



## Contribute to Ukraine's Shining Brightly Again!

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### SPECIAL FOR THE HROMADA NEWSPAPER

Vitalii Portnikov | NOTES FOR OCTOBER

## PUTIN IS SWITCHING OFF THE LIGHT



In October, the Kremlin practically stopped hiding their intention to

destroy the civilian infrastructure of Ukraine. Certainly, strikes on factories, residential areas, kindergartens, and shopping centers were also carried out in the first months of the war. But at that time, the Russian leadership and military command claimed every time that the accusations of killing civilians and destroying infrastructure were slander of Ukraine

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Because of mass damages to infrastructure, particularly power system, caused by Russian attacks there is such darkness in Ukraine that it is visible from space. Since October 10, AF of RF have destroyed 30% of Ukrainian power plants.

### SPECIAL FOR THE HROMADA NEWSPAPER

Oles Donii

## A NUCLEAR STRIKE AGAINST HAPPINESS



A nuclear strike is getting closer and closer to Ukraine. Last month, Kyiv residents of the younger and

middle generations made lively jokes about "Orgies on Shchekavytsia". The content of the joke: during the upcoming nuclear attack on Kyiv, interested people gather on Shchekavytsia Mount and arrange a riotous sexual orgy. Ukrainians are strong with their sense of humor, this sense of humor allows us to maintain optimism in any conditions and under any circumstances. Shchekavytsia, by the

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## «THE VICTORY CAN BE GAINED ONLY IN THE BATTLEFIELD»

Karyna Nikitishina

On October 5, the laureate of this year's Vasyl Stus Award was named – Vitalii Portnikov, who is sincerely congratulated by Hromada!

The Vasyl Stus Award is one of the oldest Ukrainian awards in the

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YOU  
VOTE**

**KNOW THEIR  
POSITION  
ON UKRAINE!**

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your candidates of choice will  
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next year, each year —  
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does not matter.**

**UKRAINE DOES.**

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# CHILDHOOD MUST NOT BE PAINFUL

Olesia Boklah

Do you know what 40 minutes is?! This is the average time of frying meatballs, a quick walk in the park, watching one episode of a movie, and almost the duration of a lesson at school. But it is also an opportunity to open others' eyes to important things in the world. That is exactly the thing Jacquie Colgan and Chris Yates did during our interview.

As a member of Nantucket Cares, Jacquie had been helping Ukraine since the beginning of the invasion, collecting humanitarian aid, coordinating newly arrived refugees with US arrangements and housing options, and providing them with essential items and food. After the economic crisis caused by the influx of refugees, the woman thought for a while if such help really benefited society. But then, having seen the increasing amount of damage and trauma that Russia was inflicting on Ukrainian civilians, she rejected all hesitations and became even more focused on supporting Ukraine.

Mr Yates learned firsthand (from relatives) about that hell and suffering. He had a business in Ukraine, which he transformed into an aid center for internally displaced residents of Ukraine. But little by little, the internal resources were running out – so they collaborated with another volunteer organization that helped in the transportation from America and acceptance of essential goods, clothes, etc. in Ukraine. But there was a pitfall: it was important to make sure that you could trust and rely on that people. And here there was only one thing left: either a risk or a loss of time for checking. A lot of attention and financial investments were also required by the enormous damage previously inflicted on the infrastructure. The main rule used by the office of Chris Yates



is to preserve the confidentiality of any information about their clients, Ukrainian refugees in other words.

To convince everyone else of the need to continue or start providing protection and humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian population, these two decided to bring a bullet-ridden slide from Irpin as a symbol of safety and a carefree childhood, the right to which the occupiers violated. In Jacquie's opinion, this can encourage ordinary citizens who are able to walk around town freely, eat ice cream and make plans for the future, who do not watch TV, to think about the horrors that are happening in Ukraine and their contribution to the fate of the Ukrainian nation as well as impact lawyers and politicians capable of passing various resolutions, imposing sanctions on Russia, recognizing offences as official and punishing for them. In

addition, there is an urgent need to oppose Russian propaganda, which is abundant in the media.

According to Chris, the biggest obstacle to the delivery of the slide was obtaining the necessary documentation and crossing the borders, but with many people's combined efforts and cooperation with the local European government, they overcame it. After that, the element of the playground underwent an examination to establish the authenticity of the damage, which was confirmed by specialists. The next step was to engage the support of human rights defenders. After the robbery of one of the historical museums, it was important to play it safe and get a guarantee that the slide would be protected from vandalism.

Previously, the exhibit was located at the Nantucket Whaling Museum, but in order to increase attention to the object, Jacquie won the right to place the slide on Capitol Hill in Washington, where the exhibit is still located today. Now they are looking for sponsors to place the slide in one of the world's museums so that this evidence of the oppression of children can be seen not only by visitors to America but also by those who have never been to the United States. After the war, the woman assumes a high probability that the slide will return to Irpin as a monument to the struggle of the Ukrainian people for liberty.

When I asked what emotions the slide evoked in them the first time they saw it, Jacquie replied: "The realizing that the victims are children, the disgust of those who encroach on their comfort, purity and innocence. I would never want my children to see the injustice of the world at such an early age, to remember their formative years as painful, dark, and full of anxiety and sadness. But



my soul rejoices every time I read that the evil that surrounds Ukrainian children does not break kindness inside, and they continue to hold fairs for the Armed Forces, give the money they collected for candy to buy drones."

Since March, Nantucket Cares has already raised over \$500,000 and funded several Christian churches – but they don't plan to stop there. Currently, their goal is to provide families in Ukraine with food and sources of fire and electricity for cooking in the winter.

In the end, barely holding back tears, Chris and Jacquie advised Ukrainians not to be afraid to tell more personal stories, not typical facts without specifics, that cannot compete with the lies of Russians, but to share experiences that will be believed, because such emotions that my interlocutors saw are difficult to be simulated.



# Gabriel Travel

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## UKRAINIAN NEWS

## Total combat losses of the enemy

anti-tank weapons; high-speed anti-radiation missiles (HARMs); more than 200 multi-purpose high mobility wheeled vehicles (HMMWV); small arms and more than 2,000,000 cartridges for small arms; medical supplies.

The President of Ukraine, Volody-

myr Bridge was an important part of transport communications between Russia and the annexed Crimea and a "historic mission" for Volodymyr Putin. Also, it was through this bridge that Russia transferred reinforcements and equipment for its own army.

Panic began in Crimea after the explosion and fire on the Kerch bridge. In particular, residents stormed the gas station. Huge queues formed there.

support of PACE!" he wrote.

The most important points of the resolution according to the people's deputy are: "1) For the first time in history, the Council of Europe has declared that it is necessary to give weapons! We are talking about air defense systems. 2) It is noted that the presence of Russia in the UN Security Council is not legal. 3) Establishment of an international tribunal as soon as possible."

Later, the Dutch parliament supported the idea of creating a tribunal for the occupiers from the Russian Federation in The Hague.

## A new military mission for Ukraine from the EU



The Council of the EU adopted a decision on the creation of the European Union Military Assistance Mission to Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine). "The goal of the mission is to help with increasing the military capacity of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to conduct military operations effectively to allow Ukraine to protect its territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders, exercise its sovereignty fully, and protect the civilian population," the statement said.

In response to Ukraine's request for military support, the mission will provide individual, collective, and specialized training of the Armed Forces, including warriors of the territorial defense units as well as coordination and synchronization of the activities of member states contributing to the training. The mission will operate on the territory of the EU member states and will have an Operational Headquarters in Brussels to ensure general coordination at the strategic level. The mission commander will be vice-admiral Herve Blejeau, a leader of the Military Planning and Operations Force (MPCC). The mandate of the mission will initially last for 2 years, and the financial reference for the total expenditure for this period is € 106,700,000. The mission will ensure coordination with bilateral measures in support of Ukraine, as well as with other international partners, and will be open to the participation of third countries.

As part of the mission, France has already announced that it will take up to 2,000 military personnel for training.

## The PACE adopted a resolution recognizing Russia as a terrorist regime



The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution in which it recognized that the Russian regime is terroristic. People's deputy and member of the Ukrainian delegation, Oleksii Honcharenko, announced this.

"99 delegates were for. One abstained. This is a historic result! Full

## Ukraine recognized occupied Ichkeriya as a free state



The corresponding statement was supported by 287 deputies of the VR of Ukraine. People's elected officials also called on the UN and international organizations to ensure the investigation of crimes on the territory of occupied Ichkeria.

"The document that was adopted by the State Council of Ukraine on October 18, first of all, I want to emphasize that this is actually a very important event, it is a historical event because the struggle of the Chechen people for independence has been going on for a long time... In principle, Ukraine has contributed a lot of serious adjustments to international politics, and to international affairs. Until now, the international community has appealed and approached this issue with double standards. But the Rada put an end to this... and confirmed the right of the Chechen people to statehood," Akhmed Zakayev commented.

## Russian attacks in the Black Sea have killed about 50,000 dolphins



Scientists from the Black Sea countries recorded a record-setting number of dead dolphins over the past 10 years – about 50,000.

The reason is believed to be the missile bombardment of Ukrainian waters by the Russians. In addition, warships and submarines create powerful signals that hit dolphins. Marine navigation devices harm the organs of echolocation and hearing. As a result, creatures lose their ability to navigate in space and run into mines.

Animals from water bodies near Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Romania suffer the most. The chief of the park "Tuzlovsky lymany" says that earlier they found 3 dead mammals within 44 km – now it is 44 animals in 6 km. According to the scientist Ivan Rusev, the sea brings only 5% of corpses to the surface – the rest sink to the bottom of the sea, which makes their registration impossible.

Zoos and nature reserves also suffer greatly: Yampolskyi zoo is almost destroyed along with its inhabitants, and Askania-Nova is under occupation.



According to the General Staff, the combat losses of the enemy from February 24 to November 2, 2022 were approximately:

personnel – about 73,270 people were eliminated,  
tanks – 2,714 units,  
ACV – 5,525 units,  
artillery systems – 1,733 units,  
RSZV – 387 units,  
air defense equipment – 198 units,  
warplanes – 277 units,  
helicopters – 258 units,  
UAVs of the operational-tactical level – 1,438 units,  
cruise missiles – 397 units,  
ships and cutters – 16 units,  
trucks – 4,153 units,  
special equipment – 154.

## Ammunition for HIMARS and some more weapons for \$725 million



On October 14, the Day of Defenders of Ukraine, the US Department of Defense announced a new package of military aid to Ukraine for \$725 million. The 23<sup>rd</sup> aid package was approved after a meeting of defense ministers within the framework of the Contact Group on Defense of Ukraine in Brussels.

It is intended to meet Ukraine's critical security and defense needs and includes additional munitions for high-mobility missile and artillery systems (HIMARS); 23,000 155 mm artillery shells; 500 high-precision 155 mm artillery shells; 5,000 shells of 155 mm caliber for remote anti-armor mines (RAAM); 5,000 units of

myr Zelenskyi, warmly reacted to the announcement of the new aid and thanked Joe Biden for his efforts. "A wonderful gift for the Day of Defenders of Ukraine! The Russian aggressor will be defeated, Ukraine will be free!" he wrote on Twitter.

In total, the USA has already provided about 25 billion to support Ukraine.

In addition, Raytheon Technologies has transferred to the US government two NASAMS air defense systems developed by Norway and designed to protect Ukraine from the constant bombing of medium and long-range infrastructure and energy systems.

They are going to be installed as soon as possible.

The head of the company, Greg Hayes, emphasized that these air defense systems can shoot down all objects in the sky: both drones, ballistic missiles, and fighter jets.

## The explosion on the Crimean Bridge on October 8



As a result of the explosion of the truck, two semi-sections of the automobile part of the Crimea Bridge collapsed and the railway track was damaged. There are many theories about the initiators of the destruction of the bridge: from the Ukrainian special services to the arranged disguise of the murder of one of the passengers of the damaged car – a judge.

Volodymyr Zelenskyi made it clear that this "terrorist attack" was not in Ukraine's nearest plans.

But it is important that the Cri-

# PILGRIMAGE TO THE PRIEST AGAPII

**Mykola Hryn**

"...I have not seen anything better than you, Ukrainian land. My dear, my mother..." These words from the soulful prayer of Father Agapii Honcharenko and a Cossack from the Fastiv region at the same time sounded again during the memorial service at the grave of the Ukrainian patriot.

Last Saturday (October 1, 2022), representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora, who live in and around the famous Silicon Valley, organized a funeral procession to the grave of Father Agapii (real name is Andrii Onufriyovych Humnytskyi). It was timed to the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the "Ukrainian Cossack in a cassock", as he called himself.

The spiritual pilgrimage took place with the blessing of the leaders of the Orthodox and Greek Catholic churches in America, and this time it was led by the priest of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church from San Francisco – archpriest Father Petro Dyachok. Next to archpriest Peter and choristers of the mentioned church, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Michael of San Francisco, the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church of St. Andrew of Sacramento, and the Ukrainian Centre of St. Volodymyr of Santa Clara more than 50 pilgrims with the state flags of Ukraine and the USA in their hands left in the footpath to the prayer road to the peaks of the Heyward Mountains where father Agapii and his wife Albina were buried. In the centre of the worshipers there was the People's Artist of Ukraine, a professor of the University of Culture and Arts, Honored Artist of Ukraine, poet, composer, singer, and journalist Anatolii Matviychuk who performed a charity concert in support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in San Francisco that day.

As in previous years, the farewell to the holy place became a way to the depths of the heart of every worshiper, where people tried to find endurance and strength, to enrich themselves spiritually. The Most High himself led people along the steep, almost three-kilometer road that Father Agapii used to walk from his farm to the chapel in the rock. Step by step, one by one, people covered this path under the hot, even unbearable, Californian sun on the first day of October. Every step they took was a tribute to the memory of the ascetic and patriot of the Ukrainian land, who managed to escape from the tsarist tyranny of wild Moscow and

continue God's work on a land far from the Motherland. People knew the biblical truth: the more you give, the more you get. That's how strength was added to each prayer from heaven. They were also multiplied by prayers that flowed into the high heavens from a sincere heart. The hearts of the worshipers united because nothing consolidates so much as faith in God, the powerful power of common prayer, and love for your neighbor, who goes with you in one group of pilgrims for the sake of a holy cause. And here I recall the words of Father George (Tiapko), the abbot of the Orthodox Church of St. Archangel Michael in San Francisco, the priest of last year's funeral, that the pilgrimage to the holy graves of our ancestors is one of the main chances for each of us to quench our spiritual thirst.

According to a long-standing tradition, the first stop of the walk along the steep mountain slopes with a moment of silence and the lowering of flags took place at the symbolic memorial stele in the territory of Garin Regional Park in Hayward. Grateful Ukrainian compatriots together with Americans installed and consecrated this memorial in 1988. The words from the stele inform all residents and travelers in the park, this landscape oasis, that it was built on a farm in honor of the Ukrainian patriot Orthodox priest Agapii Honcharenko (1832 – 1916) and his wife Albina. Then we learn that Father Agapii was the first nationally-conscious Ukrainian who arrived in the USA, and he organized the first American newspaper here, which was first published in Russian, and later in Ukrainian, and that he is the author of the first book for the educational programs of the peoples of Alaska. On the ceiling, other virtues and merits of the "Cossack in priestly robes" to American society are named. Not far from the memorial stele, representatives of the Ukrainian community and park workers installed an information board. It also depicts the merits of the owner of the "Ukraine" farm to two countries, his native cradle of Ukraine and no less friendly the United States of America, where he found refuge from the Cerberus of the Moscow Empire and where he was also needed for good deeds.

"Patriarch of the Ukrainian emigration". That is how the American Ukrainian-language newspaper "Svoboda" called Father Agapii in the obituary after his death. Imagine: it is 1916. The flames of the First World War are raging. Shells burst. The



newspaper is filled with painful reports about losses on the front and in the rear. Almost no secular chronicle is printed. Occasionally there are death notices or obituaries of prominent personalities. And so, in the 58<sup>th</sup> issue of "Svoboda" for May 13, the magazine under the heading "American news" prominently publishes the message "Death of the patriarch of Ukrainian colonists from Russia."

The newspaper writes that there is a farm "Ukraine" in California, not far from San Francisco. It was known to a small amount people, and few people visited it. Agapii Honcharenko, the patriarch of the Ukrainian emigration from Russia, a former friend of the Russian revolutionaries Herzen, Bakunin, and Stepniak, lived to his age there. He was an Orthodox Greek priest. When he came to America, he dreamed of creating a political Ukrainian revolutionary organization. He came into contact with some of the most prominent Ukrainians in America and Canada. Some Canadian Ukrainians corresponded with him for a long time, and some even visited his farm where they chatted with him about Ukrainian affairs for more than one hour. He no longer took an active part in Ukrainian life. In 1860, he tried to publish the newspaper Svoboda, which, apparently, no one has a single issue of, but then he stopped because there was no money. He lived to the age of 96 and, unknown to the wider community, left this world.

Let's forgive the journalists of "Svoboda" for mentioning "Russia" because then Ukraine really was a slave of the empire. But I do not agree at all with the opinion that Father Agapii

was "unknown to a wider audience". First of all, I would prove my opinion with the publication "A. Honcharenko's Farmhouse is a Historical Monument" from the Svoboda newspaper dated December 6, 1997. The author of this correspondence, Tamara Horodyska, writes that the California State Historic Resources Commission recognized the farm and grave of Agapii Honcharenko as a historical monument during its meetings on November 14 in Oakland.

According to the newspaper, the farm "Ukraine" was the owner of the first politically conscious Ukrainian in America from 1873 until he died in 1916. "Ukraine" is located in Hayward, about 30 miles southeast of San Francisco..

A. Honcharenko's house and barn are long gone, only his and Albina's graves and the cave where Honcharenko celebrated the Holy Liturgy and baptized people remained. This land is now included in Garin Park..

The application for historic monument status was prepared by Karana Guthersley-Drayton, a historian of the East Bay Park District, with the help of Dr. Andrii Sorokovskiy of Harvard University. The Ukrainian community was represented by Fr. Oleksandr Avramenko, Fr. Svyatoslav Kovaliv, Mykhailo Tsar, Danylo, and Tamara Horodyska during meetings.

O. A. Goncharenko was born as Andrii Humnytskyi in 1832 in Kryvyn, present-day Zhytomyr region, in the family of an Orthodox priest. He graduated from the Kyiv Seminary and entered the Pechersk Lavra. Sent to Greece, he contributed to the revolutionary Russian magazine "Kolokol", in which he promoted the abolition of serfdom.[...]

*Text continues in the next issue.*

## COFFEE4UKRAINE



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# «HOUSE OF UKRAINE» IN SAN DIEGO

**Myroslav Grekh**

The war changed the destinies of many people, their worldviews, and even their activities. Hundreds of thousands (or maybe even millions) of Ukrainians all over the world are concerned about the fate of their native land, and many of them have become actively engaged in charity work. Many different societies and organizations, in addition to their statutory activities, have established directions of work to assist the military and civilian population of Ukraine. One of them is the "House of Ukraine" in San Diego. Our correspondent Myroslav Grekh interviewed the president of this organization, Mira Rubin.

**Myroslav** (further **M.**): I watched a report on the ABC channel about Ivan Chaban. This 16-year-old boy was shot by the "rascists" during their attack, wounded, and, consequently, lost his leg. Then I read about him on the Internet. I know that with your help it was possible to bring him to the USA and get prosthetics so that he could walk. This is a big deal. Tell us more about your work.

**Mira**: We dealt not only with Ivan. We have another family from Kramatorsk: a woman's leg was torn off, and her 11-year-old daughter lost both legs. This happened when a Moscow missile fell on the railway station in Kramatorsk. Then many people died, and this family was crippled. Under the joint program of the Ukrainian consulate together with "The Right to Walk Foundation" they were brought here, and we were asked to find housing and help them settle in our community. There is one doctor here and his clinic "Peter Harsch Prosthetics" that do this, they provided prosthetics to Georgian soldiers during the 2008 war. Now they have made a program to help civilians affected by the war in Ukraine. This applies only to the lower extremities. The doctor from this program is Peter Harsch, he has a small clinic in San Diego where he does prosthetics and then rehabilitation. First, the family from Kramatorsk was brought, and then Ivan Chaban.

The first family has a slightly complicated situation: they both had prostheses made, but the girl, maybe because she is little and continues to grow, is in a lot of pain and is not able to walk on these prostheses, they say that she needs to have an operation. In Ukraine, after mutilation, the amputation is done very quickly, and therefore the bones are not completely straight, maybe because they were torn off in such a way by the bomb. The doctor says that he has not observed this in adults, and now Yana and Ivan are not doing well in rehabilitation, they are in too much pain. Rehabilitation is equal to learning to walk with prostheses. At first, Ivan took it very seriously. The guy walked more than necessary for the first two weeks, but then the pain started. He endures and continues to walk, but he, like the girl, will need to have surgery performed. The only difference is that Yana's family came here permanently, and Ivan – for 4 months, his parents are in Ukraine, and the young man is planning to return. So last week we took him to the doctor, had an examination, and an x-ray, and the specialists said that surgery is needed, before further prosthetics and recovery.

**M.**: What about financial support for these procedures?

**Mira**: Funding goes through the program "The Right to Walk", where the consulate in Washington and Ukrainian House partially allocate money for food and medical expenses. The situation with operations complicated the picture because no one counted on it. Therefore, we will have to look for additional funds. Now we are studying this issue, we are looking for an organization that could pay these costs, maybe we will have



to do some separate measures. So, now we know for sure that the operation is necessary, and we will try to cope with the finances. People in Washington are working on it, there are people at the hospital trying to help.

**M.**: I read that The Right to Walk is run by Shally Plash, is that correct?

**Mira**: Yes. She works with Dr. Peter Harsch and I am in contact with him through her. I spoke with her several times on the phone and corresponded with her. They were in New York for a certain period, and when I called her, she was consulting with the doctor about the next steps.

**M.**: I got you, is this clinic located in New York?

**Mira**: No, they were just there then, and the clinic is in the town of Mira Mesa, which is 10 minutes from San Diego, where I live.

**M.**: Here, the information mentions Oleh Kernytskyi. I know this man. He comes to our Greek Catholic Church in San Francisco.

**Mira**: He is a very kind man. He helps Ivan. Ivan does not drive a car, nor does Olena, the social worker who came with him. And he has to be in the clinic twice a day. Oleh drives him, and at the same time is a translator, and for this, anybody needs to have time and possibility. We are very grateful to Oleh for his desire to help.

**M.**: You have mentioned Olena, is she from Ukraine?

**Mira**: Yes, from the Sumy region. She had known Ivan before the injury. The organization where Olena works has been helping Ivan's family for a long period, because the family is very poor, has many children, and is from a remote village. Even before the war, she was engaged in humanitarian aid to these people.

In addition to Oleh Kernytskyi, we have other helpers. We created such a group on Facebook, I called it "Ivan's Angels". It includes all volunteers who can contribute to the boy's rescue. 2-3 assistants are needed daily.

**M.**: And who pays for his accommodation?

**Mira**: When he came here, I put him and Olenka to my mother's apartment. And then we searched for an American family because Ivan wanted to learn English. In addition to the ABC program that you saw, we did 4 interviews on television, where we announced that we were looking for an American family. One family from Mira Mesa responded, to who we plan to transfer them. They have been living with another family for the last two weeks, but it is 25 miles from the clinic. This is the family of Lesa and Erik Thode, a wonderful family, they cook food, took seriously the situation with the hospital, found a specialist who agreed to examine Ivan, look for opportunities to finance the operation.

**M.**: Yes, I know that many people in the US are willing to help the victims. Such a question: I read that there is a state enterprise called the National Center of Business and Cultural Cooperation "Ukrainian House" in Kyiv, which is engaged in cultural and

educational work and organizes meetings, performances, exhibitions, etc. Are you related to it in any way?

**Mira**: No, this is the first time I hear about such a community.

**M.**: And how did yours arise?

**Mira**: Our "House of Ukraine" is basically a museum in central park in San Diego. Back in the 1960s, they wanted to create a site where emigrants who came here could find their sources. In one place, in one park, we have 40 countries with their own models, and among them is the "House of Ukraine". And this museum has existed for 62 years, its purpose is to share Ukrainian culture and our history with visitors. It is open on weekends for 5 hours. Ukrainian volunteers work here and answer various questions about Ukraine. Both Americans and Ukrainians can come here. In the museum, there are Easter eggs, vyshyvankas, a 50-year-old bandura, a large portrait of the Cossack Mamai, and pictures and works by T. Shevchenko.

When the war started, everything changed. Due to the fact that the "House of Ukraine" was an officially registered organization in San Diego, people did not know where else to go with their worries, concerns, and questions about assistance to Ukraine if not to us. And we had to expand the range of our activities. On the second day of the war, I announced the collection of bulletproof vests, helmets, and humanitarian aid. And people bombarded us with offers and donations, we had to open a warehouse where 30 volunteers worked a day. We sent many vans of humanitarian workers. I had to get a license to export body armor and helmets. Except for me, we still have 10 directors on the board, and together we worked more intensively.

**M.**: But you are the president of the "House of Ukraine", aren't you?

**Mira**: Yes, I am the president. Before the war, all volunteers met once a month for 3 hours and planned their work. The biggest problem was finding volunteers who would be on duty at the museum for free. This changed with the war. We meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for 3 hours. We decide how to spend the money that is offered to us, what to buy, and where to send it, and we plan the logistics. This means that we are now dealing with both refugees and humanitarian aid, and we travel to Washington.

**M.**: I lived in Trenton, NJ for a long time and visited the "House of Ukraine" there, and I know that there are similar societies all over America, and people are helping the affected citizens in Ukraine as much as they can. But I believe that the case that you organized regarding prosthetics and rehabilitation of victims of attacks is the pinnacle of volunteering.

**Mira**: This is not only our merit, but many people have also made efforts for this, and most importantly, it is the merit of doctor Peter Harsch, who agreed to do this. And when he decided to create a special program, the consulate from Washington called us and informed us that a family was going and that we needed to help

them. We took it upon ourselves.

**M.**: Yes, I am catching the sense. But it was important to organize all this, without you it would not have happened. There is a consulate in San Francisco. Do you keep in touch?

**Mira**: Yes, there are contacts, but we do not carry out such fruitful cooperation, more with Washington. Although there was a case when we sent very rich investors from San Diego to them, who wanted to meet with the consul and make sure that when they give large sums to the Armed Forces, they will go as intended. We did it through Melanie McCutchan, who lives in San Francisco.

**M.**: Perfect, and now tell me a bit about yourself.

**Mira**: I was born in Uzhgorod and came to the USA to study at university on exchange. At the age of 16, I won the program of the American government "Freedom Support Art". There was such a law after the collapse of the Soviet Union, funds were allocated for the education of Ukrainian students in the USA. Americans came to various republics of the former Soviet Union, held competitions, and selections, and transported students to study at their homes. And that's how I ended up here in 1998. I studied at the college for 3 years, and in 2001 I entered the university.

**M.**: Are you occupied in the business branch now?

**Mira**: I received a master's degree at the University of California, San Diego in international relations, and then worked at AdaptiveARC, engaged in business development there. But since 2014, I have been self-employed, I have a small business in the field of pet care. So, before the war, I was self-sufficient, and since the beginning of the war, I have been actively involved in Ukraine.

**M.**: How did you get to the "House of Ukraine"? Who brought you there?

**Mira**: I was referred there by a friend, Melanie McCutchan, who lived then in San Diego. For a long time, she volunteered at "Ukrainian House", and was a secretary on the board. When she went to San Francisco, she put me in her place to volunteer. I have been there since 2012.

**M.**: The last question: what are your future plans?

**Mira**: The main task is to gain a victory in the war. Plan № 1.

**M.**: Well, everyone has such a mission № 1. And what about the specific volunteer work of your "House of Ukraine"? Will you expand the program, onboard someone else?

**Mira**: I think we will scale up because even with the end of the war, the need for aid will not decrease. Especially now after Russia's aggression has intensified, Ukrainian cities and villages are regularly bombarded, and, unfortunately, the number of victims is increasing. The occupiers are hitting vital infrastructure, they want to leave people freezing in the winter without electricity, water, and gas. That is why we will hold the "Help Us Survive the Winter" campaign, as a result of which we plan to fill one or several 40-foot containers with winter warm things to support Ukrainians in surviving the coming months. Therefore, I appeal to those who are not indifferent, to send winter things. Further in the newspaper, there is our announcement about this event with all the details: where to call, where to send.

**M.**: Thank you for this frank and meaningful conversation. All readers of the newspaper appreciate your philanthropy, and wish you success in it and in your life! Victory will be ours! GLORY TO UKRAINE!

**Mira**: GLORY TO THE HEROES!

# WHY WE CANNOT STAY SILENT

Lisa Hots

Silence during the war is complete submission to the situation, it is weakness, and therefore defeat; this is something that we must not allow under any circumstances. And in general, when your heart hurts, can you be silent? Of course, not! That is why, since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Russia on the territory of our motherland, Ukraine, Ukrainians have been shouting. By all possible means, we are trying to spread information about the crimes committed on our land, about the stolen lives and the restless sleep that accompanies us for 8 months. We try to talk about the situation that has developed not only on the Internet but also with the help of various rallies, actions, and protests. Our compatriots living abroad do not lose the opportunity to inform the population of other countries and not let them forget about what is happening in one of the European countries. And we really appreciate how foreign friends join all the activities in our support.

What am I leading to?  
In this article, I intend to tell about a wonderful woman named Nadija, who has a kind and sensitive heart, and her family. Nadija and her family are Lithuanians currently living in Michigan, USA. As our guest notes, she spent her entire childhood in the United States, but then lived in many European countries: Lithuania, Poland, the Netherlands, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, etc. Nadija has never been to Ukraine, but she has many Ukrainian friends, who keep her informed of all events. The woman learned about the war at home, from local news, and from her friend Rostyslav, an employee of the Armed Forces, whom she met back in 2004.

What was her reaction to the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine?

Nadija, like all her relatives, was shocked by what is happening in



Ukraine, but not surprised. After all, cruelty and absolutely inhuman behavior had already befallen one of her darling people.

As we remember, the family of our correspondent comes from Lithuania, and this country once was "lucky" to be part of the USSR, or rather, to be under the occupation of Russia from 1940 to 1991.

So, Nadiya's father is 91 years old that only means that he has faced not the best of times: the Second World War, the USSR, and a bunch of other troubles that appeared as a result of certain historical events. At the age of 9, he was forced to flee his country, because the years 1940-1941 were marked by mass arrests and deportations of residents of the western cross-border territories, mainly associated with supporting the German occupation.

And this story still gives me goo-

sebumps. At 14 years old, Nadija, while visiting her grandmother (as she did every summer before that), found a letter. There was written in blood: "Please, please United States, don't forget about us. Please help us. We are dying here. – Lithuanians to the USA".

Our heroine says: "Finding such letters and understanding the complexity of the situation, you cannot stay away. If you can give hope to a person, make them smile – do it. Show the person that you remember what's going on."

Thus, the woman's first thought was the desire to gather people and walk with Ukrainian flags across the bridge of her town to let the Ukrainian people know that they are supported. Because Nadija is from a very small town, it was not possible to buy flags. The solution to the problem was the purchase of blue and yellow

fabric for sewing flags. First, it stood 100 flags, then more. During the first week of the war, Nadija, her husband, and her 91-year-old dad participated in 18 actions devoted to the topic of Ukraine. And until this day, they march through the town with flags every Sunday for the sake of memory. After all, it is characteristic of people to forget, to immerse themselves deeper only in their problems. In addition, she and her family are organizers of all kinds of charity events, evenings, exhibitions, carnivals, festivals, etc. In total, they held approximately 33 events. In the future, they plan to continue their activities by the end of this terrible war.

Currently, Ukraine is experiencing hard times. A very severe winter is ahead. Difficulties begin now. Since October 10, 2022, 30% of Ukrainian power plants have been destroyed due to Russian strikes. Because of this, electricity is often turned off for an indefinite period throughout Ukraine. Of course, we are strong and we will overcome this. As they emphasize: "One hard autumn in Ukraine is better than the whole life with Russia." However, there are a number of problems, for instance, children and students do not have the opportunity to study effectively today, and many companies, factories, and other institutions are losing their profits, which can only indicate great economic hardships in the future.

And everything that depends on us, we have to do, we have to speak aloud. The more people will know and support us – the greater the chances of victory!

We are infinitely grateful to all our caring friends abroad, like Nadija, for their support, help, and publicity about our situation. We appreciate it, no doubt. Let's defeat the enemy together!



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# CITY OF GOODNESS

**Yara Klimchak**

This article about the shelter in the town of Chernivtsi is written by the member of the Ukrainian Women's Association of America. There orphans and mothers are protected despite funding setbacks.

Toddlers happily run towards me and curiously touch the buttons of my DSLR camera as I snap away. These kids aged one to five have already experienced more trauma in their short life than I have in my 33 years. The world is unjust, and they are orphans through no fault of their own. Not only do they lack family or family support, but they have already felt the fear of evacuation from Mykolaiv, a city torn to shreds by Russian savages.

Despite all of this they run towards me, arms open wide, grinning ear to ear, ready to be embraced and feel – even if for just a moment – attention and care. It's not that they are unloved. Far from it, the caregivers at City of Goodness, a shelter for orphans and mothers escaping harrowing situations, try to fill the void through hugs, lessons, and patience. It's no easy feat to raise more than 60 toddlers that are not your blood relation, but it is yet another example of the resilience of the Ukrainian people.

City of Goodness started as a battered women's shelter that aids mothers not only with housing and basic needs but with moral support that helps them become independent. Maryna Martyshchuk, the headmaster at City of Goodness, understands this all too well for she found a haven here a little over a year ago when she showed up with nothing but her four children,



ages 2 to 10. Her late husband suffered from the mania that sent him

into such aggressive episodes that her children were terrified, and she

was black and blue from constant daily beatings. His psychologist told Maryna to run because she knew how dangerous he was and despite intervention from the justice system and a psychiatric ward, his tyranny continued. "Our laws have loopholes, and he was a very intelligent and dangerous man. No matter where I went, whether to my parents or friends, he would always find us," she explains with quiet dignity. "I knew I had to get somewhere where he couldn't get to us." He threatened to kill her with the pistol he kept at home if she tried to escape, a threat that felt all too real given his psychotic episodes. He only let their oldest daughter, Liza, age 10, out of the house occasionally, who Maryna says saved their life by sounding the alarm during one of her visits to the local grocery store.

"She had to grow up so fast – too fast," Maryna says.

With the help of friends and family, she got away. And after seeing a Facebook ad arrived on the doorsteps of City of Goodness in April 2021. He found her regardless but thanks to their strong security system as well as the private security that patrols the grounds, he never got to Maryna or her children again.

"When he came banging on the doors, I just didn't go outside, and he couldn't get inside," she said. "I never felt at ease until he was found drowned in a lake a year later."

#### The journey to healing

Maryna and her children received immediate psychological care and counseling from the therapists at the

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**[NOTES for October]  
the beginning is on page 1**

and the West. The world was already shocked by the terrible footage of torture in Buch, destruction in Mariupol and Kharkiv, and the Kremlin as if it had been wind-up, repeated: "Slander, slander, slander". Despite it, now Russian officials and propagandists are ordered to rejoice precisely in the destruction of civilian infrastructure. As the Soviet predecessors of Solovyov and Skabeyeva liked to say on Moscow television, the masks are put off. And the appointment of General Serhii Surovikin as the head of the Russian military group in Ukraine, judging by what happened later, was connected precisely with the decision to strike at civilian objects because in Syria Surovikin "became famous" for his useless cruelty.

Why useless? Because the history of wars shows that the destruction of civilian infrastructure and the civilian population has never helped anyone to win unless the enemy's troop grouping was defeated. On the contrary, such methods could only anger the population and stimulate the feeling of "common destiny" of citizens, the army, and the state. The Nazis did not come close to success by bombing the cities of Great Britain and the Soviet Union. The bombing of German or Japanese cities by the allies also did not affect the situation on the fronts and did not accelerate the surrender. For surrender, it was necessary to defeat the enemy's armies. The army, not the dwellers of Dresden.

So in the absence of military success, bombing civilian infrastructure is not a path to victory, but a path to hatred. To even greater hatred, which, like a huge chasm, will separate Ukrainians and Russians for decades.

Now, by the way, the residents of Russia know about the shelling of civilian infrastructure not from

Radio Svoboda programs or their relatives from Ukraine – "you're all lying!" – but from the speeches of local politicians and journalists. And they react to this deliberate destruction of the civilian population and the creation of conditions for its unbearable existence either indifferently or approvingly. Who would want to get on well with such neighbors – neighbors who will not even be able to say "we didn't know" later, like the Germans after the Second World War? Everyone knew everything. They were just relying on their own victory, on the fact that every Ukrainian would be killed or intimidated, and they simply wouldn't be able to ask us about anything.

But they will achieve no victory. Victory requires an effective army, not a war on women and children with the help of Iranian drones. What we are witnessing is not even a competition of armies, but revenge to the people who dared not to capitulate to a crazy dictatorship, to defend themselves. But, in fact, this kind of people's will to resist is the way to victory.

It is impressive that at the same time with attempts to achieve the destruction of Ukrainian civil infrastructure, the Kremlin continues to call for negotiations! And this is obvious political schizophrenia, which manifests itself in almost everything. In Moscow, they still cannot even say which borders the stolen regions of Ukraine were annexed in – in the administrative borders of the regions or within the boundaries of the occupation. Representatives of the Ministry of Defense of Russia stated that the occupied Kherson region does not join Russia by itself, but together with the captured districts of the Mykolaiv region. There is no need to look for legal logic here – in principle, there is none in the decisions on the annexation of Ukrainian territories. But earlier Putin wanted to arrange everything "decently" at least from his point of

view. Currently, he is desperately scrambling to cover up military defeats with political decisions.

But this commotion also leads to a new frenzy: before the ink has dried under the decrees announcing the appearance of "new objects of the Russian Federation", Russian troops had left Liman – a town supposedly annexed to Russia. And the settlements of the Kherson region seem to have been joined as well. Putin and his press secretary Peskov calmly declare that everything will be returned, and Kherson will be evacuated! But it does not add common sense to the situation.

Putin stole territories in order to blackmail Ukrainians and force them to accept the loss of at least a part of their lands. When the Kremlin became convinced that blackmail does not lead to the desired results, they moved to threats to use "any weapon" (we understand which ones) and offers to resume negotiations. Putin's last idea to talk, which he addressed to the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi through the President of Guinea-Bissau, was received on the day of the nuclear tests – and on the same day, Putin declared that Ukraine had lost its sovereignty!

That is why the President of Ukraine, who earlier called on the President of Russia to resolve the conflict through negotiations, is now refusing to communicate with Putin. And he is not alone. The leaders of Western countries do not want to talk with the Kremlin dictator. After the massive missile attacks on Ukraine, it became clear that no changes towards realism can happen in the Kremlin. If Putin himself, Russian officials, and propagandists do not try to hide that the target of the Russian troops is the civilian infrastructure, what is there to talk about? Talking to those whose plans include depriving people of heat and light is a blow to the reputation of any politician. And for self-respect as well.

That is why the leaders of Wes-

tern countries once again intensified their rhetoric. It is significant that several harsh comments regarding Vladimir Putin's nuclear threats were first heard in October. An anonymous Reuters source in NATO, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, French President Emmanuel Macron, and Head of European Diplomacy Josep Borrell also spoke about this. The essence of the comments is obvious: if Putin is really brave to resort to nuclear weapons, the war will change dramatically. And this time the West will not use statements and economic sanctions, but a forceful response.

Borrell, who, by the way, was one of the last Western visitors that tried to find a compromise with Moscow before the war and was subjected to a disgusting attack by Lavrov and the propaganda gang of the Russian minister, expressed himself extremely clearly. Borrell noted during his speech to the audience of the European Diplomatic Academy in Bruges that if Putin uses nuclear weapons, the Russian army can be destroyed by a Western non-nuclear strike – and the Russian president will no longer have to bluff. I would say that such statements are already changing the very nature of the war, as they demonstrate: the "depraved" West, whose capitulation continues to be counted on in the Kremlin, not only does not get tired but also does not intend to give up and stop supporting Ukraine.

Moreover, the international isolation of Russia against this background is only increasing. This was shown by the vote on the resolution on supporting the territorial integrity of Ukraine at the UN General Assembly, and the vote in the PACE on recognizing Russia as a terrorist country. If we recall that a few months before the war, Josep Borrell insisted on the need for a dialogue with Moscow, and the PACE rules were changed in order to preserve the Russian delegation, it becomes clear that profound and irreversible changes have taken place: Russia has turned into a world exile.



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# HELP US SURVIVE THE WINTER

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save lives!

Today the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine is even more critical. Russia is targeting Ukraine's vital infrastructure and is leaving the people without heat, water, and electricity. This will be an extremely hard and frigid winter. With homes damaged or destroyed and with no sources of heat or water, tens of thousands are at risk of dying of hypothermia.

House of Ukraine's campaign "Help Us Survive the Winter" runs from October 20<sup>th</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup>, and plans to fill and send a shipping container with cold-weather gear to help Ukrainians survive the next few months.

A comprehensive list of all needed new items is below. And as always, we will gladly accept monetary donations

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Thermos for liquids and foods; flashlights with batteries; alkaline batteries (all sizes); power banks for mobile devices; water filters; portable non-electric camping stoves; metal kettles (non-electric); candles.

Baby formula; baby wipes; adult diapers; cold and flu medicine; nasal spray; throat spray; vitamin C and multivitamins; over-the-counter pain meds; eardrops; baby carriers; protein/nutrition bars & candy.



**["A nuclear strike against ..."] the beginning is on page 1**  
way, does not look much like a mountain, rather like a hill, but such a name allows Kyivans to feel like "highlanders" for centuries. We are not sure if one of the legendary founding brothers had the name "Shchek" or not, but the "mountain" with his name in Kyiv has been known since the times of ancient Russia. For me, Shchekavytsia is associated with Olehivska Street, which is the main street in this area. Sometime in 1988, the first political prisoners released from the Soviet camps made a small hut at number 10 on this street their home. One of the leaders of the legendary "Homini" choir lived in this house. Thanks to the patriotism and hospitality of the host, the Ukrainian cultural club began to meet in the building – the first organization in Kyiv during the "perebudova" that dared to stand on an openly "independent" platform. And when the newspaper "Vechirniy Kyiv" published a communist libel against the Ukrainian Communist Party, the author, out of a little brain, gave the exact address: Olehivska, 10. Of course, the next day I came there because I had been trying to find the Ukrainian underground for several years – everything without avail. And the stupidity of the Soviet KGBists helped me. There, at Olehivska Street, 10 in Shchekavytsia, I met Serhii Naboka, a former political prisoner. It turned

out that we were neighbors in Chokolovka, nevertheless, we got acquainted only in Podil. When I invited Naboka to speak at KNU named after Shevchenko at my history faculty in a debate about the "black spots" of Ukrainian history, in particular, to tell the truth about the Holodomor (and we were taught at the time that there was no Holodomor), the next day I was announced expulsion from the university for so-called "Ukrainian bourgeois nationalism". But the younger generation does not know the stories of the struggle for independence of Ukraine, young people perceive toponymy mostly by sound, so my nostalgic reminiscences can slightly spoil the mood for an orgy.

Jokes are jokes, but, unfortunately, the probability of a nuclear strike goes far beyond the boundaries of Kyiv folklore. If we analyze the Russian media and Russian social networks (especially Telegram channels), one of the leading topics of the last weeks is the accusation of Ukraine for allegedly preparing to use a "dirty bomb". Russian propagandists systematically and persistently try to convince their audience that it is Ukraine that is preparing the first nuclear strike on fascist Russia. Since it is known that Ukraine does not have any nuclear weapons, because it voluntarily got rid of nuclear weapons, the Russian propaganda machine came up with the thesis of a "dirty bomb" crea-

ted in some kitchen. Statements by Western, in particular, American leaders that Ukraine has no nuclear weapons, no "dirty bombs" and, accordingly, cannot have any plans to use anything it does not possess, are not taken into account by Russian propagandists. They persist in repeating their mantra. What is the aim? As US President Biden rightly remarked: "If Putin doesn't want to use nuclear weapons, why does he keep mentioning it?" And the bastard Putin is not just talking about nuclear weapons, but after artillery training, his own propagandists, personally accusing Ukraine of inventing technologies for the production of a "dirty bomb", he is preparing to use it on the territory of fascist Russia. Following Biden, you and I can ask a similar question: why is the scoundrel Putin talking about a nuclear bomb, if he apparently does not want to use it? The Russian interpretation of the national security strategy of the Russian Federation is that the Russians do not recognize that they are the aggressors, so they are looking for a further explanation for their own escalation. To use the Russian nuclear potential, the Kremlin must first create a nuclear attack on its territory, blaming Ukraine for this attack. And it doesn't matter that there are no nuclear weapons in Ukraine, if the Russian media methodically informs (and they inform) the Russians that somewhere in Ukraine, a "dirty bomb" was made from nuts, pans, and spent fuel from the Chornobyl nuclear power plant in the kitchen, then the zombified Russians will believe it. A part of the anti-Western, anti-American world, which Russian propaganda, Russian diplomacy, and even more successfully – Russian money, play quite successfully with can believe (or pretend). This non-existent "Ukrainian dirty bomb" was discussed too persistently, too often, and too massively in the Russian media. Fascist Russia needs an excuse, and it will be ready to sacrifice a few of its subordinate slaves, whom it formally calls "compatriots". Just as the Russian special services blew up houses in Moscow in order to bring their protege Putin to the ruling post. Now you can look at the situation with the blowing up of the Crimean bridge from a different angle. Of course, Ukrainians are pleased that this occupation building was defaced, but whose special services had a bigger chance of spying on a huge truck in the areas of fascist Russia with tons (not kilograms, but tons!) of explosives: Ukrainian or

Russian? If the Kremlin needs a formal excuse to use nuclear weapons, then the Kremlin can once again sacrifice, for example, the same Crimean bridge.

Therefore, I would not dismiss the prospect of a nuclear attack on Ukraine as an unrealistic scenario, on the contrary, this scenario is not only realistic but has already begun to materialize. The first stage is informational preparation – and this stage is already being carried out.

Conclusions: Ukraine should strengthen its diplomatic activities with the nuclear powers of NATO countries (there are only 3 of them: the USA, Great Britain, and France), emphasizing the need for a retaliatory strike by NATO member states for a nuclear strike by fascist Russia.

And where is the "happiness" announced in the title of this article? It is the right to happiness that the invaders want to take away from us. And, unfortunately, many dead, orphaned, homeless, and crippled Ukrainians have already been taken away.

Nevertheless, we continue to live and create. On October 17 (the day of the victory of the "Student Revolution on Granite"), the presentation of my new book "Ukrainian Dream. 25 steps to social happiness" took place. In this book, I have collected articles from 34 authors: leading cultural experts, philosophers, writers, and historians. The know-how of my concept: the goal of the Ukrainian idea is not the state, the state is a means. And the goal should be the happiness for every Ukrainian woman and every Ukrainian man. On October 17, the presentation of the book was only half done. We had time to hold only two discussions: "How to defeat fascist Russia" and "What reforms are necessary for Ukraine." The ending was interrupted by an air alarm: Iranian "shaheds" disguised as Russian "geraniums" were flying to Kyiv. But we cannot be defeated. And in a few days, we held the second presentation of the book (in a semi-basement, that is, almost like a bomb shelter). There was an air alarm again, but we ignored it. And we held the third discussion: "Love and happiness are the basis of the modern Ukrainian idea." Because Russian fascists have a "philosophy of hatred" involved. Instead, the concept of "25 Steps to Social Happiness" teaches us a "philosophy of love." And love will overcome hate. But for that, love must be able to protect itself. Ukraine defends its love, defends its right to happiness.

FOR KIDS

# A FAIRY TALE ABOUT BREAD

## Ukrainian folk tale

It was back when animals spoke the human language. God gave people rye and wheat so that they could cultivate them and have bread. Not like now, but broad-leaved and five to six spikelets on the stem, but people did not respect this gift of God, because there was enough bread. They scattered these plants, trampled and destroyed them. God could not stand such a mockery of bread,

and took away all wheat and rye from people until the last grain. Difficult times have come for people. Hungry people endured and suffered, but did not ask God for forgiveness. So, the cats and dogs gathered and began consulting. They sympathized with the people, because they were poor. Well, the cats and dogs decided to go to God to ask for people to return the bread.



They went and begged tearfully. God had mercy on these good animals and gave them wheat and rye. However, then stems turned out high, thin, with single prickly spikes not to let people

use them where they had not to be used. That is why that bread that we consume now belongs to dogs and cats, too, and we should always share with them slices of the bread.

# POETRY ABOUT LANGUAGE



1. Ask yourself, my dear child, who you are,  
And native language will resonate in your heart;  
And your name will shine in your voice as a dawn star.  
Like a bird from the family nest to the world edge you will depart.  
But with the mother tongue the entire soul will connect,  
And the whole your road

and the Motherland.  
In unlimited spaces it will direct and help not to get lost in wind as chaff or sand.  
You'll fly over seas – and will manage not to fall,  
Until the mother tongue sticks to your heart as a wall.  
Dmytro Pavlychko  
2. How lucky you are to look out the window, kids!

There are everything:  
from poplars to the sun and local bids.  
Your mother tongue is similar to that window.  
While warming your heads, it leads to the whole world understanding inflow!  
Try to protect this lovely window, youngster, where once you were brought by your mom to view the planet juster...  
Victor Teren

3. "Your language is too backward," one prude constantly told me.  
"I would rather you accepted foreign one as some lard to bread makes you feel the glee.  
The entire your poetical plan can stop halfway.  
You are the last of the

Mohicans, your language is out of the modern-day."  
"Hey, preacher! Wait a minute! Your words are an ancient cassock.  
I won't enter your quiet paradise, I am Great Taras's assoc.  
The same as Prometheus didn't die of wounds, the language will survive that better is none.  
Mohicans are not my grounds, I am great big nation's son!"  
Vasyl Didenko

4. Men, learn the Ukrainian language –  
sonorous, tender, charming, gorgeous, cute, and incredible as an advantage  
like mum's lullaby it can never be purchased.  
Antonina Kanischenko

# UKRAINIAN KIDS AND THE WAR

The rights of Ukrainian children are constantly violated in the war. They do not have access to water, a full education, and parental warmth, but we could not pass by this news.

The children's ombudsman of the Russian Federation Maria Lvova-Belova is guilty of abducting a large number of Ukrainian children – she took more than 1,300 teenagers and babies from Mariupol. Petro Andryushchenko, the adviser to the mayor of Mariupol, claimed this on Espresso TV.

"This woman is my personal enemy... She has already "adopted" 2 children from Mariupol. The first is a 16-year-old boy, he has already received a Russian passport from her. He also has a five- or six-year-old sister. About a month ago, the politician brought her to Russia and if she has not adopted this kid yet, then she has already started the procedure for adoption and granting citizenship," he said.

"Recently, six children were returned to their mother, the Russians

said they were orphans. This is on the same level of inhumanity and consequences in the city as the story about the Drama Theater. This Lvova-Belova is a war criminal who needs to be punished, just like Putin. She admitted that she "adopted" 350 children herself. She negotiated with the State Duma a simplified adoption process for "children from Donbas", but it concerns children who were taken to the Russian Federation during this phase of the war. There are rare cases when the parents are in Ukraine. All orphans were evacuated in the first days of the war, so these are lost children or separated families," the mayor's advisor concluded.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reminded us that the illegal deportation of children and their adoption violates the legislation of Ukraine, the 1949 Geneva Convention on the Protection of the Civilian Population in Time of War, and the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The head of the Ministry of Foreign



Affairs, Dmytro Kuleba, is instituting criminal proceedings against Lvova-Belova. "We call on the international community to condemn the

ongoing crimes of Russia and its officials against children in the temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories strongly," the message reads.

## [City of Goodness] the beginning is on page 8

center whose salaries are paid for by generous donors. Even though government agencies do not provide any resources to the safe haven, social services and the police often refer mothers to the privately funded City of Goodness, or they find them through social media.

It took her a year of serious therapy and his passing to get through her grueling past and "a sea of tears and tissues before the real work began of building a brighter future," Maryna says. "Once mothers heal, they begin to reveal their dreams from a past life."

Maryna herself went to medical school, studied psychology, and was certified to perform rehabilitative massages before her husband forced her into domestic servitude where even then she learned to tailor clothing so she could do something. City of Goodness supports these women's dreams by enrolling and paying for their continuing education, finding them mentors and jobs, and checking up on them even after they leave the haven.

"When I got here, I understood that this is my chance for something better despite society telling me that I would not be able to support my four children by myself," she explains.

The staff instills self-confidence and helps them see that they can raise their children independently despite the stigma that single motherhood still brings in Ukraine. Maryna became the headmaster of City of Goodness whose founder Marta Levchenko says she is suited for the role given what she has overcome.

"Once a mother believes in herself, she can do anything and will do everything for her children," Maryna explains.

Marta founded City of Goodness in honor of a mother with little means whose child had cancer and passed away due to a lack of funds to treat the life-threatening disease in time. She inspired Marta to open a center where mothers could thrive despite their backgrounds. Their humble beginnings were in a rented building that could only house 30 people. Today, the center houses 16 single mothers and 42 of their children in addition to the 67 orphans from Mykolaiv and some grandparents. Staff doesn't just provide housing, they ensure everything is clean, aesthetically pleasing, and safe, so that when mothers leave, their standards are heightened, and they are less likely to return to their past life.

**Welcoming families fleeing the war**  
Present-day, mothers aren't just escaping an abusive past, but gunfire missiles and the threat of rape and death at the hands of Russian soldiers. The center has already seen an



influx and opened its doors to not just mothers but orphans, which numbered about 100,000 before the war.

The building which was initially meant to be a daycare for newborns and a training center for their mothers when it opened in 2020, was remodeled within two weeks to welcome 67 Mykolaiv orphans aged up to five years when the war started in February of 2022. Their phones didn't stop ringing when Russia began its assault and bedrooms that once housed one family now had three. In April, they rented another building to ensure they can house the influx, but within a week that home was packed full of refugees who couldn't go back to their cities turned battlegrounds.

"On May 3 we started to dig a hole for our fourth building that we hoped to finish by Sept 1 but with the dollar rising in value and manufacturing plants closing due to fighting we were stalled," Maryna says. "We hope to open in a few weeks where there will be an additional 115 spots for those in need."

They expect the need to grow as wives become widows, orphanages are bombarded, and military husbands return with severe PTSD in a country that isn't prepared to adequately treat such an influx.

Organizations like Ukrainian Women's Association of America – a Chicago-based women's non-profit whose mission is to help children in Ukraine – are helping fund the build of the fourth building on City of Goodness's campus "We have been working with City of Goodness to support their mission in aiding mothers and their children since before Russia started terrorizing Ukraine's most vulnerable population," said Oksana Taratula, President of UWAA. "Our members are passionate about ensuring children lead healthy and happy childhoods and today the support is even more important as funding that

would normally go to support children are now being redirected to more pressing military needs."

UWAA has also partnered with Spartan Sword a nonprofit started by American veterans who themselves understand wartime trauma. They know the dark ramifications of PTSD and are applying their wartime lessons to help kids through grant funding.

"Spartan Sword recognizes that there are no greater victims of war than children," said Steven Danyluk, President of Spartan Sword. "Our mission is to return the most independence and mental wellbeing to our nation's veterans. We can think of no better way to do so than to use some of our experience and expertise to help aid the smallest victims of the current war in Ukraine."

Donations that would normally make their way to aid children are redirected to aid soldiers fighting for freedom and the military to back them. Groups like Spartan Sword and UWAA work to fill the monetary void for organizations on the ground helping Ukrainian children and their caretakers.

### It's about the little things

At City of Goodness, progress is visible. The building that is set to house 115 more individuals stands neatly despite signs that remodeling is still underway. With the help of organizations like UWAA and Spartan Sword, they were able to pay for the materials and labor to finish the build. The new addition is set to have a state-of-the-art bomb shelter and emergency exits in case missiles reach Chernivtsi, the city where they are located that has thus far been unscathed.

City of Goodness also has maintenance costs like that of staff salaries so children can continue to have extracurricular activities like dance, theater, teachers who tutor them, and self-defense classes. Many ar-

rive with food insecurity and are astonished when they are fed five times a day with hearty meals that include meat and sweets – foods previously reserved only on special occasions. Donations continuously feed more than 100 women and children.

"We try to do everything so that children could have a childhood and forget about the war," Maryna says.

Some children arriving from the east have only ever heard Russian, they've never spoken or heard Ukrainian. Here they learn about Ukraine and teachers work to instill patriotism. City of Goodness is unlike any other social service in Ukraine because of the support they offer and because they are nondenominational. They bring in speakers from all different faiths to teach moms who want to attend about theology without shoving it down their throats.

They also do everything in their means to secure medical care for children who are seriously ill. Sonya, a child that is currently in their care, is undergoing chemotherapy in Kyiv for retinoblastoma, a rare form of eye cancer. Her siblings are with caretakers while her mother stays with her at the hospital more than 330 miles away.

"Centers like ours are non-existent in Ukraine," Maryna explains. "But they are needed because we have seen how mothers and children thrive once they are ready."

As the war rages, many mothers and children are finding a way to thrive and endure. For children in some ways, it is easier. They grow resilient without realizing that through adaptation this has become their norm. For mothers, at City of Goodness, they have already lived through a world of trauma and have learned to endure and find hope in the happy moments. Like proudly watching your brown-eyed baby boy take his first steps with glee and joy or letting a dozen toddlers curiously touch every single button of your DSLR camera with sticky fingers and boundless energy.

UWAA is continuing to bring those happy moments to life by working on their next project with City of Goodness. With rising energy costs due to the war, members are working to raise an additional \$32,000 to cover all winter utility costs for the sanctuary. If you are looking for ways to donate and help, follow us on social media and donate today!

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**["The victory can be gained ..."]  
the beginning is on page 1**

**field of culture. Mr. Portnikov talked about the features of this year's award ceremony and shared his opinion about current events.**

- Did you guess that you would be the laureate this year, or was it a pleasant surprise?

- The Vasyl Stus Award does not require previous nominations, so I did not guess anything. I found out about everything shortly before the awarding ceremony – only because it was necessary to agree on the time and place of its holding. This year's ceremony was organized differently than in previous years: in the bomb shelter of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

I usually decline nominations for any awards. But this award is special: founded by Yevhen Sverstyuk, it is dedicated to an extraordinary person who participated in Ukrainian political and cultural history; to a person who sacrificed his life for the sake of Ukrainian statehood and the development of Ukrainian culture. I have already said and I can only repeat: I consider the awarding exclusively as an advance on my future activities.

- How do you evaluate the U.S. aid to Ukraine? What assistance and sanctions against Russia can we count on in the near future?

- I believe that all the help from the USA is extremely important: without sanctions against the Russian Federation, it would be much more difficult for us to fight Russia. We hope that these measures will cover an increasingly large range of Russian product nomenclature and will have a stronger impact on the Russian economy. But I always warn: do not expect miracles from sanctions. Iran has been living under sanctions for decades, so I think that the Russian Federation will also be able to adapt its economy to sanctions if the goal of its leadership remains the continuation of the war, the destruction of Ukrainian statehood, and the occupation of our territories. Therefore, it is important that the pressure will not stop and be long and constant.

However, the main thing, of course, is military aid. Because the victory over Russia, even in that complex conflict of attrition, which can continue for years, can be won only on the battlefield. No other possibilities for saving the Ukrainian state exist in nature.

- Currently, Russia is trying to destroy our infrastructure, hitting HPPs and TPPs to leave Ukrainians without electricity. Is there any way we can help with this?

- Energy experts will be able to answer this question: about the kinds

of help that should be received and technical possibilities for this. It is extremely important for Ukraine to gain control over its nuclear energy because it is capable of creating a huge supply of electricity for us, even if Ukrainian hydroelectric power plants and thermal power plants are completely destroyed by the Russians.

I think that the aid may be related to the fact that the West will continue to accept Ukrainian refugees because we understand that the destruction of Ukrainian infrastructure can lead to new departures abroad.

The supply of effective air defense systems can be a huge help. Of course, no air defense system will help to close off Russian missiles and drones completely, but it is still strong support.

Currently, nothing unforeseen is happening: back in the spring, we warned that before winter, Russia would resort to the destruction of Ukrainian infrastructure in order to get rid of a large part of the Ukrainian population, which will not be able to withstand the cold winter. And we can see now the extent these plans of Russia will be implemented to.

- After the vacation, the Senate and Congress will discuss the issue of recognizing Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism. How can this decision help Ukraine? Does this mean something to Putin personally?

- This will only affect the fact that the sanctions pressure on the Russian Federation will increase. In such a situation, those firms for which even the current sanctions left the opportunity to work on the Russian market will not be able to maintain business relations with Russia.

Well, let me remind you: Iran, Cuba, North Korea, and Syria have been on this list for decades, which does not prevent North Korea from being a nuclear power, Iran from developing its nuclear program, Cuba from maintaining an authoritarian regime on the island, and the Syrian regime from fighting its opposition. And all this happened when these countries were under sanctions and had the status of countries that support terrorism. Therefore, this status will not change anything quickly for the Russian Federation – it will continue to implement its policy as it currently does.

It will also change absolutely nothing for president Volodymyr Putin. Though, of course, the world knows a lot about coups and riots in the history of authoritarian states, for now, we can confidently say only one thing: for Volodymyr Putin, the war for Ukraine is equal to the opportunity to create the

country where he will remain the president throughout his entire physical life.

- Those 8 months, which are called a war in the world, are only the most acute phase of the war, which has been going on for 8 years. The world knows about Bucha and Izyum, but most do not realize that what happened there happened everywhere the Russians were. In your opinion, did we have a chance to reach the world community earlier? Are all these political processes so stretched out in time? Is this a bureaucracy that we cannot influence?

- I don't think it's bureaucracy. For the world to recognize the fact of Russia's war against Ukraine, we had to recognize it ourselves. The 2019 elections demonstrated the true mood of the majority of Ukrainian citizens. The vast part of the Ukrainian society did not want to realize either that the war continues or that the war will not end with some kind of compromise with Russia. Citizens of Ukraine believed that the war was almost over, and the conflict continued only because the Ukrainian leadership, not the Russian one, allegedly wanted it. In my opinion, we should have looked at ourselves first, and not made claims to others that they don't understand us.

After the Minsk agreements stopped the hot phase in 2014, we could talk about the stage of freezing the conflict. The problem was only in how the Ukrainians themselves perceived this conflict: as one that should end with peace agreements with Russia, or as one that would be a break before the start of a new acute phase of military operations, which would become a full-scale war.

The majority of Ukrainians did not even want to think about such a scenario. Moreover, people who spoke about it either lost elections or were considered marginals and those who "absolutely could not grasp reality."

Even when a huge group of Russian troops was gathered near our borders when the US and other countries reported that we might be attacked, neither the top leadership of the country nor our citizens believed that the attack would happen. A few days before the war, the President of Ukraine assured Ukrainian businessmen that there was no danger of an armed conflict, although the intelligence had already gathered all the data that an attack would take place. Therefore, I will never understand how people who themselves did not want to "look up" now say that the West reacted incorrectly.

- How can the Ukrainian diaspora become even closer to Ukraine? For example, in terms of information, news often reaches people late, when information becomes outdated, given that the situation chan-

ges every day.

- I do not think so. The Ukrainian topic is present on the front pages of all world media, it is almost the main topic in television news programs and analytical programs. If you open the New York Times or the Washington Post, you will see that the main news is always related to Ukraine. So, if people are genuinely interested in this issue, they can get full information about what is going on here. In addition, many large foreign media receive information faster than Ukrainian ones. Our media often take information from foreign sources when it comes to some fundamental points.

The task of diaspora publications is not to report news, because the readers of such publications know all the news when it happens. One of the missions is to coordinate the efforts of Ukrainians from the USA and Ukrainians in Ukraine. These efforts are aimed at long-term relief because you and I are in a protracted war – a war of attrition. The Russian political leadership led by Volodymyr Putin will never end this war as long as this state has enough resources. The war can end either with the disappearance of the Ukrainian people and Ukraine, the annexation of all its territories to the Russian Federation, or the exhaustion of the Russian Federation's resources for the continuation of hostilities. There are no other ways out of this war at all, unfortunately.

Even if it is possible to end this war by running out of resources in the Russian Federation, even if Russia stops its aggressive intentions and admits defeat, we will still live in a destroyed country, where a huge part of the population died, and the rest left the country forever. This means that Ukraine will need assistance lasting years and decades. Ten years on, Ukraine will remain the poorest country in Europe. Therefore, the help of the diaspora is very necessary.

The next point is to preserve the Ukrainian cultural world outside the borders of Ukraine. The Ukrainian universe will play a more essential role in the restoration of the state than Ukraine itself. This is the case, for example, with Ireland, where 2/3 of the population lives outside Ireland; half of the Jews are outside Israel. The very existence of Ukraine as a full-fledged state and cultural organism depends on whether it will be possible to prevent assimilation processes in cultural and linguistic aspects, and this is also a huge task of the diaspora.

The diaspora must realize that with every day of the war, these tasks of the future functioning of Ukraine will move deeper into the diaspora world. The Ukrainian diaspora must survive, despite the difficult conditions of life in the country, for decades to come. We should take this responsibility with dignity!



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**Interesting facts about Ukrainian:**

- Modern Ukrainian language consists of about 256 thousand words.
- Most of Ukrainian words start with «П», and the least used is «Ф».
- In terms of similarity to Ukrainian, the Russian language ranks only 4th. This a good reason to think about our "brotherhood" once again.
- It is difficult to say exactly when the Ukrainian language was born, but it is known that it definitely arose earlier than Russian, German, Turkish, etc. According to the scientist Vasyl Kobylukh, our language was formed in the 10<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> millennia BC and it comes from Sanskrit. "honey" and "dish" are considered to be the first written Ukrainian words.
- The Ukrainian language was officially recognized as literary after the publication of "Eneide" by Ivan Kotliarevskyi.
- Taras Shevchenko's "Testament" has the most translations among Ukrainian works: it has been translated into 147 languages of the world's nations.
- The oldest Ukrainian song is the ballad "Danube, Danube, why are you flowing in sadness?".
- The Ukrainian language is one of the leaders in the number of synonyms. For example, the word "hori-



zon" has 12 synonyms. And the word "beat" has as many as 45 synonyms.

- There are 36-37,5 million of native speakers. Generally, about 41-45 million people in the world have mastered this language.
- The first official Ukrainian spelling was approved on May 17, 1919, at the General Assembly of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.
- Ukrainian has semi-official status in Cook county (Illinois).
- The modern Ukrainian language has three main dialects: northern, southwestern and southeastern.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our *Banquet in San Francisco!*

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## EVENTS 2022

## NOVEMBER

Hi/Su	Pi/Mo	Wi/Tu	Th/Fr	Fr/Sa	Sa/Su
		1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30				

## 12 NOV SALINAS UKRAINIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

**Where:** the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, United States  
301 Corral De Tierra Road Salinas, CA 93908 United States

**When:** Saturday; November, 12;  
11 AM – 3PM

This is a fundraising event organized by local refugees. In addition to delicious food and soft drinks, you can enjoy dance and music performances at the festival, take part in Ukrainian art workshops for children and adults, look at handicrafts and bake sales, and buy something for yourself or relatives

All profits will be sent to humanitarian aid in Ukraine.

**Cost:** \$30

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ukrainian-festival-tickets-453941099047>

## 13 NOV RUN TO

## REBUILD SCHOOLS

**Ukrainian Club of Berkeley**

**Where:** the Berkeley Half Marathon  
**When:** Sunday; November 13,  
6:30 AM PST

Run to Rebuild Schools is one of two official charity partners at the Berkeley Half Marathon this year. The goal of this initiative is to repair the schools that were damaged as a result of Russian attacks in Ukraine and bring back hope to Ukrainian children who have no place to gather anymore.

There are a lot of ways to join: become an ambassador, virtual running, donation, and sharing the information. But the main way is taking part in the marathon (1K family run, 5K and 10K also available). If you have not registered yet, use a promo code "RunToRebuild". In this case, 15% of your registration fee will be directed to the Run to Rebuild Schools charity campaign.

<https://fb.me/e/3PCHnGtW6>

## 3 DEC CHARITY ANNIVERSARY EVENING "WAY TO FREEDOM"

**Hromada**

**Where:** Tiburon Yacht Club

**When:** Saturday; December 3; 6 PM  
Everyone is welcome to join us celebrating the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hromada, discussing the situation in Ukraine with the Major General Kryvonos and supporting Ukraine. The famous DJ Andrii Liesnyi is invited to be in charge of our cocktail party. Food and drinks are included, too.

All profits will be sent to war-affected children.

**Cost:** \$75 (recommended donation)

<https://m.facebook.com/events/871474914291313/>

*Oleh Solyar*



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