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# SHEVCHENKO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is no exaggeration to say that the last year has been a challenge for all of us. On 13 March 2020, we were obliged to close the doors to our building in the heart of New York's Ukrainian Village and to transfer all operations online. We suffered three painful losses on our Board alone and lost many dear and valued members from the broader membership. Because of restrictions imposed on public gatherings, we did not hold our last Annual Meeting.

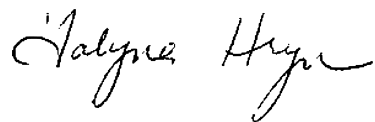
In the course of the past year, despite the challenge of new circumstances, our Executive [Prezydiia] and Board [Uprava] worked diligently to implement our proclaimed goals, specifically: the ongoing professionalization of our Society; the induction into our ranks of ever more members who hold academic positions at leading American universities and research institutions; and participation as equal partners in the general American academic discourse. It is precisely this conversation with the world that best guarantees our vitality as an institution and is the embodiment of our mission to promote and strengthen Ukrainian scholarship in its broadest definition. The foundation to reaching our goals is the implementation of the highest academic standards in our research and publication programs.

We brought to a successful conclusion the [Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora](#) project: the last, fourth book of that *Encyclopedia* is now at the printer and will soon be available for sale. We are working intensely on the six-volume series [Taras Shevchenko in Memoirs](#) [Спогади про Тараса Шевченка]; the first two volumes of that edition will soon go to press and we expect to present them to the Ukrainian community in the near future. Parallel to that, we also expect to shortly produce the third large volume of [Taras Shevchenko: The Critical Reception](#) [Тарас Шевченко в критиці], which was initiated by volumes I and II (2013 and 2016) of the Society's Jubilee Project to mark the 200th anniversary of the poet's birth.

I also would like to share with you the gratifying news that the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the United States has been accepted by the US Department of State to the list of institutions that can host visiting researchers through the Fulbright program. Beginning in mid-April we will welcome our first visiting fellow, Kateryna Yakovlenko, a contemporary art researcher. Her mentor at the Shevchenko Scientific Society will be the well-known political scientist and artist Professor Alexander Motyl.

I am happy to announce that we are looking forward to opening our doors and greeting you in our building. At the last quarterly meeting of the Board held on 27 March 2021, we decided to hold our General Meeting on Saturday, 11 September 2021, with in-person participation of our members. By that time the majority of the US population will have been vaccinated and we can meet again! In-person meetings are the most conducive to constructive dialogue regarding the future of our Society, one where all voices can be heard. We also took into account the wishes of those members who may have difficulties with Internet platforms and who do not prefer virtual communication. For those, however, who will not be comfortable with in-person meetings, we will still provide the option to participate online. We are considering renting larger premises where the requisite social distancing may be adhered to. And we will continue to utilize as needed virtual platforms for our scholarly events, for more frequent communication with the Society's chapters in other US cities, and for the live streaming of certain meetings.

Halyna Hryn

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Halyna Hryn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative initial 'H'.



## OKSANA LUTSYSHYNA: WINNER OF THE TARAS SHEVCHENKO NATIONAL PRIZE

On the 207th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko, the Ukrainian government announced the winners of the [Taras Shevchenko National Prize](#), Ukraine's highest state award for outstanding achievements in culture and the arts.

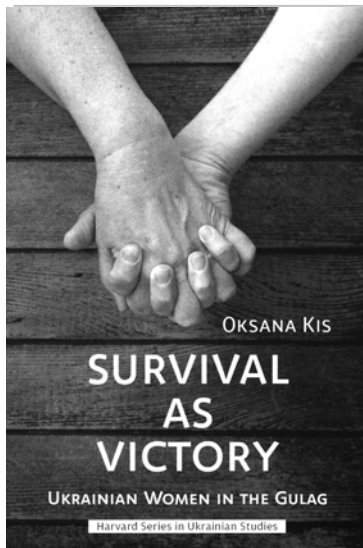
[Oksana Lutsyshyna](#), Ukrainian writer, literary scholar, and lecturer in the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, won the Taras Shevchenko National Prize in Literature for her novel [Ivan and Phoebe](#) (Vydavnytstvo staroho leva, 2019). Events in the novel unfold during the late Soviet period and the early years of Ukraine's independence.

Lutsyshyna discussed her book at a roundtable on the 30th anniversary of the Revolution on the Granite sponsored by the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the United States at the 2020 Annual Convention of the [Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies](#).

On 17 April 2021, the Danylo Husar Struk Program in Ukrainian Literature of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies held [a symposium](#) devoted to Lutsyshyna's literary work. Organized and moderated by Alexander Averbuch, the Symposium featured the author herself, as well as Vitaly Chernetsky, Olena Jennings, Taras Koznarsky, Nina Murray, and Maxim Tarnawsky.

An English-language excerpt from the book is available [here](#). Full English translation of the novel by Nina Murray is forthcoming from Deep Vellum Press in 2022.

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## BOOK TALK AT HURI: SURVIVAL AS VICTORY: UKRAINIAN WOMEN IN THE GULAG (2020)

In March 2021, the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University (HURI) and the Ukrainian National Women's League of America ([UNWLA](#)) co-sponsored a discussion of Oksana Kis's recent book, [Survival as Victory: Ukrainian Women in the Gulag](#). Originally published in the Ukrainian language as [Українки Гулагу: Вжити значить перемогти](#) (Lviv: Institute of Ethnology, 2017), the book was elegantly translated into English by [Lidia Wolanskyj](#) and richly illustrated with photographs of Ukrainian women's handiwork. *Survival as Victory* was published as a part of [Harvard Series in Ukrainian Studies](#).

Based on the written memoirs, autobiographies, and oral histories of over 150 survivors, [Oksana Kis](#) provided an in-depth account of daily life in the Soviet forced labor camps as experienced by Ukrainian women prisoners.

The book makes a significant contribution to the extant literature by uncovering experiences of Ukrainian women prisoners and making their stories accessible to a wide audience. Martha Kichorowska Kebalo, member

of UNWLA and the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the United States, and [Lynne Viola](#), Professor of History at the University of Toronto and the author of [The Unknown Gulag: The Lost World of Stalin's Special Settlements](#) (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007), commented on the book's contributions to Ukrainian historiography.

[View the book talk on YouTube](#)



## UN PANELS ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN UKRAINE

*By Martha Kichorowska Kebalo*

The 65th annual session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women included two panels on Ukrainian women sponsored by the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations(WFUWO).

On 16 March 2021, WFUWO, in partnership with the [Kyiv Institute for Gender Studies](#) (KIGS) and Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Ukraine, led a public discussion of Countering Anti-Gender Ideology in Ukraine and Eastern Europe. Moderated by Maryna Prykhodko, a WFUWO UN representative in New York, the panel included presentations by Nadiya Stefaniv, president of [Ukrainian Association of Women Judges](#), Lisa Shymko, President of the Ukraine Support Fund (Canada), Kateryna Levchenko, [Government Commissioner of Gender Equality Policy](#) (Ukraine), and Julia Strybkova, KIGS. For example, Levchenko, author of [Гендерне тяжіння](#), emphasized the importance of building broad-based coalitions to combat gender inequality.

Another panel, held on March 18 and co-organized by the WFUWO and the [National Council of Women of Ukraine](#), examined ways in which the needs of rural communities might be addressed in the midst of the pandemic.

For details, click [here](#)

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## KATERYNA IAKOVLENKO: VISUAL VIOLENCE IN ART AND DOCUMENTARIES

The Shevchenko Scientific Society in the United States will host Kateryna Iakovlenko, a contemporary art researcher and public program curator at the [PinchukArtCentre](#), in the spring of 2021. Over the past several years, she has been researching the transformation of the heroic narrative of Donbas via new media and worked as a curator and program manager of the [Donbas Studies at IZOLYATSIA](#), an interdisciplinary research project and a platform for a discussion of practices, processes, and conditions in the public discourse of the region. She was an editor of the

books [Gender Studies](#) by Donbas Studies Research Project (2015) and [Why There Are Great Women Artists in Ukrainian Art](#) (2019), co-editor of the 2019 special issue of *Obieg magazine*, [Euphoria and Fatigue: Ukrainian Art and Society after 2014](#), and *Curatorial Handbook* (2020). Her current research interests include art during political transformations and war, and women's and gender optics in visual culture.

Iakovlenko discussed her research project in an interview with [Olena Nikolayenko](#), chair of the Society's communications committee. Iakovlenko explained what motivated her to focus on the issue of visual violence in contemporary Ukraine.

*Having lived through different political conflicts, it is interesting for me to examine what is today perceived as visual violence. In particular, I am interested in a feminine gaze, as well as female strategies of surviving during various conflict situations. I would like to look primarily at the work of women photographers, reporters and artists who continue to work on this topic along the frontline, as well as artists who talk about different forms of violence.*

*During the fellowship period, I intend to interview professionals (e.g., artists, cameramen, film directors), who worked on different wars and covered the war situation in different ways. I intend to write several essays from a woman's perspective on visual arts and media critique.*

The full text of the interview is available [here](#). She can be reached at [k.iakovlenko@gmail.com](mailto:k.iakovlenko@gmail.com).

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Yara Arts Group and the Ukrainian Museum present:

# ZHADAN & FRIENDS 2021

www.yaraartsgroup.net

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Virtual Events

**POETRY:**  
premieres April 15

**PROSE:**  
premieres April 20

**JAZZ:**  
premieres April 22



Logos at the bottom of the poster include: a stylized 'M' logo, the SELF RELIANCE NEW YORK Federal Credit Union logo, the Yara Arts Group logo, and the NYC Cultural Affairs logo.

## SERHIY ZHADAN'S POETRY, PROSE AND MUSIC

Over the past six years, [Yara Arts Group](#) under the leadership of artistic director Virlana Tkacz marked National Poetry Month by holding special poetry events with [Serhiy Zhadan](#), one of Ukraine's most acclaimed contemporary poets and novelists. Born in Luhansk oblast, Zhadan currently lives in Kharkiv and writes about the war-torn [region](#).

This April, Yara Arts Group and the [Ukrainian Museum](#) will hold three bilingual, free virtual events, featuring Zhadan's work. On April 15, Zhadan will read poetry from his new book, *Psalm to Aviation* (2021), and American poets Dzvinia Orlowsky, Askold Melnyczuk, Wanda Phipps, Isaac Stackhouse Wheeler and Olena Jennings will react to his poems

with their own work in English. Susan Hwang will respond with a song. The prose event held on April 20 will feature Zhadan's book [The Orphanage](#), which has been translated in English and published by Yale University Press. On April 22, will Zhadan read from his recent books [Spysok korabliv](#) (2020) and *Psalm to Aviation* (May 2021). Yara actors will read English translations by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps, and jazz pianists Anthony Coleman and Fima Chupakhin will perform music.

All the events will be livestreamed via [Facebook](#). For details, click [here](#)

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## MEMBER OF THE MONTH: CATHERINE WANNER

**Hometown:** State College, PA

**Current Position:** Professor of History, Anthropology and Religious Studies at the Pennsylvania State University

**Professional Interests:** Religion, migration, and Ukrainian cultural, religious and political history

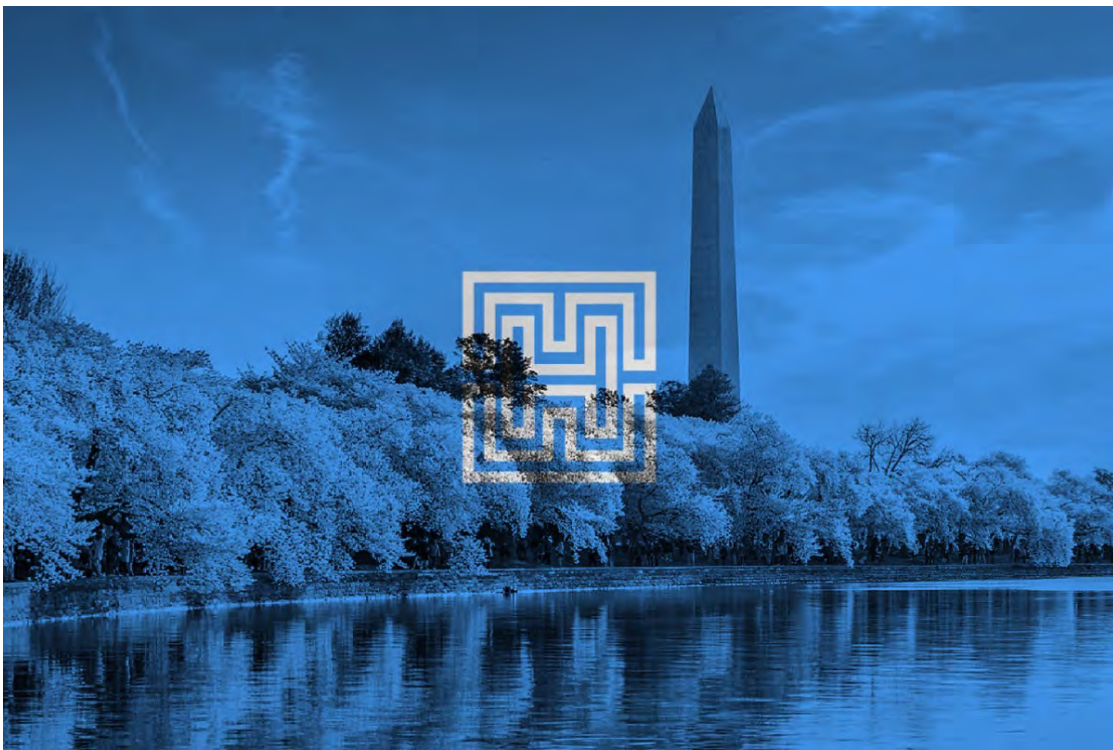
I joined Shevchenko Scientific Society when I started graduate school in anthropology at Columbia University in 1989. I learned about the Society from Myroslava Znayenko, who taught us Ukrainian. The Society hosted so many events of great interest and its offerings were a terrific supplement to the education I received at Columbia. I found the dedication to advancing Ukrainian Studies among the membership truly inspiring and the willingness to support students, junior scholars and other professionals with scholarships, publications, and advice as impressive as it was generous.

I have written a book that will soon be released by Cornell University Press on everyday religiosity in Ukraine. The book analyzes the expansion of religiosity

in public space and public institutions after the EuroMaidan and specifically considers how vernacular religious practices have affected the popular response to the new local church, the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. My next book project involves considering the role of religious organizations in peacekeeping, mediation, and reconciliation in the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine.

For a full profile, click [here](#)

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## SPOTLIGHT ON THE WASHINGTON, DC CHAPTER

*By Andrew Sorokowski and Jurij Dobczansky*

Every chapter of the Shevchenko Scientific Society has its particular character, formed not only by the various talents, interests, and contributions of its members, but also by its

regional context. The Washington, DC Chapter is no exception. Founded on November 16, 1957, this chapter also covers the adjacent states of Maryland and Virginia. It has brought together scholars in government service as well as in local educational institutions and in the professions. While politics have been a frequent theme, the Washington Chapter's activities have encompassed a broad variety of topics in both the humane and the natural sciences, from music, art and literature to history and archeology, librarianship, technology, and the law.

Commemorations of the birth of Taras Shevchenko have been a highlight since 1958. Conferences organized by the chapter on such figures as Ivan Franko, Mykhailo Hrushevsky, and Andrei Sheptytsky have been held at institutions of higher learning such as the University of Maryland, the Catholic University of America, and the Library of Congress.

With the independence of Ukraine in 1991 and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and the USA, the chapter has held numerous events with the generous cooperation, and on the historic premises, of the Embassy of Ukraine.

For a full overview of the chapter's history, click [here](#)

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## MEMBER NEWS

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The Shevchenko Scientific Society in the United States has recently welcomed two new members: **Polina Lishko** and **Lydia Lykhach**.

**Polina V. Lishko** is an Associate Professor in the Molecular and Cell Biology Department at the University of California, Berkeley. She received her Ph.D. in Biophysics from the Bohomolets Institute of Physiology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Harvard Medical School. Lishko studies the cellular mechanisms that make fertilization possible. By combining biophysics, biochemistry, and cell biology approaches, her [research team](#) seeks to identify how progesterone binds to its targets and determine how this molecular coupling ultimately regulates the crucial calcium channels in sperm and pain sensing neurons. In October

2020, Prof. Lishko won [the MacArthur Fellowship](#), informally known as the "Genius Grant." The award recognizes her pioneering work in reproductive physiology and the development of new forms of contraception.

**Lidia Lykhach** is the founder and director of the [Rodovid](#) publishing house. She is the co-author, with Mykola Kornienko, of *Ukrainian Folk Icons from the Land of Shevchenko* (Rodovid, 2000). She has served as the editor or co-editor of over a dozen acclaimed volumes on Ukrainian art, and as a curator or co-curator of several major international exhibitions of Ukrainian art, in the U.S., Canada, France, and other countries. Lykhach is the manager of the award-winning [NARBUT XXI](#) project, which promotes the legacy of Heorhii Narbut's art and ideas for contemporary design. The Narbut project will be the featured focus of an upcoming online event hosted by the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Please stay tuned for the announcement coming very soon.

**Leonid Hrabovsky**, one of the founders of the [Kyiv Avant-Garde group](#), discussed the creation of original music that challenged the doctrine of socialist realism in the Soviet Union in an [interview](#) with [Oksana Nesterenko](#), visiting scholar at the Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, New York University. As a part of the Ukrainian Contemporary Music Festival, co-organized by the [Ukrainian Institute](#) and sponsored by [Razom for Ukraine](#), the concert, showcasing pivotal works of The Kyiv Avant-Garde, was streamed from [Kaufman Music Center](#). You can view the concert [here](#).

**Martha Kichorowska Kebalo**, WFUWO main representative to the United Nations, was a member of the Steering committee of the National Parallel Report for years 2014-2019 on the [Implementation by Ukraine of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#). The draft Report was presented and discussed at the Annual conference of WFUWO in Lviv, the Coordinating meeting on preparing for the 64th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the UN office in Kyiv.

**Olena Nikolayenko**, professor of political science at Fordham University, has an article, "[Mapping Support for a Revolution: Findings from Ukraine](#)," forthcoming in the *International Journal of Sociology*. Using a unique and previously untapped dataset of telegrams sent to student hunger strikers in Soviet Ukraine, this article examines spatial dispersion of civil resistance in a repressive political regime.

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