At the gala fund-raiser on July 12, wonderful words of support for Svoboda and The Weekly were offered by Honorary Member of the UNA General Assembly Taras Szmagala Sr., who for many years chaired its Publications Committee (previously known as the Press Committee). In his message, read by UNA Advisor Irene Jarosewich, who now chairs the Publications Committee, Mr. Szmagala eloquently posited that the UNA has always had a commitment to "maintaining a platform of communication for Ukrainians in our community, even worldwide, ...and to our extraordinary fraternal legacy of maintaining Ukrainian identity and efforts toward the building of an independent and strong Ukraine." Therefore, its publications are deserving of our support. And the UNA Publications Endowment Fund is the vehicle for that support.

Calls for the establishment of an endowment for the UNA's newspapers can be traced back to 2006, when such a fund was proposed at the UNA Convention. The idea came up repeatedly and was formally adopted in a resolution at the 2010 Convention that read: "Whereas, the official publications of the Ukrainian National Association – Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly – represent a crucial public image for the Ukrainian National Association and are indispensable for the organization in the Ukrainian community at large, be it resolved that a UNA Publications Endowment Fund be created to ensure the future of the UNA's official publications – Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly – via a permanent reserve fund." In May 2014, the UNA established the UNA Publications Endowment Fund by donating \$10,000 of seed money.

It is that endowment which benefited from the gala at Soyuzivka. Proceeds from the event, as well as generous donations presented that evening, are meant to help secure the future of the two most important newspapers serving our community here in North America and our nation worldwide. By donating to the UNA Publications Endowment Fund, supporters can help ensure that Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly inform and engage succeeding generations for years to come. (Checks payable to UNF – UNA Publications Endowment Fund may be sent to: Ukrainian National Foundation, 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054.)

WINDOW ON EURASIA

West's mixed signals on Ukraine make Russian aggression more likely

by Paul Goble

The decision of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to reseal the Russian delegation despite no changes in Moscow's behavior and despite the fact that most European countries continue to maintain a sanctions regime against Russian actions is not the only mixed signal the West is sending, journalists Kseniya Kirillova says.

And while it has received vastly more attention, this may not be the most significant one or the one most likely to lead the Kremlin to conclude that it can divide the West and even get away with a new round of aggression against Ukraine, the U.S.-based Russian journalist continues (kasparov.ru/material.php?id=5D24A17C3A17A).

That more dangerous mixed signal may come from a decision to have a NATO naval exercise near Ukraine, something that infuriates Moscow without providing any guarantee that the alliance would in fact come to Ukraine's rescue. On that point, she quotes the words of Andreas Umland, an expert at Kyiv's Institute of Euro-Atlantic Cooperation.

Dr. Umland observes that he does not entirely understand "the logic of NATO's presence for Georgia and Ukraine because, on the one hand, they are not members of the Alliance and correspondingly, NATO has not assumed any obligation to defend them. But on the other, their cooperation with NATO in the Black Sea angers Russia."

Paul Goble is a long-time specialist on ethnic and religious questions in Eurasia who has served in various capacities in the U.S. State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and the International Broadcasting Bureau, as well as at the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The article above is reprinted with permission from his blog called "Window on Eurasia" (<http://windowoneurasia2.blogspot.com/>).

"In order to escape this contradiction," he continues, "the countries of NATO should give Ukraine and NATO some kind of alternative guarantees of security, possibly not via full membership in the Alliance but for example at the level of bilateral treaties as in the relations of the U.S. and South Korea or in the framework of the Bucharest 10 or the Intermarium concept."

And Dr. Umland concludes that "to approach the borders of Ukraine with forces without giving any guarantees of help looks in my view inconsistent." And such inconsistencies are exactly the kind of thing that leads Moscow to assume it can exploit them to its advantage (ru.krymr.com/a/evropejskim-politikam-nedudasta-zabyt-o-kryme/29984345.html).

Indeed, Mr. Kirillova points out, Moscow is doing two things which suggest it is more than ready to do so in order to launch a new campaign against Ukraine from occupied Crimea. On the one hand, it continues to build up offensive forces there that have no purpose except to be used to carry out such attacks.

And on the other, the Russian authorities refuse to address the serious water shortages in Crimea, quite possibly so that they can use this to justify a move into southeastern Ukraine. All too many people in the West might be quite willing to accept Moscow's argument that it had no choice but to attack in order to get water that Kyiv was denying the people of Crimea.

The Russian journalist cites the words of Ukrainian political analyst Taras Berezovets on this point. "Perhaps," he says, "Putin is not hurrying to develop alternative sources of supply of potable water precisely because he needs a pretext for a future invasion." Many would see that as a sufficient reason not to oppose Moscow (ru.krymr.com/a/taras-berezovec-dzheyson-smart-ob-obostrenii-situacii-v-krymu/29994959.html).

And at the same time, he adds, perhaps ominously, "Ukraine does not have a sufficient number of forces on its southern border because our main military formations are concentrated in the Donbas."

Aug
9
1954

Turning the pages back...

Sixty-five years ago, on August 9, 1954, the Select Committee on Communist Aggression, U.S. House of Representatives, issued its Second Interim Report, based on oral testimony of 122 witnesses (and sworn written statements from many more) detailing Soviet aggression and mass murders of Ukrainian people in their native land.

The nine-man committee, headed by Rep. Charles J. Kersten (R-Wis.), with Edward M. O'Connor as committee staff director, had recently returned from its hearings held in London, Munich and Berlin. Previously, the committee held a series of hearings in Chicago and New York, where Ukrainian witnesses also gave testimony, as did representatives of other peoples behind the Iron Curtain. Other members of the committee included Reps. Fred. E. Busbey (R-Ill.), Alvin M. Bentley (R-Mich.), Edward J. Bonin (R-Pa.), Patrick J. Hillings (R-Calif.), Ray J. Madden (D-Ind.), Thaddeus M. Machrowicz (D-Mich.), Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.), Michael A. Feighan (D-Ohio), and Chief Counsel (Committee on Communist Aggression) James J. McTigue.

The report was forwarded to the House by Rep. Kersten so "that the members of the House will find it useful and that it will be carefully studied by those branches of the government concerned with the security of the United States."

Among the testimonies the committee heard were witnesses' recollections of the massacre of over 10,000 people in 1937-1938 by Communist secret police in the Vinnytsia region of Ukraine. In all, a total of 38 mass graves were discovered containing the remains of not only Ukrainians, but Poles and other nationalities as well.

The Vinnytsia Massacre, as it became known, was only one of some 19 similar examples of Communist mass murder in Ukraine during that period. Estimates at the time put the death total from 1937-1938 at more than 200,000 Ukrainians. A large number of the victim's remains were found with their hands tied behind their backs and gunshot wounds to the back of the head, typical of Communist executions.

(Continued on page 14)

IN THE PRESS: Zelenskyy's chance

"Ukraine has an extraordinary chance to turn things around," editorial, *The Washington Post*, July 26 (https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/ukraine-has-an-extraordinary-chance-to-turn-things-around/2019/07/26/e2dda3ac-ae2d-11e9-bc5c-e73b603e7f38_story.html?utm_term=.c24e3ccc1f8e):

Ukraine's political elite has repeatedly blown chances to stabilize the country and ensure its independence from Russia. Now, a whole new group will have a chance. On July 21, frustrated voters replaced more than 60 percent of the Parliament, relegating the parties that have run the government in the past to the margins. The big winner was neophyte President Volodymyr Zelensky, who called the snap election after taking office in May. His party, stocked with first-time candidates, won an absolute parliamentary majority ...

... Mr. Zelensky could transform his country and ensure its future if he uses his unprecedented authority to push through long-overdue legal, institutional and economic reforms. He should act quickly.

The president has sent some positive signals. He already asked parliament to

end its members' immunity from prosecution, authorize the prosecution of officials for graft and approve the replacement of the chief prosecutor. He has suggested that he will nominate an economist with no political history as prime minister; reports say he is considering a couple of respected technocrats known for their pro-reform views. ...

... If he succeeds, he could transform the region's political climate and deal a potentially crippling blow to Mr. Putin's authoritarian model and his imperialist ambitions. The United States, which under the Trump administration has been supportive of Ukrainian sovereignty, should do whatever it can to help. But it will be up to Mr. Zelensky and the new political elite he has created to show that Ukraine can succeed.

The Ukrainian Weekly uses the English-language spelling of the Ukrainian president's last name – Zelenskyy – that is used on the official website of the president of Ukraine (president.gov.ua). President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's last name has also been rendered as Zelensky, Zelenskiy and Zelenski by various sources.

COMMENTARY

HR 3047: interim alternative to NATO for Ukraine

by Bohdan Shandor

In what is perhaps the single most important action by the United States since the recognition of Ukraine in 1992, HR 3047, titled the U.S.-Ukraine Security Cooperation Enhancement Act, has been introduced in the House of Representatives. The bill's purpose is "To provide support to Ukraine to defend its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and for other purposes." Most importantly, HR 3047 goes on to declare in unequivocal terms that "Ukraine shall be treated as a major-non-NATO ally."

The act was introduced on May 30 by Rep. Michael McFaul (R-Texas) and co-sponsored by Rep. Elliot Engel (D-N.Y.), chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee. The following representatives have joined as co-sponsors of the bill: William Keating (D-Mass.), Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.), Robert J. Aderholt (R-Ala.), Timothy Walberg (R-Mich.), Greg Pence (R-Ind.), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), John Ratcliffe (R-Texas) and Mullin Markwayne (R-Okla.).

The bill is receiving strong bipartisan support, as has been the case for most legislation on Capitol Hill pertaining to Ukraine's sovereignty, defense and assistance. In 2014 a similar bill was introduced in Congress to name Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia as major allies, but it was dropped following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea – yet another example of timidity in the face of adversity.

Once passed by both houses of Congress and signed by the president, HR 3047 will grant Ukraine "Major non-NATO ally" (MNNA) status enjoyed by other non-NATO friends of the United States like Australia, Japan and South Korea, to name but a few. The State Department has reportedly taken a favorable position on the legislation. It should be noted that the bill as submitted in the form of HR 3047 is a "final" bill and not a "draft," as reported by some news sources. Of course, bills submitted in both houses of Congress for enactment may be modified or amended before passage, although that does not always happen, especially where there is broad bipartisan support.

Under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act, a country's status as an MNNA of the United States comes with many important benefits to the recipient country. These benefits include: priority delivery of military weapons and supplies (both offensive and defensive); participation in weapons research and development projects with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD); possession of war reserve stockpiles of U.S. Defense Department weapons and supplies in the host country; access to U.S. financing of weapons purchasing; expedited export processing of space technology; and, the right to bid on DoD contracts for building and maintaining U.S. and mutual weapons systems. The benefits of major non-NATO ally status are more delineated under U.S. law than in NATO treaty obligations, albeit without NATO's formal Article 5 commitment (mutual assistance in the face of aggression).

Bohdan Shandor is an attorney and presently serves as Chairman of the Ukrainian American Bar Association's Committee on Legislative Affairs.

The special status conferred on a major non-NATO ally of the United States dates back to 1989 when the so-called Nunn Amendment was enacted, authorizing the secretary of defense with the concurrence of the secretary of state to designate key military allies as non-NATO allies. The first countries to be so designated by President George H.W. Bush were Australia, Egypt, Israel, Japan and South Korea. In 1996, major non-NATO allies received additional benefits when they were excluded from compliance with the Arms Export Control Act, the same as NATO countries.

Since then, three countries were added under President Bill Clinton (Jordan, New Zealand and Argentina); seven countries by President George W. Bush (Bahrain, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Kuwait, Morocco and Pakistan); two by President Barack Obama (Afghanistan and Tunisia) and one to date by President Donald Trump (Brazil). A surprising number of these designations have followed visits by foreign leaders with the U.S. president at the time.

In March of this year, during White House meetings with Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, the Brazilian leader expressed the desire to purchase U.S. weapons systems. Afterwards, President Trump announced his intention to name Brazil a major non-NATO ally of the U.S., which he did on May 9. Also, last month Sen. John Cornyn added an amendment to the 2020 Defense Authorization Act that will assure India's designation as an MNNA.

Being named a major non-NATO ally of the United States should be the most important foreign policy objective of the Zelenskyy administration with respect to the United States; it should be raised as a priority issue during any upcoming meetings with President Trump. At the same time, the Ukrainian American diaspora needs to encourage and lobby members of the House of Representatives to co-sponsor and support passage of HR 3047, and to urge their senators to introduce a companion bill in the Senate.

Ukraine's designation as a major non-NATO ally is equally important to the United States and its strategic interests in Europe – especially, in dealing with Russia. Ukraine's recent presidential election, with a 62 percent voter turnout, was closely monitored by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international observers, with both rounds having been undisputedly found to be "fair and democratic elections." The same was true of the more recent parliamentary elections. Ukraine is at the top of the former republics of the Soviet Union in electoral democracy. Since the break-up of the USSR in 1991, Ukraine has had six presidents as compared to two for Russia and one for Belarus. The other former republics have not fared much better.

As in the case of Israel, which remains the only democracy in the Middle East, the United States needs to support and defend the burgeoning democracy of Ukraine as a counterweight to the ever-growing malign threat from Russia. As a despot, Russian President Vladimir Putin is likely to be threatened by Ukraine's democracy at his border as much if not more than U.S. missiles in Poland. History and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 have taught us that democracy can be contagious.

President Zelenskyy's visit to Canada: League of Ukrainian Canadians' view

by Roman Medyk and Orest Steciw

Ten representatives of the organized Ukrainian Canadian community came together under the auspices of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Toronto on July 2, 2019. As President of the League of Ukrainian Canadians (LUC) I attended the meeting and had the opportunity to ask the first questions of the new President: The Institute of National Remembrance is considered to be the leading state institution for the further development of Ukraine as a political nation. The director of the institute is Volodymyr Viatrovych. Do you support the work of the Institute and its leader?

Also, a follow-up question arose: What is your position on Ukrainian as the single state language, and on legislation adopted to strengthen the positions of the Ukrainian language?

On the language question, the President stated that he has no intention to change the constitution where Ukrainian is the state language. He added that any consideration of regional languages would comport to constitutional norms and that his administration supports protecting minority rights. President Zelenskyy chose to not comment on the recent legislation adopted by Parliament on affirmative action measures for the Ukrainian language.

Concerning the Institute of National Remembrance, President Zelenskyy said he is not personally familiar with Viatrovych but noted that at a time of war the Institute's work might be too radical, but that later patriotism can be in full display.

For the LUC and many other Ukrainian organizations, these issues are central to Ukraine's sovereignty and independence and its place as a European political nation.

Perpetuity of one's language, culture, traditions, religious rites, and liberation history are central to any nation and for a diaspora its *raison d'être*. For Ukrainian Canadians, it was their *sine qua non*, since throughout almost the entire 20th century, their brethren in the ancestral homeland were under direct threat of being wiped off the face of the earth by crimes against humanity, including genocide, ethnic cleansing, forced mass migration, the gulag's concentration camps and the rest. The Ukrainian language and history, banned by numerous laws and regulations of the Czars and Commissars, and its advocates and practitioners were severely punished. These atrocities were hidden from the people and the world.

Throughout the seven decades of Soviet Russian occupation of Ukraine and since the demise of the USSR and the restoration of Ukraine's independence, the LUC and the diaspora as a whole have dedicated resources to research and document Ukraine's centuries-long legacy as a political nation and struggle for national independence. Since Ukraine's independence, the LUC and its like-minded partner organizations have worked to share with their brethren in Ukraine a wealth of research, documentation and scholarly studies, literary works and cultural productions. We also are engaged in programs promoting

Roman Medyk is president and Orest Steciw is managing director of the League of Ukrainian Canadians.

democracy, civil society, respect and tolerance, economic development and social justice. We provide humanitarian assistance to the needy and support for the war effort.

Our mission is to support the process of nation-building in Ukraine. We work directly with government officials and institutions, civic activists, and non-governmental organizations that share our values.

Our hope and expectation are that the LUC and our partners in Ukraine will be able to work with the new President and his administration on priority issues in securing a brighter future for Ukraine.

However, today, Ukrainian territory is under direct foreign military occupation and *revanche* in key sectors of government and society. Russia is conducting a ruthless hybrid war to bring Ukraine under its control. Russia's rulers continue to speak openly about Ukraine as a fake country, eliminating Ukrainians as a political nation, and melding Ukraine into Russia. Russia has mounted a sustained campaign to break the West's will to stand with Ukraine.

Hence, our concern and that of many others in the diaspora and Ukraine is that during his trip, President Zelenskyy made scant reference to Russia's designs on Ukraine, even to identify Russia as the aggressor country. His reluctance to state his administration's national security and defense policies, including his position on pending legislation to reform the defense and security sectors is no less disturbing. The LUC and the entire Ukrainian diaspora support the position of leading Ukrainian MPs, including Andriy Levus, on national security issues. Extensive work was carried out with representatives of NATO, the EU and the United States on the Basic Law on National Security adopted in June 2018. Unfortunately, President Zelenskyy has yet to state his position on further reform legislation before parliament, as required by the basic law. At the same time, we continue to hear a steady stream of disturbing proposals from his administration about referendums on the war, NATO, EU, etc. We also are deeply concerned about President Zelenskyy's reluctance to speak clearly about his administration's commitment to restore Ukrainian sovereignty in Donbas and Crimea on Ukrainian terms.

Our reticence is also because President Zelenskyy rarely speaks about Ukraine's centuries-long quest for nation statehood or, since 1991, the arduous path of consolidating its sovereignty and independence. What have we heard from him about the Orange Revolution and how subversive and seditious entrenched interests worked to undermine the people's will? He makes no mention of Russia's puppet Yanukovich, who was brought down by yet another uprising – Revolution of Dignity and the Heavenly Hundred or the volunteer fighters from Maidan, who were the first to fight in Russia's war against Ukraine. For President Zelenskyy, it seems Russia is not bent on total domination. He sees it as more of a dispute with a disagreeable neighbor. It also seems that for President Zelenskyy Ukrainian is not the bedrock of national identity, despite ethnic Ukrainians making up over 80 percent of the population. For him it seems to be more of a hybrid identity of two people's "shared history" and that the deformations of Ukrainian society are not the product of

(Continued on page 17)

UCCA statement

Banning all political predecessors not the norm in democracies

On July 12, ambassadors representing the seven largest advanced economies in the world – the G-7 – issued a joint statement in response to a recent video address by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine. In his address, the president announced amendments to Ukraine’s “lustration” laws, which would ban most high-ranking government officials from holding important official positions for up to 10 years, including all members of the Cabinet and all 450 members of Parliament who had held positions from February 23, 2014, to May 19, 2019. In their joint statement, the G-7 ambassadors reminded their Ukrainian ally that while “electoral change and political rotation are the norm in democracies..., indiscriminate bans on all participants in executive and legislative governance are not,” adding that “the situation in Ukraine today is, in our conviction, not comparable to that after the Revolution of Dignity.”

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representation of Americans of Ukrainian descent, stands with the ambassadors of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States in reminding President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that the lustration laws which took effect following the Revolution of Dignity were necessitated by the historic nature of President [Viktor] Yanukovich’s high crimes and dereliction of duty. As the European Court of Human Rights declared, “a democratic state is entitled to require civil servants to be loyal to the con-

stitutional principles on which it is founded.” President Yanukovich and his henchmen jeopardized the national security and defense of Ukraine, leaving the territorial integrity of Ukraine at risk, and consistently violating the human rights and freedoms of its citizens.

In sharp contrast to this lawless era, the government officials now targeted by President Zelenskyy presided over a historic rebirth of Ukraine’s national defense structure, and turned around what was a contracting economy following Russia’s invasion, into GDP growth of 3.3 percent in 2018. Instead of leaving the country vulnerable to further invasion by Russia, Ukraine’s leaders succeeded in garnering world support for Ukraine’s territorial integrity and non-recognition of Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea. These leaders also convinced the United States to provide Ukraine with lethal defensive weapons, rebuilt the Ukrainian Armed Forces and established a formidable, homegrown armaments industry.

The lustration of Yanukovich-era government officials, including the newly appointed head of Ukraine’s Presidential Administration, was a well-reasoned, legislated response to the demands of the Euro-Maidan demonstrators. Instead of tearing the country apart with political retribution, the UCCA strongly urges President Zelenskyy and his government to remain focused on fighting the enemy currently occupying Ukraine’s territory and to build upon the successes of the past five years. Ukrainians deserve no less.

UCCA welcomes Manor College

UCCA

NEW YORK – The Executive Board of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) on July 12 announced that Manor College has been accepted as a member organization of the UCCA National Council. The highest ruling body between UCCA’s quadrennial conventions, the National Council comprises over 20 national Ukrainian American organizations.

On June 15, members of the UCCA National Council gathered for their biannual meeting to develop and approve the UCCA’s plans of action and activities of its Executive Board. Presided over by National Council Chair Stefan Kaczaraj, who is president of the Ukrainian National Association, the meeting of representatives of Ukrainian American organizations and local UCCA chapters heard reports from various Executive Board members and committee chairs.

The highpoint of the afternoon was when, on the recommendation of the UCCA’s Membership Committee, which is authorized and required to review each applicant for membership, the National Council unanimously voted to admit Manor College as its newest member organization.

Founded in 1947, Manor College is a private, Catholic, co-educational,

independent institution of higher learning founded by the Ukrainian Sisters of St. Basil the Great. Originally chartered as a junior college, today’s Manor College offers associate’s and bachelor’s degrees, reflecting its growth, expansion and place in the Philadelphia suburban community.

As an institution of higher learning with ties to the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Manor is committed to preserving its spiritual and ethnic heritage and believes that personalized education in the Judeo-Christian tradition generates a commitment to a peaceful world, which inspires confidence in the present and hope for the future.

“As UCCA continues to work towards unifying the Ukrainian-American community, I am delighted to welcome Manor College as our newest member organization, and look forward to their active involvement and to the many contributions they will make,” said UCCA President Andriy Futey.

“I would also like to thank UCCA’s Philadelphia Branch for its leadership in working with Manor College. It is a prime example of how in working together we can wield much more influence on the political process in the United States, and have a greater ability to assist our vibrant community and our brethren in Ukraine,” Mr. Futey added.

Experts’...

(Continued from page 1)

and new MPs,” he said.

Besides creating this roadmap for reforms for the next five years, Mr. Babych noted that during the campaign season RPR member organizations provided polling data, media monitoring and served as watchdogs of the election process. Others held meetings with leaders and representatives of leading parties to shed light on their policies regarding such issues as decentralization, battling corruption, de-oligarchization of the economy, and integration with the European Union and NATO.

Taras Shevchenko, director of the Center for Democracy and Rule of Law, says that with President Zelenskyy’s Servant of the People party winning an overwhelming majority in Parliament, “we will, as civil society, be in quite a new and challenging situation.” Whereas Ukrainian civil society has become accustomed to working with a number of parliamentary factions to get support for reform legislation, the new political landscape will necessitate focusing advocacy efforts on one party, which will have the ability to act quickly and decisively in passing laws.

Mr. Shevchenko said he believes that the window for adopting reforms will last about a year and he had three pieces of advice to his colleagues in civil society: first, your organization should decide if you will be a watchdog monitoring government activity or if you will take on a cooperative role, helping and supporting the government; second, constantly be on the lookout for windows of opportunity; third, forget about idealism and have realistic expectations. He also seemed to be a bit critical of Kyiv-based NGOs, suggesting that they are “disconnected” from the people who

voted for Mr. Zelenskyy.

In his remarks, Jonathan Katz, senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund and co-chair of the U.S. Ukraine Foundation’s Friends of Ukraine Network (FOUN) Democracy and Civil Society Task Force, called the Ukrainian elections “historic in many ways,” noting that a year ago no one was predicting that we would have a President Zelenskyy and that his party would have a majority in the Verkhovna Rada.

“So we are really in uncharted waters both here in Washington and elsewhere in trying to understand the new political landscape in Ukraine and what it means for Ukraine going forward, but also for Ukraine’s partners in the United States, the EU, what it means for its regional relationships, including with Russia,” he said.

During the discussion, Mr. Katz raised the question of what new approaches Ukraine’s partners in the West might take when engaging the new government and Parliament – bearing in mind that these elections brought in a wave of newcomers to politics who lack governing experience.

As for supporting the new president and government, Hanna Hopko, the outgoing chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs who was not on the ballot this year, called on the West to maintain sanctions and principled positions in terms of not granting Russia any concessions in its military aggression against Ukraine. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2014 had initially brought Ukraine to the verge of economic collapse, she noted.

Ms. Hopko encouraged the new Ukrainian president, government and Parliament to build on what she described as the significant foreign policy, defense and national security accomplishments of the last five years and the economic stability that was achieved

despite Russia’s war. Decentralization, education and health-care reforms that are already well under way need to be bolstered, and existing laws on decentralization and on supporting the Ukrainian language and culture should not be revisited.

Ms. Hopko sounded the alarm about the electoral successes of Viktor Medvedchuk’s pro-Russian Opposition Bloc – For Life and their effective control of several major TV channels in Ukraine. On one of those channels you can see Vladimir Putin more often than Mr. Zelenskyy, she said, adding that “it requires probably radical steps from the National Council on Security and Defense... I think it’s really important to stop this occupation of media space” in Ukraine. Ms. Hopko also talked about her efforts to conduct an orientation for incoming members of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

In trying to explain the unexpected electoral success of Mr. Zelenskyy and his party, Iryna Bekeshkina, director of the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation, highlighted opinion polls indicating that voters lacked confidence in the future and were looking for a leader who was not corrupt, was honest and was willing to protect the interests of the people. Professionalism, on the other hand, was not a leading criterion.

Polls also indicate that 60 percent of people believe that President Zelenskyy could be a driver of reforms, with over 40 percent placing such faith in the future government and Parliament. People are in a very optimistic and hopeful mood in the aftermath of this year’s “electoral Maidan,” she said. And anti-corruption, law enforcement, health care, pensions/social safety net and the army top the list of reform priorities in the eyes of voters.

Despite their new dominance in Ukrainian politics, Ms. Bekeshkina

explained that she does not see the president, his advisors, and the Servant of the People party and those who voted for them as a monolithic force.

Andreas Umland, senior research fellow at the Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, voiced a bit of skepticism about the sweeping change of elites in Ukrainian national politics and whether they will be different from their predecessors. Providing members of the Verkhovna Rada with a respectable salary would be a good step toward helping them avoid being pulled into the corruption schemes that have plagued Ukraine’s Parliament for decades, he suggested.

Mr. Umland seemed confident that we will not see Ukraine turn toward authoritarianism, saying that Ukrainian civil society is too strong and the influence of Western partners too great for that to occur.

The co-organizers of the video conference were the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation’s Friends of Ukraine Network (FOUN) Democracy and Civil Society Task Force, the German Marshall Fund, the Reanimation Package of Reforms, the Ukraine Crisis Media Center and the Ukrainian World Congress.

Other civil society organizations that have joined the Transatlantic Task Force on Elections and Civil Society in Ukraine task include Transparency International Ukraine, Center for Democracy and Rule of Law, Center for Policy and Legal Reform, OPORA Civil Network, Democratic Initiatives Foundation, DEJURE Foundation, EIDOS Center, Center for Economic Strategy, Anti-Corruption Action Center, and Center UA.

Notably, Orest Deychakiwsky, co-chair of the FOUN Democracy and Civil Society Task Force, served as an international election observer in Ukraine twice this year.

REFLECTIONS: Pope Francis meets with Ukrainian Church leaders over two days

by Archbishop-Metropolitan
Borys Gudziak

An unprecedented event took place in Rome on July 5-6. Desiring to demonstrate support for the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church at a time of war, shifts in interconfessional relations, fluctuating hopes amid heightened tensions, and humanitarian and social crises, Pope Francis invited the head, metropolitans and members of the Permanent Synod of the UGCC to a personal meeting at the Vatican.

The pope himself, the cardinal secretary and leading officials of the Vatican Secretariat of State, and prefects of four curial departments together with their assistants, dedicated two full days of fraternal conversation and reflection to the challenges and mission of our Church – in Ukraine and in its global presence.

To recognize the uniqueness of this format it might help to imagine the American president – a political leader of 300 million, as compared to the pope, who leads a billion Catholics – invited Ukrainians to meet for two days with the leaders of the U.S. government. It is an apt comparison, since the relative percentage of Ukrainians in America more or less corresponds to the proportion that Ukrainian Greek-Catholics constitute in the Catholic Church.

For the Vatican dignitaries and for us 11 bishops, who represent the global Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in North and Latin America, Oceania and Europe, including Ukraine, these were 12 hours of concentrated mutual listening.

To take time to listen and to learn to know one another in tranquility are true luxuries in the modern world. Today everyone is rushed, demands everything here and now, wants immediate results and gratification, and is impatient for quick and simple black-and-white decisions. We have somehow lost the understanding that life is complex and that, in order to fathom the human person, place and situation, it is necessary to devote a significant amount of time, sometimes weeks or months. We have forgotten how to listen.

In this bustle, how many people have succumbed to the populism of politicians! How many children have grown up feeling unheard, ignored! How many women have felt their voices unheard whether in family or society! How many men are afraid to be truly open about their fears and concerns! In various countries, even the most developed democracies, we witness profound divisions, alienation and deep, even if well-concealed, wounds.

The Catholic Church is a global community of a billion. In historical secular terms, this is the most enduring organization on earth, with two millennia of uninterrupted if stormy history. It has spread to every country. Its principles are incarnated in every culture and, even more, it has been a creative force within these various cultures. No other institution has done so much for the development of education, relief of humanitarian and social needs, promotion of world peace, and care of human souls as has the Catholic Church.

For two days, as we frankly communicated to the pope and Vatican officials our difficulties and challenges, our local and global achievements, we also had the opportunity to re-examine ourselves. A SWOT [strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats] analysis of the UGCC was presented; the successes and failures of the pastoral work of the Church were discussed. The Holy See wanted to understand how it can help the UGCC not only develop but “flourish” as was emphasized in the final communiqué.

I thought about the fact that three Galician bishoprics from a provincial corner of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1900 were able to transform into a Church that now boasts 34 eparchies (dioceses) and exarchates (mission dioceses) all over the world.

I thought about the role the Holy See has played to make this development possible.

During the time when the Soviet regime seemingly eradicated the very existence of our Church and tried to destroy the unique individuality of Ukraine’s nationhood, culture, and language, the Holy See lifted up the name of the UGCC, Ukraine and Ukrainians on the international arena, and provided structural support and legitimacy to Ukrainian ecclesiastical and community life.

The Vatican itself in 1950 bought property in Sarcelles near Paris for the Taras Shevchenko Scientific Society to enable researchers there to edit and publish the monumental “Encyclopedia of Ukrainian Studies.”

At a different time and in a different way, the Vatican financially supported the Ukrainian Free University in Munich.

It was Roman Catholics who provided financial backing for Patriarch Josyf Slipyj and the material basis of his



During a meeting at the Vatican on July 5: Pope Francis, Patriarch Sviatoslav and Archbishop-Metropolitan Borys Gudziak.

dream, the Ukrainian Catholic University, established initially in Rome.

The Roman Catholic Church has played an active role in practically all pastoral, charitable and educational projects of the Greek-Catholic Church in Ukraine. Over the last 100 years more than 1,000 Ukrainian priests received a full higher education and often earned doctorates in institutions run by the Holy See.

Support for the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church on the part of Rome has a long tradition, and now a new format has appeared – deep listening. Its leader is Pope Francis.

It is unbelievably difficult today to carry the responsibility for unity and general leadership of the Catholic Church, in particular because of the instantaneous nature of modern communications and our nervous impatience that demands immediate responses and reactions to every question. Speed and brevity are the desired currency.

The pope offers a different style, a different set of relations.

Benefitting from several opportunities for personal contact with him this year, I can attest that the pope knows how to listen, and with attention and sincerity. Attention and sincerity, and closeness to those in need, and awareness of our specific pain shines in his eyes, regardless of the fact that the pontiff must hold in his heart the cares of the whole world. His directness, simplicity and goodness impress. This pope wants the human being to be close to God. He does not tolerate pomposity, formalism and clericalism.

Pope Francis is not a politician, though his status in the world community demands certain actions that involve the political arena. He is, above all, a pastor who deeply cares about people’s fates. He and his assistants demonstrated this yet again over these two days.

It would be good if other world leaders dedicated as much time and attention to Ukraine, the Ukrainian war, human suffering and aspirations.

The Russian invasion has already taken the lives of 13,000 people according to United Nations estimates, injured and maimed some 30,000 (including 9,000 civilians). There are already some 400,000 combat veterans, many of them traumatized, more than 1,000 have committed suicide. That is just on the Ukrainian side. No statistics are available on Russian casualties – because officially Russian soldiers “are not involved.” The war has directly affected 5.2 million Ukrainian citizens, 3.5 million of whom require humanitarian assistance. Some 2.5 million have become internally displaced persons or refugees. The Russian invasion transformed the Donbas, a compact, urbanized and industrialized region, into a conflict zone rife with criminality and with ruined industry and infrastructure – houses, hospitals, schools, water, electricity and gas supply systems.

It was possible to explain to the leaders of the Holy See how the war exacerbated the historical wounds caused by decades of genocidal totalitarianism. In the 20th century between 12 million and 15 million people were killed on Ukrainian territory. The system killed systematically, and fear became deeply lodged in the collective DNA. This fear

of the other leads to pervasive interpersonal distrust, rendering family, social, economic and political life all the more difficult.

Widespread post-Soviet poverty and social injustice, substandard medical care and social services, high levels of abortion, alcoholism, AIDS, divorce, family violence and infant mortality, and low average life expectancy have been aggravated by five years of hybrid war combining military methods with economic undermining, infiltration of the political system, and various types of cyberattacks. The Russian invasion has occasioned a veritable humanitarian crisis. Now, enduring the sixth year of foreign invasion, Ukraine is the poorest country in Europe. A million emigrants and refugees are leaving the country annually, often without documentation. The holy father wanted to hear the truth about what is taking place.

This is not a dry geopolitical calculation on the pope’s part, but attention that flows out of true evangelical love: for the despair of the refugee, for the loneliness of the young person, for the traumas of those who because of war have lost their relatives, for the sufferings of families broken by alcoholism, for wounds to the soul caused by divorce, separation, and enmity.

In order to better understand Pope Francis, it is worthwhile to know how to read signs, gestures and symbols.

The pope has emphasized a number of times that he begins and ends his day with Ukraine, in prayer before the icon that His Beatitude Sviatoslav gave him. He recalled this at the meeting in Rome:

“You know that every morning and every evening my gaze turns to the icon of the Mother of God which His Beatitude gave me when he left Buenos Aires to assume the ministry of major archbishop which the Church entrusted to him. Before this icon I begin and end my day, trusting in the graces of the Mother of God, who is the Mother of us all and your Church. One can say that I begin and end my day ‘Ukrainian style,’ beholding the Mother of God.”

To the attentive eye and heart, these words of the pope demonstrate how personal the question of Ukraine is for him.

For two days, other Vatican leaders also had the opportunity to come to better know, and more deeply appreciate Ukraine, Ukrainians and our Church. We strove to be good communicators.

Was everything that should be said – said? Was everything heard? Obviously, not. However, there is encouraging hope that a new format for discussion has emerged. There was a sincere dialogue or, rather, a polyphony – without dialectic and fakery – in which respect, hospitality and the desire to comprehend one another reigned. We prayed together and listened.

The Catholic Church is an institution both divine and human. It works with the soul and the heart, not with steel or stone. Its weapons are soft: above all, prayer, words and sometimes silence. To understand the strength of prayer, words and silence is not easy, especially when rockets are exploding and passions raging.

Over the two days with Pope Francis and his co-workers, we felt a mutual communion, from heart to heart. I am convinced that the pope suffers over the fate of all people in this mysterious, dramatic, deeply wounded but beloved by God corner of the world. He strives, intensively and directly, to grasp the needs of Ukrainians from the Carpathians to the Donbas, from Chernobyl to Crimea, the desires of all the faithful following the Kyivan tradition in various countries and on various continents.

God is close, especially where there is pain. His witnesses are always close when things are difficult for us. They do not waste time on arguments. They do not waste effort on convincing the mighty of the world of this, but directly and sincerely they listen, standing near us in solidarity.

We could see this in the pope’s eyes, his attitude and directness, when he quietly drank espresso, allowing His Beatitude Sviatoslav and all of us to speak in the name of globally dispersed Ukrainians – from Argentina to Australia, from Los Angeles to Montreal, from Dublin to Warsaw, from the Sian to the Don.

That was also the attitude of his co-workers.

That of Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the secretary of state and second in charge at the Vatican. Quiet, smiling, friendly. He is not afraid to admit that he may not know something. A tested diplomat who wants to build bridges. He personally visited Ukraine after the start of the war in order to see up close what was happening.

That of Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, who is responsible for the Vatican’s relations with the Eastern Catholic Churches,

(Continued on page 17)



GET PRE-APPROVED TODAY!

It's the Season

FOR AN

AUTO LOAN DEAL!

Rate as low as

2.25%^{APR*}

Terms up to 48 months

**100%
Financing
for Qualified
Borrowers!****

 Like us on
Facebook

* APR = Annual Percentage Rate. This is not a guarantee of credit. An application and approval is required. All loan rates are based upon member's credit worthiness at time of application and the term of the loan. Your rate may be higher and rates are subject to change without notice. Used vehicle loans are based on the age of the vehicle and term of the loan. Visit us at www.sumafcu.org or call the credit union for current rates.
** 100% Financing applies to credit scores of 660 or higher. Financing does not include sales tax, tags, destination charges, etc. Call the credit union for more information.

SUMAFCU NMLS# 527694



We Have Many Convenient Locations to Serve You

Main Office

125 Corporate Blvd.
Yonkers, NY 10701
Phone: 914-220-4900, Option 0
Fax: 914-220-4090

Yonkers Branch

Ukrainian Youth Center
301 Palisade Ave.
Yonkers, NY 10703
Phone: 914-220-4900, Option 7
Fax: 914-965-1936

Spring Valley Branch

Ukrainian Hall
16 Twin Ave.
Spring Valley, NY 10977
Phone: 845-356-0087
Fax: 845-356-5335

Stamford Branch

Ukrainian Research Center
39 Clovelly Rd.
Stamford, CT 06902
Phone: 203-969-0498
Fax: 203-316-8246

New Haven Branch

Ukrainian Heritage Center
555 George St.
New Haven, CT 06511
Phone: 203-785-8805
Fax: 203-785-8677

Apply in person at any SUMA FCU location or online at WWW.SUMAFCU.ORG



Marta Farion

Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Valeriy Chaly addresses gala attendees.



Marta Farion

At the Friday night gala: UNA President/Chief Executive Officer Stefan Kaczaraj with his wife, Swiatoslawa, UNA Advisor Bohdanna Puzyk and UNA Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer Roma Lisovich.

At the heart of the 2019 Ukrainian Cultural Festival

by Adrian Bryttan

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The 13th annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival at the Ukrainian National Foundation's Soyuzivka Heritage Center on July 12-14 featured many beloved Ukrainian artists from around the world, and also hosted a variety of stimulating artistic and cultural programs.

These annual festivals provide popular entertainment, yet they are so much more. They are a focus for sharing mutual concerns over the future of the Ukrainian heritage.

This year's festival celebrated a landmark anniversary: 125 years of continuous service to Ukrainian communities in the United States and Canada by the Ukrainian National Association (UNA). The aim of the gala was to honor the important work by the UNA's two newspapers, Svoboda (published since 1893) and The Ukrainian Weekly (since 1933), and to support the UNA Publications Endowment Fund that exists under the aegis of the Ukrainian National Foundation (UNF). Also in celebration of the UNA's jubilee, a special display was presented in Soyuzivka's Main House.

UNF Treasurer Roma Lisovich, who is also the chief financial officer/treasurer of the UNA, spoke with this author about the foundation's previous fund-raising goals: raising money to renovate an entire wing of a Ukrainian rehabilitation center, to aid families of the fallen and injured victims of Russia's war against Ukraine, and to help the Ukrainian Catholic University establish graduate programs to train doctors treating post-traumatic stress disorder.

2019 UNF gala fund-raiser

On Friday evening, gala fund-raiser attendees were greeted by Dr. Wasyl Szeremeta, UNF president. He stated that because maintaining tradition and heritage is difficult, Ukrainian immigrants created the UNA and founded its two newspapers. He concluded with a plea for everyone to support the UNA and the UNF.

In a later interview, Dr. Szeremeta detailed future chal-

lenges: infrastructure upgrades, new kitchen, spa, and a concert shell. But he stressed: "Soyuzivka is more than a business. It is a focus for maintaining culture and history, and our rich heritage should be shared with everyone. Our community cannot take it for granted. We must all help finance these projects and become direct participants. Everything is in our hands."

"In the beginning was the word..." With that phrase, the editor-in chief of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, Roma Hadzewycz, began her overview of the contributions and significance of these important publications that have served the Ukrainian community and nation for a combined total of over 210 years.

Established in 1893, Svoboda is the world's oldest continuously published Ukrainian-language newspaper. Ms. Hadzewycz quoted longtime Editor-in-Chief Anthony Dragan, who wrote in his history of the UNA that Svoboda was "a true beacon of light in the prevailing darkness of hopelessness and despair among Ukrainian immigrants in America."

In 1933, Stephen Shumeyko, age 25, became the first editor of The Ukrainian Weekly. This English-language newspaper kept new generations involved in community life, but was also dedicated to informing the English-speaking world about the truth regarding Ukraine. Under Mr. Shumeyko, The Ukrainian Weekly gave a voice to the people who built churches, schools, sport centers, who exposed the plight of World War II refugees, and who led the charge to document the Holodomor and the fight for national and human rights. Ms. Hadzewycz closed her talk by quoting Dr. Myron Kuropas: "Where would we be without the UNA and their publications?"

Tributes

UNA Advisor Irene Jarosewich read accolades from Honorary Member of the UNA General Assembly Taras Szmagala Sr., who spoke about the need to look to the future.

Speaking on behalf of the Selfreliance Foundation and the New Jersey Advisory Board of Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, Dr. Andrew Hrechak added his congratulations and well-wishes.

Valentyna Tabaka offered her tribute from Branch 137 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA). Marta Farion, president of the Kyiv-Mohyla Foundation of America, travelled from Chicago to extend her congratulations.

The dinner's musical entertainment featured singers Taras Petrynenko, Tetiana Horobets and Tonya Matvienko, and violinist Vasyly Popadiuk.

Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Valeriy Chaly personally congratulated the UNA and both publications, thanking everyone for their support of today's warriors at the front. He stated: "the great support from the diaspora is the reason why Ukraine has attained respect. We are an honorable nation – where over 13,100 soldiers have laid down their lives so Ukraine could proceed on its own direction. We will never allow Russian to be the second official language. Ukraine depends on you. Glory to the Heroes!"

Mr. Chaly presented gifts to UNA President/CEO Stefan Kaczaraj, Dr. Szeremeta and Ms. Lisovich.

Performers and programs

Three stage shows over the first two days culminated in the Saturday evening main stage show. The Friday evening show was devoted to the Ukrainian Dance Workshop. Many performers and ensembles appeared in both the Saturday afternoon and evening shows. At the Saturday afternoon show, Swiatoslawa Kaczaraj delivered a stirring rendition of the American and Ukrainian national anthems.

New York State Sen. Jen Metzger appeared on the main stage on Saturday evening to greet the audience; she fondly recalled her son attending Soyuzivka soccer camp. Earlier in the day, she took in the festival's offerings, including an opportunity to learn how to make a pysanka.

Returning again this year was Vasyly Popadiuk, jazz/gypsy violin virtuoso, to electrify the crowds with his mix of soulful ballads and flashy pyrotechnics. The Ukrainian Chorus

(Continued on page 16)



Adrian Bryttan

Ukrainian National Foundation President Dr. Wasyl Szeremeta (left) with Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzewycz and UNF board member Taras Sochan.



Adrian Bryttan

At the Ukrainian "Selo" (Village), Halyna Shepko demonstrates traditional weaving techniques.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

cooperation." The United States has repeatedly called on Ukraine to tackle corruption and weaken the influence of business tycoons that control power behind the scenes. The Ukrainian president's office said that Mr. Trump expressed U.S. support for the country's large-scale reform program as well as its territorial integrity. Mr. Zelenskyy thanked Mr. Trump for keeping and strengthening sanctions against Russia, which annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula and backed militants in eastern Ukraine, kicking off a five-year war that has killed around 13,000 people. Ukraine and the United States have held high-level talks over the past few weeks in preparation for the meeting. Ivan Bakanov, first deputy chief of the Security Service of Ukraine, presidential assistant Andriy Yermak, and potential prime minister Oleksandr

Danylyuk have traveled to Washington for meetings. Kurt Volker, the U.S. special envoy to Ukraine, traveled to Kyiv this week with U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland. During his trip to Washington, Mr. Zelenskyy will also meet with members of Congress. The Congressional Ukraine Caucus has asked House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to invite President Zelenskyy to address both chambers during his visit to Washington. Pelosi has yet to answer. (RFE/RL)

Portnov questioned over Maida

Andriy Portnov, a former deputy head in the administration of ex-Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, has been questioned by the Prosecutor General's Office as a witness about obstruction of justice allegations against his former boss stemming from the deadly response to the Euro-Maidan protests. Mr. Portnov wrote on Facebook that his questioning on July 29 was an attempt to "distract me from my

work on [former Ukrainian President Petro] Poroshenko." He told Hromadske TV, "I think their main goal was... to give me a signal to make me slow down my activities against Poroshenko. We will not slow down... There is no point in trying to frighten us." Mr. Portnov, who fled Ukraine after President Yanukovich was toppled in late February 2014, returned to the country on May 19. After coming back a day before President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's inauguration, he filed several lawsuits against Mr. Poroshenko, accusing him of crimes including economic misdeeds and illegal attempts to retain power. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Hromadske TV)

Klitschko sues Kolomoisky's TV channel

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko says he has filed a libel lawsuit against the 1+1 TV channel for "launching a widespread campaign" to discredit him and his former boxing champion brother, Wladimir. Vitali Klitschko announced the lawsuit at a press conference on July 26, questioning the fairness of the channel, owned by tycoon Ihor Kolomoisky, at a time when the government is rumored to be considering replacing Mr. Klitschko as chairman of Kyiv's City State Administration with the station's General Director Oleksiy Tkachenko. "There is not a single day when this, one of the most popular television channels, does not attack the Kyiv mayor. Lies, manipulation, fabricated information," Mr. Klitschko said. "How can one say the television channel is unbiased when its leader has been named a key nominee to the post of Kyiv's city state administration?" he added. According to Mr. Klitschko, the station broadcast incorrect information about him when covering the alleged mishandling of some construction projects in the Ukrainian capital. Mr. Klitschko also said that he disagrees with the government's decision, initiated by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, to divide the duties of the Kyiv mayor and the chief of the Kyiv City State Administration. The positions are usually held by the same person, though the law allows for the seats to be held by two different people as Kyiv's mayor is elected by city residents, while the chief of the city state administration is appointed by the president. Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman said on July 26 that the issue of Mr. Klitschko's removal from the post of city state administration chief will be discussed at an upcoming government session. Talking to RFE/RL later on July 26, Mr. Klitschko called Mr. Zelenskyy's idea "an attempt to gain control over Kyiv's mayor, who was elected by the people." He noted: "A key clause in the law on the Ukrainian capital says that the mayor elected by the city residents is appointed as the chairman of the Kyiv city state administration. That is made for the executive and legislative branches of the city power to unite, so that the efforts of the elected mayor are as effective as possible." Mr. Klitschko added that "the influence of the president and the government on local administration contradict European Charter." He also said he will fight to preserve his duties as Kyiv's mayor and

as the chief of the Kyiv City State Administration. "I will not give in, ever. I will do everything to protect local self-governing institutions. This is a matter of principle that our city must have," Mr. Klitschko said. President Zelenskyy is believed to have close ties with Mr. Kolomoisky, and Mr. Kolomoisky's former lawyer, Andriy Bohdan, led the Zelenskyy presidential campaign and is now the head of the Office of the President. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

Probe suspended in Handzyuk killing

A decision by Ukraine's prosecutor general to suspend an investigation against a high-ranking regional official charged in the death of a Ukrainian anti-corruption activist has sparked concern in the country. Kateryna Handzyuk, a 33-year-old civic activist and adviser to the mayor of the Black Sea port city of Kherson, died in November 2018 - three months after she was severely injured in an acid attack. Prosecutors in February arrested Vladyslav Manher, head of the regional council in the southern region of Kherson, and charged him with ordering the Handzyuk attack. Mr. Manher was later released on bail. He has denied any involvement in the attack. In a July 25 statement, the Prosecutor General's Office announced that the probe into Mr. Manher and a second suspect, Oleksiy Levin, had been suspended because Mr. Levin's whereabouts remain unknown. The statement was published shortly after the news portal Slidstvo.info reported the move, revealing that the prosecution's decision was in their possession. The statement said Mr. Manher and Mr. Levin's involvement in the case is connected, and cited as legal basis for the suspension paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 280 of Ukraine's Criminal Procedural Code. The two paragraphs allow the suspension of an investigation when a suspect's whereabouts are unknown and/or an international arrest warrant was issued. Yevhenia Zakrevska, a lawyer for the Handzyuk family, on July 25 publicly challenged the decision to suspend the investigation, saying the justification was unconvincing and the move could help the two men evade justice. The Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, a Ukrainian watchdog, also questioned the prosecutor-general's move, arguing on July 26 that Mr. Manher's whereabouts are known. In June, five men were sentenced to prison terms between three and six and 1/2 years for organizing and executing the attack, after they pleaded guilty and made deals with investigators. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, with reporting by Gordon, Ukrayinska Pravda and UNIAN)

Former president's car is attacked

At least four men rushed toward the vehicle of former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, with one of them jumping on the hood, after the ex-president was questioned as a witness on July 25 over the sale of his shipbuilding plant. Video footage from local media show the ex-president's

(Continued on page 13)

CLASSIFIEDS

TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL WALTER HONCHARYK (973) 292-9800 x3040
or e-mail adukr@optonline.net

SERVICES

FIRST QUALITY
UKRAINIAN TRADITIONAL-STYLE
MONUMENTS
SERVING NY/NJ/CT REGION CEMETERIES
OBLAST
MEMORIALS
P.O. BOX 746
Chester, NY 10918
845-469-4247
BILINGUAL HOME APPOINTMENTS

PROFESSIONALS

ХРИСТИНА БРОДИН
ліцензований продавець
страхування життя
CHRISTINE BRODYN
Licensed Life Insurance Agent
Ukrainian National Assn., Inc.
187 Henshaw Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081
Tel.: (973) 376-1347

OPPORTUNITIES

EARN EXTRA INCOME!
The Ukrainian Weekly is looking
for advertising sales agents.
For additional information contact
Walter Honcharyk, Advertising Manager,
The Ukrainian Weekly, 973-292-9800, ext
3040.

МАРІЯ ДРИЧ
Лицензований Продавець
Страхування Життя
MARIA DRICH
Licensed Life Insurance Agent
Ukrainian National Assn., Inc.
2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054
Tel.: 973-292-9800 ext. 3035
e-mail: mdrich@unamember.com

HOUSE FOR SALE:

5521 Route 23C, Jewett, NY

near the Ukrainian Catholic Church at Hunter Mtn.
3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, bi level with wrap around
porch. Hot tub and mountain views. The house is in
very good condition with essential furniture. \$250,000.

Contact **Romana Rainey, 518-589-1024.**

No agents, pls.

VARSHAVSKY MONUMENTS
862-812-7086
E-mail: VarshavskyMonuments@gmail.com

MONUMENT DESIGN + CUSTOM ETCHING
+ MONUMENTS + HEADSTONES + MARKERS +
+ PORCELAIN PICTURES +

SERVING NJ/NY/PA CEMETERIES BILINGUAL HOME APPOINTMENTS

Run your advertisement here,
in The Ukrainian Weekly's CLASSIFIEDS section.

DNIPRO LLC.
PACKAGES, CARS AND
CONTAINERS TO
UKRAINE AND EASTERN
EUROPE

Travel service: Air tickets and visas to Ukraine and other countries.
Money transfer to Ukraine and other countries.
Ukrainian and European CDs for sale. Ukrainian souvenirs and kerchiefs for
sale. Telephone cards: 80 min. for \$5

ROSELLE, NJ 645 W. 1st Ave. Tel.: (908) 241-2190 (888) 336-4776	CLIFTON, NJ 565 Clifton Ave. Tel.: (973) 916-1543	PHILADELPHIA, PA 1916 Welsh Rd., Unit 3 Tel.: (215) 969-4986 (215) 728-6040
---	--	---

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

bodyguards pull the assailant down from the car. He, in turn, sprayed gas in the face of one of the guards. Another bodyguard is seen defending himself with an umbrella from the other attackers. A scuffle ensued, after which the assailants fled when some two dozen police officers arrived at the scene, giving chase. In the background, a group of people could be heard shouting, "Poroshenko, shove off." Mr. Poroshenko lost his re-election bid in April. Mr. Poroshenko's party ran on a pro-European, anti-Russian ticket in the July 21 parliamentary elections, winning 25 seats. Local media report that Mr. Poroshenko is being questioned on matters related to tax evasion and money laundering when he sold a shipbuilding plant to a Ukrainian businessman. Mr. Poroshenko, a billionaire confectioner, has said several of his businesses are being investigated, including his TV chan-

nel. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, Interfax, Ukrayinska Pravda and Reuters)

Zelenskyy team wants new IMF loan

Ukraine wants a new, longer-term International Monetary Fund (IMF) program with an emphasis on attracting foreign investment, selling state-owned assets, and lifting the ban on the sale of farmland. Oleksiy Honcharuk, who leads Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's economic team, told Bloomberg in an interview published on July 30 that he wants to pursue market-based policies. To help do that, Mr. Honcharuk, 35, said he wants to replace the current 14-month, \$3.9 billion IMF program that expires at the end of this year. Instead he wants a staff-level agreement for up to four years as early as September. "When we show changes in the approach to privatization, farmland sales, when we attract a couple of big companies to extract natural resources – all of these examples

will give clear signals that the rules have changed," Mr. Honcharuk said. Kyiv currently is targeting yearly economic growth of 5 percent, an improvement on the past three years when the economy increased on average by 2-3 percent. To unlock growth, creating a farmland market by lifting the moratorium could add \$15 billion a year to economic output and increase yearly gross domestic product by about 1.5 percentage points, according to the World Bank. Mr. Honcharuk said talks are under way with the World Bank on whether to allow foreigners to purchase farmland or limit the size of sales. Ukraine has more than 40 million hectares of fertile farmland that covers nearly 70 percent of its territory. "We're looking for the least painful but most efficient version," Mr. Honcharuk told Bloomberg. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Bloomberg)

Ex-police officer suspected of spying

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) says a former police officer has been

detained in the southern region of Zaporizhzhia on suspicion of spying for Russia. In a statement on July 31, the SBU said that the ex-officer, whose name was not disclosed, "collected data on the social, political and economic situation in Zaporizhzhia and regularly visited Crimea" following Russia's seizure of the Ukrainian Black Sea peninsula in 2014. In Crimea, the suspect "handed the collected data to a representative" of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB)," it said. The announcement comes after the SBU said on July 18 that it had arrested an unidentified former police officer in the central Ukrainian region of Poltava on similar charges. Russia seized and annexed Crimea in March 2014 after Moscow-friendly Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was pushed from power by the pro-European Maidan protest movement the previous month. Moscow has also fomented unrest and backed militants in eastern Ukraine, where more than 13,000 people have been killed in the ensuing conflict since April 2014. (RFE/RL)

Ukrainian sailors...

(Continued from page 1)

visited the gravesites of two notable Ukrainian American warriors – Lt. Roman Kupchinsky and four-star Marine Gen. Samuel Jaskilka.

Kupchinsky was a decorated Vietnam veteran and became director of the Ukrainian section of Radio Liberty in Munich in 1991. He later moved to Kyiv as head of Radio Liberty.

Jaskilka retired as assistant commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, and was a highly decorated veteran of World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. Gen. Jaskilka was active in the Ukrainian American Veterans, and addressed their annual meeting at Soyuzivka in June 1977.

Each hero was saluted by the entire crew with a moment of silence and a hearty "Slava Ukrayini – Heroyam Slava."

The Island-class U.S. Coast Guard cutters are 110 feet long and are lightly armed, with one 25mm deck gun and two .50-caliber machine guns. They can stay at sea for five days, with a range of 3,300 miles, and have a maximum speed of 30 knots (34

mph).

The two commanders agreed that both cutters, though built in 1988, are superior to any of the Ukrainian Coast Guard vessels they currently operate, in terms of maneuverability and reliability.

In 2014, the United States offered to give Ukraine two Island-class ships free of charge in an effort to rebuild Ukraine's Navy. In 2015 Ukraine and the U.S. signed an agreement to transfer two small Island-class cutters to Ukraine as part of its non-paid aid under the Excess Defense Article Program (EDAP).

For some reason, the deal to transfer the vessels to Ukraine took four years to materialize, and the vessels were moored in Baltimore harbor for the past four years, awaiting a resolution.

Russia began ratcheting up its harassment of commercial vessels in the Azov Sea in April of 2018. Few people noticed that President Petro Poroshenko's speech to the United Nations General Assembly on September 26, 2018, focused on the illegal actions of Russia in the Sea of Azov – two months before the assault on Ukraine's naval vessels in the Kerch Strait.

The following day, September 27, 2018,

then-President Poroshenko visited Baltimore and toured the two vessels with Admiral Ihor Voronchenko. Ukraine finally signed the agreement for refurbishing the vessels and training of the two crews needed to man the vessels.

Though the Coast Guard cutters were donated to Ukraine, they needed refurbishment and the crew needed training. Under the agreement, Ukraine paid \$9.8 million for the renovation and upgrading of the main computer and guidance systems, as well as living quarters, engine and armaments.

According to an investigation by RFE/RL, as cited by Valeriya Yegoshyna in an April 25, 2018, article for the Atlantic Council, the reason it took so long to finalize the deal that was initiated in 2014 was that it was embroiled in potential corruption. Correspondence about the fate of the cutters between the relevant authorities in Ukraine and the United States, obtained by RFE/RL, revealed that discussions had gone on for several years without resolution.

Ms. Yegoshyna wrote that "[o]ne of the main obstacles is that the U.S. side insists on a direct contract between Ukraine's

Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard. Ukrainian law gives this right only to the state giant Ukroboronprom."

According to the Atlantic Council article, it turns out that former President Petro Poroshenko owned a major shipyard with a contract to build equivalent Coast Guard patrol boats. Apparently, there was not enough funding in the Ministry of Defense budget to accomplish both aims – delivery of the U.S. donated cutters, which needed \$10 million for refurbishment and training, along with the approximately \$30 million for Mr. Poroshenko's shipyard order of comparable cutters.

It took the looming Kerch crisis of November 28, 2018, and the approaching presidential elections, to finally break the logjam

The military attachés at the Ukrainian Embassy are preparing a series of additional events involving the crew that will be hosted by the Ukrainian community in Baltimore and Washington during the remaining weeks of training.

The crew will be returning to its home base in Odesa on September 15, and the cutters are expected to be delivered approximately one month later.



Lt. Commander Ihor Trukhan

Ukrainian crews in training at U.S. Coast Guard facility in Baltimore.

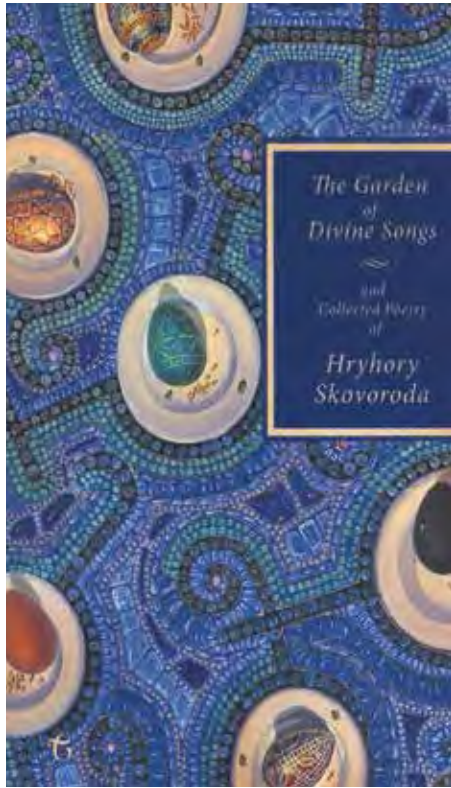
BOOK NOTES

Collected poetry of Hryhory Skovoroda

"The Garden of Divine Songs and Collected Poetry of Hryhory Skovoroda," by Hryhory Skovoroda, translated by Michael M. Naydan. London: Glagoslav Publications, 2015. 134 pp. ISBN: 978-1-911414-03-2 (paperback), \$21.40.

Hryhory Skovoroda (1722-1794) is considered by many to be the first great Slavic philosopher. Written over a period stretching from the 1750s until 1785, "The Garden of Divine Songs" is a unique collection of 30 poems featuring a complex system of strophic structures, with only a few of the songs written in a traditional way. According to writer and scholar Valery Shevchuk, it functions as a "practical guide to the art of poetry," exemplifying all the meters and strophic patterns that were possible in Ukrainian poetry at that time.

As demonstrated in "The Garden of Divine Songs and Collected Poetry of Hryhory Skovoroda," Skovoroda's originality and his ability to approach the most cardinal problems of human existence stem from his capacity to combine known motifs, borrowed from literary sources such as classical texts, the Bible and ancient Ukrainian poetic works, with his own system of thinking that focuses on his philosophy of the heart.



The translator of this collection of poetry by Skovoroda, Michael M. Naydan, is a Woskob Family Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature at Pennsylvania State University.

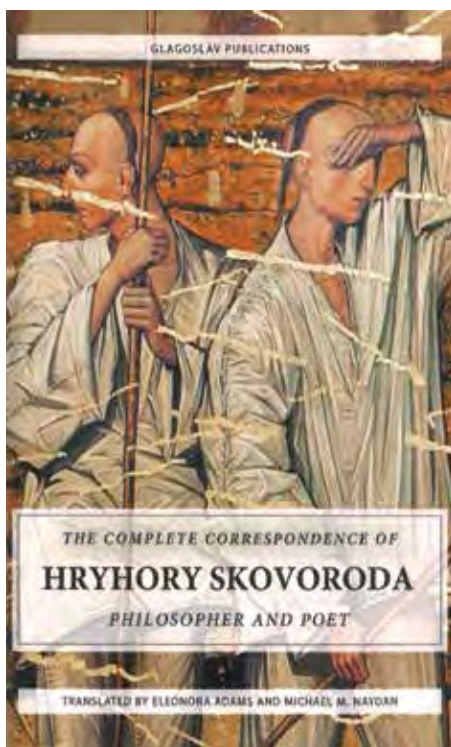
Correspondence of philosopher and poet Hryhory Skovoroda

"The Complete Correspondence of Hryhory Skovoroda: Philosopher and Poet," by Hryhory Skovoroda, translated by Michael M. Naydan and Eleonora Adams. London: Glagoslav Publications, 2016. 244 pp. ISBN: 978-1-78437-990-2 (paperback), \$22.65.

The religious philosopher and poet Hryhory Skovoroda is described by many as the Ukrainian Socrates and was one of the most learned men of his time. He was a polyglot who knew the Bible, as well as the writing of the Church fathers and the literature of Greek and Roman antiquity, virtually by heart. The impact of Skovoroda's life and works has been well documented on major writers in future generations such as Leo Tolstoy, Andrei Bely and Pavlo Tychyna, to name a few.

None of Skovoroda's works were published during his lifetime. The texts of his writings were preserved mostly by his lifelong friend Mykhailo Kovalynsky, to whom he had given the manuscripts. "The Complete Correspondence of Hryhory Skovoroda: Philosopher and Poet" presents the letters of Skovoroda in their entirety in English for the first time.

Hryhory Skovoroda was born in 1722 to a poor Kozak family in the village of Chornukhy in Ukraine. He studied at the famed Kyiv-Mohyla Academy at various times in his life but never completed his studies in theology. He traveled throughout Eastern Europe, working as a musical director and private tutor for many years and, later, taught poetics, syntax, Greek and ethics at the Kharkiv Collegium. After undergoing a spiritual crisis, he decided to devote his life entirely to God and to a life of poverty. Before he died in 1794, he asked that his tombstone read, "The world tried to catch me but never could."



Translator Michael M. Naydan is a Woskob Family Professor of Slavic Languages and Literature at Pennsylvania State University. He is a prolific translator of poetry and prose from Ukrainian and Russian with over 30 books and more than 100 articles and translations in literary journals.

Translator Dr. Eleonora Adams teaches German and Russian at Penn State Abington, but holds her tenure in the German Department at University Park. She received her Ph.D. from University of Pennsylvania, with a comparative study of Franz Werfel and Lev Tolstoy. Her scholarship includes publications and conference presentations on Werfel, Tolstoy, Hoffmannsthal Arthur Schnitzler and Mykhailo Kotsiubynskyj.

Zelenskyy...

(Continued from page 1)

Batkivshchyna party with 26 seats. Servant of the People has 254 seats, and only 226 votes are needed for a simple majority. But to push through constitutional amendments, 300 votes are needed.

So far, Servant of the People's leaders have indicated that, with their strong majority, they do not need to form a coalition or share posts with others. For instance, President Zelenskyy's representative in the Cabinet of Ministers, Andriy Gerus, told the media on July 29 that his party intends to fill all the ministerial posts. He thinks that some of the parliamentary committees might be given to the opposition, "so that no one has any doubts about the democratic nature of the new power..."

According to experts, the leader of the Servant of the People Party, Dmytro Razumkov, 35, is the clear favorite to become the new speaker of the Verkhovna Rada. This calm, young and highly intelligent political technologist quickly rose to prominence during the presidential election as Mr. Zelenskyy's advisor and main spokesman.

Servant of the People has not yet said definitely whether it will want the first deputy speaker's post, and many observers believe the party will not concede it. The professorial Ruslan Stefanchuk, considered the party's "ideologue," is the leading candidate, though some observers think he might become head of the parliamentary faction instead.

The more intriguing question is whether Servant of the People will yield the second deputy speaker's position to another party. Mr. Razumkov has indicated this is under consideration. If so, the pro-Russian Opposition Platform – For Life, which obtained the second largest number of seats (43), will hope to get it. And that could lead to Viktor Medvedchuk, the notorious associate of Russia's President Vladimir Putin, being proposed for the position.

According to political analyst Maksym Vozniak, Mr. Zelenskyy is still "too angry" with former President Petro Poroshenko after the acrimonious presidential election, and Mr. Medvedchuk is "too toxic" a figure to be accepted. On the other hand, giving the post to the Holos party could cement a valuable tacit alliance.

Representatives of Servant of the People have confirmed that the first pri-

orities for the new Parliament will be to complete the work left undone by the previous Verkhovna Rada, namely to lift the immunity from the deputies, proscribe the illegal enrichment of officials and adopt a law allowing for the impeachment of the president. After that, their emphasis will be on more effective legal reform, stepping up efforts to curb corruption, enhancing legislation dealing with decentralization and liberalizing the economy.

President Zelenskyy has made it clear that for prime minister he wants an economist, technocrat and political newcomer. This has undoubtedly dashed the hopes of former Prime Minister Tymoshenko and of current Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman. Several names have been floated, but no favorite has been identified. The position of prime minister is all the more important because, according to Article 113 of the Ukrainian Constitution, in the event of the president being unable to fulfill his duties, the prime minister serves as interim president with limited powers.

In the case of a replacement for Yuriy Lutsenko as prosecutor general, President Zelenskyy himself has pointed to Ruslan Ryaboshapka as his preferred candidate. But Mr. Lutsenko has refused to go and is hanging on for as long as possible.

While President Zelenskyy's team has been focusing on preparing for the challenges ahead, other noteworthy developments have made the news. Several of them involve Mr. Poroshenko. Firstly, he has had to appear at the office of the State Bureau of Investigation to provide evidence in the first of 11 cases of corruption that are being investigated.

Secondly, Mr. Poroshenko has been targeted in two separate mudslinging exercises involving his former political colleagues, Minister of Internal Affairs Arsen Avakov and Prime Minister Groysman. Both have confirmed their public break with him, accusing him in public of being dishonest and self-serving. Both ministers will probably soon be without jobs and apparently want to distance themselves from the Poroshenko era.

Meanwhile, after the election, the Zelenskyy team has tempered its own rhetoric and menacing warnings. Most notably, it appears to have backed down on its threat to lustrate all the officials who had served during the Poroshenko administration – a move that was promptly condemned by Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic friends.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

Further examples of Communist planning in the murders were described by witnesses of how one mass grave location was turned into an amusement park in Vinnytsia.

Zenon Pelensky, whose testimony was supplemented by voluminous documents and authenticated photographs and charts of the mass graves in Vinnytsia, told in remarkable detail the story of these crimes and why they had been visited upon the people of Vinnytsia. The Ukrainian people always refused to submit to and acknowledge the Bolshevik rule in Ukraine, he said. The terror imposed on Ukrainians by the Communists was an effort to break the national spirit and to discourage the people from any hope that one day they may be liberated from Communist rule.

When asked if the relatives of those people who were arrested by the NKVD (Soviet secret police, predecessor to the

KGB) knew what had happened to their relatives and friends, one witness replied: "The mother of my daughter-in-law, after her husband had been arrested for crimes unknown to her, inquired of the NKVD why he was arrested and when would he be released. She was given only the answer that he had been sentenced to 10 years without the right of correspondence..."

Other witnesses corroborated the fact that this was the standardized answer given by the NKVD to friends and relatives of those who were murdered at Vinnytsia.

Ihor Zhurlyvy's testimony summarized the experiences of many when he described the arrest of his father by the NKVD: "My father was arrested just as thousands and millions of other Ukrainians, for the reason that he loved Ukraine too much. Such Ukrainians were called bourgeois nationalists by the Bolsheviks."

Source: "Kersten committee reports on Communist aggression in Ukraine," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, August 14, 1954.

COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

UCCA president visits Ukrainian community in Oregon



The UCCA president in the studio of "Nashe Radio" in Portland.

UCCA

NEW YORK – The President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the representative organization of over 1 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, traveled to Oregon on July 9-10 to meet with representatives of the Ukrainian American community.

During his two-day visit, Andriy Futey met with the leadership and members of the Ukrainian American Cultural Association of Oregon and Southwest Washington (UACA), a non-profit, educational and cultural organization that promotes Ukrainian heritage and traditions in the Pacific Northwest, and which provides assistance to Ukrainians in the greater Portland metropolitan area as well as to Ukrainians in Ukraine.

During their discussions, Mr. Futey outlined the work of the UCCA, emphasized the importance of unity within the Ukrainian American community, and encouraged the UACA to join the UCCA, which unites fraternal, educational, veterans, religious, cultural and humanitarian Ukrainian American organizations under one national umbrella organization.

During his visit to the area, the UCCA president also met with the management

and employees of two Pacific Northwest branches of the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, located in Portland, Ore., and Federal Way, Wash. Highlighting the UCCA's long collaboration with the Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union Association – a UCCA member organization that is repre-



Andriy Futey at the pulpit of the Ukrainian Bible Church in Fairview, Ore.



UCCA President Andriy Futey with board members of the Ukrainian American Cultural Association of Oregon and Southwest Washington.

sented on the UCCA Executive Board – Mr. Futey emphasized how important it is for the community to continue to invest in Ukrainian credit unions, as these institutions continually reinvest their earnings into community projects and initiatives.

Over the course of his two-day visit, Mr.

Futey also appeared on two live radio programs on "Nashe Radio," where he once again underscored the importance of unity within the Ukrainian American community. During the radio call-in portion of the show, Mr. Futey addressed the various ways the UCCA supports the community and its issues of concern.

On the final evening of his visit, Mr. Futey addressed the parishioners of the Ukrainian Bible Church, a large Ukrainian Pentecostal Christian congregation located in Fairview, Ore. He outlined the historical role the UCCA played in advocating for religious freedom in Ukraine, and how it continues to work with the various religious denominations in Ukraine, specifically the Christian community.

"It was an honor to meet so many members of this active and vibrant Pacific Northwest 'hromada.' I hope UCCA will be able to strengthen its cooperation with this 80,000-strong community, because together we can wield much more influence on the United States political process, and have a greater ability to assist our brethren in Ukraine" remarked Mr. Futey. "I'm grateful to the Ukrainian American Cultural Association of Oregon and Southwest Washington for inviting me to Oregon, and I look forward to a fruitful relationship going forward."

Ukrainian Independence Day is proclaimed in Southwest Florida

by Vira Bodnaruk

VENICE, Fla. – Sarasota County Commissioners at their July 9 meeting in Venice, Fla., presented a proclamation which declared that August 24, 2019 is to be celebrated as Ukrainian Independence Day.

The proclamation was accepted with thanks on behalf of the Ukrainian American community of Southwest Florida by Daria Tomashosky, president of the Ukrainian American Club. She stressed the importance of this proclamation not only to the Ukrainian American community, but to the people of Ukraine who are fighting against Russian aggression to maintain their country's territorial integrity and who are working toward creating a true democracy in Ukraine.

Similarly, on July 11, the city commissioners of North Port, Fla., designated August 24, 2019, as the 28th anniversary of Ukrainian Independence Day. The

proclamation was read by Commissioner Vanessa Carusone in the presence of other commissioners and members of the Ukrainian American community. It was accepted by Ms. Tomashosky of the Ukrainian American Club.

Representatives of other Ukrainian American organizations present at both ceremonies were Ukrainian American Veterans Ihor Hron (post commander), Roman Rondiak and Eugene Tomashosky; Vira and Bohdan Bodnaruk (Ukrainian Language Society); Alexandra Popel (Ukrainian National Women's League of America); Doris Horbachevsky and Halia Lisnychyj (Ukrainian American Club); Victor Lisnychyj, Vlad Szpiczka, Olya Babchuk and Mykola Weremijenko (St. Andrew's Ukrainian Religious and Cultural Center); Roman Czajkowsky (Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Committee); Larissa Shpon (St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church) and Mr. and Mrs. Bystrianyuk (Ukrainian Village Condos).



Representatives of Ukrainian American organizations in front of the Sarasota County Commission Chamber.

At the heart...

(Continued from page 11)

Dumka of New York under Vasyl Hrechynsky featured songs with Lemko rhythms, exuberant dance-like tunes and some with more modernistic harmonies. Two arrangements included instrumentalists playing sopilka and mouth harp.

Singer-songwriter Taras Petrynenko is a true living legend for Ukrainians, noted for his many hit songs and his active participation in the Orange Revolution and the Revolution of Dignity. (He performed his stirring song "Ukraino!" at Soyuzivka over Labor Day 1991, mere days after Ukraine's Declaration of Independence on August 24.) Mr. Petrynenko especially delighted listeners with his early retro songs. He was often joined in duets by his wife, singer Tetiana Horobets.

Tonya Matvienko's heartfelt songs easily connected with listeners throughout the festival. Her vocal timbre carries strong echoes of her mother, Nina Matvienko, a noted folkloric stylist. Maksym Lozynskyj energized audiences with his impassioned singing and guitar playing.

Mr. Lozynskyj is also the lead actor in the new film "Hutsulka Ksenia." In the Main House library, he divulged many details about the movie's production. Also in the film portion of the festival program, director Roman Brygider screened his many-layered documentary film "Our Ukrainian American Legacy."

Saturday afternoon included the good-natured fun of the annual varenyky-eating contest hosted by the ebullient Alex Gutmakher under a tent on the Veselka patio.

The instrumental folk quartet Udych performed at the Saturday evening stage show and at Friday's "zabava." The ensemble Anna-Maria played for the second dance on Saturday evening, following the grand concert.

Dancers on stage

The Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Workshop performed varied and complex programs during both evening shows. All eye-catching costumes were meticulously researched and tailored, including multi-colored feathers on the women's exotic head-dresses. In his new choreography for "Volynska Zabava," artistic director Orlando Pagan let his imagination fly and included high kicks for the ladies, something you almost never find in ethnic dances.

Mr. Pagan also leads the 90-member Zolotyj Promin Ukrainian Dance Ensemble from Hartford, Conn., which performed in both shows on Saturday. According to original founder Bohdanna Szafran, over half of the oldest group work at full-time jobs, and there are now many second-generation dancers. The ensemble has appeared at universities like Connecticut State and Yale, and at the Bloor Street Festival in Toronto. On Saturday, Zolotyj Promin presented a humorous choreography by Mr. Pagan titled "The Seamstress."



UNA Chief Operating Officer/National Secretary Yuriy Symczyk and his wife, Nataliya, on the way to the gala.

The genial pair of masters of ceremonies for the 2019 festival were Larysa Bajus of Ontario and Bogdan Tabaka of New Jersey.

Some who make a difference

One soul can move mountains. Here are thumbnails of seven diverse people at the festival who really made a difference.

Maksym (Max) Lozynskyj revved up the crowds all weekend, belting out his songs while accompanying himself on guitar. Mr. Lozynskyj was a Ukrainian baby who was adopted by Ukrainian American parents. Displaying a love for singing and theater, he performed in plays and musicals in high school and college, graduating as a music composition major from Drew University in Madison, N.J. An ardent advocate for Ukraine, he frequently leads crowds in song at rallies and marches.

On Saturday and Sunday, Mr. Lozynskyj also spoke to film enthusiasts about his leading role in a new Ukrainian movie. "Hutsulka Ksenia" was originally a 1938 operetta by Yaroslav Barnych, who emigrated to Cleveland. It was based on his enormously popular tango song of the same



Marta Farion of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America with Taras Petrynenko at the fund-raiser for the UNA's two newspapers.

title. The 2019 movie closely follows the operetta's original plot and just like the true-life story of Mr. Lozynskyj, exalts the protagonist's struggle to preserve his heritage, while buffeted between Ukraine and America. Expect the U.S. theater release for this film in the fall.

A film introduced by its author and screened this weekend was the documentary "Our Ukrainian American Legacy." A multiple Emmy Award-winning PBS producer/director, Mr. Brygider was born in New York City, but when his family moved out to Long Island he began to lose contact with his Ukrainian roots.

Working at PBS during the Orange Revolution, the Maidan and subsequent Russian invasions and wars, he began to feel the need to produce a film that would document the lives and activities of the Ukrainian diaspora, and explain to all viewers the context of current developments.

With archival footage and fresh interviews, he fashioned a beautifully edited and educational film, in which many viewers will recognize their local communities, friends or even themselves.

Much of the success of the festival's stage shows was due to the professional work of both emcees. An actress from Kyiv, Ms. Bajus co-founded Studio TM Olijnyk in Toronto in 2010. There, she works with children of different ages and levels, fashioning a musical stage production. Over three months, she rewrites the eventual musical to all their varied strengths. She enthused over how diction, dramatic sense and stage movement can make any child comfortable on stage, and also instill a general self-confidence.

Born in Ukraine but growing up in New Jersey, Bogdan Tabaka has enjoyed an elite dance and vocal career. He holds several regional dance titles, was a Fred Astaire National Winner and All-American National Ballroom Champion. He was lead choreographer for the 2016 Tony Awards and master of ceremonies at many prestigious events. With his infectious smile and dazzling outfits (self-designed), Mr. Tabaka charmed the festival audiences. He has also assisted UNWLA Branch 137 by generating its flyers, newsletters, mass mailings and contributing to its presence on social media.

Anyone browsing the Ukrainian Arts and Crafts Vendors Plaza would be lured by the aromas of pastries and hot dogs to the central food tent. A second-generation Ukrainian and a proud member of UNA Branch 414 of New Haven, Conn., Gloria Horbaty has run this busy oasis for over 10 years at Soyuzivka. But all her hot summer labor is merely the tip of



Gloria Horbaty at the food tent with grandchildren Justyna and Tristan.

the iceberg.

She serves as an advisor of the UNA General Assembly, and was regional chair for the UNWLA in New England and cultural chair for UNWLA Branch 108. She has taught classes at "Ridna Shkola" (School of Ukrainian Studies) and conducted pysanky demos on TV. This year will be her 52nd year at the Connecticut Ukrainian Festival in Stamford, Conn., where she is known as the "egg lady."

A fourth-generation Ukrainian, Halyna Shepko counts Myron Surmach (whose Surma store in New York City was a center of the Ukrainian community) as her godfather. Ms. Shepko's love for traditional textiles and embroidery led her to start her own farm in New Paltz, N.Y., and raise sheep and goats to make yarns (colored naturally), cheeses and soap. She explored the Hutsul region in Ukraine to study techniques and instruments of weaving and decorating.

She has conducted courses and tours for weavers at The Ukrainian Museum in New York and was a finalist at the NYSCA/NYFA Artist Finals for Folk Artists. For years, she has been bringing the Ukrainian "Selo" (Village) to the Ukrainian Cultural Festival to demonstrate weaving, pottery making and pysanka decorating.

Harkening back to wise Ukrainian oral traditions, she related advice given to young maidens when handed a knotty and twisted bunch of wool: "Once you can untangle this ball of yarn, only then you'll be ready for marriage!"

Tireless choreographer/director Orlando Pagan began his dance training at the age of 13, later studying with the Alvin Ailey School of Dance and the School of American Ballet. He was also invited to join the international tour of the Dance Theater of Harlem. Along the way, he was attracted to Ukrainian dance, and in 1987 was engaged as a soloist with the Syzokryli Dance Ensemble. Founder Roma Pryma Bohachevsky (RPB) expressed her wish that Mr. Pagan would be the ensemble's new artistic director. He assumed this position in 2006, and became head instructor for all schools of the RPB Foundation.

Since 1995 he has also held the position of artistic director of the Zolotyj Promin Dance Ensemble and School in Hartford and currently also teaches Ukrainian dance in Yonkers, N.Y., and Passaic, N.J. Mr. Pagan has created works for the Ukrainian ensembles Kashtan in Cleveland and Cheremosh in Minneapolis, as well as choreography for Ukrainian pop star Ruslana.

All these passionate people are radiant examples for all of us. Echoing Dr. Szeremeta, Gloria Horbaty said it all: "You want a festival? Come help!"



At the film festival, Roman Brygider, director of "Our Ukrainian American Legacy," and Maksym Lozynskyj, star of "Hutsulka Ksenia."

REFLECTIONS: Pope Francis...

(Continued from page 9)

who always expressed deep respect for the UGCC. Last summer he was in the gray zone in the Donbas, he prayed with us in Zarvanytsia, and a few weeks ago he met with our faithful in North America.

We saw this attitude as well in all those cardinals, archbishops and bishops present at the meetings.

It is impossible to say and hear everything in two days. It was a first step toward a deeper acquaintance and understanding. Clearly it was not full, but the Lord fills everything and will be with us all. This process is ascending – it is symbolic and does not stop at the curia

or with the pope, because they do not have the fullness of grace, which is only with the living God.

Nevertheless, their witness deeply affected us. The simplicity of sharing conversation and coffee. The pope encouraged us to be pastors who do not look at our watches but who give time. He gave us a lot of his. Indeed, time will tell how these discussions will bear fruit.

Borys Gudziak is Ukrainian Catholic archbishop of Philadelphia, metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the U.S., president of the Ukrainian Catholic University and head of the Department of External Church Relations of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC).

True to 'tradition'...

(Continued from page 2)

of deputies elected by party lists declines, and vice versa; when the opposition gains momentum or the "power vertical" system feels excessive pressure, the electoral threshold rises, while in "secure" times it may go down. In other words, each new electoral rule change was implemented to preserve the ruling regime's ability to stay in power indefinitely.

The same can be expected regarding the 2021 parliamentary election, thus ensuring that Russia's authoritarian political system can perpetuate itself beyond Mr. Putin's "last" presidential term.

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

Ukrainian authorities...

(Continued from page 3)

deemed illegitimate by Kyiv, the United States and a total of at least 100 countries.

Russia moved swiftly to seize control over Crimea after Moscow-friendly Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was pushed from power by the pro-European Maidan protest movement in February 2014.

Russia has also fomented unrest and backed militants in eastern Ukraine, where more than 13,000 people have been killed in the ensuing conflict since April 2014.

With reporting by Christopher Miller in Kyiv.

Copyright 2019, RFE/RL Inc. Reprinted with the permission of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 1201 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036; www.rferl.org (see <https://www.rferl.org/a/ukrainian-authorities-seize-russian-tanker-/30075130.html>).

President...

(Continued from page 7)

Czarist and Commissarist social engineering cloned through unspeakable imperialist oppression and violence.

The League of Ukrainian Canadians was the first in the diaspora to raise the alarm about the Yanukovich regime as a puppet of Moscow and mobilized Canadians to support civic opposition to Yanukovich. Then as now, we heard similar commitments about shared western values and investment opportunities. What disturbs the LUC is that we did not hear from the new President a commitment to complete the goals set out by the Revolution of Dignity. Instead, at the events in Toronto we heard high ranking foreign government officials from Europe, the US, and Canada make more references to the goals and achievements of the Revolution of Dignity than President Zelenskyy or his delegation.

Ukrainians are at war. The invader, Russia, is insisting on terms for peace that fit its hybrid war strategy to dominate Ukraine from within. The Revolution of Dignity set the long term goals for victory in this existential struggle. Just as Ukrainians were a deci-

sive factor in the demise of the USSR, so too, Ukraine's quest for mature nation statehood will determine the demise of Russia's imperial ambitions. Therefore, we will not obviate our very real concerns about President Zelenskyy's devaluation of the continuing impact of the Revolution of Dignity, and instead, his resort to vague platitudes served up as policies. These are not times for ambiguity. Already, Russia is taking advantage of the confusion and discontent among Ukraine's international partners. Ukraine needs a commander in chief and statesman who will speak clearly to the Ukrainian people, to Ukraine's friends and to its enemies alike.

As the LUC celebrates our 70th anniversary, and as it has since its founding in 1949, the then Canadian League for the Liberation of Ukraine and, since 1991, the League of Ukrainian Canadians will continue to foster and promote Canadian values and to share our Ukrainian cultural heritage with our fellow Canadians. We will work to marshal support for Ukrainians to build a secure, democratic and prosperous, sovereign and indivisible, independent Ukrainian nation-state. To these ends, the LUC stands ready to support policies of President Zelenskyy and his administration.

2020 SCOPE GROUP TOURS



CHRISTMAS IN LVIV
January 2 – 11, 2020 10 days \$1150
 Includes: Astoria Hotel ****, transfers, buffet breakfast daily, 2 city tours, SVIAT VECHIR and 2 dinners.
 Optional: Slavs-Karpaty Full Day Excursion
 Tour Host: Marijka Helbig
 Deposit of \$300 due by:
 Sept 30, 2019 Guaranteed departure



EASTER IN LVIV
April 12 - 21, 2020 10 days \$1150
 Includes: Astoria Hotel ****, transfers, buffet breakfast daily, 2 city tours, SVIACHENE (Easter Breakfast)
 Optional: Karpaty Excursion April 15-16
 Lviv - Yaremche - Bukovel - Kolomyia - Kosiv - Lviv
 Deposit of \$300 due by: Jan 10, 2020 Guaranteed departure



BEST OF UKRAINE
KYIV • KARPATY • LVIV • BUDAPEST
12 Days \$2800
 Two Departures: June 17 - 28, 2020
 July 29 - August 7, 2020



AUTUMN IN UKRAINE
KYIV (Baturyn/Chernyhiw) • KAMIANETS PODILSKY (Chernivtsi) • KARPATY • LVIV
14 Days \$2600
 Departure: September 23 – October 4,



EGYPT
CAIRO • LUXOR • NILE CRUISE • ASWAN
October 22 - November 2, 2020 12 Days \$3490
 Includes: Cairo - LE MERIDIAN PYRAMIDS HOTEL & SPA **** and MS MAYFAIR NILE DELUX CRUISE *****
 2 meals daily in Cairo and 3 meals on Cruise. All transfers, All sightseeing tours in Cairo: Pyramids, Giza, Sphinx and camel ride. Tutankhamun collection, Mummies room + Khan el Khalil Bazaar. Domestic air Cairo/Luxor and Aswan/Cairo. Cruise tours: Karnak + Luxor Temples, Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut Temple, Edfu & Kom Ombo Temples, High Dam, unfinished Obelisk and Phile Temple, Abu Simbel: Temple in Hathor of Ramesses II and of Nefertiti. Upon return to Cairo: Coptic Cairo Churches tour and one free last day at the bazaar before Gala Farewell dinner. Not included: International Air & gratuities. Tour is limited to 24 persons. Bookings are confirmed on first come basis.
 Tour Host: Marijka Helbig
 Deposit deadline: \$600 by October 1, 2019
 Space is very limited!




Land tour rates per person (tw room) for Best of Ukraine + and Autumn in Ukraine include four star Hotels, daily sightseeing tours and entrance fees, 2 meals per diem, all intercity transportation by plane, AC bus or first-class sleeper train (as per itinerary). Tour director for Ukraine and a local guide for Budapest. Not included: International air, and gratuities, Tour cost and itinerary are subject to minor changes due to flight schedules and exchange rate.

www.scopetravel.com
201.463.4656 scope@scopetravel.com



UKRAINIAN SISTERS

THE BEST CARE FOR YOU OR FAMILY MEMBER

24 hours and 7 days per week services

- Compassion
- Kindness
- Responsibility

Ukrainian - American homecare agency
 ☎ 631-764-5388
 631-727-2880
 ✉ Ukrsistersag@gmail.com

Ukrainian Art Song Summer Institute spotlights eight emerging artists

TORONTO – The third Ukrainian Art Song Summer Institute being held August 12-18 at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.

Eight very talented artists, on the cusp of breaking into the world of professional vocal music, will attend with the intent of honing their already significant skills. Their talent is impressive; so is their appreciation of Ukrainian art songs, which provide new repertoire and are gaining the

recognition they deserve in the world of classical vocal music.

The 2019 Summer Institute is a significant milestone for the Ukrainian Art Song Project. In the words of Artistic Director Pavlo Hunka: “Reaching out to the youth of the world to introduce new music is a paramount aim of the Ukrainian Art Song Project.”

Since the first Ukrainian Art Song Summer Institute,

many of the emerging artists have already included Ukrainian art songs in their repertoire. They are also helping to broadcast knowledge and awareness of Ukrainian composers and Ukrainian classical vocal music.

The lead sponsors of the Ukrainian Art Song Summer Institute 2019 are: SUS Foundation of Canada, the Shevchenko Foundation and the Ukrainian Canadian War Veterans Fund.

Emerging artists of 2019

Ukrainian Canadian **Alexandra Beley** is quickly establishing herself as an up and coming young mezzo-soprano. She recently completed two years at L'Atelier Lyrique with Opéra de Montréal, where she made her debut with the company singing Berta in “Il Barbiere di Siviglia.” The following year, she sang Second Maid in Strauss’s “Elektra” under the baton of esteemed conductor and current Music Director of the Metropolitan Opera Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Prior to her time in Montreal, Ms. Beley completed a year in Calgary Opera’s Emerging Artist Program, where she made her debut singing the title role in “The Rape of Lucretia.” Other roles include Gertrude (“Roméo et Juliette”), Suzuki (“Madama Butterfly”), Dorothée (“Cendrillon”), Dorabella (“Così Fan Tutte”), Cherubino (“Le Nozze di Figaro”), Hänsel (“Hänsel und Gretel”), Dinah (“Trouble in Tahiti”) and Stéfano (“Roméo et Juliette”).

Julie Anna Gulenko is praised for her graceful soprano voice and sensitive musical interpretations. The northeast Ohio native is an alumna of Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Marlene Rosen and performed in several Oberlin Opera Theater productions. ClevelandClassical.com noted the singer’s delightful approach to the role of Serpette in Oberlin’s modern staging of “La Finta Giardiniera” by Mozart. Ms. Gulenko has made multiple appearances with both Canton Comic Opera and the Summit Choral Society and recently collaborated on performance projects with the Cleveland Ballet, the Western Reserve Historical Society and the Tuesday Musical Association. She has participated in master classes with Serbian mezzo-soprano Milena Kitic and Venezuelan soprano Inés Salazar.

Yurii Hryhorash is a master’s graduate from the Lviv National Music Academy. He was also a member of its Opera Studio. He has had considerable success in singing competitions achieving: first place at the Teren-Yushkiv competition in Lviv; second place at the Malaniuk competition in Ivano-Frankivsk; and second place at the 21st Century Art competition in Kyiv. Mr. Hryhorash has performed as a soloist at the Lviv National Opera and the Lviv National Philharmonic. He made his debut in 2016 in the title role in “Le Nozze di Figaro,” a joint project with the Lviv Opera and Lviv National Music Academy. In 2018, he appeared as a guest artist in the Jan Kiepura International Festival in Poland. His repertoire includes roles in operas by Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Donizetti and Hulak-Artemovskiy.

Kateryna Khartova moved to Canada from Ukraine in 2007 at the age of 18. During her first year in Saskatoon she started taking voice lessons and immediately fell in love with opera. In 2011 she was accepted into the Music Department at the University of Saskatchewan, where she has been studying under the tutelage of Dr. Garry Gable and Kathleen Lohrenz Gable. In 2016 Ms. Khartova graduated with an honors bachelor’s degree in voice performance. During her school years she has been a chorus member of numerous opera productions with the Saskatoon Opera Association. She has won the Wallis Silver Memorial (2014) and Bronze Grand Awards (2015) at the Saskatchewan Music Festival. She had her orchestral debut in March 2017 with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra as a soprano soloist for the Ukrainian oratorio “Golden Harvest” by Larysa Kuzmenko. She is now continuing her education at the Glenn Gould School of Music in Toronto in the class of Monica Whicher.

Teryn Kuzma is a Ukrainian American soprano, hailing from Hartford, Conn., where she studies voice with Dr. Constance Rock. Ms. Kuzma is a member of the Women’s Bandura Ensemble of North America, where she also serves on the artistic committee. She is a recent graduate of the University of Connecticut with a bachelor’s degree in vocal performance. While at school, she performed with the Opera Theater and Opera Outreach programs in several roles, including Belinda in “Dido and Aeneas,” Amalia Balash in “She Loves Me,” Una Novizia in “Suor Angelica” and a Fairy Sprite in Massenet’s “Cendrillon.” Most recently, she appeared with The Ohio Light Opera in Wooster as an ensemble member and featured soloist. Last year, she attended the SongFest Program in Los Angeles as a Young Artist and won the University of Connecticut Concerto & Aria Competition.

Praised as a “sophisticated artist” with a “gorgeous voice” and “stratospheric vocals” (Winnipeg Free Press), soprano **Katherine Mayba**, native of Winnipeg, Manitoba, has performed with Manitoba Underground Opera as Ilia (“Idomeneo”) and Amore (“L’incoronazione di Poppea”) and with Manitoba Opera (“Don Giovanni,” “Falstaff,” “Madama Butterfly”), and has made regular appearances with Flipside Opera. She has also performed as a soloist with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and through the Orville J. Derragh Scholarship Competition, and has competed in the Winnipeg Music Festival, winning several awards including the Rose Bowl. Ms. Mayba studies at the University of Manitoba and is a student of Tracy Dahl. A multidisciplinary musician, she holds her ARCT Performance Diploma in voice, piano and violin from The Royal Conservatory of Music.

Andrew Skitko earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music at

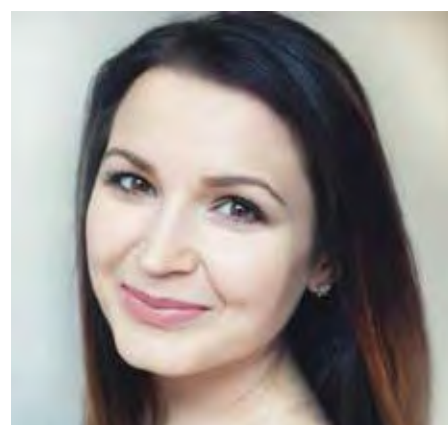
Westminster Choir College. Through Westminster, he has performed with the world’s leading conductors and orchestras at venues such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Mr. Skitko sings regularly with the Opera Philadelphia Chorus, The Philadelphia Symphonic Choir and The Same Stream Choir. He has participated in The Oxford University Choral Institute as a member of the Grammy-nominated ensemble Williamson Voices. He is a professional cantor for the Byzantine-Ruthenian Church and is also the artistic director of Theoria Chamber Choir, which performs Slavic choral repertoire. Additionally, Mr. Skitko is an assistant producer, singer and member of the Ukrainian Art Song Project.

A native of Toronto, **Olenka Slywynska** has been praised for having “a lush, honey-colored sound filling the hall, singing everyone else under the table” (Opera Canada). She performs in opera, oratorio and does recital work, and has enjoyed interesting recital opportunities at the Tanglewood Music Festival, Hamilton Philharmonic’s What’s Next festival, and ARC festivals. Ms. Slywynska has performed oratorio with the Hamilton Philharmonic Symphony, Toronto Classical Singers, Vesnivka and many others. She has enjoyed singing in operas with the Highlands Opera Studio, Opera Chai and operas at the Glenn Gould School of Music. She has also sung in the Canadian Opera Company Chorus. She recently earned a master’s in pedagogy from the University of Toronto and is presently teaching voice.

Masterclasses may be audited

The public may attend a masterclass and experience the process as the emerg-

(Continued on page 19)



Emerging artists of the 2019 Ukrainian Art Song Summer Institute (top row, from left): Alexandra Beley, Julie Anna Gulenko, Yurii Hryhorash, Kateryna Khartova, (second row) Teryn Kuzma, Katherine Mayba, Andrew Skitko and Olenka Slywynska.

OUT & ABOUT

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| August 8 through October 6
Chicago | Art exhibit, "Blue Collar" by Cleveland Dean and Anthony Adcock, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522 or www.uima-chicago.org | August 18-25
Hepburn, SK | Dance Workshop, Rodovid Academy of Ukrainian Dance, Bethany College, www.rodovidacademyofukrainiandance.com |
| August 9-11
Ellenville, NY | Softball tournament weekend, Ukrainian American Youth Association camp, www.cym.org/us-ellenville or 845-647-7230 | August 19-25
Grafton, ON | Folk Camp immersion in Ukrainian culture, www.folkcamp.ca |
| August 11-17
Emlenton, PA | Choral Workshop, Kobzarska Sich Bandura Camp, All Saints Camp, www.banduracamp.org | August 22
Hempstead, NY | Ukrainian American Day flag-raising ceremony and celebration, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (Long Island Chapter), Hempstead Town Hall, mhynes@tohmail.org |
| August 12-17
Carnegie, PA | Icon Workshop III, "Archangel Icon," Archangel Studios, kapeluck@verizon.net | August 23
Wildwood, NJ | Khmel Zabava fund-raiser dance for Plast camps, Khmelnychenky Plast fraternity, featuring DJ Orest, Wildwood American Legion hall, www.facebook.com/xmeli |
| August 13-15
North Battleford, SK | Ukrainian Dance Camp, Svoboda Dancers, Dance Connection Studio, 306-490-7586 or 306-480-7729 | August 23-25
Hepburn, SK | Instructor Intensive Workshop, Rodovid Academy of Ukrainian Dance, Bethany College, www.rodovidacademyofukrainiandance.com |
| August 15-17
Saskatoon, SK | Saskatoon Folkfest, Ukrainian Karpaty Pavilion, Prairieland Park, www.saskatoonfolkfest.com | August 24
Jewett, NY | Memorial concert in honor of Lubomyr Krushelnytsky, with cellist Natalia Khoma and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky, Music and Art Center of Greene County, info@grazhdamusicanart.org or www.grazhdamusicanart.org |
| August 15-18
Rochester, NY | 46th annual St. Josaphat Ukrainian Festival, St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, www.rochesterukrainianfestival.com | August 24
Saskatoon, SK | Ukrainian Food Sale, Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada, (Olha Kobylanska Branch), Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral hall, bestvenetian@gmail.com |
| August 17
Hamilton, ON | Hamilton Ukrainian Day on the Bay, Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Hamilton Branch, Hamilton Waterfront Dock, ucchamilton@yahoo.ca or www.ucchamilton.ca | August 24
Saskatoon, SK | Ukrainian Day in the Park, Ukrainian Canadian Congress (Saskatoon Branch), Kiwanis Park, www.ukrainiandayinthepark.ca |
| August 17
Jewett, NY | Piano recital, Serhii Salov, Music and Art Center of Greene County, www.musicandartcenter.org or 518-989-6479 | August 24
Montreal | Ukrainian Independence Banquet, featuring keynote speaker Victor Rud, Ukrainian Canadian Congress (Montreal Branch), Ukrainian Youth Center, 438-764-9392 |
| August 17-18
Lehighton, PA | Ukrainian Festival, Ukrainian Homestead, www.ukrhomestead.com or 610-377-4621 | | |
| August 18
Tofield, AB | Ukrainian Day, Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, www.ukrainianvillage.ca | | |
| August 18
Hillside, NJ | Registration for Religious Education (ages 3-18), Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, www.byzcath.org/immaculateconception or 908-322-7350 | | |

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.

Lawmaking 101...

(Continued from page 3)

another.

But experts have applauded the economics and lawmaking courses.

"I think it's a great idea and indeed a very necessary one as three-quarters of the new Parliament have never been MPs before and most of them are completely newbies in the 'big politics,'" Volodymyr Ishchenko, a senior lecturer at the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute Department of Sociology, told RFE/RL.

"I am in favor when photographers, primary school teachers and pizzeria owners can vote in the Parliament," he said.

Defending the course, KSE's Mr. Mylovanov, welcomed "the desire of [Servant of the People] lawmakers to devote a week to intensive training instead of taking a summer vacation!"

"This is just the first week of a broad plan that the party plans to take" to educate their lawmakers, he added.

Svyatoslav Yurash, a Servant of the People lawmaker who may be Ukraine's youngest ever at age 23, told RFE/RL that he and his colleagues entering Parliament need the lessons "to understand how to avoid the pitfalls" that torpedoed the agendas of previous reform-minded lawmakers who failed to get re-elected and "to confront corruption and the difficult realities facing us."

"We are all clearly novices as far as lawmaking in Parliament is concerned," he said. "This is a chance to learn the procedural realities of parliament."

Moreover, Mr. Yurash added, "learning new things is a part of life whether you're 20 or 50 years old."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty © 2019
RFE/RL, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Ukrainian Art Song...

(Continued from page 18)

ing artists learn to bring gems of art songs to life; they may watch the coaching process as the singers learn to understand and express the spirit and soul of Ukrainian art songs as well as the intention of the composers.

Public auditing opportunities are available during the week at the Conservatory in the Temerty Theater on Wednesday, August 14, at 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Thursday, August 15, at 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.; and Friday, August 16, at 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. There is no cost for attending, but interested persons are asked to register in order to audit the classes on the Ukrainian Art Song Project

website, <https://uaspsponsor.square-space.com/auditing/>.

Artists' performance

All eight emerging artists will showcase their talent as well as the skills they have mastered during the week at a final recital on Sunday, August 18, at the Temerty Theater at the Royal Conservatory's TELUS Center For Performance and Learning, 273 Bloor Street West in Toronto. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for students with ID and are available on the Royal Conservatory website, <https://www.rcmusic.com/event-calendar/artists-in-performance-ukrainian-art-song-summer-institute>.

For further information, readers may e-mail info@ukrainianartsong.ca.

JACQUES HNIZDOVSKY PRINTS DRAWINGS PAINTINGS

William Greenbaum Fine Prints has been in business now for more than 50 years. We currently have 25 signed prints by Mr. Hnizdovsky for sale and we are seeking to purchase more of his prints as well as his drawings and paintings.



ALL PRINTS NOW ILLUSTRATED ONLINE AT:
www.greenbaumprints.com

Please email us at wng@greenbaumprints.com
or phone us at 508-284-7036.

William Greenbaum Fine Prints
98 South Street
Rockport, MA 01966
Open By Appointment

Member: International Fine Print Dealers Association



Subscribe to THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

PRINT EDITION for \$90 (\$80 if you are a UNA member)
ONLINE EDITION for \$40
PRINT AND ONLINE for \$95 (\$85 for UNA'ers).

Please contact our Subscription Department
 at subscription@ukrweekly.com
 or **973-292-9800 ext. 3040**.

The Ukrainian Weekly,
 founded in 1933, is published by
 the Ukrainian National Association.



PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, August 23

WILDWOOD, N.J.: The Khmelnychenko Plast fraternity is sponsoring a fund-raising dance for camps of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization at the Wildwood American Legion, 4200 Atlantic Ave. Doors open at 8 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by DJ Orest. Admission: \$20 for adults age 21 and over only; includes open beer bar 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Mixed drinks also available. Valid IDs required for wrist bands that will be sold at the beach and at the door. For more info - visit the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Xmeli/>.

Sunday, August 25

HORSHAM, Pa.: Tryzub Ukrainian American Sport Center will host the 28th annual Ukrainian Independence Folk Festival and Outdoor Summer Concert at Tryzubivka, County Line and Lower State roads, Horsham, PA 19044. Doors open at noon. The concert at 1:30 p.m. is titled

"Celebrate Liberty and Unity" and will feature another collaborative effort of Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, Iskra Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, violinist Innesa Tymochko Dekajlo and Vox Ethnika orchestra. This year's special guest performers are the Korinya Ukrainian Folk Band and Master Yang's School of Martial Arts. A social dance to the live music of the Vox Ethnika will follow at 4:30 p.m. Delicious Ukrainian foods and baked goods, picnic fare, cool beverages and refreshments will be plentiful. Vendors are welcome. An arts and crafts bazaar and a children's fun area will be open all day. Admission: \$15; students, \$10; children under 15, free; parking is free. A limited number of discount tickets is available online. For further information: 267-664-3857, info@tryzub.org, or www.tryzub.org. The sponsor is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt non-profit charitable organization; proceeds benefit youth and adult amateur sports and cultural, fraternal and community programs.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph of several sentences that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number and/or e-mail address to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items must be **no more than 100 words long**.

Preview items must be received **no later than one week before the desired date of publication** (i.e., they must be received by 9 am Monday morning). Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, senders are asked to include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours, as well as their complete mailing address.

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

2ND ANNUAL UKTOBERFEST

SHREWD FOX BREWERY
CRAFT ALES & LAGER BEER
GLEN SPEY, NY

SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2019 12-5 PM

BEER - FOOD - MUSIC - DANCING
ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL!

329 HIGH RD, GLEN SPEY, NY 12737

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS
WWW.SHREWDFOXBREWERY.COM

UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL

August 17th and 18th, 2019

Kalyna Performing Arts Company
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Innesa Tymochko-Dekajlo
Lido, Ukraine

Traditional Ukrainian foods
Swimming
Gift & craft vendors

Festival Admission

\$7/person - one day
\$10/person - both days
FREE - Age 14 & under
GATES OPEN AT NOON

Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble
Schuylkill County, PA

**Walt Syzonenko
and the Chary Orchestra**
New Jersey - Florida

Rev. Volodymyr Baran
Palmerton, PA

Saturday Festivities, August 17th
 2:00 - 3:30 PM — Stage Show
 4:30 - 6:30 PM — Stage Show
 8:00 PM — Zabava (Dance)

Sunday Festivities, August 18th
 11:00 AM — Divine Liturgy at St. Andrew's Chapel
 2:00 - 4:30 PM — Stage Show

Ukrainian Homestead of CEC ODWU, Inc.

1230 Beaver Run Drive • Lehighton, PA 18235

(610) 377-4621 www.ukrhomestead.com