# UKRAINIAN ART CENTER NEWS THE UNSTOPPABLE FORCE OF THE ARTS

Issue No. 13

Spring 2022

Artistsforukraur

#### Fundraiser / Благодійний збір коштів - 4/16-17/2022



Ми радо повідомляємо, що Пасхальний захід із збору коштів LArtistsForUkraine дійсно відбувся на славу! Нам вдалося зібрати більше, ніж 27 тисяч доларів на допомогу Україні. Під час тихого аукціону ми зібрали 17 тисяч доларів, а концерт класичної музики додав ще 10 тисяч. До нас звернулося чимало організацій, які надають допомогу людям в Україні, з проханням про фінансову підтримку. Завдяки нашим зусиллям ми зможемо задовольнити більшість з них.

Дуже велике дякую Українському культурному осередку в Лос Анжелесі, а також неперевершеним митцям: Віктору Макогоненку, доктору Максиму Кузіну, Мирославі Хомик, Ладо В. Гуджабідзе, Марлін Грінберг, Ніку Ле Скелі, Юрію Віктюку, Юрі Колю, Юлії Гасіо; а також цілій низці волонтерів, які доклали зусиль, аби цей захід вдався: Вікторії Кузіній, Асі Горській, Ірині Васильковій, Галині Бонд, Андрію Демусу, Елізабет Захарків-Ємець, Люді Вусик, Джулії Майклс, Ользі Старов, Дебрі Касперській, Юстині Нікерсон, Олені Куліш, Олені Баклар, Маріано Галанте та Лорі Домінік.

Неперевершені митці LArtistsForUkraine представили українську класичну та популярну музику на світовому рівні як гідну світового визнання та показали картини високого мистецького рівня в Українському культурному осередку.

Митці LArtistsForUkraine планують ще більше заходів. Слідкуйте за новинами. We are excited to announce that our Easter weekend fundraising event LArtistsForUkraine was a great success! We collected over \$27thousand for humanitarian and medical assistance for the people of Ukraine. The Silent Auction collected - \$17thousand and Classical Music Concert - \$10thousand. We have received very many emergency relief requests and will fulfill as many as we are able with the collected funds.

An enormous thank you to Ukrainian Culture Center, artists – Victor Makohonenko, Dr. Maxim Kuzin, Myroslava Khomik, Lado V. Goudjabidze, Marlene Greenberg, Nik Le Skela, Yuriy Viktiuk, Juri Koll, Yulia Gasio, and a whole village of volunteers who made this fundraiser such a wonderful success – Victoria Kuzina, Asya Gorska, Iryna Vasylkova, Halyna Bond, Andrew Demus, Elizabeth Zaharkiv-Yemetz, Luda Wussek, Julia Michaels, Olga Starow, Debra Kaspersky, Yustyna Nickerson, Olena Kalish, Olena Baklar, Mariano Galante, and Laurie Dominic.

The creative talents of LArtistsForUkraine raised awareness about the Ukrainian classical and popular music on par with world class composers and brought outstanding fine art to the Ukrainian Culture Center.

LArtistsForUkraine plan more projects. Please stay tuned. *Ukrainian Art Center, Inc.* 



continued on page 2





#### A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT...



#### IN SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE!

I would like to share with you our experience with LA City Councilmembers supporting a resolution, passed on March 1, 2022, in concurrence of the Mayor, all expressing solidarity with Ukraine, adopting this Resolution and strongly condemning actions of President Putin.

"The City of Los Angeles stands firmly with Ukraine and it's people and strongly condemns President Putin's reckless actions against Ukraine."

This Solidarity with Ukraine Resolution was signed by all Council persons and in attendance at UCC led by Paul Koretz-5th District, who introduced the Resolution, Kevin De Leon-14th District, Joe Buscaino-15th District and our own friend Councilman Mitch O'Farrell-13th District who showed his solidarity in his dress of blue and yellow.

At the Solidarity Event at UCC were introductory speeches by each of the

Councilman followed by George Wyhinny – Vice President of the UCC Board, Iryna Vasylkova – Cultural Program Director of UAC and Paul Budilo on behalf of UCC Trustees. Also present were UAC members Elizabeth Zaharkiv-Yemetz, Luda Wussek, Olga Starow and Levko Kaspersky with great invasion protesting sign.

The foyer of UCC was jam-packed with LA City Press Core, reporters and cameramen from varied news stations, LA Times and other print media. All stayed on to ask questions, do individual interviews and enjoy the coffee and donuts provided by UAC.

Extra good news regarding the motion presented by Councilman Joe Buscaino, the LA City Council voted on March 25th to begin the process to adopt Kyiv, Ukraine as a Los Angeles Sister City, as another sign of support for the Ukrainian capital and the people of Ukraine.

*Steering committee to include Ukrainian Americans, and anyone interested in joining the committee can contact Buscaino's office or the Chief Legislative analyst at 213-473-5709.* 

Ukrainian Art Center is very thankful for everyone's support and cooperation. Let's stay strong and diligent in all our efforts to provide Ukraine with maximum support. SLAVA UKRAINI!

Daria Chaikovsky, UAC - President

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RUES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELA RESOLUTION	auns.
HEREAS, say official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies pror or pending before a local, state or folderal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form solution by the City Council with the seconstruct of the Meyer; and	posed of a
HEREAS, Ressian President Vladimir Putits has engaged in an unjustified, illegal, and unprovoked attack on the sove tion of Ukraine; and	reign
HEREAS, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the People of Ukraine have bravely resolved to stand firm and fight simit this tymenical act, and violation of sovereignty and international law; and	back
HEREAS, President Putin has ordered nuclear deterrence forces on high alert, endangering not only Ukraine, but the p mmunity by increasing the threat of an unwinnable nuclear war, and	lobal
HEREAS, seconding to the United Nations, have been at least 406 reported civilian casualties in Ukraine, including at 2 killed just within the first few days of the assault; and	least
HEREAS, the City of Los Angeles stands firmly with Ukraine and its People and strongly condemns President P kless actions against Ukraine, and	utin's
HEREAS, California legislators plan to introduce a bill to force the state pension funds, CalPERS and CalSTRS, as well or state agencies, to divest any Russian assets, while asking California companies to do the same, and	as all
HEREAS, as with the State of California, the City should not permit its own investment activity, whether direct literetly, in all agencies and opparaments, including the City's pension systems, to in any way aid or benefit Ramin, or or reportive entity (including the Country of Belarus), as it commits these human rights violations and attochtes in violt the rights of the Ustainian people; and	e any
EREAS, protecting the City of Los Angeles from financing war against the Ukrainian People is a compelling City inter	est.
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EREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the City of Los Angelei shall continue to support, celebrate the City's Ru amurity, culture, and local Russian-owned businesses.	
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# LITHUANIAN SCHOOL FUNDRAISER FOR UKRAINE



The Teachers and students of Casimir Lithuanian Heritage School of Los Angeles sent out an invitation for Saturday, March 5, 2022 to show their support for Ukraine. I had the pleasure to visit the school and have lunch with the Director Maryte Newsom and the school's teachers. We had a great conversation and I answered questions as we enjoyed a Lithuanian lunch. Once the students finished their break, they all came down to the hall and showed me all of their amazing posters that they were so proud of. I talked about Ukraine and the war in its early days with the students; I was impressed with the fantastic and thoughtful questions that they presented me with. I was pleased that even some parents had joined us and they had questions also.

The final question was asked of me by a young student and I had to really pause to think of a response - "If you were the

president of Ukraine, what would you do?" We talked about that for a short time, and finally ended with receiving a small donation that the students collected, as well as sunflowers. I brought a poster made by the students and teachers from the Lithuanian school for our Ukrainian students and teachers at Ridna Shkola.

After the get together, we all went out to the sidewalk and steps of St. Casimir Church for a short demonstration against the Russian War on Ukraine. They quickly put together chants, and were empowered when the cars driving by would honk in support! They held up their signs and small Ukrainian flags truly showing their passion and support. One couldn't be prouder of these children listening to them that day!

Elizabeth Zaharkiv





## АНГЕЛИ ПАМ'ЯТІ. ГЕРОЇ НЕ ВМИРАЮТЬ!

Український Мистецький Центр/Ukrainian Art Cen-

ter та Рідна Школа / Ridna Shkola міста Лос-Анджелес приєдналися до тихої акції вшанування пам'яті Небесної Сотні, героїв Революції Гідності.

В рамках відзначення днів жалоби 8ї річниці Революції Гідності Український Мистецький Центр провів для учнів



Рідної Школи урок-реквієм "Ангели Пам'яті". Тиха акція поминання полеглих за Україну на Майдані білими паперовими ангелами була започаткована заслуженою артисткою України та активісткою Анжелікою Рудницькою в 2014 році на вулиці Інститутській міста Києва, де відбувся кривавий злочин проти людяності. Нині ця традиція набула масштабів всесвітньої.



Важливим аспектом виховання та формування патріотичної свідомості підростаючого покоління українців - не уникати складних тем, навчати їх осмислювати трагічні стрінки історії. На уроці ми споглядали та обмірковували роботи американської художниці українського походження Олі Рондяк / Ola Rondiak. ЇЇ твори красномовно свідчать про жорстоку й невдалу спробу Росії перервати українську національну ідентичність. Учні Рідної Школи опанували традиційну українську художню техніку витинанки (вирізання з паперу сюжетних орнаментів). Діти створили свій власний мистецький проєкт "Ангели Пам'яті" на знак вшанування мужності українців, які віддали своє життя за нове, вільне майбутнє Батьківщини. На мирній демонстрації Stand with Ukraine (що пройшла в Лос-Аджелесі б лютого), юні митці Рідної Школи презентували світові живі квіти-соняшники, оздоблені паперовими ангелами – символами вічно живої пам'яті про гідність та незламність українського народу. Залучення юного покоління до активної участі у проведенні меморіальних



мистецьких акцій закладає фундамент для формування суспільства з ціннісними життєвими орієнтирами.

Сьогодні, в умовах жорстокої повномасштабної війни, розв'язаної Росією проти України, увесь цивілізований світ продовжує згуртовуватись навколо визнання та захисту права українців жити у вільній, демократичній, суверенній та унітарній державі. Подібні всесвітні культурно-мистецькі акції є потужним інструментом протистояння ворожим російським зазіханням на одвічні святині непереможного народу. Український народ є зразком великої людської, громадянської і національної звитяги. Перемога за нами!

Iryna Vasylkova



# **SPOTLIGHT ON**

## BARBARA WETZEL UKRAINIAN-AMERICAN FOLK ARTIST



This year our focus is on the turmoil in Ukraine and thus the Easter celebrations were very low key at the Art Center focusing on generating funds to aid Ukraine but very fortunate to have our outstanding master pysanka artist Barbara Wetzel featured in several activities at UAC.

The interview by the Spectrum reporter where you can view Barbara's life story and inspiration to continue the age old tradition of creating meaningful pysanky learned from her grandmother at the young age of eight is documented on YouTube and you can watch it for as many time as you wish. It was beautifully recorded by UAC Cultural Diplomacy Director Iryna Vasylkova under Pysanka Master Class by Ukrainian-American Folk Artist.

Barbara explaines the technique of decorating or writing on an egg shell using beeswax, a kistka-writing tool, and fire of the candle. Beginning from light to dark and writing symbols, dipping into several progressive colors and at the end removing all the wax and producing the magical-talisman Ukrainian





Pysanka. Barbara explains the meaning of the symbols used as well which colors have special meaning such as white for purity, yellow for warmth, referring to the meaning of yellow,

Barbara tells us that Ukrainians are warm people, orange for endurance and red for hope. The endless lines called bezkonechnyk stand for eternity, stars are heavenly stars. Barbara also tells us that the egg is a symbol of rebirth, coming back to life after a long and harsh winter. We later learn about her grandmother's favorite legend about a serpent that is chained to the cliff, and if not enough pysanky are made during the year the chains loosen and the serpent wreaks havoc, but if there are many pysanky written the chains tighten and the serpent is immobilized. As an aside, wouldn't it be wonderful today, so let's make sure that there are many pysanky in the world. Maybe the talisman will work!

Barbara creates a little excitement about

h u g e gathering, how there were huge parties celebrating together, and when asked what makes her most proud of being Ukrainian, she explains with passion that she loves Ukrainian culture, embroidery, music and pysanky.

Promoting the beauty of Ukrainian traditions and art that Barbara has done for so many years weather at the Annual Pysanka Festival where she thought groups of children the traditional art of Pysanky, teaching children at Ridna Shkola (Ukrainian Language School) as she had done this year where the Art Center awarded Barbara Wetzel with a Certificate of -Appreciation for her life- long dedication to fostering the love and appreciation of Ukrainian culture in youth and community. We thank Barbara Wetzel for her sacred ancestral knowledge of the art of Pysanky and willingly sharing it with us. The Ukrainian Art Center and Ukrainian Culture Center of Los Angeles

## Easter Bazaar (Ярмарок) to Aid Ukraine

Sunday, April 3, 2022 12:00pm - 5:00pm at Ukrainian Culture Center 4315 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029

This event will replace the previously scheduled annual Pysanka Festival

AMAZING SUCCESS! Community came together to support Ukraine!













































Stand With Ukraine LA was set up as activism movement a month before

## STAND WITH UKRAINE

As a crucial part of their initiatives, they always emphasize the importance and

the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. Today they are the #1 local and global organization to support, strengthen and sustain Ukraine, whose freedom is being defended with the lives of the brave.

Their volunteers ceaselessly organize rallies and campaigns supporting Ukraine, in LA and around the world. They lobby to effectively influence critical political decisions, changing the course of the war in favor of Ukraine.

Stand With Ukraine LA also runs a volunteer center handling humanitarian aid. They purchase, collect and package life-saving humanitarian and medical aid, as well as basic military supplies, all of which Ukraine desperately needs as a result of the Russian invasion.



support of the Ukrainian culture. At every event they raise awareness about Ukrainian cultural values, showcasing Ukrainian artistic heritage. Their slogan –

"Together hand in hand invincible we stand!"

Ukrainian Art Center is a strategic partner of the Stand With Ukraine LA Foundation and as such have been actively involved from the very beginning, both providing financial support to cover postage for letters to the government as well as arranging art project during multiple rallies.

We are planning to collaborate in further diplomacy events and fundraisers effectively staying united in all relief effort!

Iryna Vasylkova







# Stand With Ukraine LA







### FROM "STAND WITH UKRAINE LA"

The California State Senate Awarded Stand With Ukraine Foundation with a Certificate of Recognition for passionate commitment and conscientious efforts in helping Ukraine deal with the consequences of a brutal Russian invasion and for being a shining example of compassion, a source of energy and inspiration to others in the organization of this very admirable initiative.

We are humbled and honored to serve the Ukrainian Nation. Our heartfelt gratitude, utmost admiration, and this award go to the brave people of Ukraine who are defending its freedom with their lives.

Our willpower to save, strengthen, and sustain Ukraine is growing even stronger with the continued support from @senatornewmanca, our fabulous partners @kung\_pow\_ chica (Dance for Ukraine Fundraiser) and Artur Kiulian (Ukraine Now), and our phenomenal team of Volunteers. We feel dignified to be affiliated with this distinction from the Senate. This award is another example of tremendous help, encouragement and boost of morale that you all have given to Ukraine! We express our profound thankfulness to every single contributor to the victory of Ukraine.





Next time you make a purchase on Amazon, please consider logging on to http://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. Thank you in advance!



In January, the UAC together with IraVish (Iryna Vyshnevska), an artist from Odesa, established an art project "Identification Code". The artist presented acrylic paintings on homespun kilims. That technique, by consideration of art experts, is fabulous and exceptional.



As a child, IraVish felt the magical influence of the homespun tapestry. She grew up in Gagauz and Moldavian cultures, where kilims possessed powerful symbolism. The systematic displacement and suppression of Gagauz culture, by historical



and modern globalization processes, led IraVish to create a unique series of paintings on traditional kilims, designed to recreate the beauty of life and customs of this nation,

combined with some Bulgarian and Moldavian motives. The interesting point is that every kilim used by the artist is authentic and tells the whole story not only of some nations but also even

of particular families and people.

Visitors were astonished by the diversity of vivid colors and the interweaving of such interesting cultures in the art pieces created by IraVish. The exhibition became, without exaggeration, the bright aesthetic event that gave the Ukrainian community an exclusive chance to meet another cultural world.

Olena KALISH



## IMMERSIVE SHEVCHENKO EXHIRĪ



On March 14, 2022, Lighthouse ArtSpace Los Angeles unveiled a special showing of Immersive Shevchenko: Soul Of Ukraine along with Immersive Van Gogh that was shown exclusively on March 15th in 6 cities across North America. Local news media was there to help promote this exclusive event in Hollywood. Former "Dancing With The Stars" Pro Karina Smirnoff was there to promote the one day showing as she was born in Kharkiv, Ukraine but came to America as a teenager with her family. I was honored to join her for this opening as I was asked to speak about Taras Shevchenko and the influence of Shevchenko on Ukrainians today especially during the horrific war that Ukraine prayed would never happen. In Los Angeles alone by that late morning, the ticket sales had tipped over \$170,000.00 and counting... All showings were sold out and the group in Hollywood extended the showing to Saturday March 19th for two more evening shows. 100 % of the proceeds were to go to the Red Cross and the Bank of Ukraine to aid Ukraine in the war.

The Immersive Shevchenko was first shown in Odessa, Ukraine and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was present for this amazing multi-sensory event before Covid hit the world.

Taras Shevchenko was a cultural trailblazer for his time and constantly showed courage and resilience in his fight for Ukraine and its people's freedom. After speaking to the media we all went to the great room to see the Shevchenko piece for the first time. It was so lovingly put together and beautiful piec-



## **IMMERSIVE SHEVCHENKO** SOUL OF UKRAINE



es of Ukrainian music were used throughout and it definitely tugged at our heartstrings. Many an eye was dabbed as it was a very moving and proud moment to see such a beloved man of Ukraine be shown to non Ukrainians ...

I would like to write my final paragraph of my speech that day ...

Ukrainians have admired Shevchenko's truth and passion for his country and people through his rich poetry, books and plays, through his art and his very own love and strength and determination to stay up, to fight, to be proud, to not be silent. We will not allow anyone to steal what is and always was our Ukraine! Shevchenko's writings from an era of Ukraine under Russian rule, inspire Ukrainians today who are engaged in a national popular struggle for an independent people, language and nation. Today, not only do we struggle but, we are in a war that we never asked for, yet it will determine the fate of Shevchenko's dreams for a sovereign, independent Ukraine.

Elizabeth Zaharkiv



## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

We are xpressing our deep and sincere gratitude for the dedication, hard work and support shown in the successful fulfillment of the UAC mission, we are pleased and honored to announce the names of our brilliant team members and dedicated contributors who have been awarded the certificate of recognition for their outstanding service in preservation and promotion of Ukrainian art, music and culture:

Bill Guillermo Bejarano Marija Newsom Barbara Wetzel



## **THANK YOU to ALL**

who participated in Ukrainian Art Center's events.

You are part of our team in making a commitment to keeping Ukrainian Art and Culture Alive!

## **IN MEMORIAM**



**IVAN HRYCIW** UAC long standing member passed on January 26th, 2022

Eternal Memory! Вічна пам'ять!



# UKRAINIAN ART CENTER ykpaïhcький мистецький центр



## www.UkrainianArtCenterSoCal.org

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PLEASE SUPPORT US!

Donations can be made at: www.UkrainianArtCenterSoCal.org The Ukrainian Art Center, Inc. is a federally recognized 501c3 and your donation is 100% tax deductible

#### 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:

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Olena Kalish - Multi Disciplinary Arts & Social & Digital Media, Iryna Vasylkova - Cultural Diplomacy Program Director

Halyna Bond - Corresponding Secretary, Michele Clark Budilo - Financial Secretary, Deanna Stetzenko Boulton - Video & Photo Recording Secretary Members at Large: Luda Wussek, Luba Keske, Olga Starow, Linda Mudlo, Julia Michaels

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Supporting: Julia Birkel, Andrew & Janet Demus, Slavko & Vera Duss, Natalie Orlins Gebet, Zenovia Kuncio DDS, Pamela Moore, Irynej & Anne Prokopovych
Voting: Paul & Michele Budilo; Patrons: Lou & Daria Carpiac; Founding: Dan Benbenisty, Bohdan & Olena Buchysky, Yar & Carolyn Chaikovsky, Eugene Taras Novak
Volunteers: Louis Cogut, Anne Marie DiAgostino, Mariano Galante, Pete Maziak, Petro Piasetsky, Zoryana Ramos Gomez, Halyna Stadnyk, Natalia Vivcharenko, Barbara Wetzel, Adriana Wrzesniewki, George Wyhinny, Andrea Wynnyk

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