



# Ukrainian Studies Newsletter

## At the University of Washington



Issue 6, January 2014

### News from USEC

Since November 2013, Ukraine has captured global attention, making Ukrainian Studies at UW anything but quiet. The Ukrainian government’s sudden suspension of preparations for signing an Association Agreement with the European Union last November sparked a wave of demonstrations and civil unrest in Ukraine. The protests quickly transformed into a social movement, “Euromaidan,” that has drawn crowds of over 800,000 people demanding democratic institutions and rule of law. These events inspired the activities of the Ukrainian community in Seattle as well, including a gathering at UW’s Red Square on November 24, Gasworks Park on November 28, Westlake Park on December 4, and Saint James’ Cathedral on December 11. On January 21, 2014, the Ellison Center of Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies is hosting a roundtable discussion entitled “Ukraine’s Euromaidan,” with Dr. Scott Radnitz (UW), Dr. Olha Krupa (SU), Dr. Eugene Lemcio (SPU), and Dr. Volodymyr Lysenko (UW) serving as panelists.

2013 also marked the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1932-1933 Holodomor famine in Ukraine. An event in remembrance of the victims, “Requiem to the Memory of Victims of the Great Famine in Ukraine” was held at the University of Washington, Seattle on November 24, 2013. Additionally, two graduate students from the Ellison Center, Christi Anne Hofland and Taylor Zajicek, attended a conference entitled “Contextualizing Holodomor: A Conference on the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary” at the Holodomor Research and Education Consortium of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

Besides these events, the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Committee kicked off the 2013-2014 academic year with a pizza lunch. Students and faculty gathered together to discuss their interests in Ukrainian studies and their goals for the year. On October 16, Albina Pozdnyakova presented “Ukrainian Videopoetry”—videos set to poetry by prominent and upcoming Ukrainian poets. During winter quarter 2014, Dr. Maria Rewakowicz is teaching a course called “Literature of the Ukrainian Diaspora.” Such events and courses are vital to the success of Ukrainian Studies at UW, and would not be possible without your active involvement. As always, we do count on your ongoing support. To find out how you can help, please contact Co-Chairs, Prof. James West of the UW Slavic Dept. ([jdwest@uw.edu](mailto:jdwest@uw.edu); tel. 206-543-4829) or Dr. Maria Rewakowicz of the UW Slavic Dept. ([mrewakow@uw.edu](mailto:mrewakow@uw.edu); tel. 206-985-9415). You can also contact the UW Slavic Department at 206-543-6848 or visit the Endowment web page at: <http://slavic.washington.edu/fields/ukrainian>

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## **UW hosts Pizza Lunch for Ukrainian Students and Faculty at the beginning of the academic year**

Every year the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Committee at the University of Washington is challenged to come up with events and programs that are even more interesting than the previous years. This year we decided to focus on student engagement and growing the size of the group and connecting Ukrainians on campus



together. The result was a Pizza Lunch for UW Faculty, Staff, and Students that blazed the way to a magical event that attracted a nice group of 11 students and faculty who met on Friday, October 4 for one hour on campus. Best of all, we found students and faculty through word of mouth. The group included: Dimitri Lebid, Cyrus Rodgers, Sara Ryan, Olena Nyzhnykevych, Volodymyr Kunko Bohoslavetz, Christi Anne Hofland, Yuliya Shirokova, and Albina Pozdnyakova.

Event organizers, Tania Bardyn, Associate Dean of University Libraries and John Manchak, Professor of Philosophy collaborated with the Slavic Department to put on the event during the start of the school year. It is precisely this spirit of reinvention -- applying traditional ideas that attract new members ---food -- pizza, to seemingly important new members and members of the UW family. The outcome was the creation of a new non-academic listserv for students, faculty and staff who are interested in all things Ukrainian. Anyone interested in joining this new email listserv should email Dimitri Lebid (UW Student) [Dimitrilebid@gmail.com](mailto:Dimitrilebid@gmail.com) or Tania Bardyn (UW Faculty) [bardyn@uw.edu](mailto:bardyn@uw.edu).

## Poet Albina Pozdnyakova presented an evening of “Ukrainian Videopoetry”



On Wednesday, October 16, 2013, writer and poet Albina Pozdnyakova presented an evening of “Ukrainian Videopoetry,” a collection of short videos pairing imagery with recited poems. Such presentations, and competitions for best videopoetry, have been

growing in popularity in Ukraine. The selections included a wide range of poets, from classical to contemporary, including Taras Shevchenko, Yuri Andrukhovych, Kateryna Babkina, Mariana Maksymiak, Alexander Gorsky, and other young Ukrainian poets, including the presenter, Albina Pozdnyakova. The pairing of imagery with poetry recitation, along with English subtitles, allows for a different kind of engagement and appreciation of poetic works.





# Holodomor “Requiem”



Eighty years ago, Joseph Stalin’s artificially engineered famine (“The Holodomor”) set in motion a genocidal attempt to eliminate Ukrainian national identity and quash all vestiges of its political and economic independence. During a single year (1932-33), an estimated 6-7 million people perished as a result.

To commemorate the victims of this tragedy, three organizations sponsored a “Requiem” on November 24, 2013 in the Walker-Ames

Room of Kane Hall on the UW campus: the Ukrainian American Association of Washington State (UAWS), the Ukrainian Studies Endowment Committee (USEC) at the UW, and the local Plast scouting organization.

The evening began with a solemn candlelight procession, set to Mozart’s “Requiem,” by uniformed members of the latter group and their leaders: Timothy Hnateyko, Anya Hnateyko, and Danylo Kuzmycz. They bore flags of both the United States and Ukraine--the latter bound by a single black ribbon.

Petro Drohomiretsky, President of the UAWS, welcomed an audience of around one hundred persons: mainly of Ukrainian heritage, but also students, staff, faculty, and members of the general public. Emceeding the program were Immediate Past Mayor of Burien, WA, Brian Bennett (J.D.) and Oksana Bilobran.

State Attorney General Bob Ferguson spoke about the importance of preserving tragic national and cultural memory and of the need to transmit it to successive generations (and to the general population). His remarks were reinforced by tables displaying bi-lingual materials useful in making the Holodomor broadly known through various educational outlets.



A video presented original, archival material about the ravages of this entirely avoidable catastrophe. Interviews linked those who had perished with testimonies of survivors. Thus, both documentary and oral histories combined to provide eloquent and compelling witness that could not easily be dismissed by those who deny that it ever happened or who minimize its extent.

Paul Ritzman recited “Land of Plenty by S. Pasichnyk, later followed by Oksana Bilobran’s declamation of “Requiem,” by D. Pavlychko. Vocalist Solomiya Bishko sang the moving, “Candle,” by Natalya May, which was projected in English translation against a dynamic visual background.



Dr. Richard Ellings, President of the National Bureau of Asian Research and Affiliate Professor of International Studies at the Henry M. Jackson School, spoke of the political and economic dimensions of Soviet policy that undergirded the unimaginable human horror that it produced.

The Serpanok Chorus brought the occasion to a close with Mykola Lysenko’s “Prayer for Ukraine,” during which the audience stood in respectful silence.

Afterwards, a number of the audience moved outside to the UW’s iconic (and ironically-named) “Red Square.” Images of banners, flags, songs, and speeches (duly recorded) were transmitted immediately through cyberspace to compatriots on the EuroMaidan in Kyiv itself. The concurrence of remembrance and resistance to yet another form of imperialism was not lost on the participants.

*Eugene E. Lemcio, Ph.D.*

### **If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to the UW USE, here is how you can do it:**

1. *Donate online by going to the Slavic Department website:*

<http://slavic.washington.edu/fields/ukrainian>

Click on one of the two Funds listed or on “Make a Gift”. You will then be directed to various Slavic Dept. Funds, including two Ukrainian Studies Funds. You can select either **Endowed Fund for Ukrainian Studies**, created to endow a Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the UW, or, **Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund**, which supports ongoing activities in Ukrainian Studies such as a lectures series or language and culture instruction.

2. *If you prefer, you can mail your contribution (payable to: **UW FUSF** if you want to support the **Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund** or payable to: **UW USE** if you want to support the **Endowment Fund**) to:*

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures  
M253 Smith Hall, Box 353580  
University of Washington  
Seattle, WA 98195-3580

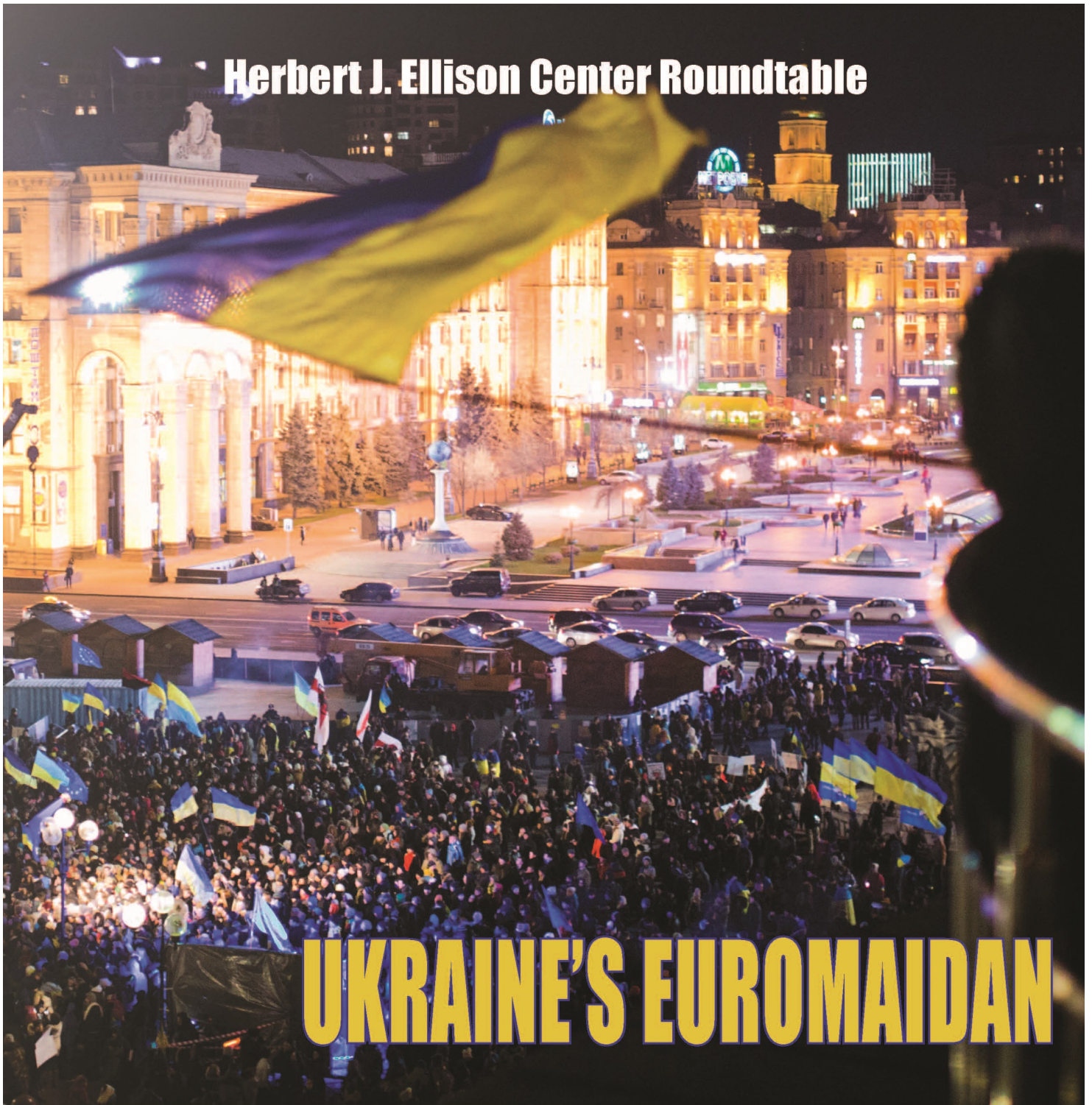
Please indicate on your check to which Fund you would like to donate, Endowed Fund for Ukrainian Studies, or Friends of Ukrainian Studies Fund.

*Pursuant to RCW 19.09, the University of Washington is registered as a charitable organization with the Secretary of State, State of Washington. For information, call the Office of the Secretary of State, 1-800-332-4483.*



# Upcoming Events

## Herbert J. Ellison Center Roundtable



# UKRAINE'S EUROMAIDAN

### PANELISTS:

Scott Radnitz, UW

Olha Krupa, SU

Eugene Lemcio, SPU

Volodymyr Lysenko, UW

# January 21

7-9 pm, Thomson 101



THE HENRY M. JACKSON  
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

For more information visit: [jsis.washington.edu/ellison](http://jsis.washington.edu/ellison), call (206) 543-4852 or email [reecas@uw.edu](mailto:reecas@uw.edu). To request disability accommodation contact the Disability Services Office at least ten days in advance at (206) 543-6450/V, (206) 543-6452/TTY, (206) 685-7264 (Fax), or [dso@uw.edu](mailto:dso@uw.edu).