

UKRAINIANS ABROAD: NEWS AND VIEWS #147

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15 December 2019

1. Recent works.

2. Canada. "Peaceful Protest Held against U of A Lecturer's Offensive Comments about the Holodomor," *Thegatewayonline.ca*, 2 December 2019.

3. Canada. "Meeting with Kenney, Visit to Consulate as Former President of Ukraine Visits Edmonton," *CBC.ca*, 25 November 2019.

4. Canada. "Chrystia Freeland: Canada's New Deputy PM Who Could Prove Crucial for Trudeau," *Guardian*, 21 November 2019.

5. Canada. "It's Not about Diaspora: Freeland Explains Why Canada Supports Ukraine," *News from Ukraine*, 2 November 2019.

6. Czechia. "Denisova Concerned about Info as for Violation of Labor Rights of Ukrainians in Czech Republic," *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 30 November 2019.

7. Estonia. "Come Back to Ukraine, Join Us - President Met with Ukrainian Community in Estonia," *Ukrainian Government News*, 27 November 2019.

8. Estonia. "Ukrainians Light Candles on Freedom Square to Remember Holodomor Victims," *News.err.ee*, 24 November 2019.

9. General. "Global Ukraine Launches Mobile Application to Link Ukrainian Diaspora around the Globe," *News from Ukraine*, 22 November 2019.

10. General. "Ukrainian Diaspora Members Should Obtain Right to Dual Citizenship – Kuleba," *Ukrainian Independent Information Agency*, 26 October 2019.

11. Japan. "Traditional Ukrainian Clothing Represented at Exhibition in Tokyo," *News from Ukraine*, 21 November 2019.

12. Kazakhstan. "Ukrainians of Kazakhstan Don't Take Part in Round Table in Occupied Crimea – Embassy," *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 18 October 2019.

13. Latvia. "Zelensky Calls Ukrainian Diaspora in Latvia to Uphold Unity," *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 17 October 2019.

14. Latvia. "Olena Zelenska Visits Ukrainian School in Riga," *News from Ukraine*, 17 October 2019.
15. Lebanon. "OTV Comment about Ukrainian Women Sparks Outrage," *Daily Star* (Lebanon), 25 October 2019.
16. Mongolia. "Ukrainians in Mongolia NGO Established," *Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies*, 22 November 2019.
17. United Kingdom. "Rochdale's Ukrainian Community Remembers 86th Anniversary of Tragic Holodomor Genocide," *Rochdale Online*, 25 November 2019.
18. USA. "Ukrainian Community Thrives in Central Jersey," *Bridgewater Courier News*, 1 December 2019.
19. USA. "Zelenskiy Appoints U.S. Lawyer as Adviser Amid Outreach to Ukrainian Diaspora," *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, 18 November 2019.
20. USA. "A Generation Vanishes: Naples Ukrainians Illuminate the History of Their Genocide," *Naples Daily News*, 18 October 2019.
21. USA. "Trenton Church Celebrates 100 Years of Serving the Community," *NJ.com*, 14 October 2019.
22. USA. "Chicago's Ukrainian Community Weighs in on Impeachment Inquiry," *NPR.org*, 7 October 2019.

*** Merry Christmas to everyone who will be celebrating and a Happy New Year to all! Веселих Свят та Щасливого Нового Року!

1. Recent works.

AUSTRALIA

Наталка Сенів-Макогон [Natalia Senjov-Makohon]. "Переміщені особи та культурна ідентичність," *Народна творчість та етнологія* no. 2 (2019): 41–47.

[Displaced Persons and Cultural Identity.]

Can be accessed at:

<https://nte.etnolog.org.ua/2019-rik/2/37-studii-sotsiokulturnoho-zhyttia-ukrainskykh-hromad/24-peremishcheni-osoby-ta-kulturna-identychnist>

Natalia Senjov-Makohon. "Globalization and Cultural Identity in Australia," *Народна творчість та етнологія* no. 1 (2019): 6–16.

Can be accessed at:

<https://nte.etnolog.org.ua/2019-rik/1/14-z-istorii-ta-teorii-nauky/2-hlobalizatsiia-ta-kulturna-identychnist-v-avstralii>

BULGARIA

Антоніна Якімова. “Збереження етнонаціональної ідентичності українців у Болгарії: історичний та сучасний контексти,” *Народна творчість та етнологія* no. 5 (2019): 51–57.

[The Preservation of the Ethno-National Identity of Ukrainians in Bulgaria: Historical and Contemporary Contexts.]

Can be accessed at:

<https://nte.etnolog.org.ua/2019-rik/5/1342-z-istorii-ta-teorii-nauky/2072-zberezhenia-etnonatsionalnoi-identychnosti-ukraintsiv-u-bolharii-istorychnyi-ta-suchasnyi-konteksty>

CANADA

Weronika Suchacka. “*Za Hranetsiu*” / “*Beyond the Border*”: *Constructions of Identities in Ukrainian-Canadian Literature*. Augsburg: Wißner-Verlag GmbH & Co. KG, 2019. 440 pages. ISBN: 978-3-95786-184-9.

Abstract:

“Grounded in literary and cultural studies, “*Za Hranetsiu*” / “*Beyond the Border*”: *Constructions of Identities in Ukrainian-Canadian Literature* answers the question how identities of different Ukrainian immigrants and their offspring have been constructed, continuously developed and transformed in contemporary Canadian literature. The study simultaneously presents a discussion of postmodern identities, a concise historical survey of Ukrainian immigration to Canada in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and an overall picture of the exceptionally substantial body of Ukrainian-Canadian literature. Detailed literary analyses concentrate on seven Ukrainian-Canadian works: *Sons of the Soil* (1939-45/1959) by Illia Kiriak, *Yellow Boots* (1954) by Vera Lysenko, *A Letter to My Son* (1981) by George Ryga, *The Green Library* (1996) by Janice Kulyk Keefer, *The Doomed Bridegroom: A Memoir* (1998) by Myrna Kostash, *Kalyna’s Song* (2003) by Lisa Grekul, and *The Ladies’ Lending Library* (2007) by Janice Kulyk Keefer.”

Patrycja Trzeczyńska. *Diaspora-pamięć-miejsca : Ukraińcy z Polski z lat 80. XX wieku w Kanadzie. Studium etnograficzne*. Kraków: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego. 348 pages. ISBN-10: 8323346356; ISBN-13: 978-8323346357.

[Diaspora Memory Places: Ukrainians from Poland from the 1980s in Canada. An Ethnographic Study.]

Natalie Kononenko. "Secular Plays in Churches: Folklore-Based Drama on the Canadian Prairies," *Народна творчість та етнологія* no. 2 (2019): 28–40.

Can be accessed at:

<https://nte.etnolog.org.ua/2019-rik/2/37-studii-sotsiokulturnoho-zhyttia-ukrainskykh-hromad/23-hromadske-zhyttia-tserkov-piesy-na-folklorni-temy-v-kanadskykh-preriiakh>

Milana Nikolko, "Diaspora Mobilization and the Ukraine Crisis: Old Traumas and New Strategies," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 42, no. 11 (September 2019): 1870–1889.

Abstract:

"This article presents an analysis of mobilization strategies among Ukrainian diaspora groups in Canada in their response to the Ukrainian crisis of 2014-15. By mapping recent Ukrainian diaspora activism, the purpose of this article is to understand international non-state actor influence on transitional justice during crisis. The first part draws on studies of traumatic memories and the role they play in developing a victim-based identity among a diaspora. Practices of memorialization of the famine 1932-33 in Ukraine were created through emotional causal mechanisms that captured traumatic emotions on paper in the diaspora, creating narratives that were further sustained through value-based mechanisms. The second part explains how the diaspora bridged its interpretation of traumatic memories with the home country."

Can be accessed at:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/01419870.2019.1569703?needAccess=true>

Thomas M. Prymak. "The Royal Commission and Rudnyckyj's Mission: The Forging of Official Multiculturalism in Canada, 1963–71," *University of Toronto Quarterly*, 88, no. 1 (December 2019): 43–63.

Abstract:

"This article discusses the forging of the concept and policy of official multiculturalism in Canada during the 1960s and early 1970s, which largely came out of the work of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism. In particular, it features the important role played by the linguist Jaroslav Rudnyckyj and by Ukrainian Canadians. The article argues that the term 'multiculturalism' was coined and pioneered in Canada prior to its general use elsewhere and that a particular conjunction of demographic realities, and national and even international politics, made this possible."

Patrycja Trzeszczyńska. "Українці з Польщі в Канаді: між українською і польською діаспорою," *Народознавчі зошити*, no. 2 (2019): 481–491.

[Ukrainians from Poland in Canada: Between the Ukrainian and Polish Diasporas.]

Abstract:

“The Ukrainian diaspora in Canada is a general term concerning the population of Ukrainian origin living in this country. However, the diaspora is not a monolith and consists of many different groups of migrants (from Ukraine, from former Yugoslavia, from Poland) and people whose ancestors settled in Canada (pioneers, emigration of the interwar period, DP). Immigrants from Ukraine who has been coming to Canada in recent years, dynamize cultural processes in the diaspora and the question of the past and cultural boundaries of individual groups, therefore the Ukrainian diaspora research is relevant and necessary. To this day, Ukrainian immigrants from Poland have not received the attention of researchers. The article is based on materials from ethnographic field research conducted in Canada since 2014 among the people of Ukrainian origin who left Poland in the 1980s. The author used the methods typical for socio-cultural anthropology: interviews and participant observation. Immigrants got to the Ukrainian diaspora, well organized and operating an established discourse on the past, where there is no place for the local history of Ukrainians from Poland. The author’s purpose in this article is to discuss the connection between cultural memory and migration, as well as the fact that memory distinguishes the Ukrainian community from Poland from other groups that form the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada. The memory of Ukrainians from Poland is closely related to their migration and examining it provides knowledge about their identity ambiguity, modification and manipulation of belonging to particular communities within the Ukrainian and Polish diasporas. The author also analyzes the role and significance of Poland and Ukraine in their lives, their involvement in the wider Ukrainian context in Canada, ties with the local Polish community, problems with unambiguous identity assignment, and a specific group distinction. The aforementioned distinction is a challenge for the diaspora in the sense of a homogeneous and closed group. In return, the author proposes to consider the Ukrainian diaspora as a transnational imagined community in accordance with the theoretical proposal of M. Sökefeld, and to follow the attitudes, practices and ideas of both the diaspora and of the native country, as inspired by R. Brubaker.”

Can be accessed at: <https://nz.lviv.ua/archiv/2019-2/18.pdf>

CHINA

Mariusz Borysiewicz. “Współistnienie diaspor polskiej i ukraińskiej na terenie Mandżurii w latach 1898-1950. Zarys problemu,” *Ars Inter Culturas* 7 (2018): 35–62.

[The Coexistence of the Polish and Ukrainian Diasporas in Manchuria, 1898–1950. An Outline of the Problem.]

Abstract:

“In the first half of the twentieth century, Manchuria occupied a special place in the Chinese scenery. More importantly, the land distinguished itself with a conflict-free multiculturalism. Further, it was a territory lying immediately in the borderland between Slavic and Chinese spheres of influence with all ensuing consequences. Poles and Ukrainians constituted an important part of this cultural melting pot, involving a fusion of nationalities and ethnicities. Undoubtedly, Ukrainians as well as Poles in Northeastern China contributed greatly to the cultural enrichment of the inhabited area. Regrettably, the socio-cultural activities of numerous

Polish and Ukrainian communities scattered across the region came to a sudden halt with the Soviet invasion of Manchuria in August 1945. Therefore, this text is devoted primarily to the study of Polish and Ukrainian settlement in Manchuria.”

Can be accessed at: <https://www.ceeol.com/search/viewpdf?id=806281>

GENERAL

***Democracy, Diaspora, Territory: Europe and Cross-Border Politics.* Eds. Olga Oleinikova and Jumana Bayeh. Milton: Routledge, 2019.**

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1. Democracy, Diaspora and Ukraine: Thinking Beyond the Territorial Mentality
Jumana Bayeh and Olga Oleinkova

Part 1: Cross-Border Politics: Mapping the New Conceptual Terrain

2. Democracy, Diaspora and the Territorial Mentality
John Keane

3. Diasporic Visions of Democracy and Territory
Jumana Bayeh

4. Democratic Remittances and Diaspora: Tracking the Multilayered Political Practices of Migrants
Stefan Rother

5. Media Cultures Across Distance: The Transnational and Transcultural of Media Communication
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7. Diasporic Nation-Building: The Re-Invention of National Belonging within Ukrainian Diasporas
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8. The Transnational Activism of Young Ukrainian Immigrants
Serhiy Kovalchuk and Alla Korzh

9. The Digital Power of Ukrainians Abroad: Social Media Activism and Political Participation
Olena Fedruk

For further information, visit:

<https://www.routledge.com/Democracy-Diaspora-Territory-Europe-and-Cross-Border-Politics-1st-Edition/Oleinikova-Bayeh/p/book/9780367279158>

Simone Attilio Bellezza. “Making Soviet Ukraine Ukrainian: The Debate on Ukrainian Statehood in the Journal *Suchasnist*’ (1961–1971),” *Nationalities Papers* 47, no. 3 (May 2019): 379–393.

Abstract:

“This article analyzes the debate on Ukrainian statehood going on in the 1960s in *Suchasnist'*, the most intellectually prestigious journal among Ukrainian emigrants in the West. These intellectuals and political activists interpreted the renaissance of Ukrainian national culture in the 1960s (the so-called *shistdesiatnytstvo*) in various ways and proposed different political strategies to influence their original homeland and its future political and cultural developments. In the Ukrainian diaspora, two opposing factions emerged: the first, despite condemning Soviet imperialism, favorably evaluated the birth of a movement for the defense of human rights in Soviet Ukraine and was happy to exploit the rapprochement between the USSR and USA to finally have an opportunity to make contact with the motherland. The other did not consider the Ukrainian SSR as a real example of a Ukrainian state and acknowledged its existence only for tactical reasons; this faction thought that contact should be avoided and that the Soviets should be offered no opportunity to address the Western public. Eventually, at the beginning of the 1970s, even those who had opposed collaboration with any subject from Soviet Ukraine decided to embrace the cause of human rights and join the struggle led by the Ukrainian dissent.”

Can be accessed at:

https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/17FC92A222682F4BEDF23FE94AF588C1/S0090599218000685a.pdf/making_soviet_ukraine_ukrainian_the_debate_on_ukrainian_statehood_in_the_journal_suchasnist_19611971.pdf

Любов Отрошко. “Особливості етнокультурних взаємин української діаспори з Україною у період від середини 80-х до середини 90-х років XX століття,”
Українознавство по. 3 (2019): 146–163.

[The Characteristics of Ethnocultural Relations between the Ukrainian Diaspora and Ukraine in the Period from the Mid-1980s to the Mid-1990s.]

Abstract:

“The article analyzes the peculiarities of ethnocultural relations between Ukraine and its diaspora in the period from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s. It is theoretically substantiated that relations between Ukraine and the diaspora were altering from sporadic contacts, subordinate to the totalitarian administrative-command system, to the systematic and comprehensive, mutually beneficial cooperation on a democratic basis. It is revealed that, as a result of these relations, a common ethnocultural space was formed, contributing to the preservation and development of the Ukrainian identity and the complex of ethnocultural relations. Ethnocultural changes that occurred during the critical period of the USSR’s collapse and the new problems which Ukraine faced at that turning point of its development are traced. It is proved that during that period the Ukrainian diaspora contributed to solving both internal and external problems of Ukraine. Ukraine’s relations with the diaspora in all key areas of ethnocultural relations are considered. Two main stages of ethnocultural and political development of the state are distinguished: 1985–1991 and 1991–1995. It is found that after Ukraine had gained independence, its relations with the diaspora radically changed. Those shifts took place in all areas of the Ukrainian ethnocultural

space. It is shown that during the first stage, Ukraine's contacts with representatives of the diaspora were sporadic and took place only under the direct supervision and tight control of the Soviet special services. In the time of political repressions, linguistic and cultural Russification of Ukraine, its national elite was forced to follow the instructions of the Communist Party of the USSR. Ukrainians outside Ukraine were also threatened by ethnocultural assimilation, thus uniting in spiritual, cultural, and religious senses worldwide. During the second stage, i.e. after the declaration of independence, the above mentioned relations underwent significant transformations. This was testified by the emergence of a common ethnocultural space, in which the efforts of the representatives of Ukraine and the diaspora in combating the consequences of the forced assimilation and serving the emergence of a strong and free country were combined."

Can be accessed at: <http://journal.ndiu.org.ua/article/view/179022/180457>

Теофіл Рендюк. "Етнокультурна спадщина зарубіжних українців," *Народна творчість та етнологія* по. 6 (2019): 7–13.

[The Ethnocultural Heritage of Ukrainians Abroad.]

KAZAKHSTAN

Денис Чернієнко. "Українці Казахстану: історія формування та етнокультурні особливості національної меншини." *Народна творчість та етнологія* по. 6 (2019), 14–28.

[Ukrainians in Kazakhstan: The History of the Formation and the Ethnocultural Characteristics of a National Minority.]

MOLDOVA

Віктор Кожухар, Катерина Кожухар. "Українці в незалежній Республіці Молдова (1991-2018 роки)," *Народна творчість та етнологія* по. 4 (2019): 23–35.

[Ukrainians in the Independent Republic of Moldova (1991–2018).]

Can be accessed at:

<https://nte.etnolog.org.ua/2018-rik/4/765-aktualni-ukrainistychni-studii-novi-smysly-ta-interpretatsii/300-ukraintsi-v-nezalezhnii-respublitsi-moldova-1991-2018-roky>

POLAND

Олена Анатоліївна Малиновська. "Україна – Польща: до питання сучасних міграцій українців до Польщі," *Стратегічні пріоритети* 48, по. 3–4 (2018): 65–72.

[Ukraine–Poland: Toward the Question of the Contemporary Migration of Ukrainians to Poland.]

Abstract:

“As a result of the Russian aggression, sharp deterioration of the economic situation in Ukraine, impoverishment of a large part of the population the extent of labor migration abroad has increased significantly. Its composition changed: the proportion of young people, specialists, and inhabitants of Central and Eastern Ukraine among migrant workers increased. The main destination country for migrants is Poland, which has moved Russia from this position. This is due to the fact that Poland faces a shortage of workers on the background of successful economic development and record low unemployment. The demand for additional workforce is compounded by the mass exodus of the Poles to other EU countries with higher earnings than in Poland. The country has created a wide range of opportunities for legal temporary employment of foreigners. In addition to labor, educational migration from Ukraine to Poland is increasing. The number of Ukrainians living in the neighboring country permanently is also increasing. Migration of Ukrainians to Poland is currently an important component of the interaction between the two societies and, as such, requires mutual attention and bilateral response. The interests of both countries correspond to the provision of organized and safe migration, the proper protection of migrants’ rights, their social security etc. Ensuring the cultural and educational needs of Ukrainians in Poland, the support of the Ukrainian diaspora, which is growing numerically and organizationally, can also be successful only in cooperation with the Polish state. The formation of a positive image of the migrant and migration in the society, explanation of the significant role of migration for the social and economic development of both states is in the common interest. This will contribute to preserving the harmony in society, to make it impossible to show hostility to representatives of other peoples, discrimination and xenophobia. In order to make adequate managerial decisions, a deep understanding of their object is required. Therefore, the permanent exchange of information, conducting of bilateral Polish-Ukrainian scientific research can be extremely relevant.”

Can be accessed at:

http://www.irbis-nbuv.gov.ua/cgi-bin/irbis_nbuv/cgiirbis_64.exe?I21DBN=LINK&P21DBN=UJRN&Z21ID=&S21REF=10&S21CNR=20&S21STN=1&S21FMT=ASP_meta&C21COM=S&2_S21P03=FILA=&2_S21STR=sp_a_2018_3-4_9

ROMANIA

Владислава Олегівна Бакальчук. “Основні завдання державної політики щодо закордонних українців: можливості та перспективи (на прикладі української діаспори в Румунії),” *Стратегічні пріоритети* no. 1 (2019): 58–64.

Abstract:

“The article analyzes the state policy towards foreign Ukrainians on the basis of its implementation regarding the Ukrainian minority in Romania. An overview of the situation of the Ukrainian diaspora and the main identification trends characteristic of the Ukrainian community of Romanian society, as well as the provision of their rights and needs for the preservation of their own ethno-cultural identity have been carried out. The article states that despite the developed contractual basis of the Ukrainian-Romanian relations, the state of providing the

educational, cultural and information needs of the Ukrainian diaspora in Romania, the Ukrainian diaspora undergoes significant assimilation processes. The author, in particular, draws attention to the ineffectiveness of the policy of the Ukrainian side in meeting the needs of the Ukrainian diaspora in the bilateral Ukrainian-Romanian relations. The article draws attention to the fact that to a large extent the provision of the rights of the ethnic community depends on the activity of its social activity. Thus, the effectiveness of social activity of the Ukrainian diaspora, at one time, was negatively impacted by internal disputes between the public elite of Ukrainians in Romania. Despite the current positive dynamics in the activities of the public representation of Ukrainian activities due to the change of leadership of the Union of Ukrainians in Romania, consolidation and support of the public sector of foreign Ukrainians in Romania in particular should remain one of the basic priorities of state policy in this area. It is noted that the intensification of Ukrainian-Romanian relations since 2014 greatly creates favorable conditions for improving the effectiveness of the state policy towards the Ukrainian diaspora in Romania. Proposed measures to improve the process of its formation and implementation.”

Can be accessed at: <https://niss-priority.com/index.php/journal/article/view/238/226>

Теофіл Рендюк. “Українці Румунії: етнокультурна історія і сучасний стан,” *Народна творчість та етнологія* no. 4 (2019): 5–15.

[Ukrainians in Romania: Ethnocultural History and Current Status.]

Can be accessed at:

<https://nte.etnolog.org.ua/2019-rik/4/46-z-etnoistorii-ukrainstva/48-ukraintsi-rumunii-etnokultura-istoriia-i-suchasnyi-stan>

RUSSIA

Василь Бабенко, Максим Пилипак, Денис Чернієнко. “Українці в Башкортостані: історико-культурний досвід малої етнічної групи,” *Народна творчість та етнологія* no. 5 (2019): 26–43.

[Ukrainians in Bashkortostan: The Historical-Cultural Experience of a Small Ethnic Group.]

Can be accessed at:

<https://nte.etnolog.org.ua/2019-rik/5/1342-z-istorii-ta-teorii-nauky/2068-ukraintsi-v-bashkortostani-istoryko-kulturnyi-dosvid-maloi-etnichnoi-hrupy>

Людмила Іваннікова. “Історіограф української фольклористики Кубані (до роковин смерті Віктора Кириловича Чумаченка),” *Народна творчість та етнологія* no. 5 (2018): 87–102.

[A Historiographer of Ukrainian Folklore in the Kuban: Toward the Anniversary of Viktor Chumachenko’s Death.]

Can be accessed at:

<https://nte.etnolog.org.ua/2018-rik/5/781-rozvidky-ta-materialy/352-istoriohraf-ukrainskoi-folklorystyky-kubani-do-rokovyn-smerti-viktora-kyrylovycha-chumachenka>

Ірина Скибіцька. “Голод 1932-1933 років на Кубані за архівними документами та матеріалами періодичної преси,” *Народна творчість та етнологія* No. 6 (2018): 54–69.

[The Famine of 1932–33 in the Kuban on the Basis of Archival Documents and Periodicals.]

Can be accessed at:

<https://nte.etnolog.org.ua/2018-rik/6/787-rozvidky-ta-materialy/368-holod-1932-1933-rokiv-na-kubani-za-arkhivnymy-dokumentamy-ta-materialamy-periodychnoi-presy>

UNITED KINGDOM/POLAND

Iryna Lapshyna. “Do Diasporas Matter? The Growing Role of the Ukrainian Diaspora in the UK and Poland in the Development of the Homeland in Times of War,” *Central and Eastern European Migration Review* 8, no. 1 (2019): 51–73.

“Ukraine has been going through a series of political and economic crises, notably the Euromaidan revolution and the Russian aggression and subsequent economic downturn. These events triggered fresh transnational diaspora-led activities such as the ‘London Euromaidan’ and the ‘Warsaw Euromaidan’. This paper analyses Ukrainian diaspora volunteerism in the UK and Poland and explores how the Ukrainian diaspora engages and contributes economically, socially, politically and culturally to the development of Ukraine. Drawing on fieldwork in both countries, three main findings were identified. First, due to the events in Ukraine, the Ukrainian diaspora has mobilised, grown stronger and became more united, whilst transforming from a more inward-looking to a more outward-looking community which, as a result, is now more and critically engaging with Ukrainian affairs. Second, the Ukrainian diaspora has the willingness, power and resources to contribute to the development of the home country, claiming to be recognised as an important stakeholder in the development of Ukraine. Thirdly, the Ukrainian government’s lack of recognition of the contribution of the Ukrainian diaspora is one of the most significant barriers to more comprehensive diaspora involvement in development.”

Can be accessed at: <https://www.ceeol.com/search/viewpdf?id=793171>

USA

Simone A. Bellezza. “The ‘Transnationalization’ of Ukrainian Dissent: New York City Ukrainian Students and the Defense of Human Rights, 1968–80,” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* 20, no. 1 (Winter 2019): 99–120.

Can be accessed at: <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/717541/pdf>

Наталія Осадча. “Культурний образ сучасної України у діаспорній періодиці США (2012–2018 рр.),” *Українознавство*. No. 4 (2018): 151–169.

[The Cultural Image of Contemporary Ukraine in the Diaspora Periodical Press of the USA (2012–2018).]

Abstract:

“The article analyzes Ukrainian-language diaspora newspapers of the USA for revealing forms of cultural preservation experience and ways of representing Ukraine’s image through its cultural heritage. As a result of processing periodicals of the Ukrainian diaspora in the USA (Nova hazeta, Zakordonna Hazeta, Natsionalna Trybuna – Shliakh Peremohy, Mist, Svoboda, Ukrainske slovo), the following forms of promoting Ukrainian culture in the western world are found: music, cinema, theater, visual art. It is determined that the analyzed periodical publications of the diaspora fully illustrate the forms of cultural conservation experience and ways of representing Ukraine’s image through its cultural heritage, which constitutes a multilevel structure and is defined as a system model. It is noted that the size of the territory for conducting festivals, concerts, theatrical productions, exhibitions, etc., encompassing almost all states of America, is important for the dissemination of Ukrainian culture in the world and the improvement of the image of Ukraine. It has been established that the contributors to the electronic periodicals of the diaspora try not to ignore, but, on the contrary, illustrate and describe every vivid phenomenon in the cultural life of the Ukrainian community, which gives hope and belief in the fact that Ukrainian culture and art, and therefore the image of Ukraine, can be brought to the highest level by promoting cultural achievements and heritage abroad. Thus, the main goal of cultural development pursued by the Ukrainian diaspora of the United States consists in the consolidation of Ukrainians all over the world for the revival and preservation of their national and cultural traditions.”

Can be accessed at: <http://journal.ndiu.org.ua/article/view/154000>

2. Canada. “Peaceful Protest Held against U of A Lecturer’s Offensive Comments about the Holodomor,” *Thegatewayonline.ca*, 2 December 2019.

Students protest U of A lecturer’s comments that Holodomor was a “myth”

By Khadra Ahmed

A peaceful protest was held showing opposition to remarks made by a University of Alberta assistant lecturer surrounding the Holodomor.

On November 20, University of Alberta assistant lecturer Dougal MacDonald made a Facebook post calling Holodomor, a United Nations recognized genocide against Ukrainian people, a “myth.”

On December 2, The U of A Ukrainian Students’ Society (USS) organized a peaceful demonstration against MacDonald’s comments and general Holodomor denial outside the South Academic Building. The protest was supported by the Ukrainian Canadian Students’ Union

(SUSK), the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Alberta Provincial Council, and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Edmonton Branch.

Protestors hope university will hear their message

The protest was led by the USS president Megan Brownlee and SUSK Internal Relations Director Andriy Prichliak.

Brownlee began by acknowledging McDonald's claims that past Ukrainian U of A chancellor Peter Savaryn was a "former Nazi collaborator." She also emphasized that this was an attempt to denounce the Holodomor as a genocide.

"We cannot stand idly by as this tragedy is denied by a member of our university," Brownlee said. "The comments that were made are actively trying to reduce public awareness and skew public opinion about the Holodomor."

The USS and SUSK are calling for McDonald to be fired, but also for the university to officially recognize Holodomor as a genocide.

In an interview, both Brownlee and Prichliak stated that this wasn't a question of free speech, but of hate speech targeting the Ukrainian-Canadian community.

"[McDonald] keeps having this defence of free speech, but this is hate speech and that's not covered under free speech," Brownlee said. "He's not within his rights to be saying this kind of stuff."

"A big portion of the student code of conduct is respect for your fellow students, employees, and staff of the University of Alberta," Prichliak added. "I feel that his comments were very hateful and offensive, and not exactly respectful to students, especially to the Ukrainian-Canadian community."

The protest also extended awareness of MacDonald's comments to the greater community, who Brownlee and Prichliak believe were equally affected by MacDonald's comments.

"We wanted to get not just students but also members of the community to speak out and really share how this has affected their community," Brownlee said. "We had so many different organizations come out, different academics, so it's really good to hear their piece and it's just great to have the support from the community."

After the protest, Brownlee and Prichliak personally attempted to bring U of A President David Turpin the book *The Red Famine* by Anne Applebaum, which recounts the events of the Holodomor. Turpin however, was out of the office and the book was accepted on his behalf. Still, Brownlee and Prichliak hope the protest sent a clear message to the university.

"We hope that today had an impact on the university's decision and the university's view on this issue," Prichliak said.

Protest garners support from the community

Community members from various groups, including representatives from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the university's own Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies, also spoke at the protest.

Orysia Boychuk, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Alberta Provincial Council, spoke about the strength of the Ukrainian community in Alberta. She pointed out that Edmonton was the first city in the world to build a public Holodomor monument and that city hall annually hosts an event commemorating Holodomor, which she emphasized was even more important in the face of MacDonald's comments.

She also acknowledged free speech, but made it clear we cannot deny what is true.

"Everyone is entitled to their opinion, but facts are facts," she said.

Jars Balan, the director of the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies, said there was "nothing new" about McDonald's comments.

"This was a long-standing strategy of the Soviet government to dismiss, to smear, to silence the Ukrainians who were critics of the Soviet regime, not only for the famine but its long history of oppression," he said.

Balan also mentioned that this was not McDonald's first time making such comments, referring back to previous posts on the online newsletter The Marxist-Leninist Weekly, where McDonald also claimed the Holodomor was a myth. Balan said the university's next steps should be figuring out if MacDonald has also used the classroom as a platform for "spewing his nonsense."

Balan said the application freedom of speech is a challenging one, but asked what the university risked by allowing these comments to be made by faculty.

"We want to preserve freedom of speech, but do we preserve it at the cost of the reputation of the University of Alberta, our academic standards, our reputation for scholarship?" he said.

Students' Union President Akanksha Bhatnagar stressed solidarity in the face of hate speech at the event.

"Although I'm not Ukrainian, I think it's more important now than ever for us to stand in solidarity with issues that are direct hateful attacks on groups and communities," she said.

She said the Students' Union condemns MacDonald's denial of Holodomor, calls on him to take back his statements or resign, and stands with the Ukrainian Students' Society in calling the university to condemn these remarks.

“I hope together that we have this conversation and continue to push our university to do what’s right, not what’s easy and condemn these remarks,” Bhatnagar said.

“I was born there, I lived there, where was the professor?” said Holodomor survivor

Also in attendance was 89-year old Leo Korowynk, a Holodomor survivor who immigrated to Canada in 1949. Korowynk took the turnout to the protests as a sign that despite MacDonald’s comments, the community acknowledges the Holodomor as a true event.

“If anybody says this is not true, look at all these people [that showed up], they know something about it and there’s one person here who has lived through it,” he said referring to himself.

In terms of MacDonald’s comments, Korowynk said he has the lived experience to discredit those claims.

“I was born there, I lived there, where was the professor?” he asked. “You have to be factual and truthful and he is not.”

“Some of my relatives starved to death, how can we let this man teach at our university and give the wrong facts? The university says it’s a personal opinion — no, it’s not a personal opinion.”

3. Canada. “Meeting with Kenney, Visit to Consulate as Former President of Ukraine Visits Edmonton,” *CBC.ca*, 25 November 2019.

Petro Poroshenko's visit also includes delivering a lecture at the U of A

By Kim Trynacity

A former president of Ukraine came to Edmonton Monday, fulfilling a long-standing invitation from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress to visit the Ukrainian Consulate General office, which opened in 2018.

Petro Poroshenko was Ukraine’s fifth president between 2014 and 2019. While speaking with reporters at the Alberta legislature on Monday, he said his main message is that unity for Ukraine is an international issue.

“This is the global cause,” Poroshenko said when asked about the current political situation in Ukraine.

“And this is a strong reason for the whole nation to be united.”

His visit includes a lecture at the University of Alberta, a private meeting with Premier Jason Kenney, and a banquet to build support for Ukraine within the very large Alberta Ukrainian diaspora.

Kenney, along with Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland who is also in Edmonton on Monday, will attend the banquet. Both are vocal supporters of Ukraine in its efforts to assert autonomy.

Poroshenko stopped to read the inscription on a monument dedicated to Ukrainian immigrants on the grounds of the Alberta legislature before his closed door meeting with Kenney.

The two have met before. Kenney is widely viewed as a strong ally to Ukraine in its stand against Russian-backed aggression.

Blames Russia

When asked about impeachment hearings into alleged interference by U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukraine's current president, Volodymyr Zelensky, Poroshenko lashed out at Russia.

He said Russia is trying to draw attention away from its ongoing war with Ukraine and its involvement in the 2016 U.S. presidential elections and the Brexit referendum.

Earlier Monday, Poroshenko and his wife Maryna Poroshenko attended a Holodomor Ukrainian Famine Genocide Commemoration event at Edmonton City Hall.

[<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/poroshenko-visit-to-edmonton-1.5372786>]

4. Canada. "Chrystia Freeland: Canada's New Deputy PM Who Could Prove Crucial for Trudeau," *Guardian*, 21 November 2019.

By Leyland Cecco in Toronto

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Decision to elevate former journalist reflects level of trust Trudeau has in her and the scale of the task for his government

During the most important week in North American free trade negotiations last year, Canada's top representative arrived in Washington wearing white T-shirt that read "Keep Calm and Negotiate Nafta" and "Mama Chopped Liver".

The message from her children who made the shirt, was clear: Chrystia Freeland was not to be underestimated.

On Wednesday, the prime minister, Justin Trudeau, elevated Freeland, a former journalist, to the role of deputy prime minister. A largely ceremonial position, the job has not been filled since 2006.

But Trudeau also made her minister of intergovernmental affairs, a job that requires her to manage the increasingly fractious relationship between Canada's federal government, provinces and territories.

The decision reflects the level of trust Trudeau has in Freeland – and the scale of the task at hand.

In last month's election, the Liberal party suffered an electoral wipeout in Alberta and Saskatchewan, amid hostility to Trudeau and his legislative efforts against climate change.

A struggling oil and gas sector has hit the economies of both provinces, and anger has begun to fuel a nascent separatist movement – dubbed “Wexit” – that many fear could inflict lasting damage on Canada.

In a parliament in which no party controls a majority, having a close ally to mediate feuds with angry provinces will be critical for Trudeau's government.

There is no doubt that the portfolio could be “fraught and risky”, said Lori Turnbull, a professor of political science at Dalhousie University.

“[But] because of the national unity issues that are existing now – this should not be seen at all as any kind of a demotion or even a lateral move for Freeland. This is a promotion,” Turnbull said. “Because now it's clear she's the one that he trusts the most with the hardest file.”

Freeland was born in a small farming community of Peace River and recently described herself as a “proud Albertan”. She also hails from the Ukrainian diaspora that settled, and has farmed, much of the Canadian prairies for generations.

But those credentials might not be enough to make inroads in a region hostile to Trudeau.

“I mean, she's still a Liberal,” said Harvey Spak, a retired film-maker in Mundare, Alberta. A member of the Ukrainian community himself, Spak suggested the Liberal brand – and Freeland's residence in Toronto – would erode any goodwill granted by her background.

But months of tense – and ultimately successful – trade negotiations with the US, have left Freeland battle-tested.

“She's a big thinker who has a considerable understanding of the international context,” said Roland Paris, an international affairs professor at the University of Ottawa and former Trudeau adviser. “At the same time, she's a tenacious negotiator.”

Freeland's meteoric rise from rookie lawmaker to foreign minister and now deputy prime minister has not surprised former colleagues.

“Chrystia was the best in town. She was the person to beat,” said David Hoffman, a former Moscow bureau chief for the Washington Post in the 1990s, who worked alongside Freeland when she ran the Financial Times bureau.

The two travelled the country together, reporting on the growing pains of a region where the rule of law was often non-existent. “I think these were, for her, life-changing events to witness. Because they made us realize how utterly difficult – and how precious – this idea of ‘market democracy’ really was.”

Freeland eventually returned to North America, by way of Toronto and New York, accepting senior editorial positions at the Globe and Mail, the FT and Thomson Reuters.

In 2013, Justin Trudeau, then the newly minted Liberal party leader pursued Freeland, pleading with her to leave media and enter politics, even appearing at her book signing to make his case.

Eventually she accepted his offer to run for federal office in Toronto.

“I think’s she’s, without question, seen as the breakaway star in the Trudeau cabinet,” said Peter Donolo, a political strategist and former director of communications for former prime minister Jean Chrétien.

In her time leading the sprawling foreign affairs portfolio, Freeland cultivated a reputation for blunt charm and a sharply honed ability to read people.

When, during her brief stint as international trade minister, intransigent parties in Belgium held up a huge free trade deal between Canada and Europe, Freeland simply walked away.

Conservatives in Canada were outraged, calling her ploy a “meltdown” and suggesting she needed “adult supervision” on order to effectively negotiate. But the strategy worked, and she closed the multibillion-dollar deal.

“She flipped it over. She did political jiu-jitsu on it and came away looking like a big winner,” said Donolo.

While feuds within the country will differ from high-stakes international trade negotiations, they will nonetheless occupy a significant amount of Freeland’s energy and attention.

“She’s got a lot of experience in trying to manage diplomacy in extremely complex environments where there are clear and distinct different interests,” said Turnbull.

The position of deputy prime minister is also likely to reignite talk of Freeland as a Liberal party leader-in-waiting. Jean Chrétien remains the only person to have moved from deputy to prime minister, Freeland’s promotion will do little to tamp down speculation.

“I think Freeland would be an obvious choice for a potential successor,” said Turnbull.

5. Canada. “It’s Not about Diaspora: Freeland Explains Why Canada Supports Ukraine,” *News from Ukraine*, 2 November 2019.

Canada strongly supports Ukraine as the country is at the forefront of defense of the rules-based international order.

“Although I am very proud of the role of Ukrainian community in Canada, it is very important for me as the Foreign Minister to emphasize that Canada supports Ukraine’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity not due to presence of a fantastic Ukrainian-Canadian community. We support Ukraine because of the important principles it fights for,” Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada Chrystia Freeland stated, an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

She stressed that Ukraine is now at the “forefront of the struggle between democracy and authoritarianism.”

“Modern Ukraine is the country where the struggle is ongoing and the future of the rules-based international order and genuine democracy in the world will be determined. That is why, support for Ukraine in its fight is an integral part of Canada's foreign policy,” the Canadian Foreign Minister said.

Freeland noted that Ukraine managed to withstand as an independent democratic state but is still in grave danger. “Support for Ukraine does not reduce itself to Ukrainian Canadians. It concerns the principles of democracy and international law,” the diplomat summed up.

6. Czechia. “Denisova Concerned about Info as for Violation of Labor Rights of Ukrainians in Czech Republic,” *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 30 November 2019.

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KYIV. Nov 30 (Interfax-Ukraine) - Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights Liudmyla Denisova during a meeting with her Czech counterpart Helena Valkova expressed concern about information regarding the violation of employment rights of Ukrainian citizens.

“I expressed concern about information regarding violations of the rights of our citizens by unscrupulous employers and intermediaries, the facts of violation of labor law with respect to Ukrainians, inappropriate living conditions and the like,” Denisova said on Facebook.

In addition, the parties discussed the situation concerning the violation of the rights of Ukrainians in the temporarily occupied part of Donbas, and the consequences of the military conflict for children living there.

The Czech ombudsperson, in turn, noted that she was the chairperson of the commission for the rights of national minorities, and the issue of the Ukrainian national minority is a priority in her work for the next year.

“I enlisted the support of Ms. Helena in strengthening our cooperation in protecting the rights of Ukrainian citizens from among migrant workers,” Denisova said.

7. Estonia. “Come Back to Ukraine, Join Us - President Met with Ukrainian Community in Estonia,” *Ukrainian Government News*, 27 November 2019.

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In Tallinn, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke with representatives of the Ukrainian community, in particular those undergoing rehabilitation in Estonia.

People supported the actions of the Ukrainian authorities, in particular those aimed at achieving peace in Donbas.

“We all want Ukraine to know: it is not alone - the world stands with you, Europe stands with you, Estonia stands with you,” the Ukrainian community representative noted. The Ukrainian community assured that it believes in the European integration dynamics of Ukraine, and many Ukrainians want to return to their homeland.

The Head of State thanked the community for its proactive stance.

“Come back to Ukraine, start working, launch production. Join us!” Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the community.

The President and his wife also honored those who died for the independence of Estonia.

The presidential couple laid flowers on the Monument of Victory in the War of Independence.

Volodymyr and Olena Zelenskyy paid tribute to the victims with a moment of silence.

8. Estonia. “Ukrainians Light Candles on Freedom Square to Remember Holodomor Victims,” *News.err.ee*, 24 November 2019.

The Congress of Ukrainians in Estonia held a ceremony in memory of the victims of the Holodomor, a famine which killed millions of people in Ukraine in the 1930s, in Tallinn on Saturday.

Every year on the fourth Saturday of November, Ukrainians commemorate the millions of victims of the Holodomor, a famine caused by forced collectivization by the Soviet government and confiscation of grain from peasants in 1932-1933.

At 4 p.m., a minute of silence, a prayer service, and memorial candles were lit at Freedom Square. The ceremony was attended by the Ukrainian Ambassador to Estonia Mariana Betsa and Chairman of the Congress of Ukrainians in Estonia Vira Konyk. Approximately 50 people attended.

At least 3 million people are believed to have died in the famine that swept the eastern, central, and southern regions of Ukraine. But some estimates put the number of victims at two or three times higher.

Fifteen countries, including Estonia, have recognized the Holodomor as genocide. Russia rejects the notion that Soviet authorities systematically targeted Ukrainians.

Last year, former foreign minister Sven Mikser (SDE) attended an event marking the 85th anniversary of the Holodomor in Ukraine. He made a speech and said: “Looking back at the history of totalitarianism, the Holodomor stands out as one of the 20th century’s greatest tragedies. The world must not forget it. Twenty-five years ago, Estonia was the first country to adopt a parliamentary declaration condemning the famine-genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine caused by the Stalinist policy of forced collectivisation and its aggressive dehumanisation. Estonians remember the brutality of 20th century Soviet totalitarianism and its assault on human dignity.”

[<https://news.err.ee/1006506/ukrainians-light-candles-on-freedom-square-to-remember-holodomor-victims>]

9. General. “Global Ukraine Launches Mobile Application to Link Ukrainian Diaspora around the Globe,” *News from Ukraine*, 22 November 2019.

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NGO “Global Ukraine” has launched the same-name mobile app to communicate with Ukrainian diaspora leaders around the world. The app is available on Apple Store and Google Play.

“Our eighth forum is dedicated to launching our Global Ukraine app on Apple Store and Google Play. We have designed a communication platform that will make it easy to communicate with the progressive and effective leaders of the Ukrainian diaspora around the world,” co-founder of Global Ukrainians Forum Violeta Moskalu said at the VIII Global Ukrainians Forum on November 22 in Kyiv, an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

She added that the platform would provide information about Ukrainian communities that exist in different countries, their leaders and the projects they are involved in.

According to Moskalu, the purpose of creating such an online platform is to establish and simplify the process of communication with those Ukrainian migrants who are indifferent to Ukraine, promote the image of our country in the world and help to promote domestic business abroad.

Global Ukraine is a non-governmental organization established in 2015. It unites Ukrainians in over 80 countries.

The organization implements several projects: Global Ukraine News - the Ukrainian news agency focusing on Ukrainian news, diaspora and community initiatives and Global Ukraine Business Hub - the project aimed at helping Ukrainian creative producers enter international markets.

10. General. “Ukrainian Diaspora Members Should Obtain Right to Dual Citizenship – Kuleba,” *Ukrainian Independent Information Agency*, 26 October 2019.

This will allow Ukraine to more effectively use the potential of the Ukrainian community abroad seeking to provide assistance to the Homeland of their ancestors.

Dmytro Kuleba, Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine, believes that Ukrainians representing the diaspora should be granted the right to dual citizenship. Speaking with DT.ua, the official said this would allow Ukraine to more effectively use the potential of the Ukrainian community abroad seeking to provide assistance to the Homeland of their ancestors. “And if one day new representatives of the diaspora with Canadian or U.S. citizenship appear in the Ukrainian government, who are ready to work for our country, the Ukrainian state should have a ready-made model of cooperation with them, rather than inventing any kinds of schemes,” the deputy prime minister said. Kuleba also believes that liberalization of citizenship policy will make it possible to keep in the Ukrainian “space” millions of Ukrainians who have left the country and obtained citizenship of another country, but still want to keep in touch with their Homeland. “We should not scare away these people. We have already lost many,” said the deputy prime minister. In addition, according to Kuleba, a tolerant attitude of the state towards second citizenship will allow addressing the issue of tens of thousands of Ukrainians, holders Hungarian and Romanian passports, which most received only in order to move across the European Union without obstacles. At the same time, Kuleba categorically rejects the possibility of Ukraine recognizing Russian citizenship as the second one for its citizens. “The right to dual citizenship should not be applied under any circumstances to that of the aggressor state,” he said.

11. Japan. “Traditional Ukrainian Clothing Represented at Exhibition in Tokyo,” *News from Ukraine*, 21 November 2019.

By Iryna Iashchenko

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Traditional Ukrainian costumes from 16 regions of Ukraine are represented at the Bunka Fashion College show in Tokyo.

The Embassy of Ukraine in Japan wrote this on its Facebook page.

“17 authentic costumes from 16 regions of Ukraine are represented at the exhibition, as well as embroidered towels from Central Ukraine from the collection of Olena Skrypka,” reads the report.

It is noted that the event is organized by the Embassy of Ukraine in Japan, the Ukrainian community in Japan “Krayany”, Bunka Fashion College and with the assistance of the Japan-Ukraine Art Association.

The exhibition will last until November 22.

12. Kazakhstan. “Ukrainians of Kazakhstan Don’t Take Part in Round Table in Occupied Crimea – Embassy,” *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 18 October 2019.

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KYIV. Oct 18 (Interfax-Ukraine) - The Embassy of Ukraine in Kazakhstan has denied the participation of representatives of the Ukrainian community in the round table entitled “cooperation of Crimean Ukrainians with compatriots abroad,” held in the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea temporarily occupied by Russia.

“Representatives of the ‘Ukrainian Diaspora of the Republic of Kazakhstan’ were declared among the participants of the event. In this regard, the Ukrainian Embassy in the Republic of Kazakhstan states that representatives of the Ukrainian community in the Republic of Kazakhstan did not take part in the event. We also do not know information about members of the so-called Ukrainian Diaspora organizations who visited the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine,” the Embassy said on its website.

At the same time, the diplomatic mission emphasized that the Ukrainian community of Kazakhstan “is committed to the territorial integrity of Ukraine and does not support any contacts with the occupation authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.”

13. Latvia. “Zelensky Calls Ukrainian Diaspora in Latvia to Uphold Unity,” *Interfax: Ukrainian General Newswire*, 17 October 2019.

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KYIV. Oct 17 (Interfax-Ukraine) - During an official visit to Latvia, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky has addressed to the Ukrainian diaspora and said how important its role in supporting the Ukrainian state was.

“You’re a small Ukraine in Latvia, therefore you should not be fragmented. Like us in Ukraine, you must be united and remember that it depends on each of you when there will be peace, when we will return our territories, all our citizens, and we will surely win this war,” a president’s press service quotes Zelensky as saying on Wednesday evening.

The president said Ukraine’s diaspora are “our birds of peace,” who tell truth about the developments in Ukraine to the world.

“These are really our great diplomats: except for ambassadors, embassies, people’s diplomats of Ukraine,” he said.

The president called on representatives of the diaspora not to forget the days of commemoration of Ukrainian soldiers who died for the independence of the Ukrainian state. He also thanked the Riga City Hall for creating the Ukrainian Garden in the city.

In addition, Zelensky and his Latvian counterpart Egils Levits laid flowers at the Freedom Monument, which is located in the center of Riga. The monument symbolizes the unity, statehood of Latvia and is dedicated to those who died for the independence of the country.

14. Latvia. “Olena Zelenska Visits Ukrainian School in Riga,” *News from Ukraine*, 17 October 2019.

First Lady Olena Zelenska and Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Dmytro Kuleba have visited a Ukrainian secondary school in Riga, according to an Ukrinform correspondent.

The headmaster of the school, Lidiia Kravchenko, arranged a tour for the guests of the educational institution during which they communicated with students of different classes. The first lady drew special attention to the school library, which stores books donated by well-known Ukrainian writers.

Founded in 1991, the Ukrainian secondary school in Riga was accredited by the state and is funded by the state budget of Latvia. The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine provides medical and personnel assistance to the institution.

Schoolchildren are taught in Latvian and Ukrainian. From the first class, they also learn English, and from the seventh class, they may also learn either Spanish or German. In addition to general education subjects, schoolchildren also study the Ukrainian language and literature, history and culture of Ukraine, science, mythology, and aesthetics.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, his wife Olena Zelenska and a large delegation consisting of Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Dmytro Kuleba, Foreign Minister Vadym Prystaiko, Justice Minister Denys Maliuska and presidential aide Andriy Yermak paid an official visit to Latvia on October 16.

Zelensky met with Latvian President Egils Levits, Speaker of the Saeima (Parliament) Inara Murniece, Prime Minister Krisjanis Karins, laid flowers at the monument to Ukrainian writer Taras Shevchenko, and talked to representatives of the Ukrainian community in Latvia.

15. Lebanon. “OTV Comment about Ukrainian Women Sparks Outrage,” *Daily Star* (Lebanon), 25 October 2019.

By Abby Sewell

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Beirut -- BEIRUT: An OTV presenter's sexist comment about Ukrainian women this week sparked widespread condemnation in the local Ukrainian community, including from the country's ambassador to Lebanon, and forced the station to issue an apology.

During a morning show Monday, presenters Abdo el Helou and Scarlett Haddad made a series of jokes about the protests, then in their fifth day.

Helou suggested that “the one who has his wife with him at the protests today [should] take her back to the house early, because they’re saying they will bring Ukrainian women.” He was playing on a stereotype in Lebanese society that Ukrainian women are attractive and promiscuous.

The presenters then went on to discuss the number of marriages and engagements that might have come out of the events, with Haddad adding, “Now let’s see how many cases of pregnancy [there are].”

Oleksandra Zahran, a Lebanese activist whose mother is Ukrainian, told The Daily Star that when she saw the video, “I felt so disrespected, because my mom is Ukrainian, I’m half Ukrainian – there a lot of Ukrainian women who live in Lebanon.” Many of them, she added, “are mothers, mothers of Lebanese people.”

Although the OTV presenter’s comment was made in an unusually public forum, Zahran said eastern European women living in Lebanon and other Arab countries often face insulting comments and harassment on the streets.

“No matter how she’s dressed, no matter how she talks, no matter what time she’s out, she always faces these comments,” she said.

Zahran said she shared the video with others in the Ukrainian community in Lebanon, who were equally furious, and they then contacted the embassy.

Ukraine’s ambassador to Lebanon, Ihor Ostash, sent a letter to the station’s general manager, Roy Hachem, Thursday, saying that the embassy and Ukrainian community in Lebanon were “outraged” by the “insulting words toward Ukrainian women and Lebanese citizens as well” and “consider such statements unacceptable and that [they] violate human dignity.” He called for a public apology.

On a Facebook group for Ukrainians in Lebanon where the OTV video clip was posted, Lebanese commenters offered their apologies for the incident. “All the respect to the Ukrainian people. This channel does not represent us!” one wrote. Another wrote, “On behalf of the sane ones in this country, we apologize for their stupidity and racism.”

Following the ambassador’s letter, OTV issued an on-air apology for the comments about Ukrainian women. Zahran said she thought it was insufficient because the apology was read by a different presenter than those who made the comments, and that she thought the station should also apologize to the Lebanese protesters.

Still, she said she was proud of the Ukrainian community for its response.

“This stuff it happens daily everywhere and it doesn’t get attention because it’s not on TV,” she said.

“I’m happy, actually, that it happened on TV because it brought more attention for this issue.”

16. Mongolia. “Ukrainians in Mongolia NGO Established,” *Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies*, 22 November 2019.

Officially having registered on October 30, 2019, the organization is to run their operations in the legal framework of Mongolia. Honorary Consul from Ukraine to Mongolia T.Munkhbat, officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Internal Affairs, and the Governor's Office of the Capital City, Consul of the Embassy of Ukraine to the People's Republic of China Lilia Samoilova, citizens of Ukraine living in Ulaanbaatar, and board members of the Mongolia-Ukraine Friendship Society attended the ceremony.

Chairman of the council of 'Ukrainians in Mongolia' NGO Anastasia Jukova expressed her gratitude to the side of Mongolia for giving support in establishing the organization.

Consul of the Embassy of Ukraine to PRC Lilia Samoilova said, "The Agreement on Mutual Exemption from Visa Requirements between Mongolia and Ukraine was signed on November 8, 2019. With the agreement established, citizens of Mongolia and Ukraine are exempt from visa for stays up to 90 days over the duration of 180 days. This important event is bound to result in active business relations and tourism alongside creating a favorable environment to develop partnership between the two countries in the political, cultural, and humanitarian sectors."

The 'Ukrainians in Mongolia' NGO aims to strengthen the friendly relations between Ukraine and Mongolia, accelerate business relations, and promote the traditional heritage of Ukraine to Mongolians.

Despite the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1992, the historic relations of the two countries date many years back. Today, the number of Mongolian students that studied in Ukraine has reached 7,000. Graduates of the universities of Kiev, Dnipro, Kharkov, Odessa, and Kirovograd are currently working at the Government of Mongolia, banks, mining corporations as well as various fields, such as science, technology, education, culture and arts.

"There are about 200 Ukrainians living in Mongolia, and the number of Ukrainian tourists that came to Mongolia reached 1,650 last year. As of now, about 60 citizens of Ukraine have been registered at our organization. Thus, the organization's aims are to unite the Ukrainians that live in the territory of Mongolia, strengthen connections with the Embassy of Ukraine, promote the traditions and culture of Ukraine, and provide information to citizens of Ukraine and Mongolia," noted Ms. Anastasia Jukova.

17. United Kingdom. "Rochdale's Ukrainian Community Remembers 86th Anniversary of Tragic Holodomor Genocide," *Rochdale Online*, 25 November 2019.

Members of the local Ukrainian community recognised the 86th anniversary of the Ukrainian Holodomor famine with a service at the Rochdale Memorial Gardens on Saturday (23 November).

The Holodomor was an artificial famine between 1932 and 1933, which saw approximately seven to ten million innocent men, women and children brutally starved to death by Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, in an attempt to force the Ukrainians to adopt their ways.

Holodomor is based on two Ukrainian words: 'holod' – hunger, starvation, famine; and 'moryty' – to induce suffering, to kill.

Ukraine - the breadbasket of Europe - was turned into a mass graveyard, with whole villages wiped out from starvation.

Adults and children were dying from starvation in the streets of towns and cities: at the height of the enforced famine, 17 people died every minute, with 25,000 people dying each day.

Worldwide, the Ukrainian population commemorates the horrific tragedy each year on the fourth Saturday in November. The Ukrainian flag flew at half-mast at Rochdale Town Hall over the weekend of 23-24 November.

The service, which is held every year in Rochdale, commemorates all who were barbarically and systematically starved to death in the enforced famine.

A one-minute silence was observed at the Holodomor Memorial Stone, following a procession from the Town Hall to the Memorial Gardens plus opening speeches.

The service was opened by Olga Kurtianyk (Chair of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain, Rochdale Branch) who welcomed everyone and gave a brief background to the tragic events of 1932-33.

A religious memorial service led by Rev. Benjamin Lysykanych (Ukrainian Catholic Church) and Rev. Mark Coleman (Church of England) was followed by the laying of wreaths by the Mayor of Rochdale Billy Sheerin, former MP Tony Lloyd and Olga Kurtianyk.

The weekend also marked the 10th anniversary of erecting the Holodomor Memorial in the gardens, a co-operation with the Friends of Lviv, Rochdale Council and members of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain (AUGB), Rochdale Branch.

Its existence was instigated by Councillor Irene Davidson and former councillor Angela Coric.

Rochdale was the first town in the UK, not only to honour the victims with a memorial stone, but to also recognise the Holodomor as genocide – a motion yet to be acknowledged and followed by the UK government.

Archive documents uncovered in Ukraine show that Stalin deliberately targeted Ukraine for the harshest treatment, in the full knowledge that millions were starving and dying.

At the time, two British journalists, Malcolm Muggeridge and Gareth Jones, witnessed and wrote about the famine. Jones had kept diaries of the man-made starvation, which were published in March 1933 after leaving the country.

He was later shot dead in Manchukuo, on the eve of his 30th birthday, after being captured by bandits.

There were strong suspicions Jones was murdered as ‘revenge’ for his publications, which did not look favourably upon the Soviets.

A feature film ‘Mr Jones’ based on the work of Gareth Jones and starring James Norton as Jones is to be released in UK cinemas in February 2020.

18. USA. “Ukrainian Community Thrives in Central Jersey,” *Bridgewater Courier News*, 1 December 2019.

By Cheryl Makin

Bridgewater Courier News. Published 6:00 a.m. ET Dec. 1, 2019 | Updated 12:02 p.m. ET Dec. 2, 2019.

FRANKLIN (Somerset) – After listening to the impeachment hearings earlier this month, many Americans were wondering why Ukraine is so important.

It’s the mission of the Ukrainian History and Education Center (UHEC) on Davidson Avenue to tell Americans why they should care about what happens in Ukraine.

For Michael Andrec, archivist for the UHEC, Ukraine is more than just the largest country in Europe — 233,062 square miles, including Crimea — but it also has played an important strategic and tragic role in European history, a buffer between the rest of Europe and Russia. Ukraine has a rich cultural history, but it also has a sad history of being overrun by marauding armies and oppressive dictators.

The UHEC is around the corner from St. Andrew Memorial Church, the headquarters of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States. The church, with its majestic spire, is dedicated to all who perished in the Stalinist famine of 1932-33.

And still the country, rich in natural resources, is engaged in an armed conflict with Russia. Ever since Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, Ukraine has been fighting for its survival against the country that has always sought domination and from which it declared its independence in 1991.

“It’s mind-boggling to think what might have been if there had been a stable Ukrainian nation for as long as there was a French or German one,” Andrec said. “Even today, Ukraine has an immense pool of skill and talent in technology, the sciences, the arts, etc.”

Central Jersey has one of the largest Ukrainian communities in the Garden State. The area boasts several Ukrainian churches — Orthodox, Greek Catholic and Ukrainian Catholic. Besides St. Andrew Memorial Church, other Ukrainian churches in the area include Nativity of the Blessed Virgin in South Plainfield and St. Demetrius Cathedral in Carteret.

On the campus of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States are the Three Holy Hierarchs Chapel, the St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary and St. Andrew Cemetery.

Located behind St. Andrew Memorial Church, the cemetery is the final resting place of numerous Ukrainian notables, including politicians, musicians, artists, religious leaders, poets, military veterans and professionals.

“Definitely what we have the largest of — and it is a strange community — is the largest community of dead Ukrainian people,” Andrec said. “There are major people buried there, and we routinely get visitors from Ukraine who are in the area specifically to visit the cemetery.”

The Metropolia Center, as the campus is called, has become a center for the Ukrainian-American community.

“The UOC of USA Metropolia Center becomes a pilgrimage site,” he said. “Hundreds of people come from all over the northeast and mid-Atlantic and beyond to visit the graves of family members and to see old friends. This has been an active tradition since at least the late 1960s and certainly the 1970s.”

Ukrainians have a strong identity and pride in their homeland, Andrec said.

“It’s that and wanting to connect with traditions from the past or in some cases, for more recent immigrants, things they may have heard of but aren’t practiced any more in Ukraine,” Andrec said. “And we get non-Ukrainians and we are actively reaching out to the community-at-large.”

One of the main attractions of the UHEC is its genealogy outreach program, including an annual conference, webinars, programming by the “Nashi Predky” Ukrainian genealogy group at the UHEC, the Nashi Predky Facebook page, where more than 3,000 people share their knowledge and experiences, and in-house resources, such as the genealogy archival collections.

“This is for anyone,” Andrec said. “And people will come in saying we don’t know anything, we don’t have anything — there are no records, but no, most of the records are there. And many of them are now being digitized and put online. People are surprised what still exists and what can be found. And I routinely get phone calls from people who are confused about the borders and changes of empires and what not.”

The history of Ukraine can be very confusing.

“There’s an old joke about an old lady who lived in four countries and never left her village,” he said. “Her borders moved, she didn’t move.”

Andrec added there has been a resurgence in genealogy and genealogy tourism.

“This did not exist earlier because of restrictions during the Soviet period and into the 1980s,” he said. “It has blossomed.”

Finding a home

How the Ukrainian-American community found a home in Central Jersey is complicated, Andrec said.

While Ukrainians settled in Central Jersey in the first wave of mass immigration in the early 1900s, the primary reason the spot was attractive was because of its location mid-way between New York and Pennsylvania, which had large populations and thriving parishes.

At the time, the big Ukrainian population centers were Trenton, Newark and Perth Amboy and there was a sizable community in the New Brunswick, Piscataway and Franklin as well, Andrec said.

But, the largest influx came in after World War II as displaced persons wanted to find a new safe and secure home.

More recently, he said, there has been another influx of refugees because of the Russian threat against Ukraine.

“Today the demographics have changed,” Andrec said. “Many of the offspring of original descendants have moved out of the area and what we have now are those are recent immigrants who have come in the past two decades post-independence.”

In the 1950s, land was purchased on Cedar Grove Lane. That became the Ukrainian Village with cabins and a community center.

“This was not just for Ukrainians in the area, but Ukrainians came from Philadelphia and New York. There would be dances and community events. In one oral history we have, the woman met her husband at one of these events,” Andrec said.

Soon after the camp was established, Archbishop Mstyslav (Skrypnyk) who later became the head of the UOC of the USA in the late 1960s, spearheaded an effort to build a church. That campaign resulted in the construction of St. Andrew Memorial Church and the cemetery.

Further land acquisitions were made on the other side of a creek — now connected by a foot bridge — in the mid-1970s. On those grounds known as the Metropolia Center on the Davidson and Easton Avenue complex is the UHEC, cultural center, seminary, proposed museum, administrative offices and The Ukrainian Orthodox Center (UOC) of USA Metropolia Center, the main headquarters for the church, which celebrated its centennial in 2018.

“I don’t think they ever envisioned that the headquarters would be here when they first bought land,” Andrec said.

Why is Ukraine important?

For most of its history, Ukraine has not enjoyed independence.

What is now Ukraine has been inhabited since 32,000 B.C. During the Middle Ages, the area was a centre of East Slavic culture, with the powerful state of Kyivan Rus' forming the basis of Ukrainian identity.

Following its fragmentation in the 13th century, the territory was contested, ruled and divided by a variety of powers, including Lithuania, Poland, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire and Russia. A Cossack republic emerged and prospered during the 17th and 18th centuries, but its territory was eventually split between Poland and the Russian Empire, and finally merged fully into the Soviet Union in the late 1940s as the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

In 1991, Ukraine gained its independence when the Soviet Union dissolved.

“Given that Ukraine has not had independence for most of its history, it obviously didn’t have ‘significance’ in the same way as, say, France or Germany had,” Andrec said. “However, it has always been an important crossroads between East and West as well as between North and South — from the Vikings to the Byzantine Empire — during the Middle Ages.”

Ukrainian may be the official language, but given the country’s fragmented history, its survival has been perilous.

“As you would expect for a country that big, there are huge regional differences compounded by history,” Andrec explained. “Different parts were under empires for different periods that led to language differences — Russian-speaking Ukrainians, Ukrainian-speaking Ukrainians. There are major areas in Ukraine for historical reasons, it is predominantly Russian-speaking, but the people certainly now do not consider themselves to be Russian. They are Ukrainians who happen to speak Russian.”

And that has led to the “touchy” politics of language. “Given all of the de facto and de jure forces that have been acting to suppress the Ukrainian language since the 1800s, it’s a miracle that it has survived as well as it has,” Andrec said. “Although it is under continued threat from the influence of the Russian-language media juggernaut — media that is created in both Ukraine and Russia — it is still in much better shape than many other threatened and endangered languages.”

Keeping the culture alive

Preserving Ukraine’s culture and heritage is just as important as saving its language.

The UHEC is primarily a museum and archives, with the mission to tell stories so that visitors gain an appreciation of the Ukrainian people and Ukrainian-Americans.

The museum’s permanent collection has more than 15,000 objects of folk art, fine art, religious ritual objects, textiles and icons, as well as objects that document Ukrainian and Ukrainian-American cultural, religious and political history. The archives holds hundreds of collections documenting the lives and work of Ukrainian and Ukrainian-American individuals, families, organizations and parishes.

“Ukrainians have always been open to ideas and influences from Western Europe, and this has led to interesting cross-fertilization,” he said

The UHEC also houses the Metropolitan John Theodorovich and St. Sophia Seminary Library and offers events — workshops, lectures, concerts and programs — throughout the year.

Currently on display in the gallery are 38 pieces of the UHEC’s collection of artwork by Yukhym Mykhailiv, an artist of the early 20th century. The exhibition, “Visible Music: The Art of Yukhym Mykhailiv,” runs through May 1 and is the “first significant presentation of the artist's work in more than 30 years,” Andrec said.

“He is one of the most interesting and most undeservedly obscure artists of the 20th century in the Ukraine,” he said. “The vast majority of his most important works are actually here in our collection. They are permanently part of our collection. A half-a-dozen or more of the pieces are being exhibited for the first time — ever — that includes during his lifetime in the 1920s, ‘30s.”

Upcoming events at UHEC, located at 135 Davidson Ave., include the St. Nicholas Christmas Workshop on Dec. 8 and Christmas Tree Trimming Fundraiser and Silent Auction on Dec. 28.

For more information, go to www.ukrhec.org, call 732-356-0132 or email info@ukrhec.org. For more information about the UCO of the USA, go to <https://uocofusa.org>.

Cheryl Makin has been a reporter for more than two decades - the last eight with the USA TODAY NETWORK. She enjoys sharing stories that inspire, instill hope and encourage smiles. An award-winning journalist, she specializes in articles that tell the human story.

[<https://www.mycentraljersey.com/story/news/2019/12/01/ukrainian-community-thrives-central-jersey/4229678002/>]

19. USA. “Zelenskiy Appoints U.S. Lawyer as Adviser Amid Outreach to Ukrainian Diaspora,” *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, 18 November 2019.

By Todd Prince

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has appointed an American lawyer as a new adviser with a mandate to build relations with ethnic Ukrainians living in the United States and elsewhere.

Andrew Mac, who heads the Washington, D.C., office of the Kyiv-based law firm Asters, was officially named to the position on November 5, according to a presidential decree.

In filings with the U.S. Justice Department’s Foreign Agent Registration Act unit, Mac said the appointment was for an indefinite period and he would not be paid for his services.

“The registrant participates in conferences and other engagements in his personal capacity that promote ties between Ukraine and the Ukrainian-American community and American

investment in Ukraine which may indirectly benefit the President of Ukraine,” according to the filing, dated November 14.

Mac’s appointment comes as Ukraine's reputation in the United States has taken a hit during the Democratic-led impeachment hearing into whether President Donald Trump withheld military aid to the country in order to pressure Zelenskiy to conduct investigations into a potential rival in the 2020 presidential election.

Republicans have sought to defend Trump in part by casting Ukraine as one of the world’s most corrupt countries.

Mac’s role will “likely involve” speaking with Ukrainian-American media or media outlets read by the Ukrainian-American community, according to the filing with the Justice Department.

There are more than 1 million Americans who identify as Ukrainian, according to Andriy Dobriansky, director of communications for the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

In an interview with RFE/RL, Mac said after Zelenskiy was elected president in April, he was contacted by one of Zelenskiy's advisers, Andriy Yermak, whom he called a good friend. He said his efforts were not focused on improving Ukraine’s image among Americans, but rather on building closer ties with Ukrainians in the United States and Canada.

“The diaspora is great, but it's an under-utilized asset,” he said. “My role is to fortify existing bridges, but more importantly to build new ones.”

“My goal is not to inform Americans where Ukraine is on the map,” he said. “I’m not hired to be a public-relations consultant for Ukraine's global image.”

A spokeswoman for Zelenskiy did not return RFE/RL messages seeking comment. Yermak could not be immediately reached for comment.

Second U.S. Lobbyist

Mac is the second U.S. lobbyist to have registered under the U.S. Foreign Agent Registration Act to work on behalf of Zelenskiy’s government.

In April, weeks ahead of the Ukrainian presidential election, a Washington-based lawyer named Marcus Cohen hired Signal Group Consulting, LLC, to burnish Zelenskiy’s international image and set up meetings between members of his camp and officials in Washington.

Cohen later told RFE/RL that he paid nearly \$70,000 for the lobbying work out of his own pocket -- and out of goodwill toward Zelenskiy.

Zelenskiy initially said he did not know Cohen, but then later confirmed meeting him and said he was certain he did not request that Cohen -- or anyone else -- lobby on his behalf.

Mac's Role

Mac's main role will likely focus on promoting Ukraine as a place to do business, Dobriansky told RFE/RL. Fighting the perception that Ukraine is corrupt will probably also be part of his portfolio, he said.

"President Zelenskiy's goal is to grow the economy as he has very concrete budgetary concerns," he added.

Ukraine is negotiating a new loan package from the International Monetary Fund. Low living standards have driven many Ukrainians to seek work abroad, in countries such as neighboring Poland.

Zelenskiy, who won the presidency in April on a promise to fight corruption and accelerate economic growth, moved quickly to establish contact with the Ukrainian diaspora following his inauguration.

Zelenskiy met with the leaders of the Ukrainian World Congress and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in July during a visit to Toronto and met with members of the U.S. diaspora during his trip to New York in September.

Biography

Mac specializes in cross-border transactions involving the United States, Ukraine, and other former Soviet states, according to a biography on Asters' website.

Asters, which is headquartered in Kyiv, includes on its client list Ukraine's largest lender, PrivatBank, which is in the midst of a major legal and political fight involving its former co-owner, billionaire Ihor Kolomoyskiy.

The bank was nationalized in 2016 when international auditors found a \$5.5 billion hole in its balance sheet; Kolomoisky, who has close ties to Zelenskiy, has insisted that the bank was improperly nationalized by Ukrainian regulators.

According to a 2010 interview with the Kyiv Post, Mac said he was recruited in 2002 by the accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers and decided to stay in Kyiv longer after being "inspired" by the 2004 Orange Revolution that brought a pro-Western government to power.

In 2009, Mac was made managing partner at Magisters, a major law firm founded in Kyiv. After the Russian law firm Egorov, Puginsky, Afanasiev & Partners acquired Magisters in July 2011, Mac established a firm in Washington associated with the practice.

EPAM was co-founded by one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's classmates from his law-school days in St. Petersburg.

Mac, born in New York City and raised in the Philadelphia area, has Ukrainian roots.

With reporting by Mike Eckel in Prague and the Kyiv Post

20. USA. “A Generation Vanishes: Naples Ukrainians Illuminate the History of Their Genocide,” *Naples Daily News*, 18 October 2019.

By Harriet Howard Heithaus

Natalie Santarsiero has no photos of her mother as a child in her native Ukraine. No pictures of the fertile farmland her grandfather once plowed. No solemn, wide-eyed family portraits next to a frame house. No sepia images from some school rite of passage.

Nothing is left from that life. Her mother’s family lost their home, their father and their son to Stalin’s program of starvation in Ukraine.

Santarsiero’s mother, at 8 years old, lost her childhood as well. She was one of millions of Ukrainians caught up in a Soviet plan to crush Ukraine’s independent farm economy by confiscating — even door to door — all its food. Those who hid anything were executed or imprisoned. The borders were sealed; journalists who documented what was happening were ejected.

That’s why the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America is bringing the story of the Holodomor, as it’s known in Ukrainian, to the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center this month.

To give it even more grounding, a historian steeped in its realities, Timothy Snyder of Yale University, will speak there Sunday on what has been called “Stalin’s Secret Genocide.”

Snyder specializes in the history of Central and Eastern Europe and the Holocaust, and has written numerous books on such topics.

What happened in 1932 and 1933, Santarsiero said, was done with little to no written history until 1991, when the demise of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic allowed the archives to be opened. Soviet officials confiscated grain, seed, supplies, even food, under the pretext that the farmers were not meeting their imposed harvest quotas.

Families starved to death. Or fled. Estimates say the country lost 10 million people over those years. At least 3 million of them — and many accounts make that closer to 7 million — died of hunger.

Santarsiero’s own grandfather died that way, imprisoned until he was too weak to even crawl home. His crime: burying a bag of grain to feed his family.

Santarsiero recalls her mother’s memory, watching the authorities ram metal prods into the ground around their home until they struck the sack of grain. Her mother also told her of being evicted from their home, and walking the 55 miles to find relatives in Kharkiv.

“They would sleep under a tree. My mother’s younger brother was just a baby. During the day, she would watch him while her mother went out to look for food,” Santarsiero recalled from her late mother’s stories.

The hunger was mind-altering. If they were like their fellow Ukrainians, they stripped leaves from the trees, ate worms, dandelions and burdock, and boiled frogs or birchwood in water to make a broth.

More misery awaited them in Kharkiv. Although Santasiero’s grandmother found refuge with her married sister, the baby, Andrij, was one mouth too many. The sister deposited him at an orphanage. When her grandmother was able to save enough money to retrieve him, she arrived to find the orphanage closed.

“They never found out what happened to him,” Santarsiero said.

Then, during World War II, Santarsiero’s mother came under German occupation. She was herded into a box car with other able bodies and sent to Germany as forced labor while World War II raged on.

The Naples chapter of the league has other members with different stories, people like Halyna Traversa, who was born in Ukraine as an air raid whistled above their home. Luba Drahosz was born in World War II displaced persons camps. Drahosz, an artist, created the poster that is part of the exhibit, The organization is hoping it will travel to other museums around the U.S. after its stay here through December.

“Part of the mission of our organization is to help educate people about issues that relate to Ukraine, and last year was the 85th anniversary of the Holodomor,” explained Traversa, who was born in a displaced persons camp. “We were looking for ways we could educate the people of Southwest Florida.”

When the group scheduled a talk at the South Regional Collier County Library and 100 people showed up, they determined to widen their scope even more.

The organization knew the Holocaust Museum was moving to larger space and asked if they could mount an exhibition laying out the facts of the tragedy.

“We’d like to set right the history about our country,” said Santarsiero. “There have been a lot of misconceptions about the history.”

Drahosz remembers her parents’ stories of the scars on Ukrainian identity. During the war, some Ukrainians felt they were safer staying with the Russians; others felt supporting Germany would offer them more protection.

“It was a little bit like our Civil War in the U.S.,” she said. “Families broke apart over this.

“The interesting thing about the famine is that we grew up knowing about it, we as Ukrainian-Americans, or the Ukrainian diaspora if you will, who grew up in the U.S. and Canada,” Traversa said. But Soviet-ruled Ukraine was totally silent. “They knew absolutely nothing. They denied it.”

Ukrainians still face public push-back from Russia over its story of genocide. A Russian foreign ministry statement on its 85th anniversary last November still describes Ukraine as a “young state” in those years. Characterization of its “common tragedy” for multiple ethnic groups as a genocide has “nothing to do with either the restoration of justice or historical facts,” it claimed.

“People whispered about it in families, perhaps, people who had survived, but they were afraid to talk about it in public. Absolutely,” Santarsiero said. Today, she added, even in the U.S., only major cities have offered the opportunity to see exhibitions on the Holodomor, and learn about it from the few survivors left.

That, these women hope, is about to change.

Harriet Howard Heithaus covers arts and entertainment for the Naples Daily News/naplesnews.com.

A talk on the Holodomor

Who: Timothy Snyder, professor of history at Yale University, will speak on the Holodomor and answer audience questions. Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar are available after the talk.

Where: The Venue, 13240 U.S. 41 N., Naples

When: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, with reception at 3:45 p.m.

Admission: \$25; it includes admission to the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education, a short walk away; the museum will be open 1-4:30 p.m. for guests to visit before or after the talk

Reservations: holocaustmuseumswn.org

21. USA. “Trenton Church Celebrates 100 Years of Serving the Community,” *NJ.com*, 14 October 2019.

By India Duke | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity in Trenton marked its 100th anniversary this weekend.

“Being here for so long is great because it shows that you’ve had different groups and different generation and has been able to survive for 100 years without moving away from its core values, teachings and the liturgy” said David Dubnanski, communications director and church member.

The church was founded on Oct. 13, 1919, and was formally incorporated Nov. 20, 1919. Shortly after, a building was purchased on Woodland Street in the Chambersburg neighborhood as the main center for worship and a residence for the pastor. In 1939, a church hall, residence and garage were built on Adeline Street in Trenton and would be rebuilt in 1952.

Dubnanski said the church has been a sanctuary for Ukrainian immigrants and has provided teachings and history for those of Ukrainian descent.

“It’s like comfort food for a lot of folks who came to the country over the last couple of years,” said Dubnanski. “They get to hear things in their native tongue. Also for Americans like myself, you get to understand what a lot of different immigrants went through when they got here.”

Membership, however, began to decline, starting in the 80s, Dubnanski said, because families were moving out of the area. One idea was to bring in clergy from Ukraine.

During that time the church brought in priests from Ukraine because they brought “authentic teachings” being sought by recent immigrants.

Today, the church has about 100 families. “What we found over the last decade now is that there has been another wave of Ukrainian immigrants in the area and it’s helped bolster our membership base and sort of rejuvenated us,” he said.

The church held an open house Saturday followed by a history exhibition. On Sunday, the church planned an anniversary liturgy in the morning and a celebratory banquet later.

[<https://www.nj.com/mercer/2019/10/trenton-church-celebrates-100-years-of-serving-the-community.html>]

22. USA. “Chicago’s Ukrainian Community Weighs in on Impeachment Inquiry,” *NPR.org*, 7 October 2019.

By Julian Hayda

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STEVE INSKEEP: Now let’s ask how President Trump’s involvement in Ukraine looks to Ukrainian Americans. The president faces an impeachment inquiry. It centers on the president’s request to have a political rival investigated in Ukraine. In addition to his phone call with Ukraine’s leader, President Trump’s personal lawyer campaign for that investigation, and text messages reveal numerous U.S. diplomats were drawn in, despite their misgivings. Julian Hayda from member station WBEZ asked how all this news looks from one of the nation’s biggest Ukrainian communities.

(SOUNDBITE OF CHURCH BELLS RINGING)

JULIAN HAYDA: I’m standing in the heart of Chicago’s Ukrainian Village neighborhood. On this stretch, three Ukrainian churches are letting out of their Sunday services. And it seems like one thing is on their minds.

TEODOR KURTASH: Impeachment.

HAYDA: That’s Teodor Kurtash, a retiree who also says he feels like nothing good can come out of America withholding aid from Ukraine. Two whistleblower reports now alleged that President Trump might have held up \$400 million of military assistance to Ukraine in exchange for dirt on his potential rival in the 2020 elections, former Vice President Joe Biden.

KURTASH: I wish America help Ukraine with real action, not too much talking.

HAYDA: Ever since Russian-backed forces occupied large portions of Ukraine in 2014, the Ukrainian community in Chicago has tried to rally support for their homeland. One church here even raised a half million dollars for humanitarian assistance in the conflict. According to the U.N., the war has left 13,000 people dead and as many as 2 million people displaced. There's no question that the community here would like to see the war end. But opinions vary on whether presidents Trump and Zelinskiy can forge peace with Russia on Ukraine's terms.

Marta Farion lives nearby. She's a board member of the World Congress of Ukrainians, which represents the interests of Ukraine's 20-million-strong diaspora. Most of that diaspora voted against Zelinskiy in presidential elections earlier this year. He only got 1 in 10 votes in Chicago, where people say they're concerned about his ability to stand up to Russia.

MARTA FARION: People in the community are very worried about the talk of a deal now with Moscow. They don't want to see the president of Ukraine pushed into a situation where he's giving up too much.

HAYDA: Zelinskiy controversially agreed to pull military equipment out of Ukraine's occupied eastern regions last week, leading many like Farion to believe that Zelinskiy gave in to Trump. Trump had encouraged Zelinskiy to end the war quickly by negotiating directly with Russian President Vladimir Putin. At another church, I met Maria Kryzhanovska, who voted for Zelinskiy and says she's ambivalent about Trump.

MARIA KRYZHANOVSKA: (Foreign language spoken).

HAYDA: She tells me that she hopes peace will come to Ukraine because the conflict has led to economic collapse. And millions have been forced to live and work low-wage jobs in places like France, England and America. She told me that she'd rather live and work in Ukraine if it weren't for the corruption and poverty that makes it very difficult. Earlier this year, Ukraine surpassed Moldova to become the poorest country in Europe, according to the IMF. And Marta Farion of the World Congress of Ukrainians worries that Trump's emphasis on corruption in Ukraine is just playing into Russia's hands.

FARION: We are all shocked that Mr. Trump is painting Ukraine as a totally corrupt country when that is not the case. Ukraine made great strides.

HAYDA: The impeachment inquiry including those allegations of Ukrainian corruption continues this week. For NPR News, I'm Julian Hayda in Chicago.

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