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During U.S. trip, Zelenskyy and Ukrainian delegation met with leadership of Apple, Google



Presidential Office of Ukraine

Apple CEO Tim Cook (left) and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy meet at Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, Calif., on September 2.

by Roman Tymotsko

LVIV – During his trip to the United States, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited Apple headquarters in Cupertino, Calif., on September 2 where he met with the company's chief executive officer, Tim Cook, according to the office of the Ukrainian president.

Additionally, during the trip to the U.S., Ukraine's Minister of Digital Transformation Mykhailo Fedorov met with Google's vice president to discuss YouTube's recommendation algorithm, as well as programs

aimed to encourage Ukrainian content creators on YouTube, Mr. Zelenskyy's office reported.

Messrs. Zelenskyy and Cook discussed having Apple products in Ukraine, the opening of an Apple store in Kyiv, as well as hosting the company's new massive database in Ukraine.

Mr. Zelenskyy noted that the success of Apple, which has worked its way up from a garage startup to the most valuable corporation in the world, inspires those who are

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U.S. Congressmen voice support for Ukraine during surprise visit to Kyiv

Visit comes as Russia's foreboding NS2 pipeline completed



U.S. Embassy in Kyiv

U.S. Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) (center), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Ben Sasse (R-Neb.), Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), and Rep. William Timmons (R-S.C.) during their one-day visit to Kyiv on September 6.

by Mark Raczkiewycz

KYIV – A group of five U.S. lawmakers led by Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) paid an unexpected visit to Ukraine on the same day that the Russian operator of a controversial natural-gas pipeline announced that it had completed the final stages of welding it together.

Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Ben Sasse (R-Neb.), Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.) and Rep. William Timmons (R-S.C.) met with Ukrainian

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other high-level officials to reinforce their bicameral legislature's bipartisan support for the country's national security.

Mr. Graham said after speaking with the Ukrainian president, Defense Minister Andriy Taran and Foreign Affairs Minister Dmytro Kuleba that Congress will push for "additional military assistance" to Ukraine, which is mired in a war with Moscow that is now in its eighth year.

The South Carolina senator acknowledged "that we are deeply moved by the loss of more than 13,000 lives in the fight for their [Ukraine's] freedom." The number of people killed is a result of a Russia-instigated war that is being waged in the two easternmost regions of Luhansk and Donetsk.

"You've lost 49 soldiers this year alone. ... We will provide aid to keep your freedom, and to let [Russian President Vladimir] Putin know that Ukraine is never going back under his yoke," Mr. Graham said.

For his part, Mr. Zelenskyy said in a statement that energy security was part of his discussions with the U.S. lawmakers.

He thanked the visiting delegation for "a clear understanding of the security threats posed by the implementation of the [Russian] Nord Stream 2 project," which will eliminate Ukraine as a gas transit country to Europe and further expose it more to Moscow's military bellicose behavior.

"The Kremlin has used and continues to use gas supplies as a weapon. The sanctions pressure on Nord Stream 2 should be

(Continued on page 7)

In Stanford University speech, President Zelenskyy says Ukrainians believe anything is possible

by Roman Tymotsko

LVIV – During an official visit to the United States, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed a group of students, academics and entrepreneurs at Stanford University on September 2. Mr. Zelenskyy spoke on the topics of digitalization, dual citizenship, Belarus and the dynamic growth of the IT sector in Ukraine, according to the office of the Ukrainian president.

Mr. Zelenskyy was welcomed to the university by Francis Fukuyama, the director of the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law at Stanford University, and Michael McFaul, director of the school's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies.

Mr. Zelenskyy said he was honored to speak at Stanford University.

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Office of the President of Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during his speech at Stanford University on September 2.

NEWS ANALYSIS

U.S.-Ukraine strategic partnership gets another lease on life

by Vladimir Socor
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's visit to the United States (August 31-September 2) succeeded, at least, in halting the degradation of the bilateral relationship, under way since 2019, particularly after the advent of the Joseph Biden administration. The White House's temptation of a neo-reset with Russia has translated into neglect of Ukraine and decisions detrimental to it (see below).

Mr. Zelenskyy's Washington visit has nevertheless prompted both governments to refocus on their long-declared but under-fulfilled strategic partnership. Major statements of intent at the inter-governmental and private-sector levels during this visit, coupled with bipartisan Congressional support, have given the strategic partnership the chance of a fresh start.

Initiated during the presidencies of George W. Bush and Viktor Yushchenko (December 2008), and resuscitated under the presidencies of Donald Trump and Petro Poroshenko (November 2018), the U.S.-Ukraine strategic partnership has yet to be operationalized and reach its fruition. It has been hobbled by political and policy vagaries in Ukraine over the years and in the U.S. recently. On the Ukrainian side, Mr. Zelenskyy started out by repudiating Mr. Poroshenko's foreign policy legacy wholesale, reached out to the Kremlin, found himself confronted with Russian terms of national surrender and rediscovered the necessity of Ukraine's strategic partnership with the United States.

By that time, however, a deeply distracted Washington had fallen out of sync with Kyiv. Early in its term of office, the Biden White House withdrew the well-established U.S. support for a North Atlantic Treaty Organization Membership Action Plan (NATO MAP) to Ukraine, without adequate explanation (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, June 1, 17). Instead of applying Congressionally mandated sanctions to stop the Russo-German Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline project, the White House has cleared the way for it, notwithstanding the economic damage and security risks ensuing from it to Ukraine, and over Ukraine's head (see EDM, May 27, July 21). And, thus far, the White House shows no urgency to fill the vacancy of the U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations (on the Russia-Ukraine conflict) or even that of the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine (both posts vacant since 2019).

Mr. Zelenskyy had ardently sought this visit to Washington, notwithstanding the White House's procrastination. President Biden had only found time for two phone calls with the president of this strategic partner country from January to date. Mr. Zelenskyy's immediate objectives for this visit were: establishing personal rapport with his U.S. counterpart; making the case for White House reconsideration of its Nord Stream 2 and NATO MAP decisions; bringing the United States into negotiations over Russia's war in Ukraine's east, on a basis other than the Russian-imposed Minsk "agreements"; and obtaining some additional U.S. defense assistance funding. These immediate objectives remain unfulfilled or under-fulfilled. Instead, the inter-governmental statements of intent have opened a medium-term prospect to resuscitate and broaden the bilateral strategic partnership in many other areas.

On Nord Stream 2, Mr. Zelenskyy reminded U.S. officials in Washington that this project contravenes the Biden administration's own declared anti-corruption goals, its environmental goals and its energy security goals regarding Europe. He called for launching trilateral U.S.-Ukraine-German consultations and for safeguards, such as sanctions, to be put in place against Russian political misuse of gas supply and transit. For the public back home, he claimed a "great victory" in that the U.S. and Mr. Biden himself "guaranteed" imposing sanctions in the event of Russian misbehavior with Nord Stream 2 (Ukrinform, August 31, September 1; One plus One TV, September 2). No confirmation exists of such intent from the U.S. side, however; it sounds, rather, like yet another misunderstanding of U.S. messages, including the term "guarantees," by Ukraine's Presidential Office (see EDM, May 6, 10). By comparison, the 2018 U.S.-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Commission's joint statement, reflecting the Trump Administration's and Ukraine's shared priorities, had emphasized their opposition to energy projects that threaten European energy security and the importance of coordination to stop proposed Russian pipelines that would hurt Ukraine's economic and strategic stability, such as Nord Stream 2 and the second line of Turkish Stream (State.gov, Kmu.gov.ua, November 17, 2018).

Mr. Zelenskyy had been advised unofficially from Washington ahead of the visit to refrain from raising the issue of a NATO MAP for Ukraine. But he did raise it with Mr. Biden and told Ukrainian media afterward that he spent much time making the case for a NATO-Ukraine MAP.

"I feel, and I heard this from [Mr.] Biden, that he personally supports Ukraine's membership in NATO, but I find it hard to say what the path will be," Mr. Zelenskyy said (Ukrinform, September 2). As *Ukrainska Pravda* (September 2) editorialized, "It is paradoxical, but under [Mr.] Trump, who was accused of cozying up to [Russian President Vladimir] Putin, Washington was sending significantly more signals of support than it does now."

On the other hand, U.S. officials and the joint documents produced by this visit characterized Russia unambiguously as the "aggressor" against Ukraine and the "occupant" of Ukrainian territories in Crimea and eastern Donbas (Ua.usembassy.gov, September 1). Furthermore, the U.S. demonstratively (and perhaps unprecedentedly) omitted any reference to the Minsk "agreements," deferring thereby to the Ukrainian view that those documents were dictated by Russia under military duress and cannot form a basis for the political settlement of this war. This U.S. step finally substantiates the earlier declared "unwavering support" for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and recognized borders. The Minsk "agreements" had made Ukraine's sovereignty, integrity and borders conditional on Ukraine's compliance with those documents. The support to Ukraine by the U.S. or any power could not be "unwavering" as long as it was linked to the Minsk conditionalities. De-coupled from the Minsk "agreements," however, that support can become "unwavering."

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

NEWSBRIEFS

NS2 critic appointed to State Department

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration has appointed an outspoken critic of Russia's Nord Stream 2 (NS2) pipeline to oversee policy for Central and Eastern Europe at the State Department following backlash over its decision to allow the project to move ahead. Robin Dunnigan, who served as deputy assistant secretary for energy diplomacy in the State Department's Bureau of Energy Resources from 2014 to 2017, will help craft policy toward Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, as well as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, a spokesperson told RFE/RL. She takes over Eastern Europe duties from Deputy Assistant Secretary George Kent, who served in 2019 as a key witness in the Ukraine-centric impeachment trial of then-President Donald Trump. Ms. Dunnigan was an early critic of Russian plans to build a second natural-gas pipeline to Germany along the floor of the Baltic Sea to reroute European exports around Ukraine, potentially depriving Kyiv of as much as \$2 billion a year in transit fees. The \$11 billion NS2 project will soon be completed after the Biden Administration in May agreed to waive sanctions on its Swiss-based operator in an attempt to deescalate tensions with Germany. The decision angered countries in Central and Eastern Europe, which see the pipeline as a security threat. "You have to ask: Why would you support Ukraine with one hand and strangle it with the other," she told a conference of policymakers in November 2015 as the West supported Kyiv with military and economic aid to help it battle Kremlin-backed fighters in eastern Ukraine. "Nord Stream 2 actually threatens not only Ukraine's survivability and their resources, but it is a risk to fuel diversification in Europe, especially Southeastern Europe," Ms. Dunnigan said at the time. The Biden Administration and Germany reached an agreement in July on steps to help Ukraine handle the economic fallout resulting from the completion of NS2, including investing in the country's alternative energy industry, a compromise that Kyiv considers inadequate. The Biden Administration recently appointed Amos Hochstein, who served as the State

Department's energy envoy from 2014 to 2017, to oversee the implementation of the agreement with Germany. Mr. Hochstein, who also served as a board member on Ukraine's state-owned natural gas company Naftogaz, oversaw the Bureau of Energy Resources when Ms. Dunnigan served there. "I am hoping that [Ms.] Dunnigan's background in energy is going to help people in the State Department understand how critical energy security is for Ukraine as a country. It can't succeed unless it has energy security," said Daniel Vajdich, president of Washington-based lobby firm Yorktown Solutions, whose clients include Naftogaz. Ms. Dunnigan took up her new position on September 7. (RFE/RL's Todd Prince)

Ukraine extends Medvedchuk house arrest

A Ukrainian court has extended by two months the house arrest of Viktor Medvedchuk, a Kremlin-leaning lawmaker and tycoon who is accused of supporting fighters in two eastern provinces. Mr. Medvedchuk, who heads Opposition Platform-For Life, the second-largest party in the parliament, will remain under house arrest until October 31, the court said. The 67-year-old, who has a close personal relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, is accused of funneling profits from his businesses into the two separatist-controlled regions in eastern Ukraine. Ukraine has been battling the Russia-backed separatists since 2014 in a war that has killed more than 13,200. Mr. Medvedchuk denies the charges and calls them politically motivated. The lawmaker was first placed under house arrest in May after Ukraine's Security Service (SBU) searched his home and office in Kyiv. In a sign of things to come, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in February signed off on sanctions against Mr. Medvedchuk and three television stations believed to be owned by the tycoon in a move that caught the country by surprise. Mr. Zelenskyy later described it as the start of his campaign to reduce the influence of a handful of tycoons who control the country from behind the scenes. Civil society activists accuse Mr.

(Continued on page 10)

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FOR THE RECORD**European Parliament members respond to statement by Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid**

The following statement was released on September 7 by members of the European Parliament who recently visited Ukraine to express support for Ukraine's European aspiration. The statement was issued to rebuff remarks made by Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid, who said Ukraine would need to wait 20 years before it could join the European Union.

We, friends of European Ukraine in the European Parliament, want to express our position on the statements recently made by Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid on the prospect of Ukraine's membership of the EU. These statements coincided with our visit to Ukraine on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

The EU's enlargement policy has a history of almost five decades, with new countries joining the EU at different times, but the criteria for membership do not change. The new members must be guided by the EU's political values, by the principles of the single economic market and comply with the EU legal issues.

Ukraine's aspirations for membership in the European Union in recent years are framed by the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. It is clear that Ukraine will first have to fully implement the Association Agreement, and that is the path to the European Union. This is first and foremost a process of reforms in many areas, and it seems that Ukraine agrees that they are indispensable. These are reforms in the political, legal system, various public and economic areas, based on the well-proven experience and achievements of the EU member states. The fight against corruption in the Ukrainian courts and public administration remains a central task to be overcome.

Ukraine is on the path of reforms, achievements are

(Continued on page 6)

Ukrainian National Association seeks applicants for executive positions

Deadline for applications is October 31

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian National Association (UNA) will hold its 40th quadrennial convention in May 2022. That convention will mark a pivotal moment for the UNA, which recently adopted a new corporate governance structure that replaced the organization's Executive Committee with a new Corporate Board of Directors.

At the upcoming convention, delegates to the general assembly, which is the organization's highest governing body, will elect the UNA's next president/chief executive officer (CEO), a new Corporate Board of Directors, as well as members of the Audit Committee and the Fraternal Advisory Board. The newly-elected Board of Directors will then appoint a secretary/chief operating officer (COO) and a treasurer/chief financial officer (CFO) by a majority vote during its first organizational meeting after the convention.

The UNA is encouraging individuals to submit applications for any of the positions mentioned above.

"Our Ukrainian communities in the U.S. and Canada are brimming with individuals who, over their professional careers, have developed significant leadership experience and strong diplomatic skills," said Roman Hirniak, who chairs the UNA's Nominations Committee, which is responsible for, among other duties, vetting the qualifications of individuals who submit applications for the positions described above.

"It is these individuals who likely also have a vision for the UNA and its various operational entities that our Nominations Committee would like to meet with and interview," Mr. Hirniak said.

Founded in 1894, the UNA is a modern fraternal society that provides a variety of high-quality life insurance and annuity products, as well as Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and a Coverdell Education Savings Account.

While certain positions – the CEO, COO and CFO – are all roles that require individuals to work full time for the UNA, Mr. Hirniak added that many of the positions do not require people to leave their current jobs.

"I think it's important for folks to understand that becoming an integral part of the UNA's next team of leaders will not necessarily require them to leave their current jobs. For example, among the tasks of our Nominations Committee is vetting candidates to fill six seats on the newly-created Corporate Board of Directors," Mr. Hirniak said. "While the CBD will manage the affairs of the UNA and replace the current Executive Committee and General Assembly, those six directors are not full-time employees of the UNA. The same applies for all three members of the Audit Committee and all six members of the Fraternal Advisory Board."

For those individuals who are interested in applying for the three full-time positions within the UNA, Mr. Hirniak noted the significant impact these individuals can have on the organization's direction and future growth.

"Together this team [the CEO, COO and CFO] will direct the day-to-day business of the UNA. In short, they will promote the UNA's growth in assets and guide its financial affairs," Mr. Hirniak said.

"What I would say to individuals interested in applying for one of these three positions is that seldom is one given an opportunity to lead the new iteration of an entity that's existed for over 125 years. This new iteration was precipitated by a complete revamp of the UNA's Charter and By-Laws in January 2020. As a result, these three executive officers will step into a modern version of the UNA and be able to propel its legacy for years to come. Rarely are we presented with career leadership moments like this," Mr. Hirniak said.

All applicants must be UNA members in good standing. A full profile of the positions noted above and instructions for applying can be found on the UNA's web site at the following address: <https://unainc.org/una/leadership-position-openings/>.

Completed application forms and copies of applicants' detailed resumes must be sent via certified mail on or before October 31 to the following address: Ukrainian National Association, Inc., Attn: UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, N.J., 07054.

In Stanford...

(Continued from page 1)

"Could I ever imagine that I, an ordinary guy from an ordinary family, from an ordinary – beautiful – industrial city in eastern Ukraine, would deliver a speech here?" Mr. Zelenskyy asked his audience. "No. But anything is possible. However, for this purpose, it was necessary to become president of Ukraine at least," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

The Ukrainian president underscored that "everything is possible" is not only his personal credo but also a symbol of modern Ukraine.

In keeping with that theme, he compared Ukraine with Apple and himself with Steve Jobs, stressing that Ukrainians believe everything is possible.

"Ukrainians have often proved to humanity that anything is possible. That it is possible to create the first helicopter, an artificial satellite that can travel around the Earth, the world's largest aircraft and, by the way, WhatsApp," Mr. Zelenskyy said, referring to the popular mobile phone application.

"I once wrote to a friend on WhatsApp that we as a country have not created anything like the first helicopter, an artificial satellite around Earth or the world's largest aircraft for a long time – about 30 years. We wanted to change that. It turns out that the only option for this was to become president and bring other, new people to power," Mr. Zelenskyy said, adding that this proves once again that anything is possible.

During his Stanford speech, Mr. Zelenskyy used the opportunity to promote his presidential program called Big Construction. He said that a few years ago, there were terrible roads in Ukraine, which made it impossible to drive quickly from one city to another. There were also complicated and lengthy bureaucratic procedures needed before anything could be done, and he said he wanted to change that. The president told his audience that Ukraine is now building thousands of kilometers of roads and hundreds of bridges, building planes, helicopters, tanks and navy again.

"Ukraine, which opposes one of the most powerful armies in the world – the army of the Russian Federation – it's territory is annexed and occupied," Mr. Zelenskyy told

his audience. "And in these conditions, Ukraine is building a democratic, free, open state, creating an anti-corruption system of institutions, a unique system of electronic declaration for officials, minimizing the influence of oligarchs on the economy and politics, simplifying business, reforming the banking sector, launching transparent auctions for exploration and extraction of natural resources, introducing effective and transparent corporate governance, launching a transparent land market for the first time since independence, bolstering the rule of law and reforming the judiciary. How is it doing all this?" Mr. Zelenskyy asked. "By believing that anything is possible."

Following the president's speech, Nick Bilogorskiy, a Ukrainian investor living in Palo Alto, Calif., asked the president about dual citizenship.

"Yes, I am in favor of dual citizenship," Mr. Zelenskyy said. "This issue is being considered among Ukrainian parliamentarians. But it is essential to think about whether it is really the right time today. You know about Russia handing its passports to the people of Crimea for the last 20 years. And now it continues on the territory of the temporarily occupied Donbas. About 600,000 Russian passports have been distributed in our Ukrainian territories, which are now occupied."

The Ukrainian president added that legislation on dual citizenship can not be universal in Ukraine. Rather, he said, the decision to grant dual citizenship must be made on a case-by-case basis and dependent upon the country in which the applicant holds their other citizenship.

"Therefore, dual citizenship would be voted on by parliamentarians very quickly in peacetime today. And we must defend our borders very seriously today," Mr. Zelenskyy said in response to the question posed by Mr. Bilogorskiy, who was the director for security intelligence at Google. He also co-founded the charity organization Nova Ukraine to deliver humanitarian aid and increase awareness about Ukraine globally.

Mr. Zelenskyy was also asked what he would tell Belarusians about their current political situation.

"I wish you [Belarus] the same result that Ukraine got – a democratic and very free country. It is your people, faith, language, life and art that are stronger than any government, and there are no eternal governments," Mr.

Zelenskyy said.

"We understand what is happening to you, and we also understand that the same thing happened to us. But this path – I do not want you to go the way that Ukraine did, the people of Ukraine, families who lost their lives for the struggle for the freedom of their people, for the freedom of their beautiful country," said Mr. Zelenskyy, who finished his response with the Belarusian saying, "Zhyve Belarus!" (Long live Belarus!).

During his speech, the Ukrainian president also recalled that he and his team once sat in a small office and generated ideas that no one believed in, which is what initially happened to Apple founder Steve Jobs, Mr. Zelenskyy said.

"Now we see the creation of Steve Jobs and Apple – the iPhone," Mr. Zelenskyy said while holding his smartphone in his hand. "This is his heart, and it beats, beats with every vibration during a call or SMS. And our Ukrainian creation – a state in a smartphone [the mobile application Diia] – is in it. And today, 26 million Ukrainians online, in a smartphone, can register documents on the birth of a child, use other digital documents, get a building permit, open a business in 7-15 minutes – faster than in most countries [via the Diia app]. Ukraine has become the first country in the world to have a digital passport," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

He also emphasized that the goal for the coming year in Ukraine is to ensure that 100 percent of public services can be performed online. And, in the future, the Ukrainian president said that all citizens of Ukraine will be able to vote in elections online.

"Digitalization is one of the priority reforms in Ukraine. It is moving forward very successfully and quickly. The outcome of this reform is a victory over any medium, and over petty corruption in the state," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

"The American dream is known all over the world. But we lost a lot of time – we do not have time to dream. We have no dreams – we have a Ukrainian goal. And this, of course, is not just digitization. We bring our people back. It is crucial for us: to return Crimea, to return Donbas. We will be a strong and successful country – the leader of Europe. Why am I sure of this? Because anything is possible. And I invite all of you to Ukraine to see it for yourself," Mr. Zelenskyy said as he concluded his speech at Stanford University.

Ukrainian diplomats in New York hold Independence Day celebration with Crimean Tatar representatives

by Andrij Dobriansky

NEW YORK – Ukrainian diplomatic missions around the world continued marking the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's renewed independence on August 24. The celebrations continued even after the final fireworks had been extinguished in Kyiv. One such event took place here, in the city at the crossroads of high diplomacy.

Following on the success of its virtual independence day celebration in August 2020, which was notable in that it featured prominent participants and an extremely reach program, the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations set its sights on an even larger gathering this year.

Partnering with the Consulate General of Ukraine in New York, with the added assistance of the Ukrainian World Congress' U.N. representative and representatives of the World Congress of Crimean Tatars in the



Denys Ludchak

Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations (center wearing coat and tie), and Ukrainian Consul General in New York, Oleksii Holubov (to the right of Mr. Kyslytsya), gathered with performers, consular and mission staff, as well as Ukrainian diaspora representatives and members of the press at the conclusion of an event in New York to celebrate Ukraine's 30th anniversary of renewed independence on August 24.

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INSURING OUR COMMUNITY FOR OVER 125 YEARS!

U.S., a collegial gathering of nearly 50 ambassadors and consuls general, as well as distinguished representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora, women's organizations and many others, took place on a New York City rooftop on August 24.

Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, delivered welcoming remarks. Representatives of Ukraine's diplomatic and consular corps, Ukrainian American and Crimean Tatar community representatives, media, clergy and guests then stood at attention for the singing of Ukraine's national anthem, which was performed by the Permanent Mission's first secretary, Yaroslava Sochka, and Andrij Dobriansky of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA).

The first guests invited to speak were representatives of the first two nations that formally recognized Ukraine's independence in December 1991: the permanent representative of Canada to the United Nations, Ambassador Robert Rae, and Ambassador Krzysztof Szczerski, permanent representative of Poland to the United Nations.

For Mr. Szczerski, this was a doubly auspicious event as it marked his first public event as the permanent representative of Poland.

As co-host of the event, Ukraine's consul general in New York, Oleksii Holubov, addressed the guests. He thanked members of the Ukrainian American diaspora for their tireless work in the lead up to the restoration of Ukraine's independence in 1991. To underscore this message, he invited Volodymyr Kozicky, president emeritus and honorary chairman of the SUMA Federal Credit Union, to say a few words to the assembled diplomats about what Ukraine's independence means to Ukrainians in the diaspora.

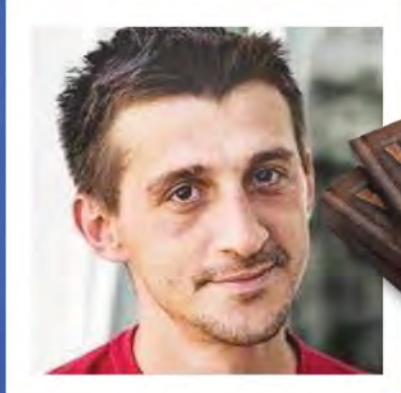
The highlight of the evening's celebration was the lively and colorful cultural program that followed. Kalyna and Uliana Leshchuk of the bandurist duet "Malvy" introduced many of the international guests to such Ukrainian classics as "Cheremshyna," "Ukrayina," and "Rushyv poyezd v daleku dorohu."

Also performing throughout the evening were members of the New York Crimean Tatar Ensemble, composed of three generations of performers. Their performance was made possible with the assistance of Ayla Bakkalli, a representative of the Congress of Crimean Tatars and a consultant to the Permanent Mission of Ukraine on indigenous matters.

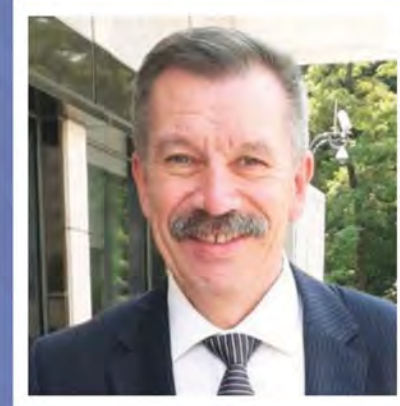
(Continued on page 7)



Manor College invites everyone to a special pair of presentations that will occur, on Tuesday, September 28, at 6:30 PM, in the Library of the Basileiad Manor Building, located at Manor College, 700 Fox Chase Road, Jenkintown, PA.



Yuriy Rudenko, the author and a frontline combat veteran of the Donbas war in Eastern Ukraine, and by Major General (ret.) of the Ukrainian Army Volodymyr Havrylov. They will present a most captivating, thoroughly documented book, entitled "**WAR.ru**".



The second presentation is by **General Havrylov** (the charity foundation's director), who will provide information about the Veterans Dozen Foundation or V10, a non-profit organization in Ukraine that uses sport and all of its direct and indirect benefits to rehabilitate war veterans suffering from physical and psychological injuries.

For more information, please go to Manor.edu/UHSC

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

A redesigned website for The Ukrainian Weekly

Dear readers, we are thrilled to announce that The Ukrainian Weekly will launch a redesigned website on October 6, which marks the 88th anniversary of the newspaper's founding.

The previous major update to the site was made roughly six years ago. An editorial in the June 14, 2015, issue of The Ukrainian Weekly informed readers that, while the web address remained the same, "the look and functionality [of the new site] are entirely different."

The previous redesign was completed "thanks to the truly Herculean efforts of our webmaster and tech guru, Ihor Pylypchuk," we wrote in the editorial six years ago. At that time, the new site included various improvements: it was developed to function not only on desktop and laptop computers, but across various mobile devices as well (smartphones, tablets, iPhones, iPads); all of the articles on the new site were presented as separate full-text stories that could be easily printed, with high-quality photos included; navigation was designed to be intuitive and related articles were categorized by topics.

Our editorial from six years ago also quoted Mr. Pylypchuk, who said that "we will be constantly improving [the] user experience" of the redesigned site.

In keeping with that promise, we are excited to report that we have made a number of additional improvements to our website. First, we redesigned the overall look and feel of the site, though we have retained certain design elements that worked well in the old site. Next, we've taken our first, small step into the multimedia world by launching a new podcast (we'll tell you much more about that later, but for the time being we'll leave that news as a teaser of things to come). And we've made various improvements on the back end of the site so that pages load faster and photos and graphics appear with more clarity and resolution.

Finally, we've integrated a new electronic payment option that will give people the ability to pay for any subscription – print, digital, both or a gift subscription – electronically and quickly. You'll even be able to do it in under five minutes on a cell phone, and we'll offer a QR code that, when scanned by a mobile device, will take you right to our newly redesigned subscriptions page. Moreover, the new system will give you the option to have your subscription renew automatically so that you don't have to go through the trouble of resubscribing every year. And for those individuals who still love mailing in a check, fear not! We will gladly still accept checks.

In short, this is only the beginning. Our website will evolve and we will work to continuously improve your experience there. But we can't make it better without your feedback, so once the redesigned site launches on October 6, we invite you to visit, spend some time there and let us know what you think by emailing us at staff@ukrweekly.com. And if you know people who aren't subscribers, invite them to try out the new subscription portal. They can do so by going to www.ukrweekly.com and clicking on the red subscribe button once the new site launches on October 6.

Sept.
18
2014

Turning the pages back...

Seven years ago, on September 18, 2014, President Petro Poroshenko addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress during his working visit to the United States. Mr. Poroshenko noted that the honor of addressing both chambers of Congress was not his, but it belonged "to the people of Ukraine, those brave men and women who are today on the forefront of the global fight for

democracy!" he said.

Freedom, Mr. Poroshenko underscored, was the focus of his address and it was freedom that continued to be under threat, not only for Ukraine's existence. He continued: "...The people of Ukraine stood up to the corrupt regime of [Viktor] Yanukovich. They stood their ground during this dramatic winter – and they are standing their ground right now!"

The victory on Independence Square during the Revolution of Dignity was a victory against police brutality, harassment by the state-controlled media, violence and intimidation – all threats that continue in Russia and in Russia-controlled territories, not only in Ukraine, he said.

"There is nothing more impressive than seeing hundreds of thousands of peaceful people forcing out a violent dictator, and changing the course of history," said Mr. Poroshenko, who acknowledged the sacrifice of the Heavenly Hundred who were killed by sniper fire during the Euro-Maidan protests.

Mr. Poroshenko reminded his listeners that Russia violated the 1994 Budapest Memorandum by annexing Crimea in 2014 and he spoke about Russia's behavior in 2008 in Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions, as well as in the Russia-created Transnistria region of Moldova. He sounded the alarm bell, noting that Russia was watching how the U.S. and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) would respond to such threats.

The solution to such threats, he noted, included identifying common values and areas of cooperation and interdependence.

"I urge you to not let Ukraine stand alone in the face of this aggression. The United States made a commitment that it would stand behind Ukraine's territorial integrity – and we hope that it will live up to that promise," Mr. Poroshenko said.

Calling attention to the plight of Ukraine's underequipped military units defending Europe from Russian aggression, and appealing for increased military assistance, Mr. Poroshenko reminded his audience that this is Europe's war, America's war and a war of

(Continued on page 11)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Buyer's remorse? None here

Dear Editor:

In his letter to the editor published in the September 5 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly, Lt. Col. Bohdan Hetmansky implies that those who voted for Joe Biden could be questioning their choice. But why? President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's recent working visit to Washington was solid and successful, returning stability to a relationship abused and neglected by the previous administration. The message from Mr. Biden was clear: America supports Ukraine.

Lt. Col. Hetmansky, no doubt, understands the difference between aspirations and reality. Advocating for the aspirational goal of Ukraine's independence, for example, even despite active discouragement, was consistent regardless of which U.S. political party was in power. Republican Henry Kissinger enacted a cynical "realpolitik" approach to the USSR, one that denied Ukraine the possibility of independence. Republican President George Bush gave his infamous "Chicken Kiev" speech strenuously denouncing the "suicidal nationalism" that supposedly motivated Ukraine's quest. Such actions by U.S. presidents, however, did not stop Ukraine from attaining the aspirational goal of independence.

Modern Ukraine's aspirational goals, such as admission to NATO, while more modest than independence, are still complex. The reality is that Mr. Zelenskyy must keep articulating these goals. However, the reality also is that achieving these goals, even with support from the West, will be difficult. As tempting as it is to place the burden on the United States to come to Ukraine's rescue, as with independence, Ukraine must do the heavy lifting to meet these goals, not America.

Irene Jarosewich
Passaic Park, N.J.

I have no buyer's remorse

Dear Editor:

In response to Lt. Col. Bohdan Hetmansky's letter in the September 5 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly, I am not a citizen of Ukraine, but a citizen of the United States, as are my children and grandchildren. Always, my vote for president is informed not by just U.S. foreign policy, including poli-

cies regarding Ukraine, but by the candidate's domestic agenda. Therefore, I voted for a man who, in contrast to the previous guy, first considers the interests of the American people rather than of himself; a man who listens to scientists when dealing with a worldwide pandemic and not to quacks and a man who cares about future generations who must live on our only planet. My answer to Mr. Hetmansky's question is this: no, I most certainly do not regret my vote for Joe Biden.

Tania Vitvitsky
Sudbury, Mass.

Emphatically, there's no buyer's remorse

Dear Editor:

In response to Bohdan Hetmansky's letter, published in the September 5 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly, on whether Ukrainian Americans who voted for President Joe Biden have any "buyer's remorse," I can answer emphatically that I do not. Like almost all Ukrainian Americans, regardless of political leanings, I am not happy that this administration has backed off from stopping Nord Stream 2 (see Mark Temnycky's article in the same issue). At the same time, I recognize the difficulty in pulling the plug on a multi-billion-dollar project that was more than 90 percent complete when Mr. Biden was sworn in last January. Perhaps Mr. Hetmansky should instead ask why the previous occupant of the White House didn't stop Nord Stream 2 before it reached 90 percent completion? And speaking of that previous occupant, let me remind your readers, without beating a dead horse, that it is indisputable that he had zero love for – or understanding of – Ukraine. The thought of him remaining in the White House for a second term is enough to dispel any possible feeling of remorse. Is Mr. Biden perfect? No, but I definitely believe that he is far better for Ukraine and for this country as well. And he is not sacrificing Ukraine for a second time nor is he striving to make the U.S. into a third world country. When you consider the actions taken by his predecessor vis-a-vis Ukraine, or how he kowtowed to Russian President Vladimir Putin, or how he handled the domestic issues facing this country, and how he would have continued those actions if re-elected – well, then again, no remorse.

Halyna Traversa
Estero, Fla.

European...

(Continued from page 3)

gratifying and we look forward to further progress. It must be understood that European reforms are needed first and foremost for Ukraine itself and for the well-being of its people.

Understandably, next to reform planning, the question naturally arises – when? When can Ukraine expect full membership in the EU?

An answer on this question largely depends on the aspiring country to choose the best timetable for itself, based on the pace and results of reforms and progress. Of course, there is a race and competition between the aspiring countries, but it is just for the better.

We, Ukraine's friends in the European

Parliament, support Ukraine's European aspirations and believe that it will make a proper contribution to the project of a united European Union. We believe that we will be in one European project, the timing of which we will decide by working together and in harmony. Our goal is that the next decade of the EU Eastern Partnership policy towards Ukraine be different in substance and achievements.

Petras Auštrevičius,
Renew Europe, Lithuania

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel,
Greens/EFA, Germany

Juozas Olekas, S&D, Lithuania

Ramona Strugariu,
Renew Europe, Romania

Michael Gahler, EPP, Germany

U.S. Congressmen...

(Continued from page 1)

maintained," Mr. Zelenskyy said, referring to the restrictive measures that were in place on the 1,230-kilometer-long Russia-controlled underwater pipeline project. U.S. President Joe Biden waived portions of those sanctions in May, defending the move by saying that the Nord Stream 2 (NS2) pipeline was 90 percent complete when he took office.

Officials in Kyiv have maintained that NS2 is a purely "political" project, not commercial, in that it will circumvent the country's already existing and capable pipeline network that has customarily supplied gas to Russia's buyers in Europe.

Hurdles for NS2 to become operational and the extent of its 55-cubic billion yearly capacity, which will double the volume of Nord Stream 1, remain.

Although Russian state-owned gas export monopoly Gazprom says that the last weld of pipe was completed on August 6, the project is still facing obstacles.

A German court in Dusseldorf on August 25 overruled an appeal by the pipeline's Swiss-registered Russian operator, which ultimately controls NS2, after the country's energy regulator said it wasn't exempt from the European Union's rules on fair market competition.

Specifically, the petitioned court ruled in favor of the EU's so-called Third Energy Package, which stipulates that an energy producer cannot be a monopoly provider.

However, Gazprom insisted that financing of the pipeline project was completed before the rules went into force in May 2019. The German Dusseldorf Higher Regional Court ruled that it hadn't been physically completed, and therefore was not exempt.

The group of companies behind NS2, at the head of which is Gazprom and Germany's Uniper, are Wintershall Dea, a unit of BASF, Anglo-Dutch Shell, Austria's OMV and French-based Engie.

Based on the EU's energy rules, Gazprom would only be allowed to directly sell up to 50 percent of its gas to Europe via NS2.

"The remainder shipped through the pipes would have to be ordered by other customers who want to transport it," Oleksandr Kharchenko, managing director of the Energy Industry Research Center in Kyiv, told The Ukrainian Weekly.

Gazprom can still challenge the German court's ruling by appealing to the Federal Court of Justice. The Russian gas giant asserts that it is a form of targeted discrimination against its operation.

"The rejection of Nord Stream 2 AG's application for a derogation exposes the discriminating effect of the amended EU Gas Directive," a Gazprom spokesperson told The Moscow Times.

"The pipeline still needs to be certified and approved for use. Certification is expected to take up to four months but will only start once all paperwork is complete, which entails checks by the German economics ministry ..." Reuters reported.

Afterward, "the European Commission (the executive branch of the EU), will scrutinize the decision by the German [energy] regulator and approve or disapprove whether its decision is correct," Svitlana Zalishchuk, who advises Naftogaz CEO Yuriy Vitrenko, told The Ukrainian Weekly.

Last month, Mr. Biden and outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel both agreed to allow the completion of NS2 in exchange for additional support for Kyiv. They threatened unspecified sanctions should Russia weaponize energy to coerce Ukraine.



The 1,230-kilometer route of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline that will pump gas from Russia to Germany, further bypassing existing routes available through Ukraine's network of transit pipes.

The talks were held in Washington and without Ukraine's participation. During his White House visit earlier this month, Mr. Zelenskyy received assurances that Ukraine would receive an additional \$60 million worth of assistance in defense and security aid. The money will help Kyiv continue to defend Ukraine from further Russian aggression.

Ukraine in October will be further cutoff as a gas supplier when neighboring EU countries and NATO-member Hungary will start receiving gas from Gazprom's other pipeline project, TurkStream, which runs further south and much farther away than its border with westernmost Zakarpattia Oblast, raising questions of extra transit costs.

Kyiv's "pump-or-pay" gas transit contract with Moscow expires at the end of 2024 and is worth \$7 billion. When the contract was renewed at the end of 2019, about 40 percent of the 200 billion cubic meters of gas that Russia had sent to Europe yearly was transmitted through Ukraine.

As NS2 becomes operational, Russia has over the summer reduced gas volumes to Europe when it is cheaper to purchase and store gas for use during winter months and when the market price of gas subsequently increases. Future gas prices on the continent have reached "all-time highs," a Wall Street Journal article said on August 25.

As of September 1, future gas prices in Europe for the following month went beyond \$650 per 1,000 cubic meters, according to Bloomberg.

"So far, this year, the price of gas has risen almost by three times," said Ukraine's state-owned Transmission System Operator (TSO). Still, Ukraine's state-owned Naftogaz

company, which is affiliated with TSOUA, is not relenting on its position that NS2 should not be operational.

On August 27, the Naftogaz CEO, Mr. Vitrenko, said on Facebook that the company is still pursuing other options to let Russia ship blue fuel to and through Ukraine via international arbitration courts.

His goal for Ukraine is to ensure it remains a viable gas transit country until at least 2035 when he believes "renewable energy sources will replace natural gas" in the country, he said.

Another point of contention, he mentioned, was that the gas transit contract should stipulate that the actual transfer of gas takes place at the Russian-Ukrainian border so that European countries order it directly from Ukraine "until 2035."

Perhaps, the most important point the CEO said, is for Russia to allow gas from Central Asian countries to be shipped through its pipelines to Ukraine for its own supply.

"Gazprom must ensure non-discriminatory access to all pipelines that connect Russia with Europe, including Ukraine," Mr. Vitrenko said.

Energy Expert Andrian Prokip of the Ukrainian Institute for the Future also voiced caution regarding the threat NS2 poses to Kyiv's national security.

"The government should pay urgent attention to geopolitical issues surrounding Ukraine's role as a gas transmitter and to modernizing the country's internal distribution systems," he wrote for the Washington-based Wilson Center think tank. "[It] should set aside populist pricing and policy strategies."

He added that Ukraine could develop "a stronger, more robust economy...but only if the energy sector can be transformed."



Russian pipelay vessel Akademik Cherskiy at work on the remaining section of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline in sunny German waters as seen in a photo taken in June.

Ukrainian diplomats...

(Continued from page 4)

Dinara Faizova, honored artist of Crimea, performed traditional dances alongside her son Yunus Faizov. The pair were accompanied by Ms. Faizova's husband, Rustem Faisov, on accordion and violinist Nariman Asanov, who is also the president of the American Association of Crimean Turks. The legendary Uriye Kermenchykli, Ms. Faizova's mother, concluded the ensemble's performance with a moving rendition of "Ey, Güzel Kırm."

A smiling addition to the catering staff was Veselka owner Jason Birchard, who stepped in to personally tend the bar throughout the evening. Guests were treated to a menu of Ukrainian delicacies specially prepared for the event by Dima Martseniuk, executive chef at the restaurant Veselka in New York's East Village



Members of the New York Crimean Tatar Ensemble, which performed during the event on August 24, are (from left to right): Nariman Asanov (violin), Yunus Faizov (dancer), Dinara Faizova (dancer), and Rustem Faisov (seated with accordion). Ayla Bakkalli (in black holding microphone), a representative of the Congress of Crimean Tatars, introduced the ensemble.

neighborhood. Famed Ukrainian chef Yevhen Klopotenko previously called Mr. Martseniuk an "ambassador" of Ukrainian borscht in the United States.

Mr. Martseniuk previously collaborated with the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the U.N. and the Consulate General of Ukraine in New York at several events throughout the year.

At the conclusion of the evening, Alla Volska of the Permanent Mission oversaw a door prize raffle so that some of the guests could leave with a more permanent reminder of Ukraine.

Due to a range of public health related restrictions resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the organizers had no choice but to hold the event in a rather limited format.

Organizers of the event, however, hope to expand such gatherings in the future, once public health guidance allows for more elaborate celebrations.

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Hundreds celebrate Ukraine's 30th anniversary of renewed independence at Metropolia Center of the UOC-U.S.A.

UOC-U.S.A.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – Hundreds gathered at the Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. (UOC-U.S.A.) on August 29 for a celebration in honor of the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's renewed independence.

The faithful arrived, many sporting Ukrainian attire, for a hierarchical divine liturgy that was celebrated by Archbishop Daniel, ruling hierarch of the Western Eparchy of the UOC-U.S.A. He earnestly prayed for the abatement of the COVID-19 virus, the recovery of all who have fallen ill and the peaceful repose of those who have succumbed to the illness.

In his sermon, Archbishop Daniel stated that it is easy to doubt, but faith sometimes is difficult. We must put aside our preconceptions; put aside our self-assuredness; put aside our sense of control and put all our faith in God. Instead of focusing on our wants – a larger house, newer phone, prettier clothes; we should be thankful that we have a home, food on the table and clothing to cover our bodies.

A short moleben service was prayed in honor of Ukraine, her people and her independence. As the clouds rolled in, the faithful were grateful for the cooler air as they exited the church and stood at either side of the entry drive. The anticipation could be felt as everyone smiled and look about excitedly.

Standing at the top of the steps was Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel, who quickly grabbed hold of a wide roll of cloth. This cloth was respectfully held by the hierarchs and clergy at



A 350-foot-long Ukrainian flag banner is unfurled to kick off the 30th anniversary Independence Day celebrations. Subdeacon Yaroslav Bilohan

one end as it was slowly unrolled with people running up to grab the sides as the fabric became longer and longer. What an amazing sight as hundreds of people held what turned out to be a 350-foot-long Ukrainian flag!

As the adults laughed with joy, the youngsters ran beneath it and played in the blue and gold light glowing through the flag. Having sung "The Prayer for Ukraine" (Боже Великий Єдиний), the public burst out in a loud and heartfelt rendition of the Ukrainian national anthem, as the flag gently swayed and rippled in their hands.

Leaving Metropolitan Antony holding the top of the flag, Archbishop Daniel made his way down and around the large banner, blessing it and the faithful who so proudly held it high. Everyone laughed as they were sprinkled with holy water, and in turn they raised the flag even higher.

Thus, the afternoon festivities began. As the supersized flag was rolled up, the faithful began to make their way to the various areas set up along the perimeter of the church grounds. Having fasted before coming to church, everyone got in line at the Pokrova Sisterhood Hall to enjoy a delicious meal. The ladies had prepared and prepackaged a few options, along with desserts, which they and many volunteers had baked and packaged for safe distribution.

As everyone enjoyed their lunch, sitting at tables set beneath the broad green limbs of the trees, chit-chatting with old friends, and getting to know new ones, the microphone on the stage squawked.

(Continued on page 15)





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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Medvedchuk of undermining crucial reforms that would help Ukraine build a rules-based society and move closer to its goal of joining the European Union and NATO. They also accuse his stations of spreading Russian disinformation. The United States sanctioned Mr. Medvedchuk in 2014 for undermining democracy in Ukraine. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

More than 50 Crimean Tatars detained

More than 50 Crimean Tatars have been detained by the Russian intelligence service in Ukraine's Russia-controlled Crimea

region, Ukrainian officials said on September 4. Ukrainian Ombudswoman Lyudmyla Denisova said Russia's Federal Security Service, the FSB, had first detained five minority Crimean Tatar activists, including well-known activist Nariman Dzhelyal, the deputy chairman of the Mejlis representative body for the Tatars in Crimea, and raided their homes. In response, more than 50 Crimean Tatars gathered in front of the FSB's branch in Crimea's capital, Simferopol, to protest the detentions. "As a result, more than 50 Crimean Tatars have been detained," Ms. Denisova wrote on Facebook on September 4. Some of them were brutally forced onto police buses, Ms. Denisova said, adding that two journalists were among those

detained. "They were shoved into buses with force and beaten and taken to different police precincts in the temporarily occupied Crimea, where they're being questioned without lawyers present," she said. Ms. Denisova called on "the entire international community to use all possible leverage ... in order to end repressions against the indigenous population." Russian authorities have not yet commented on the arrests. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy demanded the release of the detained Crimean Tatars in a tweet on September 4. "The occupants of Crimea once again resort to persecution of Crimean Tatars. Regular raids and detentions take place in their homes," Mr. Zelenskyy wrote. "All those detained must be freed!" Since Russia seized Crimea in 2014, Russian authorities have prosecuted dozens of Crimean Tatars for allegedly belonging to the Hizb ut-Tahrir Islamic group, which is banned in Russia but not in Ukraine. Moscow's takeover of the peninsula was vocally opposed by many Crimean Tatars, who are a sizable minority in the region. Exiled from their homeland to Central Asia by the Soviet authorities under dictator Josef Stalin during World War II, many Crimean Tatars are very wary of Russia and Moscow's rule. Rights groups and Western governments have denounced what they describe as a campaign of repression by the Russian-imposed authorities in Crimea who are targeting members of the Turkic-speaking Crimean Tatar community and others who have spoken out against Moscow's takeover of the peninsula. Russia took control of Crimea from Ukraine in March 2014 after sending in troops, seizing key facilities and staging a referendum dismissed as illegal by at least 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, with reporting by AP and dpa)

Crimea against members of the Turkic-speaking Crimean Tatar community and others who have spoken out against Moscow's takeover of the peninsula. Russia has backed separatists in a war against Ukrainian government forces that has killed more than 13,200 people in eastern Ukraine since April 2014. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by dpa)

Another Crimean Tatar detained

Moscow-imposed authorities in Ukraine's Crimea region have detained another Crimean Tatar after his home was searched. The Crimean Solidarity public group said that police detained Eldar Menseitov on September 7 after searching his home in the town of Molodizhne, near the Crimean capital, Simferopol. Mr. Menseitov is a defense witness in the ongoing trial in absentia of veteran Crimean Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev. Mr. Dzhemilev is charged with illegally crossing the border, possession of an illegal firearm and negligence while keeping a firearm. Mr. Dzhemilev, who is a Ukrainian lawmaker, and his supporters have rejected the charges, saying they are politically motivated. Ukrainian Ombudswoman Lyudmyla Denisova also condemned Mr. Menseitov's detention, calling it the continuation of "Russia's practice of shameful repression of the Crimean Tatar people." "I demand the Russian Federation immediately stop persecuting the indigenous people of the Crimean Peninsula and releases all illegally held citizens of Ukraine," Ms. Denisova's statement on Facebook said. Mr. Menseitov is a former deputy chairman of the Crimean Tatars' self-governing body, the Mejlis, which was labeled as extremist and banned by Russia-imposed authorities. Mr. Menseitov's detention came the same day Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) publicly accused five other Crimean Tatars detained over the weekend of sabotaging a gas pipeline. The FSB claimed on September 7 that Ukrainian military intelligence procured an explosive device and promised a cash reward of \$2,000 to the men to plant it at the pipeline. A day earlier, Ukraine dismissed the charges against the five men as fabricated. Since Russia seized Crimea in 2014, Russian authorities have prosecuted dozens of Crimean Tatars for allegedly belonging to the Hizb ut-Tahrir Islamic group, which is banned in Russia but not in Ukraine. Moscow's takeover of the peninsula was vocally opposed by many Crimean Tatars, who are a sizable minority in the region. Exiled from their homeland to Central Asia by the Soviet authorities under dictator Josef Stalin during World War II, many Crimean Tatars are very wary of Moscow's rule. Russia took control of Crimea from Ukraine in March 2014 after sending in troops, seizing key facilities, and staging a referendum dismissed as illegal by at least 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 Crimea.Realities)

MH17 crash victim families blame Russia

Families of victims from Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 that was shot down over Ukraine in 2014 have demanded justice from Russia in testimony against four suspects - three Russians and one Ukrainian - being tried in absentia over the crash. MH17 was shot down on its way from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur by a Russian-made Buk surface-to-air missile fired from territory controlled by Moscow-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 passengers and crew. The four

(Continued on page 11)

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During U.S. trip...

(Continued from page 1)

changing the digital industry today. Mr. Zelenskyy stressed that the Ukrainian IT sector is now developing rapidly. The official opening of Apple's office in Ukraine is additional evidence of the prospects of the Ukrainian market, Mr. Zelenskyy said.

"Today, Ukraine is already a powerful global IT hub. Our specialists successfully cooperate with Fortune 500 companies, including Apple," the Ukrainian president said.

Mr. Zelenskyy told Mr. Cook about Ukraine's achievements in the IT sphere and expressed interest in further expanding Apple's presence in Ukraine, particularly through online support teams, Apple Music and AppStore moderators, as well as by providing device maintenance services.

"I congratulate you on your tremendous progress toward digital transformation," Mr. Cook said at the beginning of his meeting with Mr. Zelenskyy.

Mr. Zelenskyy and other members of his team discussed Ukrainian digital projects with the Apple chief executive. The two also

talked about the census project, which Apple has successfully implemented in the United States, and the possibility of cooperation in implementing a similar task in Ukraine.

Additionally, the two men also discussed the possibility of cooperation in the field of programming education for school children, students, veterans, health care workers, as well as the provision of computer equipment to schools and teachers in support of similar programs already being implemented in Ukraine.

Messrs. Zelenskyy and Cook also discussed the possibility of Apple building a data center for iCloud services in Ukraine, following the example of a similar center that was built in Denmark. They also touched upon the need to localize Apple products for Ukrainian language speakers, including Siri, Apple's personal assistant. There is currently no Ukrainian language in the Siri settings.

"I hope that the dynamics of Apple's development and the pace of digitization of our country will help create a success story of Apple in Ukraine and Apple with Ukraine," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Mr. Fedorov, Ukraine's digital transfor-

mation minister, was very impressed by the meeting with Mr. Cook.

"[Tim Cook was] the man Steve Jobs named as his successor, and he was right," Mr. Fedorov wrote on his Facebook page after his meeting with Mr. Cook. "The most effective manager in the world."

"We presented Diia [a mobile application that provides government services online], Diia City, discussed possible cooperation in medicine, programming training for schoolchildren, students, veterans, the opening of the Apple Store. A crazy opportunity for Ukraine, which cannot be missed!" Mr. Fedorov wrote on Facebook.

According to Mr. Fedorov, Ukraine has already achieved a degree of success with Apple.

"We see how Apple has changed our market, particularly in promoting Ukrainian music on Apple's platforms. There are many albums by Ukrainian musicians. We get positive feedback from Ukrainian artists [regarding their music on Apple platforms]," Mr. Fedorov said.

Mr. Fedorov added that Ukrainian officials would like to see the tech giant do more in Ukraine.

"Apple has officially opened an office in Ukraine. I want the Apple store to appear in Ukraine and to have Apple's educational programs in our country," Mr. Fedorov said.

In May 2020, Apple registered its own representative office in Ukraine – a legal entity with a capital share of 2.7 million hryvnias (approximately \$100,000).

In March 2021, a Ukrainian section appeared on the company's website, and on June 28 Apple launched a service to support users in the Ukrainian language. On June 30, the Ministry of Digital Transformation announced that Apple had opened its official office in Ukraine.

During the visit to the United States,

Ukraine's official also met with Google officials in Washington, according to the Ukrainian presidential office.

Mr. Fedorov met with Google Vice President Karan Bhatia, and the pair discussed the algorithm that Google used to select and recommend content for the main page of Ukrainian YouTube Music and YouTube.

"At the moment, our users are offered Russian content, which is unacceptable when there is a war in Ukraine. In order not to repeat such cases, we offered the company to involve independent Ukrainian editors who will select content. This will open up opportunities for the Ukrainian music and creative industry," Mr. Fedorov said.

The parties also discussed cooperation on the application of "Diia" and the possibility of Ukrainians using the YouTube Shorts fund.

YouTube Shorts is a unique fund of \$100 million that is earmarked to support content creators throughout 2021-2022. The program gives authors of the most popular videos the ability to earn from \$100 to \$10,000 for their work. As a result, Mr. Fedorov asked Google to add Ukraine to the list of countries that can use YouTube Shorts.

"Ukraine has a very developed creative industry. We have a large number of advertising and marketing agencies. Our directors receive awards for Ukrainian films. Clip makers shoot videos for world stars, such as Coldplay, advertising for companies such as Apple, and are highly valued around the world," Mr. Fedorov said.

Ukrainian officials also stressed during their meeting with Apple and Google that the Ukrainian government strives to create favorable conditions for the involvement and development of international technology companies in Ukraine.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 10)

suspects – Russians Sergei Dubinsky, Oleg Pulatov and Igor Girkin, as well as Ukrainian Leonid Kharchenko – are being tried in absentia by a court in The Hague for involvement in the tragedy. Only one of the suspects, Mr. Pulatov, is represented by lawyers at the trial. All four suspects are accused of being key figures among the separatists battling Kyiv. A team of international investigators concluded in May 2018 that the missile launcher used to shoot down the aircraft belonged to Russia's 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade. Ria van der Steen, who lost her father and stepmother in the crash, was the first family member of one of the victims to testify on September 6. Quoting the Russian writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, she flat-out accused Moscow of covering up its role in what happened: "They are lying, we know they're lying and they know that we know that they're lying." The trial is being held in the Netherlands because the plane departed

from Amsterdam and 196 of the victims were Dutch. The Dutch government holds Moscow responsible. Moscow has denied any involvement in the conflict in parts of eastern Ukraine and has offered several possible theories about how MH17 was blown out of the sky, including that it was shot down by a Ukrainian Air Force jet or by Ukrainian ground forces using a Buk system. Around 90 relatives, both from the 196 Dutch victims of the crash as well as those from Australia and Malaysia, are expected to address the court in the coming days. "How would the perpetrators feel if it was their loved ones? How would [President Vladimir] Putin and his corrupt Russian government answer that?" asked Australian Vanessa Rizk, who lost her parents in the crash, via videoconference. The tragedy caused an international outcry and deepened tensions between Moscow and the West following Russia's seizure of Crimea and support for the militants in their fight against Kyiv's forces after pro-European protests pushed Moscow-friendly Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich from power. (RFE/RL, with reporting by AFP and Reuters)

Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

the free world for a free world. Mr. Poroshenko famously reiterated that Ukraine does not need more blankets, but instead it needed lethal as well as non-lethal military equipment.

Mr. Poroshenko stressed Ukraine's solidarity with and commitment to the Crimean Tatars, who have been targeted by the Russia-backed authorities there, and reminded his listeners that the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 over Ukrainian airspace was yet another example of Russia using terrorism to achieve its goals.

As Ukraine worked to throw of a legacy of rampant corruption, and while Mr.

Poroshenko acknowledged that further reforms were still needed in Ukraine before the country could join Euro-Atlantic structures, it also needed investment from American companies in Ukrainian businesses, the former Ukrainian president said.

Mr. Poroshenko encouraged continued assistance for Ukraine, saying, "...By supporting Ukraine, you support a new future for Europe and the entire free world. By supporting Ukraine, you support a nation that has chosen freedom in the most cynical of times."

Prior to his visit to the United States, Mr. Poroshenko also visited Canada, where he addressed a joint session of the Canadian parliament on September 17.

Source: "Poroshenko in United States Congress," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, September 28, 2014.



З невимовним жалем повідомляємо родину та друзів, що 29 серпня 2021 року відійшов у Божу вічність улюблений і люблячий Муж, Батько, Дідо, Брат, Вуйко, Швагер

св. п. Юрій Володимир Попель

народжений 13 листопада 1943 року в Чорткові, Україна.

Після іміграційної мандрівки родина Попелів оселилася в Клівленді, Огайо, де юнак виростав, здобув середню освіту, а відтак закінчив Ohio State University, здобув магістерку та далі продовжував студії математики в Rutgers University. В Клівленді працював інженером, а з переїздом до Нью-Джерзі почав викладати курси математики і згодом став професором математики в Middlesex County College і Rutgers University, де заслужив повагу своїх учнів.

З дитинства був членом Пласту та належав до куреня «Бурлаки», багато разів був комендантом Бурлацьких лещетарських таборів та активно включався в Бурлацькі діяльності.

Покійний був довголітнім членом КЛК та багато років очолював цю організацію. Завзято грав у теніс і лещетарював поки дозволяло його здоров'я.

Похорон відбувся 3 вересня в Українській католицькій церкві св. Івана Хрестителя у Whippany, NJ.

В смутку залишилися

дружина - Віра з дому Слободян, з якою прожив разом 46 щасливих років,

син - Тарас і його дружина Ляріса

доні - Андрія,

- Меляся і її муж Адріян Пиріг,

внуки - Михасик Попель і Діянна Пиріг,

сестра - Марта Галяревич і сини Адріян і Юрій з дружиною Віскі,

брат - Андрій Попель і син Никола,

швагри - Соня і Петро Бокало,

племінники - Адріян, Стефан, Катерина Галяревич,

прибрана донька - Леся Schinnerer і муж Дан та сини Kase і Erik.

В пам'ять покійного пожертви можна скласти на ціль за власним бажанням або на пластову оселю «Вовча Тропа».

Тихо спи без тривоги...

Вічна пам'ять!

Check out the websites
of the UNA and its newspapers!

www.unainc.org

www.svoboda-news.com • www.ukrweekly.com

Happy children attend 2021 Heritage Day Camp at Soyuzivka

by Adrian Bryttan

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – A special treat for each child attending the 2021 Heritage Day Camp (HDC) at Soyuzivka Heritage Center was having his or her own personal “con-

sultation” with a Ukrainian folk-magic shaman: a so-called “molfar.” This summer’s theme was the Karpaty (the Carpathian Mountains) and its many colorful peoples, including Hutsuls, Lemkos and Boikos.

For five days beginning on July 12, camp

director Ksenia Olsen and her all-volunteer staff immersed the children in an imaginative program of arts and crafts, song, dance, games and stories related to the Carpathians. The staff also organized a concert for parents and friends on the final afternoon of the camp.

The camp, which is sponsored by the Ukrainian National Association (UNA), has been held annually for 30 years. Most of the children (age 4-8) who take part speak limited Ukrainian, and during the school year they have precious little opportunity to experience other aspects of Ukrainian culture. But when asked by this writer if they had enjoyed their time at Heritage Day Camp, many of the youngsters echoed sentiments of children who said they were “thrilled,” “loved the campfire.” One child said, “I’ll make sure my little sister comes next year.”

While they might not speak fluent Ukrainian, every child is enriched by experiencing aspects of their culture first hand from camp counselors and by learning to appreciate their heritage. And many of the children said the camp was great fun.



A group of children serenaded their audience during the concluding concert at the 2021 Heritage Day Camp.

Molfars

In Ukraine, “molfars” knew all about herbal medicine in addition to all their other extraordinary powers. The famous Hutsul “molfar” Mykhaylo Nechay had discovered at the age of eight his miraculous ability to stop bleeding. Later, during the filming of “Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors,” director Sergei Parajanov consulted him about Hutsul customs. In 1989, Mr. Nechay was even officially invited to ensure pleasant weather for the “Chervona Ruta” festival.

– Adrian Bryttan



Two campers got to wear traditional Ukrainian costumes during their time at the Heritage Day Camp.



A camp member takes a stab at performing the Hopak.

A favorite part of the week for the children is always arts and crafts; this year, campers took turns decorating jewelry boxes and sculpting miniature stylized Hutsul animals – from cheese!

At the concluding concert, the folk dances presented a variety of athletic solos, duos, foursomes and the entire group of happy little campers, all taught by Tanya Zahalak. Anna Kukuruza provided the colorful and authentic costumes. Several songs were humorous in nature, as reflected by the energy and evident enjoyment of the singers. Games and stories over the five days were led by Larissa Kryl and Halia Lodynsky.

But what of the magical Kerhonkson “molfar”? Little Solomiya Mokrytski was mystified by how the marvelous oracle knew her sister’s name, and Bohdar Herman confided that he couldn’t fathom how the shaman uncovered that Bohdar “likes water games, and his sister is great on the monkey bars.” Well, now ... and how do you suppose the “molfar” could divine all that?



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

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Ukraine at the 2020 Paralympics

by Ihor Stelmach

Ukraine wins 98 medals, finishes fifth best in total medal count

Seventy-four medals in 2008, 84 in 2012, and 117 in 2016 set the foundation that Ukraine is indeed a world Paralympics powerhouse. Expectations were high going into the 2020 Games in Tokyo despite the challenges and obstacles posed by the one-year delay on training and the COVID-19 pandemic. Taking a cue from the Ukrainian Olympic team's performance earlier this summer when expectations were exceeded, the Paralympians continued their dominance with their own outstanding achievements. Team Ukraine won an astounding 98 total medals, including 24 gold, 47 silver, and 27 bronze, placing them fifth among all nations (Ukraine ranked sixth overall when ranked by gold medal victories.) They were second overall in silver medals. The four nations that finished ahead of Ukraine with more total medals were China, Great Britain, the Refugee Paralympics Team and the United States.

By sport, swimming continued to be Ukraine's top sport with 43 medals won in aquatics competitions. Twenty-four were won in athletics and six each in shooting and wheelchair fencing. Ukraine won 14 gold medals in swimming and six in athletics. Individually, Maksym Krypak was the most decorated athlete at these Paralympics, earning seven medals in swimming, five of which were golds. Swimmer Yelyzaveta Mereshko made the podium five times, winning a pair of gold medals. Swimmer Andriy Trusov defeated his competition five times with two golds. Team Ukraine set six new world records: four in swimming and two in athletics.

Below are Ukrainian medalists and highlights from the final four days of competition at the 2020 Paralympic Games.

Day Nine – Krypak won his ninth Paralympic gold of his career and smashed his own world record in the men's 100-meter backstroke (S10). The 26-year-old defended the title he won in Rio in 2016 by setting a blistering pace from the start, hitting the wall in 57.19 seconds, eclipsing his previous world record of 57.24 seconds. The gold was Krypak's fourth of these Paralympic Games – he has also won a silver and bronze – to bring his tally to 14 Paralympic medals in total – with one event still to swim. His overall impressive portfolio includes five world and 10 European titles. Two other Ukrainians won gold medals on this day, Maria Pomazan in the women's shot put (F35, 12.24 meters) and Vladyslav Zahrebelnyi in the men's long jump (T37, 6.59 meters). The four silver medalists were Oksana Boturchuk (women's 100-meter T12 race), Yelyzaveta Mereshko (her fifth medal, this one in women's 400-meter freestyle swim), Anton Kol (men's 50-meter backstroke), and Team Ukraine, comprised of Viktor Didukh and Maksym Nikolenko in men's table tennis (Class 8). Bronze medal winners were Oleksii Denysiuk (mixed 25-meter pistol SH1 shooting) and Denys Ostapchenko (men's 50-meter freestyle swimming). For the day, Ukraine won four more medals in swimming and three in athletics.

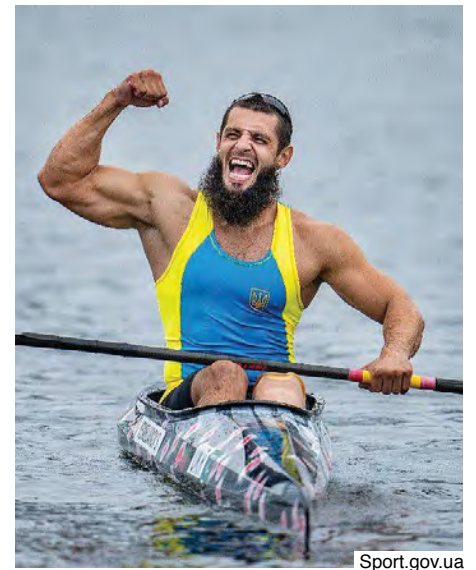
Day 10 – Ukraine added 10 additional medals to their win column on the 10th day of competition. Gold medal victors were Serhii Yemelianov in men's kayak single 200-meter (KL3, 40.355 seconds), Zoia Ovsii in women's club throw (F51, 25.12 meters), Denys Ostapchenko in swim-



Long-jumper Vladyslav Zahrebelnyi (T37) attempts a jump, one of which won him a gold medal with a distance of 6.59 meters.



Multi-medalist swimmer Maksym Krypak celebrates his 200-meter men's individual medley (SM10) gold medal.



Kayaker Serhii Yemelianov (KL3) won gold in the men's kayak single 200-meter race.



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

(Continued on page 15)



Ukraine at the 2020 Paralympics

by Ihor Stelmach

Paralympian swimmers' golden day *Masters wins two golds in two days*

by Ihor N. Stelmach

Maksym Krypak and Yevhen Bohodaiko spearheaded a Ukrainian gold-medal charge at the Tokyo Aquatics Center on August 28 as Ukraine witnessed five of its athletes atop the podium at the Paralympic Games. Bohodaiko secured his first gold medal of Tokyo 2020 in the men's (SB6) 100-meter breaststroke event, adding to his two titles from London 2012 and his hat-trick at Rio 2016. Bohodaiko's time of 1:20.13 seconds saw him narrowly win the event for the third consecutive Paralympic Games.

Krypak matched his compatriot's Paralympic gold-medal haul with victory in the men's (S10) 50-meter freestyle, giving him a sixth career title at the Games. He touched the wall in a winning time of 50.64

seconds.

Mykhailo Serbin made it a hat trick of Ukrainian gold medals, with the 17-year-old's first Paralympic crown secured by clocking 1:08.63 seconds in the men's S11 100-meter backstroke final. He led a Ukrainian one-two finish in this event, as Viktor Smyrnov won silver in 1:09.36 seconds.

Further Ukrainian success was delivered by Denys Dubrov, who triumphed in a close men's SM8 200-meter individual medley competition. Dubrov came from behind to win in 2:20.96, 0.10 seconds ahead of China's Xu Haijiao.

Yelyzaveta Mereshko completed Ukraine's stunning "golden" day by recording the fastest time in the women's SB5 100-meter breaststroke event, topping the standings in 1:40.59 seconds.



Yevhen Bohodaiko (SB6) swims in the men's 100-meter breaststroke, an event in which he won the gold medal with a time of 1:20.13 seconds.



Facebook.com/theDanielRomanchuk

Daniel Romanchuk pushes toward the finish line in the men's (T54) 1,500-meter race.

by Ihor N. Stelmach

Oksana Masters has been making an impression on the Para sports world for almost a decade, "mastering" whichever sport she tries. Owning eight Paralympic medals across three different sporting disciplines, Masters was not quite content. In Tokyo she managed to fill another hole in her athletic resume by winning the women's time trial (H4-5), claiming her first medal in cycling. It was her first gold medal at a summer Paralympic Games.

A day later, the Ukrainian proceeded to win her second gold medal of the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics, bringing her career

total to four gold and 10 medals total in both summer and winter events. She was victorious in the women's hand-cycle road race. The win came a day after her victory in the time trial.

"I can't believe it," Masters said in a post-race media session with U.S. reporters. "I've never won a road race in my life and I never thought I would ever win a road race in my life. I feel like I'm on cloud nine right now. At the start I was so nervous. I couldn't even feel my grips."

Once the race started, it was a whole different matter.

(Continued on page 15)

Ukraine mired in controversy over Paralympics ruling

by Matthew Dubas

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The National Sports Committee of Disabled People of Ukraine has come under attack on social media by Malaysian citizens after a controversial ruling stripped Muhammad Ziyad Zolkefli of Malaysia of his gold medal in the F20 shot put for a technical violation of Zolkefli being three minutes late to pre-competition first call room at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games. Zolkefli's throw of 17.94 meters was disqualified after the conclusion of the investigation by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

The gold medal was awarded to Maksym Koval, who originally earned a silver medal, and Oleksandr Yarovy of Ukraine, who won bronze originally and was subsequently awarded the silver medal. Efstratios Nikolaidis of Greece was awarded the bronze medal after originally finishing in fourth place. Koval set a new world record with a distance of 17.34 meters.

"A massive attack addressed to Ukrainian Paralympics athletes was carried out on the page of the National Paralympic Committee of Ukraine on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, on the Equalympic TV channel, as well as on the page of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, by citizens of Malaysia with a very large number of insults towards Ukraine, Ukrainian citizens, national Paralympic team in connection with the just protest that Ukraine has filed

against all athletes – shot putters (F20) who did not get into the first call room on August 31, at the athletics competition," the National Sports Committee of Disabled People of Ukraine said in a statement.

World Para Athletics (WPA) rules state that if an athlete is late for the first call room at the set time, the athlete should not be allowed to compete. Also, an athlete can be allowed to start under protest, but after an investigation, the technical delegate makes a decision to disqualify the athlete with his or her result, or the result can be recorded as official.

The WPA in its ruling addressed the issue.

"The three athletes from Australia [Todd Hodgetts], Ecuador [Jordi Patricio Congo Villalba] and Malaysia [Zolkefli] who competed in the men's shot put F20 final under protest had their appeal rejected by the World Para Athletics Jury of Appeal. The decision was based on World Para Athletics Rule 5.5 – 'Failure to Report to the Call Room,' which states that in case athletes are not present in the call room at the relevant time as published in the call room schedule they will be shown in the results as DNS (Did Not Start). In accordance with this rule, the athletes were allowed to compete under protest while the referee considered all the evidence as to why the athletes were late to the call room. Having considered the evidence, the referee determined that there was no justifiable reason for the athletes'

failure to report to the call room on time. The athletes appealed this decision to the Jury of Appeal, who gave the teams the opportunity to present all the relevant information before making its final decision. The Jury of Appeal upheld the referee's decision and confirmed the athletes' results as DNS."

Many of the comments left on social media pages were not related to the controversial ruling, but focused on belittling Ukraine. Craig Spence, spokesperson for the IPC, noted that many of the attacks targeted Ukraine, and not the IPC's decision. Mr. Spence said the reasons for the failure of the trio of athletes to arrive on time was that they "either didn't hear the announcement or it was in a language they couldn't understand."

"People said the Ukrainian stole the gold. No, absolutely not. The Ukrainian had nothing to do with it. It was the athletes that were late," Mr. Spence said, adding that the attacks on social media were "abusive" and "ridiculous."

Natalia Garach, head of the press service of the National Committee for Sports of Disabled People of Ukraine, also addressed the issue.

"On the page of the National Paralympic Committee of Ukraine on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, on the Equalympic TV channel, as well as on the page of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine and on Ukrainian Para athletes, a massive attack was committed by citizens of Malaysia with

a very large number of insults towards Ukraine, Ukrainian citizens and the national Paralympic team," Ms. Garach said.

"According to paragraph 5.5 of the Athletics Rules, if an athlete is late for the first call at the set time, he must not be allowed to compete. Either the athlete is allowed to start under protest, but after the investigation, the technical delegate decides to disqualify the athlete with his result, or this result is recorded as official," Ms. Garach said.

"Ukraine, together with Greece, filed a protest at once against three athletes from the teams of Malaysia, Ecuador and Australia, who did not get to the first call room in time, even before the competition – before the start of the shot put. All athletes who were protesting were warned that they would all be protesting. A decision on the protest will be made later. After the end of the type of program, the technical delegate announced the official results of the competition, where the results of the protested athletes were canceled," Ms. Garach said.

"Ukraine did everything according to the rules of athletics. We are offended to receive a flurry of negativity from Malaysia for actions that we did not commit. We appeal to the IPC with a request to pay attention to this egregious incident and qualify it as a sign of unsportsmanlike behavior of a country participating in the Paralympics 2020," Ms. Garach said.

OUT & ABOUT

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| September 15
Online | Webinar with Michael Bociurkiw, "COVID-19: China's Chernobyl Moment," Harvard University, www.huri.harvard.edu | September 19
Online | Children's workshop, "Weaving a Kilim," with instruction by Oksana Pasakas, Ukrainian History and Education Center, www.ukrhec.org |
| September 17
New York | 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 | September 19
Chicago | Book presentation and signing with Myroslav Marynovych, "The Universe Behind Barbed Wire," Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, www.ucef.org |
| September 17-19
Silver Spring, MD | 18th annual Washington Ukrainian Festival, celebrating Ukraine's 30th anniversary of independence, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, www.ukrainefestdc.com | September 22
Chicago | Book talk with Michael Bociurkiw, "Digital Pandemic: How Technology Went From Bad to Good," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, www.uima-chicago.org or info@uima-chicago.org |
| September 18
Jenkintown, PA | Cars and Coffee, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, www.ueccphila.org | September 25
Jenkintown, PA | Vyshyvani Vechornytsi dance, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, www.ueccphila.org |
| September 18
New York | Ukrainian Historical Encounter Series event, "Ukraine at 30," Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Ukrainian Institute of America, www.ukrainianinstitute.org | September 25
Chicago | Performance, "Forest Management Purelink," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, www.uima-chicago.org |
| September 19
Pompton Plains, NJ | Golf outing, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey and Chornomorska Sitch, Sunset Valley Golf Club, with dinner at Hoverlia Social Club (UACCNJ), pupka@optonline.net or zwarycz@aol.com | September 26
Jenkintown, PA | Bake-off "Smakolyky," Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, www.ueccphila.org |
| | | September 28
Online | Webinar, "Canada vs. the U.S.: A Comparison of the Ukrainian Immigration from the Earliest Days to the Present" with Michael Buryk and Myron Momryk, Ukrainian Genealogy Group, Ukrainian History and Education Center, www.ukrhec.org or http://ukrainiangenealogygroup-ncr.org |

Masters wins...

(Continued from page 14)

"I did not trust myself, but the minute the clock went off and the whistle went off, I just let my body go on autopilot."

Masters began her Paralympic career in 2012, winning a bronze medal in rowing at the London Games. She has had equal success in winter events, winning a total of five cross-country skiing and biathlon medals in 2018 and two skiing medals in 2014.

Masters became the fourth American woman, sixth American overall, to win gold at both the summer and winter Paralympics.

She won the 24-kilometer Tokyo time trial in 45:40.05 seconds, 1:46.48 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher. Masters finished the 66-kilometer (H5) cycling road race course in 2:23:39 seconds. China's Sun Bianbian was second, finishing 3:11 seconds later to take the silver medal.

Masters' superiority in cycling is hardly a fluke. She took up handcycling to help her recover from a back injury and has competed at three world championships, winning two silver medals and a bronze. She performed in Tokyo took place a mere 100 days after she had surgery in May to remove a tumor from her femur.

Romanchuk grabs two medals

Six-time major marathon winner Daniel Romanchuk won his first Paralympic medal of his career on August 29. The marathon legend, the first and only American man (elite or wheelchair) to win the World Marathon series title, and a reigning world champion on the track, Romanchuk had already made himself famous, but had not yet won a Paralympic medal.

Competing for his native United States, he won the men's 400-meter (T54) in 45.72 seconds in Tokyo, edging Thailand's Athiwat Paeng-Nuea by .01 of a second. In the final race, the 23-year-old Romanchuk trailed the 18-year-old Paeng-Nuea as they rounded the final turn, but Romanchuk chased his competitor down the straight-away and caught him at the line.

Romanchuk made his Paralympic debut five years ago in Rio in 2016, racing in every distance from the 100-meter to the 5,000-meter, but placed no better than 13th in his five events.

Romanchuk added a bronze medal on the final day of competition in Tokyo in the men's marathon (T54) with a time of 1:29.05 seconds, 5:03 seconds off the gold medal pace. He placed fourth in the men's 800-meter and men's 5,000-meter, and finished fifth in the 1,500-meter event.

Ukraine wins...

(Continued from page 13)

ming's men's 200-meter freestyle (S3, 3:21.62 seconds) and super swimmer Krypak (seventh medal, fifth gold) in the men's 200-meter individual medley (SM10, 2:05.68 seconds). Five silver medalists: Liudmyla Danylina (women's 1,500-meter T20 race), Mykola Zhabnyak (men's discus throw F37), Mykola Syniuk (men's kayak single 200-meter KL2), Yehor Dementyev (men's C4-5 road race) and Trusov (men's 50-meter butterfly S7). The lone bronze medal went to Denys Dubrov in the men's 100-meter butterfly (S7). Ukrainians won four more medals in swimming, two in athletics and two in canoe sprint.

Day 11 – Another four medals were won on the next to last day, with three silvers and a bronze. Ihor Tsvietov added a second silver to his collection, triumphing in the men's 200-meter (T35) race, Maryna

Mazhula won silver in the women's kayak single 200-meter (KL1) canoe sprint, Oksana Boturchuk won a silver (her third of these Paralympic Games) in the women's 200-meter (T12) race and Vasyl Kovalchuk won his second medal, a bronze, in shooting's mixed 50-meter rifle prone (SH2) event. Team Ukraine was passed by the United States in the overall standings, dropping to fifth place.

Day 12 – The final day of competition gave Ukraine one final opportunity to gain a podium only to see shooter Iryna Shchetnik finish eighth out of eight with 121.6 points in the mixed 50-meter rifle prone (SH1) final. Ukraine did not participate in the other three sports that had final events on this day. Those events were sitting volleyball, wheelchair basketball and badminton. In athletics, Ukraine did not have a finalist in marathon racing.

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| September 28
Jenkintown, PA | Presentations with Yuriy Rudenko (combat veteran in the Donbas) and Volodymyr Havrylov (retired Ukraine Army General), book presentation "WAR.ru," and information about the charitable non-profit Veterans Dozen Foundation (V10) in Ukraine, Manor College, http://manor.edu/uhs |
| October 9
Jenkintown, PA | Fundraiser, "Perelaz," Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church, www.ucef.org |
| October 16,
November 20
Online | Webinar with Maria Rypan, "Ukrainian Beaded Adornments," Ukrainian History and Education Center, www.ukrhec.org |

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.

Hundreds celebrate...

(Continued from page 9)

Everyone's eyes turned toward the stage to see if the program was beginning. The master of ceremonies on this day was newly ordained Rev. Mykola Zomchak, a graduate of the St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary.

Fr. Zomchak welcomed everyone to the festivities, warmly greeting Metropolitan Antony and Archbishop Daniel, the visiting clergy, their families, the parishioners and all the guests who had arrived from near and far.

Before starting the entertainment portion of the program, the emcee first introduced the Consul General of Ukraine in New York, Oleksii Holubov, who gave a few words thanking the people of Ukrainian heritage in the diaspora for their continued support of their ancestral homeland.

Jaroslav Koshelevskiy, director of the Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union, handed Archbishop Daniel a check for \$100,000 to be used toward the completion of the UOC-U.S.A.'s Ukrainian History and Education Center, while Financial Director Zenko Halkowych handed the president of the Pokrova Sisterhood a generous donation.

The afternoon program included performances by Ihor Sherban, Yulia Stupin, the sisters Inna and Tetyana, Pavlo Bahan, as well as seminarian Roman Marchyshak.

As the adults were entertained by the singers, the children were kept busy under the Ukrainian History and Education Center's (UHEC) "Crafts for Kids" tent, where they rolled up their sleeves and lost themselves creating various Independence Day themed crafts. Biting their lips and frowning, they painstakingly worked on crossword puzzles, practiced finding Ukrainian words and decorated Tryzub (Tridents).

As the formal program concluded, everyone got up and mingled with the performers and then branched out to the various booths, while others dallied and danced to the Ukrainian tunes that were being broadcast from the loudspeakers.

Olena Halkowych announced the bakery raffle, as everyone paused to check their ticket numbers. The Sisterhood was auctioning off a scrumptious tray of lovingly baked desserts as a fundraiser for its efforts.

People were queuing for a turn to take home a photographic souvenir. A replica Ukrainian House sponsored by UHEC, complete with props – Ukrainian embroidered shirts, wreaths with long ribbons, scarves, red beads and straw hats – were available for guests to get creative. People giggled as their friends took up poses, peeking out through the house's blue framed windows. Children took their places sitting upon the hay bales, donning straw hats and colorful scarves, flanked by tall sunflowers swaying in the breeze.

LOAN PROGRAMS

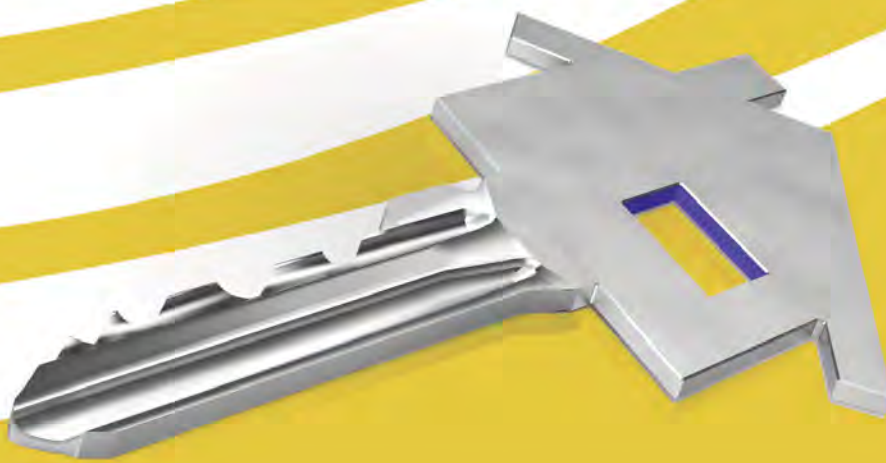


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