

OUR LIFE НАШЕ ЖИТТЯ

ВИДАЄ СОЮЗ УКРАЇНОК АМЕРИКИ З 1944 РОКУ
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DECOLONIZATION OF UKRAINIAN STUDIES
online panel discussion
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Centuries of imperial distortion have shaped how Ukraine is taught in the West. This panel brings together experts to reframe the narrative and chart a path toward a truly decolonized Ukrainian Studies.

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Our cover. The UNWLA's enduring commitment to learning. Read our story about the organization's 100 years of educational advocacy beginning on page 8.

СЛОВО ГОЛОВИ СОЮЗУ УКРАЇНОК АМЕРИКИ REFLECTIONS FROM THE UNWLA PRESIDENT



Наталія Павленко
Natalie Pawlenko

Погляд у майбутнє: Наші наступні сто років

Вересень часто є часом для нового початку. Діти відновлюють навчання у школі, починаються нові проекти, сім'ї повертаються до звичного ритму життя. Для Союзу Українок Америки цей вересень має ще більше значення. Ми стоїмо на порозі нашої великої події — Ювілейного Свята в Нью Йорку. Сто років служіння, культури, адвокації та опіки — це досягнення, яким можуть пишатися небагато організацій. Ми відзначимо його з вдячністю і гордістю.

Та ювілеї — це не тільки про минуле. Вони спонукають нас задуматися про майбутнє. Що чекає на США далі? Як зробити так, щоб наша організація була сильною і потрібною ще сто років?

Наш шлях завжди скеровується чотирма стовпами: адвокація, культура, освіта та соціальна опіка. Вони ведуть нас з 1925 р. Але світ швидко змінюється. Від початку повномасштабного вторгнення 2022 р. до Америки приїхало багато нових українських сімей. Вони енергійні, талановиті та мають нові ідеї. Ми повинні відкрити для них двері, підтримати їх і запросити до нашого керівництва.

Є й нові виклики. Українські жінки та діти потребують допомоги, щоб зцілитися від травм війни. Також літнім жінкам в Україні важлива наша подальша підтримка. Тисячі дітей були вивезені з домівок і мають повернутися. А наша культура й історія мусять бути збережені тут, у США. Ці потреби не зникнуть скоро. Вони вимагають від нас більшої праці, кращої організації та нових ресурсів.

Тому ми створюємо міцніші структури, вибудовуємо професійний підхід у нашій роботі і починаємо нашу найбільшу кампанію зі збору коштів.

Наша ювілейна тема — *Століття сили: надихаючи покоління* — це більше, ніж слова. Це обіцянка: Союз Українок Америки буде й далі єднати українських жінок, говорити від імені України в Америці та берегти наші традиції для майбутнього.

На початку другого століття США я прошу кожну з вас уявити, що чекає нашу організацію попереду — і зайняти своє місце у творенні цього майбутнього.

Looking Ahead: Our Next 100 Years

September is often a time for fresh starts. Children go back to school, new projects begin, and families settle into routines. For the UNWLA, this September feels even more meaningful. We are just weeks away from our Centennial Celebration in New York City. Reaching 100 years of service, culture, advocacy, and care is something very few groups achieve — and we will honor this milestone with pride.

But anniversaries are not only about the past. They ask us to think about the future. What comes next for the UNWLA? How do we make sure our organization stays strong and relevant for another 100 years?

Our direction comes from our four pillars: advocacy, culture, education, and social welfare. These have guided us since 1925. Yet the world is changing quickly. Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, many new Ukrainian families have come to America. They bring energy, talent, and fresh ideas. We must welcome them, support them, and invite them into leadership.

We also face new challenges. In Ukraine, Ukrainian women and children need help healing from the trauma of war. Elderly women in Ukraine still depend on our support. Thousands of children have been taken from their homes and must be returned. And our culture and history must be protected here in the U.S. These needs will not end soon. They call us to work harder, to stay organized, and to raise the resources needed to continue.

That is why we are building stronger systems, professionalizing our operations, and launching our most ambitious fundraising campaign ever.

Our Centennial theme — *A Century of Strength: Inspiring Generations* — is more than just words. It is a promise: that the UNWLA will continue to unite Ukrainian women, speak for Ukraine in America, and keep our traditions alive for the future.

As we begin our second century, I invite each of you to dream about what lies ahead — and to take your place in making it real.

Preserved for Posterity: The UNWLA Story

Maria Kvit-Flynn, UNWLA VP – Public Relations



UNWLA president Natalie Pawlenko (l) with author Martha Kichorowska Kebalo and UNWLA Honorary Presidents Marianna Zajac and Iryna Kurowyckyj.



Marianna Zajac, UNWLA Honorary President, welcoming the enthusiastic and appreciative audience to the UNWLA history book launch at The Ukrainian Museum on September 14.

A group of Soyuzianky and guests gathered at The Ukrainian Museum in New York on September 14 — a beautiful, sunny Saturday afternoon — to witness the launch of *A Century of Commitment: The UNWLA Story, 1925–2025*, and to honor the book's author, Martha Kichorowska Kebalo. Over 10 years in the making, the book was completed just in time for the UNWLA's 100th anniversary, and was appropriately launched at the Museum, founded by the UNWLA in 1976 and one of the organization's proudest achievements. *A Century of Commitment* presents the UNWLA's history and all its initiatives from its inception in 1925 through the present day.

As guests arrived, they enjoyed refreshments prepared by Branch 64 of New York. Marianna Za-

jac, UNWLA Honorary President, welcomed guests, Honorary President Iryna Kurowyckyj, and Honored Member Roma Shuhan. "Not only are we celebrating the release of this remarkable publication," she said, "but the enduring legacy, dedication, and spirit that it represents." It was on Marianna's initiative that the Executive Committee of 2011–2014 had approved the project.

Marianna went on to explain that the book was written in English because many descendants of Ukrainian immigrants are more fluent in English, and it is important for younger generations to connect with and understand the legacy of the UNWLA. Also, since English is the dominant language of academia, it enables researchers to access our history. And lastly, the UNWLA is Ukrainian in heritage and American in experience; it embraced four waves of Ukrainian immigrants and continues to advocate in the U.S. for the good of Ukraine.

Choosing the right author for the book led to a third-generation Soyuzianka, Dr. Martha Kichorowska Kebalo. Martha had the right background and qualifications: a degree in Anthropology and a doctoral dissertation on the re-emergence of women's organizations in post-Soviet Ukraine that was hailed as the first fully ethnographic treatment of the early women's movement in independent Ukraine. Martha also collaborated with Soyuz Ukrainok in Lviv on a catalogue for an exhibition of documents that chronicled the beginnings of the Western Ukrainian women's movement of the early 20th century. Marianna then introduced Martha to the guests, and Martha in turn thanked Nadia Nynka, the managing editor of the manuscript, for her tireless work.

Martha began her presentation by accentuating the fact that the UNWLA is one of the oldest continuously active organizations of the diaspora and one of the first nation-wide associations of ethnic women in America. It is also the first Ukrainian American organization created by women to support women around the globe for the good of Ukraine.

She emphasized three important things that the UNWLA did. From the outset, the organization encouraged Ukrainian women to participate in the social and political life of the U.S. as Ukrainian Americans. It successfully channeled women into community building and promoting and retaining

their ethnic identity within the U.S. And it equipped women to speak and act in support of Ukraine within the U.S. and in the international arena.

Soyuz Ukrainok Ameryky, as the organization is known in Ukrainian, was named after the feminist-nationalist Soyuz Ukrainok founded in revolutionary western Ukraine in 1917. When the Western Ukrainian National Republic lost its short-lived independence in 1919, it succumbed to Polish rule. The organization was suspended in 1938, and it ultimately disbanded when the Soviets took over western Ukraine in 1939. The UNWLA then assumed responsibility to continue the Ukrainian women's movement outside of Ukraine.

After World War II, the new wave of Ukrainian refugees joined the diaspora. In 1948, the UNWLA co-founded the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO), which united newly formed Ukrainian women's groups from many countries. As an international organization, WFUWO sought entry into large and influential international women's organizations. After Ukraine's independence in 1991, WFUWO gained official UN accreditation, and the UNWLA resurrected working relations with the new women's organizations in independent Ukraine. In 2013, Martha became WFUWO's Main Representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Martha went on to acknowledge all the help she received with the book. She interviewed the current president of the UNWLA and former presidents, looked through archival issues of *Svoboda* and *Our Life*, and relied on research from Ukrainian professors. She referenced Dr. Martha Bohachevsky Chomiak and Sofia Sluzar's unpublished history of the UNWLA from 1990. And finally, she thanked publishing specialist Mariia Shuvalova from Kyiv who standardized the references cited in the text.

The book explains how the UNWLA grew and evolved with the contributions of its leaders and members over the years. The book is divided into four parts. Part I describes the UNWLA's early growth and self-assertion as a Ukrainian American organization. Part II depicts a time of monitoring developments in the Soviet Union since many families of post-war émigrés were left behind to suffer the consequences. The organization followed and supported the dissident movement and made a strong commitment to cultural preservation. Part III shows the UNWLA's expansion into the international sphere by taking on significant humanitarian projects and assisting women in Ukraine. Part IV describes the UNWLA as a more professional organization with resources and broader alliances in its work of defending Ukraine as a nation.

As the organization progressed, substantive projects taken on by the UNWLA started to evolve, such as humanitarian aid, education in the form of a Scholarship Program, cultural preservation, museum exhibition work, and the Svitlychka Ukrainian pre-school program. Today we have national chairs heading all these programs. But from its first days, the political imperative to protect Ukraine underpinned every UNWLA action. There was the mandate that Ukrainian women's groups in America unite under a large nation-wide umbrella that would qualify



The author, Dr. Kebalo, with managing editor Nadia Nynka.



Poetry Contest winner Valentyna Shemchuk (l) with author Martha Kichorowska Kebalo and UNWLA president Natalie Pawlenko.

them for membership in the National Council of Women (NCW) of the U.S. That would be their window to the International Council of Women (ICW), an avenue for advocacy on the global stage. In 1993, the UNWLA achieved that goal. Iryna Kurowyckyj became the president of the NCW and the first Ukrainian woman in 108 years to be its president.

Most of the Ukrainian community's cultural and fundraising events for its homeland, including the UNWLA's, took place on the stage of the original Ukrainian National Home in New York City, which now houses St. George's

school. That is where UNWLA president Olena Lototsky hosted the first-ever Congress of Ukrainian Women of North America.

In the summer of 1933, the UNWLA took on a courageous project by installing a beautiful exhibit of Ukrainian culture at the Chicago World's Fair. It became the foundation of our Ukrainian Museum. UNWLA president Olena Lototsky attended a con-



Martha Kichorowska Kebalo signing copies of her book.



***A Century of Commitment: The UNWLA Story, 1925-2025* is available for purchase on the UNWLA website at unwla.org/shop/**

ference run by the NCW of the U.S. during the fair and ran a “week of Ukrainian women” program at the fairgrounds. This was the UNWLA’s most significant cultural advocacy effort of the time. In the fall of that year, the UNWLA launched a remarkable campaign for international recognition of the Holodomor. This was the UNWLA’s first significant political advocacy effort. Olena Lototsky was re-elected in 1943 and launched *Our Life* magazine.

A Century of Commitment then migrates to the UNWLA’s efforts to protect Ukrainian refugees displaced by the war and threatened with repatriation, sending care to DP camps and helping with the resettlement of refugees in the U.S. These women immigrants were very resistant to assimilation, while American-born women were more readily inclined towards integration. Olena Lototsky successfully shepherded both groups of women into a working relationship. Together, they organized the Second Congress of Ukrainian Women in 1959.

In between Martha’s introduction of her book, Nadia Nynka read a series of six excerpts from the book highlighting some of the UNWLA’s most notable achievements: the First Ukrainian Women’s Congress in North America in 1932, the Coalition of Women Representing Captive Nations in 1968, the presentation of a collection of Ukrainian period costumes initiated by Branch 64 in 1965–1967, the rise to the presidency of the National Council of Women in 1995, Mirtschuk Ratych’s discovery and publication of the Epistolary of Lesya Ukrainka in 1999, and the co-founding of the American Coalition for Ukraine and Marianna Tretiak’s role as president.

Martha concluded her presentation by thanking the sponsors of the book, the Orest and Lida Bilous Family Foundation, and everyone involved in making the book a reality. She was honored with a standing ovation and presented with flowers.

To brighten the event even further, Marianna announced the winner of the UNWLA’s centennial Poetry Contest. Valentyna Shemchuk from Branch 64 received the honor and delighted the guests by reading her outstanding poem, “Час Історичний. Рік Той.”

The afternoon concluded with a tour of the Museum’s new exhibition, *The Wreath: A Century of Ukrainian Women Beyond the Ocean*, curated by Lilia Kudelia and dedicated to the UNWLA’s centennial.

Championing Culture and Diplomacy: Our 2025 Eva Staszkiw Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Anna Petelina, UNWLA National Education Chair (Branch 143, Jersey City, NJ)

The UNWLA is proud to announce the 2025 recipient of the Eva Staszkiw Memorial Scholarship, awarded to a student whose academic and professional pursuits reflect both excellence and dedication to Ukraine's cultural and civic future. This year's scholarship was granted to Anastasiia Pereverten, a young scholar and advocate whose journey bridges cultural heritage, diplomacy, and public service.

Born and raised in Kyiv, Anastasiia began her academic path at the National University of Kyiv – Mohyla Academy, majoring in Cultural Studies. Alongside her studies, she worked as a curator and project manager at leading Ukrainian art institutions, including the Ukrainian House International Center. These early experiences — at the intersection of history, art, and cultural representation — laid the foundation for her lifelong mission: to serve Ukraine by strengthening its presence and voice on the global stage.

In January 2022, just weeks before Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Anastasiia came to the U.S. to continue her education at the University of Wyoming. As the only Ukrainian student in Laramie, she quickly felt a responsibility to represent her country and amplify its story. Over the next two and a half years, she organized rallies, lectures, and film screenings, created a collection of Ukrainian literature for campus and community libraries, and launched the *Lessons from Ukraine* seminar series. Her activism culminated in a public symposium on war and human rights, which featured Nobel Peace Prize laureate Oleksandra Matviichuk.

Anastasiia's academic work advanced in parallel with this advocacy. At Wyoming, she majored in International Studies and joined the Honors College. She later entered Harvard University's Regional Studies program for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, housed within the Government Department. There, she has focused on democratization, foreign policy, and international law. Her master's thesis explores how different ways of framing the Russian-Ukrainian war influence U.S. public opinion and political action — research with direct implications for Ukraine's global advocacy efforts.

Beyond the classroom, Anastasiia has gained hands-on experience in policy and diplomacy. She served as a research assistant at the New Lines Institute, contributing to reports on Russian war crimes, including sexual violence and genocide. She interned at Razom for Ukraine, preparing advocacy materials and supporting delegations. Most recently, she joined the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, DC, where she works in the Congressional Liaison Section to strengthen U.S.–Ukraine relations through legislative outreach.



Anastasiia Pereverten

Anastasiia's connection to the UNWLA is also longstanding. She has participated in UNWLA advocacy calls, represented the organization as a delegate at two Ukraine Action Summits, and in 2025 volunteered with summit registration. Her efforts reflect not only an alignment with the UNWLA's mission of cultural promotion and humanitarian service but also a shared vision of empowering Ukraine through education and advocacy.

Looking ahead, Anastasiia aspires to a diplomatic career, where she can combine policy research, advocacy, and strategic communication on behalf of Ukraine. Whether through cultural initiatives, academic study, or policy engagement, she has already shown extraordinary ability to serve as a bridge between Ukraine and the world.

In awarding her the 2025 Eva Staszkiw Memorial Scholarship, the UNWLA recognizes not only her academic excellence and leadership but also her unwavering commitment to Ukraine's future. Her journey embodies the spirit of the scholarship: advancing knowledge, culture, and diplomacy in service of her homeland.



A Century of Educational Advocacy: The UNWLA'S Enduring Commitment to Learning

Anna Petelina, UNWLA National Education Chair (Branch 143, Jersey City, NJ)



With the Mother and Child program, 150 widows and children were taken under the UNWLA's wing in Philadelphia.

Програма «Мати і дитина», 150 вдов і дітей під егідою СУА у Філадельфії.



*A Koliada staged at a public library, 1963.
«Коляда» у публічній бібліотеці, 1963 р.*

Education has always been essential to preserving Ukrainian identity and helping both Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians understand Ukraine's history, culture, and ongoing struggle for freedom. Since its founding in 1925, the UNWLA has made education a top priority, helping generations of Ukrainians in the diaspora stay connected to their heritage.

Over the decades, the UNWLA has supported — and in some cities, established — Ukrainian schools and Svitlychka preschools, awarded scholarships, and led a wide range of educational initiatives. Today, in an age of disinformation, education remains a powerful tool. By promoting historical truth, introducing Ukrainian books into American libraries, partnering with academic institutions, and elevating Ukrainian voices, the UNWLA helps build a more informed and empathetic society.

Global Educational Support

The UNWLA's educational mission has long reached beyond the borders of the United States. Since 1967, the organization has provided scholarships to over 24,000 students in South America and Europe, enabling many underprivileged young people to pursue higher education (see "UNWLA Scholarship/Children-Student Sponsorship Program: A Brief History" beginning on page 14).

In addition to formal academic support, the UNWLA has enriched Ukrainian communities through cultural and educational programming — organizing commemorations, roundtables, lectures, and holiday celebrations. These activities deepened community engagement, and by the end of 1991, the UNWLA had grown to include over 107 branches (*viddily*) across the country.

The UNWLA also played a pioneering role in social support and early childhood education. One notable initiative, Mother and Child, offered affidavits and relocation assistance to widows with children and to single women. To support these families, the UNWLA purchased a shelter in Philadelphia, which served approximately 150 women and children and included a daycare center led by educator Maria Yurkevych.

The UNWLA's commitment to early childhood education gained further momentum in the 1960s and 1970s:

- **1964** – The first Svitlychka (Ukrainian-language preschool programs launched in displaced persons camps across Germany and Austria in the postwar years and later expanded to Ukrainian communities throughout the U.S.) was established in Cleveland by Branch 33 un-

der the leadership of Olena Klymyshyn, followed by similar initiatives at Branch 43 (Olena Pchilka branch in Philadelphia), Branch 57 (Utica branch, Southern NY Regional Council), Branch 74 (Olena Teliha branch in Chicago, IL, Chicago Regional Council), and Branch 78 (Olena Stepaniv branch in Washington, DC). The program of activities in Ukrainian included singing, games, crafts, and the preparation of events such as Mother's Day and St. Nicholas Day, nurturing a new generation with love for their language, history, and heritage.

- 1965 – Additional Svitlychky were launched by Branches 66 and 81.
- Fall 1968 – The UNWLA organized an International Educational Conference focused on early childhood development and pedagogy.
- 1971 – The Chicago Regional Council sponsored Ukrainian-language courses at the University of Chicago, led by Liuboslava Shandra.
- Early 1972 – As National Education Chair, Olena Klymyshyn launched a dedicated early childhood education column in the *Svoboda* newspaper, reinforcing the UNWLA's commitment to supporting Ukrainian families through quality early learning.

Scholarships for Students in America

Eva Staszkiw arrived in the U.S. in 1910. Although she did not have access to higher education herself, she held a deep appreciation for learning and became a lifelong advocate for it. A devoted Soyuzianka, she was active in Branch 26 in Detroit and later in Branch 17 in Miami. In the late 1950s, she began contributing to the UNWLA Scholarship Fund, and upon her passing, she left her life savings to the organization — a powerful testament to her belief in education and future generations.

In 1980, UNWLA Branch 17 established the Eva Staszkiw Scholarship Fund — one of the organization's earliest education-focused endowments, open to applicants who were recommended by a UNWLA member. It reflects a long-standing commitment to academic excellence and intellectual growth within the Ukrainian American community.

The Eva Staszkiw Scholarship supports:

- Undergraduate and graduate studies in Ukrainian language, journalism, and linguistics.
- Doctoral studies in fields such as linguistics, literature, history, sociology, and related disciplines.
- The publication of scholarly research in Ukrainian studies.

Revived in 2023, the scholarship awarded two students \$3,000 each in its first year of renewal. By supporting academic advancement and the dissemination of scholarship, the Eva Staszkiw Fund

amplifies Ukrainian voices in academia and ensures that Ukraine's language, culture, and history remain subjects of serious study.

Also in 2023, the UNWLA partnered with the Vovk Foundation to create a new \$4,000 scholarship for students of Ukrainian heritage in technology, engineering, the arts, and humanities. Founded in honor of scholar and OUN leader Ivan Vovchuk and his son Andrew, an engineer and technologist, the Foundation supports students and professionals continuing their work despite Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine.

Together, these scholarships reflect the UNWLA's enduring commitment to empowering young leaders as advocates for Ukraine and producers of knowledge, nurturing a legacy of scholarly leadership that continues to grow with each new generation.

Shaping Academic Discourse

The UNWLA continues to play a vital role in reshaping academic narratives and promoting accurate, inclusive representation of Ukraine in global scholarship. A key initiative in this effort is the Decolonization of Eastern European Studies project, launched in 2023.

On March 13, 2023, UNWLA president Natalie Pawlenko hosted a virtual roundtable with representatives from ASEES, AAUS, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, academic institutions, and advocacy groups. The discussion built crucial partnerships and affirmed the UNWLA's leadership in advancing Ukrainian perspectives in academia.

As part of this ongoing effort, on May 10, 2025, the UNWLA hosted a flagship virtual panel, Decolonization of Ukrainian Studies, launching our new Decolonization Month initiative. Designed to inspire Ukrainian communities worldwide to reclaim and reframe narratives of our history, the event brought together scholars from the U.S., Canada, Sweden, and Ukraine to explore topics such as:

- Marginalization of Ukrainian voices in Slavic Studies.
- Suppression of language and history under Russian imperial and Soviet rule.
- Misconceptions in educational materials.
- Strategies for reform and expansion of Ukrainian Studies programs.

Featured panelists included Oksana Lutsyshyna, Yuliya Yurchuk, Oleh Kotsyuba, Myroslav Shkandrij, Sophia Wilson, Grace Mahoney, and Tetyana Filevska.

Decolonizing Ukrainian Studies is about more than correcting academic narratives — it is an act



Prudentopolis (Brazil) schoolchildren, 1975.
Школа у Прудентополісі, діти, 1975 р.



of resistance against centuries of erasure. As Ukraine defends itself on all fronts, the UNWLA continues to lead efforts that amplify Ukrainian voices and ensure their rightful place in the global conversation.

Preserving the Truth of the Holodomor: The UNWLA'S Role in Global Recognition

The UNWLA has long worked to secure Holodomor recognition, beginning with letters to U.S. leaders during the 1932–1933 artificial

famine engineered by Stalin. In 2018, working closely with the National Library of Wales, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, and the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation, the UNWLA donated \$28,000 towards the digitization of Welsh journalist Gareth Jones's diaries. These diaries are a crucial eyewitness account of the famine.

This project culminated on May 12, 2022, with an event in the Welsh Parliament honoring Jones for his efforts in exposing the Holodomor. The event was attended by Welsh government officials, Holodomor scholars, Gareth Jones's family, and then UNWLA Officer-at-Large Oksana Lodziuk Krywulych. Prior to the event, the Welsh Parliament unanimously recognized the Holodomor as a deliberate act by the Soviet Union and urged global recognition of it as genocide. This initiative underscores the UNWLA's ongoing dedication to Holodomor education and remembrance, ensuring that Jones's eyewitness account is preserved and accessible to future generations.

The digitized diaries have been donated to several prestigious institutions, including the Library of Congress, Stanford University, and the Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine, making them widely available to the public. As the principal sponsor, the UNWLA also received a digital copy for its archives.

Earlier, in 2007, the UNWLA funded the publication of an English translation of Valentyna Borysenko's *The Candle of Memory (A Candle in Remembrance)*, bringing survivor testimonies to readers in 33 countries. Borysenko's work stands as both a monument to the victims who perished and an indictment of those who orchestrated acts of barbaric cruelty against the Ukrainian people, as well as a prayer that such atrocities are never repeated.

Strategic Partnerships

In 2024, the UNWLA signed Memoranda of Understanding with two impactful organizations: Ukraine Global Scholars (UGS) and ENGIN.

UGS helps exceptional Ukrainian students from underserved backgrounds gain admission and full scholarships to top international schools, with a commitment to return and rebuild Ukraine. The UNWLA supports UGS's Summer Internship and Host Family programs, offering mentorship and care. Since 2022, UGS interns have worked with UNWLA leaders on key projects, including the 2023 *Decolonization of Ukrainian Culture* report,



funded by the Ukrainian Community Foundation of Philadelphia.

ENGIN, founded in 2020 by UNWLA member Katerina Manoff, connects Ukrainian youth with English-speaking volunteers for online language practice and cultural exchange. Now serving over 44,000 students, ENGIN is the UNWLA's official Volunteer Engagement Partner, and we regularly promote their volunteer opportunities to our members.

Advancing Women's Studies

The UNWLA sought to create a space where the role of women in Ukrainian society could be studied, understood, and celebrated. In 2012, in partnership with the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv, it established the UNWLA Center for Women's Studies — the first of its kind in Ukraine.

The Center promotes academic inquiry and public dialogue on gender equality, women's historical and contemporary roles, and the challenges women face. Its early work focused on themes of dignity, equal opportunity, and spiritual and personal development. By 2018, the initiative grew into a full Women's Studies Lecture Program, offering undergraduate and graduate courses, hosting guest speakers, and supporting international collaboration.

The Center has organized impactful events, including:

- A 2022 online conference, *Women in Early Modern Society in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth*.
- A 2023 international conference, *Imperial Power and Women: Trauma, Resistance, and Resilience*, co-hosted with the European Society of Women in Theological Research.
- A 2023 event marking the 140th anniversary of the Ukrainian women's movement.
- A 2024 roundtable, *Between Conservatism and Feminism: Wives and Daughters of Greek Catholic Priests in Late 19th–Early 20th Century Galicia*.
- A lecture by historian Olena Stiazhkina, *Ukrainian Women in Times of Occupation*, which challenged stereotypes and examined media portrayals of women during wartime.

Through these programs, students gain both theoretical insight and practical tools to understand how societal forces shape women's lives. The center provides a platform for scholars and students from Ukraine and beyond to exchange ideas on gender issues.

Its influence is visible in the success of alumni like Olha Bosak, UCU class of 2004. A global leader in sustainability and energy, Bosak serves on the board of Norway's AICE Hydro, heads her own consulting firm, and has been recognized as "Woman of the Year of the Ukrainian Energy Industry." She exemplifies the values that the UNWLA promotes: leadership, vision, and service.

As the UNWLA's educational arm continues to grow, so does its impact. From expanding access to Ukrainian

books in public libraries to supporting academic research, staging literary works, and raising awareness about historical injustices like the Holodomor, the UNWLA's educational mission is rooted in both cultural preservation and forward-thinking advocacy. We are committed to making Ukrainian voices heard — whether by partnering with libraries, collaborating with universities, sponsoring translation efforts, or empowering young scholars through scholarships. These multifaceted initiatives reflect our belief that education is essential not only for preserving identity, but for shaping Ukraine's future. With each project, event, and collaboration, we strive to ensure that Ukrainian stories, perspectives, and intellectual contributions remain visible, relevant, and valued in the United States and beyond.



The Gareth Jones commemoration at the Welsh Parliament on May 12, 2022, was covered by a number of Welsh newspapers.

Вшанування пам'яті Гарета Джонса у парламенті Уельсу 12 травня 2022 р. Захід висвітлювали низка валлійських газет.



Сторіччя освітньої діяльності: непохитна відданість СУА справі освіти



Speakers at the event in the Welsh Parliament (l-r): Rob Phillips, head of the Archives department at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth; Oksana Lodziuk Krywulych, UNWLA Officer-at-Large and liaison for the digitization of the diaries; Professor Lubomyr Luciuk of the Royal Military College of Canada.

Промовці на заході у парламенті Уельсу (зліва направо): Роб Філіпс, керівник архівного відділу Національної бібліотеки Уельсу в Аберіствіті; Оксана Лодзюк Кривулич, референтка СУА з особливих питань та зв'язкова з питань зацифрування щоденників; професор Любомир Луцюк з Королівського військового коледжу Канади.



**BECOME A HOST FAMILY
FOR UKRAINIAN SCHOLAR**



**UKRAINE
GLOBAL
SCHOLARS**



UNWLA



Освіта завжди була ключовою складовою збереження української ідентичності — не лише для українців у діаспорі, але й для світової спільноти, що прагне зрозуміти історію, культуру та боротьбу України за свободу. Від моменту заснування у 1925 р. Союз Українок Америки (СУА) послідовно ставить освіту у центр своєї місії. Завдяки багаторічній підтримці шкіл, стипендіальних програм, культурно-просвітницьких заходів та інноваційних ініціатив, СУА допоміг багатьом поколінням зберегти зв'язок з рідним корінням.

Освітні зусилля СУА не обмежувалися лише США. Організація активно підтримує молодь у Південній Америці та Європі, надаючи стипендії тим, хто не має доступу до якісної освіти. Разом з тим, СУА поглиблював зв'язки в українських громадах, організовуючи конференції, круглі столи, лекції, виставки, відзначення річниць і свят. До 1991 р. діяльність СУА охоплювала понад 107 відділів по всій країні.

Одним з важливих напрямів стала допомога жінкам і дітям: у рамках програми «Мати і дитина» надавалися афідевіти та допомога при переїзді вдовам з дітьми та самотнім жінкам. У Філадельфії СУА придбав дім прихистку, де у різні часи проживали понад 150 жінок з дітьми. У ньому функціонував дитячий садок, яким керувала педагог Марія Юркевич.

Починаючи з 1960-х рр. СУА також зробив вагомий внесок у розвиток дошкільної освіти. Перші «Світлички» були засновані в Клівленді у 1964 р., згодом — у відділах 43, 57, 74, 78, 66 та 81. У 1971 р. округа Чикаго ініціювала курси української мови в Університеті Чикаго. Освітня референтка Олена Климчишин у 1972 р. відкрила постійну рубрику з питань дошкільної освіти в газеті «Свобода», ще раз підтверджуючи провідну роль СУА у підтримці українських родин.

Стипендії для студентів

Зворушливою сторінкою є історія Єви Сташків — жінки, яка прибула до США у 1910 р. Попри те, що сама вона не мала змоги здобути вищу освіту, вона завжди поцінувала навчання та стала активною членкинею СУА. Свої заощадження вона заповіла на стипендіальний фонд, заснований у 1980 р. У 2023 р. цей фонд було відновлено і двоє студентів отримали по \$3,000. Стипендії присуджуються студентам, які вивчають українську мову, журналістику, мовознавство, а також ведуть дослідження у сфері українознавства.

У тому самому 2023 р. СУА започаткував ще одну стипендію в партнерстві з Фундацією Вовків — \$4,000 для студентів українського походження, які навчаються у сфері технологій, інженерії, гуманітарних наук і

мистецтва. Ці стипендії є демонстрацією прагнення США підтримувати майбутніх лідерів, які стають творцями знань, а не лише їх споживачами.

Деколонізація академічного простору

У 2023 р. США започаткував важливу ініціативу з деколонізації студій україністики. Було організовано низку круглих столів і конференцій, присвячених темам маргіналізації українських голосів у славистиці, репресіям мови й культури, стереотипам у навчальних матеріалах і способам реформування академічних програм. У травні 2025 р. відбувся знаковий віртуальний захід — панельна дискусія «Деколонізація студій україністики», де виступили провідні науковці з України, США, Канади, Швеції. Така ініціатива не лише змінює академічний дискурс — вона є формою інтелектуального спротиву російському імпералізму.

Збереження правди про Голодомор: роль США у світовому визнанні

США багато років відстоює визнання Голодомору, починаючи з листів до американських політиків ще під час голоду 1932–1933 рр. У 2018 р. у співпраці з доктором Любомиром Луцьком та Українською канадською фундацією громадських свобод США став головним спонсором проекту з зацифрування щоденників валлійського журналіста Гарета Джонса, який особисто задокументував трагедію. Оригінали та цифрові копії зберігаються в Національній бібліотеці Уельсу та доступні онлайн, а також були передані університетам і бібліотекам світу, зокрема Стенфорду, Торонтському університету, Бібліотеці Конгресу США та ін. У 2022 р. Валлійський парламент вшанував Джонса та визнав Голодомор актом геноциду.

У 2007 р. США профінансував видання англійського перекладу книги Валентини Борисенко «Свічка пам'яті», представивши свідчення очевидців Голодомору читачам у 33 країнах світу. Праця Борисенко є водночас пам'ятником жертвам, що загинули, звинуваченням тих, хто спланував і здійснив акти варварської жорстокості проти українського народу, та молитвою, щоб подібні злочини ніколи більше не повторилися.

Стратегічні партнерства

США активно співпрацює з освітніми й громадськими ініціативами. У 2024 р. були підписані меморандуми з Ukraine Global Scholars (UGS) та ENGIN. UGS допомагає здібній молоді з України вступати до провідних закордонних університетів. ENGIN — проект, заснований членкинею США Катериною Манов, надає українській молоді змогу вдосконалювати англійську мову завдяки розмовній практиці з волонтерами.

Центр жіночих студій

У 2012 р. США разом з Українським католицьким університетом у Львові заснував перший в Україні Центр жіно-

чих студій. Мета — вивчення та популяризація ролі жінок в українському суспільстві, розвиток гендерної рівності та суспільного діалогу. З 2021 р. ініціатива переросла у повноцінну програму лекцій, що включає курси для студентів, виступи запрошених спікерів і міжнародну співпрацю. Серед важливих заходів — міжнародні конференції, круглі столи та лекції, присвячені історії, викликам і сучасному становищу жінок. Центр є платформою для науковців і студентів з України та світу, а його випускниці, як-от лідерка у сфері енергетики Ольга Босак, втілюють цінності США — лідерство, бачення і слушність.

Освітня діяльність США нині є глибокою, багатовекторною та стратегічною. Вона охоплює як захист історичної правди, так і підтримку сучасного українського слова. Завдяки проектам на кшталт «Принеси українську книгу до бібліотеки», співпраці з університетами, перекладацьким програмам і стипендіям, США розширює простір для українських голосів. Це — не просто збереження спадщини, але інвестування у майбутнє. Освіта, як основа ідентичності, стає також інструментом глобального впливу, і США впевнено тримає цей вектор у своїх руках.

ГУМАНІТАРНИЙ
ФАКУЛЬТЕТ

Центр США
з жіночих студій

20–21 жовтня
2022

Конференція
«Жінка
в ранньомодерному соціумі
на теренах Речі Посполитої»

Формат проведення:
онлайн
на платформі Zoom

Кінцева дата для
подання заявок на
участь з доповіддю:
10 жовтня 2022 року

UNWLA Scholarship/Children-Student Sponsorship Program: A Brief History

Nadia Jaworiw, UNWLA Scholarship/Children-Student Sponsorship Program Chair

For over 58 years, the UNWLA has championed education through its Scholarship/Children-Student Sponsorship Program. Since its inception, the program has awarded over 24,000 scholarships, totaling more than \$5 million, to students of Ukrainian descent in 17 countries.

The growth and success of the UNWLA Scholarship Program are the result of the unwavering support of our international partners, the dedication and hard work of the UNWLA Scholarship Standing Committee members and volunteers, and the generosity of our sponsors and benefactors. Participation from UNWLA branches and members — along with contributions from over 4,000 donors — has provided the financial foundation that sustains and advances the mission of the Scholarship Program.

Since its inception, the program has awarded over **24,000 scholarships**, totaling more than **\$5 million**, to students of Ukrainian descent in **17 countries**.

Origins and Early Efforts (Pre-1967)

From its founding, the UNWLA understood the transformative power of education. Initially, scholarships were awarded only to UNWLA members. After World War II, the focus shifted to supporting Ukrainian students in Poland through a discreet initiative known as “Scholarships to Europe,” due to political constraints.

Expansion to Brazil (1967)

In 1967, Nadia Shulhan, director of the Colegio Santa Olga in Prudentopolis, Brazil, met with UNWLA president Stefania Pushkar. Learning about the dire educational needs of Ukrainian children in Brazil, the UNWLA initiated support for girls at Colegio Santa Olga, with Branch 33 (Parma, OH) as the first sponsor.

By 1969, the program was formalized under Maria Chymynec (Social Welfare Chair), with Sofia Andrushkiw overseeing scholarships to Poland and Lidia Burachynska handling Brazil.

Structured Growth (1971–1981)



Luba Bilowchtchuk and Anna Krawczuk with Dr. Teodozia Sawycka (l-r), 1992.

Under Dr. Teodozia Sawycka, elected Social Welfare Chair in 1971, the Scholarship Program gained structure and visibility. Her outreach campaign — “Ukrainians in the USA – Helping Ukrainian Students” — mobilized membership and the diaspora. During a 1975 visit to Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay, she identified deeper needs and launched the now-familiar individual sponsorship model, coordinated through networks of UNWLA branches and membership. It is a model that builds personal bonds between sponsors and students and fosters program loyalty.

Teodozia Sawycka published the first two UNWLA Scholarship Program reports in booklet form. Sofia Andrushkiw continued overseeing scholarships in Poland, and Teodozia Sawycka, in Brazil. By 1980, 177 scholarships were awarded annually.

Institutional Centralization and Global Reach (1981–1993)

Anna Krawczuk, elected UNWLA Social Welfare Chair in 1981, further centralized and expanded the program. In 1984, the first standalone UNWLA Scholarship Chair position was created, with Anna as chair. Under her leadership the program continued to grow:

- In 1982, Vera Mycio took over scholarships in Poland.
- Scholarships tripled by 1984.
- In 1985 the visit to Brazil and Argentina strengthened relationships and potential for growth.
- The number of trusted partners increased.
- In 1986, M. Orysia Jacus becomes the Scholarship Program treasurer.
- Accounting and student records were computerized in 1986.
- The program reached 17 countries.
- In 1988, the year of the Millennium of Ukrainian Christianity, 1,000 scholarships were awarded.
- As a result of political changes in 1989, the program was extended into Eastern Europe.
- The Scholarship Program process was centralized, with all countries now following the same guidelines.
- Published five of the seven UNWLA Scholarship Program reports issued.
- In 1992, following Ukraine’s independence, visited Ukraine and established formal arrangements for providing scholarships in Ukraine.



UNWLA Scholarship Program Committee Members, 1986. Seated (l-r): Luba Sira, Sophia Andrushkiw, Anna Krawczuk; standing (l-r): Ksenia Hapij, M. Orysia Jacus, Taissa Turiansky, Maria Polanskyj, Nadia Nynka.



Ukrainian lyceum in Legnica, Poland, 1989. Standing at right: Vera Mycio and Anna Krawczuk.

UNWLA Scholarship Program Milestones (1993–2002)

<p>Марія Чимунієс Марія Химинець</p>	<p>Sophia Andrushkiw Софія Андрушків</p>	<p>Dr. Theodozia Sawycka Д-р Теодозія Савицька</p>
<p>Анна Кравчук Анна Кравчук</p>	<p>Vera Mycio Віра Мицьо</p>	<p>Luba Bilowchtchuk Люба Біловчук</p>

December 5, 1998 Toronto, Ontario Canada

THE UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS AWARDED THE UNWLA WITH ST. WOLODYMYR MEDAL FOR 30 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

CITATIONS FOR LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEERISM WERE PRESENTED TO THE ABOVE.

Recipients of the Ukrainian World Congress’s St. Wolodymyr Medal, December 5, 1998.

At the 1993 UNWLA Convention, Luba Bilowchtchuk was elected Chair of the UNWLA Scholarship Program Standing Committee. Under her leadership, the program underwent significant structural and international development.

- 1993: A Scholarship Commission was established in Kyiv, Ukraine, in collaboration with the SUU (Soyuz Ukrainok Ukrainy). A lasting and effective partnership was formed with SUU and other trusted partners in Ukraine.
- 1994: Victoria Mischenko became the administrator of the UNWLA Scholarship Program, serving with dedication until 2021.
- 1997: After 17 years of operating from the home of Bernard and Anna Krawczuk, the Scholarship/Children-Student Sponsorship Program moved to a rented office in Matawan, NJ, which remains its location today.
- Multiple visits to Ukraine helped assess needs and ensure accountability.
- 1998: The World Congress of Ukrainians (WCU) awarded the St. Wolodymyr Medal to the UNWLA in recognition of 30 years of continuous scholarship support across South America, Europe, and Ukraine. Honored individuals included Anna Krawczuk, Maria Chymynets, Teodozia Sawycka, Sofia Andrushkiw, Vera Mycio, and Luba Bilowchtchuk.

- 2000: During a visit to Brazil, reaffirmed relationships and commitments and formed the UNWLA Scholarship Alumni Association in Brazil, with Olga Korczagin, the former Director of Colegio Santa Olga, who agreed to chair the association.



The Ukrainian World Congress recognizing the UNWLA Scholarship Program for its 30 successful years, Toronto, December 5, 1998 (l-r): UNWLA Scholarship Chair Luba Bilowchtchuk, UNWLA President Anna Krawczuk, UWC President Dmytro Cipywnyk, UWC General Secretary Jaroslaw Sokolyk.



Scholarship Chair Luba Bilowchtchuk addressing students in Curitiba, Brazil, 2000.

Continuing the Mission (2002–2021)

In 2002, Maria Polanskyj, a long-time committee member and program sponsor, was elected Scholarship Chair. Bringing fresh energy to the role, she recruited 400 new sponsors — all while maintaining a full-time job.

Maria represented the UNWLA as part of its delegation to the World Congress of Ukrainians in Kyiv in both 2003 and 2008. These visits allowed her to meet with leaders of Soyuz Ukrainok Ukrainy (SUU) and connect with scholarship recipients. In 2010, she also participated in the annual meeting of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations in Poland, where she reconnected with scholarship graduates who had since become professionals.

Maria became ill in 2014 and passed away on December 15, 2015. Her life was honored in ceremonies held in New Jersey, Brazil, and Ukraine.

Following her passing, Anna Krawczuk stepped in as Acting Chair and was officially elected Chair of the UNWLA Scholarship Program in 2017. Under her leadership, and despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee remained active, continuing to provide scholarships to students in Brazil and Ukraine.

Continues on page 18



Students of Santa Olga Colegio, Prudentopolis, Brazil, 2004.



Scholarship Chair Maria Polanskyj and Kyiv scholarship partner Larysa Kobelyanska with UNWLA President Marianna Zajac (l-r), 2014.

A Legacy of Generosity and Volunteerism

The UNWLA Scholarship Sponsorship Program's expansion is thanks to the generosity of sponsors and benefactors, the efforts of trusted partners in 17 countries, and the dedication of the volunteers who run the program.

As we celebrate 100 years of the UNWLA, we honor the volunteers who made the Scholarship Program a success and look forward to its continued growth in the next century.

Key Contributors

- **Teodozia Sawycka** – Social Welfare & Scholarship Chair (1971–1981): Developed the Scholarship Sponsorship program as we know it today.
- **Anna Krawczuk** – Scholarship Chair (1981–1993, 2016–2021): Led the program for 17 years and served on the standing committees for over 40 years. Her long-term involvement and vision have left an enduring impact on the program, continuing to shape its success for decades.
- **Luba Bilowchtchuk** – Scholarship Chair (1993–2002): Led the program for 9 years and has been a member of the standing committees for 32 years and counting.
- **Maria Polanskyj** – Scholarship Chair (2002–2015): Guided the program for 13 years and served on standing committees for 22 years.
- **M. Orysia Jacus** – Treasurer (1988–2018): Managed finances for 30 years, ensuring the program's sustainability.
- **Myron Krawczuk** – IT Support (since 1986): Has provided crucial tech support to keep the program running smoothly for the past 39 years and counting.
- **Nadia Jaworiw** – Scholarship Chair (since 2021): Leading the program during the war in Ukraine. Program volunteer since 2011, 14 years and counting.

Their collective contributions have shaped the success and longevity of the Scholarship Program, creating a lasting impact for students of Ukrainian descent.



UNWLA Scholarship Program Chairs from 1981 through 2021 (l-r) Luba Bilowchtchuk, Maria Polanskyj, and Anna Krawczuk with their Scholarship Program treasurer, M. Orysia Jacus, second from left, 2008.



UNWLA Honorary Benefactor Myron Krawczuk, updating Scholarship office computers, and Scholarship office volunteer Irene Krawczuk, August 2025.



Scholarship Chair Nadia Jaworiw (seated) with Standing Committee member Luba Bilowchtchuk (right) and Scholarship office volunteer Myroslawa Cahn, August 2025.



UNWLA Scholarship recipients in SUMY, Ukraine, 2020.

Resilience During Crisis (2021–2025)



UNWLA Scholarship Standing Committee, June 2021. Seated (l-r): Nadia Jaworiw, Anna Krawczuk, Natalie Pawlenko; standing (l-r): Natalia Honcharenko, Victoria Mischenko, Luba Bilowchtchuk; not present: Zoriana Haftkowycz, Halyna Lojko.

During Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine (2022), the program demonstrated extraordinary resilience. Under Nadia Jaworiw, elected Chair in 2021, the program:

- Converted all manual forms to Word-based, delivered as PDFs by email.
- Shifted communications with partners to Messenger, Viber, WhatsApp, and email.
- Shifted delivery of stipends through Western Union, after MEEST discontinued money transfers.
- Redirected distribution of scholarships directly to SUU Scholarship Commission Chairs in respective Oblasts.

Despite war conditions, including closed banks and displacement, partners in Ukraine persevered and remained dedicated.

Current Status and Outlook

- 480 scholarships awarded in 2025, up from 273 in 2022.
- Forecasting 600+ scholarships in 2026.
- 95% of new recipients in Ukraine are orphans who lost a parent in the war.
- Annual student turnover in Ukraine is around 25% due to relocation or graduation.

Legacy of Impact

The enduring success of the Scholarship Program is a testament to the dedication of the Scholarship Program Standing Committee, devoted volunteers, UNWLA branches, Regional Councils, and international partners and the generosity of over 4,000 sponsors and benefactors. Their collective commitment has positively impacted the lives of thousands of students.

As Dr. Teodozia Sawycka eloquently wrote in 1977: “The Lord has been good to us. Let us, in turn, share our bounty with His less fortunate children.”



UNWLA Scholarship recipients in Lviv, Ukraine, December 2024.



UNWLA Scholarship recipients in Cherkasy, Ukraine, June 2025.

95% of new recipients in Ukraine are orphans who lost a parent in the war.

Sponsor a Student: How the Scholarship Sponsorship Program Works

1. Becoming a Sponsor

- Individuals, branches, businesses, or organizations contribute funds and indicate their wish to sponsor a student — typically by completing a Scholarship Agreement Form.

2. Notification & Contact

- The Scholarship Office informs the sponsor who their student is and provides the student’s contact information.
- When the student receives their stipend, they are also given the sponsor’s contact information.
- Students are required to sign an acknowledgement form confirming receipt of the stipend and to write a thank-you letter to their sponsor.

3. Renewal for the Next School Year

- The following school year, when the documentation is received, the office notifies the sponsor and invites them to continue their sponsorship.

4. Financial Details

- Scholarships typically range from \$100 to \$500 per year.
- An additional 10% administrative fee is usually added to the sponsor’s contribution.

5. Other Ways to Help

- You can support the program without sponsoring a specific student by sending a general donation.
- You may also choose to be an anonymous sponsor.

To become a sponsor or donor, write a check payable to UNWLA Inc. and send it with the Sponsor Agreement Form (see QR Code below) to UNWLA, PO BOX 24, Matawan, NJ 07747-0024. Email us at Scholarship@unwla.org.



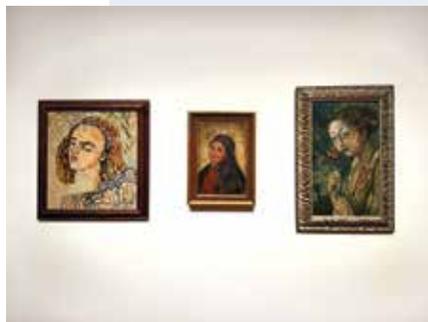
Scholarship Agreement Form



THE UKRAINIAN MUSEUM 222 E 6 NYC

The Wreath: A Century of Ukrainian Women Beyond the Ocean

Through January 18, 2026



The Wreath honors the 100th anniversary of the UNWLA and the contributions of its members in the global arena of diplomacy.

Looking back on the evolution of the Ukrainian feminist tradition, the exhibition's title weaves in several historic references. *Pershyi Vinok* (The First Wreath) is the milestone feminist almanac that in 1887 gathered texts by women from two Ukrainian communities living under Habsburg and Czarist rule. Decades later, UNWLA president Olena Lototsky in Jersey City wrote a speech for the 1934 International Congress of Ukrainian Women in Stanyslaviv titled "The Duties of Ukrainian Women Beyond the Ocean." Steadily evolving in its sense of cultural kinship and political responsibility, since 1925 the UNWLA has navigated waves of migration and historic disruptions, proving, in Dr. Martha Kichorowska Kebalo's words, how "feminist sensibility can coexist with long-distance nationalism."

Like the unbroken circle of a wreath, the artworks in this exhibition, curated by Lilia Kudelia, remind us about the important causes UNWLA members have connected around throughout the past century. The works of many of the female artists in the show have been featured in *Our Life* over the decades, while other artifacts come directly from the collection assembled by the UNWLA in the 1930s that eventually became the foundation for The Ukrainian Museum (see sidebar). Individual artistic expressions resonate with the collective goals championed by the UNWLA to support the Ukrainian nation through its political turmoils.

Artworks by Halyna Mazepa and Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak emotively remind visitors about the UNWLA's early humanitarian aid and emergency relief campaigns, including the support provided by the organization to those who suffered through hurricanes and flooding in the Carpathians in 1927. Still lifes by Iryna Homotiuk-Zielyk and Chrystya Olenska evoke decades of Holodomor awareness work by UNWLA members.

The organization's fight for human rights extends to its tenacious efforts to develop a transnational activist community with female dissidents and the wives of political prisoners in Ukraine during the Soviet period. In *The Wreath*, paintings by Olena Kulchytka, Alla Johansen, and Sophie Zarycka whisper with the voices of Olha Horyn, Oksana Meshko, Irena Senyk, Nadia Svitlychna, Nina Strokata, and Raisa Rudenko, whose correspondence can be viewed in the archival section of the exhibition.

While Ukrainian diaspora artists like Arcadia Olenska-Petryshyn are enchanted by exotic landscapes, historic documents in the exhibition recall the international travels of UNWLA members who took part in the United Nations Decade of Women’s World Conferences as representatives of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations and the National Council of Women of the United States. These women staged demonstrations, distributed information, and conducted panels in defense of women prisoners of conscience during UN Women’s Conferences in Mexico City (1975) and Copenhagen (1980).

Artists Alina Tenser and Sasha Topolnytska represent a generation that came to the U.S. in the 1990s, when the UNWLA was advising global aid agencies on Ukraine’s needs in the post-Chornobyl, post-USSR era. Their works are in dialogue with the historic children’s books illustrated by Yaroslava Surmach-Mills, which prompt stories about the UNWLA’s involvement with the International Movement of Mothers and the organization’s advocacy for vulnerable children under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). Following on its Children of Chornobyl advocacy work in the 1990s, the UNWLA’s campaigns have focused on the return of the Ukrainian children kidnapped by Russia since its full-scale invasion in 2022.

UNWLA wreaths are woven from gestures of care, appeals against abuse, and lobbying for dignity. They are shared across the ocean to help people navigate, connect, and forge bonds with full respect for ethnic roots and cultural education. These traces of Ukrainian women’s activism reverberate within the artworks of this exhibition.



*Curator Lilia Kudelia leads visitors on a tour of the exhibition *The Wreath*.*

About *The Wreath’s* Folk Art Items

One of the UNWLA’s earliest initiatives was organizing a showcase of Ukrainian folk art in 1926 at the Astor Hotel in New York City as part of the fifth annual Exposition of Women’s Arts and Industries. The successful one-week presentation motivated UNWLA members to acquire additional items from artists and craftspeople in Ukraine for the Ukrainian Pavilion at the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair.



Soyuzianky showcasing Ukrainian folk art at the Astor Hotel exhibition, New York, 1926.

The folk art objects on display in *The Wreath*, traditionally associated with “women’s work” — textiles, ceramics, and weaving — also have a more potent function. As the foundation of The Ukrainian Museum’s collection, they reinforce the power of ornament and operate like a capsule for the preservation of Ukrainian identity. In their own time, these kilims, shirts, sashes, plates, and other decorative elements articulated the entrepreneurial potential and creative buoyancy of their makers.

Bridging the production, study, and promotion of vernacular art are the pedagogical endeavors championed by, among others, Olena Kulchytska (1877–1967), who travelled around Ukraine on foot to document these expressions of visual culture and to systematize, publish, and transfer this knowledge further through her teaching. Through their work as ambassadors of new aesthetic concepts in national art, Ukrainian women abroad in the early 20th century exemplified the emerging global shift towards the “new woman” archetype — one that represented a more independent female identity and cared about increasing its visibility by forming its own networks and institutions.

Celebrating the UNWLA's Centennial at the Museum of Ukrainian Diaspora in Kyiv

Oksana Piaseckyj, *UNWLA National Culture Chair*



Planning an exhibition in Kyiv for the UNWLA's 100th anniversary actually began three years ago. Why we decided to collaborate on this anniversary with Kyiv is interesting. The UNWLA is an American organization. Of course, we are tied to our Ukrainian ancestry and heritage. But why is our story being told in Kyiv as part of our centennial celebration? Serendipity plays into the story.

In June 2021, before the war started, UNWLA president Natalie Pawlenko asked me to contact Oksana Pidsucha, the director of the Museum of Ukrainian Diaspora in Kyiv, regarding their possible cooperation on a Kateryna Krychevska-Rosandich exhibition being planned by our Ukrainian Museum in New York. Pani Oksana was very familiar with the famous Krychevsky dynasty and had met with members of the family. In our telephone conversation, she assured me that she would be willing to send several paintings from their Kyiv collection to our museum in NYC.

To my surprise, pani Oksana changed the subject abruptly to what seemed very important to her, our upcoming 100th jubilee. Knowing our organization and its importance in supporting Ukraine throughout its painful history, she proposed a cooperative exhibit between the Museum of Ukrainian Diaspora and the UNWLA. Her years of contact with the Ukrainian diaspora provided the information that was lacking in Ukraine. She was concerned about the lack of knowledge of the UNWLA's role in Ukraine's history by most Kyivans and by Ukrainians in general. She wanted to correct that with her vision of an exhibition for the 100th anniversary.

Pani Oksana excitedly elaborated on how she envisioned the exhibition.

She would provide several rooms, both for archival materials and for the

creative works of Ukrainian diaspora artists. Pani Oksana emphasized that little is known about our organization within Ukraine. She envisioned this presentation of our story through art and archival material as a good way to interest Ukrainian writers and the press in studying our history and writing about it.

With President Pawlenko's blessing, I began my outreach to specialists in the Ukrainian diasporan art world. Through regular contact with pani Oksana, I saw her vision more clearly. She wanted to expand the museum's collection of Ukrainian women artists in the U.S. who would willingly donate an artwork to the Museum of the Ukrainian Diaspora for their permanent collection. These paintings would make up half of the two-pronged UNWLA centennial exhibition. The art of World War II émigrée Ukrainian women artists in the U.S. would be the draw to this special exhibition. The second half of the exhibition would focus on the UNWLA's archival treasures, providing an interesting narrative of an organization devoted to its Ukrainian history and culture.

Our planning began in June 2021. Then the war struck and everyone was in shock. There was no communication for some time until two years ago, when we reconnected with the Museum of Ukrainian Diaspora. We decided that the war would not prevent us from realizing this project. With the enthusiasm and devotion of a Ukrainian woman at war, pani Oksana was an inspiration.

We looked for possible grants both in the U.S. and in Ukraine for financial support. The results were negative on both sides, but this was not a setback for pani Oksana and her assistant, pani Hanna Leksina. They were determined that the costs of setting up the display would be covered in some way. The UNWLA had promised to underwrite the cost of shipment to Ukraine.

As coordinator here in the U.S., I asked Maria Shust, former director of The Ukrainian Museum in NYC, to lead us in locating Ukrainian women artists who would be agreeable to donating their works. With the help of artist Ilona Sochynsky, pani Marijka gathered a remarkable group of talented artists for the exhibition. Our focus was on paintings, not sculptures, because of the current difficulty of transporting items to Ukraine. The exception was Olia Rondiak's contribution of her Motanka sculpture, which was already in Kyiv and therefore could be delivered easily. The other artists chosen for the exhibition were Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak, Maya Hayuk, Adriana Hekels, Marta Hirniak-Voyevodka, Yulia Gacio, Inka Essenhigh, Nina Klymowska, Khrystyna Kudryk, Yulia Pinkusevich, Lydia Piaseckyj,



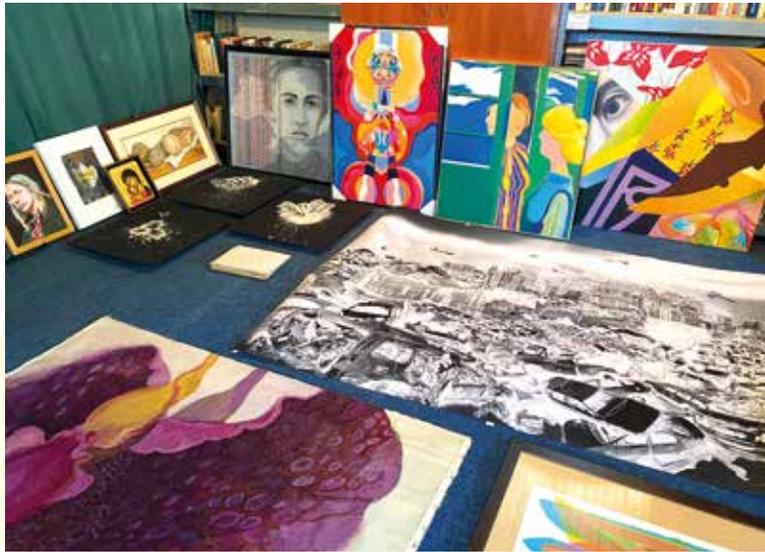
Exhibition co-curators Oksana Pidsucha and Hanna Leksina.



Former First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko with artist Olia Rondiak at the opening of the exhibition.



Guests attending the opening of the exhibition.



Chrystyna Saj, and Ilona Sochynsky. Other Ukrainian artists' works that were in the Diaspora museum's collection were also added. They were: Kateryna Krychevska-Rosandich, Irena Tverdochlib-Banach, Nina Bulavytska, and Vira Drazhevskya.

The other part of the exhibition — the story of the UNWLA as told from its archives — was expertly prepared by the UNWLA's national Archives Chair, Orysia Soroka. Pani Orysia's job was monumental in sorting through so many years of materials to find the appropriate information and present it for museum display. Her steadfastness was remarkable. She digitized much of the material that captured the most important events, such as the 1933 Chicago World's Fair Ukrainian Pavilion; various marches during the Holodomor, asking the world to recognize the brutality of Stalin's regime; participation in the World Congress of Ukrainians; various protests against the Soviet regime in support of Ukrainian dissidents; the grand opening of The Ukrainian Museum in NYC; and many cultural programs advocating for Ukraine's right to exist. By advocating, educating, and promoting Ukraine's history and culture throughout the years, the UNWLA played an important role in keeping Ukraine in the American consciousness.

After many months of gathering materials for the exhibition with the expert assistance of Oleksandr Demchenko, gallerist and art collector, the shipment was prepared. Pan Demchenko built the special crate for the paintings and prepared all the required documentation. The crate was handed to Meest for transport to Warsaw and on to Kyiv. On the Ukrainian side due to the war, many hurdles had to be overcome to finally get permission from

Ukraine's Ministry of Culture for arrival at the Museum of Ukrainian Diaspora.

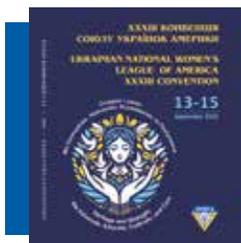
On July 10, 2025, the Museum of Ukrainian Diaspora, the only cultural institution in Ukraine that collects, researches, and promotes the history and cultural heritage of Ukrainians abroad, opened the large-scale *Ukrayinky* exhibition dedicated to Ukrainian women in America, as part of our centennial year celebration.

In its press releases, the museum described this as a Historical and Art Exhibition "Celebrating the strength, creativity and lasting impact of Ukrainian Women's leadership and activism in the U.S. and around the world. Dedicated to the Ukrainian National Women's League of America."

To celebrate the opening of the exhibition, Ukraine's Director of Culture, Serhiy Anzhyak; Viktoriya Mucha, a deputy of the Kyiv Council; and historian Yuri Savchuk, Director of the Museum of War, were in attendance along with other prominent Ukrainians, including former First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko.

Hanna Leksina, who co-curated the exhibition, said, "We sought to show how Ukrainian women in the diaspora maintain a connection with their homeland through art, memory, and action. The collection of works donated by Soyuz Ukrainok Ameriky is a unique cultural gift, presented for the first time on historical grounds."

The exhibition received a lot of attention from the Ukrainian press, written up in various articles (see the museum's Facebook page). It was on display through the end of September.



UNWLA XXXIII Convention Book: Correction

Please note that the following correction has been made to the XXXIII Convention Book on the UNWLA.org website: on page 176, the location of Branch 56 has been corrected to read **North Port, Florida**.

If you have a printed copy of the Convention Book, please enter this correction in your copy.

Ukrainian Independence Day: Advocacy Committee Pushes Out Updated Toolkit, Interactive Map

Christina Tershakovec, UNWLA National Advocacy Chair

With Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine well into its fourth year and the worry, grief, and anger — as well as resolve — that comes with it, it is important that we took the time to celebrate Ukraine's 34th (renewed) Independence Day. Ukraine has truly become a beacon, showing the world the real meaning of democracy and freedom, and what people dedicated to those principles are willing to sacrifice in order to attain and maintain them.

While those in Ukraine work tirelessly to repel Russia's invasion and to reassert Ukraine's sovereignty, it is incumbent on Ukraine advocates in the U.S. to make sure that Ukraine remains in the headlines and in the hearts and minds of our friends, neighbors, community members, and legislators. Early this summer, the UNWLA's Advocacy Committee pushed out an updated version of its Independence Day toolkit, with templates and suggestions for outreach to city, state, and federal officials for proclamations, building and landmark lightings, and — new this year — outreach to radio stations with requests to play Ukrainian music or music by Ukrainian composers, with suggested playlists. The toolkit was met with incredible enthusiasm both within the UNWLA and among Ukraine advocacy colleagues, and we trust that

it assisted in the breadth and scope of Independence Day plans.

Building on the successful use of its interactive map for this year's Children Praying for Children campaign, the UNWLA again hosted the interactive map for its members and advocacy community partners to highlight events and other commemorations of Ukraine's Independence Day on August 24, 2025. A total of 145 events across 40 states and 101 cities were registered, and we were strengthened by the show of support for Ukraine nationwide, as people posted photos of events, lightings, proclamations, and other means of marking the day. Not only is the number of events impressive, but the map showcases the variety of ways our community has chosen to celebrate Ukraine's Independence Day: from local proclamations in Binghamton, NY, to governors' proclamations in New Jersey and Texas (among other states), a hike to Mission Peak organized by Branch 107 in California, multiple rallies with legislators in Connecticut, building and landmark lightings across Philadelphia's skyline, and festivals in Florida and Pennsylvania.

Thank you to all who worked tirelessly to organize these celebrations, a number of which are highlighted on the following pages.



UNWLA Branches Across the U.S. Celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day

Anna Bereznyak, *UNWLA Communications Coordinator*



This year, the UNWLA proudly helped shine a spotlight on Ukrainian Independence Day celebrations across the United States. Thanks to a generous gift from the Tretiak family, the UNWLA created a national digital visualizer that mapped 145 events across the country (see image on previous page). Partnering with the American Coalition for Ukraine (ACU), this tool was shared with congressional offices and media outlets, underscoring

the deep and widespread support for Ukraine among the American people.

For decades — even during Soviet rule — Soyuzianky consistently advocated for Ukraine's independence. What once was a dream of freedom proclaimed in rallies and cultural programs is now a cause for celebration and continued vigilance. Today, UNWLA branches remain a key unifying force across the U.S., bringing communities together to honor Ukraine's sovereignty, promote its culture, and amplify calls for lasting peace.

UNWLA branches were at the heart of many of this year's Independence Day commemorations — leading flag-raising, securing city proclamations, joining cultural festivals, and showcasing Ukrainian traditions to their neighbors.

From small towns to major cities, the following examples highlight how UNWLA branches worked hand-in-hand with local communities to celebrate Ukraine's independence and promote awareness of Ukraine's ongoing struggle for freedom. This is not a complete list — across the nation, Soyuzianky took part in dozens of commemorations, each one a testament to the enduring spirit of Ukraine and the steadfast commitment of the Ukrainian diaspora in America.

As they have for the past 100 years, Soyuzianky continue to embody their mission: to advocate, educate, cultivate culture, and care. From advocating for independence during the darkest days of Soviet oppression to serving today as a unifying force for communities nationwide, the UNWLA stands unwavering in its dedication to Ukraine's freedom and future.

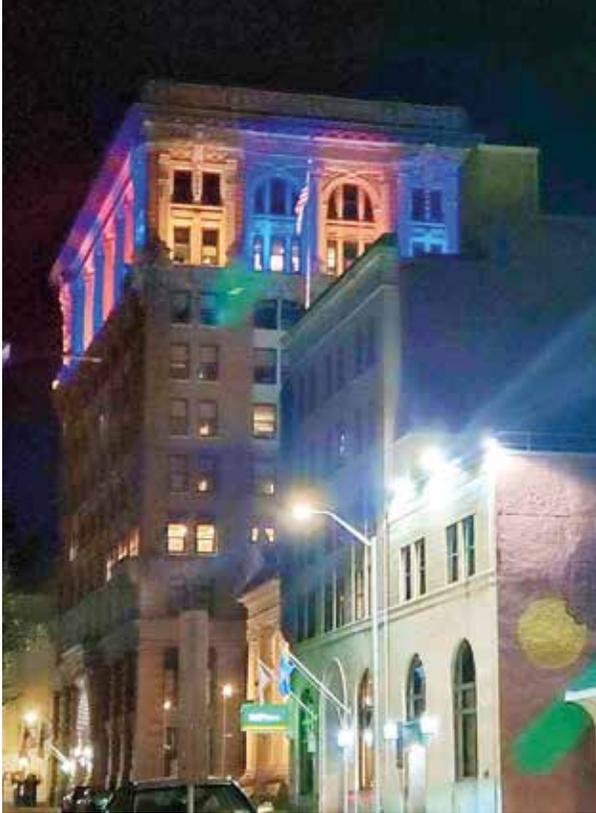


Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Community members, including Soyuzianky, gathered on the steps of City Hall for a solemn flag-raising ceremony. The blue-and-yellow banner was lifted high while residents, veterans, and officials stood together in solidarity, a moment later reported by the local media.

Binghamton, New York (Branch 145)

The city's historic Security Mutual Life building was illuminated in Ukraine's national colors of blue and yellow, turning the skyline into a striking beacon of unity with Ukraine.



Kerhonkson, New York (Branch 95)

Branch 95 partnered with the Ukrainian American Youth Association for a formal flag-raising at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church. Following prayers for peace, the community shared a luncheon of traditional Ukrainian dishes prepared by Soyuzianky, joined by UNWLA Honorary President and Branch 95 founding member Marianna Zajac.



Austin, Texas (Branch 147)

In front of the Texas State Capitol, Branch 147 members joined hundreds of supporters in a march and rally. With signs, songs, and speeches, participants called for continued U.S. support for Ukraine. The gathering also featured Rep. Lloyd Doggett, who expressed solidarity with the Ukrainian American community.



Santa Clara, California (Branch 107)

Soyuzianky of Northern California stood proudly with community members and dignitaries during a special ceremony recognizing dedication and reaffirming the role of the Ukrainian diaspora and UNWLA members in the local community.



West Haven, Connecticut (Branch 108)

Local officials and Soyuzianky marked Independence Day with a moving proclamation. Later, the city honored Ukraine by lighting public buildings in blue and yellow.



Palm Beach County, Florida

At a cultural fair in Palm Springs, Soyuzianky hosted art booths and children’s workshops, while in West Palm Beach, the third annual cultural festival featured performances, food, and crafts. The events brought Ukrainian heritage to life for thousands of visitors.



Honolulu, Hawaii

On the shores of Queens Beach, UNWLA Members-at-Large joined the local community in receiving the governor's proclamation on the occasion of Ukraine's Independence Day.



Colorado Springs, Colorado

UNWLA members and the local Ukrainian community hosted a festive Independence Day gathering with cultural programs, music, and opportunities to share Ukraine's story with the broader community.



Baltimore/Columbia, Maryland

In Maryland, the Independence Day spirit lit up the Columbia Lakefront Fountain. Its waters glowed blue and yellow, creating a powerful tribute to Ukraine at dusk.



North Port, Florida (Branch 56)

Hundreds braved the stormy weather to celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day at the Ukrainian Baptist Church, including a crew from the local NBC affiliate and popular newspaper reporter Daniel Finton from the local *Daily Sun*, shown here with Luliia Lopanchuk-Danilovets, one of the event organizers.



Philadelphia

The Philadelphia Regional Council lit up the city in blue and yellow this year, arranging for several key landmarks to shine in Ukraine's colors in celebration of Independence Day.



Boathouse Row



FMC Tower



New Jersey

Governor Phil Murphy proclaimed August 24 to be Ukrainian Independence Day, and Branch 143 in Jersey City held a flag-raising ceremony.



Якщо ти не на фронті, то роби все для фронту

Вікторія Лозовська, пресова референтка 21-го Відділу, Бруклін, Округа Нью Йорк



Членкині 21-го Відділу ім. Л. Костенко та їхні гості. У центрі у вінку — С. Горохівська.

З такою думкою членкині 21-го Відділу США ім. Ліни Костенко взяли участь у заході, який організував Український Національний Дім у Брукліні — відзначення 34-ї річниці відновлення Незалежності України. 24-го серпня у церкві Святого Духа у Брукліні зібралася велика українська громада, щоб молитися за швидку перемогу України, її Сили Оборони, усіх військових і цивільних українців в Україні та за її межами. Також було відправлено панахиду за тих, хто віддав своє життя за незалежність нашої країни та невинно убитих цивільних людей.

У церковній залі парафіяни та гості мали змогу відзначити особливий день нашої вільної держави. Свято провела Ольга Дейнеко і, як належить, його розпочали внесенням державних прапорів, спільним виконанням гімну та вшануванням хвилиною мовчання тих, хто поклав життя за незалежну Україну. Присутніх привітали від імені Українського Національного Дому у

Брукліні його голова Василь Покотило, а також Ярослава Герльовська — голова 21-го Відділу ім. Л. Костенко Округа Нью Йорк.

Цьогоріч нашій громаді безмежно пощастило. До нас навідалися чудові гості! З концертною програмою «Душа України» ми зустрічали групу «Гердан» у складі Соломії Горохівської та Андрія Підківки. Їхня концертна програма складалася з музики різних етнографічних районів України, а також світової музики в оригінальних аранжуваннях колективу. Подібно до різноколірних витончених візерунків гердану-прикраси, музика колективу різноманітна за стилями. Тож присутні були захоплені та радо підспівували й дарували артистам свої усмішки й оплески.

Ще один шанований гість — Сергій Позняк, старший лейтенант Національної Гвардії України, командир взводу спеціального призначення батальйону імені генерала Кульчицького. Ми щасливі, що в його особі мали можливість подякувати всім Силам Оборони України за подвиг, за відданість, за посвяту справі захисту незалежності України. І в подарунок для нього звучала «Червона калина» у виконанні «Гердану», яку підхопили всі присутні. Тепло, зворушливо, радісно, оптимістично!

Усі учасники свята мали лотерею, аукціон, фотосесію, смачний обід від господинь 21-го Відділу США і тепле спілкування. А кошти, котрі союзнянки виручили, обов'язково трансформуються у допомогу нашим героїчним хлопцям, які перебувають на лікуванні.

Тож велика подяка організаторам та учасникам дійства! У такі моменти кожен впевнений: Україна була, Україна є, Україна буде! Тримаймо стрій! Слава Україні!



Присутніх привітали (зліва направо): голова Українського Національного Дому у Брукліні В. Покотило, голова 21-го Відділу Я. Герльовська, ведуча О. Дейнеко, гість з України С. Позняк та група «Гердан».

Українська незламність духу

Оксана Луків, 73-й Відділ ім. Лесі Українки, Бріджпорт, Округа Нова Англія.



Катерина Таньчин зі своїм сином-героєм під час реабілітації.

Ще недавно ми раділи з того, що синьо-жовтий стяг на честь Дня Державного Прапора України над Пустомитівською громадою (Львівська обл.) урочисто підняв Герой, захисник незалежності України Богдан Таньчин — десантник-кулеметник 25-ї окремої повітряної бригади, син нашої союзниці та колишньої голови Округи Нова Англія США Катерини Таньчин (допис про нього надруковано в «НЖ» за травень 2024).

А цього року у Києві відбувся благодійний бал «Хоробрих сердець», організований командою реабілітаційного центру U+ System. Цей вечір став справжнім свідченням сили духу й незламності українських захисників — військових, які пройшли складний шлях лікування та реабілітації після втрати кінцівок. Вони станцювали танго, румбу, сальсу, пасадобль і вальс — через танець розповіли свої історії болю, мужності й надії.

Особливою гордістю для нас став виступ на балу Богдана Таньчина, якого пораненого 6 травня 2023 р. під Ізюмом. Після лікування та реабілітації він вийшов на паркет, щоб станцювати за себе й за побратимів, які ще борються за можливість повернутися до повноцінного життя. Для нього танець став символом перемоги над болем, а для його 8-річної донечки Яночки доказом, що тато — незламний.

Ми пишаємось стійкістю та рішучістю Богдана, який попри всі випробування, показує, що життя після поранення не завершується, а може бути ще глибшим і яскравішим. Ми схилиємося перед його мужністю і молимося за кожного, хто щодня бореться за можливість рухатися, хто відстоює свободу та стоїть за майбутнє України. Дякуємо п. Катерині Таньчин і всім матерям наших воїнів-захисників за виховання гідних синів і дочок!



Богдан Таньчин і його донька Яна на піднятті прапора.



Богдан Таньчин і Катерина Новосад танцюють повільний вальс.

UNWLA Commemorates International Children's Day with Children Praying for Children Event

Maria Holian, Member-at-Large

On June 1, 2025, people around the world celebrated International Children's Day, a day established during the World Conference for the Well-Being of Children in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1925 to celebrate and support the world's children by promoting their well-being and their rights, including access to basic needs such as food, healthcare, and education.

Children in many countries are currently experiencing difficulties, with UNICEF estimating that 1 in 6 children globally live in areas affected by conflict — including the children of Ukraine. Soyuzianka Iryna Chalupa wrote the following Children's Prayer in 2024 for Ukraine's children.

Dear God,
please calm and comfort all of Ukraine's children
affected by russia's war on Ukraine.
Help their parents to protect their families.
We pray to you today, to be with the children,
understand their pain, protect them so they will not be hurt.
Help them find sleep through the dark night hours.
May they know you are there. Help them find a safe place
where they are not afraid.
Lord, please protect the vulnerable children of Ukraine,
protect their families and restore them to their homes
and cities so that they do not feel abandoned and forgotten.
Instill the belief that they will be safely
returned to their families, home, and country.
Amen!

At St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Grand Rapids, MI, children recited this prayer in Ukrainian and English after the Divine Liturgy on June 1. Father Roman Fedchyk, administrator of the church, shared his understanding of the prayer and related it to what was said by Jesus, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14). The church held a fundraiser



on June 14 that generated \$5,000 for orphans in Ukraine.

The UNWLA prayer had a deep effect on all parishioners. Hanna Chernetska said the words "Help them find sleep through the dark night hours" awakened her emotions because the effects of the war can affect children's sleep and otherwise remain in their lives for many years. Some adults suggested that the prayer could provide spiritual protection for the children's hearts. Linn Crescentia stated, "Instead of leaving God, may stress drive them to God. God has bountiful blessings for them."

Children also responded with sensitivity. For children who came from Ukraine, where they were traumatized by drones, seeing planes flying in America was traumatizing; they thought that they needed to hide. Melanka told me that it is frightening to see fireworks because they are a reminder of war. Victoria expressed her sadness that "children stolen by russia can't be with their parents. Children deserve to be with their parents."

Life in America provides safety for Ukrainian children. The children that I spoke with are adjusting to life in America and said they feel fine. The prayer provided spiritual protection for their hearts. Parents are grateful that their children can experience a good life.

The prayer was also shared with other parishes. Nancy Bialkowski offered it to Father Ivan Turyk, pastor of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Perth Amboy, NJ, who shared the prayer with the parish's children. The prayer was also shared with the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate at St. Nicholas Church in Passaic, NJ, and with Sister Eliana, Provincial Supervisor of the Sisters of Mary Immaculate in Minersville, PA.

May we all trust in God to save the children of Ukraine and the children of all countries because they are the future of the world.

Стипендійна Акція СУА UNWLA Scholarship Program

Scholarship Update

The Scholarship Program distributed **\$20,450** to **46** students in Brazil for the 2025 school year. Thank you to our sponsors and donors, our partners in Brazil, and the Scholarship Program office workers for your support. I would like to remember the sponsors who are no longer with us but whose legacies continue to support Ukrainian students. Of the scholarships in Brazil, 40% were covered by these sponsors.

The school year in Ukraine has started, and we will be receiving student documents shortly. Many new requests from students in Ukraine are anticipated for the 2025–2026 school year. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors and donors for their unwavering support.

Nadia Jaworiw, UNWLA Scholarship Chair, and members of the UNWLA Scholarship Standing Committee

Подяка від стипендіятки з України

Від щирого серця хочу подякувати Вам за Вашу щедрість, підтримку та турботу. Отримана мною стипендія від СУА була для мене великою допомогою у продовженні мого навчання. Від 2024 р. я проживаю при парафії Різдва Пресвятої Богородиці, оскільки мені було поставлено діагноз розсіяний склероз. Я розпочав лікування і, дякуючи Богові, хвороба залишається під контролем, без прогресування і мій стан здоров'я є стабільним. У 2025 р. я завершив магістратуру з філософії. У моєму серці живе бажання завершити навчання з богослов'я, оскільки залишився лише один рік до його закінчення й підготовки до священничих свячень. Ще раз дякую за Вашу доброту. Нехай Господь благословить Вас і Вашу родину!

*Бр. Марко Антоній, ЧСВВ
Куритиба, Бразилія*

Прийміть найщиріші вітання з Днем Незалежності України! Це особливе свято для кожного українця, адже воно символізує силу, єдність та непохитне прагнення до свободи.

Місто Суми, як і вся Україна, продовжує жити та працювати, незважаючи на виклики воєнного часу. Щодня наші люди демонструють мужність, згуртованість і любов до рідної землі. Ми впевнені, що попри всі труднощі, Україна вистоїть і перемає, зберігши свою незалежність та гідність.

З першого вересня у мене почнеться навчання на третьому курсі медичного інституту. Зважаючи на воєнний стан та бажання численної групи студентів отримувати якіснішу освіту, керівництво запропонувало подати заяву на онлайн/офлайн-форму навчання. Я обрав офлайн-форму навчання, оскільки мені особисто краще засвоюється матеріал, коли викладач і студенти обговорюють його наживо. Занят-

тя будуть проходити в перевірених укриттях, тому, попри умови війни, мені не страшно. Попри спроби росіян перешкодити навчанню студентів цілеспрямованими ударами по навчальних закладах, я здобуду освіту та стану ортопедом-травматологом, щоб лікувати людей.

*З повагою і вдячністю
Михайло, м. Суми*

У Пам'ять / In Memory Of

In loving memory of **Walter Denysenko**, I am contributing **\$1,060** to the UNWLA Scholarship Program for the sponsorship of students in Ukraine.

*Tamara Denysenko, Member-at-Large
Rochester, NY*

The Ukrainian American Community Foundation in Rochester, NY, matched the generous donation of **\$1,060** made by Tamara Denysenko in memory of **Walter Denysenko**.

Ukrainian American Community Foundation

Пожертви від 1 липня до 31 серпня 2025 р. Donations from July 1 to August 31, 2025

\$25,000	Anonymous
\$10,000	Olena Papiz (50)
\$3,000	UNWLA Branch 75
\$2,200	Ulana L. Steck (49)
\$2,100	Peter & Stacey Polanskyj (98)
\$1,650	Mary Sue Hoffman
\$1,060	Tamara Denysenko (MAL), Ukrainian American Community Foundation (MAL)
\$1,000	Nadia Jaworiw (98)
\$450	Dr. Viktor Decyk & Dr. Betsy Decyk (98), Myron B. Krawczuk (98), UNWLA Branch 98
\$300	Victoria Wakulowska and Marianna Wakulowska (90)
\$220	Lidia Leshchuk (83)
\$110	Bohdanna Slyz (83), Martha J. Wiegand (MAL)
\$100	Patrick & Diane Brannigan (98)
\$42	Renata Bihun (28)

Thank you for your generosity.

Щиро дякуємо за Вашу благодійність.

*Люба Більовщук, член Комітету стипендій СУА
UNWLA Scholarship Committee Chair 1993–2002*

UNWLA, Inc. Scholarship / Children-Student Sponsorship Program

P.O. Box 24, Matawan,
NJ 07747-0024

Phone/Fax: 732-441-9530

Scholarship@unwla.org



Цей час настав

Ніна Шмурікова-Гаврилюк,
поетеса і просвітянка,
м. Хмельницький

Цей час настав. Обличчя України,
що заступав сусіда-лиходій,
побачив світ!

Бо розступились стіни
під поглядом звитяжним
із-під вій.

О, земле рідна,
багатостраждальна,
несеш свою погідність крізь віки,
де мужнім серцем
пісню величальну
тобі в степах складали козаки.

Золотоверха і блакитнонеба,
підступних і нахабних ворогів,
немов магніт,
ти вабила до себе,
хоча й не завинила
їм боргів.

Укотре ворог праг завоювати,
скорити непокірну —
за три дні...
Та мусив сам з-під Києва тікати
І бачити Хрещатик
тільки в сні!

Весь світ завмер від видива і
дива:
ніхто такого навіть і не снів,
щоб хтось отак —
безстрашно і вразливо —
росію-монстра
взяв — і прищемив!

...Вдивляйтесь у обличчя України:
вона для світу —
світла оберіг!..
Це дух її вишнево-солов'їний
насилля суть зловісну
переміг!

Марта Стасюк

97-й Відділ ім. Марусі Бек, Баффало,
Нью Йорк, Віддалений відділ — Схід



4 листопада 2024 р. на 88 році життя відійшла у вічність Марта Стасюк, почесна членкиня СУА, колишня голова 97-го Відділу та довголітня голова округу Північного Нью Йорку.

Марта народилася у Львові 17 вересня 1936 р. Під навалом більшовицької армії Марта і родина покинули рідну хату у 1942 р. і втекли на Захід. Опинилися в таборі в Бісенгофен (Німеччина) і згодом (у 1949 р.) перебралися до Америки.

З часом Марта побралася з Маріяном Стасюком (нині покійним). Проживали в Тонаванді (Н.Й., біля Баффало), виховали трьох синів в українському дусі. Була знаменитою господинею — пекла найсмачніше печиво.

Разом з чоловіком («Маком») Марта працювала довгі роки на пластовій оселі «Новий Сокіл», що неподалік від Баффало; була пластункою в курені «Верховинки». За присвяту отримала срібне відзначення. Також разом з чоловіком допомагала при парафії св. Івана Хрестителя в Кенморі.

Коли Марта стала союзнянкою, то почала незрівнянний шлях праці в нашій організації. Спочатку обіймала майже кожну позицію в управі 97-го Відділу, а потім стала головою Округу Північного Нью Йорку. За її присвяту відділу й округу була нагороджена званням «Почесна членкиня». Марта знала, як представити нашу організацію поміж американцями, і тримала міцні зв'язки з федерацією жіночих клубів в Баффало.

Залишала у смутку синів Андрія з дружиною Ікою, Мирона з дружиною Лесею, Адріана з дружиною Христіною, брата Романа Щуровського з дружиною Джойс і семеро онуків.

Завжди усміхнена, Марта теплими словами заохочувала нас до більших зусиль з творення добрих справ. Вона залишається в наших серцях як вогонь, що не згасає. Вічна та світла їй пам'ять!

Христя Коновка,
голова 97-го Відділу ім. Марусі Бек, Баффало

НАШИМ ДІТЯМ

Казка про осінь

Автор: Г. Криштапович

Давно це було, у краї щасливім та квітучім. Ніколи не було там холодно, ніхто не сумував і не журився. Правив цим краєм цар, що мав одну доньку — царівну Осінь. Росла вона стрункою та гарною: мала коси, як золото, очі — як синє небо.

Коли царівні виповнилося вісімнадцять років, повсватався до неї славний лицар Вересень.

Погодилась Осінь, бо припав їй до серця цей юнак. Лише висловила бажання, щоб приніс він весільний подарунок — перли заморські.

Вирушив лицар у путь-дорогу, а царівна взялась до роботи — гаптувати вбрання весільне. Була вона вмілою та спритною — і за якийсь тиждень вигаптувала і фату, і сукню.

Одного дня сиділа вона біля вікна світлиці. Раптом бачить: вершник скаче до палацу. То був чаклун Жовтень. Під'їхав, гарцюючи, до вікна й вітається:

— Здрастуй, царівно Осінь! Почув я про твою красу незрівнянну, і отя біля твоїх ніг. Прошу тебе, будь моєю дружиною! Привіз я весільні подарунки: парчу золоту і корали багряні.

Промовляє Жовтень, а водночас чарує, чарує — та й зачарував царівну Осінь. Забула вона свого нареченого і дала згоду бути Жовтневі за дружину. Уже й день весілля з ним призначила.

От і настав цей день. З усіх усюд з'їхалися гості. Лине музика, пісні величальні. Веселяться гості, п'ють мед-вино за здоров'я молодих, танцюють, співають.



Малюнок, згенерований ШІ.

Саме в цей час Вересень повернувся з весільним дарунком. Зупинив коня й питає в людей:

— Що це святкують?

— Наша царівна Осінь за Жовтня заміж іде!

Побачила царівна Осінь, що небо затягло хмарами, визирнула у вікно — а там у траві перли розсипані. Вмить згадала вона про нареченого свого і зрозуміла, що була зачарованою.

У гніві кинулась до Жовтня:

— Геть звідси, підступний! Хотів ти мене обдурити, так знай: не потрібен мені ні ти, ні твої подарунки!

Зажурилася Осінь, засумувала, але що ж робити? Пішла вона до мудрого Листопада за порадою, а той і каже:

— Не зможеш ти повернути назавжди свого синьоокого ласкавого Вересня, бо сильні чари має Жовтень. Проте позбався його подарунків, і тоді через рік прийде твій коханий. Однак лише на місяць. А зараз заспокойся й спочинь.

Так і зробила Осінь. Кинула шовки золоті, корали багряні, підхопив їх вітер та поніс. Зачепились дарунки Жовтня за гілки дерев — і стали ті золотисто-багряними, але сумною була їхня краса.

Багато води сплигло з тих часів. Бачили ви, як щороку, наприкінці вересня, вкривається земля сріблястою памороззю? То Вересень дарунки свої Осені приніс. Потім знову чаклує Жовтень: золото і корали — свої принади — по деревах розкидає. Плаче, тужить Осінь за своїм втраченим нареченим, і втішає її мудрий сивий Листопад.

(Джерело: <https://naurok.com.ua/>
Хрестоматія «Золотий віночок».)

Жовтень

Вірш Ганни Черинь

В жовтні жовте сонце гріє
Так, що все навкруг жовтіє.
Жовті квіти і листочки,
Жовті дині й огірочки,
Що достигли на насіння,
Бо прийшла пора осіння.

Осіннє вишивання

Вірш Ганни Черинь

Ходить Осінь, походжає,
Листя жовтим вишиває.
Підбирає кожну нитку —
Щоб не гірш було, як влітку.

Щоб тополі й осоки
Похвалили жовті вбори.
Щоб береза пелехата
Стала золотом багата.

Навіть ти, розлогий клене,
Втратиш листячко зелене —
Та не плач: твоя обнова
Ще пишніша, пурпурова...

Ходить Осінь роботяща:
— Де ж не побувала я ще?
Що ж іще узяти в кросна?
Треба ще ялини й сосни!

До сосни торкнулась тільки —
Покололи руку шпильки.
Як ялину вишити?!
— Мусіла залишити.

Так то сосни і ялини
Залишилися без зміни,
І, хоч всюди жовта осінь —
Зеленіють, як і досі...

Меренговий рулет

Людмила Степанишена, поетеса та блогерка, м. Немирів Вінницької обл.

Авторка проживає у м. Немирів, яке, крім іншого, славиться заводом лікєро-горілочаних виробів «Nemiroff». Має дві вищих освіти – педагогічну (вчитель математики, фізики та інформатики) та економічну. Але за професіями себе не реалізувала. Натомість увесь її час займає поезія: Людмила має 6 збірок власних віршів — поезій «простими словами про повсякденне життя». На фейсбуці створила сторінку «Мої вірші для вашої душі», що має 136 000 підписників. Це прекрасні люди з різних куточків світу, серед яких і членкині СУА. Також час від часу ділиться переписами зі своїми підписниками, які стали для неї родиною.

Рецепт меренгового рулету є в багатьох джерелах. Я ж їх скоригувала по-своєму — і результат мені сподобався. Спробуйте і ви, шановні союзанки, приготувати його. Він дуже смачний, готується просто та швидко!



БІЛКОВА МАСА

6,5 —7 унцій яєчного білка
1 ч. л. лимонного соку
3,5 унції цукрової пудри
4 унції цукру
1 унція кукурудзяного крохмалю
дрібка солі

КРЕМ

10 унцій вершків жирності близько 33 %
6 унцій сиру «Філадельфія»
1,5—2 унції цукрової пудри
ягоди на свій смак

ПРИГОТУВАННЯ

До яєчного білка всипати дрібку солі, влити лимонний сік та збити в піну. Не перестаючи збивати, поступово додати цукрову пудру та цукор. Наприкінці всипати кукурудзяний крохмаль і вже вимішати лопаткою. Викласти масу на розстелений на декові пергамент.

Випікати при температурі 300—310° F протягом 35 хв. Як приготується, вийняти, накрити зверху пергаментом, перевернути та зняти пергамент, на якому маса випікалася. Залишити охолоджуватися.

Як схолоне, нанести крем на білковий корж і посипати рясно ягодами, які оберете на власний смак (мої діти люблять лише лохину або банан). Скрутити рулетом.

Смачного!

Translations of recipes in *Our Life* are available on the UNWLA website at unwla.org/projects/ukrainian-recipes/.

Rheumatoid Arthritis



Ihor Magun, MD, FACP

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a systemic disease that occurs when the immune system mistakenly assumes there is an infection in a joint. This initiates a response that leads to joint damage. RA affects both large and small joints, with a predilection for joints of the hands and the feet.

While RA increases with age, it can present at any age, with the typical onset between the ages of 30 and 50. Genes are responsible for 60% of the risk for RA. Environmental factors are responsible for the other 40%, with smoking and air pollution as the main causes.

Three additional risk factors are periodontal disease; the hormone estrogen and other sex-specific factors, which are incompletely understood; and women who have not given birth.

The onset of RA symptoms is gradual, with joint pain including swelling and morning stiffness lasting at least 45 minutes and up to several hours. A major manifestation of RA is stiffness that is worse following rest and decreased by ongoing activity.

An early sign of RA is difficulty in making a fist. Joints on both sides of the body are generally involved, but the severity may be asymmetric.

Contrary to what many assume, RA primarily affects the cervical (neck) and not the lower spine.

RA does have systemic effects:

Lungs. 80% of individuals can have this organ affected, mostly with no symptoms but can lead to scarring known as fibrosis, leading to issues with breathing in the future.

Eyes. The most common manifestation is dry eyes.

Nerves. RA causes nerve swelling, leading to nerve pain throughout the body.

Skin. 20% of RA individuals develop rheumatoid nodules, which are generally painless but, if found in certain areas (knee), can cause discomfort when pressure is applied, such as kneeling.

A western diet high in fat, refined carbohydrates, and sugar and low in fiber increases the risk of RA. On the other hand, a Mediterranean diet may reduce the risk of RA. The Mediterranean diet emphasizes healthy fats like virgin olive oil, whole grains, fruits, vegetables, beans, nuts, and seeds.

Regular exercise is extremely helpful by strengthening the muscles around affected joints, providing reduction in pain and improvement in flexibility.

Treatments previously focused only on pain and inflammation reduction. Today's treatment guidelines advocate early diagnosis with the intent to begin aggressive therapy early to prevent joint damage.

The take-home message is to address RA early, initiate the use of appropriate medications, and adopt lifestyle changes in the diet and regular physical activity.





FROM LEGACY TO FUTURE

UNWLA CENTENNIAL FUND

As we celebrate 100 years of sisterhood and service, we honor those who built our legacy and those carrying it forward today. By giving to the UNWLA Centennial Fund, you help preserve our heritage, empower Ukrainian women, and strengthen vital programs in the U.S. and Ukraine.

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