



# UKRAINIAN ART CENTER NEWS

THE UNSTOPPABLE FORCE OF THE ARTS

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## Los Angeles Kicks Off 2016 Fundraiser for Ukrainian Catholic University



On Sunday afternoon, October 23, 2016, the City of Angels hosted a fundraiser to benefit UCU. Earlier that day, His Excellency Bishop Borys Gudziak, President and cofounder of UCU, was the main celebrant at the 10:00 a.m. Pontifical Diving Liturgy held at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church. Co-celebrants included F. Ihor Koshyk, Pastor of the N.B.V.M. Church, Fr. Gregory Zubacz, Pastor of the Ukrainian Catholic Mission Church in Fresno, California and Fr. Mark Bayrock, Pastor of Stephen the Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church in Calgary, Canada. The choir, under the direction of guest conductor, Luke Miller from San Diego, California, sung the responses.

Following the Divine Liturgy, guests proceeded to the nearby newly renovated Ukrainian Cultural Center for the Social Hour followed by a Festive Luncheon. Attendees enjoyed refreshments while being serenaded by the University of California – Los Angeles String Quartet. Upon conclusion of the Social Hour, Mr. Paul Budilo, President of the Ukrainian Cultural Center requested everyone to enter the main hall where, prior to seating, the Pastors and Bishop Borys led the guests in singing the “Our Father” followed by the blessing of the food. The Program was commenced during dessert by Alexander Kuzma, Chief Development Officer, who served as the M.C. He acknowledged special guests: Fr. Bayrock, Fr. Zubacz and his wife “Pani” Melita, Fr. Ihor Koshyk and his wife “Pani” Olha, Olha Zarichynska, Director of Development at UCU, Taras Szmagala, Jr., member of UCEF Board from Cleveland, Ohio, Joseph Solimini,

Chief Operating Officer of UCEF and his wife, Laura, from Wauconda, IL, Cathleen O’Reilly, Busch Family Foundation, from Irvine, California and members of Softserve, Inc.

Mr. Kuzma then introduced the keynote speaker, Bishop Borys Gudziak, who commenced his speech by first thanking everyone for attending the fundraiser and for their generous support of UCU over the past years. A slide show was presented which featured the additional facilities that today administer eight undergraduate and 19 graduate-degree programs as well as 22 specialized institutes and centers. Thanks to many benefactors, UCU has completed building a student collegium named after Cardinal Joseph Slipij, a multi-purpose academic building and Church of the Holy Wisdom of God, and is constructing the Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky Center. Bishop Borys continued his speech emphasizing that UCU is not just an Institution of Education, but a special place that nurtures spiritual life, morality and the importance of the dignity of life. UCU is instilling in their students the tools to become leaders of a new Ukraine and its society. In conclusion, Bishop Borys had a special uplifting and encouraging message to two seriously wounded Ukrainian Soldiers seated nearby in their wheelchairs. Volodymyr Vyniarsky and Mychailo Berega, wounded in Eastern Ukraine fighting against Russian aggressors, are currently undergoing physical rehabilitation in the Los Angeles area.

During the evening, everyone was treated to the sounds of beautiful music performed by the well-known Ukrainian singer, composer, Distinguished Artist of Ukraine, Serhiy Fomenko (“Foma”). Serhiy is the founder and leader of the popular rock band “Mandry;” and his original song “Stay Up, My Motherland” (one of the songs he performed at the fundraiser), became was one of the most prominent signature songs of the Orange Revolution in 2004, in which Serhiy took part. Serhiy has been an active participant in the national Ukrainian project “Charitable Ukraine” and he has held numerous charity concerts in support of orphans and children with disabilities. He took part in the events at the Maidan during the Revolution of Dignity in 2013-14, after which he founded and mentored an international social and cultural project “Maidan. Ukraine.Path to Freedom.” The Ukrainian Art Center of Los Angeles was honored to present this exhibition curated by Serhiy at the Stay Gallery in Downey, California on January 24th through the 28th, 2015. The exhibit featured

paintings, posters, photography, film, artifacts and music by Ukrainian Artists who participated in Ukraine’s uprising against a corrupt regime. Serhiy’s next live exhibit in association with “Path to Freedom” organization, featuring artists from Ukraine, titled “THE TREASURE BOX.UKRAINIAN MAJESTY,” is scheduled to tour the USA Spring/Summer of 2017.

The 2016 Los Angeles event raised \$135,000 (\$15,000 above its goal) due to an especially generous gift in the amount of \$75,000 by Meka Voge on behalf of her Mother, Oksana Kozbur and her Aunt, Marta Turczyn. This gift was made in the name of their father - philosopher and writer Antin Kniazhynskyj.

Upon conclusion of the Festive Luncheon, benefactors, donors and special guests were invited to the VIP Reception at the Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall, which had been transformed by the “magic” of Hollywood into “a starry night in Lviv” - a street scene with a Café, a small garden, cherry trees, hanging flowers, a large sparkling water fountain, surrounded by small intimate tables where friends gathered, savored Lviv coffee, and were served tasty finger foods and mini-desserts. The experience was enriched with the background of lovely Ukrainian music. Guests were encouraged to have their pictures taken by a professional photographer, which was part of a gift along with a “swag bag” of “goodies” from Lviv, distributed at the end of the evening. Bishop Borys again thanked the guests for their support and generosity and a special thanks to the UCU-LA Committee for their hard and creative work in making the Los Angeles Fundraiser such a warm, entertaining and successful experience. Luba Keske, on behalf of the LA Committee, thanked Bishop Borys, guests, and Fr. Ihor Koshyk, who chaired the Los Angeles Committee.

The UCU-LA Committee Members: Fr. Ihor Koshyk, Chair, Luba Keske, Olenka and Scott Griffies, Marijka Oharenko, GeorgeWyhinny, Zoryana Keske, Walter Keske, Christina Shymkovich, Daria Chaikovskiy, Paul and Michele Budilo.

The Committee extends a special thanks to Paul Budilo, President of the Ukrainian Cultural Center, who worked closely with the Committee and the Board of the Ukrainian Cultural Center in facilitating a successful UCU event.

By Luba Keske

## A Word From the President

In the fall we were introduced to a very interesting young man, Matej Silecky, who just finished his studies at U.C. Berkeley and is the Founding Director of Kitsune Tale Productions. Together with Evan Yee, a freelance film maker living in Los Angeles, they developed an extraordinary project which they titled *Baba Babee Skazala – Grandmother-told-Grandmother*. They both interviewed and filmed personal stories of individuals that have experienced and are willing to share the stories of their immigrant journey; forcibly abandoning their homes and family in Ukraine, creating settlements in Displaced Persons Camps in Germany, and establishing new lives and homes in America.

As part of this immigrant documentation, Ukrainian Art Center organized several Ukrainian community members that provided their individual stories. Our first filming was at the home of Mrs. Sonia Wasylkiw in North Hollywood as she shared her personal immigrant tale. We then visited the home of Mrs. Olya Boyko in Glendale as she experienced a different road from Transcarpatia to California. And finally Matej and Evan interviewed my personal journey and filmed my gallery at the Ukrainian Culture Center and our extensive collection of Ukrainian Art at home.

My personal journey started as a small child of six with my mother, who stayed behind in Sanok, Lemkivshchyna, when my father and sister left with other relatives, when all believed that the war would blow over, and they would return to their homes. First we had to surrender our beautiful home and go live at the parish residence. When the war was declared over, my mother refused to be sent to the unknown. With the help of Ukrainian underground young men we crossed the mountain range on foot, in the middle of winter, into Slovakia and on a very long journey where my mother located her husband, my dad, in one of

the DP camps. It was extremely difficult to relive the intense story of a small child who was not allowed to speak to a soul. Entering school at DP camp Orlyk in Berchtesgaden, Germany, this child would not speak to anyone for a very long time.

In LA the Ukrainian Community grew from the immigrant settlement in the early 50's, recognizing the need to enjoy and develop their identity and culture, where now we find ourselves in a beautiful "home", an architectural jewel, where we celebrate events reminding us of who we are and our willingness to share our culture with the community at large.

Kitsune Tale Productions has documented the refugee and immigrant stories in many cities throughout America. If you are interested in participating, you can contact Matej Silecky or Evan Yee on line at [www.documentary.org/baba\\_babee\\_skazala](http://www.documentary.org/baba_babee_skazala). They are part of a non-profit arts organization seeking financial support.

UKRAINIAN ART CENTER welcomes any support in achieving our mission and goal of becoming the first UKRAINIAN ART MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA.



By Daria Chaikovsky

## Spotlight

Interview conducted by Halyna Stadnyck and translated by Oleh Chaikovsky

*Interview with the President of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), his excellency Bishop Boris Gudziak who on October 23, 2016 visited the benefit event in support of UCU. The event took place at the Ukrainian Culture Center in Los Angeles, CA.*



*Your Excellency, what role do the arts play in your life, your spiritual service?*

Literally a few days ago I visited the National Gallery of Arts in Washington, DC and spent several hours with European and American

artists of the XIX-XX centuries. I, so to say "ran through" the renaissance and baroque. I consider an encounter with art as a mirror in which we see ourselves and in an enriched perspective the arts depict for us the experience of other people. For example, after this visit I already have several intuitive ideas regarding our Anna Yaroslavna Cultural Center which operates in Senlis, France. A priest is always surrounded by art, whether he wants it or not – that is iconography, religious songs, choral processions etc. Therefore art is very important for spiritual and human existence.

*Are there matters, Your Excellency, that inspire you and provide excitement?*

Yes, when I hear a child's voice, when I see human achievements, achievements of motherhood. And, also religious services which are sincere, with songs through which we can express our pain. For example, in the last several months there are three families living in my small apartment: priests with wives and three little children. We share one kitchen and one dining room and I can see the effort required to carry the child, feed it, change diapers and experience lack of sleep. And when you see what the parents go through to raise us – that is really an inspiration. It is odd, but I also receive inspiration from funerals. There is

no better preacher than death. It forces us to think about important and real matters.

*What words you most often use in your spiritual work and your work with youth?*

Bishop B. Gudziak: Three words are important for me personally: relationships, peace and happiness. There are also key words, which we actively use in the UCU community as catchwords: communicate, serve, witness.

*Obviously, there are words which you try to avoid?*

Oh yes, for instance, when I edit a text, I immediately remove the word "very". There are also meanings and conditions which I consider of little value or destructive such as conflicts. Too often in life we build with the right hand and destroy with the left. If we shall try to destroy a little less, or injure less the people who surround us, then life will become easier and more productive. In my spiritual work I try to help my colleagues in creation of a certain corporate culture. Culture of community, where we do not destroy each other, but help our fellow man to grow and we rejoice in his success.

*Thank you your Excellency for your time and inspiring words.*



## UAC HIGHLIGHTS

### 1 - Schedryj Vechir

UAC had a full table at the Schedryj Vechir event at the Ukrainian Cultural Center on January 22nd. The hall was packed, and participants enjoyed a wonderful 12-course traditional feast, as well as great performances by our local dance group (Chervona Kalyna) and songs by Annochka. We were also treated to a wonderful "Vertep", a traditional Christmas skit, created by Halyna Poluha. Participants included Ridna Shkola, Vika Kuzina and Asya Horskaya.



### 2 - Lesia Ukrainka

UAC has designated 2017 a year to commemorate Lesia Ukrainka. We are currently working with several organizations to put on and add to various events in differing mediums honoring our famous Ukrainian artist. Following is a brief bio...

Laryssa Kosach-Kvitka, whose pen name was Lesia Ukrainka, was born Feb 25th, 1871 into one of Ukraine's most cultured families. Her mother was the noted author Olena Pchilka; her uncle was the famous Drahomanov; and she was related to the composer Mykola Lysenko and the playwright Mykhailo Starytsky. Although she had the benefit of an excellent education that included travel to Europe and the study of French, Spanish, English, German, Greek and Latin, as well as Russian and Ukrainian, she was plagued by poor health, which never allowed her a painless, carefree day in her life.

It is remarkable, therefore, that her deep, finely wrought poetry exudes inspiring strength, vigor, and optimism - qualities captured in her poem "Contra Spem Spero" (To Hope against Hope). In her early lyrical poems, such as "Wings of Song" and "Thoughts and Dreams", the influence of Shevchenko is still evident. But gradually Ukrainka turned to new motifs that were not strictly Ukrainian and that showed a desire to address universal issues. This new approach became evident in her "exoticism" - which used themes from ancient Greece, Palestine, Egypt, revolutionary France, and medieval Germany - and in her treatment of the varieties of love, the confrontation between power and liberty, and the relationship between the poet and society. Her dramatic poem "Forest Nymph" is a powerful portrayal of the clash between an exalted ideal and base reality. Excerpt from *Ukraine - A History by Subtelny*



Ukrainian Culture Center / Український культурний осередок

# Annual Pysanka Festival

Sunday, April 2nd, 2017  
from Noon to 5:00pm PST

Learn how to make traditional Ukrainian Easter Eggs from many acclaimed artists.  
Enjoy Dance Performances, Music and Ukrainian Food  
Free admission

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Христос Воскрес!

## Annual Pysanka Festival at Ukrainian Culture Center

Join us for the Annual Pysanka Festival at Ukrainian Culture Center Sunday, April 2nd, 2017 from Noon to 5:00pm to learn how to make traditional Ukrainian Easter Eggs from many acclaimed artists. Enjoy dance performances, music, and Ukrainian food. Admission is free. For more information, visit [www.ukrainianculturecenter.org](http://www.ukrainianculturecenter.org).

## New Year, New Website

Please be sure to visit and bookmark our new website [www.ukrainianartcenterla.org](http://www.ukrainianartcenterla.org) for the most current updates.

## Let Amazon Donate to UAC!

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

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# THE HISTORY OF THE UKRAINIAN ART CENTER

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

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

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

**Newsletter** The Board worked together to create a newly formatted newsletter. Previously several editions of the UAC Newsletters were published and after a break has reemerged in its new form and will be available soon online.

The UAC is run by a newly formed Board, each bringing with them unique skills and life experience that enriches the organization with a true commitment to developing its long term goals.

‘The Ukrainian Art Center News’ Editorial Group

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Julia Michaels, Maxim Kuzin, Victoria Kuzin and everyone who worked very hard to make the newsletter happen.

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