

INSIDE:

- Kyiv hosts a summit of first ladies and gentlemen – page 3
- Mission team visits Znamyanka Orphanage in Ukraine – page 12
- UNA announces scholarships and award winners – pages 14-15

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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

Vol. LXXXIX

No. 35

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021

\$2.00

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew attends 30th Independence Day celebrations in Ukraine



Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Metropolitan Epifaniy (left), primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople led a solemn Divine Liturgy near St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv.

by Roman Tymotsko

KYIV – Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople travelled to Ukraine to take part in the country’s 30th Independence Day celebrations despite opposition from the Russian Orthodox Church.

Together with Metropolitan Epifaniy, primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Patriarch Bartholomew served a divine liturgy in St. Michael’s Cathedral in Kyiv on August 21. The following day, the two men

celebrated a solemn Divine Liturgy near the 1,000-year-old St. Sophia Cathedral. According to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, more than 15,000 faithful and clergy took part in the service.

Two years ago, Bartholomew I, who is considered first among equals in Orthodox patriarchy, presented a decree of independence to the head of the nascent Orthodox Church of Ukraine, severing its centuries-long tie with the Russian Orthodox Church.

(Continued on page 9)

With pomp, fanfare and moments of solemnity, Ukraine caps a busy week with 30th Independence Day celebrations



Office of the President of Ukraine

Seen in the background is an unfurled Ukrainian flag as an honor guard of serviceman accompanies President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to the podium on August 24 in downtown Kyiv, where the president delivered a speech to commemorate the nation’s 30th year of renewed independence.

by Mark Raczkiewicz

KYIV – In his speech to the nation on the occasion of Ukraine’s 30th Independence Day celebrations and with representatives of all 30 NATO member countries in attendance President Volodymyr Zelenskyy emphasized Ukraine’s “restored statehood”

and its emergence as a “powerful” nation. Leading up to the celebration was a large-scale public dialogue of 30 weekly presidential forums devoted to specific topics, such as security and defense, peace and war, and fighting corruption and establishing the rule of law.

On the eve of Independence Day, the inaugural Crimea Platform took place as a diplomatic initiative to garner international support for Russia to ultimately relinquish control of the Ukrainian peninsula that it had forcibly seized in 2014, the first ever military outcome since WWII that saw a European country’s borders change.

A new state award called the Legend of Ukraine was created. It was presented to contemporaries who are “living legends,” the presidential office announced.

Also on August 23, Mr. Zelenskyy presided over a flag-raising ceremony in what his office said was the geographical center of the country – the village of Maryanivka in central Cherkassy oblast – to commemorate the nation’s flag day.

The following morning, he and First Lady Olena Zelenska attended the traditional multi-confessional prayer at the century-old Saint Sophia Cathedral before the formal Independence Day events took place.

Once on stage, after being accompanied by an honor guardsman carrying a sword, the president in his remarks said Ukraine has had its “statehood restored.”

Mr. Zelenskyy linked the nation’s history to the feudal kingdom of Kyivan Rus that Prince Volodymyr the Great had ruled and

(Continued on page 11)

National Guard Lieutenant Nataliya Manko thankful to parents for being born in ‘free Ukraine’

by Mark Raczkiewicz

KYIV – As a 29-year-old lieutenant in the country’s National Guard, Nataliya Manko has only known a free and independent Ukraine. She said she does not want Ukraine to revert to what she calls the “nightmare” of the nation’s past as a subordinate republic of the USSR or Russia.

Born a year after the country restored independence in 1991, she has no conscious memory of that 70-year period when millions of Ukrainians died from war, forced famine or political persecution.

Speaking over the phone exclusively with The Weekly from her deployment base in Dnipro, Ms. Manko said the stories she heard growing up from her grandparents and parents were enough for her to embrace a free Ukraine.

(Continued on page 5)



Press service of the National Guard of Ukraine

In this undated photo, National Guard Lt. Nataliya Manko is at work with her husband, Serhiy Manko, a lieutenant colonel in the National Guard.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Russia warns Ukraine and other neighbors to draw lessons from fall of Kabul

by Pavel Felgenhauer
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The sudden collapse of the Afghan National Army and security forces, the fall of Kabul without a fight, President Ashraf Ghani fleeing the country and the victorious Taliban taking everything are currently a source of mass revelry for the state-controlled Russian media. The propaganda machine describes the hasty and disorganized withdrawal of the United States and allied forces from Afghanistan, along with the collapse of their Afghan allies, as a turning point, signaling the decline of U.S. regional and global power and credibility. Russian outlets accuse U.S. President Joseph Biden of double dealing and incompetence (Rossiyskaya Gazeta, August 17). Ukraine and other former Soviet republics seeking alliances with the West are told to take notice. The underlying message in all of this coverage and commentary is that the U.S. may abandon them and flee when Russian (or pro-Russian) forces sweep in to cleanse the collaborators out of Kyiv and other "historically Russian" cities (Vzglyad, August 16).

This bout of gloating could be written off as another opportunistic Kremlin propaganda campaign, exploiting PR ammunition provided by the mainstream media in the U.S. and Europe. But actually, the top Russian officialdom is publicly backing up the present anti-American onslaught and, in some cases, exceeding it in outspokenness.

The speaker of the State Duma (lower chamber of the Russian parliament), Vyacheslav Volodin, has written that the entire U.S. foreign policy is collapsing. Mr. Volodin accuses Washington of facilitating an increase of opiate production in Afghanistan "hundreds of times" while impoverishing the Afghan people. The U.S. and its Western allies have been spending staggering amounts of money to "promote democracy," but the results have been of little value (T.me/vv_volodin, August 17).

Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev, President Vladimir Putin's right-hand man and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's counterpart in U.S.-Russian consultations, has accused the U.S. military of misappropriating billions of taxpayers' dollars designated to arm and train the Afghan security forces that melted away as the Taliban swept in. According to Mr. Patrushev, the Americans were involved in Afghan opioid production and trade, while the U.S. military-industrial complex profited on procurement connected with the war. Mr. Patrushev sees a lot of similarities between the Afghan debacle and the situation in Ukraine, where Washington has been "nominating rulers of its own liking, providing Ukrainians with defunct weapons it does not need, while the [Ukrainian] nation is on the verge of collapse and disintegration, overtaken by narcotics and extremism." According to the Russian Security Council chief, the rulers in Kyiv are U.S. lackeys, and their plight will be the same as that of the U.S. lackeys in Kabul: the Americans will ditch them and run (Izvestia, August 19).

Moscow's point man on Afghanistan, special Kremlin envoy Zamir Kabulov, has for many years been promoting the Taliban as the inevitable winner of the Afghan civil war (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, July 15). Ambassador Kabulov has been insisting

Russia must promote ties with the Taliban and ditch the losers: the U.S. forces in Afghanistan and the Ghani government. After the fall of Kabul, Moscow is not evacuating its nationals and is keeping its ambassador and embassy in place. Reportedly, over the past few years, Mr. Kabulov developed warm personal ties with the chief of the Taliban political office in Qatar, the group's main international negotiator and, apparently, number two in the movement, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. The Taliban has promised Moscow there will be no spillover of Islamist radicalism or terrorism into the Central Asian "stans" after the reestablishment of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. Mr. Kabulov seems to believe his partner Mr. Baradar: "I have long figured our Taliban partners [Baradar] are much more trustworthy than the U.S. puppet [sic] government in Kabul" (Gazeta.ru, August 16).

The Russian ambassador to Afghanistan, Dmitry Zhirnov, told Russian state TV that Taliban fighters are guarding the outside perimeter of his embassy and have introduced good law and order to Kabul. Mr. Zhirnov accused Mr. Ghani of fleeing Kabul with a planeload of cash, an accusation Mr. Ghani has rejected. According to Mr. Zhirnov, as the Taliban was entering Kabul on August 15, his embassy staff observed Afghan government police officers taking out of the building of the local interior ministry crates of beer: "Stealing their most essential asset" (Vzglyad, August 18; Militarynews.ru, August 19).

Russian diplomats are openly rooting for the Taliban. But if Mr. Baradar's (and Mr. Kabulov's) assurances of a peaceful and friendly Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan fail to pan out, Moscow is ready to defend the former Soviet border using its 201st Motorized Rifle Division based in Tajikistan, supplemented by local forces, to stop any hostile invasions (see EDM, July 28). But will these forces be adequate to block a jihadist infiltration and subversion of the Central Asian republics? After all, each of those countries features secular, corrupt authoritarian regimes that rule over impoverished and frequently suppressed Muslim-majority masses.

Mr. Kabulov's opinions are not the only ones making the rounds in Moscow. Chechen strongman Ramzan Kadyrov, who controls a sizable private army of Kadyrovtsy and likes to profess both his personal loyalty to Mr. Putin and his Islamic Sufi (anti-Salafi) credentials, has called on Russia and its allies "to prepare for the worst." According to Mr. Kadyrov, the Taliban as well as the Islamic State and al-Qaeda were created by the U.S. to use against Russia, so "the border with Afghanistan must be reinforced" (TASS, August 16).

Alexei Arbatov, a well-respected think tanker, politician and security expert in Moscow, has practically nothing in common with Mr. Kadyrov; but both seem to concur on what must be done in response to the fall of Kabul. Mr. Arbatov believes the 201st base and local forces are not sufficient to keep the border safe. Russia's military presence in the region must be vastly increased, including the redeployment of Russian border guards in Tajikistan, he said in a recent interview (Militarynews.ru, August 16). Yet Moscow entertains other grand plans that could be hampered by a

(Continued on page 17)

NEWSBRIEFS

Merkel in Kyiv discusses geopolitics

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said natural gas should never be used as a geopolitical weapon and backed extending an energy partnership deal with Ukraine once it expires in 2024. Ms. Merkel made the remarks in Kyiv on August 22 at a press conference with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Ms. Merkel made her last visit to Ukraine before she is due to step down after elections in Germany next month. Her visit to the Ukrainian capital comes two days after meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. Ms. Merkel has been criticized for backing the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline, that Kyiv, Washington and others warn will not only strengthen Moscow's energy hold on Europe, but cut Ukraine out of lucrative gas transit fees. At the press conference, Mr. Zelenskyy said talks on extending the gas transit agreement with Russia have been vague. He said he wanted to understand what Ukraine can get after the agreement expires in 2024. Ms. Merkel has been a key supporter of Kyiv since Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimea region and began actively supporting separatist formations in parts of eastern Ukraine in 2014. That conflict has claimed more than 13,000 lives. Ms. Merkel said in a news conference following her meeting with Mr. Putin that she would continue "to work for the territorial integrity of Ukraine" until she steps down following elections in Germany in September. However, Ms. Merkel has been criticized for her stance on Nord Stream 2, which will soon double Russian natural-gas supplies to Germany. Berlin has raised the possibility of creating a mechanism to compensate Ukraine for lost revenue. "You can call it a pragmatic approach," Mr. Zelenskyy said in an interview this week with several media outlets. He called the German chancellor's diplomacy a "very delicate balancing act," but he added that "in my opinion, this is too soft." Ukraine on August 24 celebrated the 30th anniversary of its declaration of independence from the Soviet Union. The country also hosted several European leaders on August 23 for a summit on Crimea and discussed ways of having the peninsula returned to Ukraine, but Ms. Merkel did not participate in the conference. At the press

conference in Kyiv on August 22, Ms. Merkel said Berlin considers Russia's March 2014 annexation of Crimea as illegal. (RFE/RL, with reporting by AFP, Reuters, and dpa)

Russia launches probe into 'ecocide'

Russia has launched a probe into what it called "ecocide" over Ukraine's decision to suspend water deliveries to Russia-annexed Crimea. Ukraine suspended freshwater deliveries to Crimea after Moscow annexed the peninsula in 2014 by sending troops and staging a referendum that was rejected by Ukraine and at least 100 countries. Russia's Investigative Committee said on August 24 that a probe has been launched against unidentified individuals "located on Ukraine's territory and standing against the reunification of Crimea with Russia," who started construction of a dam on the Dnipro River in Ukraine's Kherson region in April 2014, blocking freshwater deliveries to Crimea. Kyiv, which has not commented on Russia's accusation, has said that water deliveries will be resumed after Russia returns Crimea under Ukraine's control. According to the Investigative Committee, the suspension of water deliveries to Crimea from Ukraine via the North Crimean Canal hit agricultural lands, increased the salt level in the waters of the Gulf of Sivash and negatively affected the health of Crimea residents. Last year, Russia-imposed authorities in Crimea had to introduce water-rationing in some towns and cities in the peninsula as the availability of clean drinking water became an issue. (RFE/RL's Russian Service)

Dozens evacuated from Kabul

A Ukrainian military plane carrying 83 people, including journalists, activists, and Afghan women and children, arrived in Kyiv as part of the massive evacuation of foreigners and endangered Afghans from Kabul. Foreign Affairs Minister Dmytro Kuleba said in a post to Twitter on August 22 that the group included journalists from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, The Wall Street Journal and USA Today. "They're safe in Kyiv. We don't abandon our people and help others. Working on further evacuations," Mr. Kuleba wrote. Kyiv is unlikely to

(Continued on page 16)

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: Andrew Nynka
Editor: Matthew Dubas

e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, August 29, 2021, No. 35, Vol. LXXXIX

Copyright © 2021 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

Subscription Department

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



Kyiv hosts a summit of first ladies and gentlemen

Hillary Clinton and Robin Wright among special guests

by Roman Tymotsko

KYIV – At the initiation of Ukraine's first lady, Olena Zelenska, the wives and husbands of the leaders of several countries met in Ukraine on August 23 to discuss "soft power and the new reality."

The summit, which took place on the eve of the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's renewed independence, concluded with a joint declaration on international cooperation and assistance in an effort to resolve pressing humanitarian issues and achieve the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

According to Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the summit is a new format designed to promote international communication between the first ladies and gentlemen of various countries. It is meant to create an international platform whereby participants can share experiences and implement joint projects for the well-being of the citizens of their respective countries.

The key issue of this year's summit is the adaptation of the world to humanitarian challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The summit, which took place on August 23 in the complex of St. Sophia Cathedral, was held in a hybrid format, as some participants attended in person, while others joined the forum online as a result of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

"The pandemic has changed the global rules of the game. Different countries face the same challenges in education, health-care and in ensuring equal rights in the new reality," Olena Zelenska, the wife of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said during her speech that kicked off the inaugural event.

"It is more effective to overcome them by joint efforts. That is why Ukraine initiated this summit to unite the efforts of the first ladies and gentlemen around the world and create an effective international platform not only for the exchange of experience but also for the implementation of joint projects for the well-being of people."

The summit was attended by the first ladies of Brazil, Israel, Costa Rica, Latvia, Lithuania, Serbia, Ukraine, Germany, Croatia, as well as the wife of the president

of the European Council and the daughter of the president of Lebanon.

Ms. Zelenska emphasized that the summit is a completely apolitical event, and participants want to avoid political issues. She said that the event is solely a humanitarian forum, and their goal is to form a non-political union, one of the few in the world.

"First ladies and gentlemen have no political power, but they can draw attention to humanitarian issues at the highest level. So far, there has been no international platform on which we can communicate regularly, sharing the experiences of our countries. By creating such a platform as the summit of first ladies and gentlemen, Ukraine is setting a new trend for the whole world," Ms. Zelenska said.

Ukraine's first lady said she plans to organize such summits annually, saying that it will allow participants to discuss and find solutions to the world's most pressing problems.

Among the topics discussed during the event were equal access to quality health-care, challenges of the new reality in education, equal opportunities for development and self-expression of all people without discrimination.

Several experts joined the discussion, as well as special guests, including former United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who was the first lady of the United States in 1993-2001; American actress and eight-time Emmy nominee and Golden Globe winner Robin Wright, who is known for her role as the first lady of the United States in the TV series *House of Cards*; Lebanese-American essayist and author of the bestsellers "The Black Swan" and "Antifragile" Nassim Nicholas Taleb, as well as Afghan director and the first woman CEO of the company Afghanfilm Sahraa Karimi.

"We, first ladies and gentlemen, have a unique position that is sometimes accompanied by unmatched challenges," Ms. Clinton said. "We live under a magnifying glass, and our life is subject to great scrutiny. This is not easy, as I know from personal experience. At the same time, we have an unprecedented opportunity to serve our country, use resources and relationships to



Presidential press service

Participants of the summit of first ladies and gentlemen met in Kyiv on August 23. Pictured (from left to right) are: Amélie Derbaudrenghien Michel, spouse of the president of the European Council; Andra Levite, first lady of the Republic of Latvia; Olena Zelenska, first lady of Ukraine; Diana Nausėdienė, first lady of the Lithuanian Republic; Tamara Vučić, first lady of the Republic of Serbia; and Claudine Aoun, daughter of the president of the Lebanese Republic.



Olena Zelenska (center, holding microphone), the first lady of Ukraine, speaks during a panel at the inaugural summit of first ladies and gentlemen in Kyiv on August 23.

undertake important projects, and contribute to the preservation of health and well-being of our society," Ms. Clinton said.

Recalling her personal experience, the former first lady and secretary of state said it had been very useful to work in such areas as health care, promoting the rights of women and girls, providing all children with the opportunity to fulfill their potential. Communication with other first ladies and gentlemen was also inspiring and essential, she said. She also congratulated Ukrainians on the 30th anniversary of their renewed independence.

Ms. Wright spoke about helping women in the Congo, saying that the idea to protect their rights came to her after she visited the country in 2011.

"The Congo is probably the worst place for women in the world," she said, adding that she went "from household to household, to senators, nearly to [former U.S. President Barack Obama] to help Congolese women. In this regard, she invited the summit participants to organize a union that would consolidate their influence to help the needy.

"Each of us has a little inspiration, power, authority and equal opportunities

so that we can make the forum the beginning of a new partnership, a union," Ms. Wright said.

According to the Ukrainian presidential office, the country will offer all participants of the summit an action plan meant to foster further cooperation.

"Soft power has received its first international document and will now be able to work continuously and more effectively in the long run," Ms. Zelenska said at the conclusion of the event, referring to the name of the forum and the document that resulted from the summit.

Ms. Zelenska underscored that hundreds of thousands of women, children and families have lost their homes as a result of the armed aggression by Russian-backed troops in Ukraine, and she noted that they need help and support.

"Each and every one of us can and should become the voice of those who are deprived of the opportunity to be heard. Today, the social media initiative #WeCanSaveThem was launched, which calls on all concerned citizens to actively spread information about the situation of women, children and families in conflicts and ways to help them," she said.



American actress and eight-time Emmy nominee and Golden Globe winner Robin Wright (right) takes part in the first ladies summit in Kyiv on August 23.



Officials issue statements to mark 30th anniversary of Ukraine's renewed independence

U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken

The following statement was released by U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken on August 24.

On behalf of the United States of America, I send best wishes to the people of Ukraine as you celebrate your Independence Day.

Thirty years ago, Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada made the bold choice for Ukraine to chart a new course as an independent, democratic and sovereign state grounded in European values. In the three decades since that historic decision, Ukraine's trajectory toward its Euro-Atlantic future has been clear, and the Ukrainian people can be proud of their achievements.

Throughout this period, the United States has stood with you. We are resolute in our

belief that a democratic, prosperous and secure Ukraine is in the interest not only of the people of Ukraine, but also of the United States and the international community. We will continue to support you in your efforts to achieve your Euro-Atlantic aspirations, to restore and secure Ukraine's internationally recognized borders and to defend against Russia's aggression. Your current reform efforts are key to meeting these goals, and we remain your close partner as you work to advance anti-corruption efforts, promote economic growth and fulfill the promise of the Revolution of Dignity.

The United States is committed to strengthening our relationship with Ukraine as we work together to build a prosperous future for all Ukrainians. Congratulations on 30 years of independence!

Ukrainian World Congress

The following statement was released by the Ukrainian World Congress on August 23. It is attributed to UWC President Paul Grod.

Dear friends,

On behalf of the Ukrainian World Congress, I welcome all Ukrainians and friends of Ukraine on this important anniversary – the renewal of Ukraine's independence.

Thirty years ago, the dream of many generations of Ukrainians came true.

The efforts of our global diaspora helped to ensure recognition of Ukraine's independence by the international community in 1991, as well as recognition of the 2014

Revolution of Dignity.

Unfortunately, today Ukraine's independence is once again threatened by Russia's military aggression and imperial ambitions of its leaders.

We remain committed to defending Ukraine and the Ukrainian people around the world; to building a democratic and economically strong Ukraine; and to fostering our identity as Ukrainians around the world.

The global Ukrainian community and all peace-loving people stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Ukraine in their pursuit for peace and prosperity.

Happy Independence Day! Glory to Ukraine! Glory to its Heroes!

U.S. Congressional Ukraine Caucus

The following statement was released on August 24 by the U.S. Congressional Ukraine Caucus on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's renewed independence.

On the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, the Congressional Ukraine Caucus joins with the Ukrainian people and diaspora in celebration. In 1991, the world watched as subjugation and fear gave way to liberty and hope – providing a beacon of light for nations

and peoples still shrouded in darkness. The progress undertaken since then has led to a prosperity and stability that has uplifted the Ukrainian people, and charted a path toward a brighter future. While the shadow of malign influence seeks to reverse this trajectory, the Congressional Ukraine Caucus remains steadfast in its commitment to preserving and strengthening Ukrainian security, and looks forward to celebrating Independence Day with all the generations to follow.

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America released the following statement on August 21.

On August 24, Ukrainians around the world will joyously mark the historic 30th anniversary of Ukraine's renewed independence, celebrating the moment when Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada (parliament) overwhelmingly approved the Act of Declaration of Independence. The restora-

tion of Ukraine's independence was a goal many could only dream of, but this momentous step, taken in 1991, proclaimed an end to centuries of Soviet and Russian bondage and resolutely allowed Ukraine to take its first pivotal move towards establishing a whole, free and democratic state.

Over these past 30 years of renewed independence, Ukrainians have achieved

(Continued on page 9)

Members of U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee

The following statement was issued on August 24 by U.S. Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio), co-chair of the Senate Ukraine Caucus, Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Ben Cardin (D-Md.), and Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

This is an important milestone for Ukraine, marking three decades since an independent Ukraine rose from the ashes of the Soviet Union's collapse. Over the years, Ukraine has faced immense challenges in its effort to build a more prosperous future for its people, from rooting out corruption to defending its territorial integrity against an increasingly aggressive Russia. Despite these struggles, the progress made in Ukraine on urgent governance reforms are undeniable, and we, a bipartisan group of lawmakers in the U.S. Senate, congratu-

late our partners for staying the course.

The U.S. stands in solidarity with Ukraine as it continues to build a democratic, accountable government that is responsive to the needs of its people. We join the rest of the free world in rejecting Russia's territorial claim on Crimea and condemning their ongoing assault on Ukraine's territorial integrity in the Donbas region. We are encouraged by President Zelenskyy's commitment to continue pro-democratic measures that will empower Ukraine and facilitate its entry to NATO and the EU, which is in the best interests of Ukraine, our transatlantic community and U.S. national security. As Ukraine celebrates 30 years of independence, the U.S. reaffirms its support for our partners' determination to ensure a free, democratic future for all its citizens.

Ukrainian Canadian Congress

The following statement was released by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress on August 24.

Today, the Ukrainian people and Ukrainians around the world celebrate the 30th anniversary of the renewal of Ukraine's independence and statehood.

Біраємо!

On August 24, 1991, Ukraine's parliament, exercising the inviolable right of the Ukrainian people to self-determination, declared Ukraine an indivisible, democratic, independent state.

The history of Ukraine is defined by the Ukrainian people's enduring faith in their right to live free in their own land, to choose their common destiny as a nation. That faith unites Ukrainians from Lutsk to Luhansk, from Sumy to Symferopil. Through centuries of foreign occupation and subjugation, that faith in freedom was never extinguished.

Today, the freedom of the Ukrainian people and Ukraine's statehood is defended by the courageous men and women of Ukraine's Armed Forces, who protect their country from Russia's war of aggression. As we celebrate Ukraine's independence, we pay tribute to those whose bravery and valor made it possible, and to those who safeguard that independence today. May God protect them.

As Ukrainian Canadians, we are proud of the leading role that Canada plays in supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and in building a democratic and prosperous Ukraine. We thank the personnel of the Canadian Armed Forces, deployed to Ukraine on Operation UNIFIER, Canada's military training mission in Ukraine, for their service to Canada and their commitment to the shared ideals of the Canadian and Ukrainian people.

Слава Україні! Героям Слава!

The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: July 2021

Amount	Name	City	State
\$1,000.00	Estate of Irene J Zyla		
\$120.00	Clebowicz, Walter	Kensington	CT
\$100	Buniak, Lida & Borys Klufas, Roman A & Lydia Szmagala, Taras	Fayetteville Seekonk Bentleyville	NY MA OH
\$65.00	Kichorowsy-Kevalo, Marta	Briarwood	NY
\$50.00	Durbak, Marie Onufreiczuk, Boris Popowych, Nestor & Olya Rychtyckyj, Nestor	Chicago Wathchung Naples Warren	IL NJ FL MI
\$40.00	Clem, Zwenyslava	Jacksonville	FL
\$35.00	Czepizak, Walt	Ocean	NJ
\$25.00	Mischenko, George Nestor, Irene	Middletown Nanty Glo	NJ PA
\$20.00	Dubas, Ann Makarushka Kolodij, O Kulchytsky, Daria Kulyk, Teofil Nadozirny, Victor Nebesny, Michael & Stefana Petrasz, Jerry	Wayne Maplewood Parma Plant City Cleveland Clinton Chicago	NJ NJ OH FL OH IN IL
\$15.00	Doboszczak, Bohdan Hawryluk, Judie Holubec, Halyna & Lev Kropelnyckyj, Nestor Liskiivskyi-Liss, Olga	Naugatuck Vacaville Oak Brook Warren Lathrup Village	CT CA IL MI MI
	Lonchyna, Vassyl	Hinsdale	IL
\$10.00	Popel, Larissa Sorbelli, Antoinette Tyrol, Thomas	Flanders Rochester Saugerties	NJ NY NY
\$5.00	Laszyn, Taras Oleszko, Oksana	Trenton Berkeley	NJ CA
TOTAL: \$2,080.00			
Sincere thanks to all contributors to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund.			
The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund is the only fund dedicated exclusively to supporting the work of this publication.			

National Guard...

(Continued from page 1)

She recalled stories of empty store shelves, long lines even for the most essential of goods and “people in villages not being allowed to leave without having a passport, which was difficult to get.”

It was “like slavery...and the only toys available were military in nature, as if the Soviets were preparing us for war since childhood,” Ms. Manko said, referring to the toys she had as a child. “There was no freedom of speech, no free voting rights.”

The freedoms Ukrainians enjoy, unlike their neighbors in despotic regimes in neighboring Russian and Belarus, are not lost on Ms. Manko.

She grew up cherishing her civil liberties. Ms. Manko was born in a semi-rural area in the Poltava oblast district town of Dykanka – the setting of famed Ukrainian writer Mykola Hohol’s collection of short stories titled “Evenings on a farm near Dykanka.”

“Right now, we have independence, a democracy and voting rights...there is free speech and a gender-equity approach, women can now become engineers when earlier they couldn’t, they can become military commanders,” Ms. Manko said of the strides Ukraine has made since 1991.

About 53 percent of Ukraine’s adult population say they can “openly express their political views,” a joint survey conducted by the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundations and the Razumkov Center found earlier this month.

Ms. Manko is serving in her 10th year in the National Guard, which changed its name from Internal Troops in 2014 after a popular democratic uprising opposed the increasingly authoritarian and corrupt rule of former President Viktor Yanukovich.

She currently is stationed in a military unit that is subordinated to the Central Territorial Administration in Dnipro (formerly Dnipropetrovsk), 480 kilometers southeast of Kyiv.

To Ms. Manko, service in the National Guard means “not only serving to protect my country,” but it also means “ensuring the safety of my family and a life into seniority.”

Serving with her husband Serhiy, a lieutenant colonel, she is thankful to her parents for “being born in a free Ukraine.”

To Ms. Manko, Ukraine’s 30th year of independence and her Ukrainian citizenship “means being proud...Ukrainians should like their homeland...it means we are independent and the country gives us opportunities to grow.”

According to the same survey, 72 percent of respondents said they were either “rather proud or very proud” to be Ukrainian.

Her goal is to eventually become a general, the first woman in the National Guard, “because a poor soldier is one who doesn’t strive to become a general,” she said.

She already has the status of combat experience after being in the war zone for one month where Russian-armed formations have occupied certain parts of the two easternmost regions of Luhansk and Donetsk in a conflict that has killed 14,000 people since 2014.

When asked with whom Ukraine is at war, Ms. Manko said with “our neighbor.” When pressed to specify which neighbor among six bordering countries, she responded: “Russia.”

Currently, approximately 5,000 women serve and work in the ranks of the National Guard, of whom more than 360 hold managerial and command positions – or less than 1 percent.

There are also no female generals in the

Armed Forces. However, more than 31,000 women serve in the Armed Forces, comprising nearly 16 percent of personnel, Defense Ministry statistics show. It’s a high rate compared with other countries. The United States nearly matches that rate with 14 percent, according to U.S. Defense Department data.

To become a general, Ms. Manko said, means to achieve more education to qualify. She graduated from a medical college in Poltava “because my parents didn’t have money to send me to a medical academy.”

Her two other degrees are from the Yuriy Buhai International University of Science and Technology in Kyiv where she majored in telecommunications and radio engineering, as well as accounting and taxation via distance learning.

Asked what she wants most from life and her personal interests, Ms. Manko said, “I want to be loyal to my country, wish for stability in Ukraine...I want an end to the war...I’m married, I care for my family and I enjoy reading books about psychology.”

Greetings on the 30th anniversary of Ukraine’s renewed independence!

The following abridged statement was released by the non-governmental organization Ukraine-2050 on August 24.

The non-governmental organization Ukraine-2050 extends greetings to the hierarchs and clergy of Ukrainian churches, the president, chair of the parliament, prime minister and the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the leadership of the Ukrainian World Congress, all Ukrainians and friends of Ukraine worldwide on the 30th anniversary of Ukraine’s renewed Independence.

By regaining Ukraine’s independence, the Ukrainian people took control of both their land and destiny.

Thirty years later one can state with certainty that their future is only forward.

The Ukrainian people have understood their power, declared their choice determinedly and with their actions have demonstrated a very high level of national

maturity and solidarity, a dedication to the principles of democracy and the ideal of freedom, as well as a responsibility for their future.

So on this anniversary we should thank the Almighty God for His extremely valuable gift of Ukraine’s renewed independence, and pray for all those who gave their lives for this long-awaited independence, as well as for Ukraine’s ability to fully recover and preserve its territorial integrity as soon as possible, including the temporarily occupied territories of Crimea and Donbas.

May this – our greatest national holiday – inspire every Ukrainian to believe in the better future of his people and to work even harder to further build the Ukrainian state, to which we are committed by the many Ukrainian heroes who have laid down their lives on the altar of freedom throughout our history.

Slava Ukraini! Heroiam slava!



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

At the next quadrennial convention in May 2022 the Ukrainian National Association will elect a President/CEO and Board of Directors among others and subsequently appointments will be made to the positions of Secretary/COO and Treasurer/CFO.

Applicants should possess proven governance and executive leadership skills and experience. Desired qualities and talents include executive leadership, experience in business management and an ability to think across all disciplines relevant to the UNA. Individuals appointed to the positions of Secretary/COO and Treasurer/CFO will be members of the Board of Directors.

All applicants must be UNA members in good standing. A full position profile and instructions for applying are on-line at <https://unainc.org/una/leadership-position-openings/>.

The completed forms and a copy of the applicant’s detailed Resume must be sent via certified mail on or before October 31, 2021 to:

Ukrainian National Association, Inc.
Attn: Mr. Stefan Kaczaraj, President
2200 Route 10
PO Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Ukraine's 30th Independence Day celebrations

On August 24, Ukraine kicked off its celebration of the 30th anniversary of the country's renewed independence with all of the official pomp and pageantry one might expect.

Representatives of all 30 NATO member countries were in attendance and watched as members of the Armed Forces and other elements of Ukraine's auxiliary units marched along Khreshchatyk Street. Soldiers from Britain, Georgia, Estonia, Canada, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, the U.S. and the Czech Republic followed.

Ukrainian naval ships sailed in the Black Sea near Odesa, while, back in Kyiv, military and transport aircraft, including helicopters, fighter jets and the world's biggest plane – the AN-225 Mriya transport equipped with six turbine engines – all made ceremonial passes over the parade route. U.S.-made F-16 fighter jets flown by Polish pilots buzzed overhead. British Typhoon jets expelled a stream of blue-and-yellow smoke as they flew over the capital. Ukraine's newest tank, the Kharkiv-made Oplot, rolled down the street, state-of-the-art Turkish-made Bayraktar battle drones were displayed atop armored vehicles, and U.S.-provided Hummers towed unmanned weaponry. It was a traditional and perhaps very necessary – considering the looming threat of further Russian aggression – display of military might.

But the celebration included another more notable and arguably more important element relevant to Ukraine's goal of becoming, as the Ukrainian president said, a "strong" nation among other democratic, freedom-loving countries of the world. This year's celebration included a poignant and moving 13-minute film screened during the main parade. It followed a young Ukrainian girl holding a bouquet of flowers as she seemed to search for someone while moving past seminal moments and people in the country's history. It was the narration of the video that caught our attention.

If Ukraine is to throw off its Soviet past and rid itself of a mindset that so deeply embedded itself in many Ukrainians, it cannot simply ask people to discard that legacy without giving them something else on which to focus their collective historical memory. As the film took its viewers on a tour that began with the Kyivan Rus era, the narration noted the many instances in which Ukraine's forebears shaped the values, ideals and direction of democratic culture throughout the world. The Soviet apparatus spent decades trying to destroy our collective memory of those contributions. Thankfully, and with the help of such tributes, Ukrainians are beginning to remember again.

The film concluded with the young girl, now in real time, running down the main parade route along Khreshchatyk Street in Kyiv until she finally finds her father, a soldier in Ukraine's Armed Forces, who was marching in the parade. The two embraced and the daughter handed her father the bouquet of flowers. The Ukrainian president could be seen wiping tears from his eyes. We assume he wasn't the only one.

Aug.
30
2011

Turning the pages back...

Ten years ago, on August 30, 2011, Oleksii Pukach, the prime suspect in the killing of Ukrainian investigative journalist Heorhii Gongadze, stated at his trial that former President Leonid Kuchma was among those who ordered the murder. Gongadze's headless body was discovered in a forest outside of Kyiv in late 2000.

Oleksii Podolskyi, a former colleague of Gongadze's who attended the closed-door court session, said Mr. Pukach "clearly named former President Leonid Kuchma and former Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Kravchenko as having ordered the murder."

Mr. Kuchma, who served as president of Ukraine from 1994 to 2005, was charged earlier in 2011 with exceeding authority with actions that led to the Gongadze killing.

Mr. Kravchenko was found dead at his summer house near Kyiv on March 4, 2005, with the official cause of death determined to be a suicide.

Valentyna Telychenko, an attorney representing Myroslava Gongadze (Heorhii Gongadze's widow), told journalists after the court session that Mr. Pukach testified that he killed Gongadze "to save Ukraine."

Mr. Pukach told the court that Gongadze and two associates had been preparing "since 1997 to seize power in Ukraine illegally, and so I killed him to save the country," Ms. Telychenko told reporters. "One has to have guts and nerves to listen to something like that," she said.

Mr. Pukach was the former head of the Main Criminal Investigation Department at the Internal Affairs Ministry's Foreign Surveillance Unit. He was arrested in July 2009 in Zhytomyr Oblast, and charged with Gongadze's murder.

Andriy Fedur, an attorney for Gongadze's mother, Lesia Gongadze, told journalists he was convinced the Pukach trial was being held behind closed doors to ensure that Mr. Pukach's testimony does not become public.

During the trial, Mr. Pukach also testified that Volodymyr Lytvyn, former chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, also ordered the murder of Gongadze. Mr. Pukach was sentenced in January 2013 to life in prison by the Pechersk District Court of Kyiv, which ruled that Mr. Pukach had murdered Gongadze on orders from Mr. Kravchenko.

This year, the Supreme Court of Ukraine on July 2 rejected Mr. Pukach's appeal for a retrial and upheld the sentence issued by the Pechersk District Court.

Source: "Suspect testifies Kuchma ordered Gongadze killing," (RFE/RL), *The Ukrainian Weekly*, September 4, 2011.

COMMENTARY

Putin's alternative history

by Askold S. Lozynskyj

People see events differently, but there are certain criteria in the civilized world, and in historiography in particular, that use suggested or generally accepted frameworks for respecting sources and interpreting them reasonably by researchers and scholars who work with them. This apparently does not apply to Muscovites or Russians who have a legacy of disinformation dating back to the tsars. Tsarina Catherine II in the 18th century commissioned her subordinate scholars to write a revised history of the empire from the cradle in order to justify the empire's existence and its role. The tsarina found herself an empress. The history written to date was adequate for a duchy but certainly not for an empire. Its beginnings had to pre-date and be more imposing or venerable than that of its subjects or subordinates. So, Catherine II, ruler of the Russian Empire, wrote the history of the empire according to Empress Catherine II.

Similarly, today an authoritarian Muscovite leader without a meaningful educational diploma or legacy, nevertheless, this time relying ostensibly on his own or assisted expertise and, certainly, his own imprimatur, has taken on an equally difficult task, this time rewriting or reiterating his own version of the history of the empire, albeit limiting himself to the relationship between Muscovites and Ukrainians, his most acclaimed subordinates, currently lost as subjects. In essence the Ukrainian-Muscovite relationship, at least in the mind of Vladimir Putin, spells the history of the empire.

For the sake of clarity, I must reveal that I am reluctant to use the term "Russia or Russians" because that name does not legitimately belong to the descendants of Muscovy, but emanates from the words "Kyivan Rus," which is the cradle of today's Ukraine. I do revert to the terms "Russia and Russians" at times only for the benefit of the readers and to preclude confusion.

Here are some globally, generally accepted historical facts in response to Mr. Putin's vision and, in particular, his interpretation of the history of Kyiv and Moscow: My aim is to stress that Mr. Putin's interpretation of Ukraine-Russia historical events can be acceptable to no one. The Italian Christopher Columbus, on behalf of Spanish monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella, traveled west in three ships and lost his way to the East Indies but came upon America. Some historians have given him credit for discovering America. Other historians insist that the Viking Leaf Erickson did it earlier. However, no American, as well as neither Columbus nor Erickson, had or have the slightest claim to Rome, Madrid or Stockholm as their cradle, nor does anyone consider

Americans, Italians, Spaniards or Swedes as being brothers except in the Christian human sense. Similarly, the Normans from France invaded and conquered England, but today's English have no claim to Paris as their cradle. Likewise, the French do not stake claim to London.

The son of Grand Prince Volodymyr Monomakh of Kyiv, Prince Yuri Dovgoruky, traveled (actually had to flee) to the east in search of a place and people to rule and founded a settlement-village-town called Muscovy. Today it is a large capitol city named Moscow in a vast area of land that spans 10 time zones, gained through centuries of invasion, conquest and bloodshed.

Contrary to all established norms, this empire and its authoritarian ruler of the 21st century claim that Kyiv is the cradle of its people. For the strength of his argument as a nexus, Mr. Putin mentions Novhorod, conquered by the Muscovites only at the end of the 15th century and its connection with Kyiv. Novhorod did exist as a part of Kyivan Rus and later as its own Novhorod State. Mr. Putin's argument goes: Novhorod is part of Russia, the dynasty of the Kyivan grand princes stems from Novhorod, thus Kyiv is the cradle of Russia. The real history is that Novhorod from the 9th century was the Varangian settlement of one Prince Rurik. His descendants constituted the Rurik dynasty of princes that traveled south on the Dnipro River and ruled Kyivan Rus for four centuries. However, at no time was Kyiv subservient or dependent upon Novhorod. Muscovites trace Novhorod to Alexander Nevsky, who was there in the 13th century but never had anything to do with Kyivan Rus. By the way, Novhorod as a settlement was almost four centuries younger than Kyiv and became a state 100 years after the beginning of the Kyivan Rus state. Mr. Putin's argumentation is at the very least a stretch and certainly not scholarly or even rational.

Tsarina Catherine II, who ruled the Russian Empire in the second half of the 18th century, was a German. The name "Russian" was misappropriated by her predecessor Tsar Peter in the early part of the 18th century. Tsar Peter also moved the capital from Moscow to St. Petersburg, a city built by him and named brazenly after himself. Despite Catherine's German ethnicity, Berlin does not belong to the formerly Muscovites, now Russians, nor does Moscow or St. Petersburg belong to the Germans. In any case, the Muscovites (Russians) and the Germans are not one people. Muscovites are partly Slavs and partly Finno-Ugric. Ukrainians are Slavs, Poles are Slavs, but Ukrainians and Poles are not brothers as well.

(Continued on page 7)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Heartfelt congratulations to all Ukrainian Olympic athletes

Dear Editor:

As a Ukrainian-American, I would like to state that all of the Ukrainian Olympic athletes (whether they took a medal or not), along with their coaches, team advisors, and support personnel, have much to be proud of. Whether from Ukraine proper, or representing some other nation, via

their sporting activities, the entire world has learned much more about Ukraine. To all of them I say congratulations and my heartfelt thanks. I very much look forward to the soon upcoming 2022 Winter Games. Glory to all!

Orest M. Logusz,
Colonel, U.S. Army (retired)

Putin's...

(Continued from page 6)

A similar contortion of history is manifested in Moscow's claim to be the "Third Rome" (Rome, Constantinople, Moscow). The Orthodox Christian faith came to Moscow from Kyiv. This faith came to Kyiv from Constantinople, today Istanbul.

But Kyiv has never claimed to be the seat of Orthodoxy, and, in fact, several years ago, for Canonical sake, appealed to the patriarch in Istanbul for recognition. Instead, Moscow, whose Orthodoxy is completely dependent on Kyiv, claims to be the seat of Orthodoxy. The irony is astounding, but not to the Russians or Mr. Putin, as well as many of his predecessors during the times of Muscovy, the Russian empire, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or now the Russian Federation.

Another ironic subject cited by Mr. Putin to reinforce the brotherhood argument is the Ukrainian poet and bard Taras Shevchenko. Mr. Putin writes that, "Taras Shevchenko wrote poetry in the Ukrainian language, and prose mainly in Russian." Mr. Putin fails to mention that Shevchenko wrote within the Russian empire, that during his period of exile he was prohibited from writing in Ukrainian.

My own reluctance to use the term Russia comes from Shevchenko, who never used the term. Shevchenko's political poetry was devoted to expressing his anti-Muscovy sentiments. Shevchenko cursed the Ukrainian kozak Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky for his alliance with the tsar of Moscow, known as the Treaty of Pereiaslav, when he sought an ally against the Poles and the Crimean Khanate. The Muscovites used this opportunity, as usual, and began to take over kozak lands, appoint hetmans, and so on. However, the kozaks did not become part of Russia in the 17th century as Mr. Putin states because there was no such state as Russia. Moscow stole the name and history of Kyivan Rus' only in the 18th century. The abuse by Moscow was not foreseen by Khmelnytsky and there was resistance, which ended at the battle of Poltava in 1709 under Hetman Ivan Mazepa, where the Muscovy Tsar Peter was victorious. The battlefield was on the territory of the kozaks and thus it was yet another invasion of the kozak lands by Moscow. Tsar Peter reinforced his military victory by taking as his own the name Rus', thus Russian empire.

On the subject of Crimea, Mr. Putin is entirely off base. Moscow had nothing to do with Crimea until it conquered it as late as in the second half of the 18th century (1783). Well before then, Kyiv had existed for over 1,000 years and had a history of trade with Crimea, and, even more, Prince Volodymyr of Kyiv was baptized there. Crimea is Ukraine by virtue that, at the time of the Helsinki Accords, it was a part of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Helsinki was quite specific on the inviolability of borders. The Soviet Union signed the accords. The Russian Federation has stressed in international relations that it is the successor in interest to the USSR.

Crimea was colonized by the Russians after 1944 when Josef Stalin perpetrated a genocide against the indigenous peoples there by deporting the Crimean Tatars and replacing them with Russians.

The above represent some of the more egregious historical distortions by pseudo historian Putin. There are also minor inaccuracies resulting either from the fact that Mr. Putin is not a historian but a dictator or from poor fact checking for which someone will be punished. In the list of historical events, it is advantageous for Mr. Putin to omit the following historical events: the declaration of independence of Kuban (from the

territory of Russia) in 1918 and the appeal of the population of Kuban to join the Ukrainian People's Republic; the Holodomor of 1932-1933 and the 7-10 million number of Ukrainian victims not only in the Ukrainian SSR but throughout the Russian SSR, where Ukrainians were concentrated, an alarming decline of some 20 percent and at the same time an increase of almost 25 percent of the Russian population; the colonization of Ukrainian lands by Russians where Ukrainians starved to death; a referendum in independent Ukraine in December of 1991, when even regions colonized by Russians in the Donbas and the autonomous republic of Crimea voted overwhelmingly for independence; the invasion of Russian troops, weapons, tanks and missiles, and even nuclear weapons into Crimea and the Donbas region.

Volodymyr Serhijchuk, a professor at Kyiv State University, wrote in response to my inquiry about Mr. Putin's article.

"Mr. Putin's main mistake is that he preaches the unity of Ukrainians and Russians – this cannot be "a priori," because they were created in different climatic conditions with different levels of material production. Alexander Nevsky had nothing to do with the creation of Russia, and Novhorod in the 9th century was a West Slavic settlement of Ilmen-Slovenes captured by the Vikings, which had nothing to do with the Finno-Ugric peoples... By the way, Mr. Putin does not mention the 'fraternal' destruction of Baturyn in 1708 and Kyiv in 1918 for the Ukrainian language."

It is very difficult to convince an uninformed person, and impossible to convince a badly intentioned one. So let Mr. Putin tell the story in his own way, and let the whole world see him as the murderer he is. If a Muscovite is the brother of a Ukrainian, he is the biblical Cain. The problem, however, is not in the alternative version of history, but in the fact that this grossly false information may be read by the uninformed and accepted or used. There is no shortage of uninformed or badly intentioned people.

The main reason, I suspect, why this alternative history appeared now rather than sooner or later is that Mr. Putin is closing in on 69 years. He must realize his own mortality. People in Russia naturally do not live that long, let alone men. True, Mr. Putin is not a drinker, but killer's stress must be severe even in the absence of a conscience or soul, as U.S. President Joe Biden suggested about Mr. Putin. Mr. Putin is killing people, women and children, not only in Ukraine, but in Russia, Britain and even Syria with chemical weapons. His historical legacy is now that of a murderer and a pariah. Russia needs to expend its own people because it is necessary to colonize Transdnister, Crimea and Donbas. Russian couples do not have many children in comparison to the Islamic population of the Russian Federation. Mr. Putin needs to become an emperor like Empress Catherine II. For that there must be a Russian Empire.

Ambition overshadows reality, which is that there are no empires today. To be an empire Russia needs Ukraine, as President Jimmy Carter's national security adviser, Prof. Zbigniew Brzezinski, said, not only for its rich territory but for its history of over 300 years and the Orthodox faith. Ironically once again, Mr. Putin extends a hand of brotherhood to Ukrainians and at the same time lays claim to Ukrainian lands. It seems to me that reaching out to a neighbor with the words become my brother or I will kill you is not a good approach, especially given that the two peoples are children of different mothers.

Askold S. Lozynskyy is an attorney at law based in New York City who served as president of the Ukrainian World Congress in 1998-2008.

COMMENTARY

Ukraine's renewed independence: why it matters!

by Eugene Czolij

This year, Ukrainians and our friends throughout the world will commemorate the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's renewed independence and the fulfillment of the visionary words of our legendary prophet Taras Shevchenko who, in 1845, wrote in "The Great Vault" (Velykyi lokh):

And from beneath Ukraine will rise.
It will dispel the gloom of bondage,
It will light the world of truth,
And prayers will be said in freedom
By children once unfree!

Thirty years ago, countless, hopeful offerings of prayers were answered, the courageous David against Goliath struggle of Ukrainian freedom fighters was won, and tremendous sacrifices of generations of Ukrainians were rewarded, as Ukrainians received God's greatest gift for a nation when the following words of the Act of Declaration of Independence of Ukraine resonated in the Ukrainian parliament on August 24, 1991:

The Verkhovna Rada ... solemnly declares the Independence of Ukraine and the creation of an independent Ukrainian state – Ukraine.

The territory of Ukraine is indivisible and inviolable.

From this day forward, only the Constitution and laws of Ukraine are valid on the territory of Ukraine.

This declaration of Ukraine's renewed independence is unquestionably one of the most important and defining geopolitical events of the 20th century.

Indeed, when Ukraine declared – once again, and once and for all – its renewed independence, it propelled everyone into a new geopolitical era, caused the collapse of what former U.S. President Ronald Reagan correctly coined as an "evil empire," and allowed the Ukrainian people to emerge from colonialism and enter the enviable circle of free peoples of the world.

To better understand and fully appreciate the magnitude of this event, it is necessary to comprehend the suffocating yoke of which Ukraine was finally able to rid itself.

Ukraine had suffered three centuries of merciless Russian domination and exploitation, including more than 70 years of indescribable communist terror, which in the 20th century alone included:

- the Holodomor that took millions of Ukrainian lives and is now being recognized by the international community for what it actually was – one of the worst genocides in human history;

- the banning of religion, confiscation of church property and systemic persecution and killing of the hierarchy, clergy and laity of Ukrainian churches and faith communities that forced worshippers into catacombs similar to the days of the evil Roman emperor Nero;

- the brutal repression and execution of Ukraine's prominent figures in science, literature, culture and art, including during a period known as the Executed Renaissance (Rozstriliane Vidrodzhennia);

- the ruthless Russification and destruction of any resistance to the Soviet empire, or the manifestation of any form of Ukrainian independence, resulting in the forced imprisonment of countless millions of Ukrainians in Soviet Gulag torturous death camps;

- the loss of millions of Ukrainian lives at the hands of the Red Army and the Nazis

during World War II; and

- the Chernobyl disaster that was an extension of a policy of careless and insatiable plundering of Ukrainian resources by the Kremlin and its subsequent cover up of that nuclear explosion (namely by still holding – five days later – the May 1 parade in Kyiv under the radioactive sky of Ukraine's capital a mere 90 kilometers away from the nuclear disaster, thereby endangering the lives of innocent people, including youth and children).

Only against such a backdrop can one begin to appreciate the enormous significance of the long-awaited declaration of Ukraine's renewed independence on August 24, 1991.

In this light, Ukrainians should be individually, collectively and eternally grateful to the Almighty for having unchained the shackles of the Soviet empire and satisfied the fervent aspirations of the Ukrainian people for freedom.

Ukrainian freedom fighters who paved the way to Ukraine's renewed independence, and all those who are currently bravely defending Ukraine's territorial integrity against Russia's military aggression must also be honoured as Ukraine's national heroes.

By regaining Ukraine's independence, the Ukrainian people took control of both their land and destiny.

The Ukrainian diaspora contributed to this great success story by actively supporting the Ukrainian nation and its freedom fighters. The Ukrainian diaspora has also benefited from the declaration of Ukraine's renewed independence since the West now recognizes that Ukrainians in the diaspora have their roots in a country called Ukraine, and not in some unknown territory forming part of the Austro-Hungarian, Polish, Romanian or Soviet states.

The restoration of Ukraine's independence in 1991 was also the last nail in the coffin of one of the most brutal empires in the world, forcing the dissolution of the Soviet Union into 15 independent states. Thus, Ukraine's independence ensured the liberation of many other enslaved peoples of the former Soviet Union.

In his book "Strategic Vision: America and the Crisis of Global Power," Zbigniew Brzezinski, the well-known U.S. foreign policy intellectual who served as President Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser, as well as foreign affairs adviser to several other U.S. Presidents, wrote: "It cannot be stressed enough that without Ukraine, Russia ceases to be an empire, but with Ukraine suborned and then subordinated, Russia automatically becomes an empire."

In that sense, Ukraine's independence removed the constant threat emanating from the Russian empire and rendered the world a much safer place in which to live.

Russia recognized Ukraine's independence in name only, but never accepted the resulting geopolitical reality.

Indeed, Vladimir Putin, Russia's modern-day kleptocratic tsar with imperialistic ambitions, has openly lamented that the break-up of the Soviet Union was "the greatest catastrophe of the 20th century" and he remains determined to restore its so-called glory.

That is precisely why Russia invaded Crimea in February 2014 and, shortly thereafter, parts of eastern Ukraine. Since

(Continued on page 17)



SELF RELIANCE NEW YORK
Federal Credit Union

САМОПОМІЧ НЬЮ ЙОРК
Федеральна Кредитова Кооператива

First Time Home Buyer?



Rates as low as

2.417% APR*

On Fixed Rate Loans

10% Down—No PMI



NYC—KERHONKSON—UNIONDALE—ASTORIA—LINDENHURST

Telephone: (212) 473-7310

Toll Free:(888) SELF-REL

Email: Info@selfreliancenyc.org

Website: www.selfreliancenyc.org

*APR as of 3/1/2021 listed above. APR based upon a \$350,000 mortgage amount with no application fee and no points. 1-4 family owner occupied; 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.

SRNYFCU NMLS# 699320



NOW OFFERING

Eastern Christian Catechetics Certificate

Manor College now features the only Eastern Christian Catechetics program in the world based on the Ukrainian Catholic catechism!



100%
online format



Starting
Fall 2021

Learn More Today

manor.edu/academics/adult-continuing-education/catechetics

Ecumenical...

(Continued from page 1)

The creation of an independent Ukrainian Church became a historic event and was celebrated by many Ukrainians around the world.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with Patriarch Bartholomew on the first day of his visit on August 20.

"First of all, I want to thank you for this visit," Mr. Zelenskyy said. "For me, for Ukraine, for all of us, it is a great honor that you joined us on such important days as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of our independence. This is very important for us," the president said.

Patriarch Bartholomew said he was happy to be on the beautiful, hospitable Ukrainian land, especially as Ukraine celebrates the 30th anniversary of independence.

"It is a great honor for us to celebrate this important date for Ukraine together with you," said Patriarch Bartholomew.

He has visited Ukraine twice before, with his last trip to the country taking place in 2008 on the occasion of the 1,020th anniversary of the Baptism of Kyivan Rus. The 30th anniversary of Ukraine coincides with the 30th anniversary of Bartholomew's election as ecumenical patriarch. Mr. Zelenskyy has visited the ecumenical patriarch twice during his term.

During his conversation with Patriarch Bartholomew, Mr. Zelenskyy noted that Ukraine is an example of a country in which many different religious denominations coexist peacefully.

The two men discussed the issue of a peaceful settlement to the conflict in the Donbas, the violations of fundamental human rights and freedoms, in particular freedom of religion, in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. Mr. Zelenskyy noted that one of the factors that Russia uses against Ukraine as a hybrid weapon is religion.

Mr. Zelenskyy thanked the ecumenical patriarch for the attention and support given to the children of Ukrainian soldiers who lost their parents as a result of Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine.

"I know how warmly you met them at your residence in Fener [the neighborhood in Istanbul in which the ecumenical patriarch is located] in 2018. I appreciate your willingness to meet them [again] during your visit," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Ukrainian Congress...

(Continued from page 4)

unbelievable successes – a political and cultural revival – from the establishment of a vibrant civil society and a strategic partnership with the United States to deepening their ties with Euro-Atlantic structures. Unfortunately, along with these many successes came many sacrifices. Today Ukraine must continue to fight to safeguard its long-fought independence. Let us honor the brave men and women who continue to stand on the frontlines of democracy defending not only Ukraine's sovereignty, but that of all of Europe.

Today, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representative organization of Americans of Ukrainian descent, joins Ukrainians around the world in celebrating this historic 30th anniversary of renewed independence. UCCA sends its warmest greetings and prays that the good Lord safeguards the Ukrainian people and grants them the strength to secure their sovereignty, the fortitude to restore their territorial integrity and the wisdom to continue on their democratic, Euro-Atlantic path.

Na mnohiyi i blahiyi lita!

Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the Heroes!

The first day of Patriarch Bartholomew's visit to Ukraine began with a tribute to the individuals who died fighting for the freedom and independence of Ukraine, as well as to the victims of the Holodomor-Genocide of 1932-1933. On August 21, Patriarch Bartholomew met with Metropolitan Epifaniy, primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, according to the press service of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Meanwhile, the Russian Orthodox Church opposed Patriarch Bartholomew's visit to Ukraine, arguing that the trip could cause a possible confrontation among the two churches. The Moscow Church, which considers Ukraine its canonical territory, contrary to church canons, does not recognize the decisions of the ecumenical patriarch. It has severed ties with those hierarchs or churches that have recognized the independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

The Moscow Patriarchate fears that, after Patriarch Bartholomew visits Ukraine, the churches under Moscow's authority will be placed under the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Following Bartholomew's decision that granted the Ukrainian Orthodox Church its independence, the Russian Orthodox Church severed ties with the Patriarchate of Constantinople in Istanbul. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate declared it would stay out of events attended by Bartholomew I, and dozens of its followers rallied in Kyiv to protest his visit.

The Moscow Church claimed that

Patriarch Bartholomew destroyed all Orthodox unity in an effort to gain what they said was unprecedented authority.

"Before our eyes, a completely different model of world Orthodoxy is being formed, in which the central place is prepared for the Eastern Pope with unprecedented powers and privileges," said Metropolitan Anthony (Pakanich) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate.

"The adventure of Patriarch Bartholomew in Ukraine in its consequences goes far beyond the dispute over jurisdiction over a certain territory," Metropolitan Anthony said.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) welcomed the visit to Ukraine of Patriarch Bartholomew, who played a crucial role in gaining the autocephaly of the Ukrainian Orthodoxy Church.

"By returning Ukrainian Orthodoxy to its historical roots, this momentous event marked the ultimate independence of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine and realized the aspirations of many generations of Ukrainian Orthodox Christians in Ukraine and the diaspora," the UWC said in a statement.

The UWC has worked with the Orthodox Church of Ukraine to lobby for its recognition as an independent church by other Autocephalous Orthodox churches.

On August 23, Patriarch Bartholomew met with members of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations.

Metropolitan Epifaniy told Patriarch

Bartholomew that after years of coexistence of Christians of different denominations, as well as Muslims and Jews, and following many years of anti-religious persecution, a unique inter-religious atmosphere has developed in Ukraine.

The council has existed for 25 years and it works to foster peace and mutual understanding in Ukraine. As a result, representatives of different religious communities can collaborate based on mutual respect and equal rights, overcoming contradictions and finding consensus despite differences of opinion.

"Leaving aside issues on which we have different views, the members of the Council are focused on those things where we have the same, common or close position," Metropolitan Epifaniy said.

According to the press service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, Patriarch Bartholomew is known in the world as "the one who builds bridges" in large part because of his many years of experience in inter-Christian and inter-religious dialogue. He emphasized the role of the Church in resolving contradictions in society, as it can "use the oil of faith to soothe and heal the wounds of others, not to kindle new fires of hatred."

"It is a sign of hope that despite the horrors of the 20th century, the most brutal era in human history, our understanding of dialogue is becoming an increasingly important tool for building bridges and reconciliation," Patriarch Bartholomew said.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR ITS NEW CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

At the next quadrennial convention in May 2022 the Ukrainian National Association will elect the following:

**President/CEO
Board of Directors
Audit Committee
Fraternal Advisory Board**

Candidates should possess proven governance and executive leadership skills and experience. Desired qualities and talents include executive leadership, experience in business management and an ability to think across all disciplines relevant to the UNA.

All candidates must be UNA members in good standing. A full position profile and instructions for applying are on-line at <https://unainc.org/una/leadership-position-openings/>.

The completed forms and a copy of the nominee's detailed Resume and a short statement as to why the nominee would be an excellent candidate must be sent via certified mail on or before October 31, 2021 to:

Ukrainian National Association, Inc.
Attn: Mr. Stefan Kaczaraj, President
2200 Route 10
PO Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

LOAN PROGRAMS

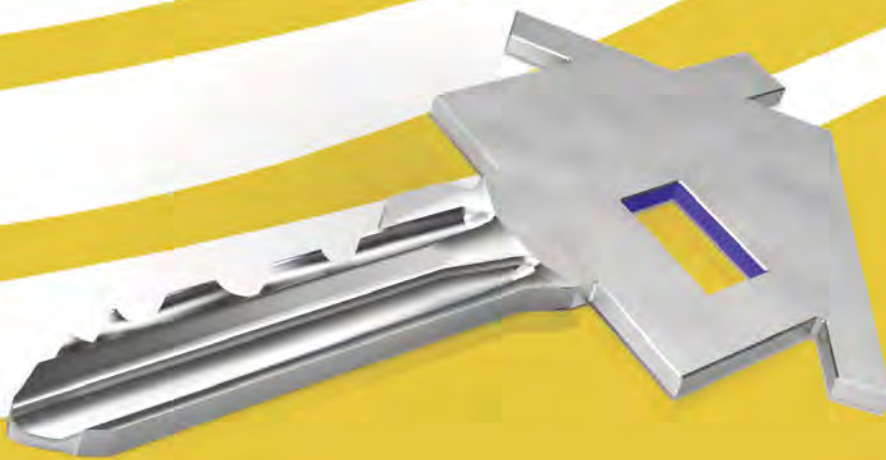


TO *fit your needs*

Purchase your dream home with only a

5% Down Payment!

Now with just a 5% down payment and private mortgage insurance (PMI) coverage you can purchase your new home. Whether you do not have the funds for the expected 20% down payment or you rather not tie up that much of your cash and invest it otherwise - this new offer could be for you.



First-time Home Buyer?

A unique proposal from SUMA FCU offers our members who are first-time home buyers the rare chance to purchase a new home with just a 10% down payment without any additional PMI coverage. Also ask us about other government grants available to first-time home buyers.

For more information on one of the above programs or any other financial questions you may have, we stand ready to support you with the best rates and personalized care that you have come to expect from the SUMA FCU.

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

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



SUMAFcu NMLS# 527694

1-888-644-SUMA (7862) | Visit us online at www.sumafcu.org

30 The 30th anniversary of Ukraine's renewed independence



Ukrainian military servicemen stand on Khreshchatyk Street in Kyiv on August 24. One service member was joined by his daughter who was featured in a short video screened for the celebration of the country's 30th year of renewed independence.



President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and First Lady Olena Zelenska attend the traditional multi-confessional prayer before Independence Day celebrations at St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv on August 24.

With pomp...

(Continued from page 1)

eventually brought Orthodox Christianity to what is modern-day Ukraine. He continued to link that era to the prince's seal, whose trident symbol comprises the nation's small coat-of-arms.

Mr. Zelenskyy spoke of the country's "Kozak ancestry," referring to the historical linkage between Ukraine and the Hetmanate state, when successive freedom-loving kozak leaders had and then tried to preserve a nation-state.

The brief period of independence amid and immediately after World War I in what was called the Ukrainian National Republic was evoked as well.

The WWII period and the years afterward, into the early 1950s, of Ukrainian partisan insurgency against Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union were not mentioned.

Mr. Zelenskyy said he would sign a decree designating a "Day of Ukrainian Statehood," along with a draft law that would be submitted to parliament so it could become a national holiday.

"We consider the year of Kyiv's foundation to be its starting point. The capital of Kyivan Rus' - Ukraine, which is rightly called the city where it all begins," he said. "We will never give anyone a single stone of our history again, we will not allow 'occupying' any page of our history, 'annexing' our writers, our scientists, our athletes, our heroes who defeated Nazism."

In front of dozens of foreign dignitaries and Ukrainian officials, Mr. Zelenskyy transitioned to what he said was a "powerful" nation emerging amid a time of war with Russian-occupying forces.

He touted upgraded Soviet-era and new military hardware used by Armed Forces and other weaponry that is in development. The nation's second successive wartime president boasted of infrastructure and digitalization projects as well.

"A powerful country is reviving its naval fleet, naval bases and building corvettes. A powerful country is a country that adopts a missile program for 10 years. [One] which builds thousands of kilometers of roads, hundreds of schools, kindergartens and hospitals, which is the first in the world to have a digital passport, which fulfills its promises and lifts the [prosecutorial] immunity of deputies [members of parliament], which for the first time gives people real ownership of [agricultural] land [after a 20-year moratorium was lifted]," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

A poignant and moving 13-minute theatrical, narrated film was shown on huge video screens in Independence Square. It chronicled many of Ukraine's main historical events beginning with the Kyivan Rus era. The movie followed a young Ukrainian girl, holding a bouquet of flowers, as she seemed to search for someone while moving through seminal moments in the country's history. It concluded with the girl, now in real time, running down the main parade route along Khreshchatyk Street in

Kyiv until she finally finds her father, a soldier in Ukraine's Armed Forces marching in the parade. The two embraced and the daughter handed her father the bouquet of flowers. The Ukrainian president could be seen wiping tears from his eyes. The video can be seen on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=73&v=n9GJq0PJ1fQ&feature=emb_logo).

After his 18-minute speech, Mr. Zelenskyy gave out state awards, some posthumously, from the highest - Hero of Ukraine - to civilian awards, such as the Yaroslav Mudryi and Freedom awards.

Before asking for a minute of silence, Mr. Zelenskyy said the solemn moment was "devoted to our defenders, the soldiers who gave their lives...for our chance to be here today."

He noted the sacrifice of fallen soldiers who had died "for our future, our children and grandchildren...so they could be here for the 30th Independence Day year."

The sound of a clock ticking emanated from the loud speakers and ensued for 60 seconds.

Members of the Armed Forces and other elements of Ukraine's auxiliary units then marched to usher in the military parade along the main thoroughfare of Khreshchatyk Street. They were followed by soldiers from 13 other countries: Britain, Georgia, Estonia, Canada, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, the U.S. and the Czech Republic.

A live feed of Ukrainian naval ships in the Black Sea near Odesa was shown on the

big video walls.

Ukrainian military and transport aircraft, including helicopters, flew overhead. The flyovers included fighter jets and the world's biggest plane - the AN-225 Mriya transport equipped with six turbine engines. The plane, capable of carrying a load of 225 tons, is affectionately known by its crew as Marusia.

Polish pilots flew U.S.-made F-16 fighter jets and British Typhoon jets expelled a stream of blue-and-yellow smoke to symbolize the colors of the Ukrainian flag.

Back on the ground, Ukraine showcased upgraded Soviet-era armor as well as newly developed hardware. The Kharkiv-made Oplot tank, Ukraine's newest, rolled down the street. State-of-the-art Turkish-made Bayraktar battle drones were strewn atop armored vehicles. Outfitted U.S.-provided Hummer vehicles towed what appeared to be newly-designed unmanned weaponry. Various artillery was showcased, some surface-to-air.

When the elaborate parade ended, a young girl sang "Ukraino" to conclude the formal part of commemoration.

In the afternoon at 1 p.m. more than 10,000 people took part in an informal event called The March of Patriots. It was composed of war veterans from the Russia-instigated conflict in the Donbas, as well as their families and volunteers. They were joined by military medics, chaplains, the Belarusian diaspora and relatives of those who were killed in the 2014 Euro-Maidan revolution.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy attends a flag raising ceremony in what his office says is the geographic center of the country - in the Cherkassy regional village of Maryanivka - on August 23 to commemorate national Flag Day.



British Typhoon fighter jets emit blue and yellow smoke, the colors of Ukraine's flag, as they fly overhead in downtown Kyiv on August 24 during a military parade to commemorate the nation's 30th year of renewed independence.

Led by Archbishop Daniel, mission team visits Znamyanka Orphanage in Ukraine

*St. Sophia Ukrainian
Orthodox Theological Seminary*

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – Archbishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. (UOC-U.S.A.) led a mission trip to Znamyanka orphanage (sponsored by the UOC-U.S.A.) in Ukraine on August 8-14. The mission team included seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary (Subdeacon Pavlo Vysotskyi, Reader Andrii Vetrych, Reader Maksym Zhuravchuk, Andrii Akulenko and Mykola Stefanyk), as well as the Very Rev. Volodymyr Muzychka of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in New York.

The cost of the trip for the seminarians was covered in part by their own fundraising efforts, including the sale of a Nativity CD and food sales. Far from being a vacation, the archbishop reminded the seminarians, “The Lord instructed us all to care for our neighbors; to spread love and mercy; to feed, clothe, and visit the ill... knowing full well that when we do this, especially for those who are the most helpless and innocent of society, we do this for God.”

While at the orphanage, the archbishop

visited individually with each child, praying over them, offering God’s blessings, reminding them of their personal value, and asking God’s mercy for them. Mission team members took on responsibilities to feed the children, play with them, read to them and offer a human touch in their otherwise isolated lives.

Other activities at the orphanage included singing with the children. The activity was led by the orphanage director and their music teacher Tetiana Andriivna Valko, and the seminarians were enchanted by their talent. Baking and cooking demonstrations also showcased the children’s talents and life skills.

An outing for some ice cream was a real treat for the children, but it also showed how many of the local population view the disabled children, and the work that is needed in Ukraine for acceptance and infrastructure for handicapped accessibility. During this trip, Archbishop Daniel also purchased sugar, flour, diapers, as well as arts and crafts supplies for the children. In a second outing he was joined by the other mission team members in purchasing a butchered pig (145 kg), which was canned



Stsuots.edu

The Mission Team with children of Znamyanka Orphanage in Ukraine.

and frozen for use by the orphanage during the weeks ahead.

Daily morning and evening prayers were led by Archbishop Daniel and the seminari-

ans, followed by a brief reflection from the seminarians on the daily struggles of those at the orphanage, their longing for friendship, willingness to help one another, as well as their joy in the midst of such difficulties. The archbishop also met with the State’s Commission on Handicapped Individuals, noting the improvements already made in handicap accessibility, but underscoring that there is much work left to be done in meeting the needs of the elderly as well as the orphaned children. He also met with Serhiy Yamanayev, a former resident of the Znamyanka Orphanage who was able to move out and live on his own, highlighting the life skills gained from living at the orphanage, despite living with regular dialysis treatments.

Arrangements were also discussed to address specific safety issues at the orphanage, including the installation of new electrical cables and a new perimeter fence, as the old one had fallen into disrepair.

Archbishop Daniel also met, informally, with the leadership of the Znamyanka Mayor’s Office. He expressed gratitude to



Seminarians of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary entertain the children with skits and songs.



A local theater group enchants the children by blowing bubbles.

(Continued on page 17)

Ukrainian Sports Club looks to rebuild, attract new members and grow

by Dr. Nicholas Skirka and Ulana Pryjmak

BROOKLYN, N.Y. – The Ukrainian Sports Club (YCK) is starting a new chapter in its history. After almost 50 years, YCK sold its building in Manhattan located on 2nd Avenue between 7th and 8th streets. Some money was invested and the rest was used to buy a building at 663 Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Currently, the building is being totally renovated and will be functional in the fall. It is a significant time for YCK to rebuild the club and become a part of the Ukrainian community once again.

On June 26, members held their annual meeting in the Ukrainian National Home. Annual reports were presented, food was served and board elections took place. Presently, the YCK Corporation is divided into two boards: the Ukrainian American Soccer Association, Inc. (UASA), which is the custodial or business board, and the New York Ukrainian Sports Club, Inc. (YCK), which provides sports programs for the community.

During the annual meeting, the UASA held board elections and the following

members were selected for a three-year term: President Willie Zinkewitsch, First Vice-President Izzy Gjenasaj, Second Vice-President and Treasurer Bohdan Pryjmak, Secretary Roman Stelmach, By-Laws/Nominating Chairperson Dr. Nicholas Skirka and Auditing Chairperson Iurii Vovk.

New York Ukrainian Sports Club, Inc. (YCK) board elections will be held next year. The following individuals make up the YCK board: President: Willie Zinkewitsch, Vice President and Senior Team Sports Director Steven Kovalenko, Treasurer Valentin Kovalenko and Youth Teams Sports Director Bohdan Pryjmak. The position of secretary is currently vacant.

The YCK public relations officer, Ulana Pryjmak, is actively promoting the organization via popular social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and the organization’s website. Individuals are encouraged to visit these platforms and learn more about the corporation and the programs provided (for more information, readers can use the links below).

YCK provides a variety of sports programs for all ages. Presently, YCK has a first and reserve men’s senior soccer team directed by Steve Kovalenko. Practices and

home games take place at McCarren Park in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. The reserve team won the championship this year; they were undefeated with nine wins and one tie, and the first team was competitive.

The youth sports clinic, directed and coached by Bohdan Pryjmak, has coordinated with CYM and Plast in sports of soccer and volleyball. Mr. Pryjmak is also planning an exciting program of chess and ping-pong this fall. The soccer and volleyball youth programs take place in Saint George Academy in Manhattan on Saturdays, as well as the East River Park. The youth sports program was created to build a future for YCK.

Mr. Pryjmak also plans on organizing an International Ukrainian Ice Hockey tournament in Brooklyn in spring 2022. Furthermore, there have been discussions on starting a senior women’s soccer team, a junior boys’ soccer team and other youth soccer teams. The organization sincerely hopes these programs will spark an interest in everyone.

As a result, YCK is looking to become a vital part of the Ukrainian community again. The organization’s present motto is: “Let’s Rebuild YCK Together.” Readers who

would like to be part of the organization’s sports programs or want to make a positive contribution may contact any of the board members listed above.

Senior players are always welcome to try-out (contact Steve Kovalenko at stevekovalenko@gmail.com), and for more information about our youth programs please contact, readers may contact Mr. Pryjmak at bohdanpryjmak@yahoo.com.

The board of directors welcomes new members to the organization if they can provide an active and valuable contribution to help the club thrive for years to come. Players and families can be members, one can help drive players to games and practices, assist in games/practices, coach, assist with team and equipment management and fundraising. Membership applications are available upon request from the club’s president, Mr. Zinkewitsch, who can be reached via email at wasylnatalia@aol.com. Applications will be reviewed by the board of directors prior to approval. Let’s Rebuild YCK Together.

For more information about YCK, readers may visit Ukrainiansportsclubny.com, [Facebook.com/YCK1947](https://www.facebook.com/YCK1947), and [Instagram.com/fc_nyukrainians/](https://www.instagram.com/fc_nyukrainians/).

Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA)

A federal tax-advantaged educational savings program
the Coverdell ESA funds education expenses - not retirement.

- ✓ Allows for after-tax contributions of up to \$2000 per child annually.
 - ✓ Interest on contributions grows tax-free.
 - ✓ Account must be established before child turns 18. Deposits can be made until age 18.
 - ✓ Withdrawals can be made until age 30 for qualified educational expenses.
 - ✓ By age 30 unused funds can be transferred to a younger family member's Coverdell account.
 - ✓ No annual maintenance fee.
 - ✓ If used for qualified education expenses distribution can be tax-free.
- Income limits apply.



CURRENT RATE
3.25%*

* RATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL STATES.

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
2200 ROUTE 10, PARSIPPANY, NJ 07054 • 973-292-9800 • WWW.UNAINC.ORG



INSURING OUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER 125 YEARS!



UNA announces scholarship winners for 2021-2022 academic year

by Eugene Serba

PHILADELPHIA – The Ukrainian National Association (UNA) has a long-standing tradition of assisting students in their pursuit of higher education. Despite the continuing challenges of the coronavirus, the UNA continued that tradition in 2021. The UNA Scholarship Committee met virtually on June 22 to review all applications for scholarships and awards.

There was a total of 44 applicants from 23 different UNA branches. The number and quality of applicants this year were truly exceptional, with a number of students applying for more than one scholarship for which they were eligible.

The special scholarships awarded by the UNA include the following for undergraduate students:

- Joseph and Dora Galandiuk Scholarship (\$2,000) for students in sciences or accounting
- Drs. Maria, Dmytro and Olha Jarosewycz Scholarship (\$1,000) for students excelling in their studies
- Vera Stangl Scholarship (\$750) for students studying journalism or nature/wildlife
- Joseph Wolk Scholarship (\$750) for students of Lemko heritage
- Ukrainian National Home Corp. of

Blackstone, Mass., Scholarships (\$500 each) for students from UNA New England branches

- Stefan Hawrysz Scholarship (\$750) for students from one of the UNA's Philadelphia District branches. This scholarship was created in 2021 by the Philadelphia District of the UNA.

The above scholarships are all funded by generous benefactors. The UNA is grateful for their support.

If you or your organization is interested in sponsoring a UNA scholarship, please contact Eugene Serba, UNA second vice-president, at 856-904-4161. The UNA will process, evaluate and handle all administration of the scholarship based on criteria you establish.

In addition to the special scholarships listed above, the UNA sponsors UNA Heritage Scholarships of \$1,000 each for undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in either full- or part-time programs. These scholarships – which recognize academic achievement and community involvement – were established in 2019 to celebrate the UNA's 125th anniversary.

We are pleased to report the following recipients of UNA Special Scholarships for academic year 2021-2022:

- Galandiuk Scholarship – Matthew Stefurak, Branch 116, University of Pittsburgh;

- Jarosewycz Scholarship – Stephanie Manasterski, Branch 120, University of Pittsburgh;

- Stefan Hawrysz Scholarship – Alexa Kolakoski, Branch 362, Northeastern University;

- Wolk Scholarship – Juliana Paslawsky, Branch 42, Ramapo College;

- Blackstone Scholarship – Melania Gluch, Branch 277, Seton Hall University.

Regrettably, no one applied for the Stangl Scholarship in 2021.

UNA Heritage Scholarship recipients for 2021-2022 are:

- Chloe Diakiwsky, Branch 161, Berklee College of Music;
- Andrew Stelmach, Branch 269, Northeastern University;
- Julianna Walchuk, Branch 171, Columbia University;
- Paul Williams, Branch 37, Wake Forest University;
- Kyril Yurchuk, Branch 70, The Cooper Union.

Congratulations to all scholarship recipients! It is notable that the 10 students who received these scholarships listed represent 10 different UNA branches and are pursuing their studies at eight different universities in diverse fields ranging from rehabilitation science and counseling psychology to music and civil engineering.

In addition to the special scholarships, the UNA gave out monetary awards to undergraduate students based on their year of academic study.

Congratulations to all award recipients!

In order to apply for a UNA scholarship or award, a student must have a current UNA insurance policy with a minimum amount of \$5,000 (term policies excluded). The most common policies are Endowment at Age 18 and the 20-Year Endowment. These policies are usually purchased for children by their parents, grandparents or aunts and uncles.

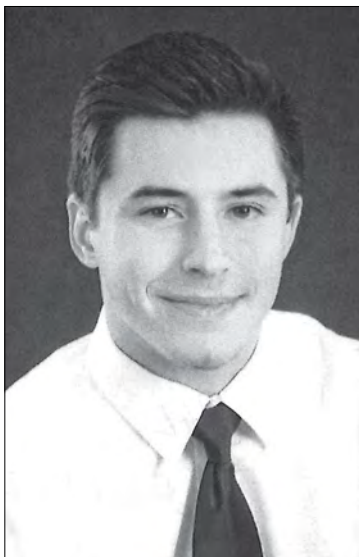
To learn more about the UNA's scholarship program, readers may visit the following web site: <https://unainc.org/una/benefits/scholarships/>.

Notably, the UNA also offers a Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA), another common vehicle for academic funding, whereby up to \$2,000 per year can be deposited into an account with tax-free growth, provided the funds are withdrawn and used for studies.

For more information about UNA insurance policies, endowments, annuities, IRAs and the ESA, readers may contact their branch secretary or the UNA directly at 800-253-0860.

Eugene Serba, MBA, is the Ukrainian National Association's second vice-president and he chairs the UNA Scholarship Committee.

\$2,000 SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP \$1,000 SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP \$750 SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP \$750 SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP \$500 SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Matthew Stefurak
GALANDIUK Scholarship
UNA Branch 116
University of Pittsburgh



Stephanie Manasterski
JAROSEWYCZ Scholarship
UNA Branch 120
University of Pittsburgh



Alexa Kolakoski
HAWRYSZ Scholarship
UNA Branch 362
Northeastern University



Juliana Paslawsky
WOLK Scholarship
UNA Branch 42
Ramapo College



Melania Gluch
BLACKSTONE Scholarship
UNA Branch 277
Seton Hall University

\$1,000 UNA HERITAGE SCHOLARSHIPS



Chloe Diakiwsky
UNA Branch 161
Berklee College of Music



Andrew Stelmach
UNA Branch 269
Northeastern University



Julianna Walchuk
UNA Branch 171
Columbia University



Paul Williams
UNA Branch 37
Wake Forest University

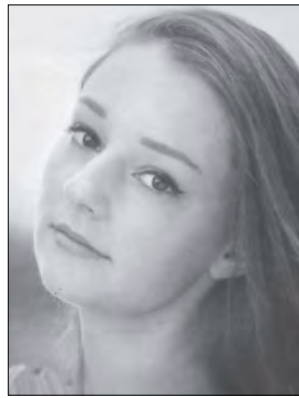


Kyril Yurchuk
UNA Branch 70
The Cooper Union

\$200 JUNIORS



Matthew Bach
UNA Branch 88
Loyola University Maryland



Zoryana Duda
UNA Branch 7
Kutztown University



Adam Godfrey
UNA Branch 142
Rider University



Amanda Godfrey
UNA Branch 142
Middlesex College

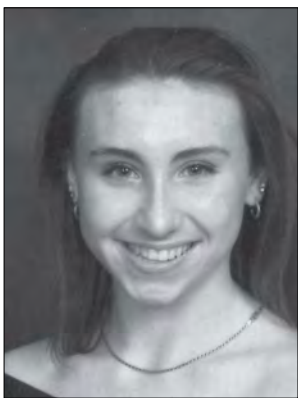


Nicholas Hladio
UNA Branch 161
Duquesne University



Mark Kachai
UNA Branch 171
Rowan University

\$200 JUNIORS



Catherine Lee
UNA Branch 13
SUNY Cobleskill



Maya Pankiw
UNA Branch 432
McMaster University



Rebecca Poston
UNA Branch 112
Franciscan University of Steubenville



Grace Robinson
UNA Branch 112
Roanoke College



Melanie Agne
UNA Branch 42
Drexel University



Nicholas Demitre
UNA Branch 42
Rutgers University

\$175 SOPHOMORES

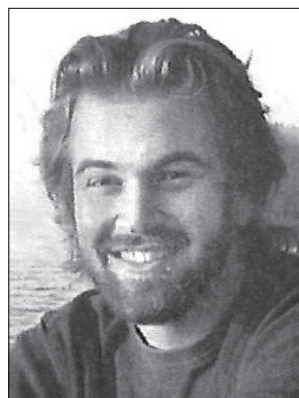
\$175 SOPHOMORES



Otto Fisher
UNA Branch 234
Elon University



Nina Gillespie
UNA Branch 399
University of Pittsburgh



Roman Hladio
UNA Branch 161
Allegheny College



Anna Kosachevich
UNA Branch 269
New York University



Michael Kulycky
UNA Branch 465
McGill University



Matthew Manasterski
UNA Branch 120
University of Pittsburgh

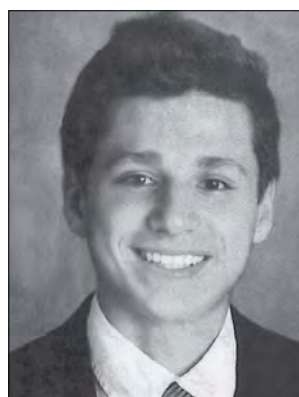
\$175 SOPHOMORES



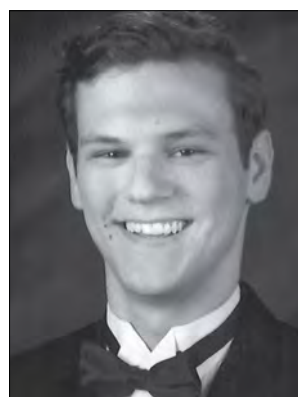
Anton Pereklita
UNA Branch 290
Purdue University



Kaitlen Telepko
UNA Branch 234
Seton Hall University



Darij Kulchycky
UNA Branch 83
Franklin and Marshall College



Blake Robinson
UNA Branch 112
High Point University



Roman Semeniv
UNA Branch 269
Montclair State University



Markian Tabatchouk
UNA Branch 269
Monmouth University

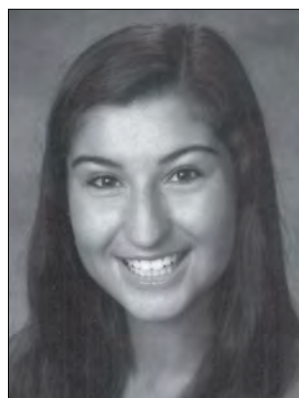
\$150 FRESHMEN

\$125 HS SENIORS

Visit
our
archive
online:
[www.
ukrweekly
.com](http://www.ukrweekly.com)



Adrian Deputat
UNA Branch 360
Colorado State University



Roma Lonkevych
UNA Branch 234
University of Pittsburgh



Chrystyna Mykhaylyshyn
UNA Branch 42
Rider University



Olena Mykhaylyshyn
UNA Branch 42
Rider University



Taras Mykhaylyshyn
UNA Branch 42
Rider University

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

be the final destination for many of those arriving. Fatima Hossein, an English-language reporter for the news site KabulNow who was evacuated to Kyiv, said in an interview with RFE/RL that she was happy to have left, but she feared for her parents, including her father, who served in the Afghan Army. "My parents tried to help me evacuate.... I received a call from the Ukrainian government that the Ukrainian plane would land in Kabul and that I should get there as soon as possible," she said. "But it was not easy, because if the Ukrainian military was not there with me, I do not know how I could get to the plane." "I don't know about my parents, whether they are safe or not. But I tried to help them get a Pakistani visa. They have to get out of there as soon as possible, because my father's life is in danger," she said. In a separate statement, the president's office said more than 100 Ukrainians remained in Afghanistan. Ukraine last week helped evacuate Sahraa Karimi, an Afghan filmmaker and the first woman to head the state-run Afghan Film Organization. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, with reporting by Reuters)

Ukraine rejects reports of hijacking

The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry has rejected reports that a Ukrainian plane was hijacked by unknown people from Kabul airport and flown to Iran. Some media reports on August 23 quoted Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Yevhen Yenin as saying that unknown indi-

viduals hijacked a Ukrainian plane and diverted it to Iran. However, ministry spokesman Oleh Nikolenko told RFE/RL on August 24 that "no Ukrainian plane was captured in Kabul or elsewhere." "The information about a 'hijacked plane,' which was circulated by some media, is not true. All aircraft that our nation has used to evacuate our citizens from Afghanistan have returned safely to Ukraine," Mr. Nikolenko said, stressing that in all, Ukraine brought 256 people from Afghanistan to Kyiv via three flights. "Deputy Foreign Minister Yevhen Yenin generally explained the unprecedented level of difficulties that our diplomats are facing while evacuating Ukrainians. We must understand that the situation at the [Kabul] airport is close to chaos," Mr. Nikolenko added. Iran's Civil Aviation Authority has also denied the report, saying that the Kyiv-bound plane refueled in the Iranian city of Mashhad during its journey from Kabul to the Ukrainian capital. According to Mr. Nikolenko, there are still about 50 more Ukrainian citizens in Kabul who are looking to return home. The media reports of the hijacking raised fears among many Ukrainians who are wary of Iran after a Ukraine International Airlines flight was shot down in January 2020 by a unit of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps shortly after taking off from Tehran. All 176 people on board the plane died in the incident. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

Stalin's mass graves found in Ukraine

Mass graves of victims of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin's Great Purge campaign of the 1930s have been discovered in Ukraine. The Ukrainian Institute of National

Memory (UINP) said that 29 mass graves had been found on the territory of a site called Tatarka in the Black Sea port city of Odesa. The graves were located after an Odesa-based historian, Oleksandr Babich, discovered documents in Romanian archives about mass executions and burials in Odesa in the 1930s. According to the documents, the mass graves might stretch further to the territory of a nearby military unit. At this point, work is being conducted to establish the exact number of men and women buried in the mass graves, but already historians are saying the site may be one of the largest of its kind in Ukraine. There is no data on the exact number of Soviet citizens who became victims of Josef Stalin's Great Purge. According to the Memorial Human Rights Center in Moscow, at least 12 million innocent people were jailed or executed in the Soviet Union between the 1930s and 1950s. The Gulag History Museum in the Russian capital says the number of such people was around 20 million, of whom more than 1 million were executed. (RFE/RL)

Russia accuses Ukrainian of espionage

Russian authorities have detained a Ukrainian citizen on suspicion of espionage in the city of Tula, some 200 kilometers south of Moscow. The Federal Security Service (FSB) said on August 23 that the man, whose identity was not revealed, is suspected of collecting classified data related to Russia's latest firearms technologies for Ukraine's secret services. If convicted, the suspect faces up to 20 years in prison. There was no immediate reaction from Kyiv. Earlier this year, Russian authorities in Ukraine's Crimea region arrested two men in separate cases in April and June on charges of spying for Kyiv. Russia has arrested dozens of people in Crimea and across Russia on charges including espionage, extremism and terrorism, since it seized Crimea in March 2014, sending in troops and staging a referendum denounced as illegitimate by at least 100 countries. Rights groups have said that after imposing its control over the peninsula, Moscow aggressively moved to prosecute Ukrainian activists and anyone who questioned the annexation. Russia also backs separatists in a war against Ukrainian government forces that has killed more than 13,200 people in eastern Ukraine since April 2014. (RFE/RL's Russian Service, with reporting by TASS and Interfax)

Ukraine bans 'propaganda' website

An influential opposition news website has been banned in Ukraine in connection

with sanctions against its editor, who faces punishment in Kyiv for publishing "pro-Russia propaganda." He is living in exile in Austria. The ban against the strana.ua website was issued as a decree signed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The decree was made public on August 21. Strana.ua's editor Ihor Hushva has been in exile since 2018 when Ukraine's National Security Council imposed sanctions on him and his companies. Mr. Hushva is among dozens of individuals named on August 20 by Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council of spreading "pro-Russian propaganda." The council on August 20 also imposed sanctions on a number of pro-Kremlin figures in Ukrainian politics, businesses and media. Among them is Andriy Derkach, a Ukrainian lawmaker that the U.S. government sanctioned in September 2020 after accusing him of being a Russian agent who tried to interfere in U.S. elections. In January, the U.S. Treasury Department sanctioned seven Ukrainians and four entities for being part of a Russia-linked foreign intelligence network run by Mr. Derkach. Mr. Derkach did not immediately comment, but he previously denied the allegations and said he was being targeted for exposing corruption. Mr. Derkach was linked to an effort by Rudy Giuliani, who was former U.S. President Donald Trump's personal lawyer, to find compromising information about President Joe Biden and his son, Hunter, during the 2020 election campaign. "Sanctions are also imposed on four entities related to Internet resources, which are directly or indirectly coordinated by these citizens and conduct systematic anti-Ukrainian propaganda," the council said. They include bloggers and politicians Anatoliy Shariy and Olga Shariy, who are accused of running a video blog and website considered pro-Russian. The couple also founded a party that has several representatives in city and oblast councils. The head of Ukraine's SBU security agency, Ivan Bakanov, said the measures were taken to protect the "information space." "The Security Service clearly distinguishes between freedom of speech and the attack on the statehood and sovereignty of Ukraine," Mr. Bakanov said. In addition, sanctions were imposed on 28 members of Russia's intelligence and special services as well as six other individuals alleged to be responsible for human rights abuses in Crimea. Sanctions were also imposed on 12 legal entities, including local television

(Continued on page 17)

CLASSIFIEDS

TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL WALTER HONCHARYK (973) 292-9800 x3040
or e-mail 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
web site: www.oblastmemorials.com
BILINGUAL HOME APPOINTMENTS

PROFESSIONALS

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

LAW OFFICES OF ZENON B. MASNYJ, ESQ.

In the East Village since 1983

Serious personal injury, real estate for personal and business use, representation of small and mid-size businesses, divorce, wills and probate (New York matters only).

(By Appointment Only)

140 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10003
212-477-3002
zbmasnyj@verizon.net

If 212-477-3002 landline busy,
please call 201-247-2413

МИХАЙЛО КОЗЮПА
Ліцензований Продавець
Страховання Життя
MICHAEL KOZIUPA
Licensed Life Insurance Agent
Ukrainian National Assn., Inc.
973-723-4387
mkoziupa@outlook.com

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.

WANT IMPACT?

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

VARSHAVSKY MONUMENTS
1152 Route 10 West, Suite N, Randolph, NJ 07869
862-219-5344
E-mail: VarshavskyMonuments@gmail.com
MONUMENT DESIGN + CUSTOM ETCHING
+ MONUMENTS + HEADSTONES + MARKERS +
+ PORCELAIN PICTURES +
SERVING NJ/NY/PA CEMETERIES BILINGUAL HOME APPOINTMENTS

KULINSKI MEMORIALS
809 SOUTH MAIN STREET • MANVILLE, NJ 08835
Tel. 800-458-5467 • 908-722-3130 • Fax 908-253-0027
KulinskiMemorials@msn.com • KulinskiMemorials.com



- Serving Ukrainian families for over 60 years
- Over 40 granite colors to choose from
- Custom etchings
- House appointments available
- Serving the tri-state area
- 5 minutes from St. Andrew Ukrainian Cemetery in South Bound Brook, NJ

Got Engaged?
Korovai.com
Ukrainian Wedding Bread,
Traditions and more!

Ukraine's...

(Continued from page 7)

then, Russia has waged an incessant and vicious hybrid war against Ukraine with the clear aim to regain control over it. This blatant military aggression has already destroyed with total disdain both people and property alike. Over the last seven years of Russia's aggression, over 14,000 individuals have been killed and more than 30,000 injured (including Ukrainian civilians and military) in the occupied Donetsk and Luhansk regions alone, and there are currently over 1.5 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine.

This military aggression targets not only Crimea and the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The ultimate target is the whole of Ukraine since Mr. Putin fully understands Mr. Brzezinski's geopolitical assessment that with a subordinated Ukraine "Russia automatically becomes an empire."

Sadly, although the West is supportive of Ukraine and condemns Russia's blatant violations of the world order, Western leaders are still quite oblivious to the fact that Mr. Putin's agenda goes far beyond Crimea and

the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and targets Ukraine's independence in order to recreate a new and menacing Russian empire.

It is noteworthy that, just as Ukraine's independence in 1991 abolished an "evil empire" and ensured the emergence of 14 additional independent states, Mr. Putin's current efforts to restore that same empire by conquering Ukraine will put at tremendous risk peace, security and stability in the whole world.

For this reason, the international community should not only participate in this year's commemoration of the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, but also actively help Ukraine fully regain and defend its territorial integrity. This should be done not only for the sake of Ukraine but also for the sake of the international community. Ukraine's independence and full membership in the European Union and NATO are Europe's best hope for security and stability against Russia's hybrid aggression aimed at the West.

To help Ukraine fully regain and defend its territorial integrity, Western leaders should take effective actions to ensure that, first, NATO grants Ukraine the NATO Membership Action Plan; second, the Kremlin's Nord

Stream 2 project is cancelled; and, third, Russia is banned from SWIFT, if it does not de-occupy Ukraine within a fixed period of time as defined by the West.

Such decisive actions will help Ukraine ensure that all Ukrainians (including those who reside in the temporarily occupied territories in Crimea and the Donetsk and Luhansk regions) can fully celebrate future anniversaries of Ukraine's renewed independence.

Such actions will also ensure that we all live in a more prosperous and safer world, where all people and nations have a signifi-

cantly better chance of enjoying the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the UN Charter.

Slava Ukraini! Heroiam slava!

Eugene Czolij is the president of the non-governmental organization Ukraine-2050, honorary consul of Ukraine in Montreal and was the president of the Ukrainian World Congress from 2008 to 2018.

This Op-ed was originally published by The Ukrainian Quarterly. It is republished with permission.

Led by Archbishop...

(Continued from page 12)

the officials for their cooperation in installing a new sidewalk in front of the orphanage, which makes life for the children with disabilities a bit safer and easier to maneuver.

A local theater group performed a skit for the children that was met with squeals of laughter from the children, particularly after large bubbles were created, floated over the children and were popped. Members of the public were invited to join the performance, and sales of desserts and cookies (prepared by the children for the benefit of educational programs) helped to break the ice between the local residents and the children.

On the fourth day of their visit, the mission team seminarians entertained the children by acting out a rendition of the children's play "The Turnip" (Ripka). Each child was invited to come to the aid of the grandfather, grandmother and others as they attempted to uproot the turnip. An encore performance of the Ukrainian classic, "The Dumpling" (Kolobok), highlighted the cunning escapes of the Kolobok, but it finally succumbs to an even more cunning adversary – the fox.

The children presented Archbishop Daniel with an embroidered image of Christ reaching out His arms to the peoples of the world. He thanked the children for

the gift, and expressed his joy at seeing them from year to year, watching them as they grow, reminding them that they are remembered by the team members in their daily prayers.

During an evening walk, the children played with local cats and dogs, with owners allowing the children to hold and pet the animals. It was unclear who had more fun, the children or the puppies.

Ms. Valko thanked the mission team members for their work and presented each with a certificate of gratitude. A moleben service was led by Archbishop Daniel for the health and well-being of the children, staff and administrators of the orphanage, as well as for the benefactors and supporters of the Charitable Mission of the UOC-U.S.A. Archbishop Daniel then proceeded to bless with holy water each child at the orphanage, each room of the facility, the grounds, as well as the newly installed fencing.

The mission team bid farewell to the children and staff of Znamyanka Orphanage, promising to return in the future. Archbishop Daniel offered a final blessing for the children before he joined the seminarians in departing.

Compiled by Matthew Dubas, based on articles posted on the website of St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary (<https://stsuoats.edu>) and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. (www.uocofusa.org).

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 16)

channels, news agencies and online publications from Crimea. "All of them are waging an information war against Ukraine and are active participants in hybrid aggression," the council said. Russia occupied

Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in March 2014 after sending in troops and staging a referendum dismissed as illegal by more than 100 countries. Moscow also backs separatists in a war against government forces that has killed more than 13,200 people in eastern Ukraine since April 2014. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, with reporting by Kyiv Post and dpa)

Russia warns...

(Continued from page 2)

serious security emergency in Central Asia. In particular, Russia has been concentrating forces since spring 2021 on the border of Ukraine, including substantial contingents from the Central Military District, from Siberia and the Volga region – forces

that are normally earmarked primarily for Central Asia if something goes wrong there. The gloating euphoria that engulfed Moscow after the fall of Kabul could still blow up in Russia's face.

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



With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

Michael Anthony Bilynsky

on August 16, 2021 at the age of 63.

He was born in Samaritan Hospital in Troy, NY, on December 15, 1957, and raised in Watervliet, NY. Michael was a dedicated, loving family man, who always brought joy and spunk to every room he entered.

Before moving to Florida in 1980, he worked in an upstate New York Ukrainian resort. In the early '80s he worked as a sous chef in several South Florida restaurants.

He later transitioned to a wholesale distributor's position at McAurthur Dairy, where he worked for 33 years before retiring in 2020. All the while he was a multi-year member of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church. Not only was he a parishioner and Pastor's Advisory Council member, he was an avid singer in the church choir.

He is survived by his wife Lidia Lenec Bilynsky; his children Michael, Stefan and Natalia; his siblings Walter, Joe and Jeanne; and his grandchildren Maddison and Jason.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church.

39 NW 57th Court, Miami, FL 33126-4709; (786)-592-1563

May his memory be eternal.



It is with deep sorrow, that we share the sad news of the passing into eternal rest our beloved FATHER, GRANDFATHER and UNCLE

DR. WALTER WOLODYMYR MOTYKA

born September 24, 1922, in Truskavets, Ukraine, died August 21 in St. Augustine, Florida.

Veteran – Lieutenant Commander of the Ukrainian National Army, World War II,

Vice President of Finance and Treasurer of Caldwell Mfg. Co. and Adjunct Faculty of Rochester Institute of Technology, NY, Former long-time resident of Rochester, NY, and North Port, FL.

Left in a deep grief are:

- daughter - MARTA C. with husband KENDALL R. TANT,
- grandson - DR. ERIC M. TANT and granddaughter LARA E. TANT
- daughter - LYDIA T. MOTYKA
- son - MARK N. MOTYKA with wife VICTORIA A. MOTYKA
- grandson - ADRIAN M. MOTYKA,
- granddaughter - NATALIE A. MOTYKA with husband JACOB A. BLAIR
- niece - ALEXANDRA L. MARTYNETZ with daughters ZORIANNA, VERONICA, grandchildren SAWYER, STELLA and LAKE
- widow of nephew - DR. MYRON MARTYNETZ, DR. MARY-ELLEN SKENYON with children DANIEL, TATIANA, MARKIAN, and ALEXANDER

REST IN OUR ETERNAL MEMORY!

Our thanks to all for the expressions of sympathy and donations in memory of the deceased.





Ukraine at the 2020 Paralympics

by Ihor Stelmach

Ukraine sends 139 athletes to 2020 Paralympics

The final official tally saw Team Ukraine comprising 139 Paralympian athletes ready to participate in the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo that began on August 24. Team Ukraine includes 59 female athletes and 80 male athletes participating in 15 sporting disciplines.

The breakdowns by sport (and number of athletes) are as follows:

Archery (two), athletics (30), badminton (one), canoe sprint (four), cycling (two), goalball (six), judo (eight), powerlifting (eight), rowing (nine), shooting (seven),

swimming (39), table tennis (eight), taekwondo (three), triathlon (three) and wheelchair fencing (nine).

A pair of veteran Paralympian swimmers were selected as Ukraine's flagbearers for the Games' traditional opening ceremonies: Yelyzaveta Mereshko and Viktor Smyrnov.

Shchetnik values character over competition

She will be competing at her first Paralympic Games, and this young World and European champion hopes to record personal bests in Tokyo. Since there are few athletes in the world better with a rifle in their hands than Ukraine's Iryna Shchetnik, the odds are she will reach new personal heights on the world's ultimate competitive sports stage.

Shchetnik burst onto the scene in 2018, picking up her first European title in the R2 (women's 10-meter air rifle standing SH1) in a most stunning manner, setting a world record while beating Slovakian legend Veronika Vadovicova. Her reaction to her remarkable success stressed the achievement over the competition.

"It's not about who you beat personally," Shchetnik said in an interview with World Shooting Para Sport. "It's not about the person, but the result. We don't struggle between athletes – we struggle for our own results!"

It follows that she has set a high bar for herself at her first Paralympics. Her goal is simple: set personal records in Tokyo.

"Shooting stands out among other sports in that the struggle is within the athlete, first of all, and then within external

factors. Any improvement of my results is the feeling of victory."

When one is already the World record holder, personal bests translate into Paralympic records and the gold medals that follow. Shchetnik has made herself a clear favorite for several medals in Tokyo by capturing a full collection of medals at the World Cup event in Novi Sad, Serbia, in early August this year. She won gold in the R2 10-meter standing SH1, silver in the R8 50-meter three positions SH1, and bronze in the R3 10-meter prone SH1, barely missing out on another medal when she finished fourth in the R6 50-meter prone SH1 event.

"Shooting has become a real teacher for me! It teaches concentration and endurance, which helps to build character. There is constant self-improvement."

Family breeds character

Only 21-years-old, her approach has already allowed her to achieve phenomenal results. Shchetnik has won over 50 medals, including two golds at the World Shooting

(Continued on page 19)

Paralympic rower Polianskyi gains strength from sorrow



Igor Meijer, World Rowing Federation

Roman Polianskyi celebrates his silver medal in men's singles at the 2018 World Rowing Championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

The competitive fire burning inside of Roman Polianskyi was ignited and fueled by his father, who instilled in his son a love of sports at an early age. This has served as the foundation for his dominance in Pararowing since the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. The youngster was always active athletically, even after being diagnosed at age 10 with hereditary spastic paraplegia (HSP) which affects the muscles with progressive stiffness and decreased elasticity in the lower limbs. The future Paralympic champion was not fazed by his disability.

"Once, when I was at the Burdenko Spinal Health Resort in Crimea, I took part in arm wrestling competitions," Polianskyi recalled in an early August interview with Olympics.com. "I won first place with both right and left arms. That upper arm strength would come in handy on the water."

Tragedy and an elixir

Roman remained active in sports as a teenager, but suffered two terrible tragedies at age 18 when he lost his beloved father to a work accident, and shortly thereafter his mother passed away. Reflecting back to those days, Polianskyi's philosophy on moving forward in difficult times was "to start with small goals and move forward." He felt fortunate and never forgot the character of his father, which gave birth to his will to win.

This competitive fire pushed Roman to pick up canoe sprint. Unfortunately, the sport was not yet part of the Paralympics program for Rio 2016, so Polianskyi transferred his fortified arm muscles into a different sport – Para-rowing, a Paralympic sport since Beijing 2008.

"I was attracted to rowing," he said of his decision. "Water has really become my 'elixir of life.'"

Dealing with distance

The year 2014 brought more challenge and adversity when war broke out near his home in Donetsk. Polianskyi was forced to flee and made the leap from one sport to another from a new home. He was officially an Internally Displaced Person (a refugee within his own country) in Odesa, forced to overcome uncertainty and fear. He turned

(Continued on page 19)



Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Inc.

UNWLA Seeks Office Administrator

The Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) is looking for an energetic Office Administrator to help with the organization and running of the daily administrative operations of the UNWLA. As the first point of contact for members, vendors and the general public, the Office Administrator must have excellent people skills and excellent written and oral skills in both Ukrainian and English as he/she sets the image of the organization. Must be proficient in the use of Microsoft Office software products (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint), Google Drive and standard office equipment.

This is a part-time paid position, working virtually from home. Working hours are from 12 pm to 4 PM Eastern Time (Monday through Friday). More details can be found on the UNWLA website: www.unwla.org or on indeed.com.

Interested candidates should send their resume via email to: vp@unwla.org

UKRAINIAN SISTERS

THE BEST CARE FOR YOU OR FAMILY MEMBER

24 hours and 7 days per week services

- Compassion
- Kindness
- Responsibility

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

Ukraine wins eight medals on day 1 of Paralympics



Medalists in the women's 50-meter freestyle (S6) are (from left to right) silver medalist Elizabeth Marks of the U.S.A., gold medalist Yelyzaveta Mereshko of Ukraine and bronze medalist Anna Hontar of Ukraine.

by Ihor N. Stelmach

Now internationally known as a world Paralympic powerhouse, Team Ukraine certainly did not disappoint on the first day of action at the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo. Events taking place on August 25 saw Ukrainian Paralympians win a total of eight medals, placing the country second overall at the outset of the competition. Five medals were won in swimming, Ukraine's strongest Paralympian sport, and an additional three were won in wheelchair fencing.

It was only fitting that Ukraine's first gold medal was captured by flag bearer

Yelyzaveta Mereshko in women's 50-meter freestyle S6. Additional medals in swimming were won by Anton Kol (silver in men's 100-meter backstroke S1), Oleksii Virchenko (silver in men's 100-meter butterfly S13), multi-medalist Maksym Krypak (silver in men's 50-meter freestyle) and Anna Hontar (bronze in women's 50-meter freestyle S6).

In wheelchair fencing events, Artem Manko won silver in the men's sabre individual category A, Olena Fedota nabbed silver in women's sabre individual category B and Yevheniia Breus won bronze in women's sabre individual category A.

Shchetnik...

(Continued from page 18)

Championships, and she has set a few world records. She gives much credit for her success to the support she receives from her family, who she speaks with prior to each competition. She has a uniquely special connection with her father, going back to her childhood. Growing up she was attracted to small arms, and when her father found out about a nearby shooting complex, he started taking his daughter there for lessons and practice. Aside from moral support, her father designs and builds Shchetnik's equipment adaptations, including her shooting table and the chair she uses in competitions. Her father's designs have been utilized by athletes and coaches in Japan, Germany and China. She credits her father's support as a major factor in her personal results.

Perfection a product of training

Raw talent and family support are generally not enough for a special athlete to rise to World Champion status. Training is doubtless the key ingredient to achieve the ultimate reward in sports competition and be consistently the best performer. Shchetnik trains with one of the world's most successful Paralympic development organizations, the National Team of Ukraine, at a sports complex in the Ukrainian resort city of Odesa. These training camps are known for bringing together athletes from all over Ukraine. The competitors train daily for four to eight hours, six days per week, with most camps lasting up to three weeks.

Ukraine, a Paralympic world power, finished third overall on the medal table at Rio 2016. The Ukrainian Shooting Para Sport team topped all nations at the last World Championships in 2019. Their success has resulted in greater government support, specifically through the Sports Committee

of Ukraine, allowing the team to train very extensively, even outside Ukraine.

Constant improvement a goal

Shchetnik's ideal of constant improvement is also applicable to her life outside of sports. She is in the process of finishing her bachelor's degree in languages and hopes to someday work as an interpreter, which would be a personal benefit while traveling abroad for competitions or training camps. She is fluent in six languages: Ukrainian, English, French, German, Latin and Russian.

Her underlying message heading into the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo: Every athlete dreams of improving their personal results, dreams of setting their own personal record.

When asked what she would say to her friend and rival Vadivacova if Shchetnik were to set her own personal record and win gold in Tokyo, she smiled and replied: "We have a very friendly relationship. We correspond, chat and con-

Paralympic rower...

(Continued from page 18)

what for most was a difficulty into a personal advantage.

Polianskyi won Paralympic gold a mere two years after picking up his new sport, defeating both the reigning Paralympic champion Huang Cheng of China and Australian world champion Erik Horrie along the way in men's single sculls.

Still another challenge followed when Para-rowing moved from 1,000-meter races to the Olympic distance of 2,000 meters. Time was required to make the proper adjustment. Polianskyi would lose the World Championship in 2017 to Horrie, but came away from the defeat having learned a most valuable lesson.

"I thought for a long time about this race

OUT & ABOUT

- September 10-12 2021 Zustrich (meeting), Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society, Ukrainian Homestead, Leighton, PA, www.ukrainianhomestead.com or 215-740-1609
- September 11 23rd annual Plast Chicago Golf Classic, Pobratymy Foundation, Oak Brook Golf Club, RSaldan@concast.net or www.pobratymyfoundation.com
- September 11 38th annual golf tournament, Ottawa Ukrainian Golf, The Meadows Golf and Country Club, 613-599-5310 or 613-834-9935
- September 11-12 Open House, Ukrainian National Museum, Chicago, 312-421-8020
- September 12 Memorial concert for Marta Skorupsky, with cellist Mihai Tetel, violinists Solomiya Ivakhiv and Oleh Krysa, and pianists Melvin Chen and Mykola Suk, Ukrainian Institute of America, www.ukrainianinstitute.org or 212-288-8660
- September 12 Parish picnic, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, www.stvladimirshpila.org
- September 12 53rd annual Connecticut Ukrainian Day Festival, St. Basil Seminary, 203-269-5909 - This event has been cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
- September 14 Visitation to Naval Academy and harbor cruise, Ukrainian-American Senior Association in Philadelphia, 215-699-6068 (must have proof of COVID-19 vaccination)
- September 17 Presentation by Ambassador Roman Popadiuk celebrating the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's renewed independence, Ukrainian Institute of America, www.ukrainianinstitute.org or 212-288-8660

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



Iryna Shchetnik at the 2018 World Shooting Para Sport World Cup in Al Ain, U.A.E.

gratulate each other on holidays. The main thing I want to emphasize is that I feel proud to be part of one of the stron-

gest shooting teams in the world!"

Ihor Stelmach may be reached at iman@sfgsports.com.

and about the fact that every man strives to be the strongest, but the hardest struggle is internal," the 34-year-old Ukrainian shared in his chat with Olympics.com. "I remember it was the hardest race, bad weather: I realized that I had not yet reached the distance of 2,000 meters and felt that I was not ready yet. But I really wanted to win."

Polianskyi increased his training regimen to 10 two-and-a-half-hour sessions per week and the results ensued. After rival Horrie had edged him out by less than a second at the 2018 World Rowing Championships, Roman claimed the world champion title in 2019, while setting a world record time of 9:12.99 seconds, a mark that still stands.

April 2021 saw him capture the European Championship by almost 12 seconds ahead of Great Britain's Benjamin Pritchard. "My muscles seem to be designed for long distances, long work," he

admitted. "The long distance - it's mine!"

Para sports power

Polianskyi aims to add a second consecutive Paralympic gold medal to his trophy case this August, and along with it a Paralympic-best record-breaking time in the PR1M1x (men's singles). But this is not his only goal.

"I would most like to help children and people with disabilities. Sport is a great force for all people with disabilities, so everywhere I recommend everyone to be physically active and play sports."

Of note: Roman's wife, Oleksandra, is also a Para-rower. The Polianskyis enjoy watching movies, listening to music, cooking, barbecues in the village and swimming in a nearby lake.

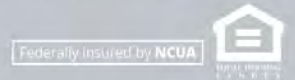
Ihor Stelmach may be reached at iman@sfgsports.com.



MORTGAGES *As low as**

2.250%_{RATE} 2.347%_{APR}**

*Mortgages available only for the following owner-occupied properties: single family residences, qualified condominiums, or multi-family structures with no more than four units and up to 80% LTV. Mortgages with down payments as low as 5% (up to 95% LTV) are available only for the following owner-occupied properties: single family homes and multi-family structures up to 2 units and will require private mortgage insurance (PMI). Subject to approval of application. **The stated Annual Percentage Rates (APRs) are all based on \$100,000 mortgages, except for the Fixed Rate Jumbo Portfolio Mortgages which are based on \$484,350 mortgages. For example, a \$100,000 10 Year Fixed Rate Purchase mortgage with an 80% LTV will have a 2.347% APR and the repayment schedule will be 120 monthly payments of approximately \$931. Monthly payment amount does not include any property taxes, and/or insurance premiums; the actual payment will be greater when such items are included. Mortgages available only to members and only in designated geographic locations. All Selfreliance FCU loan programs, rates, terms and conditions are subject to change at any time without notice. Offer may be withdrawn at any time. Subject to approval of application. Please call our mortgage department toll free at 1.888.222.8571x283 for current offers, rates and terms.



Home Office: 2332 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago IL 60622, 773-328-7500

SELFRELIANCE.COM

5000 N. Cumberland Ave., Chicago, IL 60656	773-589-0077	734 Sandford Ave., Newark, NJ 07106	973-373-7839	26495 Ryan Rd., Warren, MI 48091	586-757-1980
136 E. Illinois Ave. #100, Palatine, IL 60067	847-359-5911	558 Summit Ave., Jersey City, NJ 07306	201-795-4061	11756 Charest St., Hamtramck, MI 48212-3059	313-366-0055
302 E. Army Trail Rd., Bloomingdale, IL 60108	630-307-0079	60-C N. Jefferson Rd., Whippany, NJ 07981	973-887-2776	7345 Orchard Lake Rd., West Bloomfield, MI 48322	248-487-0330