

**INSIDE:**

- UCCA National Council welcomes UABA – page 4
- Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia perform in New York – page 9
- Reflections: Ukrainians and the NYC Marathon – page 11

# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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

Vol. LXXXVIII

No. 2

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020

\$2.00

## A difficult start to the New Year in Ukraine

by Bohdan Nahaylo

KYIV – For Ukraine, the New Year has started with a roller-coaster effect, moving from seasonal festive joy to tragedy and mourning.

It began with an upbeat, unconventional New Year's Eve address to the nation by the country's new president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, which was warmly received by many, but antagonized those in opposition to him.

And, following Christmas celebrations according to the old Julian calendar, it was followed by a very different presidential message to the Ukrainian people – a declaration of a Day of Mourning on January 9 for the victims of the Ukraine International Airlines plane that crashed for unexplained reasons on January 8 after takeoff from Tehran, killing all 176 people on board.

In between, other controversies were stirred up at home, and a number of noteworthy developments occurred on the external front, all overshadowed by the escalation of tensions between the U.S. and Iran. Understandably, President Zelenskyy has since been discussing the air disaster with the Iranian president, and the leaders of Canada, Sweden, Afghanistan and the United Kingdom, whose citizens were aboard the ill-fated aircraft.

In his first New Year's address, Mr. Zelenskyy sought to break with tradition

and to give a new look and feel to the traditional speech from the country's leader. It contained few details and did not elaborate any precise plans for the year ahead.

The main message was the need for unity at a time of war, economic difficulties and efforts to get reforms back on track. Mr. Zelenskyy challenged his listeners to reflect on what it is to be Ukrainian today, what should unite Ukrainians and what threatens to perpetuate mutual distrust, misunderstanding and antagonism, what should be the priorities today in this regard, and what can be addressed later or more gradually.

Mr. Zelenskyy pleaded for understanding and tact, patience and goodwill and, recognizing the diversity in the country, urged unity based on inclusive rather than exclusive values or premises, be they rooted in history, religion, ethnicity or regional differences. "In the new year, we need to be a single country every day," he stressed. "This should be our national idea. Learning to live together in respect. For the future of the country."

Mr. Zelenskyy was immediately attacked by his political opponents, who accused him of diluting patriotic Ukrainian elements in his address and promoting an attitude of "who cares" as regards Ukrainian national attributes. In his speech he had

(Continued on page 14)

## Ukrainian plane crashes in Iran, killing all 176 people aboard



Vyacheslav Ratynskiy/UNIAN

National Security and Defense Council Secretary Oleksiy Danilov (left) and Prime Minister Oleksiy Honcharuk at a press briefing in Kyiv on January 8 following the crash of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 in Iran.

RFE/RL

A Ukrainian commercial airliner crashed on January 8 soon after taking off from Iran's capital, Tehran, killing all 176 people on board, mostly Iranian nationals, but also Western and Ukrainian citizens.

On January 9, unidentified U.S. officials said they were confident that Iranian air defense systems accidentally downed the Boeing 737-800, based on satellite, radar and electronic data. Newsweek quoted a

(Continued on page 9)

## Building Ukraine Together project celebrates five years

by Roman Tymotsko



Anna Yutchenko/BUR

Volunteers and friends at the celebration of the Building Ukraine Together project's fifth birthday.

KYIV – In 2014, after the first months of Russian armed aggression in the east of Ukraine, volunteers cooperated to help locals with restoring the damage Russian forces did in their towns and villages. The Building Ukraine Together project (known by its Ukrainian acronym as BUR) emerged as a volunteer action to rebuild houses damaged by war.

Over time, BUR has become a volunteer movement all across Ukraine, forming and uniting a new generation of responsible Ukrainians who are making change. Therefore, BUR is about building, still not only houses but bridges of communication between Ukrainians. On December 21, 2019, the initiative celebrated its fifth birthday and shared its insights, presented achievements and announced its plans.

"Ukraine desperately needs more responsible and bold people who would dare to start their businesses, go into the government or politics. Unfortunately, there are very few programs that teach those social skills and give motivation. BUR is among those few," said Yurko Didula, a co-founder of the initiative and the leader of the BUR development team.

"We provide young people with an opportunity to practice responsibility. We give them a chance to fall in love with Ukraine and build a desire to make it a better place.

(Continued on page 4)



## ANALYSIS

## The OSCE in 2019: Epitaphs to cooperative security doctrines

by Vladimir Socor  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has marked this year the 25th anniversary of the OSCE's Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, 25th anniversary of the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances to Ukraine (both pacts adopted at the OSCE's 1994 Budapest Summit), as well as the 20th anniversary of the Charter for European Security, the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Adapted Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty), and the 20th anniversary of Russia's commitments to withdraw its forces from Georgia and Moldova (all three pacts adopted at the OSCE's Istanbul Summit).

Russia has turned all these pacts into dead letters in Europe's East. They are also epitaphs to cooperative security doctrines.

Russia has passed another year obstructing the OSCE on matters concerning security in Europe's East. In that contested area, the OSCE's operations and even its choice of words are subject to Russia's statutory veto rights; while the organization's hierarchy is reduced to diplomatic silence over this state of affairs. The OSCE's year-end ministerial conference, in Bratislava on December 5-6, 2019, conformed to this pattern.

Russia's veto of the Slovakian chairmanship's draft declaration on Ukraine – a deliberately cautious draft, acceptable to practically all countries – naturally attracted attention, but it had no material impact and was irrelevant in that sense (except to the OSCE's credibility).

What happens in the field matters far more. There, Russian and proxy forces make it impossible for the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to monitor the ceasefire effectively or even safely. The mission's personnel and vehicles are systematically harassed and threatened, their movements restricted or blocked outright and their surveillance drones jammed, in order to obstruct the SMM's reporting on Russian and proxy breaches of the ceasefire. The SMM's mandate is a restrictive one to begin with; that was Moscow's price for not using its right to veto the mandate and kill the mission. But the SMM is being prevented from fully carrying out even the Russian-approved mandate.

The OSCE's hierarchy avoids speaking up publicly about this from its Vienna headquarters or in year-end ministerial meetings, as just held in Slovakia. Individual countries (first and foremost the United States) as well as the European Union collectively do speak up forcefully about the SMM's predicament, but they do so in their own name not the OSCE's, whereas, the organization's own officials seem to be unfree to do so.

The OSCE's internal consensus rules – or Russia's abuse thereof – seem to extend to word usage in some cases. Moscow's official terms such as “the crisis in and around Ukraine” and “conflict in Ukraine's east”

have found their way into public statements by senior OSCE officials (Opening of the OSCE Ministerial Council, Bratislava, December 5, 2019). This can also lead to a form of self-censorship in the OSCE's internal reporting. For example, the SMM's internal reporting refers to Ukraine's “non-government controlled areas” and the (unnamed) “armed formations” there, tongue-tied (pen-tied in this case) about Russia's responsibility.

The previous year-end ministerial conference, in December 2018, in Milan, occasioned a German proposal to extend the OSCE SMM's mandate to cover the Azov Sea and the Kerch Strait. German Chancellor

Angela Merkel and Foreign Affairs Minister Heiko Maas pursued this idea during January 2019. There is no indication in the public domain that the OSCE's hierarchy rallied to this proposal; rather, it seemed to take a wait-and-see attitude so as to avoid a Russian veto. Russia

blocked the proposal anyway, not inside the OSCE but in the bilateral discussions with Germany (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, December 13, 2018; January 21, 22, 24, 2019).

In Georgia, the OSCE has seen both of its missions forced out: by Russia acting directly in 2003 and by Russia through South Ossetian proxies in 2008. Eleven years later in Bratislava, Georgia called the ministerial meeting's attention to Russia's continuing occupation, militarization, land-grabbing (“borderization”) and ethnic discrimination of the remaining Georgians in the occupied territories (Address by Foreign Affairs Minister Davit Zalkaliani, OSCE Ministerial Council, Bratislava, December 5-6, 2019).

Addressing the OSCE's year-end meeting in Bratislava, the United States reminded the participants, “Russia continues its military deployments in Transnistria and the occupied regions of Georgia without the consent of the Moldovan and Georgian governments. The people of Moldova still await Russia's implementation of its commitments made [at the OSCE summit] 20 years ago, in Istanbul in 1999” (Assistant Secretary of State Philip Reeker to the OSCE Ministerial Council, Bratislava, December 5, 2019).

Russia's breach of those 1999 commitments, and the OSCE's acceptance of the breach, dealt the first major blow to the OSCE's credibility. In 2002, the OSCE postponed the deadline for Russia to withdraw its troops from Moldova and Georgia; and, at the 2003 year-end conference, the OSCE lifted the withdrawal deadline, so as to avoid further embarrassment from Russia's noncompliance. This turned the OSCE into an organization unable to implement its own resolutions on security affairs in Europe's East (Russia seemingly accepted resolutions but would not comply with them). And in the next stage, Russia took to blocking such initiatives from the outset, abusing the OSCE's consensus rules against the organization itself.

(Continued on page 4)

## NEWSBRIEFS

### New chargé d'affaires at U.S. Embassy

Kristina Kvien, deputy chief of the U.S. diplomatic mission in Ukraine, has been appointed as the interim charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. In a video posted on Facebook on January 2, Ms. Kvien said that the U.S. “policy of strong support for Ukraine remains steady.” She noted: “Our Embassy team will continue to partner closely with the Ukrainian government and civil society and support Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity, and support reforms that will help Ukraine build its prosperous European future.” Ms. Kvien replaced William Taylor, who stepped aside earlier on January 2 after serving in the post since May 18, 2019. Ambassador Taylor said good-bye to Ukrainians in a video statement on December 31, saying he was “very optimistic” about Ukraine's future. Mr. Taylor was launched into the forefront of the impeachment hearings against U.S. President Donald Trump in November when he testified that one of his staffers overheard Trump ask U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland about “investigations” against Joe Biden, one of the president's main political rivals. During his testimony, Mr. Taylor also criticized Mr. Trump's decision to delay military aid to Ukraine and a White House invitation to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, saying it ran counter to U.S. foreign policy goals in the region and damaged Washington's relationship with Kyiv. Mr. Taylor's appointment was set to expire in early January but the State Department did not extend his stay. (RFE/RL)

### 600 UOC-MP parishes convert to OCU

Some 600 parishes in Ukraine belonging to the Orthodox Church aligned with the Moscow Patriarchate have in one year switched over to the newly formed Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU), the new Church's leader says. Metropolitan Epifaniy told RFE/RL in an interview over the weekend that he foresaw another “wave” in the future of “such massive conversions.” However, “we want them to continue to be peaceful, calm, and voluntary... we do not need confrontation,” he said. The

Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) doesn't recognize and opposes the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, which was granted independence in January 2019 by the Patriarchate of Constantinople in Istanbul. Epifaniy was installed as the new church's metropolitan on February 3 after an election by high-ranking clergy in Kyiv. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

### Two Ukrainian soldiers killed in Donbas

Ukraine's military has said that two of its soldiers were killed during the previous 24 hours while on a combat mission in the country's eastern Donbas region. According to a post on Facebook by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, one of its soldiers was killed as Russia-backed separatists violated a ceasefire deal four times since January 5. Another soldier was killed inside a military truck that ran over an explosive device near the frontline town of Khutir Vilnyi in the eastern Luhansk region. Another soldier traveling in the vehicle also was seriously wounded, the statement said. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry said ceasefire violations by separatists also included the firing of 82-millimeter mortar rockets, grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and different types of firearms at Ukrainian positions in the conflict zone. Ukrainian forces liberated the town of Khutir Vilnyi, also known as Zolote-5, in late September 2018 in the Luhansk region. Russian-backed forces had often fired on Ukrainian positions from the town, Kyiv had said. It currently has less than 20 civilian residents. Nearly 14,000 people have been killed in the conflict and 1.5 million more have been displaced. (RFE/RL)

### Languages being squeezed in Crimea

The last remaining Ukrainian-language school in Russian-occupied Crimea doesn't provide instruction in the eastern Slavic language, Eskender Bariyev, head of the Crimean-Tatar Resource Center, told RFE/RL in a radio interview on January 1. Seven Ukrainian schools functioned on the peninsula before Russian President Vladimir

(Continued on page 10)

## 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](http://www.ukrweekly.com)

The Ukrainian Weekly, January 12, 2020, No. 2, Vol. LXXXVIII

Copyright © 2020 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: [advertising@ukrweekly.com](mailto:advertising@ukrweekly.com)

Subscription Department

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



## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Ukraine's leaders further jeopardize suspected Mайдan killers' trial

by Halya Coynash  
Kharkiv Human Rights  
Protection Group

In releasing five suspected Mайдan killers in the December 29, 2019, prisoner swap, Ukraine's leaders also gave Russia potent ammunition for its propaganda war against Ukraine. The clear efforts to totally rewrite the facts about the Euro-Mайдan make it all the more imperative that the men's trial is properly concluded, even if this is now in absentia.

Although Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has sworn that this will happen, the replacement of the prosecutors running the case from the outside by puppet prosecutors on December 27, 2019, give very real grounds for doubting the sincerity of such assurances. The families of the activists gunned down in February 2014 and their lawyers have issued an urgent appeal, stressing the danger to Ukraine's most important trial if this is allowed to happen.

As reported, the Kyiv Court of Appeal on December 28, 2019, released from custody three former Berkut officers charged with the mass murder of 48 Mайдan activists, and freed from house arrest two other defendants. All five men (Serhiy Tamtur, Serhiy Zinchenko, Pavlo Abroskin, Oleh Yanishevsky and Oleksandr Marynchenko) were handed over to the Russian-controlled Donbas "republics" the following day. The court's ruling was issued at the end of a "hearing" that lasted two days although the result was known in advance.

The men being allowed to escape justice is only part of the problem. The Advocacy Advisory Panel points out that at the beginning of the appeal hearing, the entire prosecution team was removed: "The prosecu-

tors who had in proper manner and through all these years represented the prosecution in this case – Oleksiy Donsky, Ihor Zemskov, Yanis Simonov, [Denis Ivanov] and the others in the group who did not come to court, but also carried out important work in preparing for the court hearings, gathering evidence, etc. – were thrown off the case and replaced by puppet prosecutors."

It is clear, they and the NGO representing the families of slain Mайдan activists believe, that this was done because the real prosecutors opposed any change in the suspects' restraint measures. They were removed by Prosecutor General Ruslan Riaboshapka, and replaced by Serhiy Kutsy, Oleksandr Shevelenko and Denis Subotnin. These new prosecutors were brought in to support the political decision to release the men from custody, which they did, even though they acknowledged the risk that the men would abscond and, therefore, the fact that the detention ruling from December 19, 2019, had been justified.

It is these new prosecutors, who also have no experience of the case, who are now entrusted with carrying the trial through to a just conclusion.

The Advocacy Advisory Panel has now learned that interviews are due in early January which could result in Mr. Kutsy also being appointed head of the department within the Prosecutor General's Office on Mайдan cases. The lawyers and the NGO note that the selection commission includes representatives of the Prosecutor General's Office, which is a clear conflict of interests. They believe that this gives grounds for fearing that three of the old prosecutors – Messrs. Ivanov, Simonov and Zemskov – could be "punished" (through

non-appointment, disciplinary measures, etc.) for their refusal to go against their conscience and approve the suspected Mайдan killers' release.

This is not the only concern over the investigation of Mайдan cases. Other interviews are also due in January of investigators and prosecutors in Mайдan cases who have expressed the wish to transfer from the Prosecutor General's Office to the State Bureau of Investigations in connection with the law finally passed on December 3, 2019, to prevent Mайдan investigations from collapsing.

Despite the clear provisions of that law, there is at least one candidate, Oleksiy Bekhovets, who has not been a Mайдan prosecutor before and is not familiar with the cases. The Advocacy Advisory Panel also notes that there appear to be other people on the list who only formally meet the requirements of the law, but who would not fulfill its main objective, namely to ensure continuity and efficiency of the Mайдan investigations. They ask the State Bureau of Investigations [SBI] to not allow the transfer of people who do not meet the requirements of the letter and the spirit of the law, and to publish the list of members of the commission who will be holding these interviews, as well as a list of the candidates and of the criteria for assessing their suitability.

The authors call on SBI to hold a meeting with Mайдan victims and their lawyers to hear their views on the situation and the problems with the investigations into Mайдan cases and that their position be taken into account with respect to the above-mentioned and other appointments linked with Mайдan.

They ask that a new organizational

structure for the State Bureau of Investigations be handed to the president for confirmation, with this including the creation of a department on Mайдan cases, with a staff of 100.

People should not be appointed to managerial posts within the State Bureau of Investigations who have a conflict of interests. Although the appeal does not mention names, Mайдan lawyer Yevhenia Zakrevska has reported that Oleksandr Babikov, who represented former President Viktor Yanukovich in his trial (in absentia) on charges of treason, has been appointed a deputy head of SBI.

Ukraine's leaders were warned well before the exchange that Russia was insisting that Ukraine release Mайдan suspects, the men convicted of the Kharkiv terrorist attack that killed a child and three adults, and similar, in order to divide and destabilize Ukraine.

Moscow clearly wanted the Mайдan suspects freed for another reason as well, namely to intensify attempts at distorting the facts about Euro-Mайдan and the gunning down of protesters on February 18 and 20, 2014. State-controlled media, such as the TV channel Rossiya 24 and RIA Novosti have already taken interviews with some of the men. These are entirely uncritical, with no inconvenient questions asked, meaning that the suspects' claims about what happened on the Mайдan are likely to be believed by the audience. In their alternative reality, Berkut officers only shot back "in self-defense," and the shootings were some kind of "provocation by the opposition." They themselves have consistently denied having taken part in any shooting,

(Continued on page 7)

## Russia and Ukraine reach five-year gas-transit deal

RFE/RL

Russia and Ukraine have signed a five-year, \$7 billion deal on the transit of Russian natural gas to Europe following intense negotiations ahead of a year-end deadline.

The deal, negotiated in Vienna, was confirmed by the respective Russian and Ukrainian state gas companies, as well as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a social-media post on December 30.

The current agreement was set to expire on December 31, risking Europe's vital link to billions of cubic meters in gas from Russia via Ukrainian pipelines in the depths of winter.

About 40 percent of the 200 billion cubic meters (bcm) of gas that Russia has sent to Europe annually has been transmitted via Ukraine's vast network of pipelines.

Energy relations between the two neighboring countries are part of a bigger geopolitical tussle involving military occupation – Russia invaded and annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula in 2014 and has backed militants in the eastern part of the country – alleged cyberwarfare, propaganda, and international lawsuits on human rights abuses and misappropriated assets.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev described the deal as "a compromise that had to be reached" in comments posted on his VKontakte page on December 31.

"The signing of these documents indi-

cates that it is possible to discuss and reach an understanding even on the most difficult issues," he added.

### "Pump or pay"

Under the new contract, Kyiv next year is expecting to ship a minimum of 65 bcm, or about 22 bcm less than it did in 2018. Minimum volumes will decrease further to 40 bcm in 2021-2024.

The new deal has a "pump or pay" clause, meaning Russia must pay the minimum gas-transit fee even if it doesn't pump the contracted volumes through Ukraine, said Yuriy Vitrenko, executive director of Ukrainian state-run Naftogaz, on Facebook.

Russian state Gazprom CEO Aleksei Miller described the set of agreements as a "big package deal that restored the balance of interests between the parties."

Additionally, according to Mr. Vitrenko, transit fees for additional volumes beyond the minimum amount "would substantially increase."

Russia has twice cut off gas supplies to Ukraine – in 2006 and 2009, leaving households and businesses there and in countries farther west out in the cold.

But as Russia has moved closer to completing a second underwater gas pipeline project to feed Germany, known as Nord Stream 2, Ukraine's role as a vital gas-transit country for Europe has been imperiled.

Russia has 10 percent left to complete

(Continued on page 6)

## American companies studying purchase of Ukraine's Motor Sich, U.S. diplomat says

by Todd Prince  
RFE/RL

William Taylor, the outgoing top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, has said that "serious American" companies are studying the possible purchase of Motor Sich, one of the world's top makers of aircraft engines.

The United States, which has provided Ukraine with more than \$1.5 billion in military aid over the past five years, has lobbied against the possible sale of the strategic company and its advanced technology to China.

Motor Sich is privately owned by its chief executive, Vyacheslav Bohuslayev. The 81-year-old said he agreed to sell the bulk of his shares to Chinese companies because they were willing to invest the hundreds of millions of dollars necessary to keep the aging plant in Zaporizhzhya running and its thousands of workers employed.

However, the deal has yet to receive Ukrainian government approval.

U.S. President Donald Trump in August 2019 dispatched then-National Security Adviser John Bolton to Kyiv to dissuade Ukraine from allowing the sale to the Chinese. Mr. Bolton subsequently "energized" the dialogue between U.S. companies and Ukrainian officials about the purchase of Motor Sich, Ambassador Taylor said.

"There are some serious American and other companies interested in Motor Sich," the envoy said in an interview on December 26, 2019, in Kyiv with Ukrainian media

as he gets set to leave his post on January 2.

"They're doing some due diligence, checking balance sheets, visiting the plant, talking to the owners. They're doing some serious evaluation," Ambassador Taylor said.

He did not disclose the names of the American companies.

The Wall Street Journal reported last month that Erik Prince – a private defense contractor whose company is registered in Beijing and Hong Kong and who is an informal adviser to President Trump – had been in talks to acquire Motor Sich.

A founder of the defense contractor formerly known as Blackwater, Mr. Prince had reportedly been to Ukraine nine times since 2014 and visited the advanced aircraft-engine maker's headquarters in Zaporizhzhya.

Citing U.S. officials briefed on the matter, The Wall Street Journal reported on November 5, 2019, that the U.S. administration had allegedly approached Mr. Prince and at least one other potential buyer to acquire the company, which possesses sensitive technologies.

With reporting by the Kyiv Post and The Wall Street Journal.

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/american-companies-interested-buying-motor-sich-ukraine/30346748.html>).



# UCCA National Council welcomes UABA

## UCCA

NEW YORK – The Executive Board of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the representative assembly of nearly 30 regional and national associations of Ukrainian Americans representing the interests of nearly 2 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, has announced that the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) has been accepted as the newest member organization of the UCCA National Council.

Assembling in New York City on December 7, 2019, UCCA National Council delegates – representing Ukrainian Churches and Ukrainian American religious associations, educational institutions, national and central member organizations, and local UCCA chapters – reviewed a year’s worth of UCCA activities at a meeting presided over by National Council Chair Stefan Kaczaraj, who is the Ukrainian

National Association’s president/CEO.

The high point of the afternoon, however, was the report of UCCA’s Membership Committee, which is authorized and required to review each applicant for membership. On the recommendation of the committee’s chair, Marie Duplak, the UCCA National Council, the highest ruling body between the UCCA’s quadrennial conventions, unanimously voted to admit the UABA as its newest member organization.

Founded in 1977, the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) is a national bar association whose members are U.S. judges, attorneys and law students of Ukrainian descent and those American attorneys with an interest in Ukrainian matters.

Over four decades, UABA members have developed working relationships with Ukrainian judges, jurists and government officials, led pro bono initiatives on behalf

of Ukrainian American causes, established a legal scholarship fund, provided assistance to Ukrainian Embassy and consular offices in the United States, and held multi-day conferences at the U.S. Capitol attended by members of Congress, U.S. diplomats, judges, U.S. State Department and foreign policy experts, and representatives from the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington and guests from Ukraine, on issues relevant to Ukraine’s security from foreign aggression and continued development as a sovereign democracy governed by the rule of law.

“We have been fortunate that in the past few years several prominent national organizations have returned to the UCCA, giving our community a better opportunity to speak with one voice to foster a greater understanding of and stronger advocacy for Ukraine,” stated UCCA President Andriy Futey.

“I am delighted to welcome UABA as our

newest member organization, and look forward to their active involvement and to the many contributions they will make. I would also like to thank UCCA’s Membership Committee and the leadership of the UABA in getting us to this historic vote. 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,” added Mr. Futey.

Bohdan Shandor, newly elected president of the UABA, commented on the new relationship with the UCCA by saying, “The UABA is both excited and enthusiastic at becoming a member, and we look forward to working closely with UCCA, an organization with a stellar history that over the years has worked tirelessly for the Ukrainian American community and the freedom-loving people of Ukraine.”

## Building...

(Continued from page 1)

We provide young people with tools and resources to launch their projects. And it works. Thus, they learn responsibility and confidence. That’s what motivates us – not the homes we rebuild, but the people we reinforce on the way,” he explained.

On Saturday evening, December 21, 2019, more than 100 volunteers and BUR friends gathered at the platform of art and science Ostriv (Island) to celebrate half a decade of the project’s dynamic activity. Between partying, coordinators summarized the achievements of BUR. During these five years, around 2,800 volunteers were involved in different activities of the movement. BUR reached 22 of Ukraine’s 25 regions. Sixty-two towns or villages were locations of two-week BUR camps, which are platforms for community engagement for rural and urban spaces development.

“We help families to rebuild housing, create open spaces in abandoned areas, and have a cultural and educational program for volunteers and communities where we learn, communicate and share the experience,” related Khrystyna Dubnytska, head of the BUR communications team.

At BUR camps, volunteers repaired 214 damaged houses, created fifty-two public spaces, painted 60 murals or graffiti, and created 24 youth platforms in the five years since the project emerged. Hundreds of volunteers do not hesitate to spend their vacations at a camp to build physical walls and destroy metaphorical ones.

For those who do not have enough time for this kind of activity, the Building Ukraine Together movement has a “BURCHYK” – a mini-version of the classic BUR camp which brings values of mutual assistance and good neighborliness to the community. “We develop civic awareness through short-term initiatives: we help families in need, create public spaces,” the BUR website notes.

Another part of the December celebration was a discussion on volunteering. BUR’s Mr. Didula and Roman Sakh, creator of Ostriv (the platform where the party was held), were joined by journalist Roman Skrypin and co-founder of the Leaders Fund Denys Andrushchenko. They spoke about how to be an effective volunteer, in particular of BUR, and make an impact without necessarily participating in a camp.

“We focus on the identification, development and strengthening of the BUR volunteer network and enabling its members to initiate positive changes in their communi-



Yurko Didula, a co-founder of the Building Ukraine Together project.

ties. Our engagement with volunteers does not end at camp. Among the hundreds of young people who come to the volunteer camps, many have their project ideas,” Mr. Didula said. “We build young leaders’ capacity for learning and applying new knowledge and skills in the field of social activism through participation in a training program for 50 called the ‘BURLAB Responsibility Laboratory’ and subsequent implementation of their mini-projects in communities.”

BURLAB is a 10-day project management school for BUR volunteers, where they learn how to implement their own social and business projects. The school provides maximum information and tools on project management, fund-raising and public relations. As part of BURLAB, the team holds the “Leadership in Mountings,” a two-day teambuilding program where they focus on teamwork, responsibilities and roles based on BUR values, trust and understanding of the BUR-mission. Thirteen teams participated in the most recent BURLAB and presented their mini-projects at the end of the training. The team will continue mentoring BURLAB mini-project teams in 2020.

“The Building Ukraine Together project, which began with a simple desire to help, has evolved into a national mechanism for aid and community development,” Mr. Didula continued. “Ukraine is full of ideas. There is often a lack of people with the confidence and resources to bring these ideas to life. And when volunteers from all over Ukraine come together, communities can accomplish more than they thought possible.”

Shining examples of such communities that emerged very recently could be seen at the BUR birthday celebration. The team from Pereyaslav (Kyiv region) arrived at the birthday party and brought a gift – a painting by Oleksandr Chubai, a person with a disability. The artwork now decorates the wall in BUR’s Lviv office and is reminiscent of the warm autumn when Mr. Chubai and BUR volunteers cooperated to create the youth art space Jam Toloka. Then BUR helped Mr. Chubai to repair his house. Mr. Chubai met his future wife while working on the project. As a result, several BUR volunteers combined a work trip to Pereyaslav with attending Mr. Chubai’s wedding.

“I have known Oleksandr since childhood. We live in one area, almost neighbors. But only after his injury did we become closer,” recalled BUR local camp coordinator Ihor Yanchuk. “He became a stronger person. Doctors said that there was little chance of surviving the operation, but Sasha (as friends call Oleksandr) not only survived but also started an active lifestyle, despite his wheelchair. After his injury, a lot of friends lost contact with him. Then his mother died. I pulled him into Jam Toloka. At first, he was ashamed to go out,

but eventually, he realized that this is normal and life goes on.”

Mr. Yanchuk saw in Mr. Chubai the potential of a pyrography artist. When Mr. Chubai became a member of Jam Toloka, he attracted both private customers and orders from social city projects. And one of his paintings, of course, he gifted to BUR.

“There is so little practical training in Ukrainian education that we are forced to make ‘learning by doing’ possible,” explained Mr. Didula, speaking about the main principles of BUR training. “Project teams, with meager funds, learn to plan, set KPIs [key performance indicators] and evaluate their work. Most Ukrainians lack entrepreneurial thinking and fear responsibility, but not our volunteers. We are deeply changing Ukraine.”

“The youth centers that have emerged after the Building Ukraine Together camps play a role similar to that of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. They form an environment of people who trust each other and share common values. And this, in turn, gives one a sense of belonging and a desire to work for something greater than oneself,” Mr. Didula underscored. “We not only dream of a better Ukraine, but we are building it with our own hands.”

## The OSCE...

(Continued from page 2)

Moldova is the last remaining European country where the OSCE is still trying its hand at conflict-mediation through a locally based mission. The effort is 26 years old and undertaken jointly with Russia since 1997. From that point onward, the OSCE adopted Russia’s definitions of the Transnistria conflict: an internal conflict, Chisinau and Tiraspol as “the Sides” to this conflict, Russia ostensibly being a mediator (like the OSCE itself) between Chisinau and Tiraspol, and the solution being a “special status” for Transnistria (mirror case to Russia’s “special status” project in Ukraine’s eastern Donbas since 2014).

By the same token, Moldova is the only contested country on which the OSCE is able to adopt resolutions fairly easily at the year-end ministerial meetings, including this year in Bratislava. This largely reflects the OSCE’s acceptance of Russia’s definitions of the Transnistria conflict (as noted above) and the roles of both the OSCE and (officially) Russia as mediators. This year’s resolution stands out, not for its practical recommendations or goals (these are phrased abstractly), but especially for treat-

ing Chisinau and Tiraspol as politically and morally equivalent. Thus, the OSCE’s participating states “commend the Sides for further consolidating the achievements since the Vienna ministerial meeting,” “encourage the Sides to develop joint proposals for confidence-building measures,” and “applaud the commitment, leadership and political will of the Sides to the resolution of a number of long-standing issues [the latter are mainly of a social nature]” (Ministerial Statement on the Negotiations on the Transdnistrian Settlement Process, Bratislava, December 6, 2019).

Russia has no intention to fully paralyze the OSCE as a security actor in Europe’s East. Russia is, rather, interested in keeping the OSCE where it is on the ground, unable to seriously interfere with Russia’s conflict undertakings, but providing a token of Western presence on a Russian leash. With the OSCE already holding (pre-empting) that niche, organizations unconstrained by Russia’s direct influence, such as the European Union, are given excuses to keep out from conflict-resolution and peace-keeping activities in Europe’s East.

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





# The Ukrainian National Association FORUM

## UNA CELEBRATES 125 YEARS: A snapshot from history, 1991



Above, in a photo taken in 1991 at Soyuzivka, are the members of the UNA Supreme Assembly elected at the Ukrainian National Association's 32nd Convention in 1990. Seen above are: (seated from left) Supreme Auditors Taras Szmagala Sr., Anatole Doroshenko and William Pastuszek, Supreme Vice-Presidentess Gloria Paschen, Supreme Director for Canada John Hewryk, Supreme President Ulana Diachuk, Supreme Vice-President Nestor Olesnycky, Supreme Secretary Walter Sochan, Supreme Treasurer Alexander Blathitka,

Supreme Auditors Wasyl Didiuk and Stefan Hawrysz; (second row) Supreme Advisors Genevieve Zerebniak, Helen Olek-Scott, Anya Dydyk-Petrenko, Roma Hadzewycz, Anne Remick, Tekla Moroz and Walter Kwas, Honorary Member of the Supreme Assembly Mary Dushnyck, Supreme Advisors Vasyl Luchkiw and Andrew Jula, and Honorary Member Anne Chopek; (third row) Supreme Advisors Pawlo Dorozynsky, Andrew Keybida, Alex Chudolij, Wasyl Liscynsky, Walter Korchynsky and Eugene Iwanciw.

*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/](http://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  
**125 YEARS**

**UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
2200 ROUTE 10, PARSIPPANY, NJ 07054 • [WWW.UNAINC.ORG](http://WWW.UNAINC.ORG)

### UNA Home Office mails ballots for special vote on amended UNA By-Laws

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian National Association's Home Office has mailed a voting package to all delegates to the last UNA Convention, held in May 2018, and to current members of the UNA General Assembly.

The package contains proposed changes to the UNA By-Laws and a ballot that is to be returned via the mail by January 21. Delegates and General Assembly members are being asked to vote on proposed changes to the UNA By-Laws, a draft of which was presented to delegates at the UNA's 2018 Convention.

The voting takes place as the UNA celebrates the 125th anniversary of its founding. As noted in a letter from UNA President/CEO Stefan Kaczaraj that was sent with the ballots, "The passage of these By-Laws is an important and crucial step to ensure the UNA's viability for the next 125 years."

Also included in the packet sent by certified mail to convention delegates and General Assembly members were the Proposed Amended Charter and By-Laws of the Ukrainian National Association, Inc., as well as a summary of the key highlights of the proposed amendments.

In the event that any delegate or General Assembly member did not receive the packet, they are urged to phone the Home Office at 973-292-9800.



## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### About swapping prisoners and justice

On December 29, Ukraine and the Russian-backed "authorities" in the Donetsk and Luhansk "people's republics" carried out a prisoner exchange whereby 76 Ukrainian captives – 12 military personnel and 64 civilians – were swapped for 127 people who were released to Russia's proxies. It certainly was not the "all for all" prisoner exchange foreseen by the Normandy format talks of December 9, 2019, nor was it an even swap. Moreover, no Crimean Tatars were among those released, nor were the political prisoners held in Russia. Nonetheless, there was real joy in Ukraine upon the return of those held by Russian-backed forces, some of them since 2015.

But there was one aspect of the exchange that is deeply troubling, and controversial. Among the prisoners released by Ukraine were ex-officers of the Berkut implicated in the killings of protesters during the Revolution of Dignity in February 2014 and pro-Russian militants convicted of a terrorist attack in Kharkiv in February 2015. The Kyiv Court of Appeal on December 28 freed from custody five former Berkut officers charged with killing 48 Maidan activists; that same day a Kharkiv court sentenced the three militants responsible for four deaths to life imprisonment, but then promptly released them from custody. It was justice denied.

Critics said President Volodymyr Zelenskyy – who called the swap "a great victory" – had gone too far in his concessions and that including these men in the exchange undermines ongoing criminal cases. Oleh Sentsov, who had been a political prisoner before he was set free in a swap in September 2019, said Kyiv was giving up "real murderers" and that "everything Ukrainians fought for" was being undermined.

Mr. Zelenskyy responded by explaining that the transfer of the former Berkut officers was a condition of the prisoner exchange and saying "it was a difficult decision" and a "political" one. "If they had stayed, we would not have received our intelligence officers, would not have received the guys who were defending Ukraine, who were in Debaltseve," he added. "We cannot bring the dead back. But we could bring those alive back," he underlined, adding "that's the main thing." At the same time, he pledged: "It will not affect the cases of Maidan in any way. As I promised, we will finish the investigation of Maidan cases. Definitely."

The problem is, as pointed out in a joint statement from a coalition of groups, organizations and NGOs headed by the Anti-Corruption Action Center, the actions of Ukraine's authorities "are ruining the remaining trust in the justice system, and first of all in the recent attempts to reform the prosecutor's office and the judiciary." In fact, "Ukraine risks making its justice system a hostage of the demands of the aggressor state," the statement emphasizes. "We urge the authorities to find a legal solution to this situation, which will ensure the trust of the society and the citizens, as well as establish real independence of the prosecutor's office and the judiciary."

While German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron hailed the exchange as a "a long-hoped-for humanitarian gesture that should contribute to the restoration of trust between the two sides," the European Union noted the inclusion of the Berkut men and said, "We expect all accusations will continue to be investigated and the parties concerned to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice."

If they are not brought to justice, Russia will once again get what it wants and succeed in hiding its link to the Maidan killings that took place during the regime of its puppet Viktor Yanukovich.

Jan.  
13  
2015

### Turning the pages back...

Five years ago, on January 13, 2015, Russia-backed forces in Ukraine's occupied territories launched their biggest military campaign against Ukrainian forces since the September 5 Minsk ceasefire protocols, staging hundreds of attacks in a fierce attempt to take control of the territory of the ruined Donetsk airport.

In addition to the military attacks, terrorist attacks were launched throughout Ukraine: on January 13 in Volnovakha 13 civilians were killed and 17 injured; in Kharkiv on January 19, 14 were injured at a courthouse; and on the next day in the Zaporizhzhya region a bridge was blown up as a cargo train crossed it. The city of Avdiivka's coke plant in the Donetsk region was targeted by the Russia-backed forces as well.

Experts saw the move by Russia as intended to boost its negotiating position after failing to gain concessions at a January 12 foreign affairs ministers meeting in Berlin. A planned January 15 meeting in Kazakhstan with France and Germany fell through after preconditions weren't met.

"Russia, together with the separatists, is trying to revise the Minsk accords, while Ukraine and the EU are insisting on their fulfillment," said Volodymyr Fesenko of the Penta Center for Applied Political Research in Kyiv. "Not having achieved their goal, Russia and the separatists want to force Ukraine into a peace based on their conditions."

Russia's primary goal was for the separatists to be recognized as an official part in the negotiation process, rather than observers, as they had been previously designated. On the ground, Russia would attempt to move the contact line as far west into Ukrainian lands as possible. Other targeted cities included the train hub city of Debaltseve and the Azov Sea port of Mariupol.

Russia suffered hundreds of casualties during the week of January 17-18, and after that, Russian armed forces dispatched two tactical groups into Ukrainian territory, reported the National Security and Defense Council on January 19. Reported hardware included tanks, howitzers, radio-electronic warfare systems, as well as Grad, Smerch and Buk rocket systems.

Another round of talks was scheduled for January 21 in Berlin at the ministerial level in the Normandy format (France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia). Foreign Affairs Minister Pavlo Klimkin expressed skepticism about the talks, as Russia would need to remove its

(Continued on page 14)

## WINDOW ON EURASIA

### By taking Zelenskyy's calls, Putin hopes to spark civil war in Ukraine, says analyst

by Paul Goble

By taking the New Year's call from Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Vladimir Putin hopes to deepen the split between those like the Ukrainian president who feel they must come hat in hand to the master in the Kremlin and those who have been fighting for five years against the Russian president's efforts to occupy and destroy Ukraine, Vitaly Portnikov says.

And if that split becomes deep enough, the Ukrainian commentator says, the Kremlin leader hopes that it will spark a civil war in Ukraine, something that will not only justify Mr. Putin's own actions but allow him to achieve his long-held and unchanging goal of destroying Ukrainian statehood ([graniru.org/opinion/portnikov/m.278117.html](http://graniru.org/opinion/portnikov/m.278117.html)).

Mr. Zelenskyy said he called Mr. Putin in order to follow up on the recent exchange of prisoners, but he could have called about that on another occasion when the conversation, the first new year's exchange between the presidents of the two countries in years, would not have been so freighted with political meaning, Mr. Portnikov says.

In fact, the commentator continues, Mr. Zelenskyy wanted to call Mr. Putin on New Year's "for one simple reason: this was a call to a 'real' president from someone who hardly considers himself a real president at all" and who still worse "hardly considers Ukraine a real state either." Mr. Putin and Russia are entirely different.

Mr. Putin, whose "office is located in a sacred place for every Soviet and post-Soviet individual," runs a state in which he acts without any doubts about his status and that of his country. He can punish those he wants to, and he can pardon those who appeal to him in the right way if that is what he wants.

Mr. Zelenskyy clearly hopes that "perhaps" Mr. Putin will "stop shooting, release prisoners and allow the little president of

the little country to rule in his small place without obstacles." This, of course, is "the simple logic of a small man who became president of a large country fighting for its chance to exist and remain Ukraine," Mr. Portnikov writes.

"But the problem and tragedy of Ukraine is that this logic is no accident. And Zelenskyy himself is no accident either," given that "a large segment of the residents of this big country view themselves as small people in a small non-state." For such people, the commentator notes, "the word 'patriot' has become just as much a curse word as the word 'nationalist' once was."

At the same time, however, there are many Ukrainians who do not think like this and do not support what Mr. Zelenskyy is doing. "Each such step by him ever more strongly deepens the gulf between the president and the patriotic part of society, and this means between the patriots of Ukraine and those who whose interests" Mr. Zelenskyy in fact represents.

According to Mr. Portnikov, "the Kremlin understands this perfectly." And it hopes to use it to its advantage. Having failed to split Ukraine in 2013-2014, it now hopes to "ignite a real internal conflict among Ukrainians. Putin needs a civil war to justify himself and establish control over Ukraine after a new conflict."

And because that is the case, he will always be willing to take "each new call of Zelenskyy's."

*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/>).*

## Russia...

(Continued from page 3)

the 2,460-kilometer pipeline project, which would in effect dispose of Ukraine's transmission network.

However, U.S. sanctions earlier in December 2019 forced underwater pipeline work to stop because they target companies involved in the project, the main one of which is a Swiss-Dutch company.

As a result, completion of Nord Stream 2 could stretch to 2023 or beyond, Aleksei Rakhmanov, president of Russia's United Shipbuilding Corporation, said on December 24. It would take Russia two years to design the ships needed for the project, and even more to build, he said.

### Some legal disputes settled, but not all

The new deal, according to Mr. Zelenskyy, stipulates that "both sides reserve the right to extend the contract for another 10 years" after its expiration.

Also part of the new contract is Russia agreeing to pay \$2.9 billion to Ukraine as

part of a Stockholm arbitration court ruling, which Moscow did on December 27.

In turn, Naftogaz has promised to release seized assets belonging to Gazprom in Europe, and both parties have agreed to drop reciprocal court claims that haven't concluded and sign an out-of-court settlement.

However, lawsuits on a state level, particularly Naftogaz's claims against Russia for seizing the company's assets during its annexation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula, aren't affected by the new transit contract.

On December 21, Gazprom and Naftogaz said that they had reached a preliminary agreement on the new deal to ship Russian gas through Ukraine's pipelines. But technical and other talks on specifics continued until the announcement of the signing.

*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](http://www.rferl.org) (<https://www.rferl.org/a/long-russia-ukraine-reach-five-year-gas-transit-deal/30353000.html>).*





**FOR THE RECORD****Secretary of State on UIA crash**

*U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo released the following statement on January 8.*

The U.S. Department of State extends our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the 176 passengers and crew killed in the tragic crash of Ukraine

International Airlines flight PS 752. The United States will continue to follow this incident closely and stands prepared to offer Ukraine all possible assistance. The United States calls for complete cooperation with any investigation into the cause of the crash.

**UCC on crash of UIA Flight 752**

*The Ukrainian Canadian Congress issued the release below on January 8.*

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) expresses its deep condolences to the loved ones of the victims of the Ukraine International Airlines airplane crash. UIA Flight 752 crashed minutes after takeoff from Tehran, Iran, on the night of January 7, 2020.

According to reports, 63 Canadians were among the 176 victims who died in the crash.

"On behalf of the UCC, I express my condolences to the families and friends of the victims of this terrible event," stated

Alexandra Chyczj, president of the UCC. "We are deeply saddened and shocked by this devastating tragedy, and join Ukraine, Canada and the international community in mourning. It is particularly tragic to see that so many of the victims were young people. May the memory of the victims be eternal. Вічна пам'ять."

In Kyiv this morning, flowers were being placed at the doors of the Embassy of Canada to Ukraine to honor and remember the many Canadian victims.

While the cause of the plane crash has not yet been established, we urge all of the national governments involved to work cooperatively on a full investigation.

**Prisoner exchange: the real cost**

*The following statement was released by the Ukrainian World Congress on December 29, 2019.*

After the December 9 Normandy summit in Paris, the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), together with millions of Ukrainians around the world, continues to follow the implementation of its key resolutions. The agreement as announced by President Zelenskyy to an "all for all" prisoner exchange between Ukraine and Russia was one of the most anticipated immediate steps. While the UWC welcomes the return of 76 Ukrainian political and military prisoners to their families, the global Ukrainian community shares the deep concern of Ukraine's civil society about the actual cost of this exchange and its future implications.

These concerns relate to the exchange by Ukraine of suspects accused of torturing and killing peaceful protesters during Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity in 2014. This demand by Russia further demonstrates its direct involvement in the crimes committed against the 2014 peaceful demonstrations in Ukraine, which they continue to deny. This is another glaring example of the hybrid war Russia wages against Ukraine.

The UWC once again calls on the international community to declare Russia as an aggressor state, and maintain pressure and sanctions to prevent further hostage-taking and ensure effective implementation of the Normandy summit resolutions. With its demand for the exchange of these security

forces, Russia can no longer deny its responsibility for the atrocities committed during Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity, nor its control over proxies and mercenaries of the so-called LNR and DNR.

The UWC calls on the president and government of Ukraine to uphold the rule of law and remain committed to the independence and integrity of the judicial system in Ukraine. The global Ukrainian community stands with the citizens of Ukraine in demanding that justice is finally brought upon those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed against the Ukrainian people. We must honor the sacrifices and protect the values of the Revolution of Dignity.

"The Ukrainian World Congress, and the global Ukrainian community, stood shoulder to shoulder with the people of Ukraine in 2014 during the Revolution of Dignity and continue to support Ukraine as its people bravely defend their homes and families against Russia's continued military aggression. The world needs to be reminded that brave Ukrainian men and women continue to die and be wounded almost on a daily basis by Russian-controlled forces. We urge the international community to support Ukraine in the face of continued Russian hybrid aggression which takes many shapes and forms. Implementation of the Normandy resolutions is necessary for peace in Ukraine, but it must be fair and not at all costs," stated Paul Grod, UWC president.

**Ukraine's leaders...**

(Continued from page 3)

and in one of the interviews it was claimed that the fact the trial was taking so long was proof that there was no evidence against them.

All of the above is in conflict with vast amounts of video footage, witness testimony and material evidence (ballistic reports, etc.). The trial was taking so long because of the enormous number of victims who needed to be questioned, and the scrupu-

lous efforts by the prosecutors from the now-dissolved Special Investigations Department to ensure that the case would stand up at all court levels, including international, not for want of evidence.

If the trial is now allowed to become an empty formality, and other investigations left to quietly die, there is a real danger that this will be used by Russia, together with certain individuals in Ukraine, like Andriy Portnov, a former aide to Viktor Yanukovich, to actively push their own, "alternative" narrative about what happened on the Maidan.

**2020 visions**

It's New Year's Eve in a tony East Coast suburb.

"Old Shchur must have done well this year," declares Danko, swirling his cabernet. "He used to serve plonk from Modesto. Now it's Napa Valley, and the best."

"You've got to admit the economy's doing well," replies Romko. "Robust growth, low interest rates, and the Dow is up. Even we Ukes have come up in the world. Globalization is our friend."

"It's not floating all boats," counters Danko. "Look at those miners and steelworkers in the Rust Belt. They're not even looking for jobs. That's why they don't show up in the statistics. They're getting addicted to opioids, getting divorced and killing themselves. There's a lot of descendants of our old immigrants there... And guess who they'll vote for next year."

"And for good reason. But you and I must be living in different universes. Because in reality, those workers have been doing better these past three years. Employment is up, wages are up... Now that we're playing tough with China and putting up tariffs, deregulating our industries, limiting immigration, our workers have a chance. We needed a little creative destruction."

"It's destruction all right, but I wouldn't call it creative," interjects Irka, drifting in from Shchur's dim library. The federal government isn't just a bunch of bean-counting bureaucrats. Decades of hard work have been thrown to the winds. Environmental protection, health and safety regulations..."

"Besides, immigrants aren't taking away those jobs," adds Danko. "Immigrants have been doing the hard, dirty work that no one else wanted to do since the Irish potato famine. The guys who mow our lawns and wash our windows didn't take those jobs away from industrial workers in the Rust Belt."

"As if either party cared," muses Irka. "There's no dignified work for Americans with a high-school education, and you can't just re-train them for high-tech jobs. Wall Street and Big Tech love globalization, because it means they can abandon entire communities if there's cheaper labor in Asia. And Wall Street and Big Tech fund both parties. The Republicans are fixated on economic growth and investors' bottom line. The Democrats, who used to support labor, are fixated on the oppressed minority du jour. No one cares about fat middle-aged white men who don't fit into the new economy."

"So, who would you vote for?" asks Danko.

"No one from the big parties," answers Irka. "You know how elections work. They pick the candidate and the program that's most likely to win the election. Then they forget the program and start delivering on the promises they made to their donors. I'll just vote for the best local candidates. Democracy can only be local. Jefferson knew that. The Zaporozhian Sich knew that!"

"Well, you know the litmus test for a presidential candidate. Is he good for Ukraine?"

"Or she," Irka reminds him. "Or they. But who's good for Ukraine? Not someone who doesn't think it's a real country."

"Or someone who thinks socialism is still a workable idea," points out Romko. "But we'll see how the impeachment trial goes. If you can call it a trial."

"Unfortunately, you can't. But how can you not impeach someone who's playing Russia's game? Or at least put him out of the running in November?"

"But impeachment is part of Russia's game too," argues Romko. "It makes us look weak and stupid. Just watch - next year, while we're fixated on impeachment, Putin will pull another fast one. Maybe in Ukraine."

"Professor Schmetterling thinks Putin won't last," remarks Irka.

"He said that ages ago."

"And it's still true."

"It's not just Putin," sighs Danko. "Russia won't stop until they've taken over Ukraine."

"I think they'd rather just control it, subverting its government, fomenting chaos," observes Romko. "And keeping it out of NATO. Let's face it, NATO is an appendage of America. The Russians want to be a big player. They want to cut us down to size. And whatever happened to the multi-polar world? Our liberals used to criticize America being the world's policeman. When we tried to stop communism in Vietnam, they said you can't spread democracy from the barrel of a gun. Now we've had troops in Afghanistan and Iraq for how many years, and what have we accomplished?"

"I don't think America can spread democracy in the Middle East or Africa," admits Danko. "But it should defend democracy where it already exists."

"That idea's past its prime," says Romko bitterly. "We can't be the only superpower. We've got to share power with Europe, India, even undemocratic regimes like China..."

"And Russia?" snaps Danko. "That's not good news for Ukraine."

"Ukraine doesn't have to be an American proxy," comments Romko. "Our politicians think they can tell Ukrainians whom to investigate or not investigate, whom to fire, whom to elect. It's shameful. Ukraine needs to stand on her own feet. And she belongs in Europe."

"But Ukraine can't trust the Europeans," Danko points out. "They don't care about Ukrainians. They're certainly not going to stick their necks out for them simply because they have better 'European values' than Europe itself."

"Remember," Romko adds, "Europe isn't even a nation. And the EU is coming apart. It's lost its focus. It's an unelected bureaucracy that tells national electorates what to do. And no one benefits but the global elite. Your Polish coalminer in Silesia resents them for the same reasons his cousin in Pennsylvania resents people like us."

"And Putin exploits that," mutters Irka. "He wanted Brexit, and he got it."

"We scream about populism," remarks Romko, "but one man's populism is another man's democracy. People want to run their own affairs, without Brussels telling them how many centimeters long they have to grow their cucumbers. The problem isn't illiberalism. The problem is ill liberals."

It is nearing midnight. A grinning Shchur approaches with a tray of shot glasses of clear, cold horilka. And they toast a new year filled with dissension and doubt.

Andrew Sorokowski can be reached at [andrewsorokowski@gmail.com](mailto:andrewsorokowski@gmail.com).





**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!*

## ***First time homebuyer?***

**10% Down**  
**No PMI**



**Rates as low as**  
**3.11% APR\***

SRNYFCU NMLS# 699320

**on Fixed Rate Loans.**



### **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 31<sup>ST</sup> Avenue  
Astoria, NY 11106  
Tel:(718) 626-0506  
Fax:(718)626-0458

**LINDENHURST:**

225 N 4<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:Info@selfreliancenyc.org)

Website: [www.selfreliancenyc.org](http://www.selfreliancenyc.org)

\*APR as of 8/16/19 listed above. APR based upon a \$350,000 mortgage amount with no application fee and no points. 10% down-payment required; 1-4 family owner occupied; no points; no prepayment penalties. Rates may change at any time without prior notice. APR – Annual Percentage Rate is the cost of credit over the term of the loan expressed as an annual rate. The APR shown here is based on the interest rates and certain closing costs and does not take into account other loan specific finance charges you may be required to pay.



# Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia present music from the Carpathian Mountains

by Ihor Slabicky

NEW YORK – Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7, 2019, proved to be exceptionally active days at The Ukrainian Museum in New York City. There was the annual Christmas Bazaar, where one could buy books, embroideries and woodcuts, and select from a huge variety of delicious home-made pastries, medivnyky and cookies. Lubow Wolynetz and other baking specialists led a workshop in Ukrainian Christmas Traditions. The exhibit by painter Mikhail Turovsky, "From Darkness to Light," was available for viewing in the main gallery. "The Impact of Modernity" was up in the second floor gallery, and an exhibit of "Selected Works" by Alexander Archipenko in the entry gallery. The "piece de resistance" were the Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia, who had last been at the museum in 2015.

"Koliada and Music from the Carpathians" presented the traditional winter ritual of songs that are performed at each household to ensure health, love, wealth and happiness for all members of the household and a bountiful harvest for the homestead in the coming year.

The Koliadnyky consist of Ivan Zelenchuk (the "bereza" or lead singer), Mykola Zelenchuk (singer, trembita [mountain long horn], drymba [jaw harp] and bubon), Mykola Ilyuk (singer, fiddle, drymba, and folk flutes), Vasyl Tymchuk (tsymbaly), and Ostap Kostyuk (duda [goatskin bagpipes], floyara [overtone flute], drymba, flutes and trembita).

On both Friday and Saturday evening before sold-out houses, they performed the traditional koliada as they have done for countless years in the Carpathian Mountains. These events, presented by artistic director Virlana Tkach, are the first of a year-long celebration that marks the 30th year of the Yara Arts Group, which she heads.

This ritual began with the Koliadnyky ringing hand bells and blowing blasts on the trembita, casting a mystical spell on all who heard them. They announced their presence outside the "house" (the performance space at the museum) with a "Plies" (a winter dance) and then sang "My



Ihor Slabicky

**Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia – Ostap Kostyuk, Mykola Ilyuk, Vasyl Tymchuk, Ivan Zelenchuk and Mykola Zelenchuk – with Julian Kytasty at The Ukrainian Museum in New York City on December 7, 2019.**

Kolidnychky." Next, "Tsy Doma, Doma, Tsey Pan Hospodar" inquired if the master of the house was in and would he invite them in. Mr. Kostyuk then played a tantalizing melody on the duda. With Mr. Ilyuk on violin, the koliadnyky sang "A My Sobi Zaspivayem" finishing with the "Trypotinnya," its rhythmic footwork meant to shake off the snow from their garments.

Certain songs in this ritual are directed to a specific person who is mentioned by name in the song. "V Nashoho Pana" is to the hospodar of the house, in this case, an esteemed gentleman in the audience. After their "vinshuvannia," in which they wished him much plenitude and wealth and bounty in the coming year, Mr. Kostyuk played a melody on the floyara. The koliadnyky sang "V Nedilyu Rano" to the hospodynya of the house, in this case Maria Shust, the director of the museum.

With these greetings concluded, the four musicians played a Hutsul melody on tylynka, tsymbaly, violin and bubon, starting the festive portion of the evening.

Dressed in beautifully embroidered traditional folk costumes, Iryna Voloshyna, Laryssa Czebiniak, Ezra Halleck and Asia Mieszko of the Ukrainian Village Voices entered, their four voices brilliantly blended on "Shcho Na Richtsi, Shcho Na Yordani." In response, Mr. Kostyuk and Mykola Zelenchuk greeted them with a lively "Plies z Dzvinkamy" stepping dance. The response to the Koliadnyky was the shchedrivka "Shcho v Pana Khazayina," sung as a round, with the foursome now in two duos creating an intricate and lyrical weaving. Ms. Czebiniak concluded the quartet's visit with a vinshuvannia for the koliadnyky.

Continuing the festive tone, the trio of Mr. Kostyuk, Mr. Ilyuk and Mykola Zelenchuk performed a medley of folk melodies on their drymby. The four musicians then performed a sensuous "Hutsulka" that segued into a very lively "Arkan."

Renowned bandurist and composer Julian Kytasty joined the Koliadnyky. He sang "Oy Krasenyu Yasniy" a koliadka from the steppes of the Sumy region of Ukraine. The

audience joined the ensemble for a hearty "Dobryi Vechir Tobi, Pane Hospodariu."

"Ishly Molodtsi," a very old koliadka, followed, sung by Mr. Kytasty, as he played on his Kharkivska bandura accompanied by the Koliadnyky. Soloing on the tsymbaly, Mr. Tymchuk played a selection of Hutsul dance melodies, displaying his mastery of the instrument and technique with ever-quickening finger work.

With Mr. Kytasty playing an overblown sopilka, and accompanied by Ms. Voloshyna on a hand drum, the duo sang "Stone Age Carol (Na Chystim Poli)," a piece developed by Mr. Kytasty and Alexis Kochan.

When the duo departed, the Koliadnyky launched into a Hutsul dance medley, which again allowed Mr. Tymchuk to display his mastery of the tsymbaly. They then performed the "Kruhlyak" ritual round dance for the bees, so that they may have robust hives and proliferate in the pollination of flowers.

The Koliadnyky left the house accompanied by the "Plies (My Kolidnychky)" and the "Teche Richka" spivanka. Their departure was heralded by a round of soundings of the trembita. The audience's response was a heartfelt and passionate standing ovation. The Koliadnyky simply had to return, and they did, singing "Slavni Kolidnychky," extolling their fame. The audience joined them to sing a rousing "Nova Radist Stala" and after several more well-deserved ovations, the musicians sat down and performed a lively Hutsul dance melody to end the evening.

Besides performing at The Ukrainian Museum, earlier that Saturday the Koliadnyky held a "Hutsul Winter Songs" workshop in conjunction with the Ukrainian Village Voices. Sunday, December 8, saw them performing with Julian Kytasty and the Accolada Chamber Choir at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, Pa. They again performed with Julian Kytasty on Sunday, December 15, at the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers, NY. On December 21, they appeared with the Nova Opera from Kyiv and the Yara Arts Group in Ms. Tkach's production of "Winter Songs on Mars" at the LaMama Experimental Theater in New York City.

## Ukrainian plane...

(Continued from page 1)

Pentagon and a senior U.S. intelligence official, as well as an Iraqi intelligence official, as saying they believed the Ukrainian plane was hit by a Russian-made Tor missile.

Debris and smoldering parts from the aircraft belonging to Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) were strewn across a field southwest of the Iranian capital's Imam Khomeini International Airport as rescue teams with face masks retrieved bodies.

The crash of UIA Flight 752 came just hours after Iran launched a ballistic-missile attack targeting two bases in Iraq housing U.S. forces in retaliation for the killing of Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps commander Qasem Soleimani.

The three-year-old aircraft was en route to Kyiv. Ukrainian authorities said the victims included 82 Iranians, 63 Canadians, 11 Ukrainians, including all nine crew, 10 Swedes, four Afghans, three Britons and three Germans.

### Ukraine takes action

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a statement that he had instructed the country's prosecutor general to open criminal proceedings over the crash. He declared January 9 as a day of mourning.

Ukraine sent a team of experts to Iran to investigate the circumstances of the crash. "Our priority is to establish the truth and those responsible for this terrible catastrophe," Mr. Zelenskyy wrote on Facebook.

Mr. Zelenskyy also said the airworthiness of Ukraine's entire civilian fleet will be tested.

"My sincere condolences to the relatives and friends of all passengers and crew," Mr. Zelenskyy said, announcing

that he was breaking off his visit to Oman to return to Kyiv.

Iran and Ukraine agreed "to coordinate further actions of our investigation groups closely to determine the cause of the terrible plane crash," according to Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Vadym Prystaiko.

National Security and Defense Council Secretary Oleksiy Danilov said Kyiv was examining whether a missile strike had brought down the aircraft.

In a statement, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his government will "work closely with its international partners to ensure that this crash is thoroughly investigated, and that Canadians' questions are answered."

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the United States was prepared to offer Ukraine "all possible assistance... with any investigation into the cause of the crash."

### Early reports about crash

Ukraine's Embassy in Tehran initially blamed engine failure but later removed the statement. An Embassy official said Iranian authorities had asked it to rescind an earlier statement from Iran based on preliminary information.

Iranian TV said the crash was due to unspecified technical problems, and Iranian media quoted a local aviation official as saying the pilot did not declare an emergency.

State media reported that the plane caught fire after crashing, but a video aired by the state broadcaster appeared to show the plane already on fire as it fell from the night sky.

In a comment on Facebook, Mr. Zelenskyy warned against speculation about the crash. "I ask everyone to keep from speculating and putting forth unconfirmed theories about the crash," he wrote.

UIA said the plane underwent its last technical maintenance on January 6. It also said all flights to Tehran have

been suspended indefinitely. The company said in a statement that most passengers were in transit and due to connect to other flights on arrival in Ukraine.

The plane's two black boxes have been retrieved and are being investigated by Iranian aviation experts, the semi-official ISNA news agency reported.

The public prosecutor's office in Tehran said the remains of all passengers had been brought to forensics experts.

Airline manufacturers usually assist in crash investigations, but such an effort could be affected in this case by U.S. sanctions reinstated after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers in May 2018.

Iran's semi-official news agency Mehr quoted the head of the country's civil aviation authority as saying Iran would not give the black boxes to Boeing.

The Boeing 737-800 is a common single-aisle, twin-engine jetliner used for short- to medium-range flights. Thousands of the planes are used by airlines around the world. Introduced in the late 1990s, it is an older model than the Boeing 737 MAX, which has been grounded for nearly 10 months following two deadly crashes.

With reporting by AP, AFP, Reuters, Newsweek, Fars, DPA and IRNA.

Copyright 2020, RFE/RL Inc. Reprinted with the permission of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 1201 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036; www.rferl.org (see original news story at <https://www.rferl.org/a/reports-ukrainian-plane-with-at-least-170-aboard-crashes-near-tehran-iran/30365544.html> and updated information at <https://www.rferl.org/a/reports-ukraine-plane-was-brought-down-by-iranian-missile-u-s-officials-say/30368793.html>).



## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Putin gave an order to send troops in early 2014 to seize the Ukrainian territory. The school is registered in the southeastern coastal town of Feodosiya and, according to Mr. Bariyev, local residents say the Ukrainian language isn't taught there. According to Article 10 of the Russian-imposed constitution on the peninsula, there are three official languages in Crimea: Crimean Tatar, Ukrainian and Russian.

About 3 percent of 200,700 schoolchildren there were taught in the Crimean Tatar language in 2018-2019, the peninsula's education authority reports. Mr. Bariyev noted that the status of 16 Crimean Tatar language schools have also been altered since annexation. Seven preserved instruction in Crimean Tatar, while five have been transformed to instill instruction in Russian. Four have been designated schools that offer a "general education." Only 249 schoolchildren, or 0.2 percent of pupils, formally learned Ukrainian in 2018-2019. Twenty-seven schools offer 126 classes

with Crimean Tatar instruction and five schools provide teaching in Ukrainian in eight classes. As recently as December 30, 2019, Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a statement on Crimea: "The [Foreign] Ministry's official position, which has been voiced many times, is that the proclamation of the independence of the Republic of Crimea and its unification with the Russian Federation was a legitimate exercise of the right of the people of Crimea to self-determination following an armed coup in Ukraine with foreign support." (Crimea Desk, REF/RL's Ukrainian Service)

between the two adversaries. Mr. Putin expressed a positive opinion about Mr. Zelenskyy during a meeting with business leaders last week, saying the Ukrainian leader was trying to build dialogue with Russia, Forbes reported, citing one of the participants. However, the Russian president said he did not expect a breakthrough, the business news magazine added. During their December 31 call, the two leaders agreed "to immediately proceed" to approve lists for the release of Ukrainians, including Crimeans, held in Crimea and Russia, and Russians held in Ukraine, Mr. Zelenskyy's press service said in a statement. The Kremlin readout made no mention of a new prisoner exchange. Ukraine has confirmation that 100 Ukrainians are still being held captive in the nongovernment-controlled parts of the Donbas, according to Valeriya Lutkovska, Ukraine's envoy to a humanitarian negotiation group attached to the peace process. Kyiv believes another 200 Ukrainians are held in captivity but no documentation is available for them, she said. Presidents Putin and Zelenskyy also expressed hope to complete the ceasefire agreement reached in Paris "in the near future," the Ukrainian president's statement said. (RFE/RL)

### Putin, Zelenskyy discuss another prisoner swap

Russian President Vladimir Putin has spoken with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to discuss another prisoner swap as tensions ease between the two neighbors. The two leaders also exchanged holiday greetings, according to a statement by Mr. Zelenskyy's press service that was later confirmed by the Kremlin. The call was initiated by Mr. Zelenskyy, according to the Kremlin's readout. Marking the first time in six years that Mr. Putin has exchanged holiday greetings with his Ukrainian counterpart, the conversation testifies to a gradual thaw in relations





With deep sorrow we announce  
that our dear mother

## Rosalie Hawryshkiw née Hyriak

passed away on September 30, 2019.  
She was born April 14, 1922 in Zahutyn, Poland

Rosalie arrived in the US in 1949, following 10 years in Germany as a forced laborer and Displaced Person. She married Hryhoriy Hawryshkiw in 1953 and raised their family in Auburn, NY. She was active in CYM, UNA Branch 283 "Zaporozhka Sicz Society", and Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Remaining in deep sorrow:  
daughter - Mary, Philadelphia, PA  
daughter - Darka, Rochester, NY  
nephew Orest Sudyk and nieces Oksana Petrivna and Lida Stasiv  
in Ukraine  
as well as many other family members in Ukraine and the U.S.

**Вічна їй пам'ять!**

## CLASSIFIEDS

TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL WALTER HONCHARYK (973) 292-9800 x3040  
or e-mail [advertising@ukrweekly.com](mailto:advertising@ukrweekly.com)

### SERVICES

**MONUMENTS**  
**Oblast Memorials Co.**  
PO Box 746, Chester, NY 10918  
**Tel : 845-469-4247**  
*Custom Designed Quality Monuments*  
Serving NY/NJ/CT Cemeteries  
e-mail: [oblastmemorialsco@gmail.com](mailto:oblastmemorialsco@gmail.com)  
web site: [www.oblastmemorials.com](http://www.oblastmemorials.com)  
BILINGUAL HOME APPOINTMENTS

### 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.

### PROFESSIONALS

**ОКСАНА СТАНЬКО**  
Ліцензований продавець  
Страховання Життя  
**OKSANA STANKO**  
Licensed Life Insurance Agent  
**Ukrainian National Assn., Inc.**  
32 Peachtree Rd.  
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920  
Tel.: 908-872-2192; email: [stankouna@optimum.net](mailto:stankouna@optimum.net)

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

**VARSHAVSKY MONUMENTS**  
862-812-7086  
E-mail: [VarshavskyMonuments@gmail.com](mailto:VarshavskyMonuments@gmail.com)

---

**MONUMENT DESIGN + CUSTOM ETCHING**  
+ MONUMENTS + HEADSTONES + MARKERS +  
+ PORCELAIN PICTURES +  
SERVING NJ/NY/PA CEMETERIES BILINGUAL HOME APPOINTMENTS

### JOB OPPORTUNITY NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATOR

Position Title: National Youth Administrator  
Organization: CYMK-UOY (Canadian Ukrainian Orthodox Youth Association)  
Salary Range: \$45,000 to \$52,000  
Report to: SUS Foundation of Canada  
Work Location: Toronto, Ontario or Winnipeg, Manitoba

#### POSITION SUMMARY

SUS Foundation of Canada is seeking a dynamic, results-oriented individual to coordinate the activities of CYMK-Ukrainian Orthodox Youth (UOY) and increase its membership across Canada. CYMK-UOY is a national youth-led organization affiliated with the Ukrainian Self Reliance League and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. The administrator will report directly to SUS Foundation of Canada.

#### PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- work with directives developed by CYMK-UOY National Executive and its advisors
- establish and maintain data bases, contact lists membership lists archive records
- develop leadership and fellowship programs as well as operating procedures
- monitor and report on programs as directed
- assist the National Executive in maintaining the website and social media presence
- assist National Executive with newsletter development and distribution
- help organize conferences, convention programs, and retreats
- work with National Executive to liaise with CYMK branches, USRL and UCC organizations
- Work with National Executive, USRL and UOCC parishes to increase CYMK membership and locals across Canada
- liaise with clergy, hierarchy and administration of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada as directed
- visit branches as directed by the National Executive
- participate in National CYMK-UOY regular meetings

#### QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

- postsecondary degree
- strong oral, listening and communication skills
- familiarity with social media platforms
- team player, but able to work independently
- good computer skills
- ability to communicate in both English and Ukrainian
- Ability to travel and work flexible hours
- Ability to think strategically
- Ability to plan programs and projects

#### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to:  
**SUS Foundation of Canada, 620 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Ontario M5S 2H4**  
or by email to [jwstrus@gmail.com](mailto:jwstrus@gmail.com).

The deadline for receiving applications is **January 31, 2020**.

In your cover letter tell us how your background, both personal and professional, makes you an excellent candidate. Only successful candidates will be contacted.

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



## REFLECTIONS

# The soul of the big city awakens during New York City Marathon

by Tetiana Samokysh

Every first Sunday morning in November, there is a hum in the air of the largest city in the world. It seems to be silently waiting for an important event to begin. It is the quiet before the storm, the eye of the hurricane. This event gathers tens of thousands participants from all over the world and millions of fans and spectators, including many Ukrainians. This worldwide event awakens the soul of New York City. This momentous grand event is the New York City Marathon.

The New York City Marathon is the largest running event in the world. The race course runs through all five boroughs of the city – Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan and the Bronx – and ends at Central Park. The total marathon distance is 26.2 miles or 42.195 km.

If one decides to run the marathon, a recommended training schedule entails an average 16 weeks of running – that's 40 miles per week, 160 miles per month and 640 miles per training cycle, which equals more than 100 hours of running. That is exactly what is needed to run this long distance, to overcome oneself and to fulfill one's dream of becoming a true marathon runner.

But you will not be alone while trying to pursue this dream. New York City will not let you give up on it because not only is it the biggest marathon in the world but every square inch of the course is filled with screaming, yelling, banner-holding New Yorkers telling you to "Go, go, go!" And if you write your name on your shirt, you will feel like a rock star on the red carpet hearing your name every couple of feet as the crowd supports you. New Yorkers bring water, bananas, oranges and napkins to share with the runners. They even play live music all along the course to keep everyone going. It truly is the biggest and friendliest running party in the world. This year, 53,509 runners partied and ran their way to the finish line.

Just as the New York City Marathon is the biggest day of the year for the city, for the Ukrainian Running Club New York (URCNY) the marathon is the biggest running event of the year. The fun all begins on Friday, two days before the big event. There is a special marathon opening ceremony – the Parade of Nations, which gathers more than 120 delegations representing their countries. For the URCNY it is a wonderful opportunity to share our rich Ukrainian culture with the world.

Every year the crowd looks forward to our Ukrainian dancers clad in traditional Ukrainian costumes dancing the Hopak as they lead our delegation along the Central Park parade route. This year we did not disappoint as our dancing friends at Art Studio Brewster joined us and wowed the crowd.

The next day, Saturday, according to marathon tradition, runners should be carbo-loading with lots of pasta for energy for the next day's run. Our club organized a Ukrainian style pre-marathon dinner for all runners, family and friends. Besides the pasta there were plenty of vare-



Roman Pyasta of Milwaukee is the 50th best marathoner in the world in the 45-49 age category.

nyky for all runners to load up on at the Streecha Ukrainian Restaurant in the East Village.

This year's marathon was probably the most successful for the Ukrainian Running Club as 60 URCNY members ran, while 79 officially declared Ukrainians finished this year's race. Our club has runners representing several countries, starting with Ukrainian Americans, some born here and others who have become U.S. citizens, and native Ukrainians, as well as runners from Mexico and China.

The whole club takes part in the marathon, so if you are not running then you are out there on the course supporting those who are. We have two official URCNY cheering spots: one at mile 6 in Brooklyn to get the runners off to a good start and the second one at mile 24 to give them a last big boost of energy with smiles, cheers, hugs, shouts of "Go, Ukraine!" and Ukrainian flags waving them all to the finish line. Thousands of stories full of happiness, suffering, pain and joy cross the marathon finish line, and among them are a few stories of our Ukrainians.

### Fastest Ukrainian NYC marathoners

For Roman Pyasta, originally from Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, but currently living in Wisconsin, this New York City Marathon would be his 48th marathon overall. So he decided he was going to run it for the fun of it. It is worth noting that, since Mr. Pyasta is a very fast runner, he had about 2 hours and 45 minutes to "enjoy" this event.

But according to Mr. Pyasta, the marathon gods had a little gift for him toward the end of the race... "On the last long 23rd mile climb, I was overtaken by another Ukrainian from our Ukrainian Running Club New York: Yevhen Hodun, who flew in from Kharkiv [Ukraine], to participate in the marathon. This changed the potential slow 'torture' to the finish into a cool 5 km race. We both wanted to run well but also to have fun. So when he overtook me, it woke me up and completely changed my mood: it became a one-on-one race. And so it began: I passed him, then he passed me over the hills and turns of Central Park. We sprinted faster than anyone, as if on two motorcycles, overtaking everyone, left and right. And the spectators were frantically cheering for both of us: Go Ukraine for the whole 5 km! In the final sprint we both pushed our hardest and I overtook him by only 2 seconds, but we fought like two lions for those seconds."

Mr. Pyasta's time: 2:46:28; Mr. Hodun's time: 2:46:30. After the finish, both men shook hands, received their medals and took a commemorative photo together. It is interesting to note that there is 20-year difference between them – Mr. Pyasta is 48 and Mr. Hodun is 28. When asked about the age difference, Mr. Pyasta said he didn't even notice it, that his brain just ignores meaningless numbers. You can be young in body and heart at any age.

### Six major marathons in a year

Yuriy Bezsonov, originally from Poltava, Ukraine, and now living in Germany, is only the eighth Ukrainian in the world to receive a Six Majors Medal. This medal is given to those who run the six largest marathons in the world in one year.

Here are his impressions of all the marathons: "Six marathons in one year is not easy – I had my ups and downs: cold Tokyo, joyous Boston, calm London, unexpected Berlin, tough Chicago and beautiful New York. I am so happy that I did it and even happier to receive my 6th major medal star here in New York, where I heard 'Go, Ukraine!' on almost every street corner. New York is amazing!"

### Running the marathon to help others

The Ukrainian Running Club's fast and well-known runner Dmytro Molchanov ran the New York City Marathon this year as a pacer. A pacer is someone who leads a group of runners in the marathon for a specific time. They run the entire distance evenly, by the clock, holding the same speed.

Mr. Molchanov's motivation was to help others achieve their goals: "Being part of New York's running community and supporting people on the way to the finish line is a great experience. I am happy to have the opportunity to help other runners." But the best part that shows what a great perspective he has on life and himself was this: our



Tetiana Samokysh as she appeared in a poster used as an online advertisement for the New York City Marathon. She is wearing a Ukrainian Running Club New York tank top.

Mr. Molchanov ran the whole race in a crown and a yellow tutu. He is the URCNY King of the New York City Marathon.

### It's all about love

Vladyslav and Olena Bezuglov, originally from Odesa and now living in Brooklyn, started running only a year ago. They never expected to be running marathons, much less running and crossing the finish line of the New York City Marathon hand in hand together.

"We fell in love with running here in New York – the heart of the world – and it has become our new life. We dedicate this marathon to the strongest feeling in life – love, as well as to faith in ourselves and in our limitless possibilities. New York, we love you!"

### Ecstatically happy poster girl

I must say that never in a million years did this writer dream that I, once a little girl from Kherson, would end up on subway posters all over NYC and Internet advertising for the New York City Marathon – the biggest and most famous marathon in the world. I guess you could even say I even became a little famous for my "It will excite you" poster. Let me tell you how this happened.

The New York City Marathon has my heart. I have a smile on my face and in my heart from start to finish. Every second, as I am running the course, I am totally overcome with love for all. For the crowd, for my fellow runners, for the whole magical experience. For me it is one big love fest. My dream is to run the marathon in New York every year, but this year it was even more special as I got to share that love with the World as it was captured in a photo at the finish line.

Last year, about 100 meters from the finish, I saw my friends from the Ukrainian Running Club cheering me on and I was completely overwhelmed with such warmth, love and genuine joy that I just flew over the finish line. It was like my heart burst open right then and there – and click – this amazing moment was captured forever by a photographer at the finish line and that moment became a subway ad for the 2019 New York City Marathon. I am so happy that that my heart-opening moment invites people to come to watch or run with me in this incredible love event. Running changes lives, hearts and souls for the better.

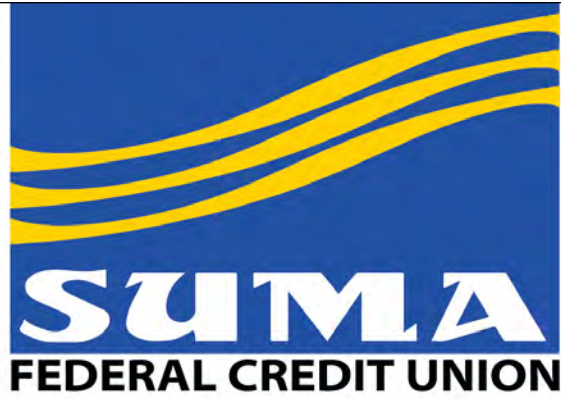
Maybe after reading some of our running stories and meeting some of our URCNY running personalities, readers will be tempted to come join us and awaken their running soul to have your own heart-opening run through New York City. The next New York City Marathon will be its 50th jubilee, so this is a great opportunity to join the Ukrainian Running Club and start training. Find us on Facebook under Ukrainian Running Club New York or on Instagram @urcny. The lottery for the next marathon opens on January 13.

The URCNY and NYC are waiting for you!

Tetiana Samokysh is a board member of the Ukrainian Running Club New York.

The article above was translated by Lada Lysniak.





**GET PRE-APPROVED TODAY!**

*It's the Season*

FOR AN

**AUTO LOAN DEAL!**



Rate as low as

**1.99% APR\***

Terms up to 48 months



\* 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](http://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](http://WWW.SUMAFCU.ORG)**



# Plast sorority “Ti, Shcho Hrebli Rvut” holds biennial conference at Soyuzivka

by Oksana Bachynsky-Tarasiuk

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The senior and young adult branches of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization’s “Ti, Shcho Hrebli Rvut” sorority held their biennial conference at Soyuzivka Heritage Center on November 16-17, 2019, with the participation of members from throughout North America.

The program of the conference included joint and separate meetings of the two branches of “Hrebli,” as well as a get-together on Friday evening, before formal conference sessions began the next morning.

During the Saturday morning session, the Hrebli were joined via Skype by representatives of the sorority from Ukraine and Argentina.

Nataliya Kyyak related that there are now 44 senior Hrebli in Ukraine and a like number of younger adult members. The sorority is active in the Kyiv, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk oblasts, as well as in Uzhhorod, Chernivtsi, Rivne, Severodonetsk and Kharkiv.

Adriana Cham, who heads the Plast national executive board in Argentina, said that sorority members lead the Plast branch in Buenos Aires. She pointed out that Plast in Argentina celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2019.

Sorority members are active also in



Maya Lew

Members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization’s “Ti, Shcho Hrebli Rvut” sorority at Soyuzivka, near the statue of their patron, Lesia Ukrainka. The sorority’s traditions are based on Ukrainka’s drama “Lisova Pisnia” (Forest Song).

Germany and Australia, as well as Sweden, where Motria Fedoriw Jaremkо (formerly of the U.S.) organized Plast activities for cub scouts. Thanks to her initiative, Plast now has a group in Sweden that encompasses both cub scouts and scouts, many of them children of families who have arrived from

Ukraine.

Members of the sorority in Ukraine, Canada and the United States are active in local, national and international bodies of Plast, as well as in community endeavors. In Ukraine, members assist the Joint Forces Operation and one sorority member was

elected to the Verkhovna Rada. Present at the Soyuzivka conference was Christina Maciw of Montreal, who lived in Kyiv for 28 years and was active in Plast in Ukraine.

Since 2009, Hrebli have managed distribution of the Bethlehem Peace Light across the United States, acting under the auspices of the National Executive Board of Plast U.S.A. Sorority members in Canada also are involved in distribution of the Peace Light.

The leader of the senior sorority of “Ti, Shcho Hrebli Rvut,” Dr. Christine Kochan, reported on two years of work and provided a summation of the recent meeting of the Conference of Ukrainian Plast Organizations held in Germany. In addition, she commended the work of editor Olenka Yurchuk in releasing two very fine editions of the Hrebli periodical Vistovyk.

Among the topics of discussion were the by-laws and regulations of the sorority, which need some updating, and the history of “Ti, Shcho Hrebli Rvut,” which is in the works. It was noted that preliminary planning for the upcoming 100th anniversary of the sorority should be contemplated.

Members of the young adult branch of Hrebli reported that they intend to become more active in organizing and conducting the “Shkola Bulavnykh” camp counselor

(Continued on page 14)



Roma Hadzewycz

New candidates are accepted into the Hrebli sorority.

**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  
 Uksistersag@gmail.com

## Bethlehem Peace Light ceremony held in Whippany, N.J.

WHIPPANY, N.J. – The Bethlehem Peace Light was shared during a ceremony at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany, N.J., on Saturday, December 7.

Participating were members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, including senior members of the “Ti, Shcho Hrebli Rvut” sorority who organized and conducted the ceremony, members of the area’s scout organizations, including Latvian and Polish scouts, as well as parishioners.

The Peace Light arrived in the United States a day earlier, landing at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, where a special ceremony was held at Our Lady of the Skies Chapel. The light came from Vienna, brought there by Austrian scouts who light a lantern from the everlasting flame that burns in Bethlehem. Scouts worldwide, including Plast members in Ukraine, participate in distributing the light.

Members of “Ti, Shcho Hrebli Rvut” travel to JFK Airport to receive the flame and then distribute it further, doing so at the express request of the National Board of Directors of Plast U.S.A.

The ceremonies at St. John’s Church were led by Larissa Wowk, and a talk was given by Lada Bidiak. The Rev. Stepan Bilyk,



Roma Hadzewycz

Plast scouts sing the Bethlehem Peace Light song at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic church in Whippany, N.J.

pastor, also addressed the gathering.

As Plast scouts, directed by Kalyna Boychuk, sang the beautiful Bethlehem Peace Light song written by Solomiya

Keyvan, a Plast member in Ukraine, all present had the opportunity to light their lanterns and candles from the Bethlehem Peace Light.



# Columbia University's Ukrainian Studies Program to offer eight courses in spring 2020 semester

## Ukrainian Studies Program

NEW YORK – Columbia's Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute will offer eight courses focusing on Ukrainian history, political science, literature, language and visual art in the spring 2020 semester. It will also organize a series of lectures in Ukrainian studies at the university.

Joining the program for the spring semester will be Dr. Oksana Vynnyk, the visiting assistant professor of history for spring 2020 – a position supported by Ukrainian Studies Instructional Fund. Dr. Vynnyk earned a Ph.D. in history in 2018 at the University of Alberta. Her research focuses on the reintegration of World War I invalids in Lviv and, more generally, how disability is defined by the state. She has also studied minorities in Lviv of that period, as well as sexual abuse during collectivization and the Holodomor.

Dr. Vynnyk will teach two courses at Columbia University this spring. The first, titled "Topics in Modern Ukrainian History" will take place Wednesdays, 4:10-5:25 p.m. This lecture course focuses on Ukrainian history from the early 19th century to the present day. Questions to be examined include: What factors influenced the construction and transformation of Ukrainian national identity(ies)? How did an independent Ukrainian state emerge and why are its borders contested today? How does historical memory influence Ukraine's contemporary political and social life? What role does Ukraine play in the broader histories of Central and Eastern Europe?

The second course, a seminar titled "Urban Modernity on the Ukrainian Lands: Cities in the 19th and 20th Centuries," will be held Thursdays 12:10-2 p.m. During this seminar, students will examine the development of modern cities on the territory of

present-day Ukraine and study how urban social space changed under the influence of imperial powers, radical ideologies, and authoritarian or totalitarian regimes.

Dr. Mark Andryczyk will teach the course "The Aura of Soviet Ukrainian Modernism" (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:10-2:25 p.m.). This course studies the renaissance in Ukrainian culture of the 1920s – a period of revolution, experimentation, vibrant expression and polemics. Focusing on the most important developments in literature, as well as on the intellectual debates they inspired, the course will also examine the major achievements in Ukrainian theater, visual art and film as integral components of the cultural spirit that defined the era. The course treats one of the most important periods of Ukrainian culture and examines its lasting impact on today's Ukraine. It will be complemented by film screenings, presentations of visual art and rare publications from this period.

Ambassador Valeriy Kuchynskyi will teach a course titled "Today's Ukraine: Power Politics and Diplomacy," which will be held on Tuesdays 2:10-4 p.m. Ukraine is at war, the country is in turmoil. What are the chances of the new government to reach a "peaceful solution" in the Donbas, eradicate corruption, improve the economic situation and implement reforms? Is there a future for the Minsk accords? What's the significance of the Normandy summit? These and other issues, including behind-the-scenes politics, power struggles and diplomatic activities, are dealt with in the newly revised course delivered by a career diplomat. The course is aimed at both graduate and advanced undergraduate students.

The Jacyk Postdoctoral Fellow in Ukrainian Studies at the Harriman Institute of Columbia University for 2019-2021, Dr.

Olena Martynyuk, will teach a course titled "Periphery and Its Empires: Ukrainian and Russian Art from Peter the Great to the Present." The course will meet Mondays and Wednesdays at 2:40-3:55 p.m. It will situate the development of Ukrainian art in dialogue with Russian culture within the contexts of the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union and the post-Soviet era. While surveying major art periods and concepts from *parsuna* portraiture to the avant-garde, the course aims to create a more nuanced vision of art produced in the region, focusing not only on the predominantly Russian culture of the metropole but also that of the provinces where the stateless Ukrainian minority struggled to express itself. Examining Russian art together with Ukrainian art and themes, the class will study the impact of the national policies of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union on Ukrainian art and its reception.

Three levels of Ukrainian language instruction will be taught this spring by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk: Elementary II on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11:40 a.m.-12:55 a.m.; Intermediate II on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:10-11:25 a.m.; and Advanced Ukrainian Through Literature, Media and Politics on Mondays and Wednesdays at 2:40-3:55 p.m.

Several events have already been scheduled for the spring semester. On February 6, Dr. Anna Procyk (professor emerita, Kingsborough Community College of the CUNY) will present her monograph "Giuseppe Mazzini's Young Europe and the Birth of Modern Nationalism in the Slavic World" (University of Toronto Press, 2019); on March 5, Dr. Nicholas Denysenko (Valparaiso University) will present his book "The Orthodox Church in Ukraine: A Century of Separation" (Northern Illinois University Press, 2018); on March 10, Dr.

Leah Batstone (Hunter College, CUNY) will give a lecture titled "Between Serialism and Suprematism: Nikolai Roslavets' Modernist Music"; on March 26, Dr. Oksana Reme-niaka (National Academy of Arts of Ukraine; University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy; Visiting Fulbright Scholar at Columbia University) will give a talk titled "Nigra sed Formosa: Immersed in Sadness However Beautiful: The Problem of Returning Lost Artifacts"; on April 2, Markian Dobczansky (Harriman Institute, Columbia University) will speak on "Soviet Ukrainian Urbanism: Factories, Higher Education and Nationalities Policy in Kharkiv." All of these events will take place at noon in the Marshall D. Shulman Seminar Room (Room 1219, International Affairs Building) except for Nicholas Denysenko's talk which will take place in the same venue but at 4 p.m.

Courses at Columbia are open to students from other universities in the New York metropolitan area seeking credit. Readers are advised to contact the university at which they are enrolled to determine whether it participates in this manner with Columbia University. Some courses are also open to outside individuals interested in non-credit continuing studies. Additionally, through the Lifelong Learners program, individuals over age 65 who are interested in auditing courses may enroll at a discount rate as Lifelong Learners. Please visit the Columbia University School of Continuing Education (<http://www.ce.columbia.edu/auditing/?PID=28>) for more details.

January 21 is the first day of classes, and January 31 is the final day to register for a class. For more information about courses or the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University, readers may contact Dr. Andryczyk at [ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu](mailto:ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu) or 212-854-4697.

## A difficult start...

(Continued from page 1)

mentioned a situation, "Where it doesn't matter what the name of the street is, because it is lit and paved. Where it makes no difference, at which monument are you waiting for the girl you are in love with. If we see the future equally, it should unite us." This was construed as showing insensitivity, if not outright hostility, to efforts aimed at fostering Ukrainianization and decommunization.

President Zelenskyy's message about the need to put differences aside and cement a political nation appears to have been well received, seen as timely and constructive, by the majority of the country's population who voted for him and who evidently by and large still continue to support him. His political detractors, however, sought to present his address as unpatriotic.

The following day, several thousand of the latter manifested their own particular understanding of what it should mean to be a Ukrainian by holding rallies in Kyiv and other cities on January 1, the 111th anniversary of the birth of Ukrainian nationalist leader Stepan Bandera. In the capital, around 1,000 far-right activists and held a traditional torchlight procession through the city center. Outside of Ukraine, both Poland and Israel condemned the commemoration of this controversial Ukrainian hero.

The domestic controversies were rapidly overtaken by events in the foreign sphere. On January 1, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo postponed a visit to Kyiv because of rising U.S.-Iranian tensions in the Middle East. It would have been the first meeting of a senior U.S. official with

the Zelenskyy administration since the impeachment process was launched in Washington. A few days later, it was announced that Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel would be meeting with Russia's President Vladimir Putin on January 19 and that she intended to discuss the Russian-Ukrainian conflict with him.

Against this background, there was considerable surprise when on January 5 the Ukrainian news media began reporting that President Zelenskyy had been spotted in Oman. His presidential office hurried to provide an explanation for his unannounced trip abroad and linked it to business meetings with Omani officials. His critics made political capital out of it.

Whatever the reason for his visit to Oman, private or official, Mr. Zelenskyy was still there on January 8, when the crash of the Ukrainian airliner in Teheran was reported. It was there that he presumably also received a message of condolences from, among others, President Putin. He flew back to Kyiv during the night, and in the morning recorded a statement addressed to the Ukrainian people.

"Fellow Ukrainians," he began. "The morning of January 8, 2020, became a dark page in the history of both Ukraine and the world..." Promising to ensure that the real reasons for the crash will be established, he requested "everyone – especially when Ukraine is in conditions of information warfare – to refrain from manipulation, speculation, conspiracy theories, hasty categorical evaluations and unverified versions... We need patience, endurance and wisdom."

He concluded: "this dreadful story should teach all of us – every citizen of Ukraine and every world leader – to appreciate human lives."

## Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

troops and weapons from Ukraine before any meaningful talks could proceed.

On January 15, the European Parliament approved a resolution condemning Russia's aggressive and expansionist actions against Ukraine, including its information war and cyberwarfare, as well as energy sector blackmail, economic pressure, and diplomatic and political destabilization. The resolution failed to name the Donetsk and Luhansk "people's republics" as terrorist organizations, however, it did extend sanctions and strengthened them to include the nuclear sector and restrictions on Russian

businesses that conduct international financial operations. It also called for European Union member states to provide the Ukrainian government with arms.

Since then, the Avdiivka Coke and Chemical Plant has returned to full capacity output after coming back under Ukrainian control. The plant has not been affected by the naval blockade of the Azov Sea by Russia because the plant receives its materials from Odesa, transported via railway to the Donetsk Oblast. In fact, RFE/RL Ukrainian Service reported that the factory is expanding its facilities.

Source: "Russians launch biggest offensive in Donbas since September ceasefire," by Zenon Zawada, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, January 25, 2015.

## Plast sorority...

(Continued from page 13)

training program in the U.S., and that orders are being taken for sorority-themed clothing and accessories.

The younger Hrebli are very active in Plast branches in the U.S. and in leading Plast activities for scouts. Their leader is Ann Jaskiw. During the biennial conference, seven new candidates for membership were accepted and initiated into the sorority's ranks.

A highlight of the weekend was a creative scavenger hunt that had groups of Hrebli of all ages roaming the Soyuzivka property to find listed items and information, and snap photos of their group performing assigned tasks. After dinner on Saturday evening, all enjoyed a "campfire"

in the Main House lobby led by Andriy Pencak, complete with Plast skits and songs.

On Sunday morning all attended liturgy at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church with the Rev. Dr. Ivan Kaszczak, pastor and Plast chaplain, officiating.

The final session of the conference was devoted to resolutions and recommendations for the next two-year term, as well as elections of a new leadership for the senior sorority.

Dr. Kochan was re-elected to lead the Hrebli; her deputies are Chrystia Kowalyk (Canada) and Roma Hadzewycz (U.S.) Also elected were: Roksolana Slywynsky, secretary; Oksana Stanko, treasurer; Marta Kuzmowycz, archivist; Ms. Yurchuk, editor; Daria Darewych, researcher; and Chrystia Kolos, Sophia Kachor and Zoriana Stawnychy, councilors.



# OUT & ABOUT

- |   |  |                               |   |
|---|--|-------------------------------|---|
| January 16 through March 8<br>New York  | Photo exhibit, "Frontline-Peace Life: Ukraine's Revolutionaries of the Forgotten War," by J.T. Blatty, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660 or <a href="http://www.ukrainianinstitute.org">www.ukrainianinstitute.org</a>  | February 7<br>Richmond, VA    | Performance, National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, Carpenter Theater, 804-592-3330  |
| January 18<br>Regina, SK                | Malanka celebration, Tavria Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble, St. Athanasius Parish, <a href="http://www.tavria.org">www.tavria.org</a>   | February 8<br>Pearl River, NY | Chervona Kalyna Cotillion Ball, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Hilton Pearl River, 845-735-9000 or <a href="http://www.kalynadeb.org">www.kalynadeb.org</a>   |
| January 18<br>Dallas/<br>Fort Worth, TX | Malanka celebration, Ukrainian American Society of Texas, Nuvo Room, <a href="http://www.uast.org">www.uast.org</a> or <a href="mailto:daria1215@verizon.net">daria1215@verizon.net</a>  | February 15<br>Cleveland      | Plast Cleveland Debutante Ball, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Embassy Suites Hotel Cleveland-Rockside, <a href="mailto:plastcledeb@gmail.com">plastcledeb@gmail.com</a>  |
| January 23<br>Stanford, CA              | Alexander Dallin Lecture by Steven Hall, "Putin the Chekist: Intelligence and Decision-Making in Russia," Stanford University, <a href="https://creees.stanford.edu">https://creees.stanford.edu</a> or <a href="mailto:creeesinfo@stanford.edu">creeesinfo@stanford.edu</a> | February 15<br>Washington     | Washington, D.C., Ukrainian Debutante Ball, Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies of Greater Washington, The Washington Group, Omni Shoreham Hotel, <a href="http://www.ukrainianschooldc.org">www.ukrainianschooldc.org</a> or <a href="mailto:zabavadc@gmail.com">zabavadc@gmail.com</a> |
| January 25<br>Whippany, NJ              | Presentation of Debutantes, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization (Newark Branch), Hanover Marriott Hotel, <a href="http://www.plastnewarkdeb.com">www.plastnewarkdeb.com</a> or 908-448-6389  | February 15<br>Syracuse, NY   | Spaghetti dinner, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Ukrainian National Home, <a href="mailto:events@syrucc.org">events@syrucc.org</a> or 315-478-9272   |
| January 25<br>Dearborn, MI              | Winter Ball and Presentation of Debutantes, Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, Dearborn Inn Marriott, <a href="mailto:gwolozscuk@yahoo.com">gwolozscuk@yahoo.com</a> or 586-801-8905   | February 22<br>Rye Brook, NY  | Presentation of Debutantes, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Hilton Westchester Hotel, <a href="http://www.cym.org/us/deb">www.cym.org/us/deb</a>  |
| January 26<br>Buffalo, NY               | Christmas concert, with Maestro Ihor Bohdan, Ukrainian Free Kozatsvo, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, 716-873-5011   | February 29<br>Columbia, MO   | Performance, National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, Jesse Auditorium, University of Missouri, 573-882-3781   |
| January 31<br>New York                  | "A Tribute to Mark L. von Hagen (1954-2019)," Harriman Institute, Columbia University, <a href="https://harriman/columbia.edu">https://harriman/columbia.edu</a> or 212-854-4623   | February 29<br>Hunter, NY     | KLK Ski Races, Carpathian Ski Club, Hunter Mountain, <a href="http://www.klkusa.com">www.klkusa.com</a> or <a href="mailto:hadzewycz@optonline.net">hadzewycz@optonline.net</a>   |
| February 1<br>Boston                    | Boston Malanka, "Welcome to the Roaring Twenties," Ukraine Global Scholars, Venezia Restaurant Boston, <a href="http://www.bostonmalanka.com">www.bostonmalanka.com</a>  | March 5<br>New York           | Book presentation by Nicholas Denysenko, "The Orthodox Church in Ukraine: A Century of Separatism," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 or <a href="mailto:ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu">ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu</a>   |
| February 6<br>New York                  | Book presentation by Anna Procyk, "Giuseppe Mazzini's Young Europe and the Birth of Modern Nationalism in the Slavic World," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 or <a href="mailto:ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu">ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu</a>                           |                               |   |

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



**National Board of ODFFU, Inc.  
Announces  
31st National Convention**

*New York, December 27, 2019*

**ORGANIZATION FOR THE DEFENSE OF FOUR FREEDOMS OF UKRAINE**

**TO:** Local Boards and Members of ODFFU, Inc.  
**REF:** 31st National Convention ODFFU, Inc.

Dear Members!

National Board of the Organization for the Defense of the Four Freedoms of Ukraine, Inc. ("ODFFU, Inc.") notifies its local boards and all members that the 31st National Convention of ODFFU, Inc. will take place Sunday the 29th of March, 2020 at:

**St. Vladimir Ukrainian Parish Center  
226 Uniondale Avenue  
Uniondale, NY 11553.**

Financial reports and summaries of activities will be presented.

The conference is scheduled to begin at 9 am.

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the notice, the bylaws and the agenda on our website at [www.odffu.org](http://www.odffu.org), by requesting a copy by email to [odffu.info@gmail.com](mailto:odffu.info@gmail.com) or by calling (917) 794-5226 and leaving a message with your name and email or mailing address.

With respect and best wishes!

**Слава Україні – Героям Слава!**

For the National Board of ODFFU, Inc. :

**Alex Striltschuk**  
President

**John Yaworsky**  
Executive Secretary

## Learn Ukrainian! Study a Critical Language with a Native Speaker

**Intensive Summer Study  
of Ukrainian  
at Arizona State University's  
Critical Languages Institute**

**First-Year  
Course in  
Tempe, AZ\***

**May 26 - July 10**

**\$1500 program fee**

\*Optional additional 4 weeks in  
Kyiv (July 13 - August 7)

**Second-Year  
Course in  
Kyiv, Ukraine**

**June 15 - August 7**

**\$6400 overseas  
program fee**

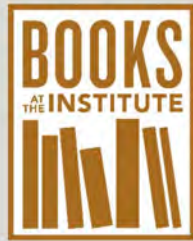
**ASU Tuition Waived  
Scholarships Available  
8-11 Semester Credits  
Extensive Cultural Programming  
Open to Everyone Ages 16+**

**Scholarship Deadline: January 20, 2020**

**Apply Online: [cli.asu.edu](http://cli.asu.edu)**

The Critical Languages Institute is a program of:  
**ASU The Melikian Center:**  
Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies  
Arizona State University



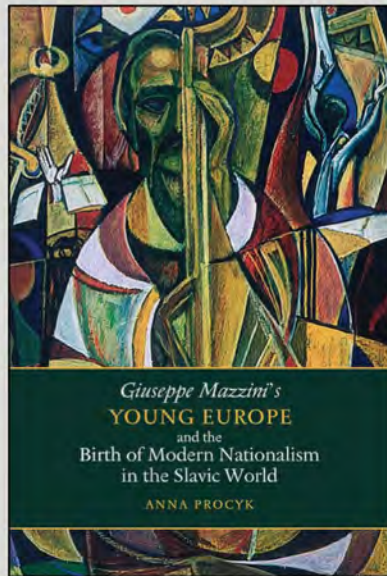


Book Talk and Signing by Author

# ANNA PROCYK

Giuseppe Mazzini's  
YOUNG EUROPE  
and the  
Birth of Modern  
Nationalism  
in the Slavic World

University of Toronto Press 2019



**Saturday, January 25, 2020, 5:00 pm**

General admission \$15  
UIA members \$10

UKRAINIAN INSTITUTE of AMERICA 2 East 79th Street, New York, NY

*The Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies  
of Greater Washington*

*in cooperation with*

*The Washington Group*

*requests the pleasure of your company at the*

**Washington DC Ukrainian Debutante Ball**

**Saturday, February 15, 2020**

Omni Shoreham Hotel

2500 Calvert Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Musical entertainment by **HRIM**



*Katherine Marie-Louise  
Boone*



*Valentyna Oleksiyivna  
Breslawec*



*Eva Solomia  
Ponos*

**Tickets now available**

For tickets and more information visit:

**[www.ukrainianschooldc.org](http://www.ukrainianschooldc.org)**

**Early bird pricing through January 20**

For questions please email:

**[zabavadc@gmail.com](mailto:zabavadc@gmail.com)**



NATIONAL BALLET THEATRE of ODESSA, UKRAINE



February 9, 2020  
3:00 pm

*S. Prokofiev*

## ROMEO and JULIET

*Ballet in 2 acts*

Choreography by **Michael Lavrovsky**

Production by **Garry Sevoyan**

*Soloists:*

Juliet - **Olena Dobrianska, Prima-Ballerina**  
Romeo - **Sergii Dotsenko, Principal Dancer**

**Kings**  
BROOKLYN

**Kings Theatre**  
1027 Flatbush Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11226

718-856-KING (5464)

[www.kingstheatre.com](http://www.kingstheatre.com)