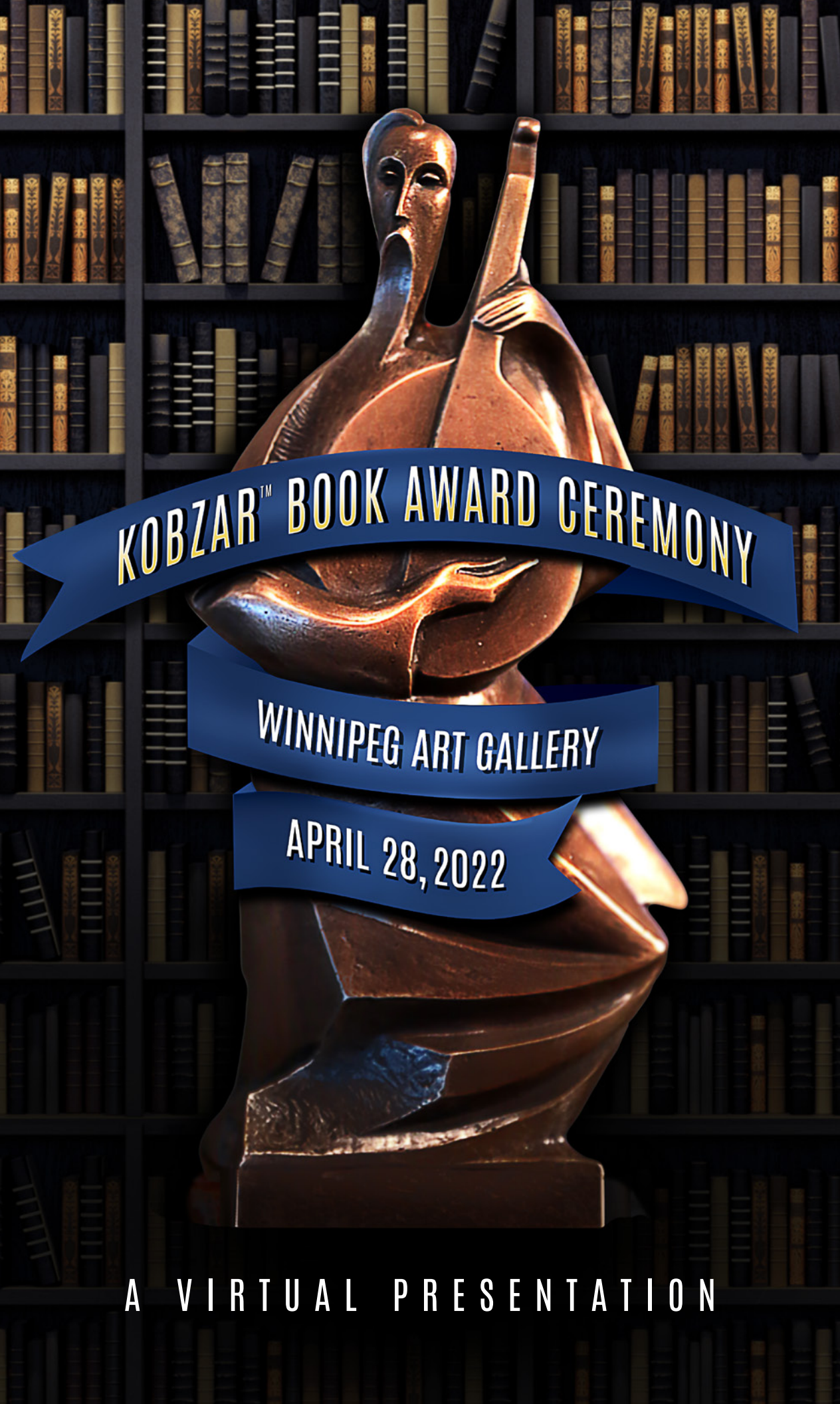
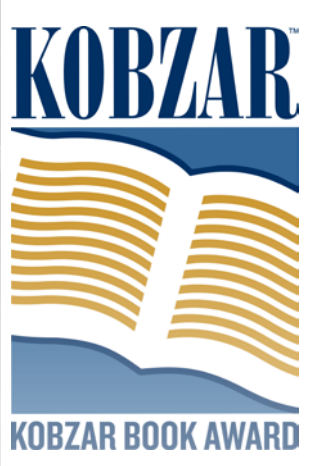

KOBZAR™ BOOK AWARD CEREMONY
WINNIPEG ART GALLERY
APRIL 28, 2022
A VIRTUAL PRESENTATION



KOBZAR™ BOOK AWARD Honorary Patrons

The Right Honourable
Adrienne Clarkson, PC, C.C.

The Honourable
Raynell Andreychuk

Joy Kogawa, C.M.

Nino Ricci, C.M.

"...As we underscore the freedom and independence of Ukraine, we pay tribute to Ukrainian Canadian literary forms that we now add to this rich Ukrainian culture."

- The Honourable Senator Raynell Andreychuk

Dear Friends and Patrons of Canadian literature

It is with great pleasure that the Shevchenko Foundation presents the 9th Biennial KOBZAR™ Book Award in recognition of the contribution of Canadian authors to the Ukrainian Canadian story.

We applaud the accomplishments of the three shortlisted authors who creatively interpret the Ukrainian Canadian identity through different genres, each with its own unique readership and appeal. These books now complement the wealth of thought-provoking works that contribute to the understanding of the Ukrainian people and their culture in Canada. Although the books are the expression of one individual, they are representative of the stories of many.

In these uncertain and difficult times, these stories serve to remind us who we are and why in times of both joy and adversity we always come together as one. Moreover, Ukrainians have been joined in the overwhelming compassion and urgent response to the unprovoked war being fought on sovereign Ukrainian soil by many friends of Ukraine whose personal experiences have led to a rediscovery of ancestral ties and connections to Ukraine and its people.

Our stories will soon be different as we are continually shaped by new realities. But the KOBZAR™ Book Award will always carve out a place for these stories to be documented, shared, amplified, and celebrated.

Thank you to the team that produced the virtual ceremony led by Shevchenko Foundation Executive Director Bohdana Bashuk for bringing the Award into our homes across Canada. I hope that you find the ceremony both informative and entertaining.

Here's to our bookshelves being filled with the Ukrainian Canadian story!

Boris Balan
President
Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko

ABOUT THE KOBZAR™ BOOK AWARD

The Ukrainian community proudly celebrates over 130 years in Canada and the Ukrainian stories are countless. Recognizing the need to document and share these stories, the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, inspired by the vision and leadership of its president Andrew Hladyshevsky, created the KOBZAR™ Literary Award in 2003.

In 2003 TSF President Andrew Hladyshevsky launches the KOBZAR™ Literary Award joined by Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, Janice Kulyk Keefer and Marsha Skrypuch

Presented every two years, the $25,000 KOBZAR™ Book Award recognizes outstanding contributions to Canadian literature by Canadian authors who write on universal themes through a Ukrainian Canadian lens.

KOBZAR™ Book Award entries can weave through fascinating moments in world history, acquaint us with the lives of both one and the many, introduce us to the challenges of different generations and waves of immigration. Ultimately, they paint a picture of a people that proudly continues to shape the Canada we know today.

From left: TSF Executive Director Lesia Szwaluk, KOBZAR™ Literary Award Director Dr. Christine Turkewych and Honorary Patron Governor General of Canada The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson (2006)

Genres include literary non-fiction, fiction, poetry, young readers' literature, play, screenplay, and musical. Distinctive to this Award is monetary recognition for both the winner ($20,000) and the winner's publisher ($5,000).

The KOBZAR™ Book Award is at the core of the Foundation's literary arts program chaired until 2018 by Dr. Christine Turkewych. Engaging with authors, emerging writers, and publishers, the program introduced the KOBZAR™ Literary Award to the Canadian literary arts community including avid writers and readers alike.

Honorary Patron Hon. Raynell Andreychuk and KOBZAR™ Literary Award Director Dr. Christine Turkewych

To encourage young and emerging writers to pursue their passion and share their stories, the Foundation offered writers' workshops across Canada featuring KOBZAR™ award winners and established Canadian writers.

In 2018, the name of the award was changed to KOBZAR™ Book Award to better reflect the works being submitted for award consideration.

In 2020, the Emerging Writers Short Prose Competition was introduced setting the groundwork for new writers to explore the short prose form and to one day aspire to submit an entry to the KOBZAR™ Book Award.

KOBZAR™ Literary Award Volunteer Committee (2014);
fourth from left in front row: Organizing Committee Chair Alla Shklar

The inaugural KOBZAR™ Literary Award Ceremony was held in March 2006 in Toronto where it found a home and a devoted audience through eight awardings. All the lavish ceremonies through 2020 were organized by a team of dedicated volunteers led for seven of those events by Alla Shklar, while the most recent in 2020 was chaired by Janice Taskey.

2016 KOBZAR™ Literary Award Winner Maurice Mierau, Adjudicator Karen Connelly and TSF President Andrew Hladyshevsky

The 2020 KOBZAR™ Book Award ceremony marked a shift in the program's evolution. The time had come for the award to be introduced to new audiences. As such, it bid farewell to Toronto embarking on a national journey. It was also one of the last public events prior to a two-year pandemic lockdown and in 2022 is one of the last virtual events as pre-pandemic activities resume. The 2022 ceremony originally scheduled to be held in person at the Winnipeg Art Gallery was instead filmed at the Art Gallery.

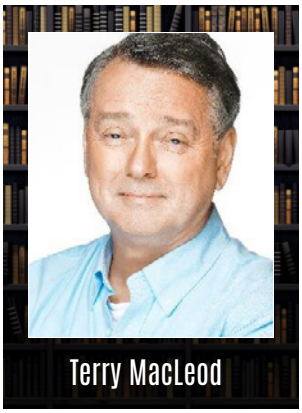
The 2022 ceremony is also being held after a short pause during an unprovoked war that is ravaging Ukraine – the homeland of both our ancestors and many members of the Ukrainian community in Canada; the root of Ukrainian strength, passion and creativity. As a foreign aggressor attempts to eliminate all traces of the Ukrainian identity, the stories celebrated with the KOBZAR™ Book Award take on even greater significance documenting the history of Ukrainian culture in Canada.

Ukrainians have come a long way – from the first immigrants who came to Canada and persevered to be accepted to the powerful unified community that today shapes Canadian policies and engages the Canadian cultural community in support of the Ukrainian identity.

The KOBZAR™ Book Award will continue to provide a space for Canadian storytellers to celebrate the Ukrainian Canadian story in all its diversity.

2020 KOBZAR™ Book Award finalists – from left Sandra Semchuk, John Paskievich, Laisha Rosnau, David Demchuk and Alex Leslie

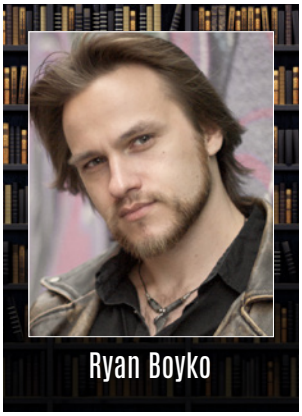
MASTER OF CEREMONIES


Terry MacLeod

Terry MacLeod is an Emmy-nominated independent journalist with more than thirty years of experience working across Canada and around the world with the CBC. Terry served as host and co-host of the region's leading morning radio show, Information Radio, for more than two decades. Most recently, Terry served as host of CBC's top rated Weekend Morning Show.

A leading figure in the Winnipeg culture, politics, and creative communities, Terry plays an active role in telling the stories of Canada's diverse people, working with dozens of organizations annually. A native of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Terry has lived everywhere from Arctic Quebec to Colorado. He has taught for the WaWaTa and Taqrimuit Nipingat native radio networks in the Canadian Arctic and has served as a faculty member for the Canadian Muslim Leadership Institute.

DIRECTOR


Ryan Boyko

Ryan Boyko is a multi-award winning Producer, Writer and Director. His series "The Camps" and his Feature Documentary "That Never Happened: Canada's First National Internment Operations" tell of Ukrainian Canadian hardships from a global perspective. The Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations selected "That Never Happened" as Canada's contribution to the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Ryan has been personally involved with the creation of the Canada Ukraine Audio Visual Co-Production treaty for film, which was signed in July of 2019 and ratified in 2020.

"That Never Happened: Canada's First National Internment Operations" is currently airing on CBC's The Documentary Channel.

PROGRAM

WELCOMING REMARKS

Boris Balan
President, Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Terry MacLeod
Master of Ceremonies

SPECIAL GUESTS

Zorianna and Eugene Hyworon
Presenting Sponsors

Petro Tarasoff
2022 Writing Challenge

Hon. Senator Raynell Andreychuk
KOBZAR™ Book Award Honorary Patron

Matthew Kruchak
2022 Emerging Writers Short Prose Competition

PRESENTATION OF 2022 KOBZAR™ BOOK AWARD FINALISTS

KASSANDRA LUCIUK
Enemy Alien: A True Story of Life Behind Barbed Wire
Illustrated by nicole marie burton

Introduction by Danny Schur, 2006 KOBZAR™ Literary Award Co-Winner
Reading by Ryan Boyko, Filmmaker, Director
That Never Happened: Canada's First National Internment Operations
Animation by Craig Watkins

ANGELINE SCHELLENBERG
Fields of Light and Stone

Introduction by Maurice Mierau, 2016 KOBZAR™ Literary Award Winner
Reading by Troy Ruptash, Actor/Screenwriter, Director *They Who Surround Us*

MARIA REVA
Good Citizens Need Not Fear

Introduction by Dr. Lindy Ledohowski, 2018 KOBZAR™ Literary Award Winner
Reading by Luba Goy, 2014 KOBZAR™ Literary Award Winner

DISCUSSION WITH KOBZAR™ BOOK AWARD JURY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2022 KOBZAR™ BOOK AWARD WINNER

KOBZAR™ BOOK AWARD FINALISTS

The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko congratulates the 2022 KOBZAR™ Book Award shortlisted authors and winner for their literary achievements in fiction, non-fiction, and poetry.

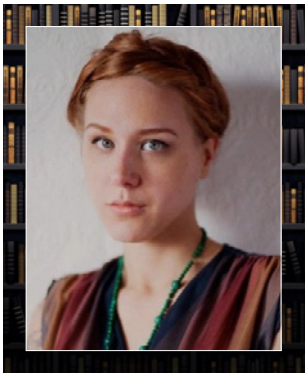
ENEMY ALIEN: A TRUE STORY OF LIFE BEHIND BARBED WIRE

By Kassandra Luciuk, Illustrated by nicole marie burton
Between the Lines 2020

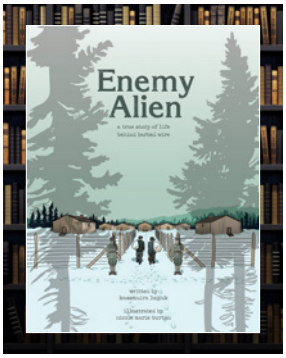
DR. KASSANDRA LUCIUK is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Dalhousie University. She is the author of several books and articles on the Ukrainian experience in Canada, including "Reinserting Radicalism: Canada's First National Internment Operations, the Ukrainian Left, and the Politics of Redress," in *Civilian Internment in Canada: Histories and Legacies*.

Her work explores how changing notions of Canadian citizenship interacted with ethnic identity during the Cold War. In a broader sense, her research interests include Canada, migration/ethnicity, state formation, and nationalism.

Kassandra was awarded the 2020 Jean-Marie Fecteau Prize by the Canadian Historical Association.



Illustrator **NICOLE MARIE BURTON** is a US-born, Ontario-based artist and entrepreneur of Jewish-Ukrainian descent. Her work as an illustrator, publisher and educator focuses on comics with social justice themes, ranging in topics from Canadian history to the science of climate change. Enemy Alien is her second full-length graphic novel.



ENEMY ALIEN: A TRUE STORY OF LIFE BEHIND BARBED WIRE tells the story of Canada's first national internment operations through the eyes of John Boychuk, an internee held in Kapuskasing from 1914 to 1917. The story is based on Boychuk's actual memoir, which is the only comprehensive internee testimony in existence. This graphic history follows Boychuk from his arrest in Toronto to Kapuskasing, where he spends just over three years, and subsequently traces Boychuk's parole, his search for work, his attempts to organize a union, and his ultimate settlement in Winnipeg.

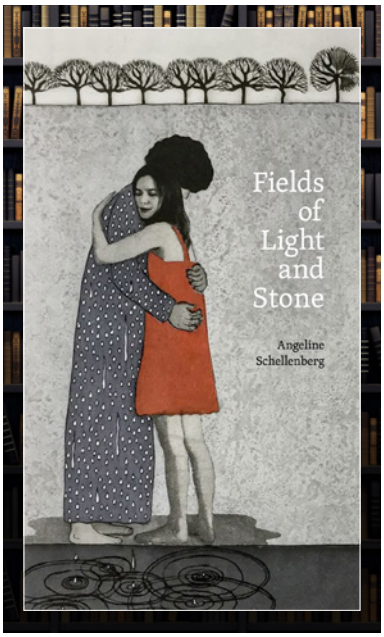
"This graphic novel tells a great story in an innovative format which is a 'spot-on reflection' of the Ukrainian-Canadian experience. The material was presented with integrity and in a format accessible to a wide audience." – KOBZAR™ Book Award Jury

FIELDS OF LIGHT AND STONE

By Angeline Schellenberg
University of Alberta Press 2020

ANGELINE SCHELLENBERG is a poet and micro-fiction writer in Treaty 1 territory (Winnipeg). Her collection about raising children on the autism spectrum, *Tell Them It Was Mozart* (Brick Books, 2016), won three Manitoba Book Awards and was a finalist for a ReLit Award for Poetry. Her chapbooks are *Roads of Stone* (The Alfred Gustav Press), *Dented Tubas* (Kalamalka Press), *Blue Moon, Red Herring* (JackPine Press), and *Irises* (Dancing Girl Press). The Pushcart nominee has performed her poetry from Victoria to Halifax, including in Riding Mountain National Park as Deep Bay artist-in-residence. With a love for encouraging fellow writers, Angeline hosts Speaking Crow, Winnipeg's longest-running poetry open mic. Having earned a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies, she is currently training as a spiritual director. An amateur photographer and potter, Angeline lives with her husband, two children, and rescue dogs. *Fields of Light and Stone* (University of Alberta Press, 2020) is her latest book.

FIELDS OF LIGHT AND STONE explores the influence on the author's life of her Mennonite grandparents. Her elegiac love letter to them articulates her grief against the backdrop of their involuntary emigration from Ukraine and Russia. She artfully captures the immigrant identity vital to Canadian culture in poems that draw on events both personal and global: war and famine, dementia and cancer, hidden sacrifice and secrets. Her poems captivate with themes of ancestry, memory, resilience, and forgiveness. *Fields of Light and Stone* is a reflection on how family history shapes and moves us.



"A good narrative flow makes for a very accessible and well-crafted title in a beautiful package. A fantastic book of poetry which could be nominated for many other awards." – KOBZAR™ Book Award

GOOD CITIZENS NEED NOT FEAR

By Maria Reva
Knopf Canada 2020

MARIA REVA writes fiction and opera libretti. Maria's writing has appeared in *The Atlantic, McSweeney's, The Wall Street Journal, Granta,* and *The Best American Short Stories*. She won a National Magazine Award in 2019 and was a finalist for the Writers' Trust of Canada 2020 Fiction Prize.

Her current musical collaborations include an opera with composer Anna Pidgorna (developed by Musique 3 Femmes in Montreal), as well as a song cycle with Shelley Marwood. Past collaborations include an opera libretto for ERATO Ensemble, texts for Vancouver International Song Institute's Art Song Lab, and a script for City Opera Vancouver.

Maria was born in Ukraine and grew up in New Westminster, British Columbia. She received her MFA from the Michener Center for Writers at the University of Texas.

GOOD CITIZENS NEED NOT FEAR has a cast of unforgettable characters—citizens of the small industrial town of Kirovka—that populate Maria Reva's ingeniously entwined tales that span the chaotic years leading up to and immediately following the fall of the Soviet Union in 1989. Weaving the strands of the narrative together is an unforgettable, chameleon-like young woman named Zaya: an orphan turned beauty-pageant crasher who survives the extraordinary circumstances of her childhood through a compelling combination of ferocity, intelligence, stubbornness, and wit.

"A fascinating book, brutal, hilarious and "completely bonkers." It embraces the grotesque and the absurd in a way which is reflective of a sensibility and dark humor particular to post-Soviet nations."
– KOBZAR™ Book Award Jury

KOBZAR™ BOOK AWARD JURY

Laisha Rosnau is an award-winning poet and novelist. She is the author of *Little Fortress* (Wolsak & Wynn, 2019), the best-selling novel *The Sudden Weight of Snow* (McClelland & Stewart, 2002), and four critically acclaimed, award-winning collections of poetry. Her recent collection *Our Familiar Hunger* (Nightwood, 2018) won the 2020 KOBZAR™ Book Award, the Blue Heron Poetry Prize, and the Acorn-Plantos Poetry Award. Her work has also been nominated for several awards, including the Amazon/Books in Canada First Novel Award, the Pat Lowther Award, and three times for the CBC Poetry Prize.

Kerry Clare is a National Magazine Award-nominated writer, editor of The M Word: Conversations About Motherhood, and author of two novels, *Mitzi Bytes* and *Waiting for a Star to Fall*. She teaches blogging at MyBlogSchool.ca, is editor of the Canadian books website 49thShelf.com, and has been a blogger for twenty years, currently at PickleMeThis.com.

Ben Sigurdson is the Literary Editor at the Winnipeg Free Press. Launching his career in the newsroom in 2012, Ben rekindled his love for all things literary and started a new chapter at the Free Press in 2014 with the retirement of esteemed books editor Morley Walker. He also writes about wine, beer and spirits for the paper. Ben holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English/Politics from the University of Winnipeg as well as a Master of Arts degree in English (writing stream) from the University of Manitoba.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bohdana Bashuk
Executive Director, Shevchenko Foundation

Donna Korade
Fund Development Officer, Shevchenko Foundation

Iryna Mycak
Communications and Community Relations Officer,
Shevchenko Foundation

Leslie Bush
KOBZAR™ Book Award Submissions Manager

Terry MacLeod
Master of Ceremonies

Ryan Boyko
Virtual Ceremony Film Director, Armistice Films Inc.

Lianna Makuch
Shortlisted Author Film Director, Pyretic Productions Inc.

Kostiantyn Snitsar
The Story of the KOBZAR™ Book Award, ArtClip Media Production
with video footage from FORUM TV, KONTAKT TV

Alexander Zacharuk
Broadcast Manager

Walter & Alice Kulyk (Traffic Advertising Inc.)
Al Klymochko (Stare Design Inc.)
Graphic Design

The Kubasonics
Pre-Ceremony VIP Presentation

The KOBZAR™ Book Award also acknowledges
the enthusiasm and support of Lidia Kandia and members
of the "Book Club" in Winnipeg for undertaking the subsequently
cancelled in-person 2022 KOBZAR™ Book Award Gala.

KOBZAR™ BOOK AWARD SCULPTURE

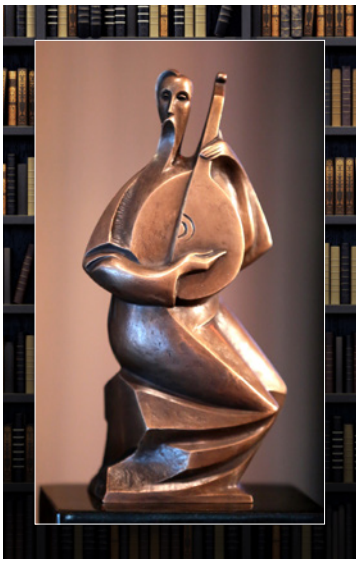
The KOBZAR™ Book Award is named for the travelling 19th-century minstrel wanderers, "Kobzars," who narrated and sang a repertoire of historic epics, religious and folk songs, and stories of the day to the instrumental accompaniment of a bandura or kobza.

The original KOBZAR Literary Award was a limited-edition miniature cast of a bronze sculpture by the internationally renowned artist Leo Mol.

LEO MOL was a Ukrainian Canadian stained-glass artist, painter, and sculptor. The Leo Mol Sculpture Garden officially opened in Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park in 1992, attracting visitors from around the world and enriching the cultural life of Winnipeg.

After the 2018 awarding and the adoption of a new name, a new design was created by award-winning sculptor Oleh Lesiuk.

OLEH LESIUK works in sculpture, monumental sculpture, and painting. A graduate of the Lviv National Academy of Applied Arts and Decorative Arts, Oleh Lesiuk has been creating sculptures and monuments since 1981. His works are found in Ukraine, USA, Canada, France, and Great Britain.



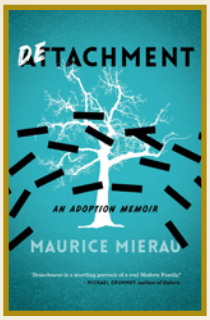
KOBZAR™ BOOK AWARD PAST WINNERS

2020 WINNER

Laisha Rosnau
Our Familiar Hunger
Nightwood Editions 2019

2018 WINNER

Lisa Grekul and Lindy Ledohowski (Editors)
Unbound: Ukrainian Canadians Writing Home.
University of Toronto Press 2016

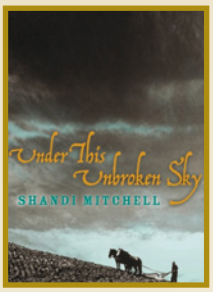


2016 WINNER

Maurice Mierau
Detachment: An Adoption Memoir
Freehand Books, Calgary 2014

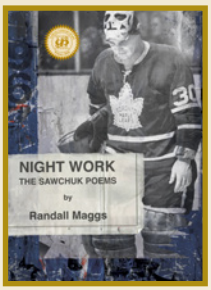
2014 WINNER

Diane Flacks, Andrey Tarasiuk, Luba Goy
Luba, Simply Luba
Scirocco Drama, J. Shillingford Publishing Inc., Winnipeg 2013



2012 WINNER

Shandi Mitchell
Under This Unbroken Sky
Brick Books 2008

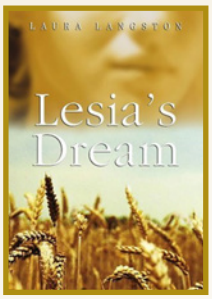


2010 WINNER

Randall Maggs
Night Work: The Sawchuk Poems
Brick Books 2008

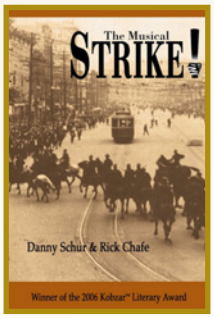
2008 WINNER

Janice Kulyk Keefer
The Ladies' Lending Library
Harper Collins 2007



2006 CO-WINNERS

Laura Langston
Lesia's Dream
Harper Collins 2003



Danny Schur
Strike: The Musical

KOBZAR™ BOOK AWARD SPONSORS AND DONORS

The Shevchenko Foundation expresses gratitude to all sponsors and donors for supporting the KOBZAR™ Book Award and the Canadian stories that represent the Ukrainian community and culture in Canada.

For over 50 years, Zorianna and Eugene Hyworon have been actively involved in cultural, educational, community, industry, and professional organizations. In this work, they have experienced the challenges of shaping common dreams into reality, supporting artists, youth, church, and community projects locally, nationally, and internationally. They know that vision, leadership, volunteerism, and hard work, although essential are not always sufficient for project success and particularly so when long term and sustained impact is the goal. Financial support that can leverage the hard work and commitment of volunteers, artists and community workers can make a difference.

Zorianna & Eugene
Hyworon Family Foundation

"Please guard your stories, document your stories, pass them on to your children and your grandchildren, encourage them to show the creative, interpret them, so they can learn and retain our oral history."

– Zorianna Hyworon

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EMERGING WRITERS SHORT PROSE COMPETITION

In 2019, the Shevchenko Foundation launched the Emerging Writers Short Prose Competition to encourage and promote new authors who write on a topic with a tangible connection to the Ukrainian Canadian experience. The annual prize is awarded to a Canadian writer for the best piece of unpublished English language prose of up to 1,500 words.

The Foundation encourages submissions that reflect fresh perspectives, a diversity of experiences, and an ongoing evolution of our cultural experiences. The Competition sets the groundwork for new writers to explore the short prose form and to one day aspire to submit an entry to the KOBZAR™ Book Award.

The author of the winning entry receives a $1500 prize. An additional $1,000 is made available to assist with publication of the winning entry in a Canadian newspaper, magazine or recognized digital distributor, for promotion of the story and the author's development as a writer.

2022 WINNER

Business Men's Lunch
by Matthew Kruchak (Winnipeg)

Matthew Kruchak has worked as a journalist for CBC Saskatchewan and The Regina Leader-Post, and his byline has appeared in The New York Times, The Atlantic's CityLab, and The Globe and Mail. He has a passion for the history and culture of his great-grandparents' homeland, Ukraine.

Business Men's Lunch succinctly underscores the working man's desire for equality and respect, bridging the gap between societal classes while safeguarding one's dignity in a new country.

2021 WINNER

Carpathian Spruce
by Adrian Lysenko
(Thunder Bay)

2020 WINNER

Grafting
by Tanya Berezuk
(Oshawa)

Shevchenko Foundation
Leadership•Stewardship•Partnership

ABOUT THE SHEVCHENKO FOUNDATION

The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko (Shevchenko Foundation) is a national, chartered philanthropic institution whose mission is to strengthen the Ukrainian community in Canada and enrich the Canadian experience with the beauty, passion, and diversity of Ukrainian Canadian culture. To achieve these goals the Shevchenko Foundation provides leadership in building and sustaining a permanent endowment fund.

The Shevchenko Foundation respects the past, celebrates the present and promotes the future of the Ukrainian community in Canada with the synergy of all stakeholders including grantees, donors, supporters, volunteers, staff, and Board members.

Guided by core values – inclusiveness, integrity, sustainability, spirit, excellence, and innovation, and principles – leadership, stewardship and partnership, the Shevchenko Foundation is focused on realizing its vision of a Canada that acknowledges Ukrainian Canadians as nation-builders and an integral component of Canadian identity.

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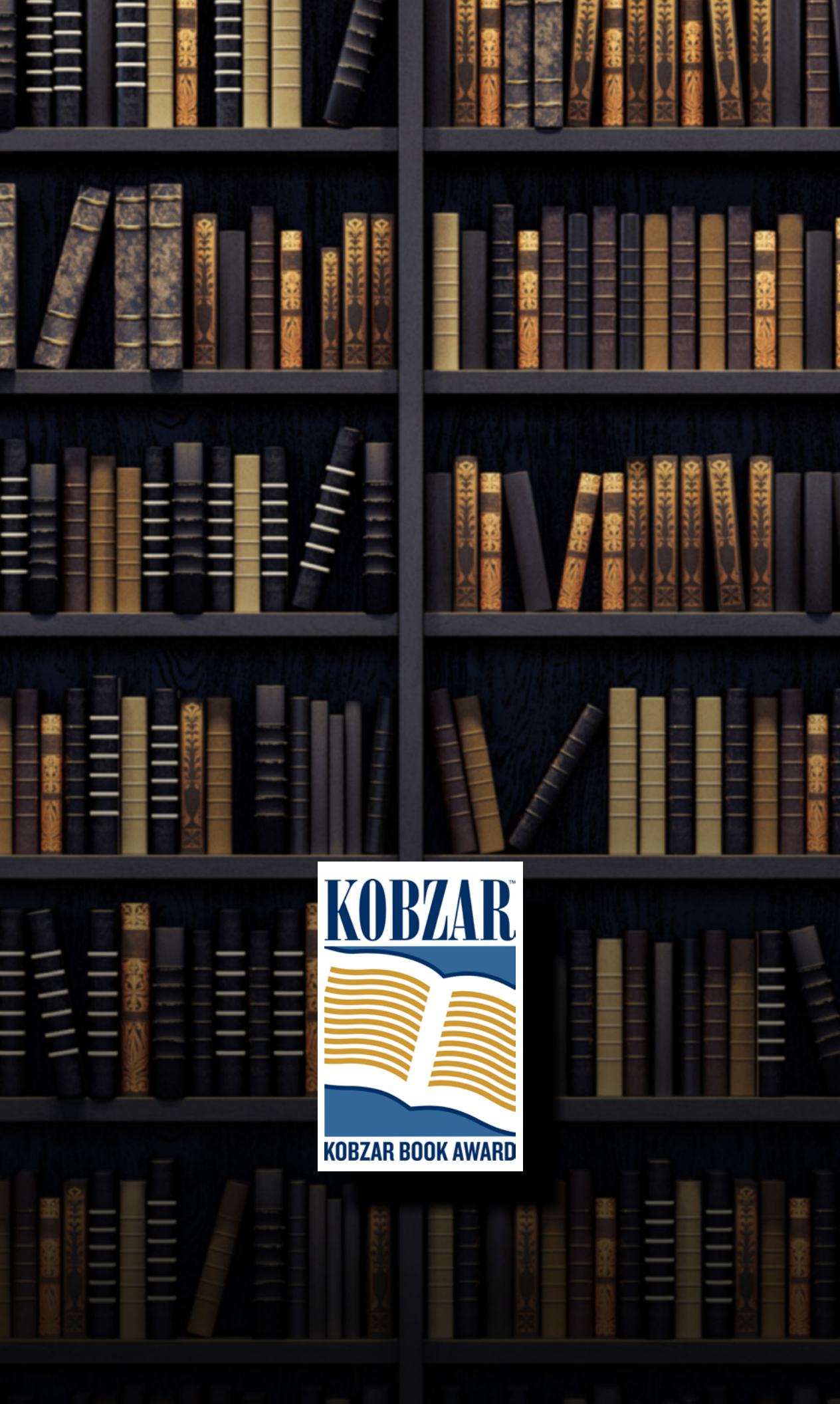
WWW.SHEVCHENKOFOUNDATION.COM

Back cover – to be designed


KOBZAR
KOBZAR BOOK AWARD