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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## *Blinken says U.S. to 'shore up' Ukraine support as Russia pounds Kyiv*

**Moscow reportedly suffered record 1,500 casualties daily in October**



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken (right) meets with Andriy Yermak, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff, in Washington, D.C., on October 30.

*RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service*

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has assured Ukraine that U.S. support will be beefed up ahead of President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration early next year, as Russia launched its first missile and drone attack on Kyiv since August, forcing residents into bomb shelters.

Mr. Blinken, who met with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Secretary-General Mark Rutte at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels on November 13, said

the administration of President Joe Biden, who leaves office on January 20, would "continue to shore up everything we're doing for Ukraine" and "use every day" to support Ukraine and strengthen NATO.

"President Biden has committed to making sure that every dollar we have at our disposal will be pushed out the door between now and January 20," Mr. Blinken said, adding that NATO countries must focus their efforts on "ensuring that Ukraine has the money, munitions and

**(Continued on page 6)**

## **EU pledges 'unwavering' support for Ukraine as Kyiv plans Trump meeting**



European Union foreign policy chief Josef Borrell (right) meets with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on November 11. During his visit to Ukraine, Mr. Borrell told the Ukrainian president that the war-torn country has Europe's "unwavering" support.

*RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service*

European Union foreign policy chief Josef Borrell assured Ukraine that the war-torn country had Europe's "unwavering" support, while Kyiv announced during the E.U. official's surprise visit that it was organizing a meeting with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump.

It was the first visit by a top E.U. official to Ukraine since Mr. Trump's November 5 victory, which has led to uncertainty in Kyiv

about the West's continued commitment to supporting Ukraine as it tries to fend off invading Russian forces.

Mr. Borrell's surprise visit also came as Russia continued to heavily target Ukraine with drone and missile strikes, and as Russian Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Moscow was open to hearing Mr. Trump's proposals on ending the war Russia launched nearly 1,000 days

**(Continued on page 9)**

## **Thinking out of the box: UCCA-Illinois Division president keeps eye on common goal of Ukraine's victory**

by Mark Raczkiewycz

CHICAGO – If Kremlin leader Vladimir Putin and his army are a terminal cancerous tumor that is spreading across Ukrainian territory, then Dr. Mariya Dmytriv-Kapeniak is working on a remedy within her capacity as the president of the Illinois Division of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA-Ill.).

The physician, a general practitioner from the Ternopil region, 49, has made Ukraine's victory in Russia's war of aggression "a common unifying goal" as she serves her second one-year term in her adopted hometown of Chicago.

Dressed in a red polka-dot blouse, black trousers and comfortable white footwear, she met with The Ukrainian Weekly on November 12 at a Ukrainian pastry café to discuss her approach to leading one of the most active advocacy units within the national UCCA umbrella organization.

"I have to look for it ... and in between just do it," Dr. Dmytriv-Kapeniak said of the seemingly boundless energy she emanates and the time she devotes to the group's activities.

On top of working six days a week at a hospital, she goes out of her way to attend or participate in events outside of the UCCA's activities "to network, to find connectivity with like-minded people who are working on similar or the same projects as we are."

"I get inspired by what other people are doing," Dr. Dmytriv-Kapeniak said.

She went from having to occasionally ride a horse in order to treat rural patients in the Chortkiv district, to running a private clinic before ending that to sign a hospital contract when Russia's full-scale invasion started in February 2022.

That's when "I started my own projects," she said as she was already on the board of the UCCA's Illinois Division.



Dr. Maria Dmytriv-Kapeniak, head of the Illinois Division of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, sits in the morning sunlight at Shokolad Pastry and Cafe in Chicago on November 12.

It's an eventual path that started at the beginning of the century when she emigrated from Ukraine at age 25 looking for a better place to practice medicine. She had an older brother – one of four – already living in Detroit who helped provide a support network.

Her first job was to babysit for a non-Ukrainian family while studying for four months to pass the three-step U.S. Medical Licensing Examination, which she did on her first try. That allowed her to practice medicine in the U.S.

As the first Ukraine-born and female president of UCCA-Ill., Dr. Dmytriv-Kapeniak said she works with anyone who is devoted to seeing Ukraine overcome Russia's genocidal war.

"I keep my eyes and ears open," she said of "finding allies, building coalitions. And we could do more on the local level, getting

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Perplexed Vladimir Putin reckons with outcome of US elections

by Pavel K. Baev  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The Kremlin had confidently expected confusion and turmoil following the U.S. presidential election. Instead, a definite outcome and the commitment to a smooth transition of power are set to shape the U.S. political environment for the next couple of months. The significant majority of Russians preferred Donald Trump as the next U.S. president, and among the Russian oligarchs, new hopes for an "unfreezing" of assets are blossoming (Re: Russia, November 5; Forbes.ru, November 8). Russian President Vladimir Putin had also anticipated a change in U.S. leadership and dropped hints about supporting a Harris administration to influence voters, playing his usual game of pretense and misinformation (Interfax, September 7). Putin now, however, has to deal with a strong political mandate for the president, who has gained challenging political experience since their July 2018 meeting in Helsinki, Finland, and will face few constraints in this administration's policy making (Carnegie Politika, November 7).

The annual meeting of the Valdai Club last week granted Putin an opportunity to congratulate President-elect Donald Trump on his victory, signaling readiness for a conversation and expressing admiration for his courage (Kommersant, November 7). The rambling late evening performance did not appear to be the "event of the year," despite official instructions for mainstream Rus-

sian media to hail it as a philosophic elaboration on the doctrine of a new world order (Meduza, November 8). Putin's speech covered numerous topics and demonstrated how he has only a vague understanding of artificial intelligence, which is hardly a state secret. Additionally, it was obvious that, except for a peculiar interest in the issue of transgender athletes in the Olympic games, his attention was solely focused on Russia's invasion of Ukraine (Kommersant, November 8).

Informing on the new spectacular successes of Russian groupings in both Kursk Oblast and the Donbas (where heavy casualties accompany every minor advance), Putin confirmed his readiness to talk about ending the war on his maximalist terms (The Insider, November 8; Meduza, November 9). His tendency to describe the confrontation with the West, centered on Ukraine, in terms of Russia's global "mission," leaves little space for constructive conversations (Republic.ru, November 7).

On the same day, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy presented his vision for ending the war at the summit of the European Political Community in Budapest, Hungary (Izvestiya, November 7). Worries among European leaders about the integrity of the coalition supporting Ukraine and the probable erosion of Trans-Atlantic ties are eagerly amplified by Moscow pundits (RIAC, November 7). Europe's certainty in increasing the scope of defense aid to

(Continued on page 16)

# Ukraine aspires to become arsenal to the West

by Taras Kuzio  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal announced on November 5 that the Ukrainian government has begun a preferential low-interest loan program for arms and military equipment manufacturers to prioritize the establishment of a strong domestic defense industry (Kmu.gov.ua, November 5). Ukraine is gradually transitioning from being an importer to a domestic producer of arms and military technology. Ukraine has increased its artillery and mortar shell production by 25 times this year. Ukraine is also projected to increase its annual drone production to four million next year (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 8). Overall, this year, Ukraine produced military vehicles, air, sea and ground drones, ammunition, electronic warfare, communications equipment and ground robotic platforms (Ekonomichna Pravda, September 19). Ukrainian sources estimate that the country's military-industrial complex could be capable of producing \$20 billion worth of weapons and equipment annually, but its state budget has only been able to find \$6 billion worth of funding (Kyiv Independent, April 18). Ukrainian Minister of Strategic Industries Oleksandr Kamyshev stated, "From the viewpoint of scale and cost, we are efficient and capable of producing enough, the only thing missing is funding" (RBC-Ukraine, May 9). Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has transformed its military from a hodgepodge of aging Soviet gear to one of the most innovative and combat-hardened forces in the world.

A strong military-industrial complex is

not new for Ukraine. It was a critical manufacturing hub for the Soviet military-industrial complex, and some of its most advanced military projects were designed and assembled in cities such as Kharkiv. During Soviet times, a fifth of the Soviet military-industrial complex was situated in Ukraine, where it employed nearly three million people across hundreds of state companies and research bureaus. In comparison, Ukraine's military-industrial complex currently employs around 300,000 people across 400 private and 100 state-controlled defense companies.

Western governments and companies view Ukraine as a testing site for military technologies that rarely see action on the battlefield today, particularly those designed for large-scale conventional warfare such as tanks and ballistic missiles. Under this exchange, the West provides Ukraine with equipment, capital and knowledge while Ukraine delivers real-time feedback and innovation developed from combat experience. The Kyiv Independent has highlighted how the front-lines have become a true "hotbed of military innovation" and a "setting for constant ongoing experimentation and combat testing" (Kyiv Independent, October 10).

Andre Pienaar, chief executive of C5, an investment firm and strategic partner of the Ukrainian Brave1 Platform, noted the "unprecedented" value of Ukraine in bringing Western military technologies closer to real war conditions (Kyiv Independent, October 9). The Brave1 Platform, a government initiative launched in April 2023 to

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## NEWSBRIEFS

**Report: Trump tells Putin not to escalate**

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has spoken with Russian President Vladimir Putin by phone and discussed the war in Ukraine, The Washington Post reported on November 10, citing sources close to Mr. Trump. The Post said that Mr. Trump took the call in Florida on November 7, a day after speaking with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Unnamed sources quoted by The Post said Mr. Trump told Putin not to escalate the war in Ukraine and expressed an interest in further talks on "the resolution of Ukraine's war soon." Putin initially responded coolly to Mr. Trump's big election win before formally congratulating the president-elect on November 7. He praised Mr. Trump's "courage" in surviving an assassination attempt in July and said he was "ready" to speak to him. People familiar with the call told The Post that Kyiv had been informed of the Putin call and did not object. U.S., Russian and Ukrainian officials have not commented on the report. On the campaign trail ahead of the November 5 election, Mr. Trump claimed he would end the war in Ukraine without offering details about how he planned to do so. Putin said in September he would like to see U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris beat Mr. Trump in the election, but observers argue that was likely part of the Kremlin's efforts to avoid giving the impression that Putin was hoping Mr. Trump would win. Mr. Trump has previously indicated Ukraine may have to agree to give up territory to strike a peace deal with Russia. In the same vein, Mr. Trump's ally Bryan Lanza told the BBC on November 9 that the focus of Mr. Trump's government will be achieving peace in Ukraine and not enabling Kyiv to regain territory occupied by Russia. The Washington Post report on the call came hours after Mr. Zelenskyy said Russia had fired 145 drones at Ukraine overnight, the most in any single nighttime attack since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Ukraine also launched dozens of drones targeting the Russian capital, Moscow, forcing the temporary closure of three airports on November 10. Russian forces have been

making advances in recent weeks, with Moscow saying on November 10 that it had captured the town of Voltchenka in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region. (RFE/RL)

**Musk reportedly took part in call with Zelenskyy**

Elon Musk was present during a phone conversation between U.S. President-elect Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, according to media reports. A senior Ukrainian official who asked to remain anonymous told AFP on November 8 that the information first reported by Axios about the November 7 call was accurate. The billionaire founder of SpaceX and Tesla said during the call that he would continue to support Ukraine through his Starlink satellites. Mr. Zelenskyy thanked Mr. Musk for the satellite internet devices, which are used by Ukrainian troops. The Ukrainian president also congratulated Mr. Trump on his victory, and Mr. Trump said he would support Ukraine but did not go into details. Mr. Musk gave millions of dollars to support Mr. Trump's presidential campaign and made public appearances with him, but some of his statements about U.S. military support for Ukraine have angered Kyiv. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

**Major general of Russian army dies in Ukraine**

A major general of the Russian Army died in Ukraine on November 7. Pavel Klimenko's death was confirmed by his sisters to the publication Important Stories on Telegram. Pro-war publics and bloggers were the first to report the death of the 47-year-old. The circumstances of his death are still unknown. Mr. Klimenko was accused of organizing a torture camp and taking money from his subordinates in exchange for moving them off the front lines. An investigation by the online publication Astra in August said the torture camp organized by Mr. Klimenko was for Russian soldiers on the territory of an abandoned mine in Donetsk. The Russian soldiers sent there were forced to agree to participate in assault groups and had

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### ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator  
and advertising manager

Subscription Department

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040  
fax: (973) 644-9510  
e-mail: [advertising@ukrweekly.com](mailto:advertising@ukrweekly.com)  
(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040  
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# War and green recovery: Ukraine showcases ecological commitment during UN climate conference

by Roman Tymotsko

LVIV – The 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference that is being held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11-22, features a Ukrainian pavilion focused on ecological restoration and recovery.

The walls of the Ukrainian pavilion, made of eco-friendly paper with live grass seeds, will be dismantled after the conference, and fragments will be planted in Ukraine's partner countries to symbolize partnership and future growth.

This year's concept of the pavilion is based on the idea of joint efforts that grow into significant changes.

The artist behind the Ukrainian pavilion, Oleksandra Zhumailova, created an image covering an area of over 1,292 square feet featuring 50 key environmental initiatives of the Ukrainian government, businesses and the public. They include digitized farming technologies, renewable energy and demining developments, startups that create paper from fallen leaves, carbon dioxide traps, an eco-friendly alternative to Styrofoam, mobile printing plants, and other Ukrainian innovations already used in the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan.

The pavilion's content emphasizes the main principle of recovery – "build back greener" – and the need to compensate Ukraine for the damage caused to the environment by Russia's war on the country.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy discussed the goal of the pavilion.

"Now, when we are protecting the lives of our people from Russian strikes and overcoming the consequences of the terrible crimes of this war, including the largest ecocide in Europe, we need maximum unity. The unity of all those who share with us key values – the value of life, the value of freedom, the value of law and the value of respect for every nation, every community and every person. When unity is maximized, solidarity is most effective. And when it is, then life, freedom, law and respect will definitely win," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

During Russia's full-scale war on Ukraine, the Kremlin committed more than 6,500 crimes against the environment, according to Ukrainian officials. Greenhouse gas emissions have reached 180 million tons, and almost 3 million hectares of forests have been damaged. Some 54,000 square miles of land have been mined, a space three times the size of Switzerland, Ukrainian officials said.

Thanks to virtual reality zones, visitors to the pavilion can see the Ukrainian forests and fields destroyed by Russia, as well as fly over the Kakhovka Reservoir, the site of a

massive environmental disaster that occurred after Russian forces blew up the dam. But they can also see the miracle of natural recovery as a willow forest has begun to grow in its place.

A correspondent for The Ukrainian Weekly spoke with Yuliana Onishchuk, a representative of the Energy Act for Ukraine Foundation, who is currently attending the U.N. climate conference in Baku. The Ukrainian pavilion – distinguishable from others in terms of design and creative approach to its creation – is large, with all of the walls painted in black and white, and includes information about some 50 environmental initiatives Ukraine is currently pursuing.

"We also have VR [virtual reality] glasses at the pavilion that allow visitors to see even the beautiful side of the terrible events that happened to the Kakhovka reservoir, which was destroyed by the Russian military in 2023. We don't show flooded houses and how terrible everything was, but we show that, even in these places, life appears and a whole forest grows where there once was a huge mass of water," Ms. Onishchuk said.

"The war is not directly present in the COP agenda. However, the topic of peace will be discussed later this week. The main topic of this COP is financial mechanisms to accelerate decarbonization and energy transition, so there are no topics where we would discuss the war except for the Ukrainian pavilion itself," she said.

"The international community responds very well to Ukrainian messages – many people come to the Ukrainian pavilion, and I meet a lot of support in every pavilion. Every person asks what the situation is and what exactly is happening," Ms. Onishchuk said.

Even amid a full-scale war, Ukraine remains a reliable partner in achieving its global climate change goal. On the eve of COP29, the Ukrainian parliament set a goal of achieving climate carbon neutrality by 2050.

"It is essential for Ukraine to be present at the COP29 climate summit – it demonstrates our sustainability in the field of climate policy and our ability to work together with the civilized world for a common goal: overcoming the climate crisis and achieving climate neutrality," said Svitlana Hrynychuk, the minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

"Our task is to showcase Ukraine as a center of green innovations, environmental solutions and digital transformation, where new projects and initiatives are born. One of the key platforms for this is our national



Guests listen to presentations in the Ukrainian pavilion at the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference, which is taking place on November 11-22 in Baku, Azerbaijan.



Guests to the Ukrainian pavilion at the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, use virtual reality technology to look at the area around the Kakhovka reservoir, which was destroyed by the Russian military in 2023.

pavilion, a symbol of unity, resilience and commitment to green development, even in times of war. I am grateful to everyone who contributed to the representation of Ukraine at COP29 and the creation of our national pavilion," Ms. Hrynychuk said.

To achieve those goals, Ukraine has garnered support from international partners, including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

One example of a joint project is Ukraine's first full-cycle recycling station for demolition waste, launched in Bucha, Ukraine, in April. It helps clear rubble after Russian attacks and allows for the reuse of materials for reconstruction work.

"The UNDP will continue to support Ukraine in achieving its climate goals, from developing a long-term low-carbon development strategy to promoting reforms that enable green recovery. Ukraine's pavilion at COP29 is an important platform for launching new partnerships and a catalyst for the country's transition to green energy for a 'build back better' recovery," said Jaco Cilliers, the UNDP resident representative in Ukraine.

This is the third time that Ukraine has hosted a pavilion at COP, the largest annual international climate conference in the world.

In 2022, Ukraine used the pavilion to talk about the impact that a full-scale war has on the planet. The exposition's central element was a three-meter-long crater with 16 varieties of Ukrainian soil, including black soil scorched by explosions that lost its nutrients.

In 2023, Ukraine focused on the Russian destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric

dam. The pavilion featured the roof of a house from the Kherson region, symbolizing the tragedy of losing a home to a large-scale flood.

At the end of the second day of the COP29 Climate Conference in Baku, Ms. Hrynychuk officially opened the Ukrainian pavilion with a short message.

"Today, we are here to make ourselves known to the world once again. We are united in our goal. We do not abandon our international commitments and continue to work as a team of civilized states toward a common goal: to overcome the climate crisis and achieve climate neutrality," Ms. Hrynychuk said during an online stream of the event.

Ukraine's pavilion at COP29 is about the power of joint efforts – from the development of renewable energy to innovations in the agricultural sector, from Ukrainian environmental startups that are already used by the world to dozens of examples of the daily heroism of people who protect the environment despite the ongoing risks of war.

"Despite all the difficulties, we stand with those who want to improve the world. We are here to offer the world our best practices and join important initiatives. We are here to demonstrate again that Ukraine is a reliable and responsible partner. We are here to pave the way for a climate-neutral future, a green recovery in Ukraine and the best standards and the latest technologies. Ukraine has a lot to offer the world, especially in overcoming the environmental impact of wars," Ms. Hrynychuk said.

**(Continued on page 4)**



The Ukrainian pavilion at the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, includes information about some 50 environmental initiatives Ukraine is currently pursuing.

# Peace talks brewing, Russia and Ukraine jockey for advantage – on and off battlefield

by Mike Eckel  
RFE/RL

On the battlefield in Ukraine, Russia has seized the initiative – and wants to cement its gains ahead of any potential peace talks with Kyiv.

On the offensive since at least midsummer, Russian forces have accelerated their advances, grinding down Ukrainian troops across the 684-mile front line: in the south near Vuhledar and Pokrovsk; farther to the north near Chasiv Yar and Kupyansk; and even in Kursk, the Russian region where Ukraine staged a surprise invasion in August.

Moscow has also hired as many as 12,000 North Korean troops, and started to deploy them to western Russia, as part of what U.S. and Ukrainian officials say is a looming offensive to push Ukrainian forces out of Russian territory entirely.

"We all know, I won't be revealing a military secret if I say that our front has collapsed," Ukrainian Maj. Gen. Dmytro Marchenko said in surprisingly stark public assessment on October 29. He later announced his resignation in what many saw as punishment for his candor.

Ukraine staged its own display of prowess over the weekend, sending scores of drones at Moscow and a half-dozen other Russian regions. The attack, which disrupted some flights but otherwise caused little major damage, was the largest of its kind since Russia launched its all-out invasion in February 2022.

What it all means is that Russia's war on Ukraine is nearing another critical juncture, with pressure building for a cease-fire or a peace deal that would pause, if not outright halt the fighting nearly 33 months in.

The pressure is building in large part because of the election of Donald Trump, who has vocally criticized the volume of U.S. aid to Ukraine. Mr. Trump has repeatedly vowed to bring the war to a quick end, though he has provided few details of how he would do so.

The outgoing administration of President Joe Biden – which shepherded to Ukraine nearly \$60 billion in weapons and equipment and much more in other aid –



has shown signs of impatience with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and a "victory plan" he has promoted as a path to a "just peace."

"Russia is trying to advance as much as possible and demonstrate the ability to sustain the intensity of combat for the foreseeable future, to both create a new reality on the ground and to have as much leverage over such issues like [Ukraine's] NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] membership prospects," said Mykola Bylyeskov, a researcher at the Ukrainian government-run National Institute for Strategic Studies.

## There is no way back to normality'

Both Moscow and Kyiv, meanwhile, are suffering from extraordinarily high casualties. Russia has replenished the ranks of its dead and wounded soldiers – estimated at 600,000 and climbing – by attracting new recruits, drawn from a larger population base with exceptionally high wages and bonuses. Adm. Tony Radakin, Britain's chief of the defense staff, told the BBC that October was the worst month for Russian casualties: around 1,500 a day.

Ukraine, whose death toll alone is estimated to exceed 80,000, is struggling to keep up its recruiting pipeline and bolster its ranks.

While the Kremlin's larger objectives go much further, one consistent goal is the capture of Ukrainian territory. That included the entirety of the industry-heavy Donetsk and Luhansk regions, also known as the Donbas.

Despite being beaten back multiple times, Russian troops currently hold about 20 percent of Ukrainian territory and are incrementally grabbing more by the day.

Russia's wider political goals include toppling the Ukrainian government, something that is unlikely for the foreseeable future. Preventing Kyiv from joining NATO also remains a top priority.

Also unlikely for the foreseeable future is the prospect of Ukraine achieving its goal of regaining control over the whole country, including Crimea. But it is seeking to deny Russia further gains inside Ukraine and to hold onto Russian territory in the Kursk region.

"Both sides want to build leverage before any potential negotiations," said Eric Ciaramella, a former White House National Security Council official for Russia and Ukraine. "For the Ukrainians, Kursk was a big part of this – although in the end it didn't deliver the trade bait Kyiv had hoped for, and now Ukraine's positions there appear increasingly tenuous."

Ukraine's top military officer, Col.-Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy, said on November 12 that he travelled to the Kursk region, which Mr. Zelenskyy has said outright could be used as a bargaining chip in any negotiations with Russia.

He appeared to defend the decision to invade Kursk, which some outside observers questioned because it drew some of

Ukraine's more experienced units from other parts of the battlefield – particularly three points that are under severe Russian pressure.

"These tens of thousands of enemies from the best Russian shock units would have stormed our positions in the Pokrovsk, Kurakhove or Toretsk directions, which would have significantly worsened the situation at the front," Mr. Syrskiy said.

## The price of peace

Both Mr. Trump and the incoming vice president, J.D. Vance, have signaled that they would push Ukraine harder to negotiate. They have not announced a specific plan to bring the sides to the table, and top Russian officials, Putin included, have signaled no softening of the Kremlin's positions.

The man whom Mr. Trump announced will be his new national-security adviser, meanwhile, suggested one point of leverage for pushing the Kremlin to negotiations.

"America can use economic leverage, including lifting the pause on exports of liquefied natural gas and cracking down on Russia's illicit oil sales, to bring Mr. Putin to the table," Michael Waltz said in a co-authored opinion piece published in the Economist magazine on November 2.

"This plan is superior to the current White House approach, which lacks a stated goal but will end in a stalemate with Russia occupying some Ukrainian territory," he wrote. "The current path will just take more time, blood and treasure to get there."

Oleksandr Danylyuk, a former top Ukrainian military and intelligence adviser, suggests it is naïve to think Russia has any intention of negotiating anything at all.

"Their political objective is to destroy or at least to reload the world security architecture," he said. "My prediction: Russia will use the negotiations to reduce Western support to Ukraine and will continue its unholy crusade against the West."

"There is no way back to 'normality,'" he said. "This is a global war in which the West can either win or be defeated."

For its part, Ukraine fears growing Western impatience, and many officials worry that the Trump administration's inclination to temper its support will ultimately mean throwing Kyiv under the bus.

"There has been much talk about the need to yield to Putin, to back down, to make some concessions," Mr. Zelenskyy said in a speech at a European Political Community meeting on November 7.

"It's unacceptable for Ukraine and suicidal for all Europe," he said.

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COP28 agreement reached last year regarding financing future initiatives.

"Let's abandon the idea that climate finance is charity. The ambitious new climate finance target is in the interest of every country, including the largest and richest," U.N. Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell said during his speech.

With the U.N.'s World Meteorological Organization predicting that 2015-2024 will be the hottest decade on record and extreme climate events occurring worldwide, the Baku talks, which run until November 22, are seen as crucial to making progress on global climate issues.

## FOR THE RECORD

### Ukrainian World Congress congratulates Trump and calls for enhanced U.S. support for Ukraine

The following statement was released by the Ukrainian World Congress on November 7.

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) congratulates President-Elect Donald Trump on his election victory. The UWC together with the Ukrainian American community looks forward to working with the new administration to strengthen U.S.-Ukraine relations.

Paul Grod, president of the UWC, stated, "It is crucial that the United States continues to support Ukraine in defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity. By doing so, the U.S. is protecting peace and prosperity at home and around the world. We call on President Trump to take bold and decisive steps to end Russia's war on Ukraine by providing it with the tools necessary to win."

Until Russia is decisively defeated, they will continue their occupation and attempts to dismantle the Ukrainian

nation. The initial invasion and occupation of Ukraine in 2014 were met with a weak response from the U.S. and the international community, ultimately leading to Russia escalating to a full-scale invasion in 2022. Russia's war on Ukraine has resulted in widespread destruction, significant loss of life and the displacement of millions.

To achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, the UWC urges President Trump to provide Ukraine with advanced military equipment, strategic economic support and a formal invitation to join NATO [the North Atlantic Treaty Organization]. The U.S. commitment to Ukraine's security and its integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions is essential to end Russian imperialism.

The UWC remains committed to advocating for the interests of the global Ukrainian community and fostering strong international partnerships to support Ukraine's path toward peace, stability and prosperity.

## War and green...

(Continued from page 3)

This year's summit is being dubbed the "financial COP" because, for the first time in 15 years, the amount and structure of funding for developing countries to support climate change measures will be discussed.

According to several media reports, the talks hit a snag when some countries wanted to focus more on moving forward with the transition from fossil fuels. In contrast, others, mainly oil and gas-producing countries, wanted to limit the discussion of the

# Souspilnist Foundation in Ukraine supports journalists during the war and before

by Adrian Karmazyn

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As chroniclers of Vladimir Putin's full-fledged invasion of their country, Ukrainian journalists have reported on and borne witness to killings, atrocities, war crimes, destruction of civilian infrastructure and other human suffering perpetrated by Russian forces on a large scale. And Ukrainian journalists and newsrooms have themselves been victims of Russia's aggression.

According to the Kyiv-based Institute of Mass Information, dozens of Ukrainian journalists have been killed, kidnapped, injured, tortured or have disappeared, and more than 230 media outlets have closed or been forced to suspend operations since February 2022.

One of the most influential non-governmental organizations engaged in assisting journalists in Ukraine during wartime is the Souspilnist Foundation.

In an interview with The Ukrainian Weekly, Taras Petriv, president of the foundation, discussed the state of journalism in Ukraine during the war.

"There have been many challenges that have needed a rapid response. ... Journalists had to mobilize quickly, some media outlets were left without staff – some journalists went to fight on the front, some relocated with their families to western Ukraine" or abroad, he said.

On the eve of the invasion, the foundation started preparing a network of Ukrainian "fixers" to assist incoming foreign journalists with war coverage in an unfamiliar cultural landscape.

Mr. Petriv said that the collaboration of Ukrainian journalists with their foreign colleagues is a genuine success, resulting in award-winning coverage under extremely dangerous conditions. The Souspilnist Foundation also conducted safety trainings for Ukrainian journalists to prepare them for the dangers of reporting from the front line, and developed an insurance program for them in case of injury or death, an option that had previously not existed.

Mr. Petriv noted that "since 2022, Ukrainian journalists



Souspilnist Foundation

**Taras Petriv (front row, left), president of the Souspilnist Foundation, and Andriy Kulykov (front row, second from the left), a prominent journalist, take part in a wartime media conference in Kyiv in April. The event was held in an underground space due to the threat of aerial attacks.**

have been witnessing the carnage on the frontlines, the exhumation of bodies after Russian war atrocities in Bucha, [Ukraine], hearing from eyewitnesses and victims of Russian genocidal acts, which has terribly impacted the mental state of journalists."

And round-the-clock coverage of the war has led to burnout among many media professionals. In response, the foundation created a Mental Support for Media program, which offers extensive mental health consultations by trained psychotherapists to individual journalists or entire newsrooms.

The Souspilnist Foundation will mark its 30th anniversary next year. For the past decade, its signature educational program has been the Media Mobility Hub, which brings journalism students from all around the country to Kyiv for two-week internships with national media outlets.

The hub helps in the formation of a skilled and motivated talent pool for newsrooms in the regions and in the capital. The program also entails discussions with leading journalists and media experts. Over 500 students from some 50 universities have participated to date.

Before the war, some of the typical trainings conducted by the foundation focused on conducting debates, adherence to journalistic standards, media management, multi-media journalism, strategic communications, battling disinformation and media literacy.

The Souspilnist Foundation is a co-founder – along with Detector Media, the Institute of Mass Information, Internews and the Center for Democracy and Rule of Law – of the Independent Media Council (IMC), which has been



An infographic shows the impact of Russia's invasion on Ukrainian journalists and media.

offering expert opinion on media-related disputes in the country, including whether or not news coverage meets journalistic standards or regarding actions of government officials that may encroach on media freedoms.

In one case, the council provided an in-depth legal analysis that concurred with the government's argument that its decision to shut down three pro-Russian television channels in Ukraine – controlled by notorious oligarch Viktor Medvedchuk – for national security reasons did not undermine freedom of speech and was legitimate.

In March of 2022, IMC published an open letter providing recommendations to foreign journalists working in Ukraine. Among other suggestions, it urged them to make clear Russia's role in the war by calling it "Russia's war in Ukraine" or the "Russian invasion of Ukraine" rather than "Ukraine crisis" or "Ukraine conflict."

Mr. Petriv said he is also proud of the vigorous work of his Souspilnist Foundation and other like-minded non-governmental organizations in pushing for the transformation of government-controlled radio and television into a public broadcasting entity ("Susplne movlennia").

Supporters of public broadcasting saw its creation as crucial to battling the influence of Russia – as well as Ukrainian oligarchs and some officials in Kyiv – on the media market.

"We understood that there needs to be a broadcaster amidst the dominance of oligarchic channels because the authorities very often cooperated with these [media] holdings and influenced them," he said.

(Continued on page 14)



Prof. Taras Petriv (left) with a group of his journalism students in Kyiv.

## Trump's win could lead to push for peace in Ukraine, but on whose terms?

by Steve Guterman  
RFE/RL

The common view is that an end to Russia's war against Ukraine is nowhere in sight. But Donald Trump's election could generate a push to reach a peace deal – with Ukraine, Russia, the United States and others wrangling over the potential terms.

Mr. Trump's victory in the November 5 presidential vote set the clock ticking, in a way, because he repeatedly said during the campaign that he would be able to end the war very quickly if elected, without even waiting for his inauguration on January 20.

Russian President Vladimir Putin seized on this in his first public remarks about the U.S. election result, saying on November 7 that what he called Mr. Trump's statements about a desire to "revive relations" with Russia and help end the war in Ukraine "deserve attention, to say the least."

That comment came amid high praise from Putin for Mr. Trump: He said that the now president-elect had shown "courage" and "acted like a man" when a would-be assassin shot at him in July, and that his impression was that during his 2017-2021 term, Mr. Trump was straitjacketed and prevented from pursuing his goals.

Putin's words were delivered in a way that was clearly meant to seem casual and off-the-cuff. But they suggest

that the Kremlin will try to leverage the change of power in the United States, and Mr. Trump's hopes of brokering peace, in a bid to further its own goals in Ukraine.

### Big challenges

However, there's no sign that Moscow has abandoned its stated goals, which include Russian control over five Ukrainian regions in their entirety and a permanent ban on Ukraine joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The morning after Putin made his remarks, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov seemed eager to drive that message home. He said Putin has repeatedly mentioned that Russia is open for dialogue but that the president "has never said that the goals [of the invasion] have changed."

With its forces advancing in eastern Ukraine at a faster pace than they have since a few months after the full-scale invasion in February 2022, Moscow does not seem to be in the mood for compromise.

Putin's Security Council chief, Sergei Shoigu, also suggested that Moscow is open to talks, but only on its own terms.

"Now, when the situation in the theater of military operations is not in favor of the Kyiv regime, the West is faced with a choice – to continue financing it and destroying the Ukrainian population or to recognize the current realities

and start negotiating," Mr. Shoigu said on November 7.

That's one of the big challenges facing any bid by Mr. Trump to end the war: A cease-fire or peace on terms that satisfy Moscow would likely be seen as a defeat for Kyiv and could leave Russia in a position to threaten Ukraine and even the West. That would be hard for the White House to cast as a geopolitical victory.

With Mr. Trump's inauguration 10 weeks away, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is trying to prevent that from happening. He is urging the West to deliver more weapons, to help Ukraine improve its position on the battlefield and pave the way for a "just peace," warning that giving Russia what it wants would be a grave mistake.

"There has been much talk about the need to yield to Putin, to back down, to make some concessions. It's unacceptable for Ukraine and suicidal for all Europe," Mr. Zelenskyy said in a speech at a European Political Community meeting in Budapest on November 7.

### Rifts in the West

Divisions in the West threaten to play into Russia's hands. Speaking in Budapest on November 8, European Council President Charles Michel echoed Mr. Zelenskyy, saying, "We have to strengthen Ukraine, to support

(Continued on page 13)

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### A difficult winter sets in

As winter approaches, Ukraine faces one of the most difficult and pivotal moments of the ongoing war. The coming winter is reminiscent of what George Washington's army endured during a brutal winter at Valley Forge in 1777-1778, a defining period of hardship and resilience in the American Revolutionary War. After suffering a series of defeats at the hands of British forces, Washington led his weary troops to winter quarters in Valley Forge, Pa. Arriving in December 1777, they faced immediate challenges: severe cold, inadequate shelter, and a shortage of food and supplies.

Conditions worsened quickly. Disease, malnutrition and exposure to the elements claimed the lives of nearly 2,000 soldiers. Washington's leadership during this period was crucial; he visited camps, rallied morale and advocated tirelessly to the Continental Congress for better support. Though the Congress was slow to respond, his pleas eventually led to a reorganization of supply lines and improved provision.

Ukraine's soldiers – battered, bruised and set to face another harsh winter on the vast Eurasian Steppe – will face similarly brutal conditions. For the United States, this is a moment to act to ensure Ukraine is equipped with the arms it needs to defend itself – and the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump must heed this call for steadfast support, rather than turning away from Ukraine.

As winter settles over the country, soldiers defending Ukraine face brutal conditions that will test the limits of endurance. Sub-zero temperatures, freezing rain and unyielding winds will make even the simplest tasks grueling, while snow-covered terrain and icy roads challenge the movement of troops and supplies. Ukrainian soldiers, often positioned in trenches or on the front lines without access to heated shelters, must contend with the biting cold, which can lead to frostbite, hypothermia and other cold-related injuries. Maintaining their equipment and morale becomes especially difficult under these conditions, with weapons prone to jamming and logistical challenges mounting as access to basic supplies like food, water and medical care grow scarce. In these harsh winter months, the resilience and resourcefulness of Ukraine's soldiers will be pushed to new extremes as they strive to defend their land and people against ongoing Russian attacks.

The urgency to deliver support comes as Russia seeks to sway the incoming U.S. administration toward a negotiated settlement on Moscow's terms. President Vladimir Putin, who recently praised President-elect Trump's statements on ending the war "quickly," has no interest in a peace that respects Ukraine's sovereignty. Instead, Putin's ambitions extend to controlling Ukrainian regions and permanently keeping Ukraine out of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). If the U.S. backs down on critical arms and aid, it risks giving Russia a green light to expand its assault, jeopardizing not only Ukraine's sovereignty but also the security of Eastern Europe and the global order.

Incoming President Trump has voiced confidence in his ability to broker peace, but it is vital that he does not misinterpret a swift exit from Ukraine as a "win" for the U.S. In his prior term, Mr. Trump spoke against entanglements abroad, but this war is different. It is about upholding fundamental principles of sovereignty, democracy and self-defense that define America's alliances and role in the world. Pressuring Ukraine to make territorial concessions or halt its defense efforts would not lead to a lasting peace; it would be an invitation for Russia to redraw Europe's borders through force.

As Mr. Trump's inauguration nears, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has issued a clear plea: additional weapons are critical for Ukraine to hold its ground and secure a just peace. This winter, the United States must not waver. President-elect Trump and his administration must rise to the moment. Providing Ukraine with arms, resources and the resolve of American solidarity will set the stage for a peace defined by justice, not compromise with tyranny. The resilience of Ukraine through this harsh season will become a testament to the power of democratic alliances, if – and only if – the U.S. remains unwavering in its support. The U.S. can help Ukraine turn the tide of the war, just as it once did at Valley Forge during its fight for freedom and independence.

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2018

### Turning the pages back...

Six years ago, on November 17, 2018, Ukrainian Americans gathered at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York for a solemn remembrance of the 85th anniversary of Ukraine's genocidal famine, known as the Holodomor of 1932-1933.

Officiating the service were Metropolitan Antony, prime hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and Diaspora; Bishop Andriy Rabiy, apostolic administrator of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia; and Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, Conn.

The Ukrainian Dumka Chorus, under the direction of Vasyly Hrechynsky, sang the responses.

"[The Holodomor]," Metropolitan Antony said, "though it deeply wounded our nation, did not destroy us. At that time and even today, it strengthened us. ... It even served as the beginning of the end of the atheistic [Soviet] regime."

Master of ceremonies Andriy Futey, president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (the coordinating organization of the commemoration), said, "What occurred 85 years ago in Ukraine was evil in its design and brutal in its methods. It was a deliberate act with the intent to destroy the Ukrainian nation. ... This barbarous act resulted in the deaths of 7 to 10 million people. It was kept hidden from the world and is one of the largest genocides of the 20th century."

Mr. Futey underscored the scholarly definition of the Holodomor as genocide, how the

(Continued on page 10)

### Blinken...

(Continued from page 1)

mobilized forces to fight effectively in 2025, or to be able to negotiate a peace from a position of strength."

Mr. Trump has repeatedly questioned Washington's military backing for Kyiv and vowed to rapidly end the war started by Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in 2022. But he has not said how he will put an end to the war, raising concern that he would try to force Ukraine to accept Moscow's terms for peace.

Mr. Blinken also said the deployment of North Korean troops to help Russia in the Ukraine war "demands and will get a firm response." More than 10,000 North Korean troops are engaged in combat in Russia's Kursk border region, according to the Pentagon.

Asked by RFE/RL if Washington intends to allow Ukraine to use U.S.-supplied long-range modern weapons to strike deeper inside Russia, as requested by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his recently presented "victory plan," Mr. Blinken did not offer a direct answer, saying the United States will continue to "adapt and adjust" to Ukraine's needs.

"We're addressing many of the needs that are laid out in the victory plan. That's something that we discussed with allies and partners today," Mr. Blinken said.

"I am convinced that we will continue to adapt and adjust if necessary," he added.

Mr. Blinken also met in Brussels with Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Andriy Sybiha, who said Kyiv had maintained contact with both U.S. political parties and had worked with both Mr. Trump's team and Mr. Biden's.

Mr. Sybiha said he would discuss protection of critical infrastructure with Mr. Blinken, according to a State Department statement.

"Ukraine's defense cannot be put on hold and wait. Every day Russia is bombing our critical infrastructure – energy, ports, hospitals and schools," Mr. Sybiha said. "We need better protection for our people already now, not later."

He added that he was "confident that we can count on continued U.S. support and further decisive steps."

Ukraine's whole territory was under an air-raid alert early on November 13 as Moscow launched a sophisticated combination of missiles and drones on Kyiv for the first time in 73 days.

"Putin is launching a missile attack on Kyiv right now," Andriy Yermak, Mr. Zelenskyy's chief of staff, wrote on Telegram.

Explosions shook Kyiv for hours as Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko urged the Ukrainian capital's residents to take cover.

"More drones are entering the capital. The danger of missiles also persists. Don't leave the shelters!" Mr. Klitschko wrote on Telegram.

The Ukrainian Air Force reported that its air defenses downed two cruise missiles, two ballistic missiles and 37 drones over Kyiv and seven other Ukrainian regions – Poltava, Zhytomyr, Sumy, Cherkasy, Zaporizhia, Chernihiv and Kirovohrad. It said that 47 more drones lost their way as Ukrainian electronic defenses jammed their navigation systems.

Russia has stepped up its daily attacks on Ukrainian cities in recent weeks, causing further destruction to the country's already battered civilian and energy infrastructure as the cold season settles in.

Meanwhile, an average of around 1,500 Russian soldiers were killed or injured per day in October – Russia's worst month for casualties since the beginning of the invasion, according to Britain's Chief of the Defense Staff Tony Radakin.

"Russia is about to suffer 700,000 people killed or wounded – the enormous pain and suffering that the Russian nation is

having to bear because of [President Vladimir] Putin's ambition," Mr. Radakin told the BBC on November 10.

Moscow does not reveal the number of its war casualties.

Mr. Radakin claimed that Moscow was spending more than 40 percent of public expenditure on defense and security, putting "an enormous strain" on the country.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defense Ministry claimed on November 10 that its forces had captured the town of Voltchenko in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, where Russian forces have been making advances in recent weeks.

Ukraine launched dozens of drones targeting Moscow, forcing the temporary closure of three of the capital's airports, Russian officials said on November 10.

Rosaviatsia, Russia's federal air transport agency, said the Sheremetyevo, Domodedovo and Zhukovo airports halted operations for several hours amid the drone strikes, one of Kyiv's largest attacks on Moscow since the war began in February 2022.

The strikes come as Russia fired 145 drones at Ukraine overnight, the most in any single nighttime attack of the conflict so far, Mr. Zelenskyy said on November 10.

"Last night, Russia launched a record 145 Shaheds and other strike drones against Ukraine," Mr. Zelenskyy said on social media, reiterating calls on Kyiv's Western partners to increase supplies to help protect the country's skies.

Ukraine's air force said its air defense downed 62 of the Russian drones launched overnight, while a further 67 had disappeared from radar screens. Other drones had flown into the airspace of Belarus or Moldova, Ukraine's neighbors to the north and west, respectively.

At least two people were injured and buildings were damaged in the attack in southern region of Odesa, Ukrainian officials said.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said Russia had downed 32 Ukrainian drones targeting Moscow overnight and in the morning of November 10.

There was no damage or casualties at the site of the fall of the debris, Mr. Sobyanin said, adding that emergency services were at the site.

One person was injured in the attack, according to Moscow regional Gov. Andrei Vorobyov. Media reports said the strikes caused a fire in the Ramenskoye district, with several houses in flames.

Russia reports the destruction of Ukrainian drones almost daily, but the attacks rarely target the capital.

Ukrainian authorities have maintained their drone attacks on Russia are aimed at infrastructure key to Moscow's war efforts and are in response to Russia's continued attacks on Ukraine.

Since the war began, Ukraine has been subject to nightly Russian air raids targeting critical energy infrastructure, among other things.

Ukrainian drones also targeted Russia's Bryansk and Kaluga regions overnight, setting several nonresidential buildings on fire, regional governors reported on November 10.

A nonresidential building in Kaluga was on fire as result of Ukraine's drone attack, according to the regional Gov. Vladislav Shapsha. Kaluga borders the Moscow region to its northeast.

(With reporting by Reuters, AFP, AP, and dpa)

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# Florida benefit featuring celebrity chefs raises \$100,000 for Ukraine

UCCA

NOKOMIS, Fla. – Far from the frontlines of Russia's unprovoked war on Ukraine, Joe Farrell, proprietor of the hotspot Pop's Sunset Grill in Nokomis, Fla., knew he wanted to help the war-torn country.

Having traveled earlier in the year to Ukraine with former Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) president Andriy Futey, celebrated chef Giancarla Bodoni and celebrity cook Rachael Ray, he saw firsthand the loss of innocent lives and the senseless destruction. Returning home, he was determined to do what he could to help.

Mr. Farrell called his friends in the business. Together with his wife, Kristen, and Mr. Futey, he organized a celebrity chef din-

ner on November 7.

The group worked with James Beard Award-winning chef Kevin Nashan, James Beard Award-nominated chef Lindsay Autry, and Ms. Bodoni, who flew from Tuscany to take part in the event.

The chefs, together with the culinary team from Pop's Sunset Grill, prepared an intimate evening of exceptional food, wine and philanthropy.

The evening started with a trio of passed canapes of Caesar salad cups, roasted sweet potato bites and ahi tuna tataki, all prepared by chef Marcos Vasquez.

The four-course dinner featured deviled Florida stone crab with celery root remoulade, dijon bearnaise, gremolata prepared by Ms. Autry; cacio e pepe filled ravioli with pea puree and pancetta prepared by Ms.



Among the chefs who took part in the November 7 dinner to benefit Ukraine's National Rehabilitation Center UNBROKEN were (from left to right) Kevin Nashan, Giancarla Bodoni and Lindsay Autry.



Joe Farrell (left), proprietor of Pop's Sunset Grill in Nokomis, Fla., is joined by (from left to right) Tamara Olexy, Mark Olexy and Andriy Futey during a fundraising dinner on November 7.



Courtesy of the UCCA

A group of Ukrainian Americans and Ukrainian supporters gathered at Pop's Sunset Grill in Nokomis, Fla., for a dinner on November 7 that raised \$100,000 for Ukraine's National Rehabilitation Center UNBROKEN.

Bodoni; and a main course of lamb Wellington with crepinette of red cabbage and hunter's sauce prepared by Chef Kevin Nashan.

For dessert, chef Ray Lajoie prepared a tipsy pudding of date cake with brandy caramel syrup and dulce de leche ice cream that satisfied everyone's sweet tooth.

At \$1,000 a plate, the evening was capped with incredible live auction experiences that helped raise funds to support Ukraine's National Rehabilitation Center UNBROKEN.

The UCCA joint project with Ms. Ray for UNBROKEN aims to design and equip an operational kitchen that will feed 4,000

patients three times a day.

Thanks to all of the individuals who attended the dinner and bid on the exclusive experiences, the fundraiser reached its goal of \$100,000 for UNBROKEN.

Funds raised during the event were also used to make a small donation to a local hospitality relief fund that assists workers in the industry who lost work when businesses were shuttered following recent hurricanes in Florida.

UCCA expressed thanks to the event's co-hosts for their unwavering support: Joe and Kristen Farrell, Lisa Napolitano, Darrell Flanel and Laura Lobdell.

## Long-range capabilities continue to be key deterrent for Ukraine

by Yuri Lapaiev  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

In the early morning hours of November 6, drones attacked a Russian naval base near Kaspiisk City in Russia's Republic of Dagestan. Later, it was reported that it was an operation carried out by Ukrainian Defense Intelligence and that Ukrainian-made Aeroprakt A-22 Foxbat drones were used. The distance from the state border of Ukraine to the site of the attack was more than 1,500 kilometers (930 miles). As reported, two Gepard-class frigates (project 11661) and a Buyan-class corvette (project 21631) could be damaged due to the attack (NV, November 6). This attack was yet another episode in a series of regular long-range strikes by the Ukrainian Defense Forces against targets deep in Russian territory.

These deep strikes went from an extremely rare event at the beginning of the full-scale invasion to a routine one in 2024. Moreover, the frequency, scale and range of attacks constantly increase. According to official information for 2022-2023, the Armed Forces of Ukraine conducted 17 long-range strikes in 2022-2023. In contrast, in January-September, they conducted more than 30 long-range strikes (Texty, October 22). Ukraine's capability to carry out long-range strikes on Russian targets provides an opportunity to weaken the Russian armed forces at their source, enabling a more proactive and assertive defense of its sovereignty.

Understanding the limitations of its resources, the Ukrainian commanders prefer to strike targets that will have the largest strategic effect (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 24). To reduce the capabilities of the Russian air force, the Ukrainian Armed Forces decided to hit the nearest Russian air bases and ammunition storage facilities. The longest strike to date was on Olenya air base, which is 1,750 kilometers (1,090 miles) away from the Ukrainian border (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 16; Vox Ukraine, October 25). This reduced the number of Russian air strikes using cruise missiles and glide bombs. The Russian command decided to relocate strategic aviation as far as possible from the border with Ukraine, which has created additional challenges for its use. The strikes on the Engels airbase in the Saratov region had a significant effect, leading to two to five strategic bombers being potentially damaged in 2022 and possibly three more in 2024 (Defence Express, December 27, 2022; Euromaidan Press, April 6).

This has forced the Russian command to resort to countermeasures ranging from drawing silhouettes of aircraft at airfields, deploying rare medium-range SAM systems such as Pantsir-S1 (SA-22 Greyhound) from the frontline closer to the airfields, and constructing engineering structures to protect against strikes (RBC, February 29; X.com/bradyafr, October 31). This is a challenge for Ukraine, as it needs to take advantage of a certain window of opportunity before the Russians have time

to develop effective means of defense.

Other vital targets for Ukrainian long-range weapons are Russian oil refineries. These strikes have caused such significant economic and logistical problems for Moscow that the Kremlin allegedly has begun to seek negotiations to end them (Ukrainska Pravda, October 30). The Ukrainian government, however, has denied these talks (RBC Ukraine, October 30).

Ukraine is not limited to using drones and there are increasing reports of the use of the Ukrainian-designed R-360 "Neptune" cruise missile, which was urgently converted from an anti-ship missile (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, August 13). Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine Lt. Gen. Ivan Havryliuk said that work is underway to create a so-called "long" Neptune, whose range could be 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) (ArmyInform, December 4, 2023). This development was later discussed during the meeting between the Minister of Strategic Industries of Ukraine Oleksandr Kamyshev and members of the Commission on National Defense Strategy of the U.S. Congress (X.com/front\_ukrainian, April 15). Oleksiy Petrov, head of the state enterprise SpetsTechnoexport, said that Ukraine will have its own cruise and ballistic missiles by mid-2025. He also added that tests of those weapons are ongoing and have been successful (Obozrevatel, November 2).

Even more interesting was the announcement of the "Palyanytsia" – a hybrid of a cruise missile and a drone, presented by

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. According to him, around 20 Russian airfields are in the range of this weapons system, but the specifications of this range are not yet disclosed (T.me/V\_Zelenskiy\_official, August 25). This hybrid cruise missile has already been used on targets inside temporarily occupied Crimea (Ukrainska Pravda, September 2). Later, some Russian sources claimed that they had shot down several Palyanytsia drones in Russia's Kursk Oblast (Defence Express, September 20).

There are also reports of the completion of the development of the Ukrainian short-range ballistic missile system "Hrim-2." Its development started in 2007 by Ukrainian defense company KB Pivdenne and the machine building plant PA Pivdenmash. At that time, according to the requirements, it would have a range of 500 kilometers (310 miles) (The Ukrainian Weekly, April 26, 2019). The continuation of the project was recently confirmed by Yehor Chernev, chairman of Ukraine's delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). He said the Hrim-2 missile is nearly ready for action (RBC Ukraine, October 22).

The development of Ukraine's own long-range weapons will have several positive consequences for Ukraine. It is an investment in the national economy and the development of high-tech production. This innovation will also create competitive weapons that are being tested in real com-

(Continued on page 10)

# Dumka Chorus celebrates 75th anniversary with virtuoso concert at NYU's Skirball Center

by Nicholas Gordon

NEW YORK – The Ukrainian Chorus Dumka of New York celebrated its 75th anniversary with a virtuoso concert on October 13 at New York University's Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts.

Performing in a variety of genres with a range of guest artists, Dumka Chorus put on a show that was by turns heartwarming and thrilling, and showcased its musical bona fides throughout. Approximately 200 people attended the concert.

"The chorus's 75th anniversary has a special meaning to me, and I wanted to prepare an original and varied program for the anniversary celebration," said Vasyl Hrechynsky, who has been the conductor of Chorus Dumka for more than 30 years.

In 2023, Mr. Hrechynsky was awarded the "Honored Artist of Ukraine" by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for his outstanding achievement in the arts.

Dumka opened the show singing Ukrainian choral music that included soloists Anna Kosachevych, Dariya Voitovych, Yaryna Zatonska, Andrii Zatonskyi, Yulia Kuznetsova and Vladyslav Chornyy, and instrumental soloists Vasyl Chornyy and Rostyslav Kharevych.

For the "The Feast of Kupalo Songs," the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble performed with Dumka.

For the second part of the concert, Dumka collaborated with one dynamic performer after another. The children's choir Moloda Dumka opened the second part of the show, performing with the band "Trioda" from Ternopil, Ukraine.

Next, the Ukrainian singer Khrystyna Soloviy joined Dumka to perform two



Nicholas Gordon

Chorus Dumka of New York and Moloda Dumka with musical guests acknowledge the audience after a 75th-anniversary concert at New York University's Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts on October 13.

Lemko songs and a song by Volodymyr Ivasiuk.

World-renowned Japanese violinist Ikuko Kawai accompanied the chorus for the songs "Jupiter," "Melody" by Myroslav Skoryk and the Japanese song "Furusato," which also includes verses in English and Ukrainian. The chorus previously performed Furusato with Ms. Kawai at her concert at Lincoln Center's Rose Theater.

In the finale, Dumka was joined by Moloda Dumka and artists Ryan Michaels and Mat and Savanna Shaw for the song "Peace, Joy, Love." Dumka previously recorded a video for the song that was

released on Ukrainian Independence Day in 2022. The second half of the concert also featured a chamber orchestra comprised of Ukrainian and American musicians performing with Dumka.

Gratitude and pride were the prominent feelings expressed by several of the performers who spoke with a correspondent for The Ukrainian Weekly after the concert.

Anya Kosachevich, a Ukrainian-American soprano born and raised in New Jersey who performed several songs with Dumka, said she valued the unique and diverse musical experience of the show.

"I really enjoyed performing with

Dumka for this special event, and it was great to hear such a positive response from the audience," Ms. Kosachevich said.

Ms. Kosachevich attributed the smooth orchestration of such a diverse line-up of performers to Mr. Hrechynsky's "awesome talent" as a conductor.

"Vasyl is very detail-oriented and knows how to work with different artists in ways that complement the chorus," Ms. Kosachevich said.

Ms. Kosachevich, who is currently pursuing a master's degree in classical voice

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## Dumka Chorus...

(Continued from page 8)

from the Manhattan School of Music, has been a guest performer with Dumka since her freshman year of college at New York University.

"There's a family vibe with Dumka that I'm grateful for. It's a very warm and welcoming group," Ms. Kosachevich said, noting that she's grown a lot as a singer performing with Dumka over the years.

Indeed, Dumka has long served as both an incubator for generational singing talent and an extended family of sorts for Ukrainian citizens new to the U.S. The group was founded in 1949 as a male chorus by

Ukrainians who had escaped from the oppression and terror of the Soviet regime, as stated in the concert program. There are currently 10 Ukrainian refugees in Dumka who have come to the U.S. to escape Russia's war on Ukraine.

"Chorus Dumka saved me here in the U.S.," said Lyubov Shmotolokha, Dumka's piano accompanist who performed with the group for every number of the concert.

"It gave me a new community and I got to continue my passion for playing the piano," Ms. Shmotolokha explained. "I'm very thankful to all of the performers in Dumka because of their dedication and their kindness toward me from day one as a new member."

Ms. Shmotolokha, who moved to the



Nicholas Gordon

**Chorus Dumka performs with the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble at New York University's Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts on October 13.**



Nicholas Gordon

**Soprano Anya Kosachevich and Vasyly Hrechynsky, the conductor of Chorus Dumka, are pictured following the group's 75th anniversary concert in New York on October 13.**

U.S. from Lviv, Ukraine, shortly after the war began and struggled to adjust to her new life here, said she has some regrets about leaving Ukraine and longs to go back every day. But she now sees it as her mission to stand by her chorus members who have shown her such strength and support as they hone their craft together and continue performing for new audiences.

"When I'm on the stage with Dumka, I'm proud to be a Ukrainian," Ms. Shmotolokha said. "We are still a strong nation, and we're trying to share our culture with the world."

Over the past two years, Ms. Shmotolokha has performed nearly 20 concerts with Dumka, including three concerts at Carnegie Hall. Outside of her busy performance schedule, she teaches piano lessons to children.

Arsen Krok, an 18-year-old tenor from Zalishchyky, Ukraine, who performed with Dumka for the 75th anniversary concert, showed his commitment to the cause by

taking early morning train rides from his home in Philadelphia to New York for a month of rehearsals.

"This was a special concert for me, and I'm proud to perform with Chorus Dumka," Mr. Krok said, echoing his group members' feelings and showing the solidarity of the chorus.

Mr. Krok recently graduated from String Theory Performing Arts Charter School in Philadelphia. He also performs with the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America.

Having moved to the U.S. with his mother and grandmother shortly after the war began, Mr. Krok said he brings the spirit of his homeland of Ukraine with him wherever he performs.

"This concert was a big opportunity for us to say again that we stand with Ukraine and that Ukraine needs help right now," Mr. Krok said. "I really appreciate that I had the chance to be here to share our music and that message."

## EU pledges...

(Continued from page 1)

ago. Mr. Trump has claimed he could end the war even before he takes office on January 20.

"The clear purpose of this visit is to express European Union support to Ukraine. This support remains unwavering," Mr. Borrell told journalists in Kyiv. "This support is absolutely needed for you to continue defending yourself against Russian aggression."

Earlier Mr. Borrell, who is set to leave office next month, wrote on X that "the E.U.'s support for Ukraine has been my personal priority throughout my mandate and will remain at the top of the E.U.'s agenda."

Those comments came hours after another deadly attack on civilian infrastructure in Ukraine, this time an apartment building in the Black Sea port city of Odesa. Meanwhile, Ukraine claimed it had struck a Russian munitions plant in Tula with drones.

Mr. Trump's election victory has raised concerns in Kyiv, which depends heavily on U.S. and E.U. support in the face of Russia's ongoing invasion.

Mr. Trump has suggested that Kyiv should agree to cede some territory to Moscow in return for peace, a condition Ukrainian President Zelenskyy has rejected.

Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Andriy Sybiha told reporters on November 9 that Ukraine is ready to work with the Trump administration.

"Remember that President Zelenskyy was one of the first world leaders ... to greet President Trump," he said, referring to Mr. Zelenskyy's phone call with Mr. Trump on November 6. "It was a sincere conversation, an exchange of thoughts regarding fur-

ther cooperation."

Mr. Sybiha confirmed alongside Mr. Borrell that the Ukrainian government was organizing a meeting between Messrs. Zelenskyy and Trump. The two last met in September when the Ukrainian president traveled to the United States to present his "victory plan" for the war launched by Russia.

Mr. Ryabkov, the Russian deputy foreign affairs minister, said in an interview with the Russian state news agency Interfax prior to Mr. Borrell's arrival in Kyiv that Moscow and Washington were "exchanging signals" on Ukraine through "closed channels."

He did not say whether the exchanges were with outgoing President Joe Biden's administration or with Mr. Trump or members of his incoming administration.

Mr. Ryabkov said Moscow was prepared to listen to Mr. Trump's proposals regarding ending the war on Ukraine as long as they were "ideas on how to move forward in the area of settlement, and not in the area of further pumping the Kyiv regime with all kinds of aid."

A report by the British daily the Telegraph this week suggested that Mr. Trump could propose freezing the current front line, which runs through significant swaths of territory in eastern Ukraine, and setting up a buffer zone between Russian and Ukrainian forces.

In exchange, the newspaper reported based on sources close to Mr. Trump, Ukraine would agree not to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for 20 years and Washington would provide Kyiv with a large amount of weapons to deter Russia from resuming the war.

On November 9, a long-time Republican strategist who worked on Mr. Trump's campaign told the BBC that the incoming

administration would be asking Mr. Zelenskyy for a "realistic vision for peace."

According to the strategist, Bryan Lanza, that vision would not include restoring territory occupied by Russia in eastern Ukraine, nor Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, which Russia invaded and illegally annexed in 2014.

"If President Zelenskyy comes to the table and says, well we can only have peace if we have Crimea, he shows to us that he's not serious. Crimea is gone," Mr. Lanza said.

A spokesperson from the incoming Trump administration later said that Mr. Lanza did not speak for Mr. Trump and that the president-elect's transition team is still drafting policies that Mr. Trump might adopt in his second term in office.

"Nobody knows exactly what the new administration is going to do," Mr. Borrell told an AFP journalist accompanying him on his trip to Kyiv, noting that Mr. Biden still has two months left in office. "But we Europeans have to use this opportunity in order to build a stronger and united Europe, and one of the manifestations of being united and being stronger and able to act is our role in supporting Ukraine."

Mr. Borrell said it was up to E.U. countries to decide "when and how to increase" their support if needed. However, he added that, at a meeting of E.U. leaders in Budapest on November 8, "most of the member states were insisting on the same line, [to] continue supporting Ukraine."

Ukrainian troops are fatigued and stretched as Russian invading forces make gradual gains in the east. Meanwhile, Russian drone and missile attacks on civilian infrastructure continue.

Russian drones struck an apartment building in Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa late on November 8, triggering a large fire.

The public broadcaster Sputnik and other media outlets posted video on social media showing cars and buildings ablaze and thick smoke billowing skyward.

One person was killed and 13 injured, including children, in the attack, the Odesa Regional Prosecutor's Office said on November 9.

A further 32 Russian drones were shot down over 10 Ukrainian regions, while 18 were "lost," according to Ukraine's air force, likely having been electronically jammed.

Experts say systematic or widespread bombardment of housing, civilian objects and infrastructure are strictly prohibited by international humanitarian law, criminal law and human rights law. Russia regularly denies targeting Ukraine's civilian infrastructure.

Meanwhile, a source in the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) told RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service on November 9 that drones had struck the Aleksinsky chemical plant in the Tula region about 124 miles south of Moscow.

The plant produces gunpowder, ammunition and weapons. The targeting of the plant was part of a strategy to target factories that support Moscow's war against Ukraine, the source said.

Russia's Defense Ministry said earlier that 50 Ukrainian drones were destroyed over Russian regions overnight. The governor of the Tula region said a house there had been damaged by drone debris. He made no mention of the reported strike on the plant.

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**Yevhenia Bazylevych**   **Yaryna Bazylevych**   **Daria Bazylevych**   **Emilia Bazylevych**

**'So that the world remembers their names'**  
**– Endowed scholarship fund established by**  
**Ukrainian Catholic University Foundation in honor**  
**of Bazylevych Mom and Daughters Killed**  
**in Russian Attack on Lviv**

During another mass attack in Lviv on the night of September 4th, a Russian rocket took the lives of Daria Bazylevych, 18, her two sisters, Yaryna and Emilia, and their mother, Yevhenia. All four were killed as they huddled in the stairway of their building, taking refuge from the air attack.

Daria was a bright and promising second-year student and scholarship recipient at UCU, enrolled in the Culture Studies program. She was passionate about her studies, and planned to spend her life promoting Ukrainian culture.

Ukrainian Catholic University Foundation, together with Daria's father, Yaroslav Bazylevych, and Plast Ukraine, have started an endowed annual scholarship fund to serve as a tribute to the ideals and principles that the Bazylevych sisters and their mother demonstrated in their lives.

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**Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Inc.**  
**Branch 75**

UNWLA Branch 75 invites everyone to a special, one-time screening of a new documentary short about the Holodomor, the Famine-Genocide ordered by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin that killed millions of Ukrainians in 1932-1933, followed by "Yesterday's Holodomor and Today's Global Security," a presentation by Victor Rud, J.D., Holodomor scholar and son of Holodomor survivors.

Produced by  
Luba Keske,  
UNWLA  
Branch 111



Film in English;  
eyewitness testimonies  
in Ukrainian with  
English subtitles

Running time:  
Approximately  
40 minutes

**Sunday, November 24**

12:30 p.m. Doors open      1:00 p.m. Film screening

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\$20 Adults, \$10 Youth

Light lunch included

## Long-range...

(Continued from page 7)

bat conditions, which may later be interesting for foreign buyers. The discussion of the possibility of opening arms exports has been repeatedly raised in Ukrainian expert circles (Ekonomichna Pravda, August 12; see Eurasia Daily Monitor, November 8). This is necessary both to support the national economy as a whole and to enable further financing of other defense industry projects (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 8).

There may be different partnership models for international buyers. For example, Lithuania plans to invest 10 million euros (\$10.56 million) in the production of the "Palianytsia" drone missile following the example of the Danish model by directly financing the Ukrainian manufacturer (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, July 8; MoD Ukraine, October 23). The same co-financing model could be applied to missile weapons production, as the Ukrainian economy is unlikely to be able to afford such costs on its own.

Internal production of long-range missiles will also provide Ukraine with the ability to circumvent restrictions on attacking targets deep inside Russian territory. This will be needed in any scenario under the new U.S. president. If a path similar to that of the previous U.S. administration is chosen, domestic missiles will allow Ukraine to circumvent any restrictions

imposed on foreign weapons. In the event of any kind of ceasefire or frozen conflict, long-range weapons will be an effective deterrent to renewed aggression, which is included in the victory plan proposed by Mr. Zelenskyy (Defence Express, October 16).

Ukraine's development and access to long-range missiles have become a cornerstone of its strategy to counter Russian military aggression effectively. Long-range strikes have demonstrated Ukraine's capability to disrupt key Russian military and economic assets far beyond the immediate frontlines, impacting air base operations, oil refineries and logistical networks. This ability to target critical infrastructure forces Russia to reallocate resources, implement costly countermeasures and adapt its strategies, ultimately reducing its operational capacity. Moreover, the advancement of Ukraine's domestic missile technology supports not only military objectives but also bolsters economic resilience, high-tech industry growth and potential for international arms partnerships. As Ukraine continues to face evolving threats, long-range missiles not only enhance its defensive capabilities but also serve as a strategic deterrent, allowing Ukraine to safeguard its sovereignty and stability in the face of ongoing challenges.

*The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, [www.jamestown.org](http://www.jamestown.org).*

## Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

famine fits that definition, as well as explained the political interpretation of the term genocide according to Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term.

Ukraine's diplomatic representatives at the event included Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations Volodymyr Yelchenko, and Oleksii Holubov, consul general of Ukraine in New York, who spoke on behalf of Ukraine's Ambassador to Ukraine Valeriy Chaly. Thanks were expressed to the United States for its support of Ukraine against Russian aggression, and for passage of legislation commemorating the Holodomor. Speakers also acknowledged that some at the state and local level officially recog-

nized the Holodomor as genocide.

Bishop Paul thanked Cardinal Timothy Dolan for permitting the Ukrainian community to hold Holodomor commemorations in St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Dumka Chorus for their "evocative and moving responses to the panakhyda service." He told participants, "may the memory of the Holodomor never be allowed to fade from our collective consciousness and that we gather every year at this time to remember. ... Remember those who had no one to remember them, weep for those who had no one to weep for them and pray for those who had no one to pray for them."

*Source: "Requiem at St. Patrick's commemorates Holodomor's 85th anniversary," by Roma Hadzewycz, The Ukrainian Weekly, November 25, 2018.*

## Святкування 75-ліття Школи Українознавства "Зберігаємо українство"

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# Kyiv theater translates, performs American play 'Conversations in Tusculum'

by Adrian Bryttan

NEW YORK – Close on the heels of the highly praised North American tour of the Ukrainian National Ballet last month arrived the screening of a Ukrainian production of Richard Nelson's play "Conversations in Tusculum." The film documents the Kyiv-based Theater on Podil ("Teatr na Podoli") performance in May.

On November 12, The Public Theater's Newman Theater in New York City hosted a video presentation of this unique staging from war-torn Ukraine.

The Podil company translated "Conversations in Tusculum" into Ukrainian ("Tuskulski Besidy"), and invited the cele-

brated playwright Mr. Nelson to direct the performance of his work.

Their eclectic repertoire includes 34 plays all in Ukrainian: from Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex" and Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream" to Ukrainian classics like Lesya Ukrainska's "The Stone Host" and Mykhailo Starytsky's "Chasing Two Hares" to George Orwell's "1984" and Anthony Burgess' "A Clockwork Orange."

"Conversations in Tusculum" is a riveting play that immerses viewers in the hopes and fears of Brutus, Cicero and Cassius leading up to the assassination of Julius Caesar. Praised as "a master of the quiet detail, of the oblique character that transforms emotional diffidence into fasci-



Courtesy of The Public Theater

Conspirators (from left to right) Sergey Boiko (Cicero), Roman Khalaimov (Brutus) and Artem Atamanyuk (Cassius) perform in a Ukrainian production of Richard Nelson's play "Conversations in Tusculum."

nating character" (Newsday), Mr. Nelson explores the musings of the Roman conspirators. A central issue emerges: Can one continue to trust a popular leader and friend if there is a suspicion that the leader may be a threat to the republic?

Mr. Nelson's many plays and musical librettos have been honored with numerous awards, including the Tony Award, Drama Desk Award and the New York Drama Critics Award. He has worked with the Royal Shakespearian Company and served as chairman of playwriting at the Yale School of Drama.

"Conversations in Tusculum" had its premiere at the Public in 2008 with a distinguished cast: Aidan Quinn, Brian Dennehy and David Strathairn. Some

reviews alluded to veiled parallels with contemporary events and personae. Indeed, vivid verses listing brutalities during Caesar's Syrian campaign do resonate in the play like commentaries on the Iraqi wars. However, in past interviews, Mr. Nelson said he was loath to "trap" his play by giving it a specific political identity.

"I'm not interested in dictating a message," he said. "A good play is a world that reflects ours but maintains itself."

Similar to 2008, minimal staging was adopted by the Kyiv theater. With only a central table, chairs and a few props, all the scenes took place in the center of an intimate room, encircled by a few score audi-

(Continued on page 18)



Author Richard Nelson (left) takes a break during rehearsals in Kyiv with actors (from left to right) Roman Khalaimov, Sergey Boiko and Sergey Sipliviy.

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**STAND WITH UKRAINE**

# Chornomorska Sitch marks 100 years with centennial banquet, announces plans for new sports facility

by Matthew Dubas

WHIPPANY, N.J. – Hundreds gathered for the centennial banquet “Cheers to 100 Years” celebrating the founding of the Ukrainian athletic-educational association Chornomorska Sitch on October 19 at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ) in Whippany, N.J., where the organization has its base of operations.

The evening began with a cocktail reception with music by Walter Syzonenko on the accordion, followed by a cultural program and banquet festivities. The event brought together current and former athletes, long-time supporters, community leaders and representatives of sponsoring organizations. The atmosphere was reunion-like, with many attendees reminiscing about the organization’s rich history and friendships forged on the field.

Opening the program of the banquet, Greg Serheev, president of Chornomorska Sitch, offered words of welcome, followed by a prayer led by Fr. Stepan Bilyk of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany, N.J.

Though widely recognized for its competitive soccer teams, the organization fields competitive volleyball teams and in the past has fielded teams for basketball, ice hockey, tennis, swimming and other sports. It also hosts the Sitch Sports School, established 50 years ago, which has become a highly-regarded summer camp that attracts top-level athletes and trainers. The camp gives kids the opportunity to play sports, reconnect with friends and learn more about Ukrainian culture and heritage.

Previously held at the Verkhovyna resort in Glen Spey, N.Y., and the Soyuzivka Heritage Center in Kerhonkson, N.Y., the Sitch Sports School is currently hosted at Vovcha Tropa in East Chatham, N.Y., in early August every year.

Many previous and current Sitch Sport School campers and staff attended the centennial banquet and reminisced about memories shared at camp.

Chornomorska Sitch, as a substantial supporter of the UACCNJ, donated \$250,000 to help establish the community center. The group has organized an annual fundraising golf outing for many years, as well as other fundraising efforts, and runs the gymnasium scheduling for the center on a volunteer basis, earning \$100,000 for the center in the last year alone.

Volleyball director, Alexander Hladky, presented the volleyball “Sitch Century” team, which is made up of Nestor Olesnycky, Orest Fedash, Eugene Stakhiv, Nestor Paslawsky, Paul Hunczak, Mike Zawadiw-



Members of the board of directors of Chornomorska Sitch attend the organization’s centennial banquet at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany, N.J., on October 19.

skyi, Mr. Hladky, Ihor Akinshyn and Mark Kochan.

Mr. Serheev announced the names of the “Sitch Century” soccer team, which included soccer coaches Gene Chyzowich and Mike Palivoda; managers Walter Bakun and Nick Hordynsky; goalie Pete Lisewycz; defenders Steve Kasyanenko, A.J. Panas, Walter Tkacz, Walter Kazdoba; midfielders John Butenko, Walter Chyzowich, Andrew Bakun; and forwards Mike Farmiga, Zenon Snylyk and Petro Boretsky.

With the incredible growth of the adult men’s soccer program and the evolving soccer landscape in New Jersey, Chornomorska Sitch recognized the need for a permanent home field to accommodate its current teams and provide space for the future growth of its youth soccer programs. This new facility will not only support the current soccer teams but it will also serve as a gathering place for the broader Ukrainian and Northern New Jersey soccer communities.

During the banquet, Mr. Serheev shared exciting news about how this vision is becoming a reality. He outlined plans for the development of a state-of-the-art sports facility in Rockaway, N.J., which will elevate the Sitch soccer program and build upon the organization’s recent growth. The ambitious project is the culmination of years of effort, initially sparked by the late Bill Vincent, a long-time board member. Mr. Vincent played a pivotal role in the sale of Sitch’s property in Newark, N.J., and the acquisition of land in Randolph, N.J.

Andrij Brukh discussed the steps taken to purchase and develop the property in Randolph, N.J. He noted that the sale of the old property and acquisition of the new field in Rockaway will solidify the organiza-

tion’s foundation for future generations of Sitch members.

Mr. Serheev also acknowledged the members and supporters of Sitch who have passed away, offering a memorial tribute to the members who had laid the foundation for the next 100 years.

Additional sports division presentations were delivered by Mr. Brukh (recreation sports), Jarema Kochan (golf), Stephanie Burachinsky and Nick Prociuk (Sitch Sports School), Mark Kochan and Mr. Hladky (competitive volleyball), and Danylo Holowaty (competitive soccer). The presenters showcased each sport’s major achievements, and how the group’s sports offerings could best serve the community for the next 100 years.

Daria Twardowsky-Vincent, on behalf of long-time Sitch sponsor Self-Reliance Federal Credit Union, presented the group with a donation of \$10,000 for the development of the new Rockaway property.

After the formal program ended, Mr. Serheev commented on the milestone event.

“It was wonderful to see such a great turnout that night. It was definitely a night to remember. One hundred years is a long time and not many organizations can make that claim. Let us not forget the people, many years ago, who believed in starting a Ukrainian club for their diaspora, in hopes of someday building a cultural sports windfall called Chornomorska Sitch,” Mr. Serheev said.

“Throughout the years, they remained continuously involved in building a sports organization, all while working on a volunteer’s salary. Today, I believe we have the right people dedicated to achieving those goals, because there is nothing stronger



Eric S. Shollenberger/ESS Photography

Greg Serheev, president of the board of directors of Chornomorska Sitch, delivers centennial greetings and announces plans for the organization’s future during a celebratory banquet on October 19.

than the heart of a Ukrainian volunteer. The sky is the limit,” he said.

Steve Kasyanenko, 79, of Maplewood, N.J., and Walter Wilczak, 80, of Whippany, N.J., recounted their glory days with the Sitch soccer club in the 1960s and 1970s.

“Those were the days, my friend. It was about camaraderie. We had friendships on the field and off, having won championships in all divisions for consecutive years, and the team suffered no losses during the Vietnam War. I’ve been a Sitch supporter for more than 50 years, and the generational legacy continues with my son, Peter, who plays with the over-30 team under the discipline of coach Bo Kucyna,” Mr. Kasyanenko said.

Peter Kasyanenko, 38, of Tewksbury, N.J., has played with Sitch for more than 15 years, beginning in 2008.

“Having won championships with the premier team and later with the over-30 team, it is amazing to play a part in the history of the first 100 years of Chornomorska Sitch. I feel part of a continuation of a legacy begun by my father, having made lifelong friendships both on and off the field. Congratulations to Chornomorska Sitch for its 100th anniversary,” Peter Kasyanenko said.

The board of directors of Chornomorska Sitch recognized Mr. Serheev for his years of service as a member of the board of the organization, as well as for competing with its soccer club in the past. He continues to be a driving force in his capacity as president of the organization. The board extended its heartfelt thanks to Mr. Serheev for his instrumental role in Sitch’s expanded focus and growth of its membership, advancing its offerings for members. He has prepared the organization to serve the community for the next 100 years, they noted.

Founded in 1924 in Newark, N.J., the organization has been a leader in the cultivation of youth and adult sports, both competitive and recreational, having been recognized by athletic leadership in Ukraine for its legacy.

The evening was made possible through generous sponsorships provided by the Selfreliance Federal Credit Union (\$5,000), Zenia and Lubodar Olesnycky (\$5,000), Christine and Mr. Hladky (\$2,500) and Nova Credit Union (\$1,000). Music was performed by the band Hrim, while the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey hosted the event. Vendors included MishMash Catering, ESS Photography and Fedway (alcohol vendor).

Additional information about Chornomorska Sitch can be found online at [www.sitchsports.com](http://www.sitchsports.com). Its online journal “Our Sport” (“Nash Sport”) can also be found online at [https://nashsport.org](http://nashsport.org).



Members of multiple Chornomorska Sitch men’s soccer teams gather with a centennial commemorative jersey that includes the team’s sponsor, the Selfreliance Federal Credit Union.

## Thinking out...

(Continued from page 1)

people to work together, political advocacy is a main kind of task for UCCA."

This entails going outside the UCCA network, as she did when she drove two hours to Milwaukee to co-organize a bipartisan voter educational event before the recent presidential election with a local group of Ukrainians.

Her emphasis is on "interconnectivity" and also relying on the more experienced board members on whose shoulders she stands, as well as getting "younger people involved who know how to organize people who aren't part of the UCCA," she said.

She does this while "stepping back" and staying "engaged in different projects directed toward the common goal of defeating Putin."

Experience has shown, she said, that "great things will come out of" connecting the right people for a project by taking five minutes to do so, "then my task is done."

Her Ukrainian roots help. They allow her to stay in touch with her high school friends and medical school classmates "who are working on similar projects," she noted.

"I grew up in that culture; I understand their mentality," the community leader said.

The group's next event is scheduled for November 19 when a march will be held in downtown Chicago to commemorate 1,000 days of Russia's all-out invasion. People will be encouraged to bring placards highlighting what they've gone through that include expressions "of resilience, courage, bravery, pain, destruction and hope," she said.

The following week, the Holodomor – the famine-genocide of Ukrainians in 1932-1933 – will be commemorated at a Ukrainian Orthodox church located in a Chicago suburb.

## Trump's win...

(Continued from page 5)

Ukraine, because if we do not support Ukraine, this is the wrong signal that we send to Putin, but also to some other authoritarian regimes across the world."

But Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, an ally of Mr. Trump who is also close to Putin, voiced something close to the opposite position.

"The situation on the front is obvious, there's been a [Ukrainian] military defeat," Mr. Orban said. "The Americans are going to pull out of this war."

But whether that will happen is not yet clear, despite Mr. Trump's repeated statements that the war must end, and his criticism of the tens of billions of dollars in military and other support the United States has provided Ukraine under President Joe Biden.

Beyond indications that he would use the volume of aid to Ukraine as leverage in getting Kyiv and Moscow to the negotiating table, Mr. Trump has said little about how he would go about trying to stop the fighting, so the approach he chooses remains a crucial variable as his new term approaches.

Mr. Trump's advisers have presented ideas, some of them publicly. But in a November 6 report that cited unnamed allies of Mr. Trump, The Wall Street Journal reported that he "hasn't approved a specific peace plan" or settled on a way to get Putin and Mr. Zelenskyy "to sit at the same table and negotiate."

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"Political advocacy is the main task for UCCA," she said.

Throughout the interview, Dr. Dmytriv-Kapeniak struck a note of optimism, and she focused her main message on Ukrainians showing "resilience" in the face of Russia's unrepentant destruction of her homeland.

To decide with whom to partner on events, she conducts due diligence and talks with people she trusts, "getting references. Past actions always speak loud about the person to see what projects they've done and with whom they've worked," she said.

Toward the end of the interview, she made a point not to emphasize her gender as a milestone for leading the organization.

"I'm not thrilled about that [highlighting her gender] ... It's something you're born with. ... It doesn't give you credit. ... [It's] people who are qualified, have experience and have a certain drive who should be doing the work I'm doing," she said.

And despite her proclaimed positive outlook, Dr. Dmytriv-Kapeniak did acknowledge some challenges that she still faces with six months left before her second tenure ends. She does not know if she would accept a third nomination to serve as president.



Courtesy of UCCA-III.

**Dr. Maria Dmytriv-Kapeniak, president of the Illinois Division of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, speaks during the commemoration of Ukraine's Unity Day on January 21 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Chicago.**

"We should also remember that three years into the war people are both mentally and physically exhausted, ... they are one edge," she said.

Some get "emotional about things that might not matter as much instead of focusing on the common goals; ... we need to constantly step back and look at the big picture," she said.

At the national and global level, working with other Ukrainian umbrella groups like the UCCA and Ukrainian World Congress, "sometimes we don't see eye-to-eye," she said.

And when a project doesn't go as planned, she said, occasionally people "start blaming each other instead of analyzing what went wrong" or how "to fix things."

There's "really a mental health crisis among the diaspora and it must be addressed," she said. "We must bring like-minded people together."

On the large-scale level of trying to work together, maintaining unity is still an ongoing struggle. One challenge, she said, "is to have unity across generations" and for everyone to "start with a clean slate and focus on the greater goal to achieve results," she said regarding animosities in the diaspora that flow across different age groups and demographics.

**THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR AN OPEN SEAT ON ITS  
CORPORATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Pursuant to the provisions found in Article VI, Section 10 of its By-Laws, the Ukrainian National Association is undertaking the process of filling a one-seat vacancy on its Corporate Board of Directors. At their meeting on December 10, 2024, Board members will elect the most qualified candidate to serve on the Board, until the next Convention in 2026.

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, 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 November 30, 2024 to:

Ukrainian National Association, Inc.  
Attn: Mr. Andrij Cade, Chairman  
2200 Route 10  
PO Box 280  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

money extorted from them by the officers in charge of the camp, including Mr. Klimenko, Astra reported. Mr. Klimenko is the eighth Russian general killed in the war in Ukraine whose death has been confirmed by independent researchers or journalists. (RFE/RL's Russian Service)

### Navalnaya on common enemies

Ukrainian activists on November 12 disrupted a speech by Yulia Navalnaya at an IT summit in Lisbon by setting off air-raid sirens and shouting "Stop the war" before Ms. Navalnaya said she opposes the war and told them their enemy was the same as hers. Ms. Navalnaya was delivering her speech on dictators and digital dissent at the Web Summit when several people in the audience set off the air-raid sirens in an attempt to drown out her words. They then began chanting "Stop Russia!" and "Stop the war!" in English. The organizers of the action said its purpose was to remind the participants of the conference about the war in Ukraine and the inadmissibility of inviting citizens of the aggressor country to an international conference. Ms. Navalnaya responded to the disruption by inviting a representative of the Ukrainian activists to come up on stage and ask a question. The

activist who went to the stage asked whether she supports the war against Ukraine. Ms. Navalnaya said she opposes the war and the regime of Russian President Vladimir Putin, telling the activists, "We have one enemy. And Ukrainians do not need to invent an enemy for themselves in the person of the Russian opposition." Ms. Navalnaya, the wife of the late Russian corruption fighter Alexei Navalny, said later on Telegram that she thought it was wrong to be asked if she supports Russia's war against Ukraine. "I am fighting against Putin's regime and against the war. And I think that these are interconnected things," she said on Telegram. "My husband, Alexei Navalny, fought against Putin and against the war, and was killed in prison for it. He used every court hearing against him, including the one on February 24, 2022, as a platform for an anti-war speech." Ms. Navalnaya ally Leonid Volkov, who was also at the conference, said that Ms. Navalnaya managed to finish her speech and confirmed that she invited the protesters to the stage and answered them in detail. "After the applause, she returned to the podium and finished her speech," Mr. Volkov said on Telegram. While in Lisbon, Ms. Navalnaya also took part in the opening of a ceremony to dedicate a plaque in memory of her husband opposite the Russian Embassy. The plaque is engraved with the words "Don't give up" – the oppo-

sition leader's call to his comrades in case of his death. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service and RFE/RL's Russian Service)

### Kyiv behind attack on Russian navy officer

A source in the Security Service of Ukraine has told RFE/RL that Kyiv orchestrated an attack that killed a Russian Navy officer in Crimea. Captain Valery Trankovsky died in a car bombing incident in the city of Sevastopol on Ukraine's Russia-annexed peninsula. The city's Moscow-installed mayor described the incident as a possible sabotage action. Mr. Trankovsky commanded the headquarters of the 41st brigade of the Russian Black Sea Fleet's missile boats, a unit actively involved in major deadly missile strikes in the ongoing war on Ukraine. The incident is part of a larger pattern where Russian military personnel, security officials and Ukrainian collaborators in Russian-occupied territories are targeted in assassination attempts. Ukraine's Security Service and military intelligence are often implicated by media in such operations, but the agencies rarely officially confirm their involvement. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

### Ease on restrictions for defense contractors

The Pentagon is easing restrictions to allow a small number of private U.S. defense contractors to work inside Ukraine, according to reports in U.S. media on November 8. The contractors will help repair and maintain equipment far away from the front lines and will not be taking part in combat, U.S. officials quoted in the reports said. Ukraine has received a number of sophisticated weapons systems as part of the U.S. military assistance provided to the country over the past two years. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Pentagon was allowing the contractors to go because some equipment – including F-16 fighter jets and air-defense systems – requires high-tech expertise to repair. Using the contractors, they said, will ensure the weapons are fixed quickly so Ukrainian forces can continue to use them in combat. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

Rih, where a 32-year-old woman and her three children – a 10-year-old, a 2-year-old and a 2-month-old baby – were killed in a missile strike that destroyed their five-story apartment building. The four victims were pulled out of the rubble by rescue workers after an hourslong search, the city's governor, Oleksandr Vilkul, reported early on November 12. Another 14 people, including children, were wounded in the strike. In the southern city of Mykolaiv, where at least five people were killed by a Russian strike on an apartment building on November 11, Mayor Oleksandr Syenkevych announced a day of mourning on November 12. "Today in Mykolaiv, the day of mourning for our citizens who died as a result of the attack of the Russian invaders on November 11, was declared," Mr. Syenkevych said on Telegram. In a separate Russian strike on November 12, four people were wounded in the village of Bilenke in Donetsk, Ukraine's Emergency Services reported. Ukraine's air force, meanwhile, reported that Russia attacked 10 Ukrainian regions – Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Poltava, Sumy, Kharkiv, Cherkasy, Zaporizhia, Chernihiv, Dniproptrovsk and Mykolaiv – with missiles, glide bombs and 110 drones. Air defenses shot down 46 Russian drones, while 60 drones were lost after their navigation systems were jammed by Ukrainian electronic-warfare systems, the air force reported. Russian officials said that a Ukrainian drone strike early on November 12 set a fuel depot on fire in Stary Oskol, a city in Russia's Belgorod region some 62 miles from the Ukrainian border. Regional Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said on Telegram that there were no immediate reports of casualties. Separately, Russia's Defense Ministry said that its air defenses shot down 13 Ukrainian drones, nine of them in Belgorod, two in Bryansk and two in the Kursk region. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service and RFE/RL's Russian Service)

### EU likely to fulfill its pledge for Kyiv

European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell has said the bloc is on its way to belatedly fulfill a pledge to supply Ukraine with 1 million artillery shells. Mr. Borrell, who was in Kyiv, told the European Pravda news outlet on November 11 that so far the E.U. had delivered 980,000 shells to Kyiv. "I know that we made a commitment to reach this level by spring – and we failed. But we will be able to [fulfill it] by the end of the year," Mr. Borrell said. "We almost did it. We have already delivered more than 980,000 shells." A separate

(Continued on page 15)

## Souspilnist...

(Continued from page 5)

There was a recognition "that there needs to be an informational media or system for distribution of information in Ukraine that will stand up for and defend the public interest," Mr. Petriv said, adding that public broadcasting today is "a barometer of all freedoms in Ukraine."

Mr. Petriv, a native of Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, early in his career worked at the Molod Ukrayiny and Holos Ukrayiny newspapers, which were popular in the 1990s. He headed the information service in the administration of President Viktor Yushchenko, during whose term media freedoms greatly expanded in Ukraine.

Besides leading the Souspilnist Foundation, Mr. Petriv is also an associate professor at the Institute of Journalism at Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv.

When asked how the war has impacted his students, he said, "this is a generation that has been forged by the war. ... They

understand that they will need to write about the war for many years, even after it is over."

He is impressed by their seriousness, unbreakable resilience and dedication to democracy.

He said that when he asks his students what keeps them in Kyiv during the war, a typical reply is: "First of all, there is work to be done and we need to do it. Secondly, with our presence, we demonstrate to the world what the Ukrainian nation is and where our strength comes from. We are not changing course. And we want to show that we are here with our country and with our people."

Mr. Petriv observed that his students feel a responsibility for Ukraine's fate, akin to that of previous generations of freedom fighters, and they fulfill that calling through journalism.

Seeing his students demonstrate such a steadfast commitment to journalistic values and their country validates his decades-long work of supporting journalists and journalism in independent Ukraine.

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

Czech-led E.U. initiative launched in February aimed to buy up to 500,000 artillery shells for Ukraine from countries outside Europe until the end of the year. By October, just over one-third of the shells had been delivered to Ukraine. Russian forces outfire Ukrainian ones at a rate of 5-to-1 on the battlefield. (RFE/RL)

### **Moscow conscripts banned from leaving Russia**

Moscow residents who have failed to show up at military registration and enlistment offices after they received summonses are getting SMS notifications telling them they are banned from leaving Russia among other restrictions, the independent

investigative website Important Stories reports. The messages say that "temporary measures" have been imposed on conscripts in accordance with amendments to Russia's law on military duty. Other restrictions refer to a ban on driving and registering vehicles, registering and selling real estate, receiving loans and registering as a self-employed individual or entrepreneur. Since its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Russia has reportedly suffered massive losses on the battlefield, although Moscow does not reveal the number of its war casualties. According to Britain's Chief of the Defense Staff Tony Radakin, an average of some 1,500 Russian soldiers were killed or injured daily in October alone, making it Russia's worst month for casualties since the beginning of the war. (RFE/RL's Russian Service)



With deep sorrow we announce that

### **Ludmyla Pochtar**

passed away on Sunday, October 13, 2024, in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. She was 93.



Born in Poltava, Ukraine, on January 15, 1931, she was only a newborn, when her maternal grandfather, because he owned land, was proclaimed a "kukul" (enemy of the people) and sent to Siberia. As a result, her mother was harassed and expelled from college and they sent Ludmyla to live with her paternal grandparents for a few months to ensure her safety until the family could relocate. Soon after being reunited with the family, as a toddler, she had to survive the Holodomor (Stalin's man-made Ukrainian Famine 1932-1933).

After several moves the family settled in Medvin. In the winter of 1943, soldiers raided the house leaving everyone with nothing but the undergarments they had on. Then on Christmas Eve, January 6, 1944, the soldiers returned in the middle of the night, breaking down the doors with the intention to kill the family, but they managed to escape and left Medvin. The travel westward was arduous and dangerous. Several times during the journey they were separated and uncertain if they would ever see each other again. In September 1944 the family landed in the Neumarkt transit camp and assigned to a work camp. The first task given to Ludmyla was to walk to the forest, cut down pine trees, clean the branches and make piles of logs. However, since she was not physically strong they decided to have her search bombed out buildings for metal scraps and clean them with lime so they could be melted and reused.

After the war, the family went to the Displaced Persons camp in Regensburg. Ludmyla applied and was accepted into the Ukrainian Gymnasium (High School) from which she graduated in the summer of 1949. Ludmyla's stay in Regensburg left an indelible impression on her life and the friendships forged there have lasted a lifetime. She spoke with her best friend, Luba Kolomayets daily, until she had to move into a facility in 2020. They never lost touch as Luba sent letters weekly which always made her smile. Ludmyla enjoyed organizing as well as attending the Regensburg reunions and was on the editorial board for the several memoirs published about their time in Regensburg, 1945-1949.

The family immigrated to the United States, arriving in New York in May 1950, and settling in Newark, New Jersey, to build a new life. Ludmyla married Mykhailo (Michael) in June 1954. Sadly, their firstborn son died within a few weeks. Once she gave birth to another son, they purchased a house in Livingston, New Jersey and two years later she gave birth to a daughter. When her husband Michael passed away in 1973 at the age of 47, her dreams were shattered and she was left with two young children to raise alone. She became a parishioner at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Holy Ascension, where her love of writing and extensive vocabulary soon had her volunteering to translate the church bulletin and sermons, which she did for years.

Ludmyla is predeceased by her husband Michael in 1973, her brother Walter in 2011 and her son Andrey in 2022. She is survived by her daughter, Anna Maria (Hanusia) and husband Nick as well as several nieces and nephews.

A visitation was held at Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Ave Fanwood, NJ 07023, on Friday, October 18, 2024, from 4pm to 6pm, with a prayer service at 5pm.

A funeral service was held at 9am on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Holy Ascension, 652 Irvington Ave, Maplewood, NJ 07040, followed by interment at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery, 280 Main Street, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in memory of Ludmyla Pochtar to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Holy Ascension in Maplewood, NJ.

**Вічна й пам'ять!**

**28-ий Курінь УПС і 26-ий Курінь УСП  
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діляться з пластовими друзями і громадою  
сумною вісткою, що в понеділок, 4 листопада 2024 року,  
відійшла на Вічну Ватру  
довголітня членка нашого куреня

**СВ. П.**

**пл. сен. дов. МАРТА СТАСЮК**  
(з дому Щуровська)

Складаємо родині наші глибокі співчуття.  
**Вічна й пам'ять!**  
«Тихо спи, без тривог...»

Замість квітів складаємо даток на  
Пластову Осілю „Новий Сокіл“

*In Memory of*

**IHOR JOHN HOSHOWSKY**

On November 8, 2024 Captain Ihor John Hoshowsky, U.S. Army Ret. passed away at Strong Memorial Hospital at the age of 81. He is survived by his sister Christine Hoshowsky, Ph.D., his brother Serhij, sister-in-law Karen, his niece Kateryna Jacoby with her husband Miles Jacoby and their son Danylo, along with many cousins living in the U.S., Canada and Ukraine.

Captain Ihor John Hoshowsky was born in Kolomyia, Ukraine during World War II. As pressure on Ukrainian civilians mounted, Ihor, together with his mother Irene and father Omelan left Ukraine in search of peace and freedom in the U.S.A. Under the auspices of the U.S. Displaced Persons Act of 1948, the Hoshowsky family, with the sponsorship of the Topolnitsky Miller family, was admitted to the U.S. They settled in Utica, NY then relocated to Rochester, NY. The children, Ihor, sister Christine and brother Serhij were enrolled in public schools. Subsequently each graduated from Benjamin Franklin High School in Rochester before pursuing higher education.

Once Ihor graduated high school he enrolled at Bethany College, WV. There, in 1965 he received a B.S. degree in mathematics. U.S. Army Officers Candidate School followed. Upon completion he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and served a tour of duty in Germany. It was an unsettled time as the war in Vietnam raged in the 1960's to the 1970's. Ihor served two tours of duty in Vietnam. While there, he was promoted to the rank of Captain. He earned numerous decorations and medals including the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and Parachutist Badge.

Following his military service, he worked as a mathematics teacher at Rochester area schools: St. Rita's School in Webster, St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic School in Irondequoit and East High School in Rochester until his retirement. An active member of his community he volunteered his time and talents to the Ukrainian American Veterans, hosting international visitors through the Open World Delegation program. He participated in celebrations for the Ukrainian Centennial Monument at Irondequoit Town Hall as well as in Ukrainian Independence celebrations. He also represented the John Onufryk Post 1590 of the American Legion. Ihor John Hoshowsky was inducted into the 2022 N.Y.S. Veterans Hall of Fame by NY Senator Samra G. Brouk.

Viewing took place at Harris Funeral Home on Kings Highway in Irondequoit on Friday November 15, 2024 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM with a Panakhyda service starting at 6:30 PM. The Funeral Service will be held at St Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church at 940 East Ridge Road, Irondequoit on Saturday morning at 10:00 AM, November 16, 2024. Burial at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery and reception at Ukrainian Cultural Center to follow. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church at [stjosaphats.org](http://stjosaphats.org) or RocMaidan.org.

## Ukraine aspires...

(Continued from page 2)

attract and coordinate foreign investment in Ukraine's defense industry, is expected to help generate around half a billion dollars toward the country's military-industrial complex (Kyiv Independent, October 9). Brave1 has since registered around 3,000 companies interested in or undertaking joint ventures with Ukraine. Foreign direct investment into Ukrainian defense startups has also seen an increase in 2024 from \$5-25 million and has the potential to reach \$50 million in investments by the end of the year (Ukrainska Pravda, October 31).

The United States has taken the initiative to help develop Ukraine's defense industry. In December 2023, the Biden administration held the Ukrainian Defense Industrial Base conference, which 350 U.S. and Ukrainian defense companies attended (Kmu.gov.ua, December 7, 2023). Six months later, the United States established a Ukrainian Defense Enterprise Program that has invested \$2 billion into Ukrainian defense companies (Defensenews.com, May 16). In June, the United States and Ukraine signed a bilateral security agreement, which included "defense industrial cooperation, including the co-development, coproduction and supply of Ukraine's defense industrial base requirement" (President.gov.ua, June 13).

The European Union has undertaken similar ventures through its Office for Defense Innovation in Kyiv. The office is tasked with integrating Ukraine into European defense programs and providing channels for bilateral consulting between European defense companies and the Ukrainian military (Kyiv Independent, February 24). Funding domestic production in Ukraine has even become a preferred alternative for some European Union member states struggling to offset their own arsenal toward Ukraine.

Deputy Ukrainian Defense Minister Dmytro Klimenkov has noted that cooperation is of obvious benefit to Ukraine, as it "will allow us to receive modern arms directly from producers," leading to "faster and more efficient modernization of Ukraine's armed forces" (Kyiv Independent, June 10). In turn, for Europe, these partner-

ships will bolster E.U. defense companies and increase their autonomy from the United States.

### U.S. and E.U. defense cooperation with Ukraine

The benefits of cooperation with Ukraine cannot be underestimated. Ukraine is currently at the forefront of developing and implementing robot warfare systems, having engaged more than 200 different ground-based military robotic systems (Mil.in.ua, January 17). Ukraine is also leading innovation into low-cost, high-energy laser anti-drone weapons technology, which is of interest to U.S. aerospace and defense conglomerate RTX, E.U. missile manufacturer MBDA, and U.K. security and defense company QinetiQ. After the successful second International Forum of Defense Industry, Mr. Pienaar said, "Ukraine has been a base of great technical professionals and tech know-how for a very long time" (MFA.gov.ua, October 2; Kyiv Independent, October 9).

Of special interest to Europeans is Ukrainian long-range missile production. Romania is currently cooperating with Ukraine on the development of the P-360 Neptune anti-ship missile with a range of 400 miles (Ukrinform, August 3). In April 2022, a Neptune missile sunk the Moskva, the Russian Black Sea Fleet's flagship. Lithuania has invested in the new Palyantsya missile (Levyy Bereh, October 23). Additionally, U.S. military company Anduril successfully tested new drones in Ukraine capable of flying for 40 minutes with a range of 12 miles (Kyiv Independent, October 10).

Drone production is an essential aspect of Ukrainian cooperation. U.S. company AeroVironment signed an agreement to produce the Switchblade 600 drone in Ukraine (Mil.in.ua, October 2). German Vector drones are assembled in Ukraine, where the company has a research and development center focused on AI-based navigation systems (Kyiv Post, September 19). German company Quantum-Systems has opened two factories that can build 1,000 drones each year, French company Turgis and Gaillard is producing the Aarok drone, and Slovakia is cooperating with Ukraine on producing the long-range ACS-3 (Raybird-3) drone (Quantum Systems,

April 28; Euromaidan Press, July 30; Ukrainska Pravda, October 4). The Netherlands is investing \$440 million into advanced drone production (The Kyiv Independent, October 7). Funding comes from the European Peace Facility, which reimburses costs to E.U. members who purchase arms for Ukraine, profits from frozen Russian assets, and government budgets (European Commission, July 26).

Joint projects between Ukrainian and European companies are another integral part of this cooperation. U.K.-Ukrainian cooperation is being conducted by Cook Defense Systems, BAE Systems, and Boeing (Mil.in.ua, February 26; BAE Systems, April 10; Euromaidan Press, July 23). Denmark is investing \$628 million into a Danish-Ukrainian investment fund to support companies producing military equipment in Ukraine (RBC-Ukraine, September 29).

Turkey's military cooperation with Ukraine predates the 2022 invasion, with Ukrainian jets used by Turkish Bayraktar drones and KAAN fighter jets. The Kizilelma, a new Turkish drone, uses a Ukrainian engine. With a \$100 million investment, the Turkish company Baykar Makina is completing construction of a

plant, service center and head office employing 300 in Ukraine to build Bayraktar drones. Ukraine built the Hetman Ivan Mazepa and Hetman Ivan Vyhovskyy corvettes in Turkey (Rubryka, July 11).

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is taking important steps to realize his plans for Ukraine to become "a very strong player in the global arms and defense technical market" (President.gov.ua, October 1). As Ukraine develops its military-industrial complex, it is both enabling itself to become more independent and self-sufficient while building closer ties with Western countries through defense industry cooperation and innovation.

Ironically, if Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his invasion with the hope of returning to a "golden Soviet era," it has worked but not in the way he intended. Russia's military aggression is leading to Ukraine returning to its Soviet roots of being a major defense production hub.

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## Perplexed...

(Continued from page 2)

Ukraine is mixed with uncertainty about President-elect Trump's intentions regarding curtailing U.S. contributions (NV.ua; Novaya Gazeta Europe, November 8).

Ideas on ending Russia's war in Ukraine are gaining traction in Europe, but they clash with concerns about the costs of a "bad peace" that might require greater military investments in containing assertive Russia than the minimum required by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, November 7). Putin announced interest in discussing Mr. Trump's plans for ending the war in Ukraine but rejected any possibility of meaningful compromises, going against the desires of Russian elites who wish for an end to their war (The Moscow Times, November 7). Besides this domestic discontent, Putin should be worried about the irascible U.S. leader's response to demands that any possible deal must recognize and affirm Russia's victory (Carnegie Politika, November 6; Riddle, November 7).

Strategic hopes in Moscow are pinned on Mr. Trump's well-known contempt for NATO and the European Union. Alongside this is his conviction that China is the main geopolitical competitor, which needs to be deterred by the maximum concentration of U.S. resources and political will (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, November 7). Russian experts expect that Mr. Trump's antagonism would increase Moscow's value for Beijing as the key strategic partner and stimulate Beijing's readiness to provide supplies to the Russian war machine (RIAC, November 6). The Kremlin, however, is unsure how to respond to China's persistent "advice" about how to end the war, which could potentially lead to a demand for reaching a ceasefire and proceeding with peace talks.

Presently, China is displeased by the deployment of North Korean troops to the Kursk war zone, resulting in Putin's recent meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping during the BRICS summit (a loose political-economic grouping originally consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) in Kazan being rather formal (Svoboda.org, October 22; see Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 28). To Mr. Zelenskyy's disappointment, the response from the United States and NATO to this provocative

escalation has been limited to warnings and protestations. China might note Mr. Trump's apparent disinterest in attempting to cut North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un down to size (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, November 6; UNIAN, November 7).

The region where a surge of U.S. engagement is widely expected is the Middle East, and Russian positions are set to suffer from Mr. Trump's administration initiatives (Meduza, November 9). Moscow has curtailed its ties with Israel, which will receive firm support from the United States for completing the operation in Gaza on its terms and for projecting power into Lebanon and Syria (RIAC, October 28; The Insider, November 7). Iran is sure to come under pressure, and it is noteworthy that the treaty on strategic partnership between Russia and Iran, which Putin approved by his decree back in mid-September, is still not signed (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, September 18, November 4; TASS, October 11). Russia usually expects a bonus from a spike of tensions in the Middle East in the form of higher oil prices, but the shifts in U.S. energy policy promised by Mr. Trump will drive these prices down (Rossiiskaya Gazeta, November 10).

The hopes in Moscow produced by the ultimate defeat of the Harris campaign are likely doomed to disappear after its first encounters with the new policy decisions of new U.S. leadership, quite probably without delay. Russian ambitions for leading the presumed struggle of the "Global Majority," a concept that lumps together states with starkly dissimilar interests and aspirations to justify Moscow's aggressive actions, are sure to experience a sequence of hard landings starting next week at the Group of 20 (G-20) summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, January 8, October 21). What matters most for Putin is undoubtedly the change of U.S. guidelines for his protracted and ever-evolving war in Ukraine. His victory plan based on the premise of crumbling Western unity in the long war of attrition is set to be tested by Mr. Trump's aversion to financially aiding this war and desire to bring it to an end.

Putin's inability to make meaningful compromises could expose him to risks he is not prepared to face.

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**Saturday, December 14, 2024**

**The Shevchenko Scientific Society**  
invites its members to participate  
in the Society's General Meeting with Reports,  
which is scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

**Preceding the General Meeting,  
the Scholarly Sections will hold their meetings  
from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**A reception will follow the General Meeting.**

**The program will take place at the Society's building,  
63 Fourth Ave. (between 9th and 10th streets),  
New York, NY 10003.**

**For additional information please call (212) 254-5130.**

## Ukrainian pro sports update

by Ihor N. Stelmach

# Ukrainian athletes shine at IFBB World Series Cup

Ukrainian competitors achieved 23 first-place finishes at the International Federation of Bodybuilding and Fitness Sport Game World Series Cup in Santa Susanna, Spain, held on October 31 through November 4, with Ukrainian women accounting for 21 of the 23 top results. The most outstanding performer was Daria Korol, who won the junior women's bikini event for ages 21-23, the overall competition in this category and placed first in the women's bikini over-172-centimeter event. Right behind her was Ganna Prokopovych, champion in the master women's bikini 35-44 years over-164-centimeter event and overall winner.

Other top performers were Diana Nesteruk, who won women's fit model (under-172 centimeter) and first overall along with Stanislav Vizenher, champion in men's classic physique (under-171 centimeter) and first overall.

### **Ukrainian grapplers win 58 medals**

Ukrainian athletes won 58 medals in Astana, Kazakhstan, at the Senior, U-20, U-17, U-15 and Veteran World Grappling Championships on October 7-12, including seven gold, 13 silver and 38 bronze medals. Kateryna Serbova (40 kilograms) and Yevhenii Muradov (110 kilograms) each won two gold medals in grappling Gi (in uniform) and regular grappling. Other Ukrainian gold medalists were U-15's Vladyslava Smilianska (48 kilograms) and Andrii Perzhan (59 kilograms) along with U-20's Andrii Tsvykh (62 kilograms).

In final grappling Gi team rankings, Ukraine's U-20 men's team and U-17 women's team finished second. In grappling rankings, both the men's and women's U-15, U-17, U-20 teams all ranked second out of all countries competing at the championships.

(Note: The information in the October 27 issue of SportShorts did not include all classifications of the men's and women's competitions.)

### **Shakhtar defeats Poor Boys 2-1 in Champions League**

Two underperforming clubs, both domestically and on the continent, met in an early kick off on November 6 as Shakhtar Donetsk faced Young Boys in Gelsenkirchen, Germany. Shakhtar finally scored a goal (twice) and managed a 2-1 victory over the Swiss League's Berner Sport Young Boys. Oleksandr Zubkov (31st minute) and Heorhiy Sudakov (41st) tallied the two goals for the Ukrainian club, which overcame Kastriot Imeri's score in the 27th minute. Sudakov set up Zubkov's goal with a quick pass across the face of the goal before scoring with an excellent strike into the bottom corner from the edge of the area.

Shakhtar was fortunate to claim a point from Bologna on match day one. Since then, the team lost to Atalanta and Arsenal, conceding four goals without an answer. The fixture against Poor Boys was a must-win scenario as the team faces challenging future matches versus PSV



**Ukraine's grappling team won 58 medals at the Senior, U-20, U-17, U-15 and Veteran World Grappling Championships on October 7-12 in Astana, Kazakhstan.**

Eindhoven, Borussia Dortmund and Bayern Munich. Predictions suggest 9-10 points will be enough to finish in the top 24. Shakhtar now has four points halfway through the league phase.

### **Ferencvaros defeats Dynamo Kyiv 4-0**

Dynamo Kyiv enjoyed a solid run in domestic play heading into a continental clash, sitting in first place with nine wins, two draws and 29 points, tied with Oleksandriya. They had lost three straight games in Europa League play, conceding six goals and failing to find the back of the net. A poor 0-4 performance in its November 7 fourth Europa League match against Ferencvaros at Volksparkstadion in Hamburg, Germany, cemented Dynamo into 36th and last place in the standings with zero points and a -10 goal differential.

The Hungarian football squad scored all four of their goals in the second half after a scoreless opening 45 minutes. They dominated possession (63 percent to 37 percent) and overwhelmed the Ukrainians in shots on goal (13-0). Ferencvaros goalkeeper Denes Dibusz was not called upon to make a single save.

### **Charity races support Ukraine's Armed Forces**

On October 27 the fifth and final race within the RUN 4 VICTORY series took place on Trukhaniv Island in Kyiv. The event brought together close to 1,000 participants from all over Ukraine. Servicemen, civilians, children and a robot dog joined in the charity marathon race. The event was organized by the MHP-Hromada charity foundation and the "Character" sports community with funds raised going to the 13th Brigade of the National Guard of Ukraine.

RUN 4 VICTORY races were held in Ternopil, Vinnytsia, Cherkasy, Ladyzhyn and Kyiv. The five races raised approximately \$67,542 that will be used for the needs of the Ukrainian military at the frontlines of the war with Russia.

The MHP-Hromada foundation was established in 2015 with a primary mission of comprehensively developing communities in Ukraine. Since the beginning of Russia's war on Ukraine the foundation has been supporting Ukrainians in the war zone, Ukrainian defenders and rescuers, hospitals, maternity homes, charitable institutions that care for orphans and the elderly, and people who have lost their homes due to the war.

### **Boxer Uzelkov passes away at 45**

Ukrainian boxer Vyacheslav Uzelkov died at the age of 45 while recovering from heart surgery as reported in an Instagram post by the Ukrainian Boxing Federation on November 9. Uzelkov once ruled the light heavyweight division, winning 30 of his 34 fights with 19 KOs, earning the World Boxing Association (WBA) and World Boxing Organization (WBO) Inter-Continental and International Boxing Organization (IBO) International light heavyweight championships.

Nicknamed "Steel Power," Uzelkov had his first fight in 2004, beating Suleyman Dzherilov. He would win his next 21 fights before finally losing to Beibut Shumenov in July

2010. His final bout was a loss to Geard Ajetovic in 2004. He started a new career as a television personality, working on a dancing show and as a judge in a talent show.

He ran for mayor in Vinnytsia before undergoing heart surgery earlier in the year. He was recovering from the operation when he passed away.

### **Romanchuk wins NYC wheelchair marathon and Boston half marathon**

Ukrainian Daniel Romanchuk won his third New York City men's wheelchair marathon, sprinting away from David Weir and Tomoki Suzuki for a 5-second victory, finishing the race in 1:36:31 seconds. The first half of the race was dominated by the above three racers who battled for position from the start with defending champion Marcel Hug of Switzerland. In the second half of the race, Hug was in the lead pack before falling off the pace. Romanchuk said a pothole on First Avenue caused some issues for the competitors.

Romanchuk, Weir and Suzuki came into the last mile within a second of each other before the Ukrainian, who won the race in 2018 and 2019, pulled away to win.

"I know most of the racers pretty well, really just try and completely empty the tank for the final mile," Romanchuk said after the race. "It's amazing."

The 26-year-old reflected on his day with a post on his Facebook account.

"It was incredible to break the finish tape this morning at the TCS New York City Marathon, and even more so having family at the end," he said. "So honored to bring the title back to the U.S., and thankful to God for the opportunity to race!"

He went on to add that Hug lost his grip due to an abrasion he got while righting himself after some incidental contact. Romanchuk congratulated his fellow racers for making it an exciting race and thanked the New York Road Runners for putting on an incredible event.

Seven days after winning the TCS New York City Marathon on November 3, Romanchuk cruised to victory in the Boston Half Marathon on November 10, breaking his previous event record by more than three minutes. His record-setting performance capped a phenomenal year that included two Paralympic medals in Paris.

"Until you cross the finish line, you never know what's going to happen," the two-time Boston Marathon champion said in a post-race chat with the Boston Athletic Association. "It's an amazing way to end the season in Boston and I am really just looking forward to being back in the spring."

### **Ukraine wins 34 medals at weightlifting championships**

Ukraine's team of 39 weightlifters won 34 medals at the 2024 European Weightlifting Junior and U-23 Championships in Raszyn, Poland, held on October 26 through November 3, placing them fourth overall out of some 30



**Daniel Romanchuk holds his gold medal after finishing first in the Boston wheelchair half marathon on November 10.**

**(Continued on page 18)**

# Jockey Craig Williams raises millions of dollars in aid to Ukraine

by Ihor N. Stelmach

He's not Ukrainian, but Victoria, Australia, native and champion jockey Craig Williams has found a new purpose in life. He is on a mission to raise millions of dollars in humanitarian aid for war-torn Ukraine.

On one of his recent trips to Ukraine along with his Ukraine-born wife, Larysa, and a group of aides, one of Australia's highest-earning athletes sat huddled in a small Ukrainian war bunker. Outside, the air raid siren was blaring, the concrete walls were ice cold, and what truly matters in life became vividly clear. An eight-year-old Ukrainian girl was with him in the bunker, whispering to him about what to do when the siren sounds.

Williams could not believe what he was experiencing. His own children get disappointed if the internet does not work or if rain is in the forecast, yet here was a young girl explaining war-time safety procedures and hoping she would not die.

Inside that bunker, Williams came to a life-changing realization.

For more than two years, Williams' covert excursions to Ukraine with his wife and crew have helped bring needed medical equipment, supplies and other assistance to Ukrainian troops and civilians on the frontlines. On one of his visits, Williams found himself scrambling into a bunker some 14 times over the course of two weeks.

Shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine and war broke out, Williams and his wife joined a gathering in Melbourne's Federation Square, a well-known Australian venue for arts, culture and public events near the outside of the city's central business district, to show support for Ukraine.

For some reason, it was not enough for Williams. He decided to obtain trauma kits to help the injured and suffering. He started at Chemist Warehouse (an Australian chain of retail pharmacies) until he learned



Australian jockey Craig Williams, seen with his wife, Larysa, who is of Ukrainian descent, has coordinated fundraising efforts for Ukraine through Rotary Australia's Ukrainian Crisis Appeal.

about the items needed in a wartime trauma kit: Israeli bandages, quick clotting powder, tourniquets, staples, staple guns and more.

This was no basic first-aid kit. Time is a factor on the battlefield as many of Ukraine's wounded need urgent care.

Williams reached out to his accountant about fundraising for Ukraine and was advised to raise money through his own website. He was told to shoot for a target amount of \$50,000. But instead, he went on television with a public plea and a goal of \$100,000.

By the end of July, he had raised around \$2.5 million. The thoroughbred racing industry has been an immense supporter, as have local retirees who donate \$10-25 twice monthly.

Williams' initial visit to Ukraine in 2022 had him crossing the border with Poland in

the darkness of night while dropping off supplies to civilian fighters. He remembered going 400 meters to the Ukrainian side and immediately sensing the difference in the atmosphere. He witnessed young men and women, older men and women, all holding automatic rifles. He sensed "a heaviness in the air."

Yet, somehow, he was not scared.

On each one of his trips, Williams has seen the horrors and impacts of war: blood-stained, burnt-out school buses, civilian vehicles riddled with bullet holes, ruins of apartment buildings, guns aimed directly at him as his convoy arrived at checkpoints in villages and towns, the absolute terror of air raid sirens, children left with nothing but the contents of a plastic bag.

Then there were inescapable realities.

There was a grave site behind the local church in Bucha, where Russia's armed

forces murdered Ukrainian civilians and prisoners of war during the fight for and occupation of the city at the outset of the war. Some 400 Ukrainian bodies were buried in a makeshift cemetery there with nearly half of them unidentifiable.

Williams said he realized that everyone in Ukraine is a target and the Russian reach extends into every part of the country.

Williams' charity partnered with Rotary Australia and focused its work on helping one specific group of Ukrainian soldiers ([www.ukrainiancrisisappeal.org](http://www.ukrainiancrisisappeal.org)). On one visit, Williams met the group's leader, only to learn later that he had been killed in battle. Williams made arrangements for his wife, Larysa, to chaperone the man's mother from Australia to Ukraine to bury her son.

Over time Williams and his crew bought four vehicles in Poland that have been repurposed into ambulances. In late summer, the next part of his fundraising mission focused on assisting people in Ukraine to get through the depths of the upcoming winter. He was hoping to purchase generators so Ukrainians could heat their homes and be able to cook on stoves.

His new motto in horse racing has become, "You've got to be tough. You've got to be brave. You've got to be determined like Ukrainians."

In an October 14, 2023, interview with the Sydney Morning Herald, Williams described how his life changed a year and a half ago.

"I lived in a bubble, and, unfortunately, it got burst 18 months ago. I realized my bubble is not reality for most people. If we can save one person's life, it's a great thing. The fact we can save many peoples' lives, it makes it more special and more fulfilling."

(Based on reporting by The Sydney Morning Herald.)

Ihor Stelmach may be reached at [ihorgenia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ihorgenia@sbcglobal.net).

## Ukrainian pro...

(Continued from page 17)

countries. Ukrainian juniors won 15 medals and U-23 athletes captured 19 medals, with the men outperforming the women 18-16.

Medals were awarded in each weight category for snatch, clean & jerk and total. Two Ukrainian weightlifters were triple medalists (finishing first in snatch, clean & jerk and total): U-23's Olha Ivzhenko (55 kilograms) and Svitlana Moskvina (64 kilograms). Ukraine won 11 gold, 15 silver and eight bronze medals.

Ukraine's junior women's team finished first out of 28 teams with 618 points. Both the men's and women's U-23 teams finished third and the U-23 women's team was first in gold medals with seven.

### SportShorts

The ISKA World Kickboxing Championships took place in Vienna, Austria, from October 23-27. The competition included 1,070 athletes vying for medals as adults, juniors and children. Ukraine's national team captured first place out of 34 countries by winning 238 medals (76 gold, 81 silver and 81 bronze medals).

Ukraine national and Arsenal star Oleksandr Zinchenko had his autobiography "Believe" released on October 31. The book describes the football player's journey from the Shakhtar Donetsk academy to playing in the English Premier League for Manchester City and Arsenal.

Zinchenko's time with Arsenal may be

running out as the Ukrainian national has been getting minimal minutes off the bench in recent games. The 27-year-old has fallen out of favor with coach Mikel Arteta and should push for a transfer move in January.

Fencer Alina Poloziuk won a silver medal in the women's foil competition at the Tournoi Satellite in Sabadell, Barcelona, on October 26-27.

Ukraine took sixth place with 69 total medals (24 gold) at the International School Sport Federation's 2024 Gymnasiade held in Manama, Bahrain, on October 23-31. Competitions were held in nine different sports. The Gymnasiade is an international multi-sport event for athletes between the ages of 13-18.

Ukraine's women's national football team made it to the second round of qualifying for the 2025 Euro Cup by defeating Turkey 3-1 on aggregate. They next play Belgium on November 29 and December 3.

Give Me Sport recently published a ranking of the 10 most decaying stadiums in World Football. It ranked Ukraine's Donbas Arena No. 2. Shakhtar Donetsk's home field has been abandoned since 2014 thanks to Russia's ongoing war on Ukraine. Avanard Stadium in the Chornobyl district, home of FC Stroitel Pripyat, was built in 1986, the year of the reactor disaster and never hosted a match. It was ranked No. 6, putting two of Ukraine's stadiums in the top 10.

The 11th Ulla-Klinger Cup 2024 took place in Aachen, Germany, from October 31 through November 3, with 117 junior athletes from 11 countries competing in diving

events. Ukraine's nine young divers won 27 medals (14 gold, 10 silver and three bronze) in groups C and D for competitors aged 10-13.

Soldiers from the Artan and Shaman special units of the Main Intelligence Directorate of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, who were wounded in combat in the Russia-Ukraine war, participated in the United States Marine Corps Marathon. The event in Washington, D.C., and Arlington, Va., was first organized by the U.S. Marine Corps in 1976 and brings together thousands of participants from around the world. The Ukrainian intelligence officers dedicated their participation in the marathon to their fallen comrades and reminded everyone that the war for freedom contin-

ues in Ukraine.

Ukraine won gold in the 20x500-meter senior mixed canoe race at the 2024 ICF Dragon Boat World Championships held in the Philippines from October 31 through November 3.

Ukraine finished first overall out of 26 countries at the European Championship Eko Cadets, Youth and Open Adults Karate Shinkyokushin on October 26-27 in Wroclaw, Poland.

(Based on reporting by BBC Sport, ESPN, Sports Mole and MHP-Hromada, UNN, Daily Star, Inform NY.com, Boston Athletic Association and The Odesa Journal.)

Ihor Stelmach may be reached at [ihorgenia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ihorgenia@sbcglobal.net).

## Kyiv theater...

(Continued from page 11)

ence members.

The theater says its mission is to provide an immediate relationship with audiences and the characters – to combine minimalism with the most up-to-date technologies. The Podil actors were outstanding, and the translation into Ukrainian, if in spots a bit prosaic, worked very well.

In conversations with this reporter, the Public's Artistic Director Oscar Eustis, who has held that role since 2005, and author Mr. Nelson detailed their work in Kyiv. None of the actors could communicate in English, but this did not prove to be an obstacle. Both Messrs. Eustis and Nelson

expressed high praise for the professional quality of the Ukrainian ensemble.

Mr. Eustis also confided that Mr. Nelson will return to Kyiv to direct a second play. In fact, the playwright has just published "A Diary of War and Theater," an account of his nine weeks in Kyiv.

He describes that work as "a profoundly moving, exceptional, essential story, full of humor, self-questioning, confusions, doubts, fears, heartbreak and joy, set in the middle of a beautiful, magical city under attack."

Notably, Mr. Eustis said he wanted to have the ensemble of Ukrainian actors perform live at the Public. This proved impossible due to Russia's war on Ukraine. Nonetheless, Mr. Eustis underlined his hope to bring the actors to New York for a series of performances soon.

# OUT & ABOUT

Through November 30 New York	Outdoor mural exhibit, "Empty Beds: Ukrainian Children Abducted by Russia," Bird of Light Ukraine in collaboration with photographer Phil Buehler, located at 44 Second Avenue, <a href="http://www.birdofukraine.org">www.birdofukraine.org</a>	November 23 New York	Holodomor Commemoration, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Saint Patrick's Cathedral, <a href="https://ucca.org">https://ucca.org</a>
Through December 12 New York	Exhibit, "Children of the War" by Marina Temkina and Michel Gerard, Columbia University, <a href="https://harriman.columbia.edu">https://harriman.columbia.edu</a>	November 23 Chicago	Gala concert, featuring Dagamba and Arina Domski, Revived Soldiers Ukraine, Eventus Hall, <a href="http://www.rsukraine.org/events">www.rsukraine.org/events</a>
November 17 Jenkintown, PA	Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner, Ukrainian American Senior Citizens Association, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1166	November 23 Arlington Heights, IL	New member event, featuring performance by Asia Ahat, Ukrainian Women's Association of America, Chez Hotel, <a href="http://www.uwaahelp.org">www.uwaahelp.org</a>
November 18 Ottawa	Book presentation, "Solomea: Star of Opera's Golden Age" by Andriy J. Semotiuk, Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada (Ottawa branch), St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, <a href="mailto:ottawa.ucwlc@gmail.com">ottawa.ucwlc@gmail.com</a>	November 23 Montreal	Holodomor commemoration, Ukrainian Canadian Congress (Quebec Provincial Council), Cathedral Marie-Rene-du Monde, 438-407-7313
November 18 Online	Online presentation, "Election Debrief: What Will a Second Trump Term Mean for U.S.-Russia Relations?" with Angela Stent, Kathryn Stoner and Volodymyr Dubovik, Columbia University, <a href="https://harriman.columbia.edu">https://harriman.columbia.edu</a>	November 24 Whippany, NJ	Film screening, "Black Raven," and presentation by Victor Rud, "Yesterday's Holodomor and Today's Global Security," Ukrainian National Women's League of America (branch 75), Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 540-553-1558
November 18 Online	Webinar with filmmaker Ryan Smith and Polina Buchak, "Soldiers of Song," Razom for Ukraine, held via Zoom, <a href="http://www.razomforukraine.org/events">www.razomforukraine.org/events</a>	November 24 Wilmington, DE	Concert, "For Ukraine," Prometheus Ukrainian Male Chorus, featuring soprano Teryn Kuzma, Opera Delaware, <a href="https://prometheuswilmington.eventrbite.com">https://prometheuswilmington.eventrbite.com</a>
November 20 Cambridge, MA	Presentation by Frank Sysyn and Lidia Stefanowska, "The Return of Ihor Sevcenko: Interviews with a Cofounder of Ukrainian Studies at Harvard," Harvard University, <a href="https://huri.harvard.edu">https://huri.harvard.edu</a>	November 26 Cambridge, MA	Presentation by Hanna Perekhoda, "Borders in Revolution: The 1917 Struggle Over the Russian-Ukrainian Divide," Harvard University, <a href="https://huri.harvard.edu">https://huri.harvard.edu</a>
November 20 New York	Book presentation, "Superfluous Women: Art, Feminism and Revolution in Twenty-First Century Ukraine" by Jessica Zychowicz, and discussion, "My Two Decades of Dialogue with Ukraine," Columbia University, <a href="https://harriman.columbia.edu">https://harriman.columbia.edu</a>	November 26 Online	Webinar, "Ukrainian Women of Ravensbruk Concentration Camp," by Lydia Replansky and Kalyna Bezchlibnyk-Butler, Ukrainian Genealogy Group, <a href="https://meet.zoho.com/TCEYeg7XpJ">https://meet.zoho.com/TCEYeg7XpJ</a>
November 23 New York	Holodomor commemorative film screening, "Mr. Jones," Ukrainian Institute of America, <a href="http://www.ukrainianinstitute.org">www.ukrainianinstitute.org</a>	November 27 Online	Presentation by Ieva Gudaityte, "Listening to Alternative Histories Through Independent Music Radio in Ukraine," Columbia University, <a href="http://www.harriman.columbia.edu">https://harriman.columbia.edu</a>
November 23 Ottawa	Ukrainian Christmas Market, Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada, Ukrainian Banquet Hall, 613-728-0856	<p><i>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 <a href="mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com">mdubas@ukrweekly.com</a>.</i></p>	



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