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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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

Vol. LXXXVI

No. 16

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2018

\$2.00

Poroshenko pushes for independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Secures backing for autocephaly from Church leaders, Parliament

by Mark Raczkiewicz

KYIV – When President Petro Poroshenko called the leaders of parliamentary factions to his office on April 17 after their morning plenary session, political pundits began to speculate.

Would Ukraine's first wartime president finally deliver on creating a much-needed anti-graft judiciary? Push for establishing an independent financial crimes unit, perhaps call snap parliamentary elections or voice alarm over Russia's post-Easter military escalation in the Donbas war?

It was, instead, a religious affair. One that the president equated with further solidifying the nation's sovereignty and independence from Russia.

Mr. Poroshenko called for the creation of a single unified Ukrainian Orthodox Church, much like his predecessors, Presidents Viktor Yushchenko and Leonid Kuchma, had done while in office. Canonically, Ukraine's Orthodox believers have lacked autocephaly, or self-governing authority, since 1686 when the Kyivan Metropolitan was transferred to the Moscow Patriarchate.

The Kremlin doesn't have the right to interfere in the religious affairs of Ukraine, the president told the Verkhovna Rada on April 19, ahead of the national legislature's vote to send Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople a note approving the president's appeal for establishing autocephaly.

"[Having our] own Church is an attribute of an independent nation," Mr. Poroshenko said. "The state shouldn't interfere in religious affairs; furthermore, a foreign nation doesn't have the right to interfere in the religious affairs of Ukraine."



Presidential Administration of Ukraine/Mykhailo Palinchak

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko meets with the Orthodox Church's Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome, during a visit to Turkey on April 9.

A solid majority of 268 lawmakers supported the move. Thirty-three of the 34 deputies who voted against the formation of a unified Orthodox Church in Ukraine were from the Russia-friendly Opposition Bloc faction headed by ex-Energy Minister Yuriy Boiko who served under former President Viktor Yanukovich.

Consistently, Opposition Bloc lawmakers, including former Russian citizen Vadim Novinsky, have refrained from naming Russia an aggressor state in the Donbas war and have blamed the president of Ukraine for stoking it.

Speaking ahead of the parliamentary vote, faction leader

Mr. Boiko emphasized that the "state shouldn't interfere with religious issues," explaining why the bloc won't support the president's initiative. "All this should be resolved by leaders of religious confessions and believers, and politicians have the right to participate in this process only as ordinary parishioners."

Prior to the vote, leaders of two other Orthodox Churches in Ukraine – the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) and Ukrainian Autocephalous

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Pope accepts Metropolitan Stefan Soroka's resignation

Bishop Andriy Rabiw tapped as apostolic administrator

Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan Archeparchy of Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA – The Vatican Information Service announced on April 16 that the Holy Father has accepted the resignation for medical reasons of the Most Rev. Stefan Soroka, archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainians and metropolitan for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S.A.

Pope Francis has declared the Archeparchy of Philadelphia as "sede vacante." Bishop Andriy Rabiw has been appointed by Pope Francis as the apostolic administrator of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia until the appointment of the new archeparch.

Metropolitan Stefan was appointed as metropolitan-archbishop by Pope John Paul II on November 29, 2000, and installed on February 27, 2001.



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka



Bishop Andriy Rabiw

Bishop Andriy was appointed by Pope Francis as auxiliary bishop for the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia on August 8, 2017. He was ordained to the episcopacy by Patriarch Sviatoslav in St. George Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Lviv on September 3, 2017.

Following is a statement released by Metropolitan-Archbishop Soroka.

* * *

Our heartfelt appreciation is extended to His Holiness, Pope Francis, and to His Eminence Leonardo Cardinal Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, and to His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk for their understanding and compassion. We are also grateful to the Holy Father for the confidence he has shown in the abilities of Most Rev. Andriy Rabiw in appointing him as apostolic administrator for the interim.

I take this opportunity to extend my

(Continued on page 3)

ANALYSIS

Ukraine shifts command of forces serving around occupied Donbas

by **Nikolai Holomov**
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Always a misnomer, albeit a deliberate one, Ukraine's anti-terrorist operation (ATO) in and surrounding the temporarily occupied territories of Luhansk and Donetsk is slated to come to an end as of April 30, some four years after it began. The ATO will cease both on paper and with regard to the current internal Ukrainian military command-and-control mechanisms.

This anticipated change in command and control was announced by President Petro Poroshenko on April 13 (Interfax, April 13). Previously, the ATO was officially under the command and control of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), the internal agency charged with anti-terrorism and counter-intelligence. Clearly, the conflict in eastern Ukraine is far more than a terrorist insurgency; and just as clearly, the SBU is not necessarily the correct agency to be officially commanding what is, in reality, a conventional, yet contained, military conflict marked by (en)trenched warfare and the heavy use of armor and artillery.

Recognition of this fact was codified via urgent draft legislation submitted to the Verkhovna Rada by President Poroshenko on October 4, 2017, and which subsequently became law on February 21 (Rada.gov.ua, accessed April 16). The new law, effective the day after it was published in February, de jure ended the ATO. The command and control of the operation, however – due to be transferred to the Joint Operational Headquarters of the Armed Forces (JOHAF) – has in practice not yet occurred. Indeed it was not until March 16 that Mr. Poroshenko appointed Lt. Gen. Sergei Naev as commander of the Joint Operational Headquarters – a new commander for an entirely new command-and-control structure (Interfax, March 16).

Lt. Gen. Naev previously held the position of deputy chief of staff of the armed forces and first deputy commander of the land forces. In announcing his new appointment, President Poroshenko stated, "On my initiative, the Verkhovna Rada adopted a law on the reintegration of Donbas, which created a new legal basis for repelling enemy aggression in Donbas, and, in the long term, for restoring Ukraine's territorial integrity. The format of the anti-terrorist operation will be changed to the operation of the Joint Forces. The Supreme Armed Forces and other military formations and law enforcement bodies will answer to the commander of the Joint Forces. I decided to appoint Lt. Gen. Sergei Naev to this post" (Interfax, March 16).

Disregarding the political content of the law pertaining to Russian responsibilities and liabilities, as well as bureaucratic matters relating to which documents issued within the occupied territories Ukraine will recognize (birth and death certificates only), there are certainly some issues that are considered controversial. In particular, questions arise concerning new, broad and possibly unconstitutional presidential powers. Additionally, there are legal questions related to the new powers of the commander of the Joint Operational Headquarters of the Armed Forces. It is also unclear how previously issued ATO documents will be treated once the ATO has officially ceased to be an operation. Finally, there is the matter of amending numerous existing domestic laws that mention the ATO.

The new law replacing the ATO puts the

commander of the Joint Forces at the head of the Ukrainian response to Russian aggression. As such the SBU, National Police, National Guard and Border Service become subservient to JOHAF command and control.

According to the Ukrainian chief of the General Staff, Viktor Muzhenko, "The law, which was signed by the president of Ukraine on February 20, systematized the use of the armed forces to fulfill the tasks they performed in the ATO and change the format of the main operation. The ATO will be completed, and we will proceed to the Joint Force. This implies a clear structure of the management system, the subordination of certain forces and military leadership, and the creation of a joint operational headquarters as the main governing body of this operation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions" (Radiosvoboda.org, February 22).

In effect, this law creates the ability to enact something akin to "martial law" within a contained area as decreed by the president, without the necessity of declaring martial law across the entirety of the Ukrainian state.

New legal concepts, such as "areas of fighting" and "security zones" located within the government-controlled areas along the contact line, are to be determined by the chief of the General Staff, upon the submission of the newly created position of the commander of the Joint Operational Forces. The exact provisions and limitations of the JOHAF will be set by the president.

Additional powers have been granted to personnel under JOHAF command regarding their interactions with the civilian population. The law establishes a special regime for Ukrainian citizens with regard to entering the temporarily occupied territories through designated checkpoints, and the JOHAF commander can deny entrance to these. Furthermore, law enforcement and military service members are allowed to strengthen security measures if what critics equate to martial law is introduced. Those expanded powers include document checks, detentions, stops and searches, restrictions on movement, limits on entry to residential and other buildings, as well as the commandeering of private vehicles and communications for official use. Moreover, those involved in the "areas of fighting" and "security zones" can use, "if absolutely necessary, weapons and special means against those who violate the law or attempt to illegally enter the temporarily occupied territories" (Rada.gov.ua, accessed April 16).

Some domestic human rights organizations have raised concerns over the rights to freedom of movement for the civilian population due to such expanded powers of the military, as well as worries that such powers will be abused (Khp.org, January 18).

All of that said, it remains to be seen if, and by how much, the April 30 transfer of command from the SBU to the military will affect daily life for those civilians living in and around the frontlines. Ukraine is not known for its efficient or effective implementation of new laws. And its military and law enforcement commanders rarely allow much discretion to their personnel when enforcing their remits. Thus, many of the changes detailed in the new law may, in fact, remain on paper for a long time to come.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Ukraine announces plans to quit CIS

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has announced plans to quit the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and terminate parts of a friendship treaty with Russia. Mr. Poroshenko urged the government to present a proposal to lawmakers on Ukraine's full withdrawal from the CIS, of which Kyiv has been an associate member since the group was formed following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. "Ukraine has never been a [full] member of the CIS and [given] CIS's failure to denounce Russia's aggression [in Ukraine], I would ask that we, together with the government, produce a proposal regarding an official termination of our participation in the statutory organs of the CIS," Mr. Poroshenko said at a security forum in Kyiv on April 12. Mr. Poroshenko also told the forum that he would propose a draft bill before Parliament for "an immediate and unilateral termination of individual articles" of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Ukraine and Russia that were "incompatible with [Ukraine's] national interests and its right to self-defense." Ukraine has been fighting against Russia-backed separatists in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk since April 2014, after Russia seized control of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. Although Moscow denies interfering in Ukraine's domestic affairs, the International Criminal Court (ICC) in November 2016 determined the conflict to be "an international armed conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation." The conflict has left more than 10,300 people dead and some 1.6 million people displaced. Full members of the CIS include Russia and eight former Soviet republics – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Obozrevatel.ua and Pravda.ua)

Putin, Merkel discuss Nord Stream

Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel have discussed the situation in Syria and a controversial gas pipeline project in a telephone conversation, the Kremlin says. Mr. Putin criticized the air strikes carried out by the United States, Britain, and France against Syrian government facilities, the Kremlin said in a statement on April 17. He told Ms.

Merkel that strikes were an "act of aggression" that violated the U.N. Charter and "dealt a substantial blow" to efforts to end the seven-year war in Syria, it said. The United States says the April 14 strikes targeted the Syrian government's chemical-weapons infrastructure following a suspected poison-gas attack that killed dozens of civilians in what was then the rebel-held town of Douma, near Damascus, on April 7. According to the Kremlin, both leaders stressed the importance of an "objective investigation" into the suspected attack in Douma by inspectors from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Russia claims there was no chemical-weapons attack but has not provided evidence of that assertion. Mr. Putin and Ms. Merkel also discussed the Nord Stream 2 project, a pipeline running from Russia through the Baltic Sea to Germany, the Kremlin said. Critics say the pipeline would increase European dependence on Russia for energy and enrich its state-owned energy companies at a time when Moscow stands accused of endangering European security through alleged election meddling and other actions. The United States, Poland and the Baltic states oppose the project. Ms. Merkel appeared to signal a decrease in support for the planned pipeline last week, saying on April 10 that there were "political considerations" to take into account. She said that she had told Mr. Putin by phone that the project could not go ahead without clarity on Ukraine's role as a gas transit route. Nord Stream 2 would decrease Russia's reliance on Ukraine as a route for pumping its gas further West, into the European Union. (RFE/RL)

U.S. welcomes Ukraine's NATO aspirations

U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO Ambassador Kay Bailey Hutchison visited Kyiv on April 12 and participated in the Kyiv Security Forum, speaking on a panel that focused on Ukraine's partnership with NATO. According to the U.S. Mission to NATO, the ambassador reaffirmed U.S. support for NATO's Open Door policy and welcomed Ukraine's membership aspirations. "Accession to NATO membership is a long one for many countries," Ambassador

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

An English-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Yearly subscription rate: \$90; for UNA members — \$80.

Periodicals postage paid at Caldwell, NJ 07006 and additional mailing offices. (ISSN — 0273-9348)

The Weekly:
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 644-9510

UNA:
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 292-0900

Postmaster, send address changes to:
The Ukrainian Weekly
2200 Route 10
P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Editor-in-chief: **Roma Hadzewycz**
Editor: **Matthew Dubas**

e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, April 22, 2018, No. 16, Vol. LXXXVI
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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator
and advertising manager

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

Subscription Department

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

NEWS ANALYSIS

Ukrainian lawmakers urge world to reject Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline

by Oleg Varfolomeyev
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The Ukrainian legislature on April 5 appealed to the international community to stop the construction of the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline, which is to carry Russian gas to Germany, bypassing Ukraine. The lawmakers said that the European Commission (EC) should consult with Ukraine on the matter, in line with the European Union-Ukraine association and free trade deal and the European Energy Community treaty. Ukrainian deputies also urged the West to expand the sanctions imposed on Moscow for its armed aggression against Ukraine to additionally cover Gazprom and affiliated persons, and to take regulatory and infrastructural measures to cut the influence of Russian firms on international markets. Nord Stream 2 would lead to establishing a Russian monopoly on the European gas market and eventually destabilize Europe, the lawmakers warned (UNIAN, April 5).

Kyiv's concern was partially addressed on April 6 by the United States, which added Gazprom chief Alexei Miller to its list of sanctioned Russian officials, in line with the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). Also, in mid-March, 39 U.S. senators called on the Department of Treasury and the Department of State to apply sanctions on Nord Stream 2 (Naftogaz.com, March 20). But Ukraine clearly wants the West to toughen its response to Gazprom in particular.

Officials in Kyiv fear that with the launch of Nord Stream 2 in the north and another pipeline, Turk Stream, which will circumvent Ukraine in the south, Ukraine's own gas pipelines could dry up. This would make it more difficult to secure gas imports: much of the gas Ukraine has been buying from the EU since 2015, when gas purchases from Gazprom were stopped, comes from intermediaries re-selling to Ukraine Gazprom's gas flowing to Europe via Ukraine's own pipelines. Also, a significant cut to Russian gas flows would deprive the national oil and gas company Naftogaz of the bulk of its profit. Gas transportation and distribution accounted for more than 90 percent of Naftogaz's profit in January-September 2017, which the Ukrainian energy company attributed to both growing transit to the EU and the national currency devaluation (Naftogaz.com, December 19, 2017).

Naftogaz CEO Andriy Kobolev estimates his company's revenue from gas transit at \$2 billion to \$3 billion per annum. That is roughly 2.5 percent of Ukraine's overall GDP. Losing that after the expiration of the current 10-year gas transit contract with Gazprom after 2019 would be a "critically negative factor," he told a conference last October (UNIAN, October 24, 2017).

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in Turkey on April 3 that the Turk Stream project was being implemented successfully and that it would eventually bring Russian gas to Southeastern European countries, if they expressed interest (RIA

Novosti, April 3). Meanwhile, Mr. Miller stated that Gazprom's gas transit via Ukraine would fall to 10 billion to 15 billion cubic meters (bcm) per annum after the contract expiration and with the launch of both Turk Stream and Nord Stream 2 – down from 93 bcm of gas pumped through Ukraine last year. He also said Gazprom intended to negotiate the future of gas transit with Ukraine, but not on the conditions spelled out in the recent Stockholm arbitration court ruling (Riafan.ru, April 4).

Last February, Stockholm arbitration judges ruled that Gazprom must pay \$4.7 billion in damages to Naftogaz for systematically violating the gas transit contract, and that Naftogaz should buy 4 bcm to 5 bcm of gas from Gazprom this year. However, Gazprom refused to sell gas to Ukraine and appealed against the ruling (see EDM, March 5; Interfax, March 6).

The European Commission, which in 2014-2015 successfully mediated gas talks between Ukraine and Russia, is ready to help Kyiv with implementing the Stockholm ruling, the head of the EC energy department, Dominique Rostori, told a briefing in the Ukrainian capital on April 6. He also said the EC would help Ukraine organize talks on gas transit after 2019. Gas transit through Ukraine is important for the EU in the context of supply diversification, Mr. Rostori noted (Interfax, April 6).

Mr. Rostori also said the EC would not back Nord Stream 2, as it violates the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and equal access, and would not facilitate

the diversification of gas resources for the EU (UNIAN, April 6). The EC's position is shared by Poland and the three Baltic states. Last month, the parliamentary speakers of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia warned other EU countries against supporting Nord Stream 2 (Delfi.ee, March 12).

However, some member states, including Germany and Finland, apparently do not see much harm in the new Gazprom pipeline. On April 5, Finland gave its preliminary consent for Nord Stream construction in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ), following Germany's consent in March. Gazprom is yet to secure consent from Denmark and Sweden, which may be harder, as these two countries have been more suspicious of Gazprom's plans and more critical of Moscow in general (Kommersant, April 5).

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko was outspoken on the German position in his most recent interview with the German newspaper Handelsblatt. He urged German politicians and businessmen to revise their attitude toward Nord Stream 2, saying that the pipeline would be "a bribe to the Russian Federation in exchange for loyalty" (President.gov.ua, April 9). But until Berlin stops seeing Nord Stream 2 as in its national interest, such appeals are likely to fall on deaf ears.

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Pope accepts...

(Continued from page 1)

heartfelt gratitude to the clergy, religious, seminarians and laity of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. These past 17 years have been filled with many challenges and blessings, some unique in the experience of the Philadelphia Archeparchy. Success in responding to the varying needs of the archeparchy and its parishes was achieved with the positive and hopeful participation of clergy, religious and laity enabled by the Grace of God.

Most gratifying to me was the personal journey of prayer and fraternity experienced with the clergy, religious and faithful of the Archeparchy. The highlight of my ministry in leadership was experienced when amidst parishioners and their ministers in parish liturgical celebrations, visits, pilgrimages, festivals and in personal sharing. I was inspired by the dedication of the clergy, religious and faithful and their love for their Church.

I am also especially grateful for the fraternity and cooperation shared with my brother bishops of the U.S.A., with whom common needs of clergy, religious and faithful were addressed in our regular meetings, and in gatherings of our Church. The Grace of God provided richly in our many shared endeavors.

The Risen Christ greeted his apostles with the words, "Peace be with you!" May the peace offered by the Risen Christ characterize our continued love and service of our Ukrainian Catholic Church. Let us remember one another in prayer as we seek the intercession of the Mother of God in this time of transition being experienced within the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia and in our Ukrainian Catholic Church in the USA. Christ is Risen!

Poroshenko pushes...

(Continued from page 1)

Orthodox Church (UAOC) – gave their official approval.

Only the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) didn't support the initiative, saying it would do so only on "canonical grounds," referring to the fact that the UOC-KP isn't recognized by the 14 Orthodox Churches of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Moscow considers the UOC-KP a renegade Church.

"I think all this will fizzle out in a huge way, just like it had many times before. There will be a lot of noise in the media, and then it will be all over," said the UOC-MP's deputy chief of communications, Archpriest Mykola Danylyevych, on his Facebook page.

He furthermore stated that the president's initiative is beyond his purview as head of state and dismissed the action as a pre-campaign political stunt ahead of next year's presidential and parliamentary elections.

"It sounds the same as if we wrote: '[UOC-MP] Metropolitan Onufriy [Orest Berezovsky] gathered the Holy Synod of the UOC. The topic of discussion will be NATO accession,' the Moscow-affiliated Church spokesperson said.

UOC-KP Patriarch Filaret (Mykhailo Denysenko) backed President Poroshenko's Church unification initiative after meeting with him on April 18.

"This is the spiritual basis of any state. Without this spiritual basis, the state cannot exist," Patriarch Filaret said, adding that Kyiv has striven for Church autocephaly for the 26 years since independence. "Just as a state cannot exist without an army, it cannot without a Church. This will be a huge push toward uniting all of Ukrainian society – to recognize a Ukrainian Church."

UOC-KP spokesperson Archbishop Yevstraty (Ivan Zoria) rejected the UOC-

MP's arguments that autocephaly can't be given without the approval of the Russian Orthodox Church, to which the UOC-MP – which calls itself simply the "Ukrainian Orthodox Church," with purposeful ambiguity – is subordinate.

In an April 18 Facebook post, the archbishop said that Moscow tried making it mandatory for all 14 Orthodox Churches to give further approval for granting autocephaly during a 2016 gathering of Orthodox Churches in Crete. But the Russian Orthodox Church failed.

Thus, "the practice of granting Tomos on autocephaly by Constantinople in the 19th-20th centuries confirms that the Ecumenical Patriarchate alone makes this decision, without the need for prior agreement with other Churches (it can take into consideration their thoughts, but is not bound by their positions)," Archbishop Yevstraty wrote.

Indeed, unilateral decisions were made by the ecumenical patriarch – who is "the first among equals" of the 14 Orthodox Churches' leaders – to give autocephaly to Orthodox Churches of Estonia in 1996, Bulgaria in 1998 and the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 2014.

Mr. Poroshenko said he would place a phone call to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to inform him of the Verkhovna Rada's vote on April 19. The two had met for seven hours, according to the presidential administration, during Mr. Poroshenko's visit to Turkey on April 9.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Turkish capital of Ankara declined to comment when The Ukrainian Weekly made a telephone inquiry. "We will respond when there is information to give," said press office director Nicholas Papachristou.

Mr. Poroshenko's push to unify Ukraine's Orthodox Churches is a "continuation of policies pursued by ex-Presidents Viktor Yushchenko and Leonid Kuchma," religious

scholar Oleksandr Sagan told The Ukrainian Weekly.

Mr. Kuchma made Church unification a priority of national policy in 1998, and "Yushchenko paid more attention to this matter when he was president when a similar appeal was sent to the Constantinople Patriarchate in 2008," said Mr. Sagan said, who in 2007-2010 headed the government agency that registers religious organizations.

If the Ukrainian Orthodox Church gains autocephaly, it will be the 15th canonically recognized Orthodox Church in the world.

"There is a 15th Orthodox Church in America, which isn't recognized by Constantinople – Moscow gave it Tomos," the religious scholar noted.

Sixty-eight percent of Ukrainians who say they believe in God identify with the Orthodox Christian faith, according to a Razumkov Center nationwide poll conducted in March 2017 that didn't include respondents in Russia-occupied Crimea or the Donbas.

Among them, 17 percent identify with the Moscow Patriarchate, less than half of the number who identify with the Kyiv Patriarchate.

The Russian Orthodox Church was the only officially sanctioned spiritual body in the Soviet Union. Sixty-three percent of its 8,296 parishes in 1940 were located in Ukraine, and only 11 percent in Russia, according to a November 4, 2000, article by Anna Dickinson in Religion, State and Society, a journal published in the United Kingdom.

The repressive KGB of the USSR had heavily infiltrated the Church, according to numerous scholarly works. By 1992, during Ukraine's first full year as an independent country, the UOC-KP was formed with Metropolitan Filaret (the current patriarch) at the helm, signaling Kyiv's break from Moscow.

In Ukraine, Portman sees firsthand evidence of Russian aggression on eastern border

Office of Sen. Rob Portman

KYIV – U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) visited Ukraine during the first week of April, meeting with Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko and other Ukrainian leaders, as well as think tanks and other opinion leaders, and visited a forward combat outpost near the line of contact in Donetsk to see firsthand evidence of Russian aggression on the eastern border.

Sen. Portman, who received the Order of Merit from President Poroshenko during his visit, has led efforts in the U.S. Senate to provide assistance to Ukraine. This was his third visit to the country as he works to strengthen ties between the U.S. and Ukraine and support Ukrainian efforts to defend itself from Russian aggression.

He issued the following statement on his two-day visit.

"I appreciated the opportunity to visit Ukraine, meet with President Poroshenko and other Ukrainian leaders, and visit Ukrainian troops at a forward combat outpost near the line of contact in Donetsk. As Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine persists, it is important to reaffirm that the United States stands firmly with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people in their struggle to defend their independence and territorial integrity. As someone who has worked hard in the Senate to highlight the importance of ongoing events in Ukraine and increase U.S. military, political and economic support to the country, I remain fully committed to strengthening this relationship even further and look forward to working with the Ukrainian government in the future.

"The Ukrainian government has done more in the past four years to fight endemic corruption and unaccountable governance than any other Ukrainian government did in the 25 years since Ukraine regained its independence. However, it is absolutely critical that progress not stall. Ukraine must demonstrate its commitment to long-term structural reform by meeting the reform conditions that will ensure continued Western financial assistance, further Ukraine's goal of strategic alignment with the United States and NATO, and secure enduring political support from the United States, the European Union, the IMF, and other Western nations and institutions.

"I presented President Poroshenko with a copy of the original legislation establishing the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative that I worked with Sen. [John] McCain to pass back in 2015. The long-overdue but welcome decision by the Trump administration to provide defensive lethal assistance is the culmination of years of hard work by both Ukrainians and Americans, and I hope to see the timely delivery of this assistance very soon. I hope that this gift serves as reminder that all this hard work to strengthen the ties between us is worth it. America stands by its friends, and with the full implementation of this legislation, the United States will finally make good on its promise to Ukraine."

During his visit to eastern Ukraine, the Ohio senator visited forward Ukrainian military positions near the line of contact and received information from Ukrainian commanders on the current state of play of the four-year-old conflict with Russian-led separatist forces.



Facebook/Senator Rob Portman

President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine awards U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) the Order of Merit.

In Kyiv, Sen. Portman met with senior Ukrainian officials including President Poroshenko, Foreign Affairs Minister Pavlo Klimkin, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada Andriy Parubiy, Defense Minister Stepan Poltarak, Chief of Defense Gen. Viktor Muzhenko, and civil society activists and business leaders.

During his meetings, Sen. Portman reaffirmed the United States' strong support for Ukraine, commended the Ukrainian government for its progress on some reforms, and urged the government to press ahead with the implementation of critical structural reforms needed to meet Western aid conditions.

A co-founder and co-chair of the Senate Ukraine Caucus and a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Portman received the Order of Merit from President Poroshenko during his visit to Ukraine. The Order of Merit is given to individuals for outstanding achievements in economics, science, culture, military or political spheres of activity. It was established by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma in 1996. Those who are awarded the Order of Merit have the official title Chevalier of the Order of Merit.

"I'm deeply honored to receive the Order of Merit from Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in Kyiv. America stands with the Ukrainian people in their struggle to secure a democratic, prosperous, and independent future for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression," said Portman. "I will continue to do everything I can to help the Ukrainians defend themselves against Russian aggression."

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Sawyn, Alexandra	Chicago, IL	\$100	Lule, Sophia	Glenn Ellyn, IL	\$25	Zaputowycz, Vera	Hillsdale, NJ	\$10	
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Mohuchy, W	Nutley, NJ	\$75	Kuczmarskyj, Bohdan	Brooklyn Park, MN	\$25	Kowerko, Oleh	Chicago, IL	\$10	
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Chomyn, Steven	Debar, FL	\$50	Pastuszek, T	Swarthmore, PA	\$25	Plaskon, Justyn	Linden, NJ	\$5	
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			Tyrol, Thomas	Saugerties, NY	\$20				
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Sincere thanks to all contributors to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund.

The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund is the only fund dedicated exclusively to supporting the work of this publication.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

UNA Almanac for 2018 dedicated to centennial of Ukrainian Revolution

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Earlier this year, Svoboda Press released the Almanac of the Ukrainian National Association for 2018, which is dedicated to the centennial of the Ukrainian Revolution and the establishment of the Ukrainian National Republic.

The Ukrainian-language volume's editor is Petro Chasto, a longtime member of the Svoboda editorial staff who has been in charge of the successful Almanac projects since the year 2000, always finding fascinating topics and authors for readers' enjoyment.

This year's Almanac begins with a chronicle of the historic events of 1918.

That is followed by an article about the momentous Battle of Kruty and poetry dedicated to the heroes of Kruty.

Other noteworthy articles focus on the Crimean campaign of the Ukrainian National Republic's army and the biography of Hetman Pavlo Skoropadsky. There are excerpts from the memoirs of Dmytro Dontsov, a Ukrainian nationalist writer and political thinker (1883-1973). Mr. Chasto is the author of an article about the year 1918 on the pages of the Svoboda.

Other historic events whose anniversaries are noted in the 2018 Almanac include the 370th anniversary of Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky's fight for the Ukrainian nation's independence; the 170th of the "Spring of Nations" in the Austro-Hungarian Empire; the 100th of the November 1 Act in Halychyna; and the 310th of the massacre at Baturyn.

The 272-page Almanac also includes monthly religious calendars for 2018, in both Julian and Gregorian versions, as well as a section of interesting miscellany titled "Good to Know."

The cover design is by Ihor Pylypchuk.

It is noteworthy that the Almanac is a fund-raiser for the Svoboda Press Fund. This year marks the 104th year that this annual volume has been released.

The 2018 Almanac was mailed to subscribers of Svoboda. Copies of the Almanac are available for \$20 from: Svoboda, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Please note: checks should be made payable to UNA Publications.



The cover of the UNA Almanac for 2018.

Young UNA'ers



Ariana Anya Szul, daughter of Andy C. and Anya H. Szul of Derwood, Md., is a new member of UNA Branch 163. She was enrolled by Dr. Andriy V.R. Szul, a UNA advisor and Dr. Cathy Pompetti-Szul.



Caden Randolph Nagy, son of Matthew Nagy and Tiffany Bowen of Pittsburgh, is a new member of UNA Branch 96. He was enrolled by his grandparents Randy and Sylvia Nagy.



Brayden Alexander Kuzma, son of Denise and Edward Kuzma, is a new member of UNA Branch 171. He was enrolled by his grandparents Kathy and George Kuzma.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

“Putin’s stranglehold”

There’s been a flurry of news reports lately about a new gas pipeline project that is meant to bring gas from Russia to Europe across the Baltic Sea. Nord Stream 2 is touted by Gazprom – which is majority owned by the Russian government – as “a direct link between Gazprom and the [sic] European consumers.” Gazprom also claims: “It will also ensure a highly reliable supply of Russian gas to Europe.” The pipeline’s 1,200-kilometer route will take it from Ust-Luga in the Leningrad region of Russia to Greifswald in Germany; plans are for the pipeline to be completed by next year. Germany and Finland have already green-lighted the construction of the pipeline, and permits are expected to be issued soon by Sweden and Denmark, which also are affected by its under sea route.

Critics say Nord Stream 2 will increase Europe’s dependence on Russia for energy. Moreover, it will enrich the Russian gas behemoth Gazprom at a time when Moscow has proven itself, again and again, to be a threat to European security. The United States, Poland and the three Baltic states are opposed to the project, as is Ukraine, which has been a victim on more than one occasion of Russia’s use of energy supply as a weapon.

The Verkhovna Rada on April 5 appealed to the international community to stop the pipeline, which would lead to a monopoly on the European gas market and destabilize Europe. Nord Stream 2 is to bypass Ukraine, through which much of Gazprom’s gas now flows to Europe, making Ukraine and others more vulnerable to Russia’s manipulations. It would also deprive Naftogaz Ukrainy of most of its profit, which comes from gas transit fees. President Petro Poroshenko, in an April 9 interview with Handelsblatt, a German business daily, urged Berlin to abandon plans for the pipeline, saying it would result in an “economic and energy blockade.” He also described the project as “political bribe money for loyalty to Russia.”

Meanwhile, The Financial Post of Canada and The Telegraph of the United Kingdom reported this bombshell on April 13: “Vladimir Putin’s stranglehold over European gas supplies has been laid bare by explosive EU documents, exposing deliberate violations of EU law and a pattern of political bullying over many years. The longest investigation in EU history found that the Kremlin-controlled energy giant Gazprom has used its enormous power to pressure vulnerable states in Eastern Europe and fragment the EU’s energy market with coercive pricing policies.” The newly uncovered information shows there is “no doubt that Germany has been enjoying a sweetheart deal with Gazprom, gaining a competitive advantage in gas costs at the expense of fellow EU economies and leaving frontline states at the mercy of Moscow’s strong-arm tactics.” Furthermore, “A leaked document from the European Commission paints an extraordinary picture of predatory behavior, with Gazprom acting as an enforcement arm of Russian foreign policy.”

The news article went on to accuse the European Union of “turning a blind eye as it prepares to reach an understanding with Moscow, disregarding fundamental principles of EU law.” It also quoted Prof. Alan Riley, an expert on EU energy law at the Washington-based Atlantic Council, as stating: “What the documents show is that there was systematic abuse of dominant position, and that it was clearly done for political purposes.”

Thus, it is clear that Nord Stream 2 is no simple commercial project, but an extension of the Kremlin’s power further into Europe.

WINDOW ON EURASIA

Poroshenko calls for Ukraine to formally leave the CIS

by Paul Goble

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko says that Kyiv is preparing the documents necessary to formally leave the Russian-dominated Commonwealth of Independent States, thus making official what has long been a de facto condition and reducing still further the size of a structure Moscow has long counted on to advance its interests.

In 1991, 11 former Soviet republics formed the CIS and shortly thereafter Georgia was forced to join, a decision it reversed after Vladimir Putin invaded that country in 2008. Moldova is on the way out as well. With Ukraine’s departure, the CIS will be reduced to nine – Russia plus Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Central Asian countries.

Even some of them are less than full-fledged allies of Moscow, either because they are trying to balance east and west as Belarus, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan have been doing, or because they have been going their own way, like Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. And so, yet another Russian project is falling apart.

That Ukraine, the largest and most important non-Russian member, was going to withdraw following the Russian invasion had been signaled by the country’s Foreign Affairs Ministry (segodnya.ua/politics/mid-ukrainy-podgotovil-predlozheniya-povyhodu-iz-sng-i-denonsacii-bolshogodogovora-s-rf-1122343.html).

But the actual move had been delayed for at least three reasons.

First, the issue of leaving the CIS had become entangled with that of denouncing the 1997 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation in which Moscow and Kyiv had reaffirmed the inviolability of existing borders and respect for territorial integ-

rity, which in part still serves Ukraine’s interests.

Second, many in Kyiv and the West have been worried about how Moscow might react if Ukraine took this formal step and counseled against it, arguing that Ukraine hasn’t really been part of the organization for some time and that withdrawing won’t really change very much but will infuriate Moscow and thus make the situation worse.

And third, the Foreign Affairs Ministry earlier made it clear that it was waiting for President Poroshenko to act. He now has and, consequently, at a time when most people are focusing on Syria and Western sanctions, Ukraine is now ready to take this step (segodnya.ua/politics/poroshenko-predlozhit-officialno-vyvesti-ukrainu-iz-sng-1130143.html).

As the CIS heads toward a new a diminished status, it is worth recalling how and why it came into existence in the first place. Many view it as simply a product of the Belavezha accords. But that is incorrect. Instead, it was a response by Moscow to the actions of the then-newly independent Central Asian countries.

After the leaders of the three Slavic republics agreed to disband the USSR, the leaders of the Central Asian countries met to discuss forming a new union among themselves. The prospect of some larger Muslim entity to the east was enough to prompt the Russian government to push for what became the CIS.

Some of those taking part saw it as little more than a divorce court to divide up the spoils of the empire; others hoped it would be something more, the skeleton around which a new political entity could be constructed. Ukraine’s departure more clearly than the exit of anyone else shows that the former were right and the latter are doomed to be disappointed.

April
26
2010

Turning the pages back...

Eight years ago, on April 26, 2010, the Zoloti Vorota corporation, which included the Sevastopolbud company, noted that the number of transactions with buyers from Russia over the previous two months had increased in Sevastopol by 20-30 percent (which at the time was four to five apartments a month).

The real number may have been higher, as some Russian buyers might have used relatives in Ukraine, thereby avoiding being counted among non-residents. The majority of buyers were identified as servicemen of the Russian Black Sea Fleet who had reached pension age, as well as residents of Moscow, St. Petersburg and the Ural Federal Region.

The Russian Black Sea Fleet’s lease at Sevastopol was extended an additional 25 years to 2042, after an agreement was signed on April 21, 2010, in Kharkiv by Presidents Viktor Yanukovich and Dimitri Medvedev of Russia. In exchange, Ukraine was to receive a 30 percent discount on imported gas from Gazprom for 10 years.

Critics said that the extension of the Russian BSF basing at Sevastopol constituted a foreign military base on the territory of Ukraine, in violation of the Constitution of Ukraine, with some calling for Mr. Yanukovich’s impeachment. The lease was originally set to expire in 2017.

Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the opposition, warned that what happened in Georgia in 2008 could happen to Ukraine, and in a worst-case scenario. “Sevastopol is the first step,” she said. “Without doubt, Crimea will be next if the gang continues its politics. Ukraine has begun the process of losing its independence.”

Similar criticism came from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and other diaspora organizations.

Ukraine’s Verkhovna Rada passed the agreement with 236 votes, amid egg-throwing and brawling in the hall. Outside the Parliament building, police and protesters clashed in similar fashion.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, while on a visit to Estonia on April 22, called the lease a “balanced approach to [Ukraine’s] foreign policy.” Mr. Yanukovich pledged to improve and deepen relations between the U.S. and Ukraine. “At the same time, he has made it clear that he will continue to work together with Russia. Given Ukraine’s geographic position, that balancing act is a hard one, but it makes sense to us,” she said.

Source: “Russians buying housing in Crimea,” Ukrinform, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, May 2, 2010.

Kyiv must create an international day in memory of victims of Russian aggression

by Paul Goble

The current conflict between Russia and the West provides an opportunity to create an International Day of Memory of the Victims of Russian Aggression in order to be “an eternal reminder to Russians both now and future generations that they must take responsibility before history for themselves and their leaders,” a Kyiv commentator says.

The conflict between Russia, on the one hand, and Ukraine and the rest of the world,

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

on the other, is not simply a military one, but is one about symbols. Moscow has understood this with its “hybrid” war approach, and it is time to turn the tables on it, according to the Ukrainian commentator writing under the name Setovoy Orakul.

“The establishment of [such a day],” he writes in the April 14 issue of Delovaya Stolitsa, “would have enormous symbolic meaning both as a day for grieving and as opportunity to remind the world that [Vladimir] Putin has not ended the war against our country” (dsnews.ua/politics/kleymo-na-russkih-kogda-ustanovyat-den-pamyati-zhertv-rossiyskoy-140420181000).

Ukraine should establish this day as a national one immediately, the commentator continues, and then work to secure its recognition on the international level, much as it has done with the Holodomor. At present, “about 20 countries” recognize that the Famine of 1932-1933 was an act of genocide “by the totalitarian Stalinist regime,” and more will in the future, he notes.

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From a Canadian Angle

by Oksana Bashuk Hepburn



WASHINGTON IN FOCUS

by Orest Deychakiwsky

Punishing Russia at the G-7 foreign ministers' meeting

It appears that the patience of many Western states with Russia has run its course. The mood will undoubtedly have repercussions at the G-7 foreign ministers meeting on April 22 in Toronto.

Recently Ukraine's Western allies added top oligarchs and officials to sanctions already levelled against Russia for invading Crimea and the Donbas. This time, it was for poisoning British citizens and the chemical warfare carnage in Syria. As the United States added its heft, Russia's stock fell in global markets, the ruble tumbled.

When the agenda for the G-7's June 2018 summit was set last year, the world was much different. Then, there was talk about Russia's attacks on the U.S. presidential election and uncomfortable coziness between people close to both presidents. Today, the whiff of scandal streaming from President Donald Trump's entourage has turned into a major stink.

However, the latest addition to the sanctions was different. It picked on the heavy hitters. It sent a stronger message to Russia, which had mocked the previous

sanctions and continued its soft and military attacks globally. Enough of your atrocities – we're not letting you continue getting away with your crimes. This cut Russia's arrogance somewhat. According to Forbes magazine, the latest sanctions cost the oligarch state some \$12 billion in one day.

Still, Russia's response has been, as always, to brush off blame and withhold contrition. Its Foreign Affairs Ministry has puffed that, despite sanctions, "Russia will not deviate from its chosen direction." Russia's new "direction" claims that its only allies are "the army and the navy."

Sounds like President Vladimir Putin is gearing up for something. He is baring his teeth in attempts to reconstruct Russia's former empire, the Soviet Union. To him the price for the chaos he has rained globally – ruined economies and cities, half a million dead, hundreds of thousands wounded, millions displaced – is irrelevant. He wants more.

That is not a far-fetched notion. His aggression derives from treating the majority of Russia's citizens – living in Third World subsistence – as cannon fodder in

Ukraine's neighbor Belarus and Washington

I suspect most Ukrainian Americans, including myself, grew up in the United States not giving much thought to Belarus, Ukraine's closest ethnic and linguistic kin. Perhaps one reason for this was that relations between the two historically have been peaceful, in contrast to just about all of Ukraine's other neighbors that had invaded and occupied parts of Ukraine at one time or another. Both Ukraine and Belarus trace their heritage to Kyivan Rus', and Belarus and much of Ukraine were part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and later the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Both were called Ruthenians, notwithstanding some differences. Indeed, the (Old) Ruthenian language, the predecessor of modern Belarusian and Ukrainian, was an official language of the Grand Duchy and Commonwealth. Both have much more in common with each other from a historical, cultural and linguistic perspective than either does with Russia.

I've never had a problem communicating with Belarusian-speakers when speaking Ukrainian. Several years ago, after observing Belarusian elections for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), I was asked to do an interview at the Radio Liberty studios in Minsk. When I said I don't speak Belarusian, my interviewer simply told me to speak Ukrainian, as Belarusian-language listeners would understand me. Despite the commonalities, the Belarusians and Ukrainians are distinct peoples, and each has its own proud culture, beautiful language and complex history.

It was only in 1994, when Belarus was added to my country responsibilities at the U.S. Helsinki Commission, that I began to delve into that country's history. Until then, I had assumed that Belarusians historically were mostly Orthodox. But I was surprised to learn that the Belarusian population was mostly Greek-Catholic ("Uniate") following the 1596 Union of Brest, when Ruthenian Orthodox Church eparchies in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth broke relations with the Orthodox Church and entered into communion with Rome. Having attended St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic grade school in Parma, Ohio, back in the 1960s, I was further surprised that the school's namesake spent much of his time in Belarus, where he was a bishop and eventually murdered. Belarus ceased to be Eastern-rite Catholic when, along with much of right-bank Ukraine, it came under Russian domination in the late 1700s. This was when Russian Empress Catherine the Great began the process of forcible conversions that led eventually to the complete suppression of the Uniate Church in 1839.

Today, most Belarusians are Orthodox, at least nominally, and most are linguistically Russified. One rarely hears Belarusian spoken in the large cities. Ironically, the Russifier-in-Chief has been none other than independent Belarus's president for all but the first three years of its independence, the dictatorial Alyaksandr Lukashenka. He has cultivated a largely Soviet Belarusian identity, downplaying and even persecuting

manifestations of genuine Belarusian cultural, linguistic and historical identity. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, an understandably nervous Mr. Lukashenka has loosened up a bit, allowing more expression of Belarusian identity. Notwithstanding his wariness of Russia, Mr. Lukashenka has nobody to blame but himself, as it is his profound lack of political and economic reforms (in what some refer to as a "Soviet-lite" economy) over the last quarter century that has made his country seriously vulnerable to Russia and weakened Belarus's independence.

Since his election as president in 1994, Mr. Lukashenka has consolidated his rule over all institutions and undermined the rule of law through authoritarian means. He has routinely violated human rights and democratic freedoms, repressed civil society and the media. No election under his rule has been free and fair. At times he has been more repressive; at other times, including in the last few years, a little bit less so, in part due to Western pressure and sanctions. Not surprisingly, Mr. Lukashenka's relations with the U.S. (as well as with the European Union) have been strained.

From the beginning, the Helsinki Commission was in the forefront of U.S. efforts in calling attention to the Lukashenka regime's human rights violations, curtailment of political and civil rights. Among its efforts, the commission called for a full accounting of the 1999-2000 disappearances of opposition leaders and a journalist, the release of political prisoners and an end to attacks against civil society. As the commission policy advisor whose responsibilities included Belarus, I organized hearings, public briefings, meetings with Belarusian officials, as well as members of the democratic opposition and civil society, and drafted resolutions, statements and other communications. Pro-democracy activists in Belarus and the Belarusian American community welcomed and supported our efforts. The Lukashenka regime did not.

The regime was especially unhappy with three public laws on Belarus in 2004, 2006 and 2011 (the only laws specifically on that country in U.S. history), each sponsored by then-Commission Chairman Rep. Chris Smith. The three Belarus Democracy Acts provided financial assistance to the beleaguered democratic political opposition, NGOs and independent media, supported radio, TV and Internet broadcasting into Belarus, and called for targeted sanctions, including visa denials and the blocking the assets of senior officials and their cronies, and even some major state-owned enterprises.

As a concrete expression of displeasure at our role in drafting these laws, which continue to guide U.S. policy towards Belarus, my Helsinki Commission colleague Ron McNamara and I were denied visas to observe the Belarusian presidential elections in 2006. Our having diplomatic passports and intercessions with the Belarusian government by both the State Department and the OSCE did not help. In subsequent years we were let back into the country to observe elections in what one senior Belarusian official quietly but half-jokingly told me was "a sign of our liberalization."

Oksana Bashuk Hepburn may be contacted at oksanabh@sympatico.ca.

(Continued on page 18)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Actions speak louder than words

Dear Editor:

In Orest Deychakiwsky's comprehensive analysis "Ukraine's security matters to Washington" (March 25), two points stand out:

(1) That President Barack Obama was rightly criticized for not providing lethal defense weapons to Ukraine, despite bipartisan Congressional support and the urging of key players in his own administration;

(2) That actions such as sanctions and assistance matter.

Regarding the first point, there is now widespread consensus that Mr. Obama's foreign policy was an unmitigated disaster, primarily because he did not have the interest or the backbone to stand up to Vladimir Putin when it counted. If he had only acted in a timely fashion, the crisis in Ukraine would likely have been greatly mitigated, if not ended. His rhetorical support for Ukraine, like his "red line" in Syria, was meaningless words and no substitute for action.

Which brings me to the second point: lack of action. Although words are sometimes important, actions are what matter. In this respect, Mr. Obama was an empty suit, and it was unfortunate that so many "Ukrainians for Obama" had been twice deceived by this president who in the final analysis was no friend of Ukraine. Thus, instead of supporting John McCain (a proven friend of Ukraine) in 2008, and Mitt Romney (who said Russia is our number one geopolitical threat) in 2012, they opted for Mr. Obama both times.

As for words, it is hard to defend President Donald Trump's hesitation to

criticize Russian actions, and I will not try. Neither will I excuse his inelegant behavior or uncontrolled tweeting. However, no matter how warranted the criticism, is it not unreasonable to conclude that if one wants to talk to an adversarial partner, he should not begin by vilifying him before negotiations take place? That is a well-known negotiating strategy. While Mr. Trump may be short on denouncing Russia's transgressions, his actions since the summer of 2017 suggest the exact opposite.

1. During the August 24, 2017, Independence Day parade in Kyiv, Secretary of Defense James Mattis's presence on the reviewing stand sent an unequivocal message that America stands behind Ukraine. Moreover, the inclusion of a U.S. Army unit in the parade, spoke volumes.

2. Soon after, the U.S. sent the lethal Javelins to Ukraine, something the 44th president refused to even consider for fear of provoking Mr. Putin. Both of these moves by the Trump administration were strong messages that enraged Mr. Putin.

3. After the Skripal poisoning, Mr. Trump approved the expulsion of 60 Russian diplomats, letting the world know where he stood regarding Russia's provocations and attempted murders.

4. Finally, on April 6, the Trump administration unleashed additional sanctions aimed at 17 senior Russian government officials and seven Russian oligarchs with ties to Mr. Putin and 12 companies they own or control.

These punitive actions by the Trump administration were taken in response to ongoing aggression across the globe: in Crimea, eastern Ukraine and Syria.

Bottom line: President Trump's actions speak louder than his words.

Jaroslav Martyniuk
Washington

Orest Deychakiwsky may be reached at odestchak@gmail.com.

(Continued on page 11)

Ukraine's security priorities topic of conference in Washington

by Andriy Dobriansky
UCCA

CONCLUSION

On Thursday, March 8, the National Press Club hosted the ninth U.S.-Ukraine Security Dialogue in Washington, the latest collaborative effort by the Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations (CUSUR), the American Foreign Policy Council (AFPC) and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA). The conference aimed to bring the best and latest information about Ukraine's National Security Strategy into the mainstream conversation about international affairs in the United States. A story in the April 15 issue of this newspaper summarized the first half of the conference; a summary of the afternoon sessions follows.

A series of senior U.S. and Ukrainian strategists as well as defense and security experts set out in the second half of the conference to present a variety of proposals "Identifying Ukraine's Security Priorities" at the ninth U.S.-Ukraine Security Dialogue.

Central to the debate of the day were the remarks by Maj. Gen. Volodymyr Havrylov, defense attaché to the Embassy of Ukraine in the U.S., who has been called upon repeatedly to keep his American counterparts updated on the modernization of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Also key were the remarks of Glen Grant, a British defense expert working in Ukraine since 2010 and the author of a much discussed submission published by the Kyiv Post titled, "How Ukraine can build an Army to Beat Putin," which offered criticisms on the specifics of Ukraine's military development since 2014.

Maj. Gen. Havrylov presented at a stand-alone session on "The Present State of the Russo-Ukraine Conflict" that was prefaced by the remarks of Stefan Romaniw, secretary-general of the Ukrainian World Congress and president of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations. Mr. Romaniw summarized the present state of Ukraine-Russia relations, citing Russia's continued flaunting of international accords, the continued dissemination by Russia of anti-Ukrainian propaganda throughout Russian and international media, Russia's continued cyberattacks against Ukraine, and Russia's repeated denials of any involvement in the military actions in Ukraine.

Commenting on the latest news out of Great Britain concerning the poisoning of former spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia, Mr. Romaniw likened the brazen attack to the assassination of Stepan Bandera in 1959: "same method, same approach, same reason."

Maj. Gen. Havrylov detailed the invasion of Ukrainian territories by what he referred to as a Russian occupational force. In his



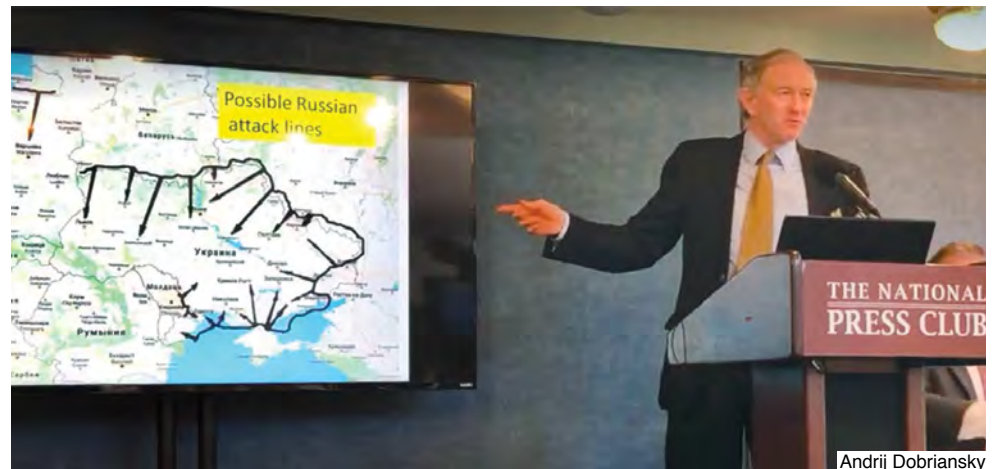
Carly Frame, legislative assistant to Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-Pa.)

description of this force, he broke down Russian forces in Ukraine into their component parts, beginning with "some number" of local Ukrainian citizens at the lowest levels (with reasons for enlistment ranging from matters of basic survival, to the lack of available employment, as well as other means of "Russian motivation"); ethnic Russian volunteers with various citizenships; and mercenaries from Russia. In contrast, Ukraine's intelligence services understand that "regular, active-duty Russian military" personnel staff the command positions of this occupational force, with their identities altered along with forged documents in case of capture.

Due to this command structure, he said this Russian occupational force is fully integrated within the command-and-control structure of the Russian military base across the Ukrainian border in Rostov, which has a "direct line" of communication to Moscow. In practical terms, this means that within the occupied territory of Ukraine, Russia actively controls the communications of its occupational force, the deployment of UAVs (drones) and other air defenses over the occupied territories, as well as electronic warfare, long-range artillery and the deployment of mechanized tank units.

As far as the state of Ukraine's military, Maj. Gen. Havrylov described a completely transformed army after three years of continued war. Having visited the frontlines repeatedly since the beginning of the war, he said he no longer sees checkpoints staffed by soldiers in mismatched uniforms, armed with a variety of weapons and communicating through cellphones. Today's Ukrainian army, he reported, is staffed by combat-experienced personnel that look professional and are equipped with the necessary equipment to carry out their assigned missions. Furthermore, Ukraine today has "a generation of young officers who know how to fight Russians" and are highly motivated.

Maj. Gen. Havrylov acknowledged that there certainly are problems that Ukraine



Glen Grant, British defense expert.

needs to resolve, including the logistics of supporting an active defense barrier across 450 kilometers, as well as an improved command-and-control system.

Mr. Grant posed a question to the conference attendees at the start of his presentation: "Can the Ukrainian military face Russia if they come?" The key to his premise was that, if Russia were to decide on a full military takeover of Ukraine, it would not stay in the Donbas, around which Ukraine's military installations are now aligned.

Mr. Grant's opening slide presentation showed no fewer than 18 possible attack vectors against Ukraine that involves three-quarters of Ukraine's borders. To be prepared against such a possibility, Mr. Grant argued that this situational reality argues in favor of "mobility for the Armed Forces of Ukraine" and "agility from the officers within the Armed Forces to make quick military decisions and to fight where they can, when they have to."

In this assessment, both he and the military attaché were in agreement that the issues plaguing Ukraine's army are not in the fighting forces themselves, but in the logistics and command-and-control structure. Chief on Mr. Grant's list of issues that need to be addressed is the lack of a "central military coordinating body" in Ukraine. The Joint Headquarters of the Ministry of Defense does not incorporate the command structures of the Ukrainian Navy, Air Force, or National Police. To Mr. Grant, this represents a big gap in Ukraine's defense policy, and is something that Russia would exploit in undertaking a further invasion.

In between the aforementioned presentations were two additional panel discussions. Chairing the panel on "Defining Ukraine's Cybersecurity Priorities" was Ambassador William Courtney, executive director of the RAND Business Leaders Forum. The panel discussion featured input by Alex Mehrle, president of Ukraine Global Trade & Investor; Bob Flores, co-founder of the strategic consulting firm Cognito; and Carly Frame, legislative assistant to

Congressman Brendan Boyle (D-Pa.), who had earlier opened the conference with his remarks. Ms. Frame detailed the origins of the U.S.-Ukraine Cybersecurity Cooperation Act of 2017, introduced by Rep. Boyle and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), both members of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus.

Mr. Mehrle, an active participant in the day's question and answer sessions following each panel, placed the topic of cybersecurity within the greater context of Russia testing the resolve of the United States and the West through various means – testing that, in his estimation, "we are not doing a very good job understanding, recognizing and responding to."

Mr. Flores expanded the topic by framing cybersecurity as a concern for the entire world. Whereas, "some of the smartest computer scientists in the world are in Ukraine," Russia views Ukraine as "an easy target," he said, with a lot of critical infrastructure upon which to test its cyberwarfare techniques. The United States and allies such as Israel have developed effective strategies of cyberdefense that Mr. Flores recommended implementing in Ukraine, before Russia develops and tests a cyberattack in Ukraine that it considers successful enough to test against advanced industrial countries.

Ambassador Roman Popadiuk, the first U.S. ambassador to Ukraine and the new chairman of the World Affairs Councils of America, chaired the panel on "Pinpointing Ukraine's Needs in Defending Against Information Warfare." He opened the panel with a summary of Russian techniques used to sow disinformation, including denying involvement in the face of overwhelming evidence, the overuse of legal jargon to obscure the meaning of one's actions, and the concealment of one's actual goals by minimizing or limiting stated objectives. These techniques, complemented with a show of force, constitute a Russian toolbox of disinformation with which to fool the rest of the world.

Janusz Bugajski of the Center for European Policy Analysis followed with an outline of what information warfare can entail, defining its components and its means of attack and analyzing Russia's chosen targets of information attack in Ukraine. He spoke about how best to deploy an effective defense against an information war, including the development of a sustained offensive against the primary aggressor, Russia.

Serhii Vysotskyi, a member of Ukraine's Parliament, discussed his reasoning in determining why Russia believes that its informational warfare allows it to win. For Russia, he said, this involves maintaining an unbroken line of counterintelligence – "the system" – within and beyond its borders for nearly a century.

The last member of the panel, Herman Pirchner, founding president of the



Herman Pirchner (left), founding president of the American Foreign Policy Council, and Janusz Bugajski of the Center for European Policy Analysis.



Walter Zaryckyj (left) of the Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations and Maj. Gen. Volodymyr Havrylov, defense attaché to the Embassy of Ukraine in the U.S.

(Continued on page 16)



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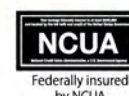
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Composer Myroslav Skoryk's 80th birthday marked with concert at UIA

by Adrian Bryttan

NEW YORK – Composer Myroslav Skoryk is one of those rare beings who succeeds at anything he touches; his many beautifully crafted, accessible works have made him a beloved figure for audiences. He is also one of the rare composers whose works are, at the same time, esteemed by professionals and performed all over the globe. On March 4, an overflow crowd vied for seats at the Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA) for the concert "Celebrating Composer Myroslav Skoryk's 80th Birthday."

A quick glance at YouTube shows 5,080 video performances of Mr. Skoryk's compositions. In addition to ubiquitous incarnations of his deservedly popular "Melody," you can see excerpts from the opera "Moses" – composed for the 2001 visit of Pope John Paul II, nine violin concertos, cello and piano concertos, music for film, ballets and large orchestral works, chamber music for solo instruments and ensembles, psalms and songs, and works in jazz idiom.

From the 1970s on, I have often performed Mr. Skoryk's "Violin Sonata No.1," and later conducted the Orchestral Triptych from "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors" in Ukraine, and his "Melody" with the Seoul Philharmonic in Korea. I can certainly attest that Mr. Skoryk's music is just as enjoyable to perform as it is to listen to.

Prelude

Four score years ago, Myroslav Skoryk was born in Lviv. When he was 9 years old, Mr. Skoryk's family was deported to Siberia, where Myroslav grew up. They did not return to Lviv until 1955. His parents loved music but were not professionals. However, Mr. Skoryk's great aunt was the world-renowned soprano Solomiya Krushelnytska, who was chosen by Giacomo Puccini to premiere his successful revision of the opera "Madama Butterfly." (Mr. Skoryk has composed a ballet named after this famous relative, plus a keyboard fantasy on themes from "Madama Butterfly.")

Between 1955 and 1960, he studied at the Lviv Conservatory, where his composi-

tion teachers included Stanislav Liudkevych. Post-graduate work was at the Moscow Conservatory with composer Dmitry Kabalevsky. Several of Mr. Skoryk's compositions later came to be required elements at international solo competitions. He has nurtured many notable students, including Yevhen Stankovych, who was honored last season with an author's concert at the Ukrainian Institute of America.

After UIA President Daniel G. Swistel, M.D. introduced the octogenarian composer, the new consul general of Ukraine in New York, Oleksii Holubov, offered his tribute as well.

Themes

Pianist Mykola Suk opened the first half of the celebratory concert with Mr. Skoryk's five movement "Partita No. 5 in modo retro for Solo Piano" (1975). This pastiche began with a Baroque styled "Prelude," followed by a whimsical Ravel-like "Waltz," performed with subtle rubato by Mr. Suk. "Aria" began slyly with a Chopin flavor; only to be met with more acerbic harmonies, while the concluding "Finale" was a merry romp with unexpected syncopations and a rollicking Latin American middle section. An ambiguous ending pulsed with alternating C7 and D7 chords.

This homage to the giants who came before him illustrates how Mr. Skoryk can make many styles his own, and yet synthesize a personal creation in a contemporary idiom. The composer is, indeed, a revered pedagogue at conservatories in Lviv and Kyiv. His delving into modern harmonies led to his dissertation on the modal system in Prokofiev and writing a text, "The Structural Aspects of Chords in 20th Century Music" (1983).

Mr. Suk was then joined at the piano by the composer to perform "Three Jazz Pieces for Four Hands." Beginning with "Pleasant Stroll" evoking Scott Joplin, this is a composition geared to elicit smiles in toe-tapping audiences. The closing movement, "In Folk Style," incorporated a Hutsul-type theme in a jazzy style. As one might expect, this built to a boisterous close.



Denis Andreev

UIA Executive Director Olena Sidlovych holds the birthday cake for composer Myroslav Skoryk. On the left is oboist Igor Leschishin.

Variations

Exotic Ukrainian folk music has always been a font of inspiration for the composer, who was born not far from the Carpathian Mountains. One of Mr. Skoryk's earliest works to bring him international acclaim was the atmospheric score composed in Hutsul style for Sergei Paradzhanov's 1965 film "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors."

The final piece of the first half was in a similar idiom. The "Carpathian Rhapsody" was arranged by the composer for solo violin and string quartet in 2005. Dvorak, Liszt, Bartok and other composers utilized a rhapsody format to alternate the improvisatory and whirlwind dance styles of folk music. The Momenta String Quartet – violins Emilie-Anne Gendron and Alex Shiozaki, violist Stephanie Griffin, cellist Michael Haas – was joined by double bassist Ryan Kamm.

The artistic director of Music at the Institute, Solomiya Ivakhiv, negotiated all the demands and expressive potential of the solo violin part. Ms. Ivakhiv certainly understands the idiom, and her singing tone was well-suited to the opening lyri-

cism, while the dance-like repetitions were energetically performed.

Gran pausa

Ms. Ivakhiv thanked audience members for their support of Ukrainian music, and now invited listeners to peruse and help promulgate the composer's published works displayed in the foyer.

Following intermission, the Momenta String Quartet performed Mr. Skoryk's "Diptych for String Quartet" (1993). Interestingly, this composition began in an early Schoenbergian style of "Transfigured Night." All the interweaving strands of this expressionistic opening were performed with a suitable rich tone by the performers. After *agitato* slashes à la Bernard Herrmann's music for "Psycho," the music unexpectedly veers into a funky, quasi-jazz playfulness before closing on an echo of the opening. The quartet delivered a fine performance of this difficult score.

Finale

The last composition, "Concerto for Oboe and String Orchestra," was commissioned in 2017 by Igor Leschishin, principal oboist of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. Spanning 14 minutes, it begins with plaintive phrases that transform into short jagged interchanges between the soloist and strings.

It is a substantial piece, although the oboe writing began to feel a bit square and repetitious, not fully utilizing the soaring improvisational capability of the instrument. Mr. Leschishin possesses a lovely, centered tone with an attractive, controlled vibrato. He met all the quick hazards of this concerto with solid technique.

Unexpectedly, a stately lyrical melody appeared midway in the concerto. This tune crystalized the essence of Ukrainian ethnic music without any direct quotes, much like Dvorak did in his "Slavonic Dances." This haunting melody was beautifully decorated with string counterpoint and immediately modulated. Now the strings repeated the tune, with the oboe contributing embroidery around it.

It was an affecting, lovely moment and a memorable calling card left by the master composer, Myroslav Skoryk.



Violinist Solomiya Ivakhiv with members of the Momenta String Quartet.



Pianists Mykola Suk and Myroslav Skoryk play four hands jazz.

Ukraine's neighbor...

(Continued from page 7)

The U.S. approach towards Belarus, also reflected in language in the Belarus Democracy Acts, has been to leave the door open to better relations should the Belarusian

government take steps toward democracy and respect for human rights. Indeed, there has been a partial waiver of some sanctions as Belarus has taken some minor positive steps, such as releases of political prisoners (putting aside the fact that they should never have been imprisoned in the first place). Having said that, it is highly doubtful that Mr.

Lukashenka will change his stripes and become anything even nearly approaching a full-fledged democrat or engage in meaningful political or economic reforms.

Nevertheless, it is important for the West to keep encouraging even small steps towards positive change in Belarus and support those brave Belarusians struggling for

freedom, democracy and a European future. A genuinely independent, secure, democratic Belarus that is true to its Belarusian identity and where the rule of law and human rights are respected is most assuredly not in Moscow's interests. However, it is in U.S. and the West's interests. And it is very much in the interests of Belarus's closest kin – Ukraine.

A UKRAINIAN SUMMER

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DEADLINE for submissions to be included in our festival listing: **APRIL 26.**

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Hutchison said. 'The Annual National Program is the next step NATO and Ukraine can do together.' She welcomed Ukraine's progress in defense and democratic reform, and urged the country to "stamp out corruption." The ambassador met with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and underscored the commitment of both the U.S. and NATO to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Ambassador Hutchison concluded her trip by visiting the Maidan Memorial, where she tied a ribbon of remembrance in memory of the scores of brave Ukrainians who gave their lives for the dream of a better Ukraine in 2014, the U.S. Mission to NATO reported. (Ukrainian Canadian Congress Daily Briefing)

Man denies sabotage charges in Crimea

Ukrainian national Yevhen Panov pleaded not guilty to sabotage charges as a Russia-imposed court in annexed Crimea started his trial on April 16. Mr. Panov called the charges against him "fantasies created by the investigators" and rejected them. Russian authorities arrested Mr. Panov and another Ukrainian national, Andriy Zakhately, in August 2017 and charged them with being a "saboteur group" that was planning a series of terrorist attacks on the peninsula. Mr. Zakhately, who pleaded guilty in an agreement with investigators, was tried in February and sentenced to six and a half years in prison. Kyiv has rejected Russian charges against the two men and has called their arrests "a provocation." Russia has prosecuted and imprisoned several Ukrainians on what rights activists say are trumped-up, politically motivated charges since Moscow seized control of the Crimea region in March 2014. In March 2017, the European Parliament called on Russia to free more than 30 Ukrainian citizens who were in prison or other conditions of restricted freedom in Russia, Crimea, and parts of eastern Ukraine that are controlled by Russia-backed separatists. (Crimea Desk, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

Savchenko resumes hunger strike

Ukrainian lawmaker Nadiya Savchenko, who is in jail pending trial on charges of plotting a terrorist attack on Parliament with grenades and automatic weapons, has resumed a hunger strike. Ms. Savchenko's lawyer Oleh Solovey said on April 16 that his client had to stop the hunger strike after she fainted during a lie-detector test on April 13. According to Mr. Solovey, Ms. Savchenko agreed to stop the hunger strike for three days in order to be able to complete the polygraph. He said she feels well now and can submit to the test on April 17. Ms. Savchenko announced the hunger strike on March 23 as a Kyiv court placed her under two-month pretrial arrest. One day earlier, fellow lawmakers voted to strip her of her immunity from prosecution and authorized her arrest. Ms. Savchenko and Volodymyr Ruban are accused of plotting to overthrow the government, carry out a "large-scale terrorist attack" in central Kyiv, and kill senior officials. Mr. Ruban was detained earlier in March while crossing into government-controlled territory in eastern Ukraine, allegedly with large amounts of weapons and ammunition hidden in a shipment of furniture. Ms. Savchenko maintains her innocence and says her arrest was illegal. (RFE/RL, with reporting by pravda.ua)

Police investigate grenade attack

Ukrainian authorities say they are investigating a rocket-propelled-grenade attack on a building that houses the offices of two of Ukraine's top independent news outlets

(Continued on page 13)



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Manor College encourages students to “Soar in 4”

College adds bachelor's degree programs and tuition freeze, offers tuition discount

by Emily Carroll
Manor College

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – Furthering the dynamic developments that have occurred at Manor College over the past two years – the college fully rebranded, adopting the tagline “You Belong Here,” welcomed the largest New Student Orientation in its history; undertook major renovations, including to the library, outdoor learning spaces, classrooms, offices and, most recently, the Ukrainian Heritage Museum – Manor College made its most anticipated announcement yet.

Starting in the fall of 2018 Manor will offer a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Technology and Practice Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with concentrations in pre-law, social sciences, history, entrepreneurship, and interdisciplinary studies (pending approval by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education).

For many years, Manor students have asked for four-year degree programs to be added to Manor's already robust associate degree program offerings. With the majority of Manor graduates continuing their education to obtain a bachelor's degree and having to transfer to other institutions, students have been continually wanting to pursue their degrees at Manor.

Not only is Manor College expanding its academic offerings to accommodate more students, but it is also taking action to make sure that students can afford their education.

While Manor College is already the best-priced private Catholic college in Pennsylvania, it has just announced a tuition freeze for the 2018-2019 academic year. When the college froze tuition for 2016-2017, Manor saw an increase in enrollment for new students and returning students, and received much positive feedback from students and families about Manor's reasonable price point.

Manor is looking for even better results from this new tuition freeze because now students can earn a four-year degree for the same affordable cost.

The college officially announced these two new programs in late January during an on-campus event titled “Soar in 4,” where attendees created their own ice cream sundaes and heard announcements from Dr. Jonathan Peri, president; Joanna Bassert, VMD, director and professor of veterinary technology; Jody Weaver CVT, alumni and practice manager at the Rau Animal Hospital; and Mike Landis, Liberal Studies Program director. They spoke about the new programs, as well as the careers available with the degrees.

The B.S. in Veterinary Technology and Practice Management degree prepares students for leadership positions in a variety of animal- and veterinary-related businesses. This program builds upon Manor College's AVMA-accredited Program of Veterinary Technology. Students in this program will be equipped for positions in organizations such as veterinary practices, pet sitting and grooming businesses, biomedical research facilities, diagnostic laboratories, animal shelters, mobile veterinary clinics, zoo or wildlife management and USDA or other public sector positions.

“This program is an exciting and cost effective way to continue your education towards a bachelor's degree, gain business know-how and expand employment opportunities beyond clinical practice,” said Dr. Bassert.

The B.A. in Liberal Studies exposes students to liberal arts curriculum. Critical thinking, problem-solving and the ability to research and analyze information are just a few of the skills students will learn in this program. Prof. Landis added, “The Liberal Studies baccalaureate/bachelor's program at Manor provides students with an academic curriculum through which they can realize and optimize their deep intellectual and creative visions – their native passions for inquiry and learning. The program, with its five distinct concentration or learning-path options, is intrinsically interdisciplinary and exploratory, giving each student the capacity and flexibility to customize her or his learning path in a manner conducive to realizing unique academic and vocational-oriented purposes and visions.”

In tandem with these new programs, Manor College ini-



Kelly Peiffer

Joanna Bassert, VMD, professor of veterinary technology, at the launch day dubbed “Soar in 4,” when Manor College announced two new bachelor's degree programs.

tiated The Basil Guarantee, a tuition discount for all students enrolling in either bachelor's degree program. With this guarantee, students are eligible to receive a 20 percent discount off tuition for the final two years (junior and senior years) of the program. This tuition discount cannot be combined with other tuition discounts, but it can be used with scholarships and financial aid. This is a limited time offer that is available for all students who enroll in the programs between fall 2018 and spring 2020. Manor is currently accepting applications for these new programs.

Located in suburban Philadelphia, Manor College is America's only institution of higher education with a Ukrainian heritage. Manor is a private two-year college offering more than 30 associate degree programs in allied health, science and math; business technology and legal studies; and the liberal arts to traditional age and adult students. For more information, readers may go to www.manor.edu.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

in central Kyiv as “hooliganism.” The attack on an entrance to the Kyivmiskbud building, located in Kyiv's Pechersk neighborhood not far from the government quarter, occurred around 2 a.m. local time on April 13, Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry, citing the Kyiv police department, said in a statement. Police arrived at the scene after neighbors reported hearing an explosion. Across the street from the Kyivmiskbud building they discovered a spent tube used to fire a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG). Photos of the RPG tube published by Hromadske.TV and Ukrayinska Pravda, two independent media outlets with offices inside the building, show it to be one similar to those used by forces fighting in eastern Ukraine. Other photographs showed damage to the office building's exterior, as well as that of a neighboring restaurant. The Internal Affairs Ministry said investigators were looking through security-camera footage and explosives experts were combing the site for clues. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Christopher Miller in Kyiv)

UWC on electronic declarations for activists

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) has called upon the governing authorities of Ukraine to annul legislation which requires civic activists working on preventing and combating corruption to electronically submit public declarations of their assets. The need to annul the requirement for civic activists to submit e-declarations was articulated by Ambassadors of G-7 countries and leaders of the European Union. “The Ukrainian World Congress calls upon the governing authorities of Ukraine

to expedite the adoption of legislation that will eliminate the requirement for civic activists to submit electronic declarations of assets, and any liability of those who failed to file such declarations,” stated UWC President Eugene Czolij, according to an April 11 release. (UWC)

Ukrainian soldier killed in the east

Ukraine says one of its soldiers has been killed and five wounded in clashes in the country's east. The Defense Ministry said on April 17 that Russia-backed separatists violated a frequently breached ceasefire 52 times during the previous 24 hours, firing artillery, machine guns, grenade launchers and mortars. Meanwhile, the militants claimed that Ukrainian government forces violated the ceasefire by shelling the separatist-controlled town of Horlivka in the Donetsk region. Ceasefire deals announced as part of the Minsk accords – September 2014 and February 2015 pacts aimed to resolve the conflict – have failed to hold. A new ceasefire agreement was reached in late 2017 and was meant to begin on December 23, but both sides have accused each other of repeated violations since then. (RFE/RL, with reporting by DAN and TASS)

Family of four killed in mine blast

Ukrainian police say a missing family of four has been killed in an anti-tank mine explosion near the frontline in the eastern region of Luhansk, an area the United Nations has called one of the most mine-contaminated places on Earth. Police officers discovered the bodies of a couple – both the man and the woman were 57 years old – their 38-year-old son, and his common-law wife, also 38, near the charred remains of a Chevrolet Niva. The incident took place in a wooded area near the Siversky Donets River,

which marks the frontline between territory controlled by government forces and Russia-backed separatists. The family members were residents of Pischane village in the Stanytsia Luhanska district of the Luhansk region and were reported missing by a neighbor on April 7, according to police. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) identified one of the women as Nina Vasylyvna, a Pischane community leader who talked with the organization days earlier about raising chickens and growing vegetables in greenhouses to feed residents of the frontline village. Police believe the family drove over an anti-tank mine with the car, resulting in a large blast that killed all four. Photographs posted to the website of Ukraine's National Police show tire tracks beside a swathe of scorched earth several meters wide, the destroyed car, and what appears to be one of the bodies splayed out nearby. Investigators first classified the incident as a homicide but have since changed it to a terrorist act. Forensic experts, bomb disposal technicians and members of an investigative team were working at the scene. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has called the area of eastern Ukraine where fighting has entered its fifth year “one of the most mine-contaminated places on Earth.” UNICEF and the ICRC have both repeatedly called on all warring parties to immediately end the use of mines, which they say have contaminated communities and put residents – especially children – in constant danger of injury and death. (RFE/RL)

World Bank reports on Ukraine

The World Bank stated on April 10 that “Ukraine's economy grew by 2.5 percent in 2017, the second year of modest growth, according to the World Bank's latest Ukraine Economic Update. Growth in man-

ufacturing, services and construction was robust, but weaknesses in the agriculture and mining sectors, together with delays in key reforms to further strengthen investor confidence contributed to the modest overall growth performance.” The World Bank also noted: “Economic growth is projected at 3.5 percent in 2018 if pending reforms in anti-corruption, land markets, state-owned banks and privatization can be advanced in the next few months. This would provide an important signal to investors. If reforms are delayed, growth could drop below current levels in an uncertain macroeconomic environment as financing risks rapidly increase.” In addition, it reported that “Ukraine faces major financing needs to repay public debt and fiscal pressures from higher public sector wages and social benefits in 2018 and 2019. Mobilizing adequate international financing by completing pending reforms in the months ahead will be important to maintain macroeconomic stability.” Other items noted in the report: “Meeting the fiscal deficit target of 2.5 percent of GDP in 2018 will require improving targeting of housing utility subsidies, making further wage increases contingent on measures to optimize the school and hospital network and public-sector staffing, and identifying affordable options to update public sector pensions. ...The recently adopted reforms in education, health, and public administration seek to improve compensation for teachers, doctors and public servants to strengthen incentives and attract quality personnel. Achieving this in a fiscally affordable manner will require coordinating further increases in salaries with time-bound measures to optimize staffing and the school and hospital network.” (Ukrainian Canadian Congress Daily, based on the World Bank's Ukraine Economic Update)

COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

"Music of Survival" – story of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus – shown in Pittsburgh

by Nickolas C. Kotow

PITTSBURGH – The film "Music of Survival" ("Brave Seventeen" in Ukrainian) was premiered in Pittsburgh on Sunday, March 18, to an enthusiastic audience filling the hall of the Ukrainian American Citizens Club of Carnegie, Pa. Producer, director and storyteller Orest Sushko, whose father, Makar Sushko, was the first Canadian member of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, introduced the film, having been invited to show it in Pittsburgh by the president of the Ukrainian Technological Society, George Honchar.

The film presents the story of the brave 17 men who formed the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus in the winter of 1941 in Kyiv under German occupation and who, united together, endured throughout World War II, and the German and Russian occu-

pations of Ukraine, to preserve the music of the bandura, which is "pleasing to God and the people."

The bandura, the national instrument of Ukraine, found its earliest inception during the Kozak state in Ukraine, when individual kobzars roamed the countryside playing and singing songs. The bandura is a multi-stringed musical instrument, whose strings are individually tuned, and uniquely shaped to permit playing with both hands at once, unlike a guitar, or lute, or tambura, which is played with only one hand. It is intimately tied to Ukrainian culture, so much so that its playing was banned in 1876 by the tsar of Muscovy.

In 1902 Hnat Khotkevych conceived of the idea of having multiple players in an ensemble and chorus. It was not until Ukrainian independence in 1918 that the first professional bandurist ensemble con-



Courtesy of Orest Sushko

On location in Kharkiv during the filming of "The Music of Survival" (from left) are: Kostyantyn Cheremsky, Volodymyr Voyt Jr., Orest Sushko, Ao Loo and Michael Ellis.



Roksana Korchymsky

At the screening of the documentary in Pittsburgh: (seated from left) Orest Sushko, Roman Komichak, (standing, first row) Ted Sywy, Nickolas C. Kotow, Olexsandra Korenovska, Anne Konecky, Marijka Zaliszczuk, Jaroslawa Komichak, Prof. Adriana N. Helbig, (standing, second row) Yaroslav Hodowanec, George Honchar, Svitlana Honchar and Damian Karpa.

cert was established in Kyiv. Many bandurist ensembles were created at this time, and a golden era of bandura performance and concerts ensued. But many players were killed in the initial years of World War II.

In the winter of 1941, surviving members along with newly recruited musicians came together as an ensemble of 17 to form the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus. Hryhory Kytasty was appointed as its artistic director. This was at the time of the German occupation, and concerts were permitted only with its approval.

Their desire to be free from both Nazi and Soviet persecution was pointedly overstated during one of the ensemble's performances, which led to its eviction from Ukraine. Chorus members were forcibly transported to Germany in August of 1942. Their fate was unknown. Their desire for freedom had led them to become workers themselves. After several months of incarceration and hard labor, the chorus was

ordered to perform in the work camps of the Ostarbeiters across Germany to raise their spirits, so that their labor production would increase. The chorus eventually returned to Ukraine, but were forced to flee to Germany in the face of the Russian advancing forces.

After enduring and surviving the final days of the Battle of Berlin in April of 1945, the chorus members fled to Munich in the American Zone and were eventually liberated by the Americans. In 1949, the chorus members were accepted into the United States as refugees and settled in the Detroit area.

"Music of Survival" is available in both English- and Ukrainian-language versions of a single DVD disc that can be ordered online through musicofsurvival.com. It can also be streamed and downloaded online from the same website. It is said that there

(Continued on page 16)

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Kipiani champions history at UCNS



Jaroslaw Dutkewych

Speaker Vakhtang Kipiani with his audience at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington.

by Andrew Sorokowski

WASHINGTON – Ukrainians still do not have a sufficient knowledge and understanding of their own history. For while Ukrainian historical scholarship has made great strides since independence, its results have not penetrated the general population. Even the war of independence, the Holodomor, the second world war and the Holocaust are insufficiently known. Thus, there is a need for a responsible “popular history” that is more accessible than the writings of professional scholarship but more balanced and accurate than what is often presented by the media.

This is the mission of Vakhtang Kipiani, director of Istorychna Pravda (Historical Truth), who spoke at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family (UCNS) in Washington on February 27.

Co-sponsored by the Shevchenko Scientific Society Washington Chapter, and the UCNS Library, and introduced by society president Dr. Bohdana Urbanovych, Mr. Kipiani’s informal presentation in the UCNS Shawel Room provided examples of popular historical ignorance and how it can be remedied. He pointed out the irony of asking young people to defend their country without educating them about events like the Battle of Kruty, where in January 1918 young volunteers gave their lives not, as some believe, for a lost cause, but in order to slow the advance of the Red Army long enough to permit international recognition of the Ukrainian Republic at Brest-Litovsk.

Mr. Kipiani cited the hundreds of videos

that Istorychna Pravda has distributed throughout Ukraine, particularly in the eastern and southern regions where Ukrainian history is poorly understood. He noted that even schoolteachers are often insufficiently knowledgeable about Ukrainian history to pass it on to their students. (This writer can attest that Mr. Kipiani is not exaggerating; while teaching in Ukraine, he was shocked to find that fourth-year university students had only the vaguest idea of what happened in Ukraine in 1918.)

The talk was followed by questions and answers. Afterwards, Mr. Kipiani chatted with the attendees over wine and cheese.

This was the second in this year’s series of events co-sponsored by the Shevchenko Scientific Society. On March 16, the society participated in a Taras Shevchenko celebration at the Embassy of Ukraine, co-sponsored by the local branches of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Ukrainian Engineers’ Society of America, and featuring speaker Prof. Leonid Rudnytsky and pianist Serhii Morozov.

Future events of the Shevchenko Society DC Chapter and the UCNS Library, to be held at the UCNS, include a book signing by Jaroslaw Martyniuk on April 15, a lecture on Ukraine’s foreign policy by Dr. Lidiya Zubytska on April 29, a lecture by Prof. Jean-Pierre Cap on Mazepa in French literature on May 13, and a poetry reading by Yarka Bohach on May 20.

Andrew Sorokowski is secretary of the Shevchenko Scientific Society’s Washington Chapter.



Bohdana Urbanovych

Vakhtang Kipiani of Istorychna Pravda speaks at an event co-sponsored by the Shevchenko Scientific Society Washington Chapter and the Library of the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine.

Ukrainian American Archives and Museum presents contemporary Ukrainian poetry in translation

by Ksenia Rychtycka

HAMTRAMCK, Mich. – From its earliest oral traditions, poetry has been an integral part of Ukrainian culture – a vital force of its very psyche. In recent times, this was evidenced during the Euro-Maidan when Taras Shevchenko’s poems were recited over loudspeakers, and poets joined in the protests in full force. While the war in eastern Ukraine continues to impact families across the nation as they grapple with grief, trauma, depression and displacement, many contemporary poets highlight and ponder current realities, the nation’s past and what lies ahead. Iryna Starovoyt is one such poet.

On Saturday, March 10, the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum of Detroit (UAAM) presented “Grace Mahoney Reads Iryna Starovoyt’s Poems.” This was a unique bilingual reading of Ukrainian poetry from Ms. Starovoyt’s collection “A Field of Foundlings.” What made it especially compelling was that translator Ms. Mahoney presented the poems side-by-side, first with a video of Ms. Starovoyt

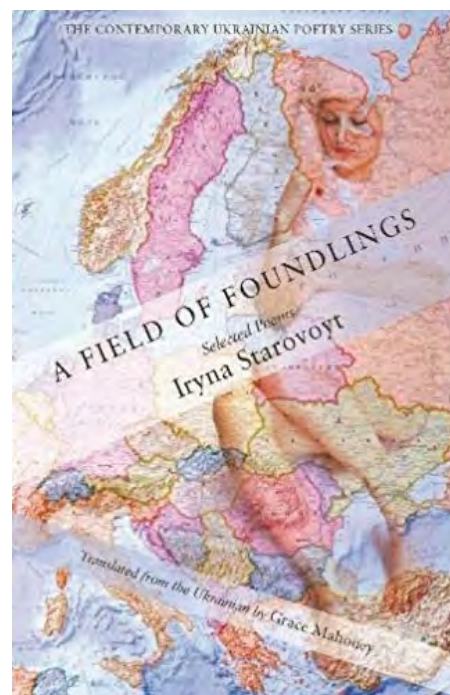


Grace Mahoney during her reading and presentation at the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum in Hamtramck, Mich.

reading in the original Ukrainian, followed by the English translation. The result provided an immediacy and intimacy that made it easy to connect to the poetry.

Ms. Starovoyt is a poet, translator, essayist and scholar who was born and currently resides in Lviv. She is also an associate professor in the Department of Cultural Studies at Ukrainian Catholic University. Her first collection of poems, “No Longer Limpid,” was well-received by critics when it was published in 1997. In 2012-2013, Ms. Starovoyt was a research associate on the Memory at War project at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, where she completed her second collection titled “The Groningen Manuscript.” Her poems have been included in poetry anthologies, set to music, and translated and published into Polish, Lithuanian, Armenian and English.

Ms. Starovoyt’s poetry delves into the past of the 20th century, one filled with immeasurable horror for her homeland. She shines the light on generational memo-



“A Field of Foundlings” by Iryna Starovoyt, translated by Grace Mahoney.

(Continued on page 18)

Pysanka master artist conducts workshop in Naples, Fla.



Andrij Atanowsky

NAPLES, Fla. – A pysanka workshop was recently conducted by Naples Branch 136 of the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America at Lely South Regional Library. The instructor was master pysanka artist and UNWLA member Stephanie Troy. The 25 participants enthusiastically embraced this art form; many had a natural talent. The event was deemed by organizers to be a tremendous success. In addition, there are two ongoing displays of Ukrainian embroidery, pysanky and other artifacts at the Estero Regional Library and at the Lely Library; they can be viewed through April 30.

– Natalka Santarsiero

Ukraine's security...

(Continued from page 8)

American Foreign Policy Council, had spent time last summer as part of an official delegation of international security experts visiting Ukraine, including members of the Jamestown Foundation, the Hudson Institute and The Heritage Foundation, alongside Ukrainian American representatives of the CUSUR and the UCCA.

He observed that "the peak time of Russian propaganda effectiveness has already passed," as evidenced by the growing number of nations unwilling to tolerate Russia's obfuscations at the United Nations, as well as a similar level of unity in this regard in the U.S. legislative and executive branches, which includes the opinions he hears from both the departments of State and Defense. However, in the digital realm, particularly social media, there is still a lot of work to

be done if the goal is to successfully counter Russia's information war, he added.

Earlier in the day, Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Valeriy Chaly was joined by two members of Ukraine's Parliament, Oksana Syroyid (Samopomich), vice-chair of the Verkhovna Rada; and Artur Herasymov, (Petro Poroshenko Bloc), chair of the Rada's Committee on Military-Industrial Complex and Military-Technical Cooperation, to present on the topic of "Why Ukrainian Security Matters – The Ukrainian Perspective."

To offer another perspective, Chatham House's James Sherr spoke at a stand-alone session in the afternoon titled "Why Ukrainian Security Matters - A Western Perspective." He was introduced by Orest Deychakiwsky of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, who posed the question "Does the West understand why Ukraine's security matters?" Mr. Sherr re-emphasized the seriousness of the "legal and treaty regime" developed after the

end of World War II which has been repeatedly dismissed by Vladimir Putin's Russia. Two examples of dismissed international agreements include Russia's violation of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation signed in 1997, as well as the oft-cited Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances for Ukraine signed in 1994 by the United States, Russia and the United Kingdom.

In answer to the title of his presentation, Mr. Sherr quoted Russia's Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov, who stated in October 2014 that "Moldova and the Baltic states need to consider events in Ukraine and draw conclusions." If international agreements such as those Ukraine signed on to can be so easily dismissed, then NATO members Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania must surely question if their binding agreements would remain inviolable in the coming years, he noted.

"Music of Survival..."

(Continued from page 14)

are tears at every concert of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus. The same can be said of every showing of "Music of Survival." One must hear the last survivors of the early chorus, Petro Kytasty and Mykola Liskiwsky, sharing their stories to really grasp and understand their courage in preserving the bandura and Ukrainian culture.

The Pittsburgh showing was sponsored by the Ukrainian National Association, Ukrainian Selfreliance of Western Pennsylvania Federal Credit Union and the Ukrainian Technological Society of Pittsburgh. Mr. Sushko announced that showings are being planned throughout the American and Canadian Ukrainian communities.

Sponsorship of the film that helps bring this story to local communities is aiding in developing a platform of education and advocacy centered on delivering this rich musical and cultural legacy to future generations. The educational initiative under way includes gifting a copy of the film to every graduating student of schools of Ukrainian studies across North America, every graduating year, in perpetuity. The first DVDs were gifted to Ukrainian school graduates after a screening of the film for students of St Vladimir's Orthodox Parish school in Parma, Ohio, on March 24.

Gratitude was expressed to Roman Komichak, host of the Ukrainian Radio Program in Pittsburgh, for announcements, to Greg Sembrat, president of the Carnegie Ukrainian Club, for hall use and food offerings, to Fred Yasnowsky for audio set-up and to Svitlana Honchar for delicious Ukrainian pastries.

The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus has announced a 100th anniversary tour for 2018. (Details on concert dates, times and places will be forthcoming.) The Pittsburgh community was pleased to learn of the concert date of September 9 in Youngstown, Ohio, and especially to see Nick Hladio of nearby Ambridge, Pa., who is now a member of the ensemble.



Courtesy of Orest Sushko

Filmmaker Orest Sushko (left) with the last two survivors of the early Bandurist Chorus, Mykola Liskiwsky (center) and Petro Kytasty.

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Ukrainian American...

(Continued from page 15)

ries that were suppressed, and only now in recent times are being openly discussed in a new context.

In an interview with Artefact, she stated: "...There were moments in the history of the last century when our cities and villages became the most dangerous places on Earth, where only one out of a hundred survived. The memory of this time was almost completely erased. We now know that this type of collective amnesia is shameful and dangerous."

In very candid, conversational verse, Ms. Starovoyt draws on mythology, modern technology, history, memory, wordplay, ironies and paradoxes to highlight her thoughts and observations. The result is at times both compelling and surprising. "A foreign land – everything you desire. Until you stop wanting./A homeland – everything you have. Until you stop being/able to cross the ocean by swimming. It collects sweat,/internet cables, and our children's Cyrillic."

Through vivid imagery, readers experience the symbolism and deep layers of meaning that resound in her work: "The grass under the scythe is still alive at the roots,/but the stems are left senseless and dead./The grass bleeds green, and can nei-

ther speak nor keep silent./Losing their language, words grow in power."

Ms. Mahoney is a Ph.D student in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan. "A Field of Foundlings" is her first book of translations. She also writes poetry and has exhibited her watercolor paintings in an exhibition titled "Invisible Women: Portraits of Aging in Ukraine." The visibility and social role of Ukraine's older generation of women, embodied in the iconic "babusia" (survivor, nurturer and activist) were explored.

Ms. Mahoney has also attended the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute, where she was awarded the Theodosius and Irene Senkowsky Prize for Achievement in Ukrainian Studies. In 2015, Ms. Mahoney received a Fulbright fellowship and spent 10 months in Ukraine. Although she was based in Kamianets-Podilsky, she had the opportunity to travel and meet with various poets and scholars, including Ms. Starovoyt. The decision to translate the Ukrainian poet's works came about organically.

"I reached out to her to discuss her scholarship and ended up reading, loving and translating her poetry," said Ms. Mahoney. "We get along really well and have similar styles and artistic sensibilities, so translating her work felt intuitive and organic. She has also been a generous author in the process. She gives thoughtful

feedback and supports my decisions – few translators are so lucky!"

Presented in a dual-language format, "A Field of Foundlings" is the first installment of a Contemporary Ukrainian Poet Series published by Lost Horse Press, which is based in Sandpoint, Idaho. This literary series is a partnership between Christine Holbert (founder and publisher of Lost Horse Press) and Ms. Mahoney (series editor), who originally hails from Idaho.

Ms. Holbert has a Ukrainian background and established the nonprofit independent literary press in 1998. For 20 years she has made it her mission to publish books of high literary merit and runs a one-woman show from reviewing and editing manuscripts to book and catalogue design, typesetting, marketing, promotion, etc. The list is endless. Many of the books she has published have won national awards. In addition to running the press, Ms. Holbert is very active in the literary community and has organized creative writing workshops and conferences, literary readings, a statewide book contest, as well as writing workshops for local children.

The Ukrainian Poetry Series will now introduce readers to a diverse group of Ukrainian poets, both emerging and established. The second volume in the series "Songs for a Dead Rooster" by Yuri Andrukhovych, translated by Vitaly

Chernetsky and Ostep Kin, will be released this fall.

"A Field of Foundlings" may be ordered by visiting losthorsepress.org and is available on amazon.com.

Since its grand opening last November, the UAAM has hosted several successful events, including "Bohdan Soroka: Artworks," an exhibit spanning the 50-year career of the Ukrainian graphic artist. His daughter, world-class musician Solomia Soroka, performed at the opening, and Dr. Roman Hryciw spoke about the artist and his work. In February, Dr. Andrew Dzul gave a lecture and visual presentation on "Oleksandr Kaniuka: An Artist's Story of Survival, Courage and Art."

For more information about the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum, readers may visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UAAMDetroit.

Punishing...

(Continued from page 7)

his war machine, which he needs to protect his fabulous wealth and that of a handful of his oligarch cronies. According to his propaganda pitch, however, it's to protect Russia from the aggressive West.

Unprovoked military incursions and the deaths of some half- million people caused by his wars – think Syria, Ukraine, Chechnya and more – should be enough to condemn President Putin. Without appropriate punishment, he orchestrates soft – but dangerously damaging – warfare, including cyber-attacks and fake news. Russia's plundering of Internet information to control elections, shift policies, and corrode the hearts and minds of citizens of other countries are the new weapons that must be dealt with.

The West needs to continue punishing Russia for its disdain for the rule of law and world peace. President Putin, who models his aggression on that of his predecessors of Russia's Soviet regime, has proven over and over again that Russia is not, nor does it want to be, "one of us" – a Western democracy. It is the enemy.

The G-7 foreign ministers' meeting provides an excellent occasion to consolidate a united approach to Russia. The time for pussy-footing around accusations that the West is ganging up on Russia is over.

All eyes will be on Canada when the foreign ministers meet and make recommendations on how to secure global peace. Among them will be the Ukraine's minister of foreign affairs, Pavlo Klimkin.

The importance of the invitation to Ukraine offered by Canada which holds the G-7 leadership this year, must not be underestimated.

Presently, Ukraine is the only country standing up to Russia's military aggression. It is also the front line of defense for NATO members – all of them. Moreover, Ukraine knows the Kremlin's mentality, the weaknesses and strengths of its cyber-warfare, propaganda tools and fake news. It has had centuries of experience dealing with this nasty neighbor. It also knows how to push back.

Now other Western countries must do so as well. The G-7 states, like Germany for instance, are well positioned to provide leadership. Chancellor Angela Merkel is spot on when she says that unless Russia withdraws from Ukraine there will be no Nord Stream 2. And it's correct to freeze more oligarch assets abroad. And it is paramount to investigate Russia's hand in America's politics regardless of President Trump's tantrums.

Furthermore, should President Putin persist in disregarding international law he himself must be added to the sanctions list. And further aggression from Russia must result in its removal from the SWIFT global banking system.



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OUT & ABOUT

- Through April 29
Chicago Art exhibit, "Watercolors by Anatole Kolomayets (1927-2014)," Ukrainian National Museum, www.ukrainiannationalmuseum.org or 312-421-8020
- Through May 27
Chicago Art exhibit, "Martin Hurtig: A Retrospective," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, www.uima-chicago.org or 773-227-5522
- April 23
Cambridge, MA Presentation by Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev, "U.N. as a Battlefield Between Ukraine and Russia," Harvard University, www.huri.harvard.edu
- April 23
Montreal Film screening, "Recovery Room" by Adriana Luhovy, Concordia University Ukrainian Student's Union, John Molson Amphitheater, 514-481-5871 or www.recoveryroomthemovie.com
- April 25-29
New York Film festival, The Ukrainian Museum, www.ukrainianmuseum.org or 212-228-0110
- April 26
Cambridge, MA Presentation by Serhii Plokhii, "Atomic Energy and the Arrogance of Man: Revisiting the Chornobyl Nuclear Disaster," Harvard University, www.huri.harvard.edu
- April 26
Rochester, NY Book presentation by the Rev. Dr. Bohdan Prach, "The Clergy of the Peremyshl Eparchy and the Apostolic Administration of Lemkivshchyna," St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, www.ucef.org
- April 26
Whippany, NJ Luncheon presentation on "Lemkos, Boykos and Hutsuls: The Ethnic Groups of the Eastern Carpathians," Carpe Diem Club, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, aceuacnj@gmail.com
- April 27
New York George Shevelov Memorial Lecture in Ukrainian Studies, by Valentina Izmerlieva, "The Cult of St. Volodymyr and the Theft of History," Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, Deutsches House, <http://harriman.columbia.edu>

- April 27
Chicago Performance, "Adam and Eve," with Iren Rozdobudko and Ihor Zhuk, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, www.uima-chicago.org or 773-227-5522
- April 27
New York Concert with Antytila, The Cutting Room, <https://geotickets.tv/events/atnytila> or 201-423-2562
- April 27
Parma, OH Book presentation by the Rev. Dr. Bohdan Prach, "The Clergy of the Peremyshl Eparchy and the Apostolic Administration of Lemkivshchyna," Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic Church, www.ucef.org
- April 28
Warren, MI Book presentation by the Rev. Dr. Bohdan Prach, "The Clergy of the Peremyshl Eparchy and the Apostolic Administration of Lemkivshchyna," Ukrainian Cultural Center, www.ucef.org
- April 28
New York 70th anniversary celebration, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660 or www.ukrainianinstitute.org
- April 28
Syracuse, NY Chili cook-off, Syracuse Ukrainian National Home, 315-395-1897 or events@syrucc.org
- April 28
Chicago Spring recital for violin and piano, featuring Olena Hirna and Linda Camp, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522 or www.uima-chicago.org
- April 29
Fort Lauderdale, FL Dinner and dance, Ukrainian National Women's League of America (Branch 17), Grateful Palate, 786-216-4464 or osperckacz@aol.com
- April 29
Washington Presentation by Lidiya Zubytska on Ukraine's foreign policy, Shevchenko Scientific Society, Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 240-205-1889

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



UMFF 2018

UKRAINIAN MUSEUM FILM FESTIVAL
APRIL 25-29

UKRAINIAN FILM CLASSIC



Wednesday, April 25, 2:00 p.m. (matinée) *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors*
Director: Sergei Parajanov
Drama/romance
Ukrainian w/English subtitles
1964, Ukraine, 92 min.
The film is steeped in Ukrainian cultural tradition and folklore. Director Parajanov insisted on filming in the Ukrainian language and refused to dub it into Russian. This led to an enduring struggle between Parajanov and the communist authorities.

FREE with Museum admission. Tickets at the door only.

HOLLYWOOD FILM CLASSICS






Featuring Ukrainian American actor John Hodiak. Danny Kaye sings in Ukrainian!

Thursday, April 26, 7 p.m. *The Harvey Girls* (1946, USA). John Hodiak, Judy Garland. 102 min., Eng. Musical comedy. Admission: \$10

Friday, April 27, 7 p.m. *A Lady Without Passport* (1950, USA). John Hodiak, Hedy Lamarr. 74 min., Eng. Black & white, film noir. Admission: \$10

Saturday, April 28, 5:30 p.m. *On the Threshold of Space* (1956, USA). John Hodiak, Dean Jagger. 98 min., Eng. Drama. Hodiak's final film. Admission: \$10

Saturday, April 28, 7:30 p.m. *Sunday Dinner for a Soldier* (1944, USA). John Hodiak, Anne Baxter. 85 min., Eng. Black & white, war drama. Admission: \$10

Sunday, April 29, 2:00 p.m. *The Inspector General* (1949, USA). Danny Kaye, Walter Slezak. Based on the satirical play by Ukrainian dramatist and novelist Mykola Hohol (Nikolai Gogol). 102 min., Eng. Musical comedy. Admission: \$15; members, seniors, students - \$10.

Tickets available online: www.ukrainianmuseum.org • Program subject to change

THE UKRAINIAN MUSEUM
222 East 6th Street
New York, NY 10003
Tel: 212.228.0110 Fax: 212.228.1947
info@ukrainianmuseum.org
www.ukrainianmuseum.org

NYC Cultural Affairs
This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

2018 SCOPE TRAVEL

◆ **EASTER IN LVIV**
Date: April 2 – 10 **SOLD OUT**

◆ **UKRAINE: HISTORY & CULTURE**
June 7–23, 2018 (17 Days - \$2200 tw)
Includes: 8 day Dnipro Cruise, main deck, 3 meals daily and all off shore excursions (Kyiv, Zaporizzhia, Kherson, Vilkoovo-Danube Delta, Odesa), Verkhovyna -Carpathian Mts (4) and Lviv.(4)
Plus: Ivano Frankivsk, Yaremche and Kolomyia
Tour Director: Prof. Adriana Helbig

◆ **DNIPRO RIVER CRUISE & LVIV**
June 7 – 20, 2018 (14 Days-\$1590 tw)
All-inclusive escorted 8 day Dnipro Cruise, main deck, 3 meals daily and all off shore excursions (Kyiv, Zaporizzhia, Kherson, Vilkoovo-Danube Delta, Odesa). Also - Lviv (3) George Hotel, transfers, buffet breakfast daily and two city tours. *Optional: Slavsk full day excursion includes ski lift ride and lunch
**Cruise only June 7 – 15, 2018 \$1190

◆ **BEST OF UKRAINE**
July 12-22, Aug 2-12 (11 days - \$1890 tw)
All-inclusive 11 day escorted tour includes arrival transfer, two meals daily and all sightseeing including entrance fees. Kyiv, Kamianets Podilsky, Yaremche, Lviv plus: Dnister Riverboat Ride, Chernivtsi, Bukovel Ski Lift and Kolomyia.

◆ **AUTUMN IN UKRAINE**
Sept 12-23, 2018 (12 Days - \$1790 tw)
All-inclusive 15 day escorted tour: Kyiv, Baturyn, Chernyiv, Verkhovyna (Carpathian Mts) and Lviv plus: Ivano Frankivsk, Yaremche Kolomyia and Bukovel Ski lift ride. Arrival transfer, 2 meals daily and all sightseeing including entrance fees.

◆ **SICILY - Palermo & Catania**
September 13–22, 2018 **SOLD OUT**

www.scopetravel.com 201.463.4656
scope@scopetravel.com

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Wednesday, April 25

NEW YORK: Matinee show at 2 p.m. of the classic film "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors" (1964, Ukraine, 92 min.) in Ukrainian with English subtitles. Directed by Sergei Parajanov, the film is steeped in Ukrainian folklore and traditions. Director Parajanov insisted on filming in the Ukrainian language and refused to dub it into Russian, which led to an enduring struggle between Parajanov and the Communist authorities. Admission is free with museum admission (\$8 for adults; \$6 for students and seniors; free for museum members). The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St.; telephone, 212-228-0110; website, www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

Thursday, April 26

NEW YORK: A week of Hollywood classics featuring the Ukrainian American actor John Hodiak starts with "The Harvey Girls" (1946, U.S.A., 102 min.) starring Judy Garland. The screening of this musical comedy is organized in conjunction with the exhibition "Yaroslava Surmach Mills: Retrospective." Admission: \$10. Join us at 7 p.m. at The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. Sixth St.; telephone, 212-228-0110; website, www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

Friday, April 27

NEW YORK: Join us at 7 p.m. for a Hollywood classic featuring the Ukrainian American actor John Hodiak in "A Lady Without Passport" (1950, U.S.A., 74 min., black and white), also starring Hedy Lamarr. The screening of this film noir is organized in conjunction with the exhibition "Yaroslava Surmach Mills: Retrospective." Admission: \$10. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St.; telephone, 212-228-0110; website, www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

Saturday, April 28

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a book launch of "Lines. Crossings. Accents. Composer Leonid Hrabovsky," edited by Oleksandr Shchetynsky

(2018). From 1954 to 1959, Ukrainian composer Leonid Hrabovsky (born 1935) studied composition under the supervision of Borys Liatoshynsky and Lev Revutsky at the Kyiv Conservatory. His master's thesis "Four Ukrainian Songs for Chorus and Orchestra" (1959) won the first prize in an all-union competition. In the early 1960s Mr. Hrabovsky taught theory and composition at the Kyiv Conservatory. He belonged to a group of Kyiv avant-garde, along with Vitaliy Hodzyatsky, Volodymyr Huba, Valentyn Silvestrov, Yevhen Stankovych and Volodymyr Zahortsev. Mr. Hrabovsky was one of the first Soviet composers to adopt minimalism as a music genre. His works include dramatic, orchestral, chamber and vocal music. In 1990 he moved to the United States at the invitation of Ukrainian Music Society. The event will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

NEW YORK: Don't miss this double feature Hollywood classics night with the Ukrainian American actor John Hodiak. At 5:30 p.m., see Hodiak's final film, the drama "On the Threshold of Space" (1956, U.S.A., 98 min.) with Dean Jagger. Admission: \$10. At 7:30 p.m. see the war drama "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier" (1944, U.S.A., 85 min., black and white) with Anne Baxter. Admission: \$10. The screenings are organized in conjunction with the exhibition "Yaroslava Surmach Mills: Retrospective." The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St.; telephone, 212-228-0110; website, www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

Sunday, April 29

PHILADELPHIA: The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center and Yara Arts Group present "Where the Rivers Flow." Serhiy Zhadan reads from his book "Mesopotamia" in Ukrainian, while poets Wanda Phipps, Olena Jennings and Isaac Stackhouse Wheeler read English translations, as well as their own poems in reaction. Virlana Tkacz directs the

event, which includes animation by Sashko Danylenko, photographs by Margaret Morton, and music by Volodymyr Bedzvin and Fima Chupakin, plus projections. Supported by the Ukrainian Community Foundation of Philadelphia. The event begins at 2 p.m. at the UECC, 700 North Cedar Road, Jenkintown PA 19046; telephone, 215-663-1166; website, www.ueccphila.org.

WASHINGTON: At 1:30 p.m., the Shevchenko Scientific Society, Washington, D.C., Branch, and the UCNS Library present a lecture by Dr. Lidiya Zubytka on Ukraine's foreign policy from 2004 to 2014. The lecture will be in English; questions and discussion will be in Ukrainian or English. Venue: Shawel Room, Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, 4250 Harewood Road NE, Washington DC 20017. Admission is free; contributions are welcome. For further information call 240-205-1889.

FORT LAUDERDALE: Ukrainian National

Women's League of America Branch 17 of Miami is sponsoring "Vyshyvani Vechornytsi," a dinner/dance/silent auction fund-raiser for the Ukrainian war victims at a beautiful venue on the intracoastal waterway at the Grateful Palate, 3003 NE Second Ave., Ft Lauderdale FL 33308. Contact Oresta Hamersky, 845-641-5441, or Olha Sperkacz, 786-216-4464, for information and tickets. Tickets are \$75.

NEW YORK: Danny Kaye singing a Ukrainian folk song? Join us at 2 p.m. for a special presentation of the Hollywood production "The Inspector General" (1949, U.S.A., 102 min.) starring Danny Kaye, based on the satirical play "Revizor" by Ukrainian dramatist and novelist Mykola Hohol (Nikolai Gogol). Admission: \$15; \$10 for members, seniors, students. The screening of this musical comedy is organized in conjunction with the exhibition "Yaroslava Surmach Mills: Retrospective." The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St.; telephone, 212-228-0110; website, www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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



Презентація книги о. Богдана Праха «ДУХОВЕНСТВО ПЕРЕМИСЬКОЇ ЄПАРХІЇ ТА АПОСТОЛЬСЬКОЇ АДМІНІСТРАЦІЇ ЛЕМКІВЩИНИ»

У дослідженні простежено долю понад 900 греко-католицьких св'ящеників та семінаристів у період Другої світової війни та повоєнних репресій польського і радянського тоталітарних режимів. Опубліковано великий масив невідомих раніше документів, що ілюструють та доповнюють біографічні матеріали



STAMFORD April 20, 7:00 pm St. Basil Ukrainian Catholic Seminary 195 Glenbrook Rd, Stamford, CT	NEW YORK April 21, 5:00 pm Shevchenko Scientific Society, USA 63 4th Ave, New York, New York 10003	PHILADELPHIA April 22, 2:00 pm Ukrainian Cultural & Education Center 700 N Cedar Rd, Jenkintown, PA
NEW HAVEN April 24, 7:00 pm St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church 569 George St, New Haven, CT	ROCHESTER April 26, 7:00 pm St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church 940 E Ridge Rd, Rochester, NY	CLEVELAND April 27, 6:00 pm Pokrova Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church 6812 Broadview Rd, Parma, OH
DETROIT April 28, 5:00 pm Ukrainian Cultural Center 26601 Ryan Rd, Warren, MI	CHICAGO April 29, 1:30 pm Ukrainian National Museum 2249 W Superior St, Chicago, IL	БІЛЬШЕ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ: Web: www.ucef.org E-mail: ucef@ucef.org Call UCEF: 1 (800) 599-3671 Join Facebook page: USA Friends of UCU