



UKRAINIAN ART CENTER NEWS

THE UNSTOPPABLE FORCE OF THE ARTS

A Quarterly Newsletter | Issue No. 6 Spring 2018

Q: Who was the famous Ukrainian voice in spots for Coca-Cola, Ford, American Airlines, MacDonaldds, Sears, JC Penney, and back-up singer for Barry Manilow, Michael Bolton, Linda Ronstadt, Carly Simon, and Quincy Jones?

A: Our very own Ukrainian - Kvitka Cisyk!

Born in New York on April 4th, 1953, Kvitka had an amazing career until her premature death on March 29th, 1998, when she succumbed to cancer after a long and courageous battle. She was only 45. But what an incredible and successful life she lived.

To this day, both her birth day and death day are celebrated in tributes all over the world. In June 2013, the Ukrainian Parliament named a "Kvitka Cisyk Day" as being a cultural icon and one of the most popular singing artists across Ukraine.



Save the date - UAC is planning a tribute to this incredible artist on Sept 16th at Ukrainian Culture Center. Come and find out more about this incredible artist and her contribution to the music world and to Ukrainians. In the meantime, visit her website: kvitkacisyk.com to find out more about her life and music. She was proud to be Ukrainian, and you will be too after you find out more about this iconic woman!

By Olenka Krupa

Ola Rondiak

Provided by artist

In November, UAC is planning to invite prominent artist Ola Rondiak to Los Angeles to exhibit her work, which is currently on display in New York at the Ukrainian Institute.

Ola Rondiak, a graduate of Hunter College, grew up in Ohio in a Ukrainian family. She studied art in both Ukraine and Hungary. Her paintings stem from her family's experiences living in Ukraine, the events of WWII, Stalin's Iron



Curtain, the Orange Revolution, and the Revolution of Dignity. The Orange Revolution in the fall of 2004, signaled the emergence of a new civic movement--a political resistance group, people from all walks of life, that banded together to forge a red light on the ruling class' fraudulent election processes. Abrasive weather notwithstanding, Ukrainians

(continued on page 5)

A Word From the President

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU - OUR SUPPORTERS, who are **donors** and **workers** who participate in the implementation of our programs. **YOU** make it possible for us to plan new programming for 2018 - such as a tribute and fundraising concert of a well known singer KVITKA CISYK, and later in the year an exposition of a recognized fine artist - OLA RONDIK from Kyiv. You can familiarize yourself with each of the artists on the internet where you can view and listen on YouTube or Facebook about each artist.

Since our inception in 1986, by implementing the very successful PYSANKA and YALYNKA FESTIVALS, and recently reestablishing our exempt status and activities in 2014, UAC has continued the very important work of exposing Ukrainian art to a wider audience. In 2016, UAC presented a Major Exhibition of "MAIDAN - ROAD TO FREEDOM", which featured original artworks, defense tools used during Maidan, and musical interpretation of events by our friend SERHIY FOMENKO (from the well known rock group MANDRY) directly from Kyiv. In 2017 Ukrainian Art Center presented a very successful and original bi-lingual dramatic play "MAGESTIC WOMAN - LESIA UKRAINKA". The artistic execution of the program of such high caliber was well received and definitely to be included in future programming.

Our outreach to the community and beyond through various forms of media has resulted in a swelling



of interest in membership of UAC, INC. With this growth we will be able to expand our activities. We welcome your ideas, contributions and support.

Our most sincere thanks for all your support throughout the years!

Daria Chaikovsky
President

UAC Featured Artist: Asya Gorska

Asya Gorska is an artistic director, choreographer and dance teacher of a dance group Chervona Kalyna. She is also a professional singer, presenter, UCC artistic director and a social worker.

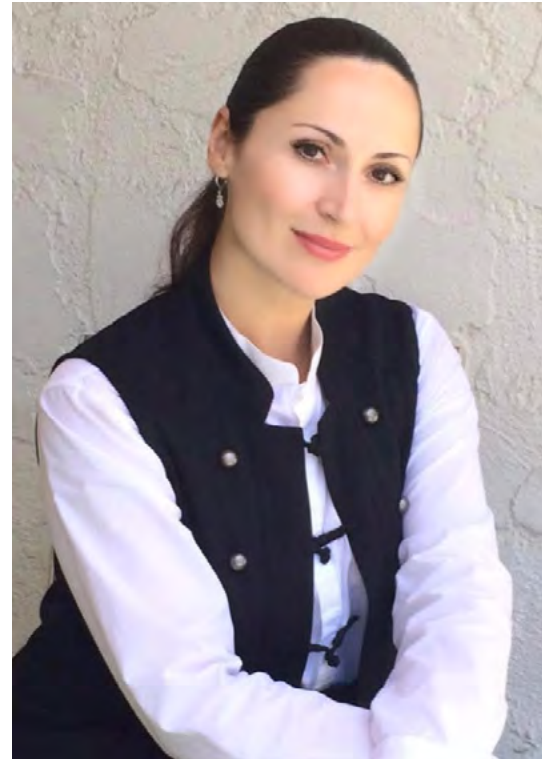
She was born in Ukraine in a beautiful city of Mykolayiv, where she grew up. Her grandmother Vira Aleksiyina was the one who influenced Asya's formative years and her career choice. Grandmother Vira was Asya's first teacher and mentor and was always there to support Asya through crucial moments of her life.

Straight after getting married, at the age of 22 Asya and her husband Euvgene Gorsky moved to the capital city of Kyiv. And so starts the next period of her life - Kyiv. The first years were not easy, but Asya's hard work and resistance paid off. Together with her husband she founded a band Foxtrot that was extremely popular with blues and rock n roll admirers. At the same time, Asya became an artistic director of a dance group Hratsiya (Grace), leading it until her move to the United States. Under Asya's helm, Hratsiya has won many prizes at various competitions in Ukraine and abroad. She spent 10 unforgettable years in Kyiv, leaving behind dear friends, students and colleagues. This period of her life is very special for Asya and her family.

In December of 2011 Asya moves to Los Angeles with her family. She has been working and enriching the Ukrainian

community in Los Angeles for almost 7 years now.

Apart from Chervona Kalyna, Asya sings in a band, performing at weddings, birthday parties for American and other audiences. The Band performs variety of genres from Jazz to rock in different languages. Asya used to sing in NBVM Ukrainian



Catholic Church, which was the experience she values to this day. She was a music teacher at Ridna Shkola of Los Angeles for 4 years and an actress in a puppet theater. Asya has been a choreographer in Happy Notes preschool for 6 years. It is a little-known fact that Asya also has a degree

in Social Work and works in Sunny Days retirement home. These were very busy 7 years and there is more to come.

Personal Note:

I never regretted our move to the United States. It was my husband's dream. He won the Green Card lottery the first time he applied. I treated this as the sign from God and supported my husband. It was extremely hard to leave behind family, friends, careers that took so much love and effort to build. Looking back at those 7 years here, it is hard to believe that so much has been accomplished. We found new friends and made this country our new home.

With love,
Asya Gorska
translated by Halyna Bond

Pysanka Festival Review

by Danuta Lopuszynska

This year's annual Ukrainian Pysanka Festival of painted Easter eggs was held on March 25, 2018 at the Ukrainian Culture Center in Los Angeles, from 12pm – 5pm.

The celebration of Ukrainian culture and tradition was truly a huge success thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who took part in organizing this beautiful event and all the guests and visitors who came to be part of it. Ukrainian Culture Center Board of Directors, Chervona Kalyna, Ukrainian Art Center, Ukrainian Womens League of America, and many other vendors came together to share their talents and displays of what Ukrainian culture is all about.

There was fun for the whole family! At the “ Craft corner” our artists shared their talents with our youngest par-

ticipants to teach them how to paint the Easter eggs, and everyone had a chance to make their own Easter egg. There were those who shared their own beautiful collection of “Ukrainian Pysanky” - beautiful assorted colored Easter eggs, both wooden and eggshells, with elaborate geometric pattern and pictures symbolic of spring and rebirth.

Special Thanks to our own artists Asya Gorska, Uliana Malyniak, and Chervona Kalyna for a great performance of our traditional Ukrainian music and dance, as well as guests performers: Oksana Nalisna, Ruslana Todoriuk, Svitlana Portnianska and Ivan Krasovsky.

And of course Pysanka Festival would not be complete without traditional Ukrainian food and drinks. Thanks to pani Hala Yakimyshyn for a variety of Ukrainian treats: delicious varenyky, holupty, kapusta, as well as tasty Ukrainian pastries.

In case you wanted a taste of Ukrainian Babka, you had an opportunity to get your own Babka right on time for your Easter table.

The Annual Ukrainian Pysanka festival is always a great time to experience Ukrainian culture and tradition, see renowned artists, make traditional Ukrainian Easter eggs, visit the many vendors and learn how to make your own colorful and beautiful “ Pysanka Easter egg”. Fun for the whole family! It was great to see many returning guests and visitors, as well as many “first comers” who came to experience Ukrainian culture and tradition.

Oleg's Impression

by Oleg Chaikovsky

This year's Pysanka Festival at the Ukrainian Culture Center was the most heavily attended and broadly supported event I can remember. The Ukrainian Art Center, Inc. did a fantastic job in promoting this year's event to such a wide audience. Young and old from many communities across Southern California came to experience the crafts, culture, dance, and food of our great Ukrainian Heritage. All of the staff and local artists participating provided a fantastic collection of activities and pysanka art and crafts. The photo booth this year was a surprising change and it appeared to be a hit with many of the young adults and children in attendance. The entertainment on stage was excellent and the dancers provided the guests with a fantastic performance of cultural dance styles. The audience showed their appreciation with excited applause and cheers.

While it was very crowded most of the day it seemed that everyone was enjoying themselves. The food, as always, was a big hit and the kitchen staff did a great job filling the orders - and hungry bellies of the guests. The bar provided some great libations to those looking for refreshment. The Ukrainian Art Gallery upstairs had a lot of traffic and interest in many of the items in the gallery -- not just pysanka



supplies or artful eggs, but also many of the other Ukrainian culturally-based items like books, paintings and prints, wood carvings, clothing and books. The gallery saw many young adults and young families come by and were amazed



by the amount of different styles of art and heritage available in the Ukrainian culture.

Overall the 2018 event was probably the best event so far in the long history of the Ukrainian Art

Center. Establishing the legacy for a continued presence in Los Angeles with a museum has a strong cornerstone and if the work continues like this I expect great things to come in a few years. Well done.



Breaking Point - The War for Democracy in Ukraine

Review by Olenka Krupa Griffies

On March 9th and 10th, the Los Angeles community was treated to “Breaking Point - The War For Democracy In Ukraine”, a movie written by Paul Wolansky and directed by Mark Jonathan Harris and Oles Sanin.

This was one of the many films being released about events taking place in Ukraine at Maidan and in eastern Ukraine, and in my opinion one of the best. What made it interesting and unique was the ability to tell the story about Ukraine and put it in a broader historical perspective, explaining why Ukraine has been and continues to be such an attractive target for takeover.

Character development was done very well by tracking the stories of people compelled to participate - both Ukrainian citizens and people travelling from all over the

world, and being touched by the frightening plight of the latest episode in Ukrainian history.

After the film showing, the audience was invited to ask questions and speak with the Directors. I was enlightened and impressed by how the Directors got together to work on this project and how passionate and committed they were about putting out such an excellent documentary.



This is a must-see/must-own movie for all - especially those unfamiliar with current events in Ukraine. It has won several awards, and got 100% on Rotten Tomatoes. For more info, check out their website breakingpointfilm.com.

Upcoming Events

September 16th: Annual Fundraiser featuring renowned singer Kvitka Cisyk at Ukrainian Culture Center

November: Ola Rondiak exhibit - details to follow.

Warm Welcome to our New Members:

Alex Tereszuk
George & Elizabeth Yemetz
Mark P. Billey
Paul & Michele Budilo
Halyna Stadnyk
Laryssa I. Reifel
Grant Barnes



Congratulations to Luba Keske for being awarded the Ukrainian Cultural Center Founders Award!!!



Luba Keske, Associate Producer of "JULIA BLUE", reports that the film has been selected to screen at two more Film Festivals - Berkshire International Film Festival and Seattle International Film Festival.

Olenka Krupa Griffies has been appointed to the Downey City Council by Mayor Sean Ashton.

(cont. from page 1)

staged nationwide nonviolent protests now known as the Orange Revolution, as well as the Revolution of Dignity in 2013. These events shaped Rondiak's worldview; emotional experiences began to surface in her paintings, family history intertwines with Ukrainian history and tradition.

Ola lives and paints between Kyiv, Ukraine and New York City. Some of her recent exhibits include the Tauver's Gallery International, in Kyiv, The Delaware Contemporary in Wilmington, DE, the US Embassy in Kyiv, Ukrainian Embassies in Berlin and Munich, Odessa Opera House in Ukraine, Nymphenberg Castle in Munich, and Ukrainian National Museums in Cleveland, Ohio and Chicago, Illinois. Her paintings can also be found in private collections throughout the world. Ola's artwork is currently on display at Zorya Fine Art Gallery in Greenwich, CT. Upcoming exhibits include Ukrainian Institute of America, in New York on May 4th and Rome, Italy in July.

Rondiak's iconographic portraiture of Ukrainian women depicts their "determined and indomitable spirit." Often referred to as "Pop art" or "folklore," her work recalls the icons of the Byzantine period, where Imperial and Ecclesiastical-sponsored proliferation of busts of saints and figures of the Virgin Mary lined basilica walls, retables, iconostases, and altarpieces.

Ola's portfolio consists of oil paintings, acrylic paintings, acrylic on cardboard, plaster of paris sculptures and mannequins, video installation, and acrylic and paper collages incorporating a number of mediums including pencil, oil pastels, and markers. Her "Motanka" sculptures were on exhibit at the Mystetskiy Arsenal in June 2017 in Kyiv and can be viewed again at the Ukrainian Institute of America, in New York in May, 2018.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Next time you make a purchase on Amazon, please consider logging on to smile.amazon.com and searching for and selecting "Ukrainian Art Center Inc." as your non-profit of choice. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. We thank you in advance!

UkrainianArtCenterSoCal.org

WE INVITE YOU TO OUR WEBSITE

**Tell us your story, your favorite memory of us.
What have you seen that inspires you?**

Sign up for our newsletter, view us on Facebook
(facebook.com/UkrainianArtCenterLA)

THE HISTORY OF THE UKRAINIAN ART CENTER

Based in Los Angeles, California. UAC, Ukrainian Art Center is a non-profit community organization. It was initiated by Daria Chaikovsky together with a group of like minded people in 1986 to preserve, promote and develop the Ukrainian arts in Los Angeles and California. Its initial goals reflect its present plan to create a new Ukrainian Museum in Los Angeles and to develop cultural and educational programs, alongside festivals and exhibitions. Mrs. Chaikovsky worked tirelessly with the UAC Board alongside her own business, presenting folk festivals, lectures, workshops and community projects on a small

scale, consistently providing a much needed resource for the local area. Over the years UAC was the main focal point for Ukrainian arts and culture on the West coast and involved people from all ages and backgrounds including non-Ukrainians. During these fruitful years, the local city council and private patrons funded its activities including regular Annual Easter Pysanka and Holiday Yalynka events, exhibitions, concerts and more, encouraging many diverse groups and individuals to explore the richness of Ukrainian Culture.

Become a Member of UAC If you enjoyed any of UAC programs/events like Maidan, Road to Freedom, Pysanka Festival, Museum Fundraiser Auction, Magestic Woman-Lesia Ukrainka, and other events and workshops over the years, you are invited to become Member of UAC and take part in development or have the opportunity to help the organization grow. A Ukrainian background is not necessary - just a passion for and a need to learn about Ukrainian contemporary arts and folk arts. You will work closely with our artists, board directors and other members. We could use your help and expertise in running future programs. **Email:** ukrainianartcenter@gmail.com | **Tel:** 818-635-8999 | **Website:** ukrainianartcentersocal.org | **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/UkrainianArtCenterLA "Ukrainian Art Center Los Angeles"

Newsletter The Board worked together to create a newly formatted newsletter. Previously several editions of the UAC Newsletters were published and after a break has reemerged in its new form and is available online. The UAC is run by a newly formed Board, each bringing with them unique skills and life experience that enriches the organization with a true commitment to developing its long term goals.

'The Ukrainian Art Center News' Editorial Group: Daria Chaikovsky, Editor in Chief; Olenka Krupa Griffies, Editor and designer; Ben Britten, Designer

Contributors: Olenka Krupa Griffies, Daria Chaikovsky, Luba Keske / Printing by Peter Brecko

UAC Board: Daria Chaikovsky, President; Olenka Krupa, Vice President; Olga Starow, Secretary; **Cultural Directors:** Maxim & Victoria Kuzin; **Members at Large:** Julia Michaels, Deanna Stetzenko Boulton, Ludmilla Wussek; **Trustees:** Scott Griffies, Luba Keske, Dr. Andriy Olesiuk; **Website Consultant:** Andrea Kusina, **IT Director:** Roman Yemetz

Members & Volunteers: Olha Boyko, Bohdan & Olena Buchinsky, Paul & Michele Budilo, Oleg Chaikovsky, Yar Chaikovsky, Andrew & Janet Demus, Asya Gorskaya, John Hryciw, Bohdan Kniahynyckyj & Vera Skop, Xenia Kozbur, Dr. Olga Popel, Irinej Prokopovych, Annia Shalauta.

Benefactors: Bohdan & Olena Buchinsky (Supporting); Yar Chaikovsky (Founder); Irinej Prokopovych (Voting)

Permission is granted to reprint original material, acknowledging UAC (a courtesy copy appreciated).

© Ukrainian Art Center, Inc. | 4315 Melrose Avenue | Hollywood, CA 90029 USA | **Tel.** 818-635-8999 | **Email:** ukrainianartcenter@gmail.com

Website: www.ukrainianartcentersocal.org | **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/UkrainianArtCenterLA "Ukrainian Art Center Los Angeles"


UKRAINIAN ART CENTER ^U_Z
ЦЕНТР УКРАЇНСЬКОГО МИСТЕЦТВА —
4315 Melrose Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90029