Ukraine's Historical Encounters Series

A Special Event

Connections That Endure

3 October 2026

12:30pm-5:30pm

MANOR COLLEGE

700 Fox Chase Rd.

Jenkintown, PA 19046

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

UA Historical Encounters Series Event IX: Connections That Endure – A Look at Belarusian Ukrainian Relations Past-Present-Future will take place at Manor College in Jenkintown PA on Saturday, October 3, 2026. The gathering is scheduled to run three panel discussions, dedicated to taking a fresh look at the highways and byways of nearly a millennium of Belarusian-Ukrainian ties – visiting past, present and possible future dimensions of the said relationship.

Additionally, the event hopes to explore ways the Belarusian & Ukrainian 'hromadas' in the United States can draw on other ethnic American communities to support their efforts to ensure, at long last, peace, sovereignty and prosperity for their ancestral homelands.

DIALOGUE INVOCATION

Oh Lord, Master of Heaven and Earth
You have graced Ukraine with Liberty,
We beseech you to help Her sustain
Your precious gift
[and pray the same for our Belarusian
brothers and sisters]

STEERING COMMITTEE

Christine Balko
Andrij Dobriansky
Mykola Hryckowian
Eugene Luciw
Roman Myhal
Lesia Orach
Siarzhuk Shaliga
Walter Zaryckyj

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Mykola Hryckowian

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

Andrij Dobriansky

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Walter Zaryckyj

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UA Historical Encounters Series Event IX: Connections That Endure – A Look at Belarusian/Ukrainian Relations Past-Present-Future

Date: Oct 3, 2026
Venue: Manor College - 700 Fox Chase Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM Registration

1:00 PM – 1:20 PM - Word of Welcome

Host Moderator: Dr. Walter Zaryckyj [Center for US-Ukrainian Relations]

Featured Remarks: Dean of Academic Records/Registrar Nicholas Rudnytzky [Manor College]

1:20 PM – 2:30 PM Session One - Belarusian-Ukrainian Relations: The Historical Dimension

Moderator: Dr. Mark Thomas [LaSalle University]

First Suggested Theme: From Kyivan Rus to the First World War

Second Suggested Theme: From the First World War to the Fall of the USSR

Invited Speakers: Dr. Mykola Posivnych [Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies]; Dr. Aleksandra Pomiecko [King's College London]; Dr. Alena Liavonchanka [Belarusian Canadian Alliance/BI A&S-Canada]

2:30 PM – 2:40 PM Coffee Break

2:40 PM – 3:50 PM Session Two- Belarusian-Ukrainian Relations: Relations: The Near Past & Present State of Affairs

Moderator: Adrian Karatnycky [Atlantic Council Senior Fellow]

First Suggested Theme: 1991 Events - Orange Rev - EuroMaidan - Post 2020 Belarus Elections Protests

Second Suggested Theme: Belarus & the RU-UA War

Invited Speakers: Dr. Tatsiana Kulakevich [University of S. Florida], BELSAT Editor in Chief Alina Koushyk; Dr. Alexander Motyl [Rutgers University]

3:50 PM – 4:00 PM Coffee Break

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Session Three - Belarusian-Ukrainian Relations in the Future – Reflecting on the Possibilities

Moderator: Mykola Hryckowian [Center for US-Ukrainian Relations DC Director]

First Suggested Theme: Common Ukrainian-Belarusian Advocacy Efforts in the US Political Media Arena

Second Suggested Theme: Building Common Bridges to Other "Hromadas" in the United States

Invited Speakers: Siarzhuk Shaliga [Association of Belarusians in America]; Eugene Luciw Esq. (Philadelphia UCCA);; Iryna Mazur Esq. [UA Consul for Philadelphia]; Zhanna Charniauskaya [Chicago BY Hromada]; Marvin Weinberger [AJC/Philadelphia]; Manish Ingle [Council of Indian Organizations/PA]

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Patrons Reception

MC: Andrij Dobriansky [Center for US-Ukrainian Relations]

Zhanna Charniauskaya is a Belarusian American civic leader and advocate for a free and democratic Belarus. She founded and leads the nonprofit Belarusians in Chicago and co-founded and leads the Belarus Freedom Forum. Since 2011, Ms. Charniauskaya has organized Chicago's Belarusian community around cultural traditions and civic engagement. Her work includes commemorating national holidays and Belarus Freedom Day, which marks the Belarusian Democratic Republic's 1918 declaration of independence. Her efforts at the Belarus Freedom Forum, established in response to Belarus's 2020 political crisis, involve informing audiences about current developments and convening discussions on U.S. policy toward Belarus. Through these leadership roles, Zhanna has developed relationships with the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of State, academic institutions, and Ukrainian, Lithuanian, and Polish organizations across the United States.

Andrij Dobriansky is a Policy Expert at the Center for US Ukrainian Relations and strategic communicator with over two decades of experience across diplomacy, media, and international affairs (adobriansky.com). With a history of appearances on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, CNN, Fox News, NewsNation, Newsmax and other outlets, he is often referred to as the most visible face of the Ukrainian American community. He serves as President of the Ukrainian American Freedom Foundation, as well as on the Boards of Directors of the Organization for the Defense of the Four Freedoms of Ukraine and Ukraine Matters, and leads regular delegations to Ukraine on behalf of the Governor George Pataki Center.

Mykola Hryckowian is currently Director of the Washington DC office of the Center for US Ukrainian Relations (CUSUR); the Center has organized over 100 forums dealing with US-UA bilateral ties in the areas of national and energy security as well as economic and civil society development. From 2014 to 2015, Mr. Hryckowian was the Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Committee for Ukraine, a coalition of US NGO and Ukrainian American communities that successfully advocated for the passage of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act 2014 and for the creation of the Senate Ukraine Caucus in 2015. Between 2019-2025, he served two terms as president of the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedom for Ukraine

Manish Ingle is a prominent member of the Council of Indian Organizations of Greater Philadelphia, having served for a number of years as the Council's president. In that role, he pioneered outreach efforts to Philadelphia's other leading ethnic communities Concurrently, Mr. Ingle, serves as President and CEO of NovaProbe Inc., a US based manufacturing company providing a complete suite of surgical products for endoscopic procedures specifically geared towards laparoscopic surgery.

Adrian Karatnycky serves as senior fellow with the Atlantic Council's Program on Transatlantic Relations, managing partner of Myrmidon Group LLC, a NY-based consultancy that works with investors seeking entry into the complex emerging markets and codirector of the Ukrainian-Jewish Encounter. From 1993 to 2004, he was president and executive director of Freedom House. In late 2004, Mr. Karatnycky played a key role in turning the world's attention to the ongoing Orange Revolution; in 2005, he founded the Orange Circle to help the victors of the Orange Revolution move from effective protest to effective governance. His recently published "*Battleground Ukraine*" (Yale Press 2024) is already considered a seminal work on Ukraine's contemporary history.

Tatsiana Kulakevich is a U.S. Fulbright Scholar and Associate Professor of Instruction at the University of South Florida, where she also serves as a Research Fellow and Affiliate Faculty member at the Institute for Russian, European, and Eurasian Studies. Her research focuses on authoritarian politics, democratization, diaspora politics, and security in Eastern Europe and the post-Soviet region. Her work has appeared in academic journals and media outlets, including *The Washington Post, The Hill, U.S. News & World Report, Nationalities Papers*, and *East European Politics and Societies and Cultures*.

Alina Koushyk, a prominent Belarusian journalist, currently serves as Editor in Chief at Belsat TV. After completing studies in English at Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno and studies in politics at the University of Warsaw, Ms. Koushyk started work for Belsat TV in 2007, as an emcee/anchors of the station's shows including Belsat Studio, PraSvet and 54%. Concurrently she organized Belarusian cultural activities in Warsaw, including the co-founding of the Centre for Belarusian Solidarity and InBelKult 2.0. On 16 September 2022, Ms. Kouszyk was nominated to the Belarusian United Transitional Cabinet with responsibility for National Revival, to develop Belarusian culture and education. She finished her term in early 2025 and re-turned full time to her journalistic work.

Alena Liavonchanka is the chair of Belarusian Canadian Alliance, the main Belarusian diaspora organization in Canada established in 1948; she has held the position since 2017. Dr. Liavonchanka is based in Toronto where she works as a deputy director at a large pharmaceutical company. Prior to the current position, she had a successful academic career completing PhD in molecular biology at University of Goettingen, Germany and postdoctoral studies at University of Toronto in the field of structural biology. Alena was born in Eastern Belarus and her family was evacuated in the aftermath of Chornobyl accident, she benefited from several foreign aid initiatives as a child. Alena strongly believes the humanitarian and political crises in Belarus cannot be resolved without strong international cooperation.

Eugene A. Luciw, J.D. recently retired from his position as Director of Life Insurance and Annuity Planning and Savings and Retirement Accounts with the Providence Association of the Ukrainian Catholics in America. He is a licensed insurance producer-agent and an attorney admitted to practice in a number of the federal and all of the state courts of Pennsylvania, as well as the US Supreme Court. Before joining Providence, attorney Luciw was a litigation and trial attorney for 25 years, primarily with the Philadelphia-based law firm of Hecker Brown Sherry & Johnson where he was a law partner and ran the firm's Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania office. In his community work, attorney Luciw is currently President of the Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA). Additionally, he is a Trustee of Manor College and holds or has held multiple leadership positions with a number of Ukrainian community organizations.

Iryna Mazur Esq. was appointed to the post of Honorary Consul (HC) of Ukraine to Philadelphia on July 23, 2019, and has since served as the officially recognized diplomat and representative of Ukraine in Pennsylvania. In her duties, she directly works with the Ukrainian diplomatic missions, U.S. officials and Congressional representatives, religious and community leaders, both in Ukraine and the United States. Previous to her diplomatic duties, Consul Mazur worked as an attorney specializing in the area of family-based immigration, asylum and refugee law, naturalization, religious, investor and talent visas, and especially consular proceedings. She was instrumental in advising relevant authorities and congressional representatives in developing U4U and TPS programs for Ukrainians. The jurist turned diplomat remains deeply involved in supporting the Ukrainian American community, providing guidance on immigration, policy updates and community education.

Alexander J. Motyl is professor of political science at Rutgers University-Newark. He served as associate director of the Harriman Institute at Columbia University from 1992 to 1998. A specialist on Ukraine, Russia, and the USSR, and on nationalism, revolutions, empires, and transition state theory, Dr. Motyl is the author of *Imperial Ends: The Decay, Collapse, and Revival of Empires*; *Revolutions, Nations, Empires: Conceptual Limits and Theoretical Possibilities*; *Dilemmas of Independence: Ukraine after Totalitarianism*; *Sovietology, Rationality, Nationality: Coming to Grips with Nationalism in the USSR*; *Will the Non-Russians Rebel? State, Ethnicity, and Stability in the USSR*; and the editor of more than ten volumes, including The Encyclopedia of Nationalism.

Aleksandra Pomiecko just completed a year as Lecturer in Modern History at King's College London. She has previously taught at the University of St Andrews, the University of Manitoba, and at the University of Toronto (where she received her doctorate in history). Dr. Pomiecko also held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC. Her research centers on histories of war and conflict in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet space, primarily in the twentieth century. Her current research explores banditry and insurgency in the so-called Eastern European borderland regions, after the First World War. Her earlier research focused on transnational Belarusian networks and actors in the twentieth century.

Mykola Posivnich has worked as Academic Researcher in the Department of Modern History of the I. Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine since 2003. He has done extensive research on the Ukrainian national liberation movement in various periods on time as well as major studies of the activities and writings of its key leaders; Dr. Posivnych is the author of 7 monographs, the compiler and editor of 16 books and more than 160 articles. He is a member of the editorial board of the academic collection "*Ukrainian Liberation Movement*", the editorial board of "*The Chronicle of UPA. New Series*" (2010), and the editor-in-chief of the *UPA Chronicles* (2017)

Nicholas Rudnytzky currently serves as the Dean of Academic Records/Registrar at Manor College. He is also the Vice-Principal at the Ukrainian Heritage School in Jenkintown, Director of the St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian-Catholics, President Emeritus of the Ukrainian League of Philadelphia and an active member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Professor Rudnytzky has conducted numerous lectures internationally covering a range of topics including the Ukrainian Cossacks, post-industrial folk heroes, Ukrainians in the diaspora, and modern American Popular Culture through the Prism of International Understanding. He has coordinated and organized countless educational conferences at area universities and received recognition as co-translator and co-editor of *Seeds of Wisdom; Sermons for Sundays and Holy Days* by Fr. Jurij Kmit, (Rodovid Publications, Kyiv, 2015,) with his father, Dr. L. Rudnytzky.

Siarzhuk Shaliga is President of Belarus FREEDOM–Philadelphia, a Belarusian-American non profit organization and a Board Member of the Association of Belarusians in America, a nationwide Belarusian-American organization. Born in Belarus, he moved to the United States in 1999. A mechanical engineer by education, Mr, Shaliga has spent the past 24 years working in the pharmaceutical industry. In 2020, together with his wife, Olga, he founded Belarus FREEDOM–Philadelphia, which began as a Facebook community and later developed into a nonprofit organization. Since then, he has been actively involved in promoting Belarusian culture and identity, organizing community events, advocating in the US for democratic change in Belarus, and building bridges between the Belarusian community and other ethnic and civic, communities.

Dr. Mark Thomas is currently a professor of Political Science at La Salle University, Philadelphia PA. His research interests focus on the foreign policies of the countries of Central and East Europe, particularly the causes of ethnic conflict. He has conducted extensive research on Russian national security policy, especially the use of energy resources as a tool of foreign policy. As a follow-up to a previous article on Soviet influence operations against Saint John Paul II, Dr. Thomas is currently conducting archival research on Soviet/Russian influence operations using race/ethnicity as a tool of foreign policy. Dr. Thomas earned his PhD at the University of Notre Dame.

Marvin Weinberger is a serial entrepreneur and proud maker of American products. He was involved with numerous early online businesses which are legend in Philadelphia's investment and entrepreneurial communities, including Infonautics, Telebase Systems and CD. Additionally, Marvin is an inventor and holds numerous patents. In recent years, working through his hand tool company Innovation Factory, he has created a number of highly regarded tools, including the USA made Trucker's Friend (multipurpose tool) and the Off-Grid Survival Axe. Concurrently, Marvin, a trained violinist, is deeply involved with organizing a series of Klezmer Concerts to aid Ukraine's Children of War.

Walter Zaryckyj is Executive Director of the Center for US-Ukrainian Relations. The Center provides "informational platforms" or venues for senior-level representatives of the political, economic, security, diplomatic and cultural/ academic establishments of the United States and Ukraine to exchange views on a wide range of issues of mutual interest, and to showcase what has been referred to as a "burgeoning relationship of notable geopolitical import" between the two nations. Dr. Zaryckyj completed his undergraduate and graduate work at Columbia University; He taught political science at New York University for nearly three decades before moving on in recent years to do postdoctoral research work on Eastern Europe.

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