

Lisa Shymko: In the footsteps of family, community and far-right, war heroes

Ukrainian "Independence" Day
Kiev, August 24, 2017



Gen. Mattis was in Kiev to signal support for US arms exports to Ukraine

Yuri Shymko (right) with Marie Yovanovitch, the Cdn-born, US Ambassador to Ukraine, 2016-19 (left), his daughter Lisa Shymko and Gen. James Mattis, US Secretary of Defense, 2017-18.

from Ukraine's proNATO Pres. Victor Yushchenko.

2012: The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal was presented to her by Canada's Gov. General.⁷

2012-17: Managing Dir., *Forum TV*. (She was succeeded by Stephen Bandera, Winnipeg-born grandson of Stepan Bandera.⁸) She appeared in *Forum TV* shows with portraits of OUN mili-

"[Lisa Shymko] has advised successive Canadian governments on foreign policy vis-à-vis Russia and the former Soviet Union, and was part of Stephen Harper's delegation on three official visits to Ukraine." *Macleans*, Apr. 2, 2018

Like her father Yuri, Lisa Shymko has spent decades serving and leading a variety of pro-Bandera émigré groups in Canada, and around the world.

1985: Her 23-page antiSoviet essay on Ukrainian nationalism was published in *Ukrainian Review*,¹ the global quarterly of Stepan Bandera's faction of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN-B). Her article was reprinted in *ABN Correspondence*, the magazine of the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN). (p.48.) Both were

and panic in East European communities."³ He was named 1988's Person of the Year by the government-created Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC). (See p.47.) Shymko was on WCFU's team as "an accredited freelance journalist" for *Echo*, the government-funded League of Ukrainian Canadians' (LUC) newspaper. (See pp.47, 50-51.)

1991-2014: Exec.Dir., Canadian Friends of Ukraine. It promotes NATO expansion and Canada's military/political/economic ties to Ukraine. Its patrons include her father, and former PMs Stephen Harper and Paul Martin.

1992: She co-chaired the public relations subcommittee of a WCFU affiliate, the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations.⁴



Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN) Conference

Toronto, 1986

Lisa Shymko (right), the co-coordinator of this global ABN event, was honoured with ABN president Slava Stetsko (left), Anna Steciw, and her husband Orest Steciw, the chairman of ABN-Canada.

edited by Slava Stetsko, whose husband Yaroslav was then ABN president.

1986: Lisa Shymko co-coordinated the ABN's global conference in Toronto. Its keynote speaker, Slava Stetsko, had just become ABN president. Other speakers included Nazi collaborators, and delegates from *contras* and *mujahideen* "freedom fighters."

1990: She attended the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe with the World Congress of Free Ukrainians (WCFU) delegation.² (It was led by Ukrainian Andrew Witer, who, as a Conservative MP in 1987, stopped quick passage of a bill to create the Deschênes Commission. Witer called this inquiry into war criminals "a witch-hunting brigade" that "would only cause anger

1992: She was Prog. Coordinator for the Journalists Exchange Project (JEP), funded by billionaire George Soros. Set up by Ukrainian-Canadian Roman Melnyk, then a CBC executive director and "long-time member of the Canadian Friends of Rukh executive," JEP used CBC and TVO staff to train journalists from postSoviet Ukraine.⁵

1993: She was Exec. Dir. of Canadian Friends of Rukh - Toronto.⁶ Rukh arose from an antiSoviet movement that led Ukraine's successful fight to break up the USSR.

1999-2003: She organized visits by pro-NATO Ukrainian leaders to Canada such as: Pres. L.Kravchuk (1999), For. Min. B. Tarasyuk (2000), ex-PM Y.Tymoshenko (2003).

2009: She received the Medal of Merit

tary leaders Yevhen Konovalts and Roman Shukhevych.⁹ (pp.50-51) *Forum TV* recently aired a documentary glorifying the OUN(B), its UPA army, the ABN, leaders Bandera and Yaroslav Stetsko, and various campaigns to promote their Banderite causes in Canada by LUC and its affiliates: LUC Women (LUCW) and the Ukrainian Youth Assoc.¹⁰

2013-16: She represented LUCW on UCC's board of directors.¹¹

2014-17: National president, LUCW.¹²

References and notes

1. Lisa Shymko, *Ucrainica Research Institute*, "The National Question in the USSR," *Ukrainian Review*, Aut.1985, pp.5-27. bit.ly/LS-85 (Note: Her essay relies heavily on Richard Pipes, a far-right Cold Warrior who led a team of CIA analysts that was created by George Bush Sr. to destroy detente by fabricating Soviet threats. Pipes' son Daniel is as virulently anti-Islamic as his father was anti-communist.)
2. Lisa Shymko, "WCFU in Copenhagen," *Ukrainian Weekly*, Jun.24, 1990, p.1. bit.ly/LS-90
3. "War criminals prove sticky to Canada," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Feb.8, 1987, p.16. bit.ly/Wit87
4. Women's congress to convene in Toronto, *Ukrainian Weekly*, Oct.18, 1992, p.14. bit.ly/WFUWO
5. Oksana Zakydalsky, "TV journalists come to Canada to learn from colleagues," *Ukrainian Weekly*, Dec. 6, 1992, p.4. bit.ly/CBCsoros
6. "The Black Bull in T.O.," *The Student*, March 1993, p.1. bit.ly/LisaS-Rukh
7. ICSU Welcomes Election of Canadian NGO Leaders, LUC, Jul. 24 2014. bit.ly/LS-ICSU
8. Conference in Toronto examines 50 Years of UWC, *Echo*, Dec.13, 2017. bit.ly/LS-17
9. On *Forum TV* (Jan. 31, 2015), she spoke at a podium flanked by photos of Shukhevych and Konovalts (see 12:57). There is a better image of these portraits—with the red/black battle flag of the OUN-B's fascist Ukrainian Insurgent Army at 15:08. See also the portrait of Yaroslav Stetsko, leader of the OUN-B and ABN (see 13:03). bit.ly/OUNB-tv
10. *Forum TV*, Oct.25, 2020. (12:20) bit.ly/ABNtv
11. UCC Board of Directors bit.ly/UCC-Brd
12. Remarks by Lisa Shymko, Pres., LUCW, as Canada Airlifts Military Aid to Ukraine, CFB Trenton, Aug.7, 2014. bit.ly/LS-LUCW