

UKRAINIANS ABROAD: NEWS AND VIEWS #145

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1. Argentina. "Embajador ucraniano en sitios emblemáticos de Apóstoles" [Ukrainian Ambassador in Emblematic Sites of Apóstoles], *El Territorio*, 11 April 2019.

Embajador ucraniano en sitios emblemáticos de Apóstoles, *El Territorio*, Jueves 11 de abril de 2019.

Una visita de carácter oficial realizó a Apóstoles Yuri Diudin, embajador de Ucrania en Argentina. El funcionario recorrió en la provincia varias ciudades, entre ellas, la Capital de la Yerba Mate.

En la oportunidad los anfitriones le mostraron el monumento al pysanky, único en Sudamérica, ubicado en avenida Ucrania casi ruta 1. La ansiedad de concretar esta visita radica en que la embajada tuvo un rol fundamental en su diseño. También el diplomático realizó una ofrenda floral a los bustos del monumento de Taras Shevchenko y del general José de San Martín. El embajador estuvo acompañado del cónsul Diego Lorenzo Muruniak, el intendente de Apóstoles, Mario Viale, e integrantes de la Colectividad Ucraniana y Ballet Vesna.

“Aquí me siento muy bien a gusto, me siento un apostoleño más, es la tercera vez que visito esta hermosa ciudad. Fue una visita oficial visitando las diferentes colectividades que viven en esta provincia y Corrientes”, resaltó Diudin.

También aprovechó para pedir la unión y el apoyo de todos ante el difícil momento que vive Ucrania.

“Lamentablemente estamos otra vez teniendo que defender nuestro territorio, Rusia nos quitó parte de nuestro territorio (en referencia a la península de Crimea) y nos está atacando en el Este del país. Tenemos el apoyo del mundo civilizado, ahora necesitamos el apoyo internacional para que se apliquen sanciones contra Rusia”.

En el marco de esta visita, los diplomáticos reconocieron a intendentes de siete localidades misioneras descendientes de familias de inmigrantes ucranianos. También destacaron la tarea de diputados provinciales que forman parte del grupo de amigos de Ucrania.

[Translation into English below – S.C.]

The Ambassador of Ukraine in Argentina, Yuri Diudin, made an official visit to Apóstoles, Misiones. He visited several places in the province, including Apóstoles, the Capital of the Yerba Mate. His hosts in Apóstoles showed him the pysanka monument, unique in South America, located on Ukraine Avenue, near Route 1. There was an eagerness to make this visit because the embassy played a fundamental role in its design. As well, the ambassador laid wreaths at the busts of the monuments to Taras Shevchenko and to General José de San Martín. The ambassador was accompanied by the consul, Diego Lorenzo Muruniak, the mayor of Apóstoles, Mario Viale, and members of the Ukrainian community and Vesna dance ensemble.

“Here I feel very much at ease, I feel like one more Apostoleño. It is now the third time that I visit this beautiful city. I have been visiting different communities that live in this province and in neighbouring Corrientes,” said Diudin.

He also took the opportunity to ask for unity and support from everyone during a difficult time that is being experienced by Ukraine.

“Unfortunately, we again are having to defend our territory. Russia took part of our territory [in reference to the Crimean peninsula] and is attacking us in the east of the country. We have the support of the civilized world and now we need international support for the application of sanctions against Russia.”

In the framework of this visit, the diplomats recognized the mayors of seven localities of Misiones who are descendants of families of Ukrainian immigrants. They also highlighted the work of provincial deputies who are part of a “friends of Ukraine” group.

2. Armenia. “Head of the Ukrainian Community of RA: Armenian-Ukrainian Relations Will Develop after the Election of the President of Ukraine,” *ARMINFO News*, 2 April 2019.

Yerevan, April 02. ArmInfo, Alina Oganessian.

Armenian-Ukrainian relations will develop after the presidential elections in Ukraine. In the interview with ArmInfo correspondent, this opinion was shared by the chairman of the NGO Federation of Ukrainians of Armenia “Ukraine” Anna Harutyunyan. “Whether the current president Petro Poroshenko will remain in power or whether they will be a new person in the person of Vladimir Zelensky, whose attitude towards Armenia we don’t know, but I think it is impossible to stop the development of Armenian-Ukrainian relations,” she said.

In this vein, the head of the Ukrainian community in Armenia noted that the diaspora expects the citizens of Ukraine to make the right choice, including pointing to the many thousands of Armenian diasporas living in Ukraine, with which the Federation maintains strong ties. Members of the Ukrainian community, being overwhelmingly RA citizens, did not take part in the presidential elections of Ukraine, however, according to Harutyunyan, in such a difficult period when the country faces a serious choice, they experienced and followed the voting process, the announcement of the exit poll results, by the CEC.

At the same time, the head of the Federation noted that although Armenia is a small country, but Ukrainians living in Armenia are an integral part of the 20 million Ukrainian diaspora. Referring to the information received from the citizens of Ukraine who voted in Armenia, Harutyunyan noted that the elections were quite transparent and democratic. “We cannot predict anything, but with all our heart we are worried about the fate of our historic homeland, and we hope for a more dynamic development of relations between Armenia and Ukraine, since today’s relations are not at the level at which we would like to,” she said. “Of course, I would like the relations between Ukraine and Armenia to rise to a higher level. Recently, economic, cultural and other ties between countries have undergone some decline. But we would very much like the leaders of Ukraine and Armenia to ‘turn around’ to each other and launch a more active cooperation,” Harutyunyan noted. Such a slowdown in the dynamics of relations, in particular, Harutyunyan caused the absence of the Ambassador of Ukraine to the Republic of Armenia for several years. “Today, the diplomatic corps of Ukraine is headed by Peter Litvin, a significant and well-known personality in Ukraine. This is a person who wants to work and is already working very actively. We have no doubt that, thanks to his efforts, the political, economic and cultural ties of our two countries will be established. We hope that in the future the work of this person will be for the benefit of relations between Armenia and Ukraine,” concluded the Chairman of the Federation of Ukrainians. In addition, she stressed that the Federation cooperates and is a full member of the World Congress of Ukrainians (WUC) - organization that represents the interests of the world Ukrainian. “Shortly before the elections, I, as the chairman of the Ukrainian community of Armenia, received an offer from the World Congress of Ukrainians to take part in the process of electing the President of Ukraine as an observer from the UCL. Due to the heavy workload associated with the activities of our organization, I could not take part in this important event,” she said. In this vein, Harutyunyan noted that the international mission of the UWU sent its observers to Ukraine in the amount of 219 people from 16 countries, who ensured that the elections were transparent, democratic and held in accordance with international standards. The

mission of the UWU, she said, observed the electoral process in 18 regions of Ukraine. Recall that according to the results of calculations, 95% of the protocols of the CEC of Ukraine Vladimir Zelensky scored 30.24% of the votes, followed by the current president, Petro Poroshenko, with a result of 15.94% of the votes, and Yulia Tymoshenko - 13.39%. The top 5 candidates are closed by Yuriy Boyko (11.56%) and Anatoly Gritsenko (6.96%). The second round of the presidential elections in Ukraine, in which V. Zelensky and P. Poroshenko were held, will take place on April 21. It should be noted that, according to the RA Statistical Committee, the foreign trade turnover between Armenia and Ukraine increased by 36.7% to \$171.8 million. In particular, exports increased by 79.1% to \$ 18.2 million, while imports grew by 33% to \$153.6 million.

3. Canada. “Keep Ukrainian History Alive,” *Winnipeg Free Press*, 29 April 2019.

Oseredok celebrates 75th anniversary

Ligia Braidotti

Oseredok, the Ukrainian Cultural and Education Centre’s celebrated its 75th anniversary on April 24.

For 75 years, Oseredok, the Ukrainian Cultural and Education Centre, has been telling the stories of the city’s Ukrainian community. For 75 years, Oseredok, the Ukrainian Cultural and Education Centre, has been telling the stories of the city’s Ukrainian community.

The Ukrainian National Federation of Canada founded Oseredok in 1944, which houses a museum, archives, library and art gallery, and grew to be the largest Ukrainian cultural institution of its kind. On April 24, Oseredok celebrated its 75th anniversary, where the board of directors launched a year-long celebration program of events.

Members of the board, staff, and supporters gathered to contemplate the centre’s success in overcoming challenges and continuing to be a safe haven for Ukrainian history.

“Oseredok certainly has been a strong advocate for collections, artifacts that pertain to the Ukrainian culture and history,” said Linda Hunter, the chair of the 75th-anniversary committee and a past board member who has been involved with Oseredok for approximately 30 years.

“For me, it’s part of my history. I was brought up with the Ukrainian culture and to keep it going for my daughters and granddaughters, to me is very important, that they maintain that information because that’s a part of who you are and how you grow up. I think that’s what a lot of people are looking for. It’s that commonality, and the Ukrainian culture is what brings a lot of us together.”

Founded at the height of the Second World War, Oseredok was initially formed as a response to cultural destruction in Soviet Ukraine. Eventually, it became the chronicler of Ukrainian cultural heritage in Canada, and today it is one of the primary Ukrainian heritage institutions in North America.

Dozens gathered at the Oseredok, the Ukrainian Cultural and Education Centre's 75th-anniversary celebration held on April 24.

The centre has a 40,000-book collection in Ukrainian and English, a museum, and archives with material from different Ukrainian organizations. They collect and preserve documents and artifacts such as maps, rare book, photos, folk art musical instruments and more.

Year-round they host workshops and lectures to share Ukrainian culture with the public.

"Everything is focused on the Ukrainian community and culture, but we certainly bring it to the community in general. Any and all Manitoban and North American can come in and have a look at what we have to offer," Hunter added.

The centre's art gallery displays traditional and contemporary fine art that include paintings, drawing, sculptures, and other media.

Although Oseredok has been housed in the five-storey building located at 184 Alexander Ave. E, Hunter said there are still many people who have never been there. One of their plans for the future is to heavily promote what the centre has to offer to the youth and add more space to provide more workshops and bring in more artists, she said.

"We want to bring in the younger people, find things that are attractive to them. Because what was relevant 50 years ago, is not going to be relevant for the young people today. So we are trying to find new ways to introduce the culture and get them engaged and involved in the organization. That's going to be our challenge, to find things that are going to generate interest and yet, teach them about the culture and the history."

The centre is currently exhibiting The Ivan Bobersky Collection Exhibition, 1914-1920 until July 6. The exhibit showcases 43 reproductions of images from the Bobersky Glass Lantern Slide Collection and is part of Oseredok's anniversary celebration.

The centre is open from Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays during summer from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information on current and upcoming events, go to oseredok.ca.

4. Canada. "With Election of 41-Year-Old Political Newcomer, Ukraine May Finally Get Chance to Drive out Corruption," *Financial Post*, 29 April 2019.

Diane Francis: The people voted for change, but the political and oligarchic elite won't easily relinquish its iron grip on the country

Something exceptional happened last week when 73 per cent of Ukrainians voted for a reform candidate, 41-year-old political newcomer Volodymyr Zelenskiy. And he hopes to take the country to its next level, building on the shoulders of the two gigantic street protests in 2004 and

2014 that drove out corrupt presidents, but not the corruption itself. As Zelenskiy noted, in his debate with President Petro Poroshenko on April 19, Ukraine is Europe's poorest nation with its richest president.

As an activist and journalist, I'm guardedly optimistic. Optimistic because Ukrainians are smart and dogged and risk takers, but guarded because the political and oligarchic elite won't easily relinquish its iron grip on the country of 44 million. Neither will Russia. It started a war in 2014 by invading Ukraine and still occupies seven per cent of its land mass.

Zelenskiy, who studied to be a lawyer and played the role of a president in a Ukrainian political satire television series, faces a Herculean task. He has gathered a team from Ukraine's civil society, technocratic reformers and entrepreneurs. He has received pledges of support from the United States, Germany, France, the European Union and others critical to success.

This is because the whole world is watching Ukraine, ground zero in the Cold War 2.0 against Vladimir Putin. The Russian invasion has cost 13,000 lives, displaced 1.5 million people, and forced Ukraine to build, through conscription and volunteers, the second largest military in Europe of 200,000 soldiers. Ukraine protects the eastern wall of Europe against a pariah state that would, if allowed, gobble up Ukraine to the Polish border and beyond. Without Ukraine, winter will come.

This is Ukraine's burden. Former Soviet vassals such as Poland or Lithuania have become prosperous and democratic under the tutelage of the European Union, but Ukraine struggles.

Canada is the biggest "Slavic" country outside of Europe, with millions who are partially or fully of Ukrainian, Polish, Czech, or Slovakian descent. Canada was the first nation to recognize Ukraine's independence from Russia.

Everyone agrees that Ukraine deserves better. It is the biggest nation in Europe, larger than France, and the third most educated country in the world excelling in IT, math, engineering, and sciences, not to mention its trove of natural resources that includes the biggest deposit of the world's richest, blackest earth. But the country's biggest export has been talent. Millions have left since 1991, with five million young Ukrainians living in Europe as reforms remain stillborn.

President-elect Zelenskiy has said he is willing to meet with Putin to reset the peace process, but this is far from certain. He takes office on June 3, then must organize a campaign to win seats in parliament this fall. He must build a political party, or a coalition, or be stranded and blocked by the oligarchs who currently "own" the parliament.

He has already articulated an initial agenda: staying with the IMF's stabilization program; removal of immunity for politicians and judges; rolling out an anti-corruption court and reform of the judicial and prosecutorial systems; anti-trust laws to bust up the oligarchy; five per cent corporate taxes to attract foreign direct investment; land reform; nationalization of thousands of government entities; and transparency in military procurement.

But the public must remain steadfast, along with the West. Billions from the IMF and EU await a Ukraine operating under the rule of law. Germany has also pledged a “Marshall Plan” involving billions more.

It should have surprised no one that Ukrainians voted for change. This was the electoral equivalent of the massive street protests of 2004 and 2014 that started the transition. Ukrainians fight for social and economic justice and peace. They are surely the world’s most deserving champions.

[www.business.financialpost.com]

5. Canada. “Ontario Fire Marshal Probing Ukrainian Cultural Centre Blaze,” *Hamilton Spectator*, 14 April 2019.

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Ontario Fire Marshal investigators are sifting through the charred wreckage of the Ukrainian Cultural Centre this morning.

The massive fire at 241 Kenilworth Ave. was reported just after midnight Saturday and as many as 60 firefighters struggled to control the blaze that eventually caved in the roof of the building, said Platoon Chief Enio DiNardo.

“We made entry and found a high volume of fire... We were eventually forced out and went into defensive mode,” he said, noting aerial trucks were still pouring water on flare-ups after 10 a.m. A neighbouring credit union was successfully protected from the blaze.

The centre was empty so no one was injured in the blaze, but DiNardo said the theatre-turned-community hub was “heavily damaged.” Charred ruins were visible through busted window and doors early Saturday morning.

An official with the provincial fire marshal’s office said Sunday it was too early to know what caused the blaze. Several investigators were on the scene early this morning but had not entered the building. The centre’s roof and much of the second floor had collapsed during the blaze, making safe entry difficult.

Tearful members of the local Ukrainian community watched in disbelief from a nearby parking lot Saturday.

The centre hosts events and runs weekly cultural activities for seniors, youth and a local choir.

The cultural association kept all of its historical photos and documents inside, including photos of graduating Ukrainian school classes dating back to 1967.

“It’s hard to believe, even standing here,” said centre member Ivanna Purkiss. “This is our second home. And now it’s gone.”

Members of the Ukrainian community near and far mourned the loss of the centre Saturday.

The Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine, Roman Waschuk, tweeted out the news with a link to The Spectator story in Ukrainian.

The Ukrainian Youth Association posted on Facebook about the loss of its home. “It is with great sadness and heartbreak that we have to announce that our domivka has burned down,” the post reads.

Several centre members said Saturday they had family members who married in the converted theatre.

The building destroyed in the fire dates back to 1924. Originally, the Kenilworth theatre opened its doors to the public in 1924. Back then, the 693-seat building was one of the first neighbourhood theatres in the city. Seen here circa 1960, the theatre offered first run movies - often as a double-bill. The exterior of the building featured a huge canopy, which not only covered most of the sidewalk, but also extended down to where a beauty salon was incorporated into the building. Note all the posters promoting current and upcoming attractions, including those on either side of the beauty salon, as well as the parking offered right at the front door. | Ontario Archives

Three different generations of club members had gathered in the building just the day before to make “Easter bread.”

Before the building turned into a cultural hub, it was the 690-seat Kenilworth Theatre.

Elements of the 1930s-era theatre remained in the centre - particularly the stage, ticket box office and ornate gold crown moulding around the high ceilings of the performance space.

6. Canada. “A Starr Is Born: The Story of Canada’s First Ukrainian Cabinet Minister,” Oshawa Express, 10 April 2019.

Posted on April 10, 2019 by oshawaexpress in IN THE SPOTLIGHT, LIFESTYLES

By Dave Flaherty/The Oshawa Express

In today’s world, many politicians have reached celebrity status, always surrounded by security and staff members, on the other side of an unseen brick wall to the public.

But one MP from Oshawa was truly someone that could be called “a man of the people.”

Born Michael Starchewsky on Nov. 14, 1910, Michael Starr is one of Oshawa’s most well-known public figures.

His parents were Ukrainian immigrants who came to Canada seeking a better life. Growing up in the city, Starr dropped out of high school after Grade 10 and eventually began working with Pedlar People Limited.

According to biographer Myron Momryk, it was while working in the Pedlar People office Starr turned his sights towards politics.

He was an influential figure in the local Ukrainian community.

“There was a rather large Ukrainian population. Bloor Street was almost like a little Ukrainian village,” Momryk says.

Momryk explains Starr used his “personal popularity” to earn the vote as an Alderman for Oshawa City Council from 1944 to 1949.

He would later serve as mayor from 1949 to 1952, also running an unsuccessful bid for the Ontario Legislature in 1951.

He soon set his sights on higher aspirations.

The management and staff of Pedlar People were highly conservatively-minded, Momryk explains, and would support Starr in his political aspirations.

These became fruitful as Starr was elected to the House of Commons in 1952 as a Progressive Conservative.

He later made headlines when he became the first Canadian cabinet minister of Ukrainian descent in 1957 as Minister of Labour.

Momryk says it was a different time, and the media “kept emphasizing [Starr’s] Ukrainian descent.”

“He was a political pioneer.”

Even as his political status grew, Starr remained very accessible to the community.

“Saturday morning, there was a line up of people at his door. People would even come to him with their marital problems,” Momryk states. “He was very much a person-to-person fellow.”

Momryk says he found it particularly interesting that despite only having a Grade 10 education, Starr found himself as Labour Minister.

At the time, unemployment was a serious problem in Canada.

To combat this, Starr initiated what was called the “Winter Works” program.

Up until that time, most trade industries involving outdoor work would shut down for the winter.

“That was a very serious problem, and a real drain on the country’s finances and resources,” Momryk explains. “He was pushing so people work in trades all year round.”

Momryk says this is just one example of Starr trying “his damndest to fight unemployment.”

Starr also worked to create a more compassionate approach for the unemployed, including extending unemployment benefits to women and seasonal workers, and increasing federal funding to provinces for vocational training.

“He was very worried about the unemployment. He saw what that did in the 1930s as he was an adult during the Great Depression,” he says.

Even after leaving politics, workers’ issues remained important to Starr, as he served as chairman of the Workers’ Compensation Board of Ontario from 1973 to 1980.

On the political front, he would serve as Opposition House Leader from 1965 to 1968.

Starr was a candidate for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party in 1967 but was eliminated on the second ballot.

However, Momryk doesn’t believe it was something Starr was really engrossed in.

“I don’t think he had any serious ideas about being chosen as the leader of the Conservative Party,” he said.

In the interim, he would serve as Leader of the Opposition for two months before Robert Stanfield won his seat in a by-election.

Although Starr had been a conservative since the 1930s, Momryk says some would argue he was in the wrong party.

However, he remarks “there is a distinction between conservatives and progressive conservatives”, and his view, Starr was the latter, even having a “tinge of a Red Tory.”

“He believed using the government for the people’s benefit.”

While progressively minded, Starr was staunchly anti-Communist.

“That’s one thread that runs through most of his career,” Momryk says.

He notes a number of Starr’s opponents when running for Oshawa city council were “strongly left,” and it was something he spoke out against.

“He continued that up almost until he retired.”

After achieving re-election six times, Starr faced his biggest challenge during the 1968 election in the form of 32-year-old NDP candidate Ed Broadbent.

The end result saw Starr lose by a mere 15 votes, a result that Momryk says lingered with him for a long time.

“When he lost to Broadbent, that bothered him,” Momryk states, adding a lot of liberals who had previously voted for Starr were swept up in Trudeaumania.

“A lot of the young people began looking for a change rather than having these older politicians. Starr fitted into that category,” he said.

While Momryk says there wasn’t necessarily personal animosity against Broadbent from Starr, he “did not appreciate people mentioning Broadbent in his presence.”

Starr would run for office a few more times afterward, but Momryk said campaigning was much more challenging with his older age.

“After a while, it’s not easy,” he said.

Momryk notes Starr became a campaign manager for other candidates and encouraged people from ethnic groups to run for office.

There was plenty to keep him busy after politics, as he served as a citizenship court judge in Toronto, and then his run at the Workers’ Compensation Board, a position he really enjoyed, Momryk says.

“He was very happy. He dealt with unemployed workers and people who had difficulty getting jobs.”

In 1983, the Oshawa’s provincial government building was named in Starr’s honour. The seven-floor tower still dominates the city’s downtown sightline to this day.

“He was proud of that. It was a monument to his career,” Momryk says.

Also around that time, he served a four-year term as Honorary Colonel of the Ontario Regiment (RCAC) in Oshawa.

Over the years, he also awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal, Canadian Centennial Medal, and the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal.

In researching for his biography on Starr, Momryk says a common occurrence was that almost no one had a bad word to speak of the man.

“Everyone kept saying the same thing, ‘He was a nice fellow’,” he states with a laugh.

Momryk notes while often a speaker at community events, he didn't think Starr was always comfortable dealing with the media.

"I know when he was interviewed by the press or on television, he was a bit hesitant. He was not really a good TV performer," he said.

However, there may have been a good reason for this.

Shortly after his defeat to Broadbent in 1968, a Toronto Star reporter interviewed him, and later wrote a story alleging the former politician was extremely despondent about the loss.

"That really, really hurt him. When he had future contact with reporters, he was a bit hesitant. It took a lot of work to draw him out," Momryk says.

"He was a very modest man and didn't like to talk about himself a lot."

One other challenge for Momryk was Starr's apparent lack of an archiving system.

"When he was defeated in 1968, he had an office full of files, dealing with labour, immigration and all types of issues," he says. "He didn't know about the Public Archives of Canada, and basically everything went into the dumpster."

Therefore, when Momryk was trying to write Starr's biography, "he had very little to show me."

Momryk says he relied greatly on debates in the House of Commons and newspaper reports instead of interviews with Starr himself.

Fast forward to his later years, Starr remained a constant in the Oshawa community, often being invited to weddings and other events.

According to Momryk, he worked hard on creating joint projects between Canada and Ukraine after the latter's independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

He also pushed vigorously for the creation of a university in Oshawa.

Michael Starr passed away on March 16, 2000, at the age of 89, predeceased by his wife Anne Zaritsky, and his son Dr. Robert Starr.

His daughter, Joan, passed away only a few months later.

In addition to the Michael Starr Building, there is also a recreational trail named after him in Oshawa.

So what was Starr like behind the scenes?

“Very ordinary,” Momryk says, noting Starr was a fan of watching John Wayne movies, and a proud member of the Rotary Club.

In the end, many politicians disappear from the public’s view after retiring, but Momryk is glad Starr’s contributions are still very much apparent in the City of Oshawa.

“They remember the name [of Michael Starr],” he said.

Momryk will be sharing stories from Starr’s life as part of The Oshawa Historical Society’s April Speaker Series on Tuesday, April 16 at 7 p.m.

The Speaker Series will be held at the Arts Resource Centre, located at 45 Queen Street, Oshawa. Admission is \$3 or free for members of the Oshawa Historical Society.

7. Canada. “Richmond’s Ukrainian Community Marks 80 Years in Town,” *Richmond News*, 5 April 2019.

Alan Campbell / Richmond News

This Saturday will be a very proud day for all Richmondites of Ukrainian descent.

For the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko will be hosting its 80th anniversary celebration at its Francis Road base, close to Railway Avenue.

Although officially formed in 1937, the society’s original building was badly damaged by a fire and re-opened in 1939, hence the big bash at their centre on Saturday at 5 p.m. for past and present members.

And even though their membership is hovering around 75 or so, the society’s president, George Brandak, said it’s sure to be an evening to remember.

“There’s about 80 people coming, there will be Ukrainian dancers and food,” smiled Brandak.

“It’s an important event. It’s meant to recognize the pioneers and the effort they put in; it’s like an appreciation.

“We used have more than 100 members and it is more difficult every year to keep the numbers up. But we have a very active board, who do a magnificent job. It’s a very proud community.”

Brandak, who was born in Regina in 1943, explained how much of Richmond’s Ukrainian heritage comes from the early settlers in The Prairies, where immigrants were tempted to uproot from the mother country with offers of free land to farm.

“The British preferred the long, flat Prairies, we preferred the wooded lands to the north, that was more what we were used to,” he said.

“But then the 1930’s Depression pushed more people West. They could get land out here and they could get jobs at the cannery.

“There was a day when you looked through the phone book for Steveston and there were many, many Slavic names.”

On the last Friday of every month, dozens of people visit the heart of Surrey’s Whalley neighbourhood for a perogy supper.

The food is prepared by members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Mary, which is one of the oldest and most spectacular buildings in the neighbourhood.

Bessie Bonar, 95, is a fixture at the event and she also attends church every Sunday.

“It’s part of my heart,” Bonar said.

“I’ve been going for 70 years, so I know all the beginnings and how hard we worked.”

Surrey’s Ukrainian population feels a close connection to the church, which has stood at the corner of 135A Street and 108 Avenue since 1955, but Bonar’s attachment to it is stronger than most.

Bonar, after all, was the one who designed it and her father was in charge of construction.

Untrained eye

In 1950, Whalley’s Ukrainian community rallied together to raise enough money to buy some land and build a church on it.

Bonar left school in Grade 8 and had no formal architectural training, but she had an eye for detail.

She found a picture of a church and used it as a guide to design the building that would become a Surrey landmark.

“They wanted to build a church and they asked for a blueprint, so I drew it on a piece of paper,” she said.

“I said, we had no blueprints, we just built it.”

Bonar and her husband lived in three different houses in Surrey after the church was built.

She designed all three of them.

“If I had been born later, I would have gone maybe to school for architecture but I was born too early,” she said.

“There was no chance for college then.”

Taste of Africa

As Bonar and her friends roll perogy dough at the church, another delicacy is prepared just down the street.

Becky Takyi is dishing up a generous helping of her specialty — honey jerk chicken with jollof rice and plantains — as her husband Isaac takes a phone order behind the counter.

The couple, originally from Ghana, opened the restaurant more than a decade ago.

“Working together makes the marriage work better because we fight and, at the same time, we get along,” Becky laughed.

“At the end of the day, who are you going to fight with? You’re going home together, so you have to be happy together, right?”

Diverse clientele

The Takyis chose their location because they wanted their restaurant to be accessible to traffic coming into Surrey from the Pattullo or Port Mann Bridge.

Accessibility drew them to the neighbourhood but it’s Whalley’s diversity that keeps them there.

“It’s concentrated with different types of ethnic people and it makes it more broad based for us,” Isaac said.

“People from all different cultures come here now.”

‘The Strip’

St. Mary’s Church is on the corner of 135A Street and 108 Avenue, which is part of the city’s so-called strip, and Taste of Africa is just around the corner.

Until last year, about 170 people lived on the street in tents and hundreds more would often hang out in the area during the day.

The tents are now gone and the majority of the people who lived in them have either moved into modular housing or nearby shelters.

“Five years ago, people were scared,” he said.

“Of late, they realize that there’s nothing to be scared of. The last four years, it’s been very good.”

Surrey — Why We Live Here is a week-long series looking at the people and neighbourhoods that make up B.C.'s second largest city.

8. Czechia. “Ukrainians in Czech Republic Interested in Presidential Race,” *CTK Daily News*, 31 March 2019.

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Prague, March 31 (CTK) - A queue of several hundred metres appeared outside the embassy of Ukraine with voters for the ongoing Ukrainian presidential elections in Prague before this noon.

The ambassadorial staff were letting in the voters in small groups.

Ukrainians from all over Bohemia seem to have come there as there were cars with licence plates from all Czech regions parked near the embassy.

The Ukrainian residing in Moravia could vote at the Ukrainian consulate in Brno.

The post of Ukrainian president is contested by 39 candidates, with actor Volodymyr Zelensky, outgoing President Petro Poroshenko and former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko being the favourites.

In the Czech Republic, the ballot papers could be cast by those who were recorded at the consular register or asked for a change in the election address at least five days before the vote was held.

According to the Czech Statistical Office, there were over 130,000 citizens of Ukraine in the Czech Republic at the end of last year.

The polling stations are open between 08:00 and 20:00.

Since the first round of the vote is not expected to decide on the next head of state, the second round may be held on April 21.

At least 400 out of the 4,900 registered Ukrainians came to vote to the consulate in the morning, Mykhaylo Petechel, from the election commission, has told CTK.

In the previous election, turnout reached roughly one-third of the eligible voters, but this time it may be higher, Petechel said.

9. Czechia. “New Project to Show Stories of Successful Ukrainians in Czechia,” *CTK Daily News*, 5 March 2019.

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Prague, March 5 (CTK) - A new project highlighting the stories of Ukrainians who have scored success in Czechia and challenging certain stereotypes in the approach of Czechs to Ukrainians was introduced by its director Larysa Halyshych, Ukrainian ambassador Yevhen Prebyinis and Prague Mayor Zdenek Hrib today.

The project shows that Ukrainians in the Czech Republic are not only bricklayers, locksmiths or cleaning women, but many work in prestigious professions as opera singers, ballet dancers, physicians, fashion designers, bankers etc.

“It is no secret that in the Czech Republic, certain stereotypes exist regarding [the approach of Czechs to] the Ukrainians, of whom over 120,000 stay here. According to these stereotypes, Ukrainians are either manual workers or bricklayers,” Perebyinis said.

He said Ukrainians also do other jobs in the Czech Republic, and the project shows that many of them contribute to the good reputation of Czechia in various branches such as sports, medicine, business and arts.

Hrib (Pirates) praised the importance of Ukrainians for the Czech capital city. Besides the construction industry, Ukrainians provide a significant aid to the Czech healthcare system, which probably would not operate smoothly if it were not for the staff from Ukraine, Hrib said.

The project’s goal is to show how much Ukrainian immigrants contribute to the development of Czech science, culture and sports.

A book accompanying the project will carry 30 interviews with Ukrainians who have been working in prestigious professions in Czechia for a long time, including fashion designer Natali Ruden, National Theatre ballet group soloist Ivanka Rada Illyenko and painter Alexandr Onishenko.

“We chose [the persons] only from the younger immigration wave that came to Czechia in the 1990s or in several recent years. We tried to present as many professions as possible,” said Halyshych.

The project will continue on www.mezivami.cz with more and more interviews with successful Czech Ukrainians.

At present, Ukrainians make up 22 percent of the total number of foreigners living in the Czech Republic and they are the largest immigrant community. According to statistical data from March 2018, 120,431 Ukrainian nationals lived in Czechia, 43 percent of them living in Prague and 15 percent in the surrounding Central Bohemia Region.

Ukrainians also make up 7 percent of all foreigners studying in the Czech Republic.

10. General. “Ukraine: Dnipropetrovsk Region Media Highlights 13-19 Apr 19,” *BBC Monitoring Ukraine and Baltics*, 4 May 2019.

The funds of the future unique library named after John McCain have arrived in Dnipro, Gorod website reported. These are several thousand rare copies of historical books, unique photographs, plates and press kits. The project became possible thanks to agreements with the Ukrainian diaspora, which mayor Borys Filatov concluded during his business trip to the USA last spring. All books of the future library have great bibliographic value. They were published in Germany, Brazil, Argentina and Canada. The books were delivered by ship. "Our future unique John McCain library is already in Dnipro! This is a gift from the Ukrainian diaspora of the city of Rochester and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the United States of America. To implement this project, we had to win great confidence. Now it is in the home straight," Filatov said. Now repairs are about to end in the room where the John McCain library will be located. The opening, which delegates from the USA are expected to attend, is scheduled for the fall, City Day. (Gorod website, gorod.dp.ua, 19 Apr 19)

11. General. "Observers from Ukrainian Diaspora Monitoring Election Process, Media for Disinformation Spread outside Ukraine," *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 26 March 2019.

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KYIV. March 26 (Interfax-Ukraine) - The total number of short-term observers from the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America at the presidential elections in Ukraine will be 296 people, said the head of the UWC mission Eugene Czolij.

"On election day, the election process will be observed by 219 short-term observers. The UWC mission also closely cooperates with the observation mission of the constituent organization, namely the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, which delegated 77 short-term observers. Therefore, 296 short-term observers will work together in two missions," Czolij said at a press conference in Kyiv on Tuesday.

Czolij said the reports of both missions would be presented in the final report of the UWC mission.

According to the head of the mission, UWC monitors will come from 17 countries. In addition, representatives of this mission will observe the voting at foreign polling stations in the diplomatic missions of Ukraine in 24 countries.

Czolij said the UWC mission had already mobilized 122 long-term observers.

"Long-term observers work in different parts of Ukraine and monitor the media in their countries of residence for the presence of any facts of misinformation. Information obtained online is checked for accuracy and is classified according to sources and topics," he said.

Czolij said observers met with representatives of the authorities, experts in the field of media monitoring and communication.

He said there are fears that results of voting in the first round of the presidential elections, the filing of complaints and their consideration in the courts could last until the voting day in the second round.

Czolić said Ukraine's Central Election Commission (CEC) would have 10 days to establish the results of the voting, and five days to set aside complaints to the 6th Administrative Court of Appeal regarding decisions of the CEC, which should be considered within two days.

In addition, there are two days on appeal in the High Administrative Court of Cassation, which will also have to make a decision within two days.

"If you count all these days from March 31. That is, 10 days, plus five, and three times two days each is 21 days... If the courts wait to decide issues until the last day, we can assume that the decision of the High Administrative Court of Cassation could get out on the day of the second round, namely April 21," the head of the UWC said.

12. General. "Klimkin Backs Dual Citizenship for Diaspora," *Kyiv Post*, 18 March 2019.

By Gabriel Hardy-Françon.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin has again said he supports the idea of granting dual citizenship to members of the Ukrainian diaspora, arguing people with Ukrainian origins abroad could contribute valuable expertise to the country more easily if they were citizens.

Speaking to a Ukrainian radio station on March 14, Klimkin called for an open debate on the issue, which concerns several million potential Ukrainian citizens.

He said he not only wanted to encourage skilled Ukrainians who have moved abroad to return home and actively contribute to the development of the country, but also help foreigners of Ukrainian descent to come and put their expertise to good use here.

"We're losing thousands and thousands of Ukrainians who could work here," Klimkin said.

Dual citizenship is forbidden under the Ukrainian constitution, although children who acquire a second citizenship at birth or before adulthood not of their own volition are allowed to keep it.

Klimkin also raised the issue in a long article last October published by the *Ukrayinska Pravda* online newspaper, in which he stressed the need for an open discussion of the issue.

Speaking in the radio interview, he said that by not offering the option of dual citizenship, people of Ukrainian descent who have foreign citizenship are put off working in government, business and the cultural sphere because of the bureaucratic hassles of obtaining work and residency permits. For working in certain government posts, citizenship is also a requirement.

However many Diaspora Ukrainians – some of whom Klimkin said he met in Canada – would like to come and put their Western experience to use for the benefit of their motherland, the minister said.

“So many good specialists could come from other countries to help us in our reform process,” he said.

“Many people understand us, (those who are) Ukrainians, through Ukrainian culture. They look at us, our culture, and thus understand who Ukrainians are, why Ukraine is a unique country, and why it is the only one capable of fighting Russia,” he said.

But they will only come if Ukraine agrees to amend its citizenship rules, which were initially intended to strengthen Ukrainian independence and mitigate Russia’s influence on the country.

13. General. “Even as It Resists Refugees, Eastern Europe Feeds on a Shrinking Ukraine,” *Seattle Times*, 20 February 2019.

Leonid Bershidsky

The Eastern European resistance to accepting refugees isn’t anti-immigrant sentiment per se: It’s anti-Muslim and often racist.

One of the issues complicating the Ukrainian presidential election at the end of March is that no one, including pollsters, knows how many people still live in the country. Waves of Ukrainians have been emigrating and counting them isn’t easy.

Official statistics are deceptively detailed. The latest population count, from December 2018, is 42,177,579. According to the Ukrainian State Statistical Service, there was a sharp drop in population between 2014 and 2015, when Ukraine lost Russian-annexed Crimea and couldn’t run counts in the eastern regions of the country, controlled by Russian proxies. But in recent years, there has been no sharp population decline.

That, quite likely, is inaccurate. Government statistics show a slight population increase in the first 11 months of 2018, though the number of internal refugees from the areas controlled by pro-Russian forces – the biggest source of inbound migration in recent years – did not grow during this period. The giveaway is that data from neighboring countries show that large numbers of Ukrainians are moving, especially to eastern Europe, and more have been tempted to do so since the EU introduced visa-free travel in June 2017.

Europe’s official statistical service, Eurostat, is slow to release migration data; the latest available are for 2017. But even those data suggest that something is wrong with the official Ukrainian numbers. Eurostat says 662,000 Ukrainians, more than any other nationality, received EU residence permits in 2017. Meanwhile, according to the Ukrainian government, only 430,290 people migrated out of Ukraine that year.

Most of the inflow went to Poland which, according to Eurostat, issued 585,439 residence permits to Ukrainians in 2017. Ukrainians were also the biggest group of permit recipients in Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Estonia and Lithuania. It's hard to miss the irony here: These are all countries with anti-immigration governments, which openly fight or quietly boycott the EU's attempts to redistribute asylum seekers throughout Europe on the grounds that they are too poor to pay for big integration efforts or that the Middle Eastern and African Migrants are too culturally dissimilar from them.

These are, however, also countries with tight labor markets – the result of big population outflows to wealthier nations. Poland has simplified procedures for employing foreigners, used mainly for Ukrainians, which allow companies to hire people on the basis of “employment intention declarations.” In 2017, such declarations were issued for 1.7 million Ukrainians, in addition to almost 200,000 work permits. The rules were slightly tightened in 2018 to improve compliance with EU regulations, and in the first half of last year, 820,000 declarations were filed, most of them benefiting Ukrainians. It's uncertain how many people actually took up the jobs, but it's likely that their number in Poland alone is higher than Eurostat's residence permit count.

Other countries, too, try to lure Ukrainian workers. The Czech Republic has a simplified employment program for them, and earlier this year, the government doubled the fast-track employment quota for Ukrainians to 19,600 per year. Ukrainians are already the biggest community of legally resident foreigners in the Czech Republic – 117,000 out of a total population of 10.5 million.

Ukrainian communities are growing fast in the Baltic states too, where a worker can make far more than in Ukraine. In Lithuania they're the largest group of resident foreigners. and their number increased 55 percent last year. In Estonia, a record inflow of Ukrainians was registered in 2018. Russia, which many consider to be in a state of war with Ukraine, issued 77,000 residence permits to Ukrainians; 81,000 became Russian citizens.

It's still hard to get a complete picture of the emigration because of unofficial and semi-official seasonal employment. In 2017, 11,000 Ukrainians were found to be illegally present in EU countries – but that's only a fraction of those who work in Europe without obtaining any official permits. With the visa-free regime, it's not easy to track those who do so on a seasonal basis.

Migrant remittances, which last year amounted to 13.8 percent of Ukraine's economic output, according to the World Bank, are perhaps the best measure of the Ukrainian population outflow.

Judging by a 35 percent jump in remittances in 2018, the biggest one-year increase since 2007, a growing number of Ukrainians are working outside their home country, and their number is likely higher than the 5.9 million estimated by the United Nations in 2017.

This is politically important. The loss of the relatively pro-Russian populations of Crimea and eastern Ukraine has boosted the election chances of pro-EU, pro-North Atlantic Treaty Organization politicians. But it's often the most active and enterprising Ukrainians who seek their fortunes overseas; the effect of emigration may help tip the balance toward unpredictable

populists. (While non-resident Ukrainians can vote, turnout is low as few bother to travel and line up at local embassies or have faith that the outcome will change much.) The current leader of the race, Volodymyr Zelensky, is a comedian and TV producer without any political experience or a coherent program.

The Ukrainian emigration is significant for Europe, too. The Eastern European resistance to accepting refugees isn't anti-immigrant sentiment per se: It's anti-Muslim and often racist, and it's based on a common perception that immigrants from outside Europe won't want to work or blend in. Such discrimination is deeply ingrained, but to combat it, Western European countries could work harder to improve their own records on integrating immigrants.

Leonid Bershidsky is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering European politics and business.

14. Jordan. “Ukrainians in Jordan, Iraq Cast Presidential Ballots at Amman Embassy,” *Jordan Times*, 1 April 2019.

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AMMAN — Ukrainians living in Jordan and Iraq on Sunday cast their ballots in the presidential elections via the voting centre at the Ukrainian embassy in Amman, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

In previous statements, the Ukrainian embassy called on those eligible to vote from the Ukrainian community permanently or temporarily residing in the Kingdom or in Iraq to participate in the polling at the embassy in Amman.

Anastasia Lukasvic, the head of the committee overseeing the embassy polls, said that the procedures were going smoothly during the voting process, and that the Ukrainians came early to the embassy to cast their votes, noting that the Ukrainian community in the Kingdom is estimated at 5,000 Ukrainians, mostly women married to Jordanians, or their children.

15. Kazakhstan. “Different Nationalities Live in Peace, Preserve Their Culture and Traditions in Kazakhstan, Says Ukrainian Community Leader,” *Astana Times*, 6 April 2019.

BY SALTANAT BOTEU in PEOPLE on 6 APRIL 2019

NUR-SULTAN – Representatives of different ethnicities live in peace and harmony in Kazakhstan, with opportunities to preserve their traditions, customs and language, and share them with other members of society, said Tamara Shirmer, head of the capital's Obereg Ukrainians' Community.

“We are proud that fate has given us the opportunity to live in such a beautiful country, where everyone, regardless of nationality or social status, can learn, work and develop their language, culture and traditions,” she told assembly.kz, the website of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan.

The community, created in 2003, develops and preserves Ukrainian language, culture and traditions.

“It was an important decision for Ukrainians living in the capital. There were native speakers and culture and traditions bearers who united to preserve the ethnic integrity and spiritual values of the people of Kazakhstan and the formation of a common culture,” she noted.

“The name of the community contains an important meaning. Obereg (charm) protects from anything. The goal of our activities is to protect the native language from extinction, to preserve traditions and customs, the culture of the Ukrainian people, to foster Kazakh patriotism and to strengthen the unity of the people of the country,” she added.

The community and 10 regional Ukrainian Ethno Cultural Centres are members of the Rada of Ukrainians of Kazakhstan. Since 2006, the society has been a member of the World Congress of Ukrainians.

“On his first trip, the newly elected Chairperson of the World Congress of Ukrainians [Mykhailo] Ratushny went to Kazakhstan. He visited Kazakhstan for the first time and took part in the International Festival of Ukrainian Folk Art as an honoured guest,” said Shirmer.

The community keeps in touch with the Ukrainian diaspora around the world, Birlik Kazakh community in Kharkov, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and Shevchenko National Reserve in Kan[i]v.

The community offers classes where students study Ukrainian traditions, customs and language, and organises music, decorative arts, choreography and puppet theatre classes.

“It is symbolic that 2008 was declared the Year of Ukraine in Kazakhstan and it was in February of that year when the Ridne Slovo Ukrainian Sunday ethno-linguistic school began its work. The main goal of the school is to enable students of different nationalities to study the history and culture of the Ukrainians and to instil in students an understanding of human values and morality,” said Shirmer.

The society closely cooperates with the Ukrainian Centre of Science and Culture of the Rada of Ukrainians of Kazakhstan at Lev Gumilyov Eurasian National University, annually organising the International Shevchenko readings and roundtables for significant and memorable dates in Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

“Together with the Rada of Ukrainians of Kazakhstan we hold international and national festivals of Ukrainian folk art, ethnic fashion marathons, various exhibitions and creative evenings dedicated to the memory of the famous poet who united the Kazakhs and Ukrainians – Taras Shevchenko,” she noted.

The community’s vocal and choreographic group is named after Nikolai Litoshko.

“The repertoire of the group is extensive; it is selected from the best songs of the Ukrainian song heritage... The creative team performs with a charity programme in the Medical and Social Institution for the Elderly and Disabled, the Centre for Motherhood and Childhood, the SOS Astana Children’s Village and other concerts,” said Shirmer.

The works of the community’s Bereginya creative team are exhibited in the House of Friendship in the capital. The exhibition includes household utensils, motanka dolls, embroidered towels and paintings and various objects of decorative and applied art. The team participated in many international, national and city exhibitions, winning awards. In addition to handmade items, the team prepares various dishes of Ukrainian cuisine.

“In Ukraine, flour products such as pampushkas (donuts), cakes and dumplings are popular. Also, the team cooks products and dishes with meat, vegetables and dairy products. One of the favourite drinks in Ukraine is compote – a decoction of fruit or dried fruit (called vzvar (brew)). Ukrainian borscht is especially popular. Salo (cured fatback) and borscht are kind of culinary symbols of Ukraine,” she said.

The community is actively involved in cooperating and assisting in charity events for SOS Astana Children’s Village, where children without parental care live and study. The community also provides targeted charitable assistance to children with disabilities and conducts charity events for veterans and the elderly. For its activities, the community was awarded appreciation certificates and gifts from the SOS Village of Austria and SOS Astana Children’s Village corporate fund.

Charivni Dzherela, the youth party created in July 2005, operates in the community to encourage youth to be active members of society. The party organises workshops and seminars on arts and crafts, flash mobs, sports competitions and concerts. It also implements long-term social ventures such as the Give Happiness to Children social project and International Social and Ecological Action project on World Cleanup Day.

16. Malaysia. “Ukrainians in Malaysia Vote in Presidential Election,” *Bernama Daily Malaysian News*, 1 April 2019.

BY RAVICHANDRAN A/L RAJAMANICKAM

(c) 2019 Bernama - Malaysian National News Agency

KUALA LUMPUR, April 1 (Bernama) -- Ukrainian citizens in Malaysia took part in the 2019 Ukrainian presidential election by voting at the embassy here, which ended at 8 pm last night.

The Ukraine embassy, quoting the Election Commission statistics, told Bernama International News Service that 106 out of 132 citizens cast their votes in the process that started at 8am.

Currently, there are some 500 Ukrainian citizens living in Malaysia, mainly comprising students, businessmen, those married to Malaysian citizens and also those married to citizens of other countries working in Malaysia.

The Ukraine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur have conducted parliamentary and presidential elections since the opening of its embassy here in 2002.

Ukrainian citizens overseas that have voted in the elections at 101 Ukraine embassies and consulates around the world - including in Malaysia - counts among the 30 million eligible voters of Ukraine.

The results of the first round of election held yesterday will be announced before April 10, while the results for the second round of the election, scheduled on April 21, will be announced on May 1.

The Ukraine electoral system stated that the election will go to a runoff between the top two candidates if none of the 39 candidates in the current election received more than half of the votes.

According to news agencies' report, exit polls indicated that comedian Volodymyr Zelensky is projected to top the first round of Ukraine's presidential election, while incumbent President Petro Poroshenko is forecasted to be second, and former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko is expected to be in the third position.

Reports by the news agencies also predicted that a runoff is likely.

17. Poland. "Turning Muslims Away, Poland Welcomes Ukrainians," *Wall Street Journal Online*, 26 March 2019.

Yaroslav Trofimov

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WARSAW—Four and a half years ago, Maryna Karalop packed up and moved from Ukraine to Poland. Since then, so did some two million other Ukrainians—the biggest wave of migration into the European Union in recent times.

Poland's government has resisted EU quotas to take in asylum-seekers from Syria, Afghanistan and Eritrea whose arrival has reshaped European politics, fueling populist parties across the continent. At the same time, Warsaw rolled out the welcome mat for Ukrainians who sought a better life after the Russian invasion of 2014 precipitated an economic crisis.

"I see my future here. It's quiet, it's comfortable, I like everything," said Ms. Karalop, 40 years old, who with her husband now runs an employment agency in Warsaw that mostly caters to fellow Ukrainians. Her daughter, who is 14, has learned to speak fluent Polish and is enrolled in a local school.

"The biggest reason we're here is the future of our child," Ms. Karalop said. "In Poland, all roads would be opened for her."

Poland issued more first-time residence permits to non-EU citizens than any other EU nation in 2017, with 86% of them going to Ukrainians, in the latest available European migration statistics. Those Ukrainians accounted for 18.7% of all newcomers to the entire EU.

The influx, which continues unabated, is bringing a demographic transformation with long-term implications for Poland. The country of 38 million had virtually no ethnic minorities since World War II, when its huge Jewish community was largely wiped out by the Nazis and its borders were shifted westward, leaving ethnically mixed eastern regions in Soviet Ukraine and Belarus.

The exodus also poses challenges for Ukraine, where mass emigration has become a campaign issue ahead of March 31 presidential elections. Yulia Tymoshenko, the former prime minister challenging President Petro Poroshenko, named this outflow as the second biggest danger facing Ukraine after the Russian military onslaught.

“How much time do we have to close our eyes to the fact that a million Ukrainians leave the country each year? Three, two, five years? How much creative class do we still have left before we allow them all to leave?” she said at a security conference in Munich in February.

Most other candidates agree on the need to bring Ukrainian workers back home—something that won’t happen until the country’s economy starts to recover.

Poland faces a shortage of labor—and the country’s conservative government has favored Ukrainians because most are Christian, unlike Muslim immigrants from Syria or Afghanistan.

“In Poland, there is a general consensus that we don’t want the kind of postcolonial Western style of immigration,” said Radoslaw Sikorski, a former parliament speaker and foreign minister who backs the more liberal opposition. “People think Christians are all right, and non-Christians are not all right, Christians will assimilate and the non-Christians won’t. It’s that simple.”

Poland’s booming economy needs these workers because millions of working-age Poles—like millions of other Eastern Europeans—have taken advantage of EU freedom-of-movement rules over the past decade to seek better-paying jobs in the U.K., Germany and other Western European nations. The Ukrainians are coming to fill the resulting void, part of tectonic shifts in Europe’s demographic makeup.

“In Poland, you don’t look for work, work looks for you,” said Artem Zozulia, head of the Ukraine Foundation, an organization that helps Ukrainian migrants integrate, in the southwestern city of Wroclaw. “In Ukraine, finding work is a job.”

In Wroclaw, a city of 630,000 that Poland gained from Germany after World War II, some 90,000 Ukrainians arrived in recent years, local officials said, taking jobs that range from Uber drivers and construction workers to software developers.

Ukrainians make up one-tenth of employees in the city’s 200 information-technology companies, said Ewa Kaucz, president of the Wroclaw Agglomeration Development Agency. “Without the

Ukrainians, the situation on the labor market in Wroclaw would be dramatically worse,” she said.

Ukrainian officials highlight the contribution that their citizens make to Poland’s growth, one of Europe’s fastest at 5.1% last year. “It is a large-scale phenomenon because the Polish economy now in many respects doesn’t just function, but also develops precisely because of the Ukrainians,” said Ukraine’s Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin.

While the shared history of Ukraine and Poland had many dark pages, so far the influx has been remarkably uncontroversial in Poland, with only a few fringe groups protesting.

Polish government officials said there hasn’t been any significant increase in crime due to Ukrainian immigration, and few incidents of hate crimes. According to an opinion poll released this month, 52% of Poles have favorable feelings toward Ukrainian migrants, 36% are neutral and 12% are hostile.

“I don’t have anything against the Ukrainians coming here—we are doing the same, going to other countries,” said Krzysztof Lematowicz, a logistics specialist from the Wroclaw area who was strolling through the city’s medieval main square on a break from his current job in the Netherlands. “In the Netherlands, I can see the difference between the Poles and the Dutch. But here, I can’t even spot who is a Ukrainian until they start talking.”

Many Polish politicians and officials like to highlight common history and the close relationships between the two countries’ cultures, languages and cuisines. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth encompassed much of Ukraine and Belarus until the late 18th century, and the interwar Polish Republic included today’s western Ukraine.

“There is a tradition in Poland of living together with Ukrainians and Belarusians,” said Slawomir Debski, director of the Polish Institute of International Affairs. “The tradition of a mono-ethnic Poland is relatively new, and it has two main contributors—Hitler and Stalin. People in Poland understand instinctively that these cultures can live peacefully together without upheavals.”

Polish lawmaker Tomasz Rzymkowski agreed: “Our cultural differences are very small, and the roots of our nations are intertwined.”

That history also had its share of bloodshed. Uprisings against Polish feudals feature prominently in Ukrainian literature. Ukrainian nationalists assassinated Poland’s interior minister in 1934. The worst came during World War II, when anti-Communist Ukrainian nationalists and Polish resistance fighters fought each other, and massacres abounded.

Former Polish lawmaker Krzysztof Bosak, who is now vice president of the National Movement, a far-right anti-immigrant party, says that legacy is one reason why Ukrainian immigration should be curtailed.

“It is a historical fact that we had a big Ukrainian minority, and even a majority in some regions. But there was no common tradition, and the tensions were very big. This is why we have two separate nations,” Mr. Bosak said.

Though ties between the two governments are generally good today, the different interpretations of this painful past can still poison the relationship. That is especially so as Kiev and Warsaw are promoting historical narratives that whitewash inconvenient facts—and as Russia seeks to drive a wedge between its two neighbors.

“The number of people in Poland with positive feelings about Ukraine has fallen in recent years,” cautioned historian Piotr Tyma, who heads the Union of Ukrainians in Poland, an association that represents the country’s Ukrainian minority. “It can very well turn out that this acceptance of the Ukrainian influx is temporary. If Poland’s economic conjuncture changes, the anti-Ukrainian voices will become louder.”

18. Slovakia. “Prime Minister at a Meeting with Ukrainian Diaspora in Slovakia,”
***ForeignAffairs.co.nz*, 17 April 2019.**

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Ukraine is a great 45-million country that has many things to be developed both in political and economic spheres, and especially in cultural field. This was stated by Prime Minister of Ukraine Volodymyr Groysman during a meeting with representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora living in Slovakia.

Today nearly 8 thousand ethnic Ukrainians - immigrants from Central and Western Ukraine are living in Slovakia. The most numerous and representative organization of foreign Ukrainians is the Union of Rusyn-Ukrainians of the Slovak Republic. Moreover, the Union of Ukrainian Writers in Slovakia is established, there are 7 secondary schools studying the Ukrainian language and literature, including the Joint School-Gymnasium named after Taras Shevchenko in Prešov city, there exists several folk ensembles, Ukrainian language newspapers are being published and own radio station is working as well.

Volodymyr Groysman informed about the results of talks with Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic Peter Pellegrini and underlined that the sides had agreed to provide premises for the Ukrainian cultural center, as well as to erect a monument to Taras Shevchenko in the center of Bratislava.

“We have a special support program for Ukrainians living abroad with total funding of UAH 100 million. We are a great country, and we have many things that we have to develop both in the field of politics, economy and culture. For me it’s not empty words”, Volodymyr Groysman stressed.

According to the Head of Government, culture and identity “must be preserved” and we have to follow the example of representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora of Slovakia, majority of whom are children and grandchildren of Ukrainians who left their homeland decades ago.

“I bow my head to those who have preserved language and culture being far from their homeland. I especially respect children born in a foreign country, but who are culture and language bearers”, Volodymyr Groysman stressed.

The Prime Minister added that Ukrainian diaspora in the world reaches 65 million people. Active and united position of Ukrainians abroad, their diplomacy can not only help Ukraine, but be more effective instrument than traditional diplomacy.

19. Slovenia. “Orthodox Church of Ukraine Opens in Slovenia – Embassy,” *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 1 April 2019.

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KYIV. April 1 (Interfax-Ukraine) - The Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU) began its operations in Slovenia on Sunday, the Ukrainian embassy to this country reports, adding that the first Holy Liturgy took place in the church of Saint Urh.

“The Orthodox Church of Ukraine began its operation in Slovenia on March 31. Ambassador Mykhailo Brodovych and his wife, embassy staff and representatives of the Ukrainian community in Slovenia visited the first Holy Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, which was served in the church of St. Urh,” the Ukrainian Embassy to Slovenia said on Twitter on Sunday.

20. United Kingdom. “Natalia Galibarenko: Brexit Is a Challenge for Ukraine,” *Kyiv Post*, 25 April 2019.

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LONDON — Early in the morning on April 13, an attacker began ramming his car into the official vehicle of the Ukrainian ambassador to the United Kingdom while it was parked outside the embassy. Officials in Kyiv and London scrambled to make sure that Natalia Galibarenko and her staff had not been harmed.

The man had not entered the Ukrainian embassy, a modest-sized building on the western edge of central London, and few diplomatic staff were in the building at the time.

Galibarenko was posted to the British capital in September 2015 and has been representing Ukrainian interests throughout the turbulence of Brexit. She is probably one of the most important Ukrainian ambassadors.

The senior diplomat told the *Kyiv Post* in an interview at the Ukrainian embassy in London on April 18 that she was relieved nobody had been hurt in the attack.

“Even in a disastrous situation like this there can be positives to find,” she said. “I was trying to imagine the picture if he had not been attacking the car but was attacking the line of voters outside the embassy instead,” the ambassador said. She expected 1,250 Ukrainians in London to vote at the embassy on April 21, as people headed to the polls for Election Day.

Embassy attack

Police blocked off the street and began a short but tense standoff with the attacker. The man then revved his engine before driving the car directly at officers, according to police. Armed officers opened fire on the vehicle but did not wound its driver. Instead, he was subdued with a taser.

“Instead of surrendering when faced by armed police, he attacked, forcing them to open fire,” the ambassador said. “This is something that I cannot explain — it goes beyond any kind of normal grievance.”

On April 14, London’s Metropolitan Police confirmed that the unnamed suspect had been arrested on suspicion of criminal damage and attempted murder. He was also sectioned under the Mental Health Act and transferred to a hospital.

British Ukrainians

An estimated 31,000 Ukrainian-born citizens live in the United Kingdom, although it is unknown exactly how many ethnic Ukrainians live among the diaspora that is scattered throughout the British Isles.

Despite the April 13 attack, Galibarenko maintains that the Ukrainian community in the U.K. broadly feels safe and secure.

“It is a close-knit community... and despite Brexit, Ukrainians generally feel welcome and not threatened,” she said. These days, the same cannot be said for all foreigners in Britain.

The country’s move to leave the European Union, decided in a 2016 referendum, has been accompanied by a rise in rhetoric and actions that are anti-European and xenophobic, experts say. Last summer, the United Nations issued a report that warned of a rise in “Brexit-related” racism. Eastern Europeans have been made to feel especially unwelcome since the contentious vote.

But Ukrainians are mostly happy in Britain, the ambassador said, adding that the embassy deals with few serious consular complaints. And there are plenty of good reasons for Ukrainians to feel comfortable in the U.K.

Migrant workers earn some of the best salaries in Europe, many British universities and schools rank among the world’s best, living standards are high and the country is, for the most part, economically and politically stable.

Ukrainians in the U.K. have put down social and cultural roots too, and their heritage, if you know where to look, is not difficult to see.

Unions, societies and associations bring the Ukrainian diaspora together. Ukrainian language newspapers can be found. There is a Ukrainian language service of the British Broadcasting Corporation, or BBC, and the British Library in London — the world’s largest with some 200

million items in its inventory — has an impressive Ukrainian collection that is constantly being replenished.

A statue of Volodymyr the Great can be found in central London, as can memorials honoring the Ukrainian war dead. Near the northern English city of Derby — which has a Ukrainian community — there is a monument to the Soviet-orchestrated famine known as the Holodomor. Similar memorials can be found in the cities of Bolton and Rochdale too.

For Britain and Ukraine, ties are strong and relations good, but they can always be better. And no shortage of challenges lay ahead.

On Russia

In one area, Ukraine and the U.K. are almost entirely in agreement, and that is unlikely to change. When it comes to Russia's war against the country, Ukraine has a steadfast and reliable ally in Britain.

Galibarenko says that being based in the U.K. presents her with the perfect platform to represent and defend Ukrainian interests.

“This country presents very favorable conditions for speaking about Russia because people here understand that we are speaking about Russian aggression — there is no civil war in Ukraine,” she said, adding that there is an additional challenge in working to make sure that this is accurately portrayed in Englishlanguage media.

“Other ambassadors have to explain that Russia is waging a war against Ukraine and they're not listening,” the ambassador said, suggesting that some foreign officials have fallen victim to Moscow's propaganda. “They don't believe there are Russian troops fighting in Ukraine.”

Galibarenko says that the U.K. has been a strong advocate for Ukraine, especially in increasing sanctions on Moscow. Meanwhile, other countries in Europe have been somewhat less reliable. She fears losing the support of London in the European corridors of power.

“For me, that there [will] be no U.K. voice in Brussels that is defending Ukraine, it could be a big problem... there are certain things that we cannot change... after Brexit we will lose a voice in support of Ukraine,” the ambassador said.

Brexit and Ukraine

Galibarenko is trying not to become too distracted by the political circuses that are taking place in both London and Kyiv, where Brexit and elections dominate the news cycles. She says that Kyiv's priorities when it comes to British-Ukrainian relations are unlikely to change, regardless of circumstances.

“These political battles are influencing us very little,” she said. “And we have our own agenda with Britain, irrespective of what is happening in Ukraine. Certain priorities like EU and NATO

integration are already envisaged in the constitution... (and) regardless of the next president, (such) priorities won't change."

How the United Kingdom and its commitment to multilateral agreements and institutions could change, however, is a point of concern for the ambassador — and she is not alone: many Ukrainian lawmakers have told the Kyiv Post they're anxious about Brexit, and losing the British voice in Brussels.

"Brexit is a problem," Galibarenko said. "Uncertainties in our bilateral relationship are a problem." Ukrainians are being patient when it comes to unanswered questions on important issues relating to trade and visas, she added.

"We don't even know when Brexit is coming... and we cannot proceed to a higher level of consultations," the ambassador said.

In Kyiv, the British ambassador to Ukraine, Judith Gough, recently told the Kyiv Post that preliminary talks on a new trade agreement had started. She also said she hoped that visa-free travel (for Brits) would remain unaffected.

Many Ukrainian officials would like to renegotiate the British Ukrainian visa arrangements and say it is broken.

"We would also like to simplify the visa regime," said the Ukrainian ambassador to London, noting that Ukrainians have a rough time in getting a U.K. visa. Rejection rates are high and visas can be expensive for Ukrainians.

Meanwhile, British citizens can travel to Ukraine for 90 days without a visa. But beyond that period they also face problems. Visa fees for U.K. citizens are the most expensive of any nationality: a type-D visa for work is at least \$800, while a family reunification visa will cost \$2,000 or more. Then begins the bureaucratic headache of attempting to get a 1-year temporary residence permit.

Galibarenko says the bilateral arrangement should be improved, but she's encountering obstacles in London where she has had little luck in securing commitments to renegotiate.

"We are realistic people and we're not pushing for a visa-free regime with the U.K. the day after Brexit... but let's start some kind of a dialogue, let's look at simplification," she said, adding that Ukrainian officials, scientists, businesspeople and journalists should at least have an easier time in visiting the U.K.

"It is difficult for me to explain back in Ukraine... because we're very good friends with the U.K. and to explain why friends cannot proceed with improvements in their relations, it's difficult," she said.

Despite challenges ahead, Galibarenko is sure that Ukraine and the United Kingdom will face them together. She says there is plenty of opportunity to deepen ties and improve the relationship.

“We should be doing more to improve our image in the U.K. Ukraine is not only a victim of aggression,” she said. “We can also be a very good and valuable partner... our country has a lot to offer.”

By Jack Laurensen.

21. USA. “Streecha: 1600 Pierogi and a Vestige of Little Ukraine,” *Washington Square News*, 13 March 2019.

Much more than a restaurant, Streecha offers a sneak peek into the Ukrainian community in New York City.

Kylie Kirschner, Staff Writer

Tucked away in an East Village basement, a handful of people sit around a long folding table — yellow plastic trays lightly dusted with flour sit in the middle, covered with circles of dough and mounds of potato-onion filling, some pleated into half-moon shapes, some still waiting to be assembled. From the outside, Streecha is easy to miss, identified only by a blue banner labeled in Cyrillic and a sheet of printer paper in English taped to a window.

“I can do this with my eyes closed,” Dmytro Kovalenko, Dima for short, said while folding dough in her hand. Kovalenko is the head of the kitchen at Streecha, a small Ukrainian restaurant created by and for the community that serves as a fundraising enterprise for the nearby St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Every Friday morning from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., volunteers gather here to make 1600 varenyky, a type of Ukrainian dumpling similar to pierogi, to serve throughout the following week. It’s a meticulous, almost meditative process.

Anastasiia Baram, who says she is 100 years old — “The oldest one here; oldest in Manhattan, probably” — comes to Streecha every week.

Oldest in Manhattan or not, she is spry and sharp-witted — she immigrated to the United States from Ukraine 57 years ago to escape the turmoil there, and for more than 37 of them, she’s been coming here to make varenyky.

“My mother taught us,” Baram said, pressing the seam of a varenyky shut. “She told us, ‘you should know.’ I taught my son as well.”

In the 50-plus years Streecha has been open, not much about it has changed. The menu certainly hasn’t — it’s a simple list of offerings: varenyky (\$5 for six, and \$9 for a dozen), borsch (the Slavic-to-English transliteration of the perhaps more familiar borscht — \$3 for a bowl), stuffed

cabbage (\$4), sausage with cabbage (\$7), an assortment of baked goods and a rotation of daily specials.

The Ukrainian community living in the East Village used to be larger, reaching a peak of around 60,000 after the post-World War II wave of immigration; but increasing rent, among other factors, has caused the population in Little Ukraine to shrink, according to the 2013 edition of the NYC Department of City Planning's *The Newest New Yorkers* series. Most new immigrants now tend to settle in the outer boroughs, as 73 percent of foreign-born Ukrainian New Yorkers now live in Brooklyn. Members of the Ukrainian community still settled here are either aging — like Baram — or in their first, second or third generation. Nevertheless, St. George's and Streecha remain epicenters for the community.

"You should see how many people here gather after mass on Sundays," Kovalenko said. "There's a line from the counter to the door, believe me."

Though it can be stressful, Kovalenko cares deeply about what he does for his community here. A former businessman with a degree in finance, he is passionate about cooking.

"I like expressions of satisfied people when they have my food," he said. "That's the best reward for me."

Later, after the hundreds of varenyky have been boiled and packaged, the long communal cafeteria-style tables rearranged and covered with decorative tablecloths, patrons begin trickling in.

"Streecha means you see people, come together, get new friends," Baram said. More succinctly, as Kovalenko later adds, it means 'gathering.'

As the aroma of deeply caramelized onions and fried potatoes fill the air, the buzz of conversation grows.

"Here you have Ukrainian culture, Ukrainian community," Roman Mukha said over a bowl of Kovalenko's borsch. Dark-haired and jovial, Mukha has been a regular patron at Streecha since moving to the United States in 2017.

"You come here and can talk to people, even if you don't know each other," Mukha says. An older man soon chimes in from across the room, and the two men banter animatedly back-and-forth in Ukrainian for a few minutes. Mukha later says the two had never met before.

"See?" Mukha said, turning back to his plate. "No one is a stranger here."

22. USA. "Bishop Borys Gudziak Gets Reacquainted with America," *Kyiv Post*, 12 March 2019.

By Askold Krushelnycky.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Bishop Borys Gudziak, president of the Catholic University in Lviv, and who was recently appointed to one of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church's (UGCC) most senior positions, visited the U.S. capital the past weekend.

Pope Francis appointed him as Metropolitan-Archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia in the state of Pennsylvania on Feb. 8.

Gudziak told the Kyiv Post he is re-acquainting himself with America, where he was born in 1960, and its Ukrainian community, because he has spent most of the last 30 years in Europe.

His last post for six years was as bishop of the Eparchy of St. Volodymyr in Paris, where he was responsible for Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church's faithful in Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, and Switzerland as well as France. The church has an estimated 5 million followers globally.

Before that, Gudziak was the founder and rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. The private university has 1,700 students.

Philadelphia is where he will be officially installed in his new post on June 4 by the head of the UGCC, His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk.

Pennsylvania is one of the first places in the U.S. where Ukrainians settled from the late 19th century onward taking many jobs in the states heavy industries such as coal mining and steel manufacturing.

Pennsylvania has one of the oldest and largest organized Ukrainian communities in the United States with many UGCC and Orthodox parishes.

He said that in the week before coming to D.C. he visited different parishes in the eparchy and held meetings with some 60 community leaders there.

On March 10, Shevchuk – regarded by many as the UGCC patriarch – and Gudziak celebrated mass at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family in Washington.

Many parishioners, including children, wore traditional Ukrainian embroidered blouses and shirts as they welcomed him in their modern church which overlooks the nation's main Catholic shrine, the Basilica with its more traditional, domed silhouette.

Establishing dialogue

After the mass, Gudziak held a meeting with parishioners over coffee and snacks in the church hall. He mentioned the bitter political divisions straining Western society and said to establish real dialogue was essential so that ordinary people felt their voice meant something.

Referring to the upcoming presidential election in Ukraine, Gudziak explained the importance he placed on communication.

“Many people are going to vote in the election not for someone but against a candidate they know because they feel unheard [by them],” he said. “I want people to tell me what they want their bishop to be doing. I want them to know they will be heard.”

He strolled around the meeting hall talking into a microphone and offering it to listen to the opinions of parishioners sitting at tables in a relaxed discussion that was occasionally punctuated by laughter.

Gudziak said that he hopes that the eight days around his enthronement at Philadelphia’s Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will promote discussions with the thousands of faithful expected to attend from parishes across the U.S. and further afield.

Known for his intellectual prowess as well as diplomatic and networking skills, Gudziak was credited for much of the success in turning Lviv’s Ukrainian Catholic University into a formidable institute of higher learning and putting it on a sound financial basis.

He told the Kyiv Post how he will divide his time between the U.S. and Ukraine: “I still remain the president of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, which means head of the board of directors, and that meets three times a year.

“I’m also a member of the permanent synod of our Church, which meets four times a year. So those responsibilities will take me to Ukraine quite regularly.”

American Catholic University

During his talk he announced a new department of Eastern Christianity being set up by the Catholic University of America’s School of Theology and Religious Studies, in Washington.

The UGCC will contribute \$5 million to the department’s work and be closely involved in it. Gudziak said that he will be one of those associated with the development of the studies.

“I think there’s a lot that can be done for intellectual life and for the Ukrainian cause in Washington – it’s the capital of the U.S., it’s the capital of the Free World.

“I think a strong representation of our Church and advocacy for a country that is under invasion and enduring a humanitarian crisis can be made forcefully right here in Washington and I hope to contribute to that.”

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