

Ukrainians in Illinois Commemorated the November Uprising of 1918 with a Book Presentation by Volodymyr Viatrovych: *Notes from the Kitchen "Rewriting History"*

Chicago. Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of Renewed Ukrainian Independence continued with the commemoration of the "Lystopadovyi Zryv" (November Uprising) which began the struggle for independence and existence of the West Ukrainian People's Republic that controlled most of Eastern Galicia from November 1918 to July 1919. Dr. Volodymyr Viatrovych has researched and written extensively about this period in the history of Ukraine. On November 14, 2021, Dr. Viatrovych presented his most current publication entitled *Notes from the Kitchen: Rewriting History*, at the Sts. Volodymyr & Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church Cultural Center. The event was co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America-Illinois Division (UCCA-IL), The Heritage Foundation of the First Security Federal Savings Bank and the Organization for the Defense for Four Freedoms of Ukraine (ODFFU).

Mrs. Oksana Chuyko, host of *Ukrainian Independent Radio* in Chicago, served as Master of Ceremonies. During her remarks, Mrs. Chuyko provided the audience with a brief historical overview of the November 1, 1918, event known as "Lystopadovyi Zryv" (November Uprising) which changed the history of Lviv, Ukraine. Mrs. Chuyko explained that, (on this day) announcements appeared on the walls of houses in Lviv which declared: "By the will of the Ukrainian people, the Ukrainian State was formed on the Ukrainian lands of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The highest state authority of the Ukrainian State is the Ukrainian National Council. Today, the Ukrainian National Council has embraced power in the capital city of Lviv and on the entire territory of the Ukrainian State." Mrs. Chuyko explained that for the first time, a blue and yellow flag was hoisted at Lviv City Hall. On the evening of November 1, military organizations raised an uprising, street fighting began, which later escalated into a bloody war. Unfortunately, this effort for Ukrainian Independence was costly and short-lived.

Mrs. Chuyko indicated that every year in Lviv, in memory of that heroic day, known as "Lystopadovyi Zryv" (November Uprising), memorial services and events are organized at Lychakivskiyi and Yanivskiyi cemeteries at the graves of those that perished during the war.

Mr. Ihor Diaczun, President of UCCA-IL, introduced and highlighted the accomplishments of Dr. Viatrovych as a prolific author, historian, civic activist and politician. Dr. Viatrovych had been a senior visiting scholar at the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University. Since 2019, he serves as member of the Parliament of Ukraine from the European Solidarity Party.

Dr. Viatrovych began his book presentation by indicating that *Notes from the Kitchen: Rewriting History* is different from everything that he had previously written and published. The book is a reflection on the history of Ukraine, the past as a whole. He indicated that "...this book is my personal experience and my attempts to encourage Ukrainians to re-think the dynamics of our existence in order not to repeat the mistakes that are behind us and to move forward more confidently...this equally true for me and for all Ukrainians collectively."

Dr. Viatrovych continued "...This book was originally conceived as a collection of articles on history, memory and politics...numerous interviews and conversations with journalists that always necessitated additional explanations; so, Facebook became a means of conveying ideas and their public approbation and the social network became a platform for initiating public discussions, sometimes quite heated and on a large-scale. A review of these articles, interviews, and Facebook posts showed that many of them needed contextual explanations and comments. Therefore, the idea arose to offer a general narrative, which would better help readers understand the circumstances and motives of my publications and posts written over the past 20 years, so that their significance would be better understood. Some of them are now obsolete, sometimes inappropriate, perhaps even erroneous judgements."

Questions and answers followed the presentation. *Notes from the Kitchen: Rewriting History* is presented in three different sections: as a reconstruction of the past, as an attempt to rethink the past, and the author's personal story against the background of events in Ukraine over the past 20 years. The text should be interesting to both those who are interested in the past and those who are not indifferent to what is happening in Ukraine today.

Dr. Viatrovych visited St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral-Orthodox Church of Ukraine in Bloomingdale, IL. On premises of the parish, President John J. Jaresko and members of the Church Board, informed Dr. Viatrovych regarding the monuments that are standing on parish grounds. The Monument to “Heaven’s Brigade” and All Heroes of Ukraine which was authorized for construction in 2015 by the St. Andrew Church Council in memory of those that perished violently during the Maidan Revolution 2013-2014 in Kyiv and All Heroes of Ukraine who sacrificed their lives for a Free and Independent Ukraine. It stands as a symbol of support for those who are currently at war with Russia in Eastern Ukraine. This is the only such monument in the United States. Also, on parish property, the Ukrainian Genocide Famine Memorial was constructed in the mid 1980’s to honor the more than 10 million victims of the death by forced starvation-hunger perpetrated by Joseph Stalin in 1932-1933 Ukraine. The third point of interest for Dr. Viatrovych was the section of the St. Andrew Cemetery which serves as the final resting place of Ukrainian OUN (OYH) and UNA (VHA) patriots and freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for a free and independent Ukraine.

Respectfully,

Maria Korkatsch-Groszko, Ph.D./Professor Emerita and Vice-President/UCCA-IL Division