

# UKRAINIAN ART CENTER NEWS

THE UNSTOPPABLE FORCE OF THE ARTS

A Quarterly Newsletter | Issue No. 9 Winter 2019

## LOS ANGELES CELEBRATES UKRAINE'S RENEWED INDEPENDENCE

by Luba Poniatyszyn Keske



On Sunday, August 25th, over 300 people gathered at the Ukrainian Culture Center to celebrate the 28th anniversary of Ukraine's renewed independence. Mr. Walt Zozula, President of the Culture Center welcomed everyone with a brief address. Under this year's theme "One Nation Independent," the Ukrainian community also commemorated a historical event – the 100th anniversary of the unification of the Ukrainian Republic and the Western Ukrainian Republic into one independent state. To mark this significant occasion, Michael Sawkiw, Executive Vice President of UCCA and Natalia Lokatur, Head of the Department for International Relations of the Precarpathian National University in Ivano-Frankivsk, spoke about the importance of the proclamation of unification and the effect it had on the future of Ukraine and its people. Mr. Sawkiw spoke in English and Ms. Lokatur in Ukrainian.

The program, which was presented by the Ukrainian Culture Center and the Ukrainian Art Center of Los Angeles was directed by Victoria Kuzina and Asya Gorska. The M.C.s were Ms. Kuzina in Ukrainian and Maxim Kuzin in English who moved the program along graciously and informatively.

The stage was decorated beautifully by Elizabeth Yemetz and Victor Mokohonenko with the wording of "One National Independent" in blue and yellow, and surrounded by generous sizes of brilliant red poppies and large luscious green leaves. In addition, the audience was treated to a profoundly magical array of artwork by the renowned artist, Ola Rondiak, skillfully exhibited on the walls of the Culture Center. Ms. Rondiak, who was born in America but has made her home in Kyiv since 1995, brought with her to Los Angeles 30 pieces of contemporary female portraits. As Ms. Rondiak explained in her presentation, "the female image has become a metaphor for Ukraine, as it portrays a courageous, free and determined spirit." Through her iconographic portrayal of women, whether in collages, oils or sculptures, Ms. Rondiak brings truth to the forefront.

The program opened with a prayer led by the priests of the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox churches, followed by the American and Ukrainian National anthems sung by the very talented lovely teen-ager, Margaryta Kuzina. This was followed by the "Chervona Kalyna" dance group's performance of an exquisite rendition of the traditional "Welcome Dance." Later in the program, the group performed the "Young Kozaks," "Vahylya" and "Kolomyika" dances followed by much-deserved applause. Other performances included songs by Asya Gorska, Margaryta Kuzina, Oksana Kvitka and a poem titled "Ukraina" composed by Vilen Chernyak and recited by Halyna Stanyk. The young brothers from Ridna Shkola, students Oleksiy and Pavlo Kryshchenko, treated the audience to a humorous parody "Hrytzko's Science" which brought many laughs and applause from the audience. Olenka Kasperska, a teenager who has already mastered the violin, performed a soulful interpretation solo of "I Will Go to the Distant Mountains."

The program ended with a finale with all participants on the stage as Ms. Gorska performed the well-known popular and beloved song, "My Ukraine." All were rewarded with a hearty applause and standing ovation.

THANK YOU ALL!



Michael Sawkiw



Natalia Lokatur & Ola Rondiak



Ashya Gorska & Chervona Kalyna

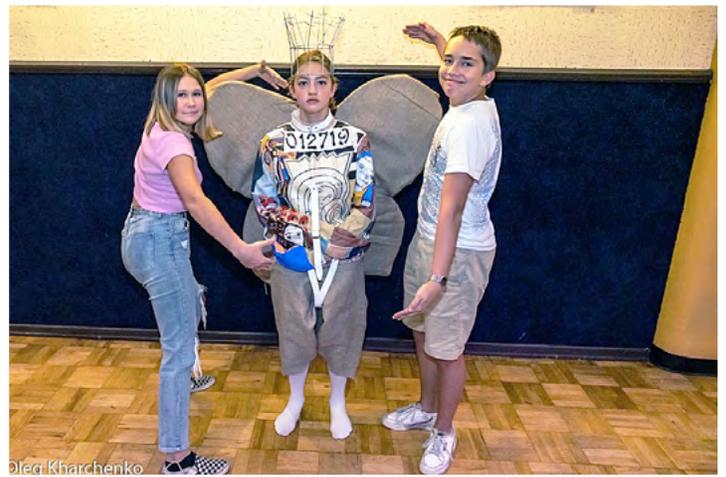
# OLA RONDIK

## AT UKRAINIAN CULTURE CENTER

AUGUST 25, 2019

*It was such an honor to be invited as the exhibiting artist for the “One Nation Independent” celebration in the beautiful and historic Ukrainian Culture Center in Los Angeles. I was very impressed by what I call the “power team” at the Ukrainian Art Center in L.A. headed by Pani Daria Chaikovsky who demonstrated above and beyond hospitality. It was also an honor to be invited to address the assembled Ukrainian community which surprised me with not only their numbers but their passion and vibrancy. The program of “One Nation Independent” was rich in content and diverse in form. From my perspective the execution of the day’s events was flawless and engaging. Interacting with the Los Angeles Ukrainian community proved to be very interesting and I have fond memories of many conversations. I am grateful for the opportunity and the warm reception. I am also happy to have my work on display at the Ukrainian Art Center gallery. Best wishes and happy holidays to the Los Angeles Ukrainian community. Khrystos Rozhdayetsya, Slava Ukrayini!*

Ola Rondiak



# OLA RONDIAK

## RECEPTION AT THE CASTAWAYS

After many months of work and planning to introduce the amazing artwork of OLA RONDIAK to the public at UCC'S "ONE NATION INDEPENDENT" Ukrainian Independence Day, UAC took an opportunity the evening prior to welcome Ola and her husband Petro to Los Angeles with drinks and dinner with a beautiful view of the San Fernando Valley. It was a chance to relax and get to know this tal lady. A memorable time was had by all that attended.

Elizabeth Zaharkiv Yemetz



## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Why am I interested in and want to belong to UKRAINIAN ART CENTER in Los Angeles, California?

That has been on my mind for a long time now. And so I asked our Board Members to share with you -our members and supporters, their reasons for not just belonging, but being passionate in developing artistic programs to share with Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian communities. The main mission of UAC is outreach and exposing Ukrainian culture and arts to all.

SO - WHY JOIN UKRAINIAN ART CENTER?

- Do you love to learn about art?
- Do you like to help plan and see them successfully executed?
- Would you enjoy teaching art projects at events?
- Do you like to work with other cultural art centers and social networking?
- Do you enjoy sharing Ukrainian art traditions with others?

There are many ways to volunteer and give back...being a member helps support Ukrainian art events, workshops and sharing of cultural artistic awareness. Members of UAC provide research; artifacts; share knowledge of Ukrainian art history in Los Angeles and help bring talents and movies to Los Angeles. Some members serve as event sponsors which support travel to bring artists and art-work physically to Los Angeles from Ukraine and supplies for many year-round event showcases.

We hope that you decide to join us as members and share our passion and vision for Ukrainian Art Center in the New Year. And as we enter the holiday season, on behalf of Ukrainian Art Center of Los Angeles I am very pleased to wish you and your family my best for a blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! - ВЕСЕЛИХ СВЯТ!

*Daria Chaikovsky, UAC - President*

## A WORD FROM THE MEMBERS...

*"I want the people of Los Angeles to know about Ukraine and what an amazing western European country it is. The most concrete way to do this is to be a member of UAC and help present Ukrainian culture to the public."* **Olga Starow**

*"It's truly a pleasure serve as a member of the Ukrainian Art Center and collaborate with a dedicated team of volunteers who enjoy working together and showcasing Ukrainian Art to our local and broader Los Angeles multi-cultural*



*communities. Together, we learn and share knowledge about talented Ukrainian Artists who have made great achievements in music, theater, film, painting, sculpture, poetry, Pysanka, cooking, dance, weaving and straw-making, to name a few. There is a saying, "volunteers do not necessarily have time, they just have the heart". UAC volunteers have the heart and together we support UAC's mission to ensure Ukrainian art and traditions are shared and are passed forward to future generations."*

**Michele Budilo**

*"Because Ukrainian culture is so rich and has over a 1,000 years of history, I am a member of the Ukrainian Art Center so that others can share in the beauty that is our heritage."*

**Paul Budilo**

*"Becoming a member of UAC has been a rewarding year of learning about artists that we highlighted and meeting wonderful people in the process. I've enjoyed putting my skills to work in my own artistic way. Working alongside others has been fun also. Being a part of a community and bringing events and knowledge of Ukrainian culture to others has always been something I enjoyed all my life whether it was acting, singing, dancing or reciting poetry. After a long pause in my life, I am so glad to be able to be involved again. Even though Ukraine has been more exposed in media these days, much of it has been negative and rough. I feel it is more important than ever to bring out the best of our culture to the non-Ukrainian community. Having my son as UAC I.T. guy and being involved in the arts is very important and he is already collecting his own artwork and creating his tastes and telling his peers of his background and this is what it's all about and being part of UAC has been very rewarding..."*

**Elizabeth Zaharkiv Yemetz**

*"I am very grateful to Daria, that after a long pause, she re-started the Los Angeles Ukrainian Art Center. As a member of the Board, I have had the opportunity to work with other wonderful and talented Board members on challenging and exciting project that have enriched our community. Through the Art Center, I have had the pleasure of meeting new people, some of whom have become good friends. I hope to continue working with Daria, who has been a great inspiration, as well as with the rest of the gifted UAC members."* **Luba Keske**

*"I volunteer at the UAC because Ukraine is such a large part of me, so I feel that I need to help share the rich Ukrainian culture with my community."* **Roman Yemetz**

*"Why I am part of UAC Personally, I appreciate the people who are part of UAC. We have a strong core group that really comes together to promote Ukrainian Arts within and outside our community. Our team consists of several amazing volunteers who are all interested in sharing our rich cultural, artistic, and ethnic heritage. We have many successful programs under our belt which were*

presented to people who might not have known about our culture. This is in keeping with our Mission Statement, which is to share our arts with all people in our community. We are currently working with the city and various organizations to share our heritage with the greater Los Angeles community. On December 15th, we will be teaching our first Culinary Workshop, which will feature Ukrainian Varenyky (sometimes referred to as Pierogies). This is the fourth Workshop in a series which was funded by a grant from ACTA.

I am very proud to be part of this amazing organization and look forward to another year of awesome programs and projects!" **Olenka Krupa**

*"The Reason I Belong to Ukrainian Art Center  
I am passionate about putting Ukraine on the "cultural map," and giving Ukraine credit where credit is due by sharing her incredible cultural treasures. Working with the UAC team whose members are passionate about Ukraine and driven to share her incredible wealth is a no-brainer."*

**George Wyhinny**



## TRADITIONAL ART WORKSHOPS

UAC received a cultural grant for 2019 to hold four separate workshops focusing on four UKRAINIAN TRADITIONS: UKRAINIAN PYSANKY (egg decorating); UKRAINIAN EMBROIDERY; UKRAINIAN STRAW ART; UKRAINIAN CULINARY ART.

UAC contracted experts to teach techniques of each to individuals who might not be aware of Ukrainian artistic heritage.

UAC started PYSANKY workshops 31 years ago and through the years this has developed into an annual PYSANKA FESTIVAL, which brought over 1,000 participants this year.

Our PYSANKA workshops chose people for their expertise – Adriana Wrzesniewski held a Master Class for participants who have some knowledge of the technique. Barbara Wetzel and Natalia Vivcharenko conducted beginners class.



*Pysanka Workshop in the Spring by UAC Adriana Wrzesniewski*



UAC EMBROIDERY workshop was taught by Mariya Prystash who is a skilled embroiderer for most of her life, in Ukraine and now in Los Angeles. We are so proud to have her in our community.



*Embroidery Workshop was taught by Mariya Prystash*



UAC STRAW ART workshop was prepared by Svetlana Veljanovski also from Ukraine, who has led many courses in Homeland Heritage promoting various cultural projects. Svetlana prepared the workshop and thought others to lead the class.

## VARENYKY 🤗

The CULINARY workshop, which will be in December, led by Olenka Krupa Griffies will begin with the traditional dish Varenyky, to be followed by other traditional dishes like Holubtsi and Borsch.



All workshops have been made possible in part by Alliance for California Traditional Arts (ACTA), in partnership with the Walter and Elise Haas and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Surdina Foundation.

Thank  
You!!!

THANK YOU to ALL who participated in Daria's Giving Tuesday Fundraiser for Ukrainian Art Center, Inc.

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

## ANNUAL PYSANKA FESTIVAL

**3/29/2020**

*Bigger & Better Than Ever  
UAC and UCC invite ALL*



**SAVE THE DATE**



### ARTWORK AND COLLECTIONS RECENTLY AQUIRED BY UKRAINIAN ART CENTER

In the last issue of UAC NEWS we wrote about the number of family collections donated to UAC. This is a major influx of beautiful items from fine art, ceramics, woodcraft and of course outstanding embroideries. UAC takes these donations seriously and there are plans to display them appropriately.

We owe gratitude to families and organizations TERLECKY, NOVAK, CHERNIS, MYKYTYN, BALABAN, SHENIKRYK AND THE HOUSE OF UKRAINE in San Diego.

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We thank you in advance!

WE INVITE YOU TO OUR WEBSITE  
**UkrainianArtCenterSoCal.org**

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](https://www.facebook.com/UkrainianArtCenterLA)

During the Holiday Season, more than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. And in this spirit we say, simply but sincerely..

**Thank you and Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!**

*Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Art Center*



**З Різдвом Христовим і Новим Роком!  
Прийміть найкращі побажання та щирю подяку за Вашу підтримку  
українського мистецтва в м.Лос-Анджелес.**

*Дирекція Центру Українського Мистецтва*

## **12 MONTHS RIDNA SHKOLA EVENT**



*Victoria, Asya, and Ridna Shkola Team,*

*I want to congratulate you on truly what has been one of the most beautiful and successful Saint Mykolai events, probably in the past 30 years at the Ukrainian Culture Center.*

*Truly, it was a spectacular, colorful program and your abilities and talents really were on full display. I – and I am sure so many others – are very thankful that you are in our community, and that you give so much of your time and amazing talent and share it with all of us.*

*I will never forget the absolute look of surprise, amazement, and wonderment of the little children when they saw Saint Mykolai walking into the room. The expression on their little faces was absolutely pure innocent joy. Their eyes became so huge in disbelief. You have given them a memory that they will hold onto forever, and that is such a beautiful and priceless gift that you provided them.*

*I know that the school is going through some difficult times at this junction. I also know that many of you have been working very hard in order to overcome many of the obstacles that have arisen. I want you to know that you – and the school – are an important asset to the community and to the livelihood and growth of Ukrainian culture in Los Angeles. That is why so many other people whose children do not or no longer attend the school but nevertheless believe in you, came yesterday. They were there simply, to support you and this wonderful effort.*

*In the quilt, or we should say the “vyshyvanka”, that is the patchwork of our community, all of you are part of an important piece in the overall important fabric that is our diaspora. Thank you for all you did, and especially all that you continue to do. Yesterday at the Saint Mykolai event you continued to make us all very proud of you. Paul Budilo*

## 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](mailto:ukrainianartcenter@gmail.com) | Tel: 818-635-8999**  
**Website: [ukrainianartcentersocal.org](http://ukrainianartcentersocal.org) | Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UkrainianArtCenterLA](http://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; Petro Brecko, Designer

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