

**PAUL**  
depuis 1889



26 Yaroslaviv Val St., 044 281 2493  
6 Gorodetsкого St., 044 450 2308

**KyivPost**

**DOING BUSINESS** magazine is coming out on **June 28**



To advertise in the magazine, please contact us at + 38 044 591 7788 or [advertising@kyivpost.com](mailto:advertising@kyivpost.com)

**Jones East 8**

for **Real Estate**  
in Kyiv since 1992

044 490 6962, 050 441 9180  
[info@joneeast8.com.ua](mailto:info@joneeast8.com.ua)  
[joneeast8.com.ua](http://joneeast8.com.ua)

# Kyiv Post <sup>24<sup>th</sup> Year</sup>

**What to do in Kyiv**  
See Entertainment Guide on pages 12, 13

vol. 24, issue 18/19 **UKRAINE'S GLOBAL VOICE** [www.kyivpost.com](http://www.kyivpost.com) **May 10, 2019**

BUSINESS WITH A HUMAN FACE AND GOD'S BLESSING!

**KADORR Group**



E-MAIL: [SALES@KADORRGROUP.COM](mailto:SALES@KADORRGROUP.COM) [KADORRGROUP.COM](http://KADORRGROUP.COM)

 **World in Ukraine: Israel** **WIX.com**

## Historical Ties Give Rise To Great Expectations



Ukrainians and Jews have a long and complicated history. Today, however, relations between Ukraine and the State of Israel are growing closer. In January, the two governments signed a free trade agreement. And at the beginning of May, Kyiv hosted for the first time a major conference gathering prominent Jewish leaders, Israeli politicians, and Ukrainian officials. Every year, hundreds of thousands of tourists travel between Ukraine and Israel. And even though disagreements, both political and historical, still remain, the two countries have great expectations about where their ties can take them. (AFP)

See World in Ukraine: Israel coverage on pages 6 – 11

**Inside:** Opinion 4, 16 – 18 | National 2, 3, 14 – 17  
Lifestyle 12, 13, 19 – 22 | Business 6 – 11  
Employment/Real Estate/Classifieds **23**

Follow us at [facebook.com/KyivPost](https://facebook.com/KyivPost) and on Twitter at [@KyivPost](https://twitter.com/KyivPost)  
To find the print edition, go to: [distribution.kyivpost.com](http://distribution.kyivpost.com)

**CURRENCY WATCH**

**Hr 26.6 to \$1**  
May 8 market rate



4 820131 720013 18/19

The material published in the Kyiv Post may not be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher. All material in the Kyiv Post is protected by Ukrainian and international laws.

The views expressed in the Kyiv Post are not necessarily the views of the publisher nor does the publisher carry any responsibility for those views.

Газета "Kyiv Post" видається ТОВ "БІЗНЕСГРУПП". Щотижневий наклад 9,100 прим. Ціна за домовленістю. Матеріали, надруковані в газеті "Kyiv Post" є власністю видавництва, захищені міжнародним та українським законодавством і не можуть бути відтворені у будь-якій формі без письмового дозволу Видавця. Думки, висловлені у дописах не завжди збігаються з поглядами видавця, який не бере на себе відповідаль-

ність за наслідки публікацій.  
Засновник ТОВ "БІЗНЕСГРУПП"  
Головний редактор Брайан Боннер  
Відповідальний за випуск  
Брайан Боннер  
Адреса видавця та засновника співпадають: Україна, м. Київ, 01004, вул. Пушкінська, 31А, 6-й поверх.  
Реєстраційне свідоцтво  
КВ № 23191-13031ПР від 29.03.2018.  
Передплатний індекс ДП Преса 40528  
Надруковано ТОВ «Новий друк», 02660, Київ, вулиця Магнітогорська, 1,  
тел.: 559-9148  
Замовлення № 19-8040  
З приводу розміщення реклами звертайтесь: +380 44 591-77-88  
Відповідальність за зміст реклами несе замовник.

**Mailing address:**  
Kyiv Post,  
31A Pushkinska, Suite 600, 6th floor  
Kyiv, Ukraine, 01004  
**Advertising**  
tel. +380 44 591-7788  
fax +380 44 591-3345  
advertising@kyivpost.com  
**Editorial staff**  
tel. +380 44 591-3344  
fax +380 44 591-3345  
news@kyivpost.com  
**Subscriptions&Distribution**  
tel. +380 44 591-3344  
fax +380 44 591-3345  
subscribe@kyivpost.com  
**Employment Advertising**  
tel. +380 44 591-3408  
fax +380 44 591-3345  
advertising@kyivpost.com

# New York exhibition examines Ukraine's first struggle for national independence

BY ASKOLD KRUSHELNYCKY  
ASKOLDK@GMAIL.COM

**NEW YORK** — A museum has staged an exhibition chronicling Ukraine's first struggle in modern times to build a state, using artifacts scattered around the globe for a century, putting them on display for the first time.

Called "Full Circle: Ukraine's Struggle for Independence 100 Years Ago," it brings to life the tumultuous events between 1917 and 1921 that laid the foundations for Ukrainian statehood.

The exhibition, at the Ukrainian Museum, can be seen until Sept. 29 at 222 East 6th Street in the heart of New York's "Ukrainian village" area.

The exhibition brings together scores of artifacts, many of them unique. Some had remained hidden in Ukraine or had found their way into the hands of private collectors there. Others had been taken for safekeeping to countries in Europe and North America where Ukrainian exiles, some of whom had taken part in the dramas surrounding the struggle for independence from 1917 to 1921, settled.

The person who led the team putting the exhibition together, Yurii Savchuk, is a senior researcher from the Institute of History at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv. The exhibition's layout and design were conceived by Volodymyr Taran.

Savchuk, who studied in Vinnytsia and gained his Ph.D. in Kyiv in 1992, told the Kyiv Post that the circle in the exhibition's title began in 1917 and closed as the world recognized Ukrainian independence in 1991.

"This is the first time many of the items in the exhibition have ever been seen in public," he said. "Some have been reunited for the first time since the events that produced them a century ago."

He said the main organizers of the exhibition were New York's Ukrainian Museum, the Museum of Kyiv History, and the Sheremetiev Museum, also in Kyiv.

Another 23 museums, archives, libraries, institutions of learning, and private collectors from four countries — Ukraine, the U.S., Switzerland and Bulgaria — also contributed. Many private and institutional sponsors, mostly from the Ukrainian community in the U.S., donated the funds necessary to mount the exhibition.

## Nation forged in war

As the events covered by the exhibition begin in 1917, the First World War is still raging with ethnic



People visit the Ukrainian Museum in New York City in April 2019. The museum is staging an exhibition chronicling Ukraine's first struggle in modern times to build a state. (Courtesy)

Ukrainians fighting in the armies of two rival empires, the Austro-Hungarian and the Czarist Russian.

Ethnic Ukrainians, sharing a common culture and language, had long been divided between the two empires. The Austro-Hungarian Empire encompassed most of today's western Ukraine, while the central and eastern parts of the modern state were located in the Russia Empire.

Millions of disaffected soldiers from the Russian Empire, including hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians, started quitting the front lines, where they faced German and Austrian armies, in 1917, heading home and triggering volcanic political upheavals.

A February 1917 revolution in St. Petersburg ousted the Czar and ushered in a Russian-dominated pseudo-democracy, which was itself ejected later the same year by the communist coup d'etat known as "the October Revolution."

Ukrainians initially sought to use the 1917 revolutions to gain more autonomy for their people but their efforts were rebuffed. Both anti-communist "White" and Bolshevik "Red" Russian political forces shared a loathing for Ukrainians' aspirations and made clear they would not countenance Ukrainian independence.

Eventually Ukrainians in the former Russian Empire opted for complete independence and until 1921 were continuously attacked by White and Red armies.

Ethnic Ukrainians in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which was disintegrating after its defeat in November 1918, formed a Western Ukrainian National Republic which immediately plunged into conflict with Poles claiming the same territory for a new state of their own.

The exhibition charts the experience of ethnic Ukrainians in the east and the west. It traces the different types of government that took power in both Ukrainian entities — an autocratic "Hetmanate" followed by a more representative Socialist "Directory" in the east and a parliamentary form in the Western Ukrainian National Republic.

One exhibit, is a faded blue and yellow flag that had been flown during an all-Ukrainian military committee congress in what was still the Russian Empire in January 1917. It was later used by the Ukrainian ambassador to Riga until 1921.

Among the many photographs are some indicating that Ukrainians all over the Russian Empire had a profound sense of their identity as a separate people. Surprising pictures show crowds of ethnic Ukrainian troops from the Russian Czarist Army holding rallies in the Russian cities of St Petersburg (at that time called Petrograd) and Khabarovsk in the spring of 1917.

Dozens of important documents include the peace treaty signed in Brest-Litovsk on Feb. 9, 1918 between the Ukrainian National Republic and the Central Powers — Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Germany, and Turkey, recognizing Ukraine. Bulgaria, which has one of the only remaining copies, loaned it for the exhibition and it was delivered personally by Mihail Gruev, director of Bulgaria's State Archives Agency.

Unfortunately for Ukraine, those states were defeated by the end of 1918 by the Western alliance led by Britain, France and the U.S. and they were lukewarm in their support for Ukrainian independence.

Another document displayed is the Jan. 22, 1919 proclamation on the unification of the Ukrainian National Republic and the Western Ukrainian National Republic into a single Ukrainian state with its capital in Kyiv.

## Symbols of statehood

Among the scores of other exhibits are the symbols and ephemera of operating a nation: the state seal of the Ukrainian Central Council and the Great Seal of the Ukrainian National Republic; stone printing plates to produce 1918 Ukrainian banknotes; medals and maps.

Savchuk said that many items and documents were evidence that millions of Ukrainians had built and fought for their own modern, democratic state were inconvenient for Moscow and obliterated or kept

hidden by the Kremlin and only unearthed or returned after 1991.

There was little information, he said, that the Ukrainian government had Jewish members and a ministry for Jewish affairs. One of the official seals of the ministry dealing with Jewish affairs is on show and there are banknotes with Ukrainian, Russian and Hebrew scripts.

Another unusual item is a key to Kyiv's City Hall, which was used as a parliament. It was taken and preserved by Mykola Yarymovich, a lieutenant of the Galician Army during its retreat from the Ukrainian capital on Aug. 31, 1919.

The nation-building efforts were conducted against an unceasing background of war, which eventually doomed that first attempt in the 20th century. That military dimension is reflected in the artifacts on display. There are parts of military uniforms such as epaulettes from various military units, helmets of Austrian and German design, a Ukrainian Navy officer's hat and Ukrainian air force goggles from 1918.

Some of the items relate to efforts to keep resistance alive after the communists had overwhelmed the nascent Ukrainian state. There are orders from the Ukrainian leader, Symon Petliura, ordering partisan warfare, written on a handkerchief for easier concealment by covert messengers.

There is an official seal used by Nestor Makhno, leader of a Ukrainian anarchist state with an efficient military which wrought devastation on its enemies and long kept Russian communist forces at bay as Ukrainian independence was being crushed elsewhere.

In fittingly irreverent style the anarchist leader's seal is fashioned out of the cylinder that holds bullets in a revolver.

There is a package of money for a prominent Ukrainian government member, Volodymyr Vynnychenko, sent abroad to try to win international support for Ukraine. Its wax seal bears the Ukrainian state emblem and has never been opened. What

**AGS** Records Management  
Worldwide Movers  
Relocation  
You deserve the best.

**THE AGS GROUP OFFERS GLOBAL SOLUTIONS IN REMOVALS, RELOCATION AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT**

**AGS UKRAINE**  
T. +380 445023923 | E. elie.duval@ags-globalsolutions.com  
www.ags-globalsolutions.com

# With new president on the way, what's next for Viktor Medvedchuk?

BY IGOR KOSSOV  
KOSSOV@KYIVPOST.COM

Over the course of multiple presidential administrations, oligarch Viktor Medvedchuk built a business empire in Ukraine and capitalized on his role of an unofficial intermediary with the Kremlin.

As Volodymyr Zelenskiy prepares to begin his presidency, analysts suggest that this is an opportunity to cut down Medvedchuk's intermediary role, which allows him to be Moscow's "eyes and ears" in Ukraine.

But Medvedchuk and his wife Oksana Marchenko have broad business and political connections, and Medvedchuk chairs the political council of the country's Russia-friendly Opposition Platform – Za Zhyttia party. He will undoubtedly resist moves to limit his influence. His influence in Ukraine derives from his personal friendship with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"Zelenskiy also needs communication channels with the Kremlin," Ilya Ponomarev, a former Russian lawmaker and current exile in Ukraine, told the Kyiv Post. "This is an opportunity to do everything properly, because Medvedchuk is a bad intermediary. He is a broken telephone."

Reached by phone, Medvedchuk spokesman Oleg Babanin declined to comment on the record.

Zelenskiy's team also did not answer the Kyiv Post's questions about Medvedchuk. However, the president-elect has previously stated that he will exclude Medvedchuk from negotiations with Russia.

In a separate media interview, Medvedchuk said that he wasn't "sending greetings" from the Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to Putin – as Zelenskiy once alleged – but negotiating in Ukraine's interest, especially regarding the release of 24 Ukrainian sailors captured by Russia during its attack on the Ukrainian boats in the Black Sea in November.

After the presidential election, Medvedchuk suggested that Zelenskiy negotiate with Russia and make a deal to bring about peace with Moscow and the Russia-occupied areas of eastern Ukraine. Despite that, Medvedchuk said he isn't planning to offer any help to Zelenskiy. However, some analysts



Oligarch and pro-Russian politician Viktor Medvedchuk sits for an interview with the Kyiv Post in January 2014. The U.S. would impose sanctions on Medvedchuk several months after this interview for "threatening the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine," according to a statement by then-U.S. President Barack Obama's press office. (Pavlo Podufalov)

disagree, saying Medvedchuk is unlikely to willingly give up his intermediary role.

"There will be this game where Medvedchuk will try to offer his services to Zelenskiy as an unofficial intermediary to Putin," political analyst Volodymyr Fesenko told the Kyiv Post.

Fesenko added that Zelenskiy is probably uninterested in Medvedchuk. However, if Medvedchuk's services are rejected, he might plot against Zelenskiy, the analyst said.

"He may seek contacts (with Zelenskiy) through (oligarch Ihor) Kolomoisky, to convince him to use his services," Fesenko said. "This will be about the exchange of (captive) sailors. It's his favorite topic. He will try to play this card."

Zelenskiy has been linked to Kolomoisky, whose television channel broadcasts his comedy shows. But the president-elect denies that

this relationship extends beyond business. For his part, Medvedchuk told journalists last year that he does not know Kolomoisky well and only spoke to him once.

Ponomarev said that Poroshenko valued having a direct line of communication with Putin and wanted to avoid retaliation from Russia against his business interests. This may be less important to Zelenskiy, who also lacks Poroshenko's relatively close relationship with Medvedchuk. Ukrainian journalists spotted the president and the oligarch meeting several times, including in Poroshenko's private residence.

Poroshenko previously denied critics' assertions that he was helping Medvedchuk and his wife's business empire to flourish.

Glen Grant, a defense expert with the Ukrainian Institute for the Future, harshly criticized Medvedchuk, whom he termed "completely untrustworthy." He called on the politician to stop playing both sides and decide if he will be a Russian ambassador or a Ukrainian who is fully divested of all his Russia-related holdings.

"There has been no evidence to suggest change," in what Medvedchuk is doing, Grant said. "I'm hoping that the body of honest people trying to

more Medvedchuk on page 15



Protesters demand government action against oligarchs and politicians with Russian connections, including Viktor Medvedchuk, pictured on the banner, during a rally near the Verkhovna Rada in Kyiv on Jan. 16, 2018. (Volodymyr Petrov)





EXPERIENCE FIVE STAR LIVING AND BREATHTAKING ARCHITECTURE AT KYIV'S MOST EXCLUSIVE NEW RESIDENCE

## QUALITY & STYLE

- Exclusive apartments for long-term rent
- 24/7 security and concierge service
- Spa, Swimming Pool and Gym complex
- Panoramic view of the Botanical Garden
- Secure underground parking

Please call to arrange a viewing:  
+380 (44) 492 05 05

**SI SOPHIA**  
HOMES

www.stsophia.ua

Editorials

# Yovanovitch leaves

The United States has sent nine ambassadors to Kyiv since Ukraine regained its independence in 1991. Some have been more effective, outgoing and committed than others. But as a group, they have been outstanding representatives. The roster of departed ambassadors will grow after Marie L. Yovanovitch leaves her post on May 20 after nearly three years. The others, in order of service, are: Roman Popadiuk, William Green Miller, Steven Pifer, Carlos Pasqual, John E. Herbst, William B. Taylor Jr., John F. Tefft and Geoffrey R. Pyatt.

Many of them have stayed engaged long after they left their posts. All but Miller, a political appointee, have been career foreign service officers. Plenty of rumors are swirling about who will replace Yovanovitch. We're not confident about who U.S. President Donald J. Trump will send. Besides his affinity to Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, it looks like Trump wants to use Ukraine — and its leaders supposed interference in the 2016 presidential election on behalf of losing candidate Hillary Clinton — to tarnish one of his strongest rivals in the 2020 election, former U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden. Considering Trump's subservience to Putin, who has been waging a bloody war against Ukraine since 2014, no one here could be blamed for cheering on Clinton. But Ukraine's influence on the U.S. electorate is negligible.

While publicity-shy, Yovanovitch is a professional who knows how to execute U.S. policy effectively. She may best be remembered for her landmark March 5 speech, in which she took Ukraine's leadership to task for failing to fight corruption, for pressuring journalists and for failing to protect civil society activists.

"We have been concerned by reports of pressure on independent journalists. Intimidation and harassment have no place in a modern democracy," Yovanovitch said. "Threats to independent journalism undermine the Ukrainian people's fight against corruption."

The entire speech is a diplomatic tour de force. It is well worth re-reading and can be found on [www.ua.usembassy.gov](http://www.ua.usembassy.gov) as "Remarks by Ambassador Yovanovitch on the Occasion of the 5th Anniversary of the Ukraine Crisis Media Center's Founding."

For speaking out, she endured a smear campaign from Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko, who falsely accused her of interfering in Ukraine's criminal justice system with a list of individuals who should not be prosecuted. Considering the United States is Ukraine's biggest and most powerful ally, the attack was appalling.

The Kyiv Post wishes Yovanovitch well. We welcome a capable replacement and we hope that even better days are ahead for the already strong U.S.-Ukraine partnership.

# Start naming names

We can only imagine the ferocity with which people are jockeying behind the scenes for appointments and positions of influence with President-elect Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

While he was only elected less than three weeks ago, we'd like to see at least some names of those who he's going to appoint to the top power posts, such as chief of staff, prosecutor general, head of the Security Service of Ukraine, foreign minister and so on. The public doesn't see what's going on, beyond a few troubling glimpses — such as the omnipresent Andriy Bogdan, a lawyer who has done work for billionaire oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky, and who appears to be the most powerful member of Zelenskiy's inner circle.

The public should be getting a sense soon of whether competent reformers will be in the mix and in what capacities. To drop some names, we'd like to see places for ex-finance ministers Oleksandr Danyliuk and Natalie Jaresko, ex-economy minister Aivaras Abromavicius, ex-prosecutors David Sakvarelidze and Vitaly Kasko, and dozens of others with integrity, competence and drive. Unfortunately, many of them were chased out during President Petro Poroshenko's five years in office. Zelenskiy will find that the public is going to be less patient with him than with Poroshenko. Fair or not, the public mood is for fast and positive change. Zelenskiy's first moves better be the right ones.



NEWS ITEM: President-elect Volodymyr Zelenskiy and his campaign members have accused parliament and the Central Election Commission of trying to postpone his inauguration as much as possible. The commission and parliament members denied accusations. Zelenskiy was elected president on April 21. The deadline for his inauguration is June 2. The parliament will vote for an inauguration date during its next session week, on May 14-17. Meanwhile, oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky, who has business ties with Zelenskiy and members of his campaign, said he will return to Ukraine after the inauguration. Kolomoisky hasn't been to Ukraine since 2017 due to a conflict with Poroshenko.



NEWS ITEM: Despite losing the April 21 presidential election by a whopping 48 points, President Petro Poroshenko has been very optimistic about his political future. Talking to his supporters the day after the election, he said he was going to lead his party to win the parliamentary election in October 2019 and "return to the Presidential Administration on Bankova Street" in a year.



NEWS ITEM: When Russian government simplified getting Russian citizenship for Ukrainians living in the areas of eastern Ukraine occupied by Russian-led separatists, Ukrainian President-elect Volodymyr Zelenskiy denounced the

hostile move and offered reciprocation of a sort: to give Ukrainian citizenship to Russians who want to live in a free country.

# Kyiv Post

Adnan Kivan, Publisher

Brian Bonner, Chief Editor

Olga Rudenko, Deputy Chief Editor | Alyona Nevmerzhytska, Commercial Director

Matthew Kupfer, Jack Laurenson, News Editors. Ilya Timchenko, Business Editor  
 Staff Writers: Natalia Datskevych, Oksana Grytsenko, Gabriel Hardy-Françon, Vyacheslav Hnatyuk, Toma Istomina, Artur Kornienko, Igor Kossov, Denys Krasnikov, Illia Ponomarenko, Oleksiy Sorokin, Daria Shulzhenko, Oleg Sukhov, Bermet Talant  
 Washington, D.C., Correspondent: Askold Krushelnysky  
 Canadian Correspondent: Olena Goncharova  
 Grants Coordinator: Sevara Khamidova. KP Brand Studio Director: Jakub Parusinski  
 Website editors: Victoria Petrenko, Anastasia Shepeleva, Helen Mukhina  
 Photo Editor: Pavlo Podufalov. Cartoonist: Anatoliy Vasylenko.  
 Video Editors: Mariya Kapinos, Austin Malloy, Anna Yakutenko  
 Social Media Editor: Sofia Fedeczko  
 Photographers: Kostyantyn Chernichkin, Oleg Petrasniuk, Volodymyr Petrov  
 Chief Designer: Vladyslav Zakharenko

Sales Managers: Yulia Kovalenko, Yulia Krus, Vita Shvets, Elena Symonenko  
 Designer: Yura Borovik  
 Transport Manager: Mykola Andrusha  
 Office Manager: Olena Doskich  
 Chief Accountant: Galyna Bondarchuk  
 Accountant: Olena Nazarenko  
 Subscription Manager: Iryna Oparina  
 IT Managers: Oleksiy Bondarchuk, Oleksandr Slipachenko  
 Digital Strategy: Anton Nedzvedsky  
 Website Developer: Roman Kryvenko

To inquire about distribution of the Kyiv Post, please contact Iryna Oparina at [subscribe@kyivpost.com](mailto:subscribe@kyivpost.com) or by phone at 591-3344

See these features online at [Kyivpost.com](http://Kyivpost.com)

## Reformer & Anti-Reformer Of The Week



**Yevhenia Zakrevska**  
 Lawyer praised for her work, suggested for job of prosecutor general



**Yuriy Lutsenko**  
 Prosecutor general fails at his job, obstructs case against presidential allies

## VOX populi:

Should Ukraine have fewer official holidays?

Feel strongly about an issue? Agree or disagree with editorial positions in this newspaper?

The Kyiv Post welcomes letters to the editors and opinion pieces, usually 800 to 1,000 words in length. Please email all correspondence to Brian Bonner chief editor, at [bonner@kyivpost.com](mailto:bonner@kyivpost.com). All correspondence must include an email address and contact phone number for verification.



The 200 members of

## **The U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC)**

express their sincere appreciation to

**MARIE L. YOVANOVITCH**

United States Ambassador to Ukraine



for her dedicated and distinguished service in support of  
the U.S. and international business community  
2016 - 2019.

## **U.S.-UKRAINE BUSINESS COUNCIL (USUBC)**

A strong international voice for business in Ukraine

Promoting U.S.-Ukraine business relations since 1995

Washington, D.C.

[www.usubc.org](http://www.usubc.org)





# World in Ukraine

**Editor's Note:** World in Ukraine takes a look at Ukraine's bilateral relations with different nations. All articles are written independently from advertisers. To sponsor this news feature, please contact the Kyiv Post's sales team at [advertising@kyivpost.com](mailto:advertising@kyivpost.com) or call 591-7788.

In partnership with Wix

# Ukraine-Israel relations on the upswing, but challenges remain

BY MATTHEW KUPFER  
KUPFER@KYIVPOST.COM

On May 5, around 100 people packed into a screening room in the Kyiv Cinema to watch *From Slavery to Freedom*, a new documentary about Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky and his struggle for the right to emigrate to Israel.

They weren't just there for the film. They had also come to see Sharansky in person, ask him questions, and hear his views on Ukrainian and Jewish ties.

And the attendees weren't just film and history buffs. They also included (briefly) President Petro Poroshenko, prominent Jewish Ukrainians, and even Crimean Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev and Ukrainian politician Stepan Khmara — both Sharansky's fellow Soviet dissidents.

The film showing effectively launched the Kyiv Jewish Forum, a major conference marking 20 years since the founding of the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine, an organization led by Borys Lozhkin, Poroshenko's former Chief of Staff.

Clearly well-financed and -connected, the conference brought together international Jewish leaders, Israeli lawmakers, and prominent Ukrainian officials — a show of Jewish-Ukrainian friendship likely unseen in the country's post-independence history.

It also came as relations between Ukraine and Israel grow closer. In January, the two governments signed a free trade agreement. Every year, hundreds of thousands of tourists travel between the two countries, which are also connected by historical, family, and cultural ties.

Disagreements, both political and historical, still remain. But after the EuroMaidan Revolution of 2014 — which has united Ukrainians of different backgrounds around common goals of democracy and European integration — Jews and Ukrainians find themselves on the same side. And as the war with Russia continues to simmer, Ukrainians increasingly view Israel's experience of development despite external security threats as a model for them.

The Kyiv Jewish Forum is one more manifestation of this development. And it was a local initiative, Israeli Ambassador Joel Lion told the Kyiv Post in an interview on May 2, just a few days before the forum.

"That's what is something big and new," Lion said. "It's the organization of the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine."

## Israeli-Ukrainian ties

In Jewish circles, Ukraine has traditionally not enjoyed the best reputation. The country is associated with



Israeli Ambassador Joel Lion speaks with the Kyiv Post in his office on May 2, 2019, several days before the Kyiv Jewish Forum. (Oleg Petrasniuk)

Bohdan Khmelnytskyi, during whose 1648–1657 uprising against the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth tens of thousands of Jews were killed.

During World War II, some Ukrainians collaborated with the Nazis and engaged in ethnic cleansing of the local Jewish and Polish populations.

At that time, Ukraine's nationalist movements viewed the Nazis as an opportunity to liberate their country from centuries of Russian rule. For this reason, some of these individuals, like nationalist leaders Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych, are currently recognized as freedom fighters and heroes in Ukraine.

None of this is beneficial for Kyiv's relations with Israel.

But there is another way of looking at ties between the countries. It is unlikely that the modern state of Israel would exist today without Ukraine. Many of its founding fathers, most prominent writers, and important leaders were born in what is today Ukraine.

Vladimir Ze'ev Jabotinsky, a Russian-language writer and journalist who advanced the cause of a Jewish state, was born in Odesa and raised in the vibrant, multi-cultural milieu of the fabled pre-Soviet port city. Hayim Nahman Bialik, Israel's national poet, was born in what is today Zhytomyr Oblast.

Israel's second and fourth prime ministers, Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir, were born in Kyiv Oblast and the city of Kyiv, respectively. And Meir Dizengoff — the first mayor of Tel Aviv, today the seat of Israel's largest metropolitan area — lived many years of his life in Odesa.

In other words, the people who

founded Israel were neighbors and sometimes friends of Ukrainians' great-grandparents, and deeply influenced — for better or worse — by the societies they emerged from.

Ukraine is also a place of tremendous Jewish history, where many Jewish sages lived and are buried. The graves of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov in the city of Uman and of the Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Hasidism, in Medzhybizh village attract tens of thousands of pilgrims each year.

Ukrainians are increasingly aware of these ties, Ambassador Lion says.

When he made his first official visit to Odesa in April, Lion found that the local leadership wants to attract visitors and develop the tourism potential of the surrounding region — including with the help of Israel.

"One of the ideas they have is to attract investors," Lion said. "And Israelis could be investing in this kind of thing because we are pretty well invested in tourism."

Cultural ties are also important. While in Odesa, Lion attended a concert by Israeli violin virtuoso Shlomo Mintz, which was organized by Nativ, Israel's cultural agency. The next major Israeli musical event in Ukraine will be of a different nature: pop singer Netta Barzilai, the winner of the 2018 Eurovision Song Contest, will perform in the Atlas Weekend music festival in Kyiv in July.

And historical ties pave the way to other connections. During a visit to Odesa Mechnikov State University, Lion discussed opportunities for international cooperation with Israeli universities and spoke with students and faculty. One of the subjects of

conversation was Mordechai Namir, Tel Aviv's fourth mayor and an alum of the university.

"In the modern history of Israel, there are the ties, and they know it," he told the Kyiv Post. "They feel it and they know it."

Such ties are clearly advantageous for Ukraine. Israel is a global center of the IT industry. Meanwhile, Ukraine is a country that produces many programmers and whose IT sector is rapidly growing.

This has led Israeli IT companies seeking qualified workers to turn to Ukraine. And with over a million Israelis who are immigrants from the former Soviet Union — and around two million Israelis who speak Russian — it isn't difficult to find a common language.

The free trade agreement between Israel and Ukraine, signed by Poroshenko and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in January, is yet another step toward improving bilateral cooperation.

There has, however, been a slight snag. While the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has approved the draft law on the agreement for ratification, in December the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, voted to dissolve the government. That made ratifying the agreement temporarily impossible.

On April 9, the country held snap elections. Now, as the victorious Netanyahu works to form a new coalition, ratifying the document appears increasingly doable. Lion addressed this issue during a panel at the Kyiv Jewish Forum.

"I will ask my friends from the Knesset who are here: Guys, you have to ratify this agreement as soon as possible," he said from the stage.

"Push it... because we want it to enter into force."

That agreement is "only a base for our businesses to know one another," Lion said. And, indeed, in its current form, the document only applies to goods. But it creates a foundation for trade and, potentially, expanding the agreement to cover services too.

The Ukrainian side is also enthusiastic about greater ties with Israel.

During the forum, Ukrainian lawmaker Georgii Logvynskyi, who chairs the group for inter-parliamentary relations with Israel, noted that Israel was founded by people who emigrated from Ukraine.

"These people...were our Ukrainian investment in Israel. We gave our best people. It's the best thing that could happen," he said. "And now, my dear respected friends, we are waiting for our dividends."

## Work to be done

But not everything is smooth sailing in the Ukrainian-Israeli relationship. There are still political and historical disagreements that need to be addressed.

Recently, migration issues have proven a particular challenge. Since 2011, Ukraine and Israel have had a visa-free regime. Around 300,000 Israelis come to Ukraine and 160,000 Ukrainians visit Israel annually.

But Ukraine is a poor country with a struggling economy. The average monthly wage is around \$350. Meanwhile, in Israel, that monthly income is closer to \$2,900. This makes the country an attractive destination for illegal migrant workers.

Border security is generally high in Israel. That, combined with increased scrutiny due to migration concerns, means that Ukrainian travelers arriving at Ben Gurion Airport have frequently been subjected to intense security screenings and interrogations that they find demeaning. A significant number have even been denied entry into Israel and deported back to Ukraine.

On several occasions Ukrainian officials — Education Minister Lilia Grinevych and even Logvynskyi himself — have almost not been allowed into Israel.

The issue came to a head in February and March, when the two countries denied entry to several groups of tourists in what was widely regarded as escalating acts of protest against the other's actions. At the peak of this confrontation, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry threatened to pull out of the visa-free agreement.

According to Ambassador Lion, the illegal migration problem is real: around 27,000 Ukrainian citizens have overstayed their visa-free peri-

# Israel ambassador calls for more education about Holocaust in Ukraine

Ambassador from page 6

od. "For a country of eight million people, it's a huge number," he told the Kyiv Post.

Beyond simple illegal migration, criminal groups trafficking young women into Israel for prostitution are another concern, he said.

But Lion says that the threat to end visa-free was not serious, and that now both governments are actively working to resolve the issue. "I hope that now we are finding in our dialogue a *modus vivendi*," he said.

But there is likely a lot more work to be done.

The issue has been raised on the level of presidents and prime ministers, and the countries' migration services, foreign ministries, and ambassadors are all working on it, Israeli lawmaker Yoel Razvozov said during a discussion at the Kyiv Jewish Forum.

"We are working, but it's hard to expect results soon," he said. "Still I hope we can accomplish it."

## Burden of history

Despite the migration challenges, bilateral relations remain warm, and Israel has taken a principled stance in support of Ukraine's territorial integ-

rity. Lion notes that this is not easy for the Israeli government, which has Russia right on its border in Syria.

But there is a challenge in Ukrainian-Israeli relations that cuts to the core of another of Israel's principled positions: the issue of historical memory. Israel — and many Jewish organizations — disapprove of Ukraine's glorification of nationalist figures like Stepan Bandera, whom historians implicate in violence against Jews.

Lion himself has been particularly vocal in his criticism of Ukraine's decision to treat these figures' heroism as beyond question.

The issue is personal for him. Members of his family were killed in the Holocaust, including two great-grandparents, who both hailed from western Ukraine and were killed in Kamianests-Podilsky — today in Khmelnytskyi Oblast — in 1941.

The election of Volodymyr Zelenskiy on April 21 could potentially signal a modest retreat on this issue. Zelenskiy, who is of Jewish descent, appears to take a milder position on cultural issues that were given precedence under Poroshenko — language, religion, and attitudes toward the World War II-era nationalists. But it is difficult to predict whether this

will change Kyiv's historical memory policies.

Lion says that the embassy has consistently pressed the Ukrainian government to rethink its position on this issue on every level and in every consultation it has.

"In our eyes, a person who is wearing a Nazi German uniform — it doesn't matter what he did or what he hasn't done — he was a part of the army of the Third Reich," he told the Kyiv Post.

"We cannot be silent. We are the State of Israel," he added. "We are the voice of the ones who are not here to raise their voices."

Lion says he would like Ukraine to teach both sides of its history, showing that, while the nationalists were patriots, they were also part of the Nazi regime.

"Ukraine should rethink how the country deals with the past..." he said. "I'm not telling anyone whom he has to choose for a hero. But I think if you chose somebody you have to teach everything about them."

More broadly, Lion feels Ukraine needs more education on the Holocaust. He believes Ukraine should build a museum at Babyn Yar, the site of the murder of over 33,000 Jews in September 1941 and



At the Kyiv Jewish Forum on May 6, (L to R) Ukrainian lawmaker Georgii Logvynskiy, Ukrainian Deputy Finance Minister Sergeii Varlanov, Israeli Ambassador Joel Lion, Israeli lawmaker Yoel Razvozov, and Knesset Director-General Albert Sakharovich discuss Ukrainian-Israeli bilateral relations and migration issues. (Volodymyr Petrov)

over 100,000 more Jews and others subsequently.

But the problem of education is not unique to Ukraine. Around the world, people are struggling to find ways to teach the Holocaust as fewer survivors remain to tell their stories.

Most recently, a new project called *Eva Stories* transformed the diary of Eva Heyman, a 13-year-old girl who was killed by the Nazis, into short videos for Instagram. Funded and directed by Israeli businessman Mati Kochavi and his daughter Maya, it sought to teach the Holocaust to the social media generation.

The project's videos were also shot in Lviv using Ukrainian actors — many of whom found the film a learning experience.

"They didn't understand quite well what the Jews went through..." Lion said. "By being actors in the movie, they learned about the Holocaust."

But even with more education, historical memory will likely remain challenging. It is also politically meaningful and emotional for the Ukrainian side.

During the May 5 showing of *From Slavery to Freedom*, Yevhen Chervonenko, a former Zaporizhia Oblast governor, asked dissident Sharansky about how Ukrainian Jews should react to the glorification of Ukrainian nationalists.

After Sharansky gave a cautious and measured response, Poroshenko stood up to give his answer.

"We must slip out from the blinders of Soviet and Russian propaganda and not spread fakes that will poison the history of the Ukrainian and Jewish peoples," he said.

After briefly praising his administration's efforts to commemorate Babyn Yar, Poroshenko left the theater. ■

Advertisement

## Wix is committed to Kyiv

Within Wix.com's Ukraine offices sit two critically important teams for the company — a product development team and a customer support team. The importance of these teams is best demonstrated by the relationship they have with one another.

Wix, the leading cloud-web development platform, was founded on the belief that anyone should have the ability to own their presence online. Twelve years ago, it was started with a Flash website builder and has transformed into a development platform that allows for modern design, advanced business tools and web application development.

The transformation of the company and the product offering lies directly between the product development and customer service teams. By listening to Wix's customers, we are able to build a forward-looking platform that is responsive to user needs. This is done by creating a product cycle that surfaces customer requests, includes face-to-face interviews with users and product managers and makes sure what is needed gets added to product roadmaps.

Development is not only done based on issues that arise in support tickets. Wix teams rely on the deep knowledge of the industry — relying on a staff which is over half R&D to anticipate user needs or innovate products new in the market. This approach has allowed innovations that leapfrog the market like an artificial intelligence based website builder, a wide breadth of business verticals and by far the best drag-and-drop interface for design on the web.

Wix was founded and is still based in Israel, with offices in 14 locations around the world. Locations like New York City, Vilnius, Dublin and two here in Ukraine — Kyiv and Dnipro. Right now, there are over 2,400 employees globally working on making the best plat-



Wix's ukrainian office

form for owning a web presence and building a business.

Starting in 2011, Wix started to build our presence in Ukraine, starting with Dnipro and in 2016 in Kyiv. Expanding to Ukraine was a strategic choice for us because we knew that it offered a strong technology skill set that was ready to be quickly folded into the company. Wix relies on the staff in Ukraine for research, design, user experience and intelligence as well as customer solution.

One of the first employees in Ukraine, Nikita, tells the story of the office. When he was hired in 2011 as a QA Engineer, it was with two other designers and before any official office. With many trips in the first months to Tel Aviv for onboarding, the team started to grow — quickly.

Starting with only 20 employees, the staff in Kyiv was quickly ramped up to nearly 400. This shows our commitment to building Ukraine into an important part of the company and how impressed we have been with the quality of technology talent available.

Nikita also shows the growth possible for employees. He says, "Throughout these almost 8 years my position evolved from QA Engineer to QA Team Leader and then to QA Guild Manager. I'm more focused on people now, making sure they grow professionally and have all the knowledge and tools to assure quality of Wix Products. One thing that hasn't changed over the years is my absolute feeling that this is the greatest company to be at in all aspects."

While the company may be an established global presence and a mature player in the space, the culture in the office is that of a start-up. Where experimentation, innovation and a habit of teamwork is valued.

Wix has a global reach that informs the development of the platform. From the beginning, it was founded with a diverse and global audience in mind. This allows the development teams to solve challenging issues like developing an ecommerce solution that meets the needs of American, Brazilian and French business owners.

At its core, that is what Wix is. A flexible, robust and advanced platform for business owners, developers and designers around the world. The platform strives to meet the needs of a personal blogger, a fashion photographer and a multi-million-dollar business. Right now, there are Wix websites that were built with a platform that has been translated into 17 languages and used in over 190 countries. Few companies were started with that kind of reach in mind but working at Wix means thinking globally from the start when creating.

This do-it-yourself ethos is why Wix was started. The idea that everyone should be able to easily get online and control their pres-



Wix workers in Kyiv

ence. When it was founded, the only way anyone could was either extensive training in coding or having the money to pay someone else.

Since then, Wix has only increased what it offers. There is an advanced blogging interface so anyone who wishes to share their writing can — or to create a multi-author online publication. The ecommerce platform is the backbone for hobbyists looking to make some money on the side to businesses with thousands of customers that bring in millions in revenue. Management products like *Ascend* help businesses converse with their customers and grow their business with sophisticated marketing techniques.

So working at Wix gives valued experience into the world of building for the web while also providing the space to try new things. There is a satisfaction that is gained from talking one-on-one with a customer and turning their requests into a feature used by millions. With over 150 million registered users worldwide, there is no shortage of insight gained from a video call with a user.

Kyiv teams have already been integrated into the most critical product teams at Wix. Some of the latest innovations from Wix relied heavily on the development teams located here to meet deadlines and get products ready for launch. They are integrated with teams in Tel Aviv and around the world that are working every day to make creating for the web easier.

Looking towards the future, we will continue to grow our presence here. Right now, we have over 100 open positions with an overall goal of 600 by the end of the year. We need people with backgrounds in mobile development, business intelligence, user experience, visual design, and more.

**Wix.com**

# Ukrainian Jews find both refuge, exile in Israel

BY SAM SOKOL

**JERUSALEM**— In late 2014, Russian newspaper Izvestia reported that the Ukrainian nationalist organization Right Sector had “declared war” on the Jews of Odesa, beating 20 people across the city. It was a blatant falsehood, but not a surprising one.

During the first two years of the conflict, Russian media produced a steady stream of fake news about Ukrainian Jewry, with Kremlin-controlled outlets reporting on everything from putative Ukrainian pogroms to the supposed closure of Jewish schools and newspapers.

One of the recurrent leitmotifs of Russia’s disinformation campaign was the claim that Ukrainian Jews were fleeing en masse due to anti-Semitism. There was, in fact, no mass exodus. Ironically, however, Russia’s apidly escalating war in the Donbas did result in the scattering of local Jewish communities.

Alongside war, poor economic conditions have driven many Ukrainians to seek greener pastures elsewhere, often in Poland or other countries of continental Europe. But a significant number of Ukrainian Jews have chosen a different destination: the state of Israel.

While they usually find respite from the war in Donbas, for many the adjustment is far from easy.

## The ‘Russian diaspora’

By and large, Israel is an attractive destination for many Ukrainian Jews. It is the home of one of the largest Russian-speaking communities in the world — more than a million Israelis are emigres from Ukraine, Russia and other post-Soviet states — and offers automatic citizenship and resettlement to anyone with at least one Jewish grandparent.

Historically, many of the country’s founding fathers were Russian-speaking Jews. Following the fall of the Soviet Union, Israel engaged in a sustained effort to bring over as many Soviet Jews as possible. It boasts a vibrant Russian-language press and, in some cities like Haifa, Russian can be heard as often as Hebrew on the streets. All this seemingly makes it an appealing place to build a new life.

During the first several years of the conflict in Ukraine, immigration to Israel — known in Hebrew as making aliyah — rose and fell in sync with the ebb and flow of conflict. When things got worse, more Jews came. In total, 32,772 Ukrainians have migrated to Israel since 2013, according to data provided by the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption.

But new arrivals from Ukraine face challenges. A large proportion do not qualify as Jewish under Orthodox religious law, even though they are considered Jewish for the purposes of immigration.

This means that many of the newcomers will eventually face significant barriers when they attempt to marry through the state-controlled Rabbinate, which holds a monopoly over marriage and divorce. Many



Israelis greet a group of immigrants from Ukraine at Ben Gurion Airport in 2014. Since 2013, 32,772 Ukrainian citizens have immigrated to Israel according to the country’s Ministry of Immigrant Absorption. (Sam Sokol)

locals get around such regulations by marrying abroad, often in Cyprus. Such marriages are subsequently recognized by the Interior Ministry, if not by the religious authorities.

There are already several hundred thousand Israeli citizens who fall into this legal grey zone, prompting calls from politicians like Soviet-born Israeli lawmaker Avigdor Liberman, who represents a primarily Russian-speaking constituency, for religious reforms.

According to ITIM, a local NGO that assists Israelis in dealing with the rabbinate, many Russian-speakers here are “caught in a bureaucratic void, unable to marry in State-sanctioned weddings, and to partake in other basic rights of Jewish citizenry.” This, the group stated, is “unacceptable, particularly given the dysfunctional and inadequate State conversion system, which converts a mere 2,000 Israeli citizens to Judaism each year.”

But the biggest obstacles are economic and professional.

“Many newcomers are people with professions, and for them it is not an easy task to find their place in Israel,” said Roman Polonsky, the head of the Russian-speaking department at the Jewish Agency, a quasi-governmental organization tasked with promoting and facilitating Jewish immigration.

“You have to take into account that they could make aliyah over the last thirty years and they didn’t and they built their personal and professional lives there and then had to abandon them,” he said. Those hardest hit are the immigrants in their forties who are “not old enough to get pensions” but too old to easily integrate into the local job market, especially given the difficulty of learning Hebrew at a later age.

“This is the most pressing challenge for immigrants from Ukraine: jobs,” he said. “If you are talking

about blue collar workers, they have more chances to find a job in Israel immediately.”

The security situation in Israel can also be a concern. But for many recent immigrants from Ukraine — particularly, those from the conflict zone — it is worse back home.

“They compare the situation in Israel to that in Ukraine and for them Israel is an island of stability, of prosperity,” Polonsky said.

“No doubt when they come, they have a lot of psychological difficulties, starting with language, but in general I can say they are very informed about the situation in Israel thanks to their relatives and friends here and the internet. They know about Iran and Hamas and it doesn’t scare them.”

In fact, one new immigrant told the Kyiv Post so explicitly, explaining that at least Israel has so-called Iron Dome anti-missile batteries that can knock down incoming rockets.

According to Benny Hadad, who runs immigration efforts for the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, an American-Israeli non-profit group, even though many newcomers have gone through extremely stressful experiences in Ukraine, “we don’t see anything different in the people coming from [the Donbas] in terms of absorption. Psychiatric issues aren’t the top priority for many of the newcomers.”

Agreeing with Polonsky, he said that “language and jobs and other things are the top priorities for them.”

## Immigrant struggle

Sitting at a table in a sidewalk cafe on Jerusalem’s busy downtown Jaffa Road, Anastasia and Katrin sat sipping their drinks and chatting in steady stream of Russian peppered with Hebrew. From Donetsk and Sevastopol respectively, the pair met in Israel and became friends.

Both asked that their surnames be withheld to protect family living in Russian-controlled regions.

Anastasia, a member of the Donetsk Jewish community, came in 2014 and settled in Jerusalem. She said that her transition to Israeli life wasn’t overly difficult because she had already been thinking of making the move before the war erupted. It was harder for her parents.

“They had to uproot and make large changes, and when you’re later in life it’s harder to give up possessions. They had to leave their apartment and start fresh without language and skills,” she explained, sipping her coffee. “For me, (it’s) not my first time living abroad so the transition was smoother.”

While her parents’ move was jarring at first, she said that their decision to move to the city of Carmiel, which boasts a significant Russian-speaking community, meant that “they didn’t really have to adjust to the surroundings.”

For Anastasia’s family, it was the Russian-speakers from previous waves of immigration who posed one of the hardest challenges. They made fun of her mother’s dreams and told her that she would “never find a good job,” Anastasia said.

While her mother soon found work as a quality assurance engineer in a factory producing jet turbines, lingering doubts about life in Israel remained. Her non-Jewish father, on the other hand, quickly acclimated to life in Israel.

“He’s a happy camper,” Anastasia said. “I never saw him happier than here. He’s the biggest Zionist in the family and wears an Israeli flag pin on his jacket.”

For her part, Anastasia said that she isn’t particularly happy here, citing cultural barriers. Israelis generally have less respect for personal space and privacy and tend to be more outspoken than their

Ukrainian counterparts, something that has caused resentment among some immigrants.

It’s a “less cultured country,” she explained, adding that the intersection of religion and state here can cause problems for the overwhelmingly secular Russian-speaking community. “I’m very much opposed to the fact that all the shops are closed [on the Sabbath] and the government is telling me what to spend my money on on my hard-earned day off.”

Katrin largely agrees with Anastasia, telling the Kyiv Post that she had similar issues, especially when it came to dealing with the strikingly different cultural norms here. But she sees “no future” back in Ukraine, she added.

## Donbas legacy

Like Anastasia and Katrin, Chana Zlobin is ambivalent about life in the Middle East.

Only 16 when the war started, Zlobin fled Luhansk with her mother, ending up in a refugee center in Zhytomyr run by the Chabad Hasidic Jewish movement. By 2015, she was studying at a religious seminary in Israel but moved back to Ukraine, where she met and married her husband, himself an internally displaced person from Donetsk.

However, after a year that she described as one of the best in her life, they decided to return to Israel so that she could finish her degree. She now lives with her husband and three month-old son in the port city of Ashdod on the Mediterranean coast.

Things were initially tough financially, although her father, who remained in Luhansk, helped out by sending money to Israel, she said. Eventually, her husband, who does not speak Hebrew, found a job in a company run by Russian-speaking Israelis. While things are tight, she believes that, financially, there are more opportunities in Israel than in Ukraine.

“We chose to move here because it is the only state that pays and helps [Jews to] come,” she explained. “We had no money because of the war and no possibility to sell an apartment or car for money to start here. I really want to go back to Ukraine, [but] I understand that here there are more opportunities to make a living and build a life.”

Chana, who describes herself as a Ukrainian patriot and a reluctant emigre, said that people from the Donbas take flak from other Russian-speakers no matter what they do.

“People don’t understand what’s happening and it hurts when they say ‘you don’t love Ukraine and so you left.’ Sorry, but you don’t get it,” she said. “There was a war there and I could have been in the ground. I know a woman who always says ‘you left so you love Russia and your father is still there and he also loves Russia.’ I don’t speak about politics and the situation there.

“The problem is that most people only know the news from Russian television.” ■



# Israeli tech scene sets example for Ukraine

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV  
KRASNIKOV@KYIVPOST.COM

Israel has been dubbed a “startup nation,” something Ukraine is also aspiring to.

But the gap between the nations’ information technology sectors is still substantial: in 2019, Israel was ranked the world’s fifth most innovative country by the Bloomberg Innovation Index. Ukraine is 53rd.

Luckily for Ukraine, however, there is a chance to learn from the Israelis, one of the world’s most technologically literate populations, for they are coming here to set up businesses. According to the Israeli Embassy in Ukraine, their high-tech firms employ as many as 15,000 local tech people, from software engineers to code writers and developers.

Yael Group has just recently become one of them. The company has acquired Ukrainian software outsourcing firm Acceptic, making its first investment into the local IT sector, but hoping to invest “a few million dollars more” in the future.

“We would like to have Ukraine as our main development hub,” Dror Marom, a chief financial officer at Yael Group, told the Kyiv Post. “This is just an initial investment, we need to see how it works here before investing further.”

Although he’s a newcomer to the local action, Marom is sure that combined Ukraine and Israel can contribute a lot to the world’s IT.

“Together we are much stronger as a startup nation than just Israel by itself,” he said.

Marom thinks Israel has already outgrown its tech capacity and now it must expand to other countries. There is a lot of investment coming into Israel’s tech sector, but the nation’s problem is now to digest it and scale up, according to him. Growing, Israeli IT firms need to find talented tech people, and Ukraine has plenty.

“Ukraine is about a mix of skill sets; the breadth and depth of development skills that can be found here,” he said.

“Convenient geography” and the ability to travel fast between Israel and Ukraine is another advantage for Marom. There are four direct 3-hour flights every day between Kyiv and Tel Aviv.

Besides, Marom sees that IT is becoming important for both nations: they invest more in IT, in technical universities.

“IT has much to offer to both countries. And it also means that we – Israelis and Ukrainians – have a shared future,” Marom said.

## Not scared by Russia

Considering investment in Ukraine, Yael Group wasn’t put off by Russia’s war against Ukraine in the country’s eastern Donbas region.

“It was less of a concern to us,” Marom said. “Maybe it’s about our mentality, about our day-to-day life, which might be a bit similar to what you guys are going through in Ukraine.”

“And in Israel,” he went on, “sometimes we have some kind of uprising and military tension. It must be,



Employees of Israeli-Ukrainian startup Ignite work in their company's Kyiv office on May 6, 2019. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

we’re used to it and so less scared of (the war) than the other countries.”

Something else is more challenging than the war – understanding the processes and regulations, Marom said. Yael Group buys 2–3 companies every year, but it had never bought a Ukrainian company before. So naturally it took time to figure out the recruitment market, how to report financials, and transfer money, he said.

“So it wasn’t about fear, we were just learning the market. Once we felt comfortable, we invested.”

## No chasing Israel

Another Israeli tech employer is Ignite, a “classic outsourcer.” With Israeli founder and CEO Aviram Eisenberg, this company has been working between Israel and Ukraine for 10 years.

Sergey Kravets, a spokesperson and head of sales at Ignite, says this Israeli-Ukrainian firm is a “symbiosis of Israeli experience and Ukrainian IT development expertise.”

The company employs 200 people across two offices: in Kyiv (70 percent) and in Zhytomyr (30 percent). Only four people work from Israel, where the company has a legal entity and a registered headquarters. But most of its clients are from Israel.

Kravets enjoys working with Israeli management for the speed of making decisions and the simplified business processes.

“A quick phone conversation is enough to make a decision for our Israeli management. And if it’s a deal, the next morning everybody is up and doing something. This is a good trait for business,” he said.

Kravets believes Ukraine has much to learn from Israel, especially on how to attract foreign capital into the country. Israeli tech startups raised \$6 billion in 2018, while according to auditor Deloitte and local tech association UVCA, Ukrainian tech companies raised just \$336 million.

The reason, according to him, is that Israel has managed to create favorable conditions for startups to appear by heavily investing state money into science.

Now it is paying dividends: Israel counts 140 scientists and technicians per 10,000 employees, one of the highest ratios in the world. In comparison, there are 85 per 10,000 in

the United States and 83 per 10,000 in Japan.

But Kravets is sure there’s no point in chasing Israel.

“They are too advanced, comparing with Ukraine. Israel makes commodities that they sell the world over. Meanwhile, Ukraine is more of the maker of raw materials for the world,” he said. “We make very little of our own.”

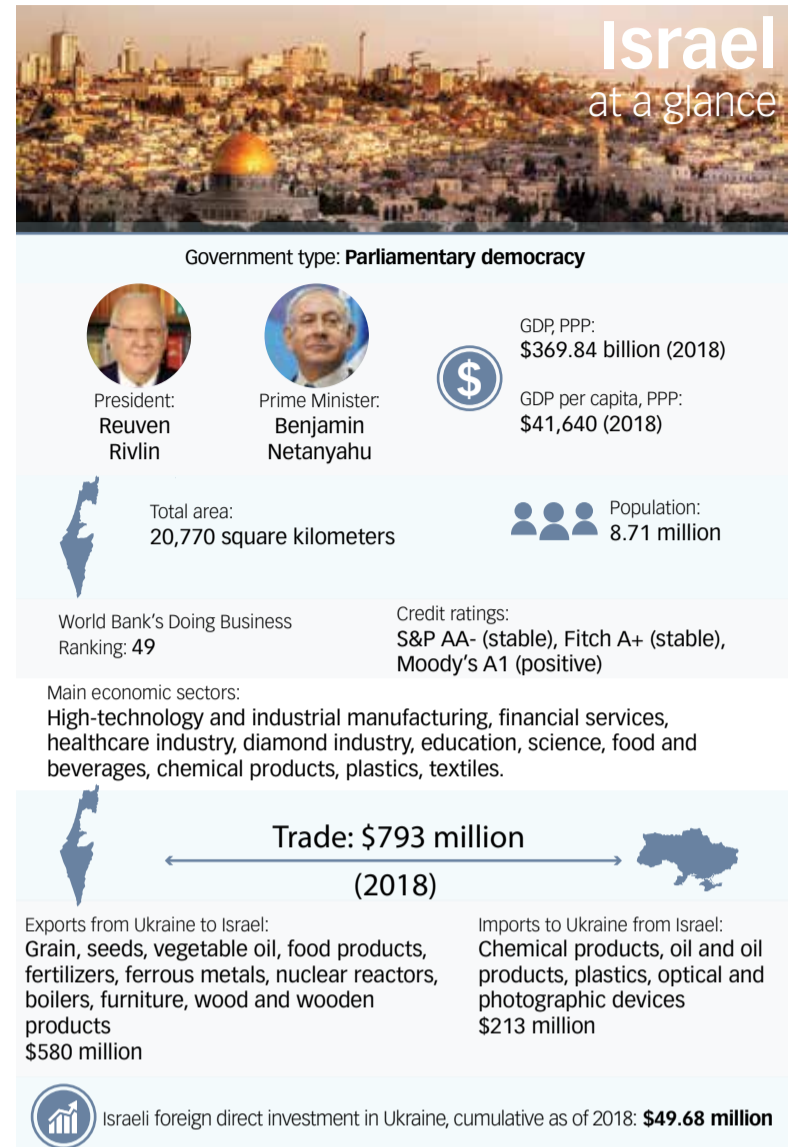
He points that Israel has four times less population than Ukraine, only 8 million people, but this country has currently 6,000 tech startups – the world’s second by the number. And about 1,400 startups pop up in Israel every year.

“They rely on producing their own. We, so far, have been satisfied with crumbles,” he said. “But the two countries look into the direction of innovations and technologies. So it’s easy for us to work together and find common ground.”

Concrete steps for Ukraine would be trying to learn from Israel, Kravets added.

## Kindred spirits

Ambassador of Israel to Ukraine Joel



Lion has been working in Ukraine for almost one year. Over this time, he has noticed that Ukrainians and Israelis have a similar mentality, indeed.

“They are compatible – one understands what the other wants,” Lion told the Kyiv Post. He admits, however, that Israeli tech firms come for something more than kindred spirits – they come for skilled yet cheap labor. But he is still sure it’s a “win-win” scenario.

“Our people are coming here to find resources for (lower) salaries than they would have paid in Israel, and for the same quality of work,” he said. “Now for the Ukrainians, it gives an opportunity to work from home, not to leave

your home to do the job that you want to do. And to have a better salary.”

Generally, Israelis see great potential in working together with Ukrainians in IT, according to Marom from Yael Group.

“The Israeli strength is investors’ money that is coming into our companies and a number of ideas that are being initiated. Ukraine’s strength, in turn, is an ability to scale up, supplying software developers,” Marom said.

“So we are complementing one another.”

*The Kyiv Post’s technology coverage is sponsored by Ciklum and NIX Solutions. The content is independent of the donors. ■*

**Kyiv Post in its MAY 24 issue**

**will focus on TRANSFER PRICING**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **EUCON LEGAL GROUP**

**TRANSFER PRICING**

To advertise, contact us at +38 044 591 77 88 or [advertising@kyivpost.com](mailto:advertising@kyivpost.com)

# 5 books with insight into Ukrainian-Jewish history

BY MATTHEW KUPFER  
KUPFER@KYIVPOST.COM

There would be no modern Ukraine without Jews. And there would be no State of Israel without Ukraine.

This should be a truism. Yet, for many in the 21st century, the tie is not immediately obvious. Often, Ukraine is remembered as a place where Jews were killed, both by Bohdan Khmelnytskyi in the 17th century and by Adolf Hitler's Nazis and local collaborators in the 20th.

Meanwhile, fewer recognize that many of the founding fathers of Israel came from what is today Ukraine. Many are unaware that Zionism and Ukrainian nationalism both emerged as national liberation movements for minorities in the Russian Empire.

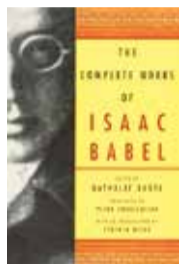
Few know that Vladimir Ze'ev Jabotinsky — the founder of revisionist Zionism and the spiritual father of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party — was a Russian-language writer from Odesa who viewed Jews and Ukrainians as allies in the struggle for democratization in the empire.

Often, the hard facts of history obscure the lives lived amid its cataclysmic events. The following are five books — both novels and

memoirs — that offer a unique and engaging window into Jewish history in Ukraine from the late 19th century to the present.

## 1. The Complete Works of Isaac Babel

By Isaac Babel, translated by Peter Constantine, published by W.W. Norton & Company (2002). Available on Amazon.com.



Isaac Babel was one of the greatest writers of the early Soviet period, a man whose important contribution to world literature was cut short by his 1940 murder in the Stalinist purges.

Born in Odesa in 1894, he grew up in the city's storied Moldavanka neighborhood. Babel would describe and mythologize Moldavanka in his "Odessa Tales," which tell the stories of the neighborhood's Jewish gangsters and, particularly, mob boss Benya Krik.

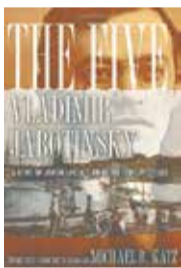
Babel is also renowned for "Red Cavalry," a fictional account of his experiences covering the Polish-Soviet War of 1920. Although Babel was a pro-Soviet writer, his works

are far from propaganda, offering a nuanced and realistic look at the horrors of war — including anti-Semitic violence committed by both the Red and White armies. "Red Cavalry" is also the tale of a bespectacled Jewish intellectual's personal adaptation to the brutalities of war.

Readers also should not ignore Babel's "early stories," which humanely depict life in Odesa and beyond. Of particular merit are the stories "Mama, Rimma, and Alla," which deals with a teenage pregnancy, and "Elya Isaakovich and Margarita Prokofievna," which tells of the relationship between a Jewish merchant from Odesa and a Russian prostitute.

## 2. The Five: A Novel of Jewish Life in Turn-of-the-Century Odesa

By Vladimir Jabotinsky, translated by Michael R. Katz, published by Cornell University Press (2005). Available on Amazon.com in print



and for Kindle.

Today, Jabotinsky is mostly remembered as a political activist and the icon of Israel's Likud Party — a figure somewhat like Ronald Reagan for the U.S. Republican Party.

However, in his youth, Jabotinsky was one of the most acclaimed journalists and writers of the Russian Empire. First published in Russian in 1936, "The Five" tells the story of an Odesa-born Jewish journalist's acquaintance with the upper-middle class Milgrom family. It also traces the often tragic fates of the family's five children, as they grow up amid the tumultuous decline of the Russian Empire in the early 20th century.

While a work of fiction, "The Five" is deeply autobiographical, offering a window into Jabotinsky's youth. It is also his homage to the city of Odesa and the Jewish community that lived there when he was a young man. At several points in the novel — specifically when Jabotinsky describes the events of the 1905 revolution or a public gathering where a student delivers an anti-Semitic diatribe — the reader gets the sense that he or she is witnessing historical events not simply as they were written in the history books, but as the people of Odesa experienced them in reality.

## 3. From Odesa to Jerusalem

By Leon Majaro, translated by Simon Majaro, Majaro Publications (2010). Available on Amazon.com and for

Kindle, but can be read for free in its entirety on Google Books.

Memoirs are a complicated genre. At best, they present a captivating,

albeit highly subjective, view of history according to the people who lived it. At worst, they can be awkwardly amateurish and mundane, particularly when the author is not a professional writer.

"From Odesa to Jerusalem," the memoir of the late Israeli doctor Leon Majaro, strikes the perfect balance between these extremes, providing a panoramic view of life in turn-of-the-20th-century Odesa. Majaro's writing is unpretentious and anecdotal, deeply interesting, often humorous and never navel-gazey.

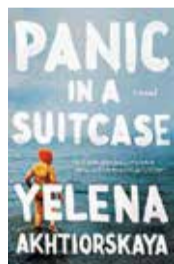
Born in 1892 as Lev Mojarowsky, Majaro grew up in an upwardly mobile middle-class Jewish family in Odesa. His father ran the printing facilities of the storied Odesskiye Novosti newspaper and was acquainted with Jabotinsky, one of its journalists.

The memoir begins with a description of Majaro's rather idyllic childhood. However, that is hardly the tone of the entire text: it also describes the 1905 pogrom, Majaro's service as a Russian army medic on the typhus-ravaged Turkish Front in World War I, and the events of the 1917 revolution. The post-1917 chaos would ultimately lead Majaro to leave Odesa for Palestine and tragically lose contact with his parents and sister, who stayed behind in the Soviet Union.

At times funny, touching, tragic, and always fascinating, "From Odesa to Jerusalem" is a must-read for anyone interested in Jewish, Ukrainian, Russian, or Odesan history. Readers owe a debt of gratitude to Majaro's son, Simon, for translating his father's memoir from Hebrew and making it available to the public.

## 4. Panic in a Suitcase

By Yelena Akhtiorskaya, published by Riverhead Books (2014). Available on Amazon.com and for Kindle.



Yelena Akhtiorskaya was born in Odesa in 1985 and immigrated with her family to the United States at the age of seven. She is also the niece of Russian-language Ukrainian poet Boris Khersonsky.

These details are important to understanding her debut novel "Panic in a Suitcase," which tells the story of the Nasmertovs, a family split between those who immigrated to Brooklyn's largely Russian speaking Brighton Beach neighborhood and those who stayed behind. Chief among the remainers is Pasha, a sickly poet who has chosen to convert from Judaism to Russian Orthodoxy.

If two of the previous books in this list were written by people who were separated from their families and pasts by emigration — Jabotinsky and Majaro — this one is about the mobility and divided identities of the 21st century. It chronicles two visits by

Pasha Nasmertov to New York City and one visit by his niece to Odesa.

More broadly, it looks at two facets of Jewish immigration from the former Soviet Union: those who built a photocopy of their old lives in Brighton Beach and those who stayed behind to live — perhaps more authentically — in Odesa.

## 5. When the Menorah Fades

By Zvi Preigerzon. Translated by Binyamin Shalom, to be published by Academic Studies Press later this year.



Finally, a book to look forward to. "When the Menorah Fades" was briefly published

in English independently in 2018. Now, that version is out of print, but Academic Studies Press will republish the novel later this year, according to the author's grandson, who leads the Zvi Preigerzon Foundation.

This is good news. Zvi Preigerzon's personal story is fascinating and his novel shows us Jewish life in Soviet Ukraine on the eve of the Holocaust.

Born in the western Ukrainian town of Shepetivka in 1900, Preigerzon received one year of education at the historic Herzliya Gymnasium in Tel Aviv, where he mastered the Hebrew language. Then, while Preigerzon was home on vacation, World War I erupted, stranding him in Ukraine.

Despite his desire to settle in the Holy Land, Preigerzon would never return there. Instead, he forged a career as a top scientist in Moscow, all the while secretly writing short stories and novels in Hebrew.

But that was a dangerous avocation in the USSR, where Hebrew was virtually a banned language. Preigerzon would later be arrested and spend over 5 years in a labor camp for his work.

"When the Menorah Fades" tells the story of several Jewish families in the Ukrainian city of Hadiach. It shows how Soviet secularism and social change slowly eroded their age-old traditions, how changing economic policies undermined their traditional trades, and how the local Jews coexisted with their Ukrainian neighbors. In particular, the novel presents a surprisingly frank — if somewhat indirect — depiction of desire and sexuality in the otherwise conservative environs of late 1930s Ukraine.

The menorah in question is an eternal flame that burns at the grave of Schneur Zalman of Liadi, the founder of the Chabad Hasidic movement. That flame is snuffed out only when the Nazis murder and drive out the Jews of Hadiach in the novel's conclusion.

But Preigerzon's work was not snuffed out. His family managed to preserve his archive when they emigrated from the Soviet Union to Israel. Now, one of his novels will even be available in English. ■

## Historical figures connecting Ukraine and Israel



**Vladimir Ze'ev Jabotinsky** (1880 – 1940) — Russian-language journalist, writer, and Zionist activist, born in Odesa



**Golda Meir** (1898 – 1978) — Israel's fourth prime minister, born in Kyiv



**Hayim Nahman Bialik** (1873 – 1934) — Israel's national poet, born in today's Zhytomyr Oblast



**Meir Dizengoff** (1861 – 1936) — first mayor of Tel Aviv, lived for many years in Odesa



**Levi Eshkol** (1895 – 1969) — Israel's second prime minister, born in today's Kyiv Oblast



**Rachel Bluwstein** (1890 – 1931) — prominent Hebrew-language poet, raised in Poltava, lived in Kyiv

# Softest pita, finest hummus as Adelle serves best of Tel Aviv



BY ARTUR KORNIENKO  
KORNIENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

You may feel like you are visiting a friend in Tel Aviv at Adelle – a new restaurant of Israeli cuisine in central Kyiv.

The friend leads you through the vibrant street food scene of the Mediterranean city, brings you home for a lush homemade meal with dessert and takes you out for an unexpected cocktail.

Such eats and drinks are available at Adelle in an interior that combines street elements like vintage posters and loudspeakers with home decor and assorted tableware. There is lots of Mediterranean greenery as well.

The latest in the restaurant chain owned by the Gusovsky brothers (Osteria Pantagruel, Pizzeria Napulè), Adelle opened on March 1 at 29 Velyka Vasylkivska St. It adds to the assortment of restaurants offering national cuisines on what is one the busiest dining streets in Kyiv.

Adelle is also just a two-minute walk from Lva Tolstoho Square and the metro station there. But having such a prime location, the restaurant has not yet become too busy. On a weekday afternoon, my colleague and I found a table with no reservations. Adelle has two floors and lots of seating.

There is no sign outside yet, but the place can be recognized by the huge white-framed windows bigger than the entrance doors. There is also the large house number 29 painted on the facade. Part of the entrance is also the vestibule with floor tiles featuring the Star of David.

But the first thing you see when you enter the restaurant proper are the wooden crates with fresh vegetables. There is eggplant that will be roasted on coal and served with feta cheese and tahini, a paste made from toasted sesame seeds. Tahini also complements the restaurant's baked sweet potato with Narsharab pomegranate sauce and thyme.

Also in the crates is the cauliflower that has become the restaurant's prized specialty, developed by its chef Alexey Krakovsky, who lived in Israel for over 15 years. My colleagues' friend said it was delicious: baked with tahini and sumac, a purple-red Middle-Eastern spice with a tart lemony flavor.

But we were in Adelle for the Tel Aviv gastronomic experience. Welcomed by at least five waiters (there's only so many "hellos" an introvert can take), we were seated on the second floor. There we could get a good look at the arched top of the restaurant's custom-made windows. They remind me of a lotus flower or the broad branches of a cedar tree.

I thought about Lebanon, where the cedar tree is the national emblem.



Kyiv's new Adelle restaurant offers the food of Tel Aviv. The restaurant's menu combines dishes of Israel, Lebanon, Turkey and other Mediterranean countries. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

**Adelle**  
29 Velyka Vasylkivska St.  
9 a.m.— 11 p.m.  
+38063132 7890

So I ordered a tabbouleh salad of finely chopped vegetables and greens that originated around that country. Adelle's version has quinoa instead of traditional bulgur and some black lentils – all served on a guacamole mousse. With diverse flavors and ample portion, this Hr 195 salad is close to being a full meal.

My colleague ordered a street food classic – a falafel pita sandwich for Hr 119. But the waiter misunderstood and served the falafel as a separate dish with tahini. This was the only blemish on the near-perfect service we were given at Adelle (that is, if you don't mind the corridor of "hellos"). Also a clear indicator of good service in Ukraine is free water at the tables, which Adelle has.

The waiter corrected his mistake by bringing a pita bread separately. But later we got charged extra for that pita.

My colleague then had a lamb kebab that comes with fried vegetables and hummus for Hr 248. This way we tried the triumvirate of Israeli street food at Adelle: falafel – succulent with cilantro, parsley and mint; pita – soft and spongy; hummus – the richest and creamiest I ever had.

I have less to say about the shawarma made of European bass fish for Hr 298, which was rather bland. The garnish of the preserved lemon yogurt, mango amba sauce and tomato foam did not save it for me. My colleague liked the kebab, though, that was "juicy and just the right amount of spicy."

While we waited for desserts, I contemplated the music – the often-overlooked element of the interior design. What you hear is some Israeli pop music, something I imagine you would find at the cafes of Tel Aviv. I'm not an expert, but

there may be some music in Arabic too. It adds to the atmosphere, provided the playlist gets updated often enough.

Anyway, any atmosphere can be improved with an alcoholic cocktail, of which Adelle's bar has 10 kinds, all for Hr 180. The specialty is the Promised Land cocktail that includes gin, orange liqueur and sherry. There are 12 kinds of wine, including the Israeli Mount Hermon Yarden red and white, each Hr 775 for a bottle.

For those having a sober lunch, the restaurant offers house-made sodas: cherry, tarragon and ginger. They are fermented without the addition

of stabilizers and syrup.

Despite us being quite full, the desserts were a welcomed treat. Adelle's Malakota, the mix of the muhallebi milk pudding and the Italian panna cotta, is a nice fluffy dessert with raspberries for Hr 125. But if you want something more filling, try the tahini and white chocolate mousse for Hr 185. It's full of crumble cookies, mango coulis and berries.

Overall, Adelle is not cheap for Kyiv, but the portions of its meals are almost enough to have as a separate meal. The abundance of different ingredients and flavors makes it very much worth the price.

Adelle's waiters speak English and there is an English-language menu. But there is bad news for those who adhere to kashrut: the food at the restaurant is not kosher.

The women's name "Adelle" given to the restaurant is actually not of Jewish origin. But its very Israeli, because it's one of the most popular baby girl names currently in the country.

In a similar way, the restaurant doesn't try to copy the traditional food of Israel. Instead, it tries to capture the evolution of the popular food in the country, adding the chef's masterful strokes. ■

**World in Ukraine:  
Sweden**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
Lantmännen Cerealia  
AXA  
START!

**COMING IN THE MAY 17 EDITION  
OF THE KYIV POST**

To advertise, contact us at +38 044 591 77 88 or [advertising@kyivpost.com](mailto:advertising@kyivpost.com)



(Courtesy)

May 10-19

## 'Avengers: Endgame'

Whether you have seen the trailer for "Avengers: Endgame" or not - you will be surprised by this blockbuster. "Exciting, entertaining, and emotionally impactful," read critics' reviews of Marvel Studio's 22nd film based on Marvel comics. It is the finale to the epic Infinity Saga, and sequel to two "Avengers" movies that starred Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Scarlett Johansson, Chris Hemsworth, and many others. Directed by Anthony and Joe Russo, the three-hour long film chronicles what happened after the supervillain Thanos used the Infinity Stones to exterminate half of all living creatures in the universe. Released on April 26, the movie has already become the highest-grossing film of 2019 with over \$2 billion in box office sales throughout two weeks. Two weeks after it was released, the movie will be screened in English in Kyiv.

**'Avengers: Endgame.'** See all screenings on pages 12-13 in our Entertainment Guide

### Friday, May 10

#### Classical music

**Mozart, Prokofiev** (by Symphony Orchestra). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-300

#### Live music

**Ruslan Egorov Quartet** (jazz). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 190-820

#### Clubs

**Groove Operator Anniversary** (hip hop party). Closer. 11:59 p.m. Hr 300-400. Visitors must be over 21

**National Distortion: Pulsum** (techno). Otel'. 11:59 p.m. Hr 150-350

#### Miscellaneous

**Turbulent** (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat that explore gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

**Albrecht Dürer** (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees

**Ego Sum Rex!** (colorful portraits of male archetypes by Sasha Bob). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**Put Your Life Into a Suitcase** (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**Reforming the Space** (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

**Ain't Nobody's Business!** (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free

#### Movies

**Avengers: Endgame** (action, adventure,

fantasy). Cinema City. 7 p.m. Hr 120-130. Planeta Kino. 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Hr 100-160

**Edmond** (comedy, drama, history in French with Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 7:05 p.m. Hr 95

**Touch Me Not** (drama). Zhovten. 9:05 p.m. Hr 95

#### Theater

**Macbeth** (opera in Italian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600

### Saturday, May 11

#### Live music

**Lady Rock** (female-fronted covers of rock bands). Docker-G Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 100-125

#### Clubs

**Closer: Residents Night** (electronic DJ set). Closer. 11:59 p.m. Hr 300-400. Visitors must be over 21

**Electro Friction #4** (electronic DJ set). Mezzanine. 11:59 p.m. Hr 250

**Osnova invites Osnova** (electronic DJ set). Otel'. 11:59 p.m. Hr 250-301

**French: Enzo Leep** (dance, electronic music). River Port. 11 p.m. Hr 170-250. Visitors must be over 21

#### Miscellaneous

**Turbulent** (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

**Albrecht Dürer** (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees

**Ego Sum Rex!** (colorful portraits of male archetypes by Sasha Bob). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**Reforming the Space** (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 70

for children, students and retirees

**Put Your Life Into a Suitcase** (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**Ain't Nobody's Business!** (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free

#### Movies

**Avengers: Endgame** (action, adventure, fantasy). Zhovten. 1:55 p.m. Hr 120. Cinema City. 7 p.m. Hr 120-130. Planeta Kino. 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Hr 100-160

**Red Joan** (biography, drama, romance). Zhovten. 3:30 p.m. Hr 75

**Pokémon Detective Pikachu** (animation, action, adventure). Zhovten. 5:20 p.m. Hr 105

**Edmond** (comedy, drama, history in French with Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 5:10 p.m. Hr 95

#### Shows

**The Retuses** (indie folk). Atlas. 7 p.m. Hr 600-800

**Braty Gadiukiny** (rock, blues, ska). Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 175-2,450

**The Soft Moon** (post-punk, darkwave). Closer. 8 p.m. Hr 600

#### Theater

**Dialogues des Carmélites** (Metropolitan Opera live broadcast in French). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 7 p.m. Hr 190-240

**Paquita and Scheherazade** (ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600

### Sunday, May 12

#### Classical music

**Kyiv Soloists Ensemble** (concert dedicated to Raffaele Bellafronte). National

Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-350

#### Live music

**Valentyna Matiushenko** (soprano, Ukrainian folk songs). Kosenko Museum. 7 p.m. Hr 100

**Speakeasy Jazz** (jazz covers). Caribbean Club. 7 p.m. Hr 180-550

#### Miscellaneous

**Turbulent** (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

**Albrecht Dürer** (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees

**Ego Sum Rex!** (colorful portraits of male archetypes by Sasha Bob). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**Reforming the Space** (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

**Put Your Life Into a Suitcase** (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**Ain't Nobody's Business!** (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free

#### Movies

**Avengers: Endgame** (action, adventure, fantasy). Zhovten. 1:55 p.m. Hr 120. Cinema City. 7 p.m. Hr 120-130. Planeta Kino. 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Hr 100-160

**Salvador Dalí: In Search of Immortality** (documentary). Kyiv Cinema. 3 p.m. Hr 150

**Red Joan** (biography, drama, romance). Zhovten. 3:30 p.m. Hr 85

**Edmond** (comedy, drama, history in French with Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 5:10 p.m. Hr 95

**Pokémon Detective Pikachu** (animation, action, adventure). Zhovten. 5:20 p.m. Hr 105

### Monday, May 13

#### Live music

**Mambo Time** (Latin music by Kyiv Quartet of Saxophonists). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 80-400

**Live Jazz Monday** (swing, jazz by Django Beat band). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 150-350

#### Miscellaneous

**Turbulent** (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

**Ego Sum Rex!** (colorful portraits of male archetypes by Sasha Bob). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**Reforming the Space** (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

#### Movies

**Avengers: Endgame** (action, adventure, fantasy). Cinema City, Planeta Kino. 7 p.m. Hr 100-160

### Tuesday, May 14

#### Live music

**Everest** (piano music concert). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-300

#### Miscellaneous

**Turbulent** (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

**Ego Sum Rex!** (colorful portraits of male archetypes by Sasha Bob). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**Put Your Life Into a Suitcase** (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

**Reforming the Space** (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

**Ain't Nobody's Business!** (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free

**Monolith** (contemporary art exploring the digitalization of the world). America House. 6:30-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

#### Movies

**Avengers: Endgame** (action, adventure, fantasy). Cinema City, Multiplex (Atmosphere, Komod, Lavina Mall, Prospect, Sky Mall), Planeta Kino. 7 p.m. Hr 90-160

#### Shows

**Blooms Corda** (funk, indie). Caribbean Club. 7 p.m. Hr 250-650

#### Theater

**Antony & Cleopatra** (drama, British National theater recording). Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 190

**Vienna Ball** (ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 250-2,500

### May 10-27



(Les Noms gallery/facebook)

## 'Put Your Life Into a Suitcase'

What is it like to start life from scratch, being forced to leave home with only one suitcase to pack? The new interactive installation offers a chance to experience it. "Put Your Life Into a Suitcase" combines virtual reality and elements of a quest game in order to spotlight the struggle of over 1.5 million Ukrainians who were displaced as a result of Russia's annexation of Crimea and its occupation of parts of the Donbas since 2014. The exhibition aims to shatter stereotypes about internally displaced people from Crimea and the Donbas by putting visitors into their shoes: attendees will be able to experience a sudden relocation, going through a security checkpoint, finding a new home and finally starting a new life. "Put Your Life Into a Suitcase" will later move to Odesa and Lviv.

**"Put Your Life Into a Suitcase."** Kyiv History Museum (7 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.) May 10-27. Tue-Sun. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

All My Sons (drama, The Old Vic theater live broadcast). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 9 p.m. Hr 190-240

Wednesday, May 15

Classical music

Frederic Chopin (piano concert by Liudmyla Martsevych). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-350

Live music

DDT Tribute (by Tok i Veter band). Docker Pub. 8 p.m. Hr 125-1,125

Miscellaneous

Turbulent (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Albrecht Dürer (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees

Ego Sum Rex! (colorful portraits of male archetypes by Sasha Bob). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Put Your Life Into a Suitcase (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Reforming the Space (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

Ain't Nobody's Business! (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free

Monolith (contemporary art exploring the digitalization of the world). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

A Boy and a Comet (paintings, diaries, sketches and photographs of Ukrainian artist Oleh Holosii). The Naked Room. 7-9 p.m. Free

Movies

The Man Who Cheated Himself (crime, drama, film-noir). American Library. 4 p.m. Free

Avengers: Endgame (action, adventure, fantasy). Cinema City, Planeta Kino. 7 p.m. Hr 100-160

Twelfth Night, or What You Will (comedy, play recording in French). Multiplex (Sky Mall). 7:30 p.m. Hr 190

Thursday, May 16

Live music

National Academic Brass Band of Ukraine (Ukrainian folk music). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-300

Miscellaneous

Turbulent (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Albrecht Dürer (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees

Put Your Life Into a Suitcase (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

A Boy and a Comet (paintings, diaries, sketches and photographs of Ukrainian artist Oleh Holosii). The Naked Room. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Reforming the Space (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

Ain't Nobody's Business! (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free

Monolith (contemporary art exploring the digitalization of the world). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Friday, May 17

Clubs

Green Theater Opening (electronic DJ set).



May 18-19

Strichka Festival

Over 40 DJs from the U.S. and Europe, as well as from Ukraine, will rock the dancefloor at a former factory that is now known as Kyiv's hottest electronic music club, Closer. With its very name the two-day Strichka (Ukrainian word for "ribbon") festival pays homage to the industrial venue's past as a ribbon weaving factory. With each year the rooms of the factory lose some of the equipment freeing space for more clubbers who just keep coming. For its sixth year Strichka will have a record number of stages for different kinds of electronic dance music.

Strichka Festival. Closer (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) May 18-19. Starts at 8 p.m. Hr 1,200

Green Theater. 8 p.m. One-day pass - Hr 300, two-day pass - Hr 450

Miscellaneous

Turbulent (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Albrecht Dürer (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees

Put Your Life Into a Suitcase (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

A Boy and a Comet (paintings, diaries, sketches and photographs of Ukrainian artist Oleh Holosii). The Naked Room. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Reforming the Space (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

Ain't Nobody's Business! (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free

Monolith (contemporary art exploring the digitalization of the world). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Saturday, May 18

Live music

Piazzolla & Tango (accordion, piano music show). Maksym Ryl'skyi Museum. 4 p.m. Hr 100

Music on the Terrace (soul, funk, jazz by Chuck Wansley). IQ Business Center. 7:30 p.m. Hr 450

Botanica Jazz - Season Opening (by Old Fashioned Band). Gryshko National Botanical Garden. 7 p.m. Hr 200-425

Rockoko. Sympho Rock (author's music, rock covers). In-Jazz. 7 p.m. Hr 200-250

Creedence Clearwater Revival Tribute (by Traveling Band). Docker-G Pub. 9 p.m. Hr 100-125

Clubs

Party on the Balcony with Daria Kolomic (dancing music, food court and drinks). Vsi Svoi D12. 6-10 p.m. Free

Green Theater Opening (electronic DJ set). Green Theater. 10 p.m. One-day pass - Hr 300, two-day pass - Hr 450

Strichka Festival 2019 (electronic music festival featuring over 40 DJs). Closer. 8 p.m. Hr 1,200

Bassline Dropz ft. Kitt Whale (house, drum & bass, breakbeat). River Port. 9 p.m. Hr 200

Miscellaneous

Monolith (contemporary art exploring the digitalization of the world). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Turbulent (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Albrecht Dürer (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees

Put Your Life Into a Suitcase (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

A Boy and a Comet (paintings, diaries, sketches and photographs of Ukrainian artist

Oleh Holosii). The Naked Room. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Reforming the Space (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

Ain't Nobody's Business! (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free

Summer Collections and Lingerie Market (by Ukrainian brands). Vsi Svoi D12. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Craft Cheese Festival (over 500 kinds of cheese by Ukrainian producers). VDNH. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Hr 70

Kyiv Beer Festival (50 local beer producers, food court, entertainment). Platforma Art Factory. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Hr 120-170

Theater

Exam (experimental play). ProEnglish Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 120

Sunday, May 19

Live music

Duetto Concertante (classical music on guitar and flute, by Andrii Ostapenko, Yurii Shutko). Sofiia Kyivska. 3 p.m. Hr 100

Motorhead Tribute (hard rock). Docker Pub. 8 p.m. Hr 125-1,400

Clubs

Strichka Festival 2019 (electronic music festival featuring over 40 DJs). Closer. 12 a.m. Hr 1,200

Root Fruit Combo (dance music). MK Music Space. 8 p.m. Hr 250

Miscellaneous

Turbulent (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Albrecht Dürer (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees

Put Your Life Into a Suitcase (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

A Boy and a Comet (paintings, diaries, sketches and photographs of Ukrainian artist Oleh Holosii). The Naked Room. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Reforming the Space (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

Ain't Nobody's Business! (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free

Summer Collections and Lingerie Market (by Ukrainian brands). Vsi Svoi D12. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Craft Cheese Festival (over 500 kinds of cheese by Ukrainian producers). VDNH. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Hr 70

Kyiv Beer Festival (50 local beer producers, food court, entertainment). Platforma Art Factory. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Hr 120-170

Movies

Young Picasso (documentary). Kyiv Cinema. 3 p.m. Hr 150

Shows

Redemption Denied (hardcore). Otel. 7 p.m. Hr 200

Theater

Swan Lake (ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 150-2,650

Venues

- Classical Music
National Philharmonic of Ukraine
Live Music
Caribbean Club
Docker Pub
Docker-G Pub

- Sofiia Kyivska
IQ Business Center
In-Jazz Live
Kosenko Museum
Kotsiubynskoho St.
Maksym Ryl'skyi Museum
Gryshko National Botanical Garden

- Closer
Otel
River Port
Green Theater
MK Music Space
America House
Miscellaneous
America House

- Izone
The Khanenko Museum
Kyiv History Museum
M17 Contemporary Art Center
Triptych Global Arts Workshop
Multipler Cinema
VDNH

- Pinchuk Art Center
The Naked Room
Vsi Svoi D12
Platforma Art Factory
American Library Kyiv
Cinema City

- 230 7230
Kyiv Cinema
Multiplex Cinema
Multiplex Cinema
Multiplex Cinema
Multiplex Cinema

- Bandery Ave.
Zhovten Cinema
Shows
Mezzanine
National Opera of Ukraine
ProEnglish Theater

## New York exhibition chronicles Ukraine's war for independence in 1917-1921

Exhibition from page 2

sort of currency it contains within has been lost in the mists of time.

### Echoes of the past

Some of the items show efforts by the diaspora in support of the embattled Ukrainian republics. There is a letter from the American diaspora to the League of Nations petitioning recognition of the Ukrainian state and the pen used by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson to sign the Ukrainian Day Proclamation in April 1917 – after lobbying by the Ukrainian-American diaspora.

It is easy for visitors to the exhibition to recognize parallels between those first efforts to forge a Ukrainian state and the current bloody conflict against the same enemy, Russia, that used war and terror to suppress Ukraine's independence bid a century ago.

Apart from the date, a Red Army poster from 1920 explaining why the Soviet regime needed the coal and steel producing Donbas area could just as well have been printed by Moscow's puppet forces occupying the territory today.

Another chilling item is the first official instruction issued by communist authorities which have just occupied the city of Lutsk. Called "Prykaz #1 Lutsk, Volyn" and dated Aug. 19, 1920, it is an ominous order for all inhabitants to list the books they own.

Savchuk visited Ukrainian museums and institutions in North

America and Europe to collect information for the exhibition. Among the treasures he came across were scores of colorful and skillful lithographs depicting the various uniforms of Ukrainian military formations drawn from memory by a former officer in Ukraine's forces during those turbulent years.

Seldom seen, they had mostly been hidden from view in a Ukrainian museum and library in the American city of Stamford, in the state of Connecticut.

Savchuk said a main purpose of the exhibition was to tribute those trying to build Ukraine against overwhelming odds.

But, he said: "The exhibition is not just information, not just paying respect to those involved, but it contains lessons for today. We see historical parallels between now and then, we see that the issues and words from 100 years ago can absolutely be applied today... they are a warning for our contemporaries."

Savchuk said that a 1915 gramophone recording of the Ukrainian national anthem was played at the exhibition's April 7 opening.

In that rendition sung, by Ukrainian Americans long passed away, he was astonished to hear a couplet with the words "we will remember hard times and the evil hour of those who courageously died for our Ukraine."

"Those words aren't in the version that we sing today but I think, like the events that inspired this exhibition, they are as relevant today as they were then." ■



One of the items from the exhibition chronicling Ukraine's fight for independence in 1917-1921 on display in the Ukrainian Museum in New York. (Courtesy)



The road industry has been one of the biggest cash cows of corruption in Ukraine as non-transparent regulations have led to billions of hryvnias being misused or stolen. (Oleg Petrasuiuk)

## Promotion of tainted official highlights troubles in Ukrainian roads agency

BY OLEKSIY SOROKIN  
SOROKIN@KYIVPOST.COM

UkrAvtodor, the state-owned agency responsible for constructing and overseeing the quality of roads throughout Ukraine, is under renewed scrutiny following the revelation that an official – a key individual in a recent corruption scandal – has risen to a top position in the government-run outfit.

Max Nefyodov, deputy head of the Economy Ministry, on May 4 through Facebook, made public a decree signed by Slawomir Novak, head of UkrAvtodor, which empowers Bohdan Yulyk, head of Ternopil's UkrAvtodor branch, with the right to sign decrees into force without the approval of the agency's head.

Yulyk became notorious in June 2018. The reconstruction project for seven roads in Ternopil Oblast, where Yulyk was in charge, were divided into 178 sections about 40 meters long each before being sold to companies owned by people associated with Yulyk, according to Ukrainian media at the time.

Investigative reporters alleged that chopping up roads in need of repair into smaller sections was done to bring them below the threshold by which they would have needed a procurement procedure through Ukraine's online and transparent tender procurement platform Prozorro.

Volodymyr Omelyan, Ukraine's infrastructure minister, that month called for the dismissal of the head of UkrAvtodor in Ternopil. He stated it was clear that open procurement in the region was being sabotaged.

Instead, Yulyk's career took a more positive turn.

According to the UkrAvtodor press office, in February 2019 Yulyk won in a competition to become head of the oversight and documentation department of UkrAvtodor at a national level. The new role is a position which entitles Yulyk to oversee the construction of roads all over Ukraine, as well as to prepare the necessary documentation.

On April 24, according to Nefyodov, Yulyk was put forward for the position of the first deputy head of UkrAvtodor, yet according to the Infrastructure Ministry, which oversees UkrAvtodor, the nomination of Yulyk was not approved by the Cabinet of Ministers.

Nonetheless, on April 25, a decree signed by Novak was issued giving Yulyk the authority to sign into force all documentation which doesn't specifically require the signature of UkrAvtodor's head, making Yulyk a de-facto deputy head in the organization.

UkrAvtodor's press service stated in a May 6 written comment to the Kyiv Post that Yulyk was chosen as the head of the department responsible for overseeing road construction and documentation through a transparent competition. At the same time, the statement added that the April 25 decree reassures that Yulyk's authority is based only on his official position.

Yulyk published an official response on Facebook on May 6, stating that he is currently performing the duties according to his position as the head of the oversight and documentation department which

implies signing documents and overseeing road construction.

About the avoidance of online procurement, Yulyk stated that regional roads are owned by the oblast administration and thus they are responsible for dividing them into small pieces.

"In fact, in Ukraine, the process of forming and approving 40, 50, 100-meter-long (roads) is large-scale. And this problem is not the problem of Ternopil Oblast, it's (a problem) of whole Ukraine," wrote Yulyk.

Nefyodov, in a written comment to the Kyiv Post, dismissed the idea that Yulyk had nothing to do with dividing the Ternopil road project into smaller pieces.

He said that according to the law, UkrAvtodor is the one inspecting and recommending the renovation of roads and the Ternopil branch recommended that the reconstruction of seven roads be undertaken on 178 smaller sections, measuring about 40 meters long each.

"It's all manipulations, since UkrAvtodor is the client," wrote Nefyodov, adding that it's naïve to not understand that the agency in Ternopil had created smaller sections of road project in order to avoid online procurement.

On Yulyk's promotion, Nefyodov stated that he has his own ideas as to who is responsible for his rapid rise, yet the deputy minister didn't provide any details, citing that, according to his information, the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, or NABU, is investigating the situation.

NABU did not respond to requests for comment before the publication of this article. ■

### ON THE MOVE

Advertisement



Tetyana Dovgan

The Kyiv office of CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang is pleased to announce that Tetyana Dovgan has been promoted to partner with effect from 1 May 2019. In her new role, Tetyana will continue coordinating and further developing the Corporate/M&A practice.

Tetyana advises on complex joint ventures, corporate restructurings, private equity and M&A transactions in Ukraine and the CEE/CIS region, with an industry focus on infrastruc-

ture, agriculture, IT and banking. Tetyana has acted on some of the highest profile English-law governed deals in Ukraine having advised on all aspects of the transaction from on the ground in Kyiv.

Tetyana is ranked by Chambers Europe, Legal 500 and other major legal directories, with clients remarking that Tetyana is "extremely commercial in her approach", "very efficient in terms of execution" and "she has a strategic thinking and vision of the deal".

CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang  
38 Volodymyrska str., 6th floor  
Kyiv 01030, Ukraine  
t: +38044 391 3377  
e: KyivOffice@cms-cmno.com  
www.cms.law

C/M/S  
Law . Tax

# Hanna Hopko: US ought to sanction Medvedchuk's wife

Medvedchuk from page 3

work with Zelenskiy will make this very clear to him... This current situation is wrong.”

## Business empire

Medvedchuk's celebrity wife, former TV host Oksana Marchenko is the primary official beneficiary of the business empire she shares with her husband. She owns investment companies Ukrcapital, Terra-Invest and Sport Tour. Through them, she owns a number of other firms and properties, including ones in Crimea.

Some of Marchenko's companies have links to Ukrainian, U.K. or Cyprus companies which, through their employees, were connected with offshore companies associated with allies of the disgraced ex-President Viktor Yanukovich and named in embezzlement investigations.

For example, one of the founders of Marchenko's company Ukrcapital is the U.K.-based Intermy Management. This company lists Anzelika Pasenidou as its secretary. Pasenidou used to be a director on the board of Burisma Holding, the gas company of controversial ex-minister Mykola Zlochevsky, who was investigated for allegedly moving \$23 million out of Ukraine. Panesidou is no longer listed on Burisma's site.

Marchenko owns several agricultural holdings, including MBK Agrotekhnika, Landras-Agro, the Galician Agricultural Company, Kolos, Oskar, Rodnichok, Tamavarwoodexport, Galichina Organic and Galagrobusiness.

Some of these agricultural companies were investigated by Ukrainian courts for allegedly using fictive enterprises for the purpose of tax evasion, as well as arranging transactions worth tens of millions of dollars with U.K. and Cyprus based companies in which no goods changed hands.

Investigative journalists found that a Yalta company controlled by Marchenko's firms, Tavria Invest, has the same joint director as Russian company Tavria Sever, which is controlled by Cyprus-registered holding companies. This company is linked to an oil and gas extraction company operating in Russia's Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug, NZNP Trade, which is also linked to a refinery in the Russian city of Novoshakhtynsk. That refinery is alleged to have been sending fuel to Ukraine.

“They are reselling this oil (in Ukraine) using various brands,” said Ukrainian lawmaker Hanna Hopko told the Kyiv Post.

Medvedchuk filed a symbolic libel suit against Hopko after she criticized him on Facebook in September, suing her for Hr 1 compensation.

Critics have also alleged that Marchenko is the beneficiary of all these companies as a way to get around the U.S. sanction on Medvedchuk, imposed in March 2014. Hopko told the Kyiv Post that the U.S. ought to extend the sanctions and also issue them against Marchenko.

The Kyiv Post also reached out to Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council to see if any



Left: Ongoing construction at the Gavrykovsky oil deposit in Russia's Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug in October 2018. The company that won the tender to extract the oil is linked with oligarch Viktor Medvedchuk's wife, Oksana Marchenko. (nznpt.ru) Right: Former TV presenter Oksana Marchenko appears on the show X-Factor in Kyiv in October 2010. She is the beneficial owner of many of the companies in her and Medvedchuk's business empire. (UNIAN)



Russian President Vladimir Putin and oligarch Viktor Medvedchuk visit the New Jerusalem Orthodox Monastery outside the town of Istra, some 70 kilometers outside Moscow, in November 2017. Putin is the godfather of Medvedchuk's daughter, Daryna. (AFP)

sanctions were in the works for Medvedchuk and Marchenko's foreign holdings. The Council replied with a statement that it will examine any sanctions proposals it received according to established procedure.

Fesenko said that it is still too early to discuss sanctions, and this question will probably wait until Zelenskiy has finalized his plans for the National Security and Defense Council.

Until then, analysts said, Medvedchuk may continue to build up his power base and try to become the main pro-Russia opposition leader in Ukraine. His party, Opposition Platform – Za Zhyttya, came second in an April poll that asked people who they would support in the parliament election, scheduled

for October. It received nearly 16 percent of the vote in the poll done by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology.

Medvedchuk's allies have also been building a media empire. In 2018, his close ally, a low-profile lawmaker Taras Kozak acquired two TV channels, Channel 112 and NewsOne, in 2018. Many alleged Kozak owns them on behalf of Medvedchuk, which he denied. The influence of this mini TV holding might be a threat to Zelenskiy, according to Grant.

“Zelenskiy has to take this seriously if he is to maintain any semblance of national control,” said Grant. “If the oligarchs who own the media decide you aren't a bloody good president, they'll crush you.” ■

BUSINESS  
INTEGRITY  
2019 WEEK

BMW

DAY 3

22 MAY | Kyiv  
CEO DEBATES

Launched by:



UNIC

Ukrainian Network  
of Integrity and Compliance

Organizer:

Kyiv Post

With support:



Business  
OMBUDSMAN  
Council



European Bank  
for Reconstruction and Development



# Stop, start, continue: Advice for President-elect Zelenskiy

*Editor's Note: The following is an English-language translation of Horizon Capital CEO Lenna Koszarny's advice for President-elect Volodymyr Zelenskiy, published in Ukrainian by liga.ua, a news website that solicited opinions from business and opinion leaders. Separately, the Kyiv Post's recurring feature, Ukrainian Voices From Abroad, solicited advice from Ukrainians and those with Ukrainian ancestry who are living abroad. Those responses can be found online.*



**LENNA  
KOSZARNY**

Dear President-elect Volodymyr Zelenskiy,

It is an honor for me to share my perspective with the newly-elected President of Ukraine, the country of my ancestors and my home for over 25 years, since 1993. My perspective comes from a deep knowledge of what matters to foreign investors both as chair of the board of directors of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine, uniting over 600 leading companies in the country, as well as founding partner and CEO of Horizon Capital — whose funds managed have invested around \$700 million in Ukraine and the near region and have attracted capital for Ukrainian companies from blue-chip investors with over \$350 billion in capital.

At the same time, my views are also defined by the over 140 companies that we have worked with over the past 25 years that employ over 46,000 people and are led by truly visionary Ukrainian founders. We believe these companies are a source of pride for Ukraine — successful, progressive companies that are transforming the sectors in which they operate in Ukraine and in many cases, are true global champions abroad. These business-champions include Rozetka-EVO, Genesis, Ajax, Intellias, Jooble, Dobrobut, Yarych, Datagroup, Biopharma, Kerameya and many more.

My perspective also comes from my birth country, Canada, the #1 country in the world for quality of life where Ukrainians are an integral part of the DNA that have made Canada what it is today. Few in Ukraine know that Ukrainians are a

founding people of Canada, contributing to Canada for over 125 years of the 150 years that the country has existed.

This clearly shows that Ukrainians have what it takes to build a successful country and if we remove the blocks and unleash the talents, creativity, hard work and determination of Ukrainians, we will all celebrate in their success in the years to come.

Many smart people have already written their advice to Ukraine's president-elect based on LIGA's request so I will try not to repeat and focus on being practical and pragmatic.

The people of Ukraine elected you in a landslide with over 73% of the vote. The expectations are enormous. You do not have the luxury of time, people are impatient and expect near-term results. Just as we go into a new deal and new partnership with an agreed-upon 100 day plan, I would highly recommend that you do the same. This means maximizing the quick wins that are within your sphere of control, while also producing near-term results that require coordination with the legislative and executive branches of government. The issues that Ukraine faces are very complex and worthy of much more thought than one article may provide, thus I have made three main recommendations in each category using STOP-START-CONTINUE.

## STOP what is hurting Ukraine

- Continued operation of any "pocket courts" and no impunity for judges delivering decisions that are clearly against the interests of the state and transparent business. Real and effective judicial reform should be the highest priority. Rule of law, a fair court system, justice and transparency are a must have for Ukraine



Farmer and tractor work the fields on a busy farm in Kyiv Oblast on April 17, 2018. Last year saw record-high harvests throughout Ukraine but many of the old challenges remain for the agricultural sector. (Oleg Petrusiuk)

to unlock significant investment, whether foreign or domestic.

- Harassment of transparent business by any government agency. Business creates jobs not government, and entrepreneurs will take their businesses to countries that are welcoming to them. Life is too short and capital is easy to divert elsewhere if roadblocks keep arising.
- Any attempts to "change the rules" for the IT industry. This is an industry powered by the new generation of Ukraine that grew from \$110 million in 2003 to over \$4.5 billion today. Governments globally spend billions to support innovation in their countries. Ukraine spends almost nothing yet is naturally abundant in IT talent. These young Ukrainians are our future in a rapidly evolving technologically-advanced world. Do not mess with a winning formula by introducing higher taxation, more bureaucracy — they are mobile and can take their creativity with them in as fast as it takes to buy a plane ticket.

## START game-changing improvements

- A fully-operational anti-corruption court prior to the parliamentary elections. High-ranking government officials should serve their country not their personal or business interests and there should be serious consequences for those who engage in corruption that will serve as a major deterrent for others.
- Electoral reform. It is high time to open party lists and allow Ukrainians to scrutinize who they are electing to the highest legislative body in their country rather than the bios of only five people

and other important changes.

- Pilot project on land reform. Take baby steps. Start small. Do a pilot project with sales of state-owned land. The headlines will say "Ukraine finally has lifted a moratorium on land sales that has been in place for over 18 years!". It takes courage to start this process but the long-term benefits to Ukraine and its economy are enormous.

## CONTINUE successful achievements

- Cooperating with the International Monetary Fund and Ukraine's bilateral partners. This is a "must-have" for continued macroeconomic stability, for capital markets to remain open for Ukraine and for increased foreign direct investment inflows.
- Maintaining an independent National Bank of Ukraine free of political influence. Central Banking Journal awarded the NBU for the first time in its history the prestigious international Transparency Award. Investors will react very negatively and very swiftly to any attempts to politically influence the country's central bank.
- Build on the existing institutions and business/civic-society backed initiatives that have produced excellent results. UkraineInvest, National Investment Council, the Business Ombudsman, Export Promotion Office, brand UkraineNOW, National Reform Council with the participation of top business associations, cooperation on foreign policy with the Ukrainian World Congress and top diaspora organizations. These are institutions and initiatives that are producing results, are trusted by business, investors and/or civic

society and should be built upon not discarded.

Mr. president-elect, Ukraine was a \$180 billion nominal GDP economy prior to 2008, dropping to \$117 billion after the 2008 financial crisis and freefalling by 50% to \$91 billion in 2015 after the economic crisis precipitated by the annexation of Crimea and occupation of the Donbas region. Through blood, sweat and tears, the economy has risen to over \$130 billion nominal GDP by year-end 2018 and still has a long way to go before bringing the economic prosperity to Ukraine that its citizens dream of. Ukraine is on the right path largely thanks to:

- i) its brave, determined and hard-working citizens;
- ii) the support of the IMF and Ukraine's bilateral partners in replenishing the country's reserves to over \$20 billion;
- iii) the hard currency generated by fast-growing export champions leveraging access to the European Union and other markets given the game-changing Association Agreement with the EU;
- iv) the remittances sent by Ukrainian workers and diaspora that have driven domestic consumption within Ukraine and much more.

Ukraine must not step back.

Ukraine must continue the course that has been set of Euro-Atlantic integration and advance its reform process at an even more rapid pace to achieve the economic prosperity that Ukrainians dream of.

I sincerely wish you strength during the challenging times ahead that will surely come, the wisdom to surround yourself with a team of professionals whose motivation is first and foremost to serve their nation and the vision and principled decision-making necessary to lead Ukraine into a brighter future.

Slava Ukraini! ■



A woman checks her ballot with a magnifying glass at a polling station in Kyiv as she is about to vote in the presidential election on March 31, 2019. (Volodymyr Petrov)



# Ukrainian Voices From Abroad

*Editor's Note: As Ukraine gets set to inaugurate its sixth president by June 2, the Kyiv Post is asking Ukrainians and those with Ukrainian ancestry who live abroad to send in their pictures (horizontal mug shots) with answers to the following three questions for publication. Please keep responses brief – no more than 200 words for each answer or 600 words in all. Include contact details for verification as well as full name, occupation and country of residence. A selection of respondents will be published periodically before Volodymyr Zelenskiy is sworn in as president. Send responses/photos with the subject header "Ukrainian Voices From Abroad" to Kyiv Post chief editor Brian Bonner at bonner@kyivpost.com*

- 1. What do you hope for most from President Volodymyr Zelenskiy?
- 2. What is the No. 1 priority facing Ukraine?
- 3. What is the biggest obstacle that the new president must overcome to achieve success?

Read the responses online by clicking on Ukrainian Voices From Abroad in the Hot Topics menu



Andriy Stepanov, a clergyman, has lived in Warsaw, Poland, for more than 25 years.



Sasha Borovik is a Ukrainian native who served as deputy governor of Odesa Oblast and first deputy minister of economy in Ukraine. He is an attorney and entrepreneur in Munich, Germany.



Philippe Schuchewytch is a Belgian energy specialist with Ukrainian roots.



Marianna Kozintseva is a Kyiv native and founder of Turning Point Macro in London, United Kingdom.



Inna Basistova Nommesen is an interpreter, photographer and stay-at-home mother in San Diego, California.



Vera Avramenko, a native of Lubny, Ukraine, is a flight attendant based in Doha, Qatar.



Orest Pankiv is a history student at King's College London University.



Laura Luzinska is a head of marketing who lives in Sønderborg, Denmark.

## Kyiv Post

UKRAINE'S GLOBAL VOICE

# DOING BUSINESS

magazine is coming out on **June 28**



To advertise in the magazine, please contact us at + 38 044 591 7788 or [advertising@kyivpost.com](mailto:advertising@kyivpost.com)

# TOP 10 KYIV POST exclusives online this week

1. US Army 101st Airborne soldiers deploy to Ukraine
2. Zelenskiy prepares for inauguration, wants to move president's office from Bankova Street
3. Brazilian who fought for Russian-led forces in eastern Ukraine sentenced to 13 years in prison
4. Game of Thrones star gets married in Ukrainian designer attire
5. Petro Poroshenko's presidency in 50 photos
6. Ukrainian Voices From Abroad: Philippe Schuchewytch's advice for Zelenskiy
7. Ukrainian Voices From Abroad: Inna Basistova Nommesen's advice for Zelenskiy
8. Brian Milakovsky: How Ukraine's new language law will affect Donbas
9. Zelenskiy meets MPs, requests May 19 inauguration
10. Ukraine to produce guided missiles for Turkish tanks



Subscribe! ~~\$60~~ \$45.60 per year

Use **KyivPost2019** code to get your **24%** discount for the Kyiv Post subscription in celebration of our 24th year

**Online benefits include:**

- **Unlimited access** to all exclusive Kyiv Post stories online
- **Continuously updated** feed of news stories, analysis, multimedia, opinions and more
- **Archives** dating back to 1997



[www.kyivpost.com](http://www.kyivpost.com)

## Ukraine's Friend & Foe Of The Week

### Ukraine's Friend of the Week



**Ambassador Judith Gough**

On any given week in the last four years, British ambassador to Ukraine Judith Gough could have been singled out as one of the country's most stalwart and committed friends.

This week, however, seems an especially important time to recognize Gough's devotion and dedication to Ukraine, given that her departure at some point later this summer has been confirmed. Melinda Simmons, an experienced civil servant with an extensive background in international development and security, appears an excellent choice for the position of Her Majesty's next ambassador to Ukraine.

But Simmons will also have some big shoes to fill. She will be taking over from someone who has come to be regarded as a top ally to Ukraine but also a fierce and formidable opponent to Kremlin aggression and neo-colonial Russian expansionism.

Taking up the British ambassadorship to Kyiv in September 2015, Gough observed that the government taking power in Ukraine at that time was not expected to survive, let alone accomplish very much. But with the support of its international allies, led by the U.K. and the U.S., the Ukrainian government not only withstood Russian aggression and internal instability, but also made a good start implementing a number of key reforms.

"What I have seen since I arrived... is a country that has made huge progress," Gough recently told the Kyiv Post in an interview.

Gough has been vital in coordinating the U.K. contribution to that progress. Today, the British government is involved almost everywhere that Ukraine's resilience is being strengthened and is allocating about \$45 million each year into at least 70 different projects throughout Ukraine.

This has laid the foundation for more support in the coming years as British-Ukrainian relations deepen and improve.

Readying herself to leave the country, Gough reflected on her time here: "I see extraordinary resilience in the Ukrainian people... a determination to forge a sovereign future for Ukraine, and a real demand from people to satisfy the demands of the (EuroMaidan Revolution)," she said.

— Jack Laurenson

### Ukraine's Foe of the Week



**Lord Greg Barker**

The United Kingdom is one of Ukraine's strongest and most important partners, with ambassador Gough exemplifying that and carrying the standard quite perfectly here in Kyiv. In London, it is broadly the same story and there is unanimous, cross-party support for Ukraine throughout Westminster.

Unfortunately, there are always disappointing exceptions to the rule, and even in Britain there are a number of high profile, low integrity individuals who have decided to throw their lot in with Moscow, rallying behind Russia instead of standing in solidarity with Ukraine.

Enter, stage right, Lord Greg Barker — or Baron Barker of Battle if you happen to be a fan of preposterous sounding alliterations. For him, Russian energy money appears more important than trivial matters, such as the hybrid warfare being waged against the West by Moscow.

Serving as minister of State for Energy and Climate Change between 2010 and 2015 must have felt like a drag after Barker's previous stints in the private sector, first with the Anglo-Siberian Oil Company and later with the Sibneft Oil Group, then owned by Roman Abramovich and now part of the Russian state-owned energy giant Gazprom.

In order to pressure Russia into complying with the values and laws of the international, rules-based system it has become necessary to sanction key individuals and entities with ties to the Kremlin, especially if they are linked to the illegal annexation of Crimea, war in the Donbas and other acts of aggression such as the Salisbury Novichok attack or the shooting down of flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine.

Barker, still doing business in Russia, appears committed to derailing some of those economic sanctions, at least if it benefits him.

This week, Bloomberg revealed that Barker, who is also chairman of the Russian energy company En+ Group Plc, was paid in the region of \$4–5 million to negotiate the removal of U.S. sanctions on the firm. Barker has not denied this.

He allegedly spent months traveling between Washington, Moscow and London, acting on behalf of En+ and Russian billionaire Oleg Deripaska, a friend of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin who is under U.K. and European Union sanctions, and also has ties to the convicted American fraudster and former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich supporter Paul Manafort.

British media report that Barker faces increased scrutiny in London, has already been under investigation and could face another. The House of Lords, meanwhile, faces a possible change in the rules that would force unelected lords and ladies of the realm, who still wield significant political power, to better disclose their business interests, especially in Russia and China.

— Jack Laurenson

*Together with Passion* **RHENUS LOGISTICS**

**RHENUS REVIVAL**  
your logistics partner in Ukraine and all over the world

<p><b>INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High and Heavy cargo transportation</li> <li>- International deliveries via road / sea / air / rail</li> <li>- Consolidation of all European cargoes in Frankfurt for CIS countries</li> <li>- FTL/LTL</li> </ul>	<p><b>WAREHOUSE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cold warehouse 9 000 m<sup>2</sup> t +4°C and +16°C</li> <li>- Warehouses, class A for storage FMCG goods</li> <li>- Bonded warehouses, class A</li> <li>- Warehouse services: picking, FIFO/FEFO, shrinking, labeling, etc</li> </ul>
<p><b>DOMESTIC DISTRIBUTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Domestic Distribution all over Ukraine to more than 520 consignees, "door to door"; from one box to full truck;</li> </ul>	<p><b>CUSTOMS BROKERAGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All necessary services for import/export/transit procedures provided by Customs Brokerage Department</li> <li>- Consulting in Customs and bonded warehouse procedures</li> </ul>

We are working in accordance to Standards ISO 9001:2008, HACCP, OHSAS 18001:2007

Rhenus Revival LLC +38 044 492 74 01 Affiliated branch of Rhenus Revival  
18, Promyslova Str. +38 044 459 03 22 Zhitomirskoye Highway, 21 km  
08702 Obukhiv +38 044 492 74 10 08114 Stoyanka  
e-mail: [contact@ua.rhenus.com](mailto:contact@ua.rhenus.com) — web: [www.rhenus.com](http://www.rhenus.com)



### Ukraine marks Day of Memory and Reconciliation on May 8

A young woman adjusts poppy flowers that form a symbolic map of Ukraine in an artistic installation in Lviv, Ukraine, on May 8, the Day of Memory and Reconciliation in Ukraine. The installation commemorates the end of World War II in 1945. While Ukraine didn't abolish the Soviet tradition of celebrating May 9 as the Victory Day, it introduced the Memory Day in 2015, which celebrates reconciliation rather than battlefield victory. (UNIAN)

Not one, but two street food festivals will take place in Kyiv on May 11-12. Go to pages 12-13 for details.



## Once derelict, River Station becomes cultural hot spot



WITH OLEKSIY SOROKIN  
SOROKIN@KYIVPOST.COM

### Georgia offers ancient churches, cheap wine, bad driving

**TBILISI AND KAKHETI, Georgia** – Ukraine and Georgia are often mentioned in the same news headlines as both are petitioning for European Union and NATO integration while facing down military aggression from Russia. Yet traveling through Georgia one would never guess that these two countries have something in common.

Georgia provides visitors with a memorable experience as there are plenty of beautiful landmarks, historical sites, delicious food and explicitly bad driving.

Exiting Tbilisi International Airport, one can find oneself in the middle of a heated argument, as taxi drivers compete for the tourists' attention. After five minutes of quarreling, the cab price to city center will drop from \$40 to slightly below \$10 and a taxi driver will carry the arrivals' luggage into his car without permission.

After a 15-minute ride one ends up in the city center of an old city stretched between mountains with narrow streets, ancient churches and what seems like a million tourists.

#### Tbilisi

Tbilisi became the capital of the ancient Georgian kingdom of Iberia in the fourth century A.D. and was continuously populated ever since. The city has a number of ancient churches and places worth seeing.

Our journey begins near the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi, commonly known as Sameba, an 87-meter-high Georgian style cathedral situated on a mountaintop on the opposite side from the historic city center. The cathedral is surrounded by a garden, beautiful lanterns, a freestanding bell tower, a monastery with a seminary and is guarded by a thick five-meter wall, surrounding the 3,000-square-meter complex.

The seemingly ancient complex was in fact opened in 2004. The project was designed to become a symbol of Georgian spiritual revival.

A 10-minute walk down the hill towards the river Kura, which divides Tbilisi in half, will bring one past the president's palace into Rike Park, a vast green open space near the river.

Finishing a stroll through the park, one ends up facing Old Tbilisi, a beautiful historic

more **Station** on page **23**

more **Georgia** on page **22**



Visitors take in the view of the Dnipro River on the terrace of the Kyiv River Station in Kyiv on May 3, 2019. The River Station is the capital's main river port that stood closed for seven years and re-opened after renovation on April 27, 2019. (Volodymyr Petrov)

**BY DARIA SHULZHENKO**  
SHULZHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

It had been almost seven years since visitors walked freely inside the Kyiv River Station – the capital's main river port situated on the right bank of the Dnipro River.

In fact, the insides of that historic riverside building lay in partial ruin. Windows were broken, walls featuring Soviet-era murals crumbled, and floors and ceilings had been left in a state of neglect.

But on April 27, after weeks of renovations, the passenger port's doors were reopened to visitors, who now come for more than maritime transportation.

Today, the River Station features a

contemporary art exhibit, electronic music shows, and a street food court called Buhta ("bay") Food Station – not to mention a large terrace with breathtaking views of the Dnipro River.

In its current condition, the River Station is still rustic, but much more welcoming. Only a week after its opening, it has been visited by thousands of people, quickly becoming a must-visit venue for Kyivans and tourists alike.

It is hard to believe that six months ago this loud, bustling venue was derelict and forgotten.

"The River Station has finally come to life," Roman Tugashev, founder of the Buhta Food Station, told the Kyiv Post.

Tugashev, who is also the founder of the Ulichnaya Eda street food festival, says he was inspired by the riverside embankments of New York, London and Berlin that "serve not only as river ports but more like entertainment places." He decided that Kyiv needs something similar.

"So now people can come here on any day of the week, eat, drink, enjoy this cool atmosphere and this amazing view on the Dnipro River, and simply have fun," Tugashev says.

"I think that this is what Kyiv really needed," he adds.

#### A riverside revival

The River Station was built in 1961, decades before Ukraine became

an independent country. Several years after independence, in 1996, Ukrainian shipping company Ukrzichflot privatized the building.

In 2012, the building was closed due to the reconstruction of Poshtova Square, the riverside plaza on which the station is located. While Poshtova's redevelopment was finished in 2015, the River Station stayed closed due to its poor condition.

Since 2016, the River Station has been owned by Nestor Shufrych, a Ukrainian lawmaker and member of the Opposition Bloc faction, and businessman Mykhailo Brodsky. Both Shufrych and Brodsky did not

**Want to advertise in Lifestyle?**

**Kyiv Post**

Please call (+38) 044 591-7788 or mail [advertising@kyivpost.com](mailto:advertising@kyivpost.com)

# Barcelona's attractions keep tourists returning

## World Traveler



WITH TOMA ISTOMINA  
ISTOMINA@KYIVPOST.COM

**BARCELONA, Spain** — It's no wonder that Barcelona hosts dozens of millions of visitors yearly.

The capital of Catalonia has it all for any kind of tourist: diverse gardens and parks for nature lovers, marvelous UNESCO World Heritage Sites for architecture fans, a variety of fresh seafood and wine for foodies, and the Barceloneta beach for those who can't think of a vacation without sun bathing and swimming.

A four-hour flight from Ukraine, this sunny city of 1.6 million people would make a perfect destination for any occasion.

Despite the demonstrations that recently occurred demanding strict regulations on Barcelona tourism, the locals are complete sweethearts, cheering "Hola!" to foreigners at every corner.

In addition, Barcelona is quite cheap compared to northern and western Europe, making it possible to schedule a low-budget trip.

But of course, the main gem that attracts tourists is Barcelona's trademark, Catalan modernism — an architectural style known for its intricate decorations and attention to detail.

For years, the Sagrada Familia church, designed by Spanish artist Antoni Gaudí, has been the most-visited site in the city. Gaudí, known as the brightest adept of Catalan Modernism, has designed a number of astounding buildings in Barcelona including Park Güell, Casa Batlló, and Casa Milà. The latter also houses a museum that gives a better understanding of Gaudí's nature-inspired art.

No less marvelous, Catalan Modernism architecture includes the

Palau de la Música Catalana (Palace of Catalan Music) with its famous rows of multi-colored columns on the balcony and a compound sculptured stage, as well as the former Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, a huge complex that used to serve as a hospital and now is a museum that impresses visitors with its symmetry, scale and attention to detail.

All of the listed sights are easy to get to, as they have metro stations nearby and numerous direction signs. However, as the demand to visit these places is extremely high, it is recommended to book tickets ahead, at least several days prior to visiting.

Although Barcelona's developed transport system can get tourists anywhere at any time of the day, the city center should be explored on foot: not only in the Gothic Quarter but astounding squares and architecture pop up at every corner everywhere around the city.

In addition, wandering around the city will help visitors discover the local Spanish cuisine, which is not to be missed.

It's extremely difficult to find in Barcelona eateries serving anything other than Spanish cuisine. But that shouldn't be a problem as local dishes provide an amazing culinary experience.

The first thing to sink teeth into is the local seafood that comes straight from the Mediterranean Sea. The Kiosko Universal at La Boqueria market located on the noisiest city street La Rambla is the best choice for that. The open kitchen place offers grilled salmon, tuna, seabass, monkfish, as well as scallops and baby octopus, all of which can be served with grilled vegetables, mushrooms or french fries. After finishing a meal at Kiosko Universal there's no need to rush from La Boqueria, as there are plenty of delights to try such as fresh fruit and strawberries dipped in chocolate.

Tapas (appetizers) and sangria (red wine punch with chopped fruit)



Former apartment building Casa Milà in Barcelona is a creation of outstanding Spanish architect Antoni Gaudí made in Catalan Modernism style. The building offers access to the sculptures-decorated rooftop and a museum dedicated to Gaudí's inspirations. (Toma Istomina)

is another must-try: Enjoy the local spirit along with a choice of small portions of starters such as patatas bravas (fried potatoes with spicy tomato sauce), cheese cuts, olives and chopitos (battered and fried tiny squid).

The seafood paella, a savoury rice dish mixed with shrimp, squid, baby octopus and mussels served on a huge plate, is one more treat combining healthy and tasty.

Grupa Andilana, a restaurant group, is a great choice to try paella, fresh fish and meat entrees, and appetizing desserts such as Crema Catalana (similar to crème brûlée). They also have a wide choice of delicious local wine.

Grupa Andilana, which has quite a few eateries in the city center, offers daily menus Mon-Fri that provide a starter, entree, dessert, and a drink for around 12 euros. On holidays and weekends, they offer a bit more sophisticated menu for about 20 euros that covers the same type of meal. Apart from that, the Grupa Andilana's restaurants are a total delight in picturesque locations with perfect service and aesthetic design.

### Museums, gardens

And Barcelona is not only known for its architecture and food. Its art scene is impressive as well. For example, the Picasso Museum, which features over 4,000 paintings by Pablo Picasso — one of the greatest artists of all time — is another must-visit. Despite the multiplicity of its collection, the Picasso Museum is no boring or tiring institution. The art is divided into small halls separated by time periods of the

artist's life. Each hall includes a short description of Pablo Picasso's life and art influences. The museum is an exciting experience of diving deep into the artist's transformations throughout his lifetime.

Another place to discover rich local art is the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art. The place offers a journey through the history of Spanish contemporary art represented by works reflecting on key events of the 20th century, such as the Spanish Civil War and blooming feminism.

Once tourists are done exploring architecture and museums, it's time to escape the city buzz in the local parks and gardens.

The Botanical Garden of Barcelona, located on the Montjuïc hill, offers extremely diverse plants and trees from all over the world including Australia, Africa, South and North America.

The Parc del Laberint d'Horta is the oldest garden in the city mixing romanticism and neoclassicism. The place combines a variety of sculptures, flowering vine plants and a bush labyrinth that looks pretty small yet is still quite complicated.

And the Parc de la Ciutadella is a palm tree paradise with a breathtaking fountain and the 18th century Palace of the Parliament of Catalonia.

But what definitely should not be missed among all the natural sights is the Montserrat monastery located on its namesake mountain some 60 kilometers northwest from Barcelona. An abbey of the Order of Saint Benedict, Montserrat is not only a symbolic place for Catholic

believers who will get a chance to enter the magnificent Basilica of Montserrat but also a picturesque spot for hiking. The mountain view offers scenery with the highest Sant Jeroni peak reaching over 1,200 meters above sea level.

A trip to Montserrat will take a whole day. The best trip on offer is the "Trans Montserrat" ticket which costs 31.60 euros and covers a roundtrip train ride as well as the funicular that goes up to Sant Jeroni and back down. The tickets can be purchased at the Plaça d'Espanya metro station, from where the train to Montserrat departs every hour with the first one leaving at 8:36 a.m. and the last one at 6:36 p.m.

Needless to say, soccer is big in Barcelona, so sport fans will definitely have fun attending a match at the legendary Camp Nou stadium and learning the history of Barcelona Football Club at the stadium's museum. Soccer game tickets cost from 90 euros depending on the match.

It's impossible to explore Barcelona in several days so anything less than a one-week vacation sounds too unfair for the city of so many unforgettable experiences. ■

### How to get there?

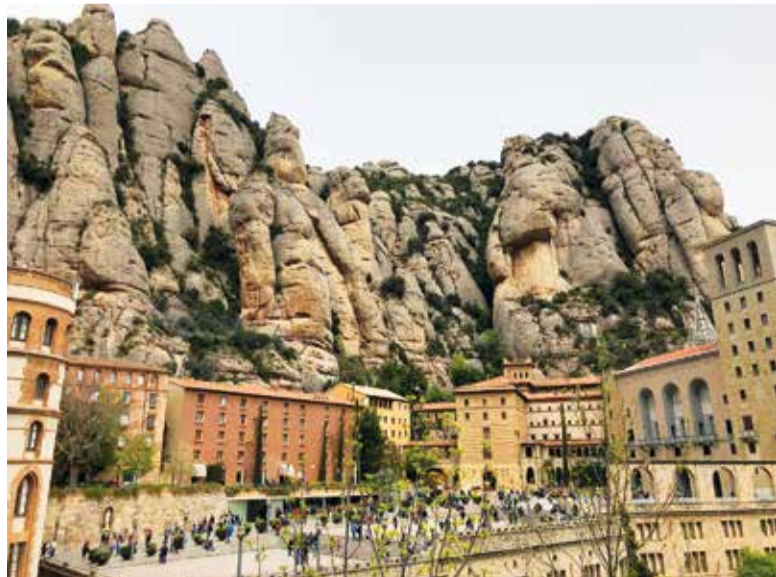
Lowcost airlines Ryanair and SkyUp offer tickets from 60 euros one way.

### Where to stay?

Hotel rooms for one cost from 60 euros per night; Airbnb apartments start from 70 euros per night.

### Transport

A T10 pass for 10 rides by any public transport for 10 euros is the best option.



The Montserrat mountain range, located 60 kilometers northwest from Barcelona, is famous for its multiple rock formations. The range also locates the monastery of the same name and marvelous Basilica of Montserrat, as well as serves as a spiritual place for Catholic believers. (Toma Istomina)

# Ukrainians help create viral 'Eva Stories' that bring Holocaust victim diary to Instagram

BY TOMA ISTOMINA  
ISTOMINA@KYIVPOST.COM

The "Eva Stories" series of viral videos that combine into a film about human experiences of the Holocaust has created a precedent by uniquely mixing social media, cinematography, and history.

Based on real experiences but with an added, modern twist, the film tells the story of a Jewish teenager Eva, caught up in the horror and nightmares of the Holocaust but asks an unusual question: What if she had Instagram?

That rhetorical question, involving the two non-intersecting worlds, inspired the project and became its slogan.

Filmed in Ukraine by local production company ColorFilm, alongside Israeli company POV Shahr Segal Productions, "Eva Stories" was shared as 70 Instagram "stories," reaching out to the social media generation on one of the world's most popular platforms.

The project was broadcast live on Instagram on May 1 marking Israel's annual Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day, dedicated to six million Jews killed in the Holocaust.

The Instagram account hosting "Eva Stories" has gone viral reaching over 1.6 million followers.

The story idea belongs to Israeli businessman Mati Kochavi and his daughter Maya, who both co-directed the social media film.

"We were looking for a way to deal with this memory and manage this memory in a way that is going to be relevant for the younger generation," Kochavi said in an interview to American broadcaster CNN.

Kochavi funded the production of "Eva Stories," which he said cost several million dollars.

The social media film recreates the real diary of Hungarian Jew Eva Heyman, portrayed by British actress Mia Quiney.

Eva started the diary on her 13th birthday in 1944 with descriptions of her family, friends, her first romantic crush and school. Her story took a dark twist however, as the teenager moved on to portraying the Nazi invasion of Hungary and the new, humiliating laws and ghettos that German forces introduced.

Although "Eva Stories" received international acclaim and media attention, some criticized the film for trivializing the Holocaust by using Instagram filters and emojis. The creators of the project fended off that criticism.

"Social media, especially Instagram, is shallow if you're looking for content that is shallow," the film's co-director Maya Kochavi told CNN. "And if you're looking for content that is powerful and has magnitude and can cause revolutions even, you will easily find it there."

## Technical challenge

Ukrainian production company ColorFilm mostly films commercials. They had already been cooperating with Israeli productions for around two years by the time the "Eva Stories" project team reached out to them in February.



The "Eva Stories" series published on Instagram recreates the real events in the life of a Hungarian Jew Eva, who went through the horrors of Holocaust in 1944. Ukrainian production ColorFilm with Israeli company POV Shahr Segal Productions filmed the series in western Ukrainian city Lviv. (Courtesy)

ColorFilm had to find numerous props, such as military uniforms and arms, but also face the technical challenge of filming vertical videos to meet the Instagram story format.

ColorFilm's executive producer Yana Kartun says that the company, however, wasn't afraid to experiment.

"We love challenges — it's like conquering new heights," Kartun told the Kyiv Post.

In the film, Eva often holds the camera herself shooting selfie videos while expressing her feelings or describing something happening around her. This, of course, resembles millions of Instagram stories uploaded to the platform every day. However, what the girl talks about in her videos is very different from the usual Instagram content.

"It's the middle of the night. I can't fall asleep. The Germans have reached my city," Eva says, crying as she shoots a selfie video wearing pajamas.

The camera had to be light enough for the young actress to hold. So the company settled on using a smartphone and a small specially equipped camera instead of the usual bulkier equipment.

The shooting took place in Lviv, a city of 720,000 people located 540 kilometers southwest of Kyiv, in March. The city's historical center provided the best scenery to imitate Hungary of 1944.

Kartun says that the local authorities were very accommodating, giving ColorFilm permission to shoot some large-scale scenes including a parade with tanks.

However, as the shooting took place around a week before the Ukrainian presidential election, with tensions high throughout the country, the team of the film had to take some extra security measures to prevent any violence against the Nazi props.

"We always unfolded the Nazi flags right before filming so that they don't disturb the citizens," Kartun says.

## Emotional challenge

The cast of "Eva Stories" was an international mix with the main roles played by British actors and the minor ones by Ukrainians.

Ukrainian dancer and actor Bogdan Ruban, 26, played Eva's first crush, a teenage boy named Pista. His character, just like Eva and many others, went through a heartbreaking transformation from a cheerful boy playing soccer and enjoying ice cream with a girl he likes to a victim of the Nazis.

Ruban says it was quite a task to take on such a role.

"I just wanted to be sincere in the shot and wanted to get at least a little closer to that Pista who lived at that time," Ruban told the Kyiv Post.

It was the masterful guidance of co-directors Mati and Maya Kochavi that helped the actors go through the transformation, they said. Kartun says that Kochavi made a wise decision to follow the diary chronology.

"So that we were able to go from the most positive state to the tragic one step by step," he says.

## All stories end

The following paragraphs contain information about how "Eva Stories" concludes.

Producers told the Kyiv Post that the team was filming only several scenes a day because of how emotionally draining the job was, sometimes making the crew cry on set.

Before filming the episode in a ghetto where dozens of people lived in a single room with no daylight, the actors were locked in a room for several hours to experience it.

"It helped us a lot that we kind of lived through these scenes," Ruban said.

Ruban says that the way Mati Kochavi was getting actors into the right mood was "something."

"It was coming from inside. It's his history and he wanted to share it," Ruban said. "He once told me it was his task as a director to deliver the story that happened in 1944, and

that my task was to show what people can do to other people."

The film finishes where Eva's real diary ended: when the girl was sent to Auschwitz concentration camp in then-occupied Poland, where she was killed.

According to her diary, the girl dreamed of becoming a famous news photographer.

"Eva, we hope that through this project, we made your dream come true," the film's final shot reads. ■

World Traveler

# One short flight away, sunny Georgia great for quick getaway

Georgia from page 19

neighborhood where street vendors are selling spices and carpets, and where restaurants are luring tourists in with traditional Georgian cuisine – khachapuri, a type of cheese-filled bread, khinkali, Georgian dumplings with meat and broth, chakhokhbil, stewed chicken with tomatoes and fresh herbs and lots more.

It is nearly impossible to taste all dishes Georgia has to offer, with Georgian cuisine being one of the main tourist attractions.

The cheap prices are a major plus. Lunch on a popular touristic street with live music and beautiful scenery will cost around \$15-20 for two people, including a bottle of fine Georgian wine.

One of the best views of Old Tbilisi, with its narrow streets and rusty houses, opens from the fourth century Narikala fortress, which lies on a hill and requires patience to withstand the hour-long line to the cable car connecting the Rike Park to the fortress.

The other more practical way to take an Instagram picture would be to visit the observation deck near the Metekhi Church of Assumption situated across the street from Rike Park, built in the 13th century during the Golden Age of the Georgian Kingdom under the Bagrationi dynasty.

## Vineyards and churches

While Tbilisi has its flair, staying in the city without traveling through the country itself would be putting one's holiday to waste.

Tour agents, more often kids on the streets, are selling group tours to the ancient Georgian capital of Mtskheta, 20 kilometers northwest from Tbilisi, the Kakheti province, an eastern province where most of the Georgian wine is made, and an expedition to the Kazbek Mountains on the border with Russia.

Traffic regulations are nearly absent outside of Tbilisi.

It becomes an even bigger problem as both right-sided and left-sided steering wheels are permitted and drivers disregard speed limits.

But for those willing to risk driving outside Tbilisi, the best choice would be Mtskheta, serving as the Georgian capital from as early as the 4th century B.C. A 40-minute drive comes with truly breathtaking scenery, ancient markets, medieval churches and lots of carpets.

The Jvari monastery, built in the sixth century on a mountaintop at the confluence of the Mtkvari and Aragvi rivers offers the best view of the city, monuments of which are a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The journey to Kakheti province east of Tbilisi requires the whole day and is most definitely worth the time.

After an hour-and-half ride, if the

driver's speed doesn't drop below 120 kilometers per hour through a beautiful yet dangerous hill road, one ends up in the Alazani Valley, the home of Georgian wine.

Here, tourist-friendly vineyards offer local wine tasting that comes with stories about the region's history and culture. Those ready for something stronger might be interested in tasting chacha, local grape vodka usually containing about 50 to 70 percent alcohol.

Overlooking the Alazani Valley, is the town of Signagi, a walk through which brings one back to the time of medieval bazaars filled with spices, wine and loud vendors. The medieval walls surrounding the city facilitate the feeling that time had stopped centuries ago, resulting in a strange sensation when a car passes the 17th century Bodbe monastery.

## Behind the tourist glare

However, delicious food and cheap wine can't overshadow the poverty and disparity often seen in Georgia.

Turning away from the tourist-packed center you end up in front of a completely different setting: old rusty houses, walls which are propped up by logs or metal beams, and poor or nonexistent roads.

Business itself is strictly built around Russian speaking tourists. Tourist landmarks are renovated, yet other parts of the city are neglected. Old Tbilisi



Vendors sell carpets near restaurants on Sioni Street in Tbilisi historic center on May 3, 2019. (Oleksiy Sorokin)

is packed with restaurants, yet eating out or even buying water outside peak tourist locations is challenging.

The vast majority of tourists are from post-Soviet countries – Ukraine, Russia and Armenia. Georgia only recently became a tourist destination for neighboring countries, while still relatively unknown for those to whom kindzmarauli or saperavi (types of wine) doesn't say anything.

The ongoing conflict with Russia and the absence of diplomatic bilateral relations don't seem to stop Russians from booking vacations in Georgia. All group tours are offered strictly in Russian, while local winemakers say that it's possible to purchase their wine in almost all Russian cities.

At the same time, tour guides will mention how Russia occupied Georgia in 1800, how the Georgian Orthodox Church was dissolved by the Russian authorities and most Georgian church icons and mosaics where painted over with white paint.

The most recent military conflict between Russia and Georgia occurred in August 2008, when Russia occupied Georgia's autonomous regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

It is hard to assess, whether the country is moving in the right direction, but there is obviously a number of problems that are far from being solved.

### How to get there

A round trip from Kyiv to Tbilisi will cost Hr 4,200 (\$140) per person on average.

### Where to stay

A hotel through Booking.com in downtown Tbilisi will cost around \$30 per night.

### Transport in Tbilisi

The subway price is \$0.75 for a mandatory travel pass and \$0.20 for each trip. A trip to Mtskheta with a group will cost \$10-15, Kakheti will account for \$15-20 per person, with a guide and wine tasting included. ■

Subscribe to the Kyiv Post and have fresh issues delivered weekly to your door. Support Ukraine's trusted source of independent English-language news since 1995!

OUR SUPPORTERS:

# Downtown River Station reopens after 7 years

Station from page 19

reply to the Kyiv Post's requests for comment.

Tugashev says that he and Pavlo Polikanov, head of river tourism development in Kyiv, reached out to the River Station's owners back in December 2018. The owners have supported Tugashev and Polikanov in renovating the building — they even funded it at a cost that remains unknown.

"We did that to breathe life into the River Station so that now people can see it from the inside, explore its beauty, as well as see the art," Polikanov says. "We could not stand that such a monumental, beautiful, bright building remained closed."

Throughout its years of closure, the River Station deteriorated significantly due to age and neglect. The team had to replace the building's heating system, replace the old, broken windows and repair the storm water drainage system. Today, two of the building's four floors have been reopened to visitors.

To preserve the River Station's identity and avoid damaging the interior frescoes, which were created by Ukrainian artists of the past century, the team has left the interior walls untouched.

"A lot of work has been done.

Visually, it is probably not noticeable, but we really have done a lot," Polikanov says. "Our main goal was to keep the building at least in the condition it is in now," Polikanov adds.

## Renovate, reopen

Even though Tugashev had the idea of creating a street food festival on Poshtova Square for a long time, he decided to begin the River Station's journey of improvement with art.

"People live not only to enjoy some food and drinks. People also want some cultural and social component in all places...," says Tugashev.

Therefore, the team opened the Buhta Art Space on the River Station's first floor, launching "Renovation," an art exhibition that mixes 20th century modernism with contemporary art.

The exhibit currently features artwork by 11 Ukrainian artists and is open every day until May 15 from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m.

Dasha Bilenko, the exhibit's curator and a Kyiv-based art expert, says the art space received 190 applications from artists across Ukraine and had to select from the best among them.

"This is a very resonant place where lots of people would love to work," Bilenko says.



People pass by a street food court at the River Station in Kyiv on its opening day on May 4, 2019. The River Station has 17 food kiosks with food for any taste and wallet. (Volodymyr Petrov)

According to Bilenko, the name of the exhibition reflects the changes the River Station has undergone. The entrance to the exhibition is free, as the idea behind the project was "to bring art to the masses," Bilenko says.

However, it is not only about art.

On the weekend of May 4–5 alone, more than 15,000 people visited the River Station, according to event organizers. Visitors came to the official opening of Buhta Food Station, a festival that turned the

calm embankment by the Station into a crowded and lively food market.

Buhta Food Station now consists of 17 street food kiosks where one can find dishes to match a variety of tastes and budgets: Chinese and Mexican cuisine, shrimp, oysters, burgers, steak, and churros are all on offer to visitors.

There are also two bars where visitors can wash down their meals with a glass of wine or cider.

"At Buhta Food Station you can

find chebureki (fried pastry with meat or cheese) for Hr 35 (\$1.30) and steaks for Hr 350 (\$13.30)," says Tugashev.

Apart from that, those who enjoy hookah can smoke on the River Station's picturesque terrace while savoring a view of the Dnipro River.

Like the art exhibition, Buhta Food Station will work every day from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m.

Polikanov also says they aim to create a full spectrum of opportunities at Poshtova Square. In other words, a person who comes there will be able to "eat there, walk, buy some needed goods, and go home satisfied, willing to come back once again."

According to him, they have started looking for pharmacies, banks and ATMs to open on the embankment.

"We want people to find everything they need here," Polikanov says.

Tugashev adds that they plan to continue developing the River Station and want it to operate the whole year round, not only during the summer.

"We try not to focus on what we have already done," he says. "We believe in the potential of this location, we believe that the city needs it, and so we just do it." ■

## Employment / CV

**HELP US COVER MORE NEWS**

Obtain a Kyiv Post corporate subscription for your office today

+38 044 591 33 44

**PLACE YOUR MINI RESUME FOR 400 UAH**

**World Health Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

WHO invites applications for the post of **National Professional Officer (Health Financing)**

WHO is looking for a National Professional Officer (Health Financing) to WHO Country Office in Ukraine. The incumbent will support the effective implementation of WHO activities related to strengthening the health financing and the health system. For full and detailed vacancy notice please access: <https://careers.who.int/> Closing date for applications: **16 May 2019** Vacancy Notice No: **1902013**

**GLOBE SAVE**

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:**

The US based NGO Globe Save is granting out up to \$3,500 to a Ukrainian organisation who is promoting access to justice in Ukraine.

To apply please visit <https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/funding-opportunity>.

Deadline to apply: July 1, 2019.

**World Health Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

WHO invites applications for the post of **National Professional Officer (Medicines Policy)**

WHO is looking for a National Professional Officer (Medicines Policy) to WHO Country Office in Ukraine. The incumbent will support the effective implementation of WHO activities related to medicines policy and the health system. For full and detailed vacancy notice please access: <https://careers.who.int/> Closing date for applications: **16 May 2019** Vacancy Notice No: **1902014**

**Professionals for Reform Support Mechanism PRSM**

PRSM provides human resource support — from managers to technical experts — to critical reform initiatives undertaken by national governmental agencies. PRSM is currently seeking candidates to fill the following expert positions for the Government of Ukraine:

for the e-Health project under the Ministry of Health of Ukraine:

- Chief Technical Officer.

For more detailed information about preferred qualifications and skills, indicative duties and responsibilities, as well as applying procedure, please visit web-site: [www.edge.in.ua/vacancies/](http://www.edge.in.ua/vacancies/)

## CLASSIFIEDS

**WORK PERMIT**  
Residence permit  
Company registration, accounting services, payroll, recruiting.  
11 years' experience, references  
+38 099 290 25 83, +38 095 202 41 60  
[www.accountor.com](http://www.accountor.com)

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR**  
OLD AND NEW APARTMENTS REMODELING  
Property management  
ROYAL TOWER KIEV  
+38 099 67 74 094  
[WWW.KPM-UKRAINE.COM](http://WWW.KPM-UKRAINE.COM)

Bit of happiness.  
Lyudmila  
Balance of body & soul.  
24 types of massages  
tel: (097) 551-58-47, (073) 47-86-125  
[massages.kiev.ua](http://massages.kiev.ua)

HOME BIBLE STUDY - songs and prayer  
Russian - English (refreshments)  
10:00 Sundays 27A Hero Stalingrad  
Metro Minsk, Oblone  
044-413-92-03  
[ralphinkiev@gmail.com](mailto:ralphinkiev@gmail.com)

Work permits  
**RESIDENCE PERMITS**  
Business set up, accounting services  
+380-44-237-72-76  
[www.accounting.ua](http://www.accounting.ua)

**Language support in Stockholm**  
Interpreting during private/business meetings, negotiations  
English, Swedish, Ukrainian, Russian  
Call +46706722238 or  
email [iryna.arvanus@outlook.com](mailto:iryna.arvanus@outlook.com)

**BEST BARGAIN!**

Advertising in the Classifieds and Employment section  
+380 44 591 34 08 [krus@kyivpost.com](mailto:krus@kyivpost.com)

# S WEDEN-UKR AINE BUSINESS FORUM



CENTER  
«PARKOVY»



ERICSSON



SCANIA

SKF®

S|E|B



Electrolux



GRAIN  
ALLIANCE

 SIGMA  
Software