

**Annual
Report**



2017



The Belarusians are called a literature-oriented nation because in the early 1920s the writers Janka Kupala, Jakub Kolas, Vaclau Lastouski, Branislau Taraskievic, Ciska Hartny and other well-known authors laid the foundation of our statehood. Belarusian writers have always been the first to fight for the freedom of creativity, to preserve and develop the native tongue. Throughout its existence, during all times, the Union has been uniting the most famous and distinctive, the most interesting and well-known, the most readable and popular Belarusian writers who are citizens of the country which destiny means a lot to them. These traditions established by predecessors are continued today by us. The work with creative people, each of whom is a Personality, requires a special responsibility from us. Therefore, the Union's activity has recently become so wide and all-encompassing. Publishing, protection of creators' rights, work with youth, gender subjects, organization of events and actions, meetings with readers, etc. have become our everyday work. Although we have to work in difficult conditions, with no state support, we try to pay maximum attention to our members and to direct all our activity to the good of Belarusian literature and language which are the basis of the existence of the Belarusian nation and the country called Belarus.

**Barys Piatrovic,
chairperson
of the Union
of Belarusian
Writers**



OUR MISSION

We, the Union of Belarusian Writers, are a professional creative community of writers of Belarus, who are united on principles of the freedom of speech and self-expression in order to protect authors' rights and interests and to develop, popularize, and increase the status of Belarusian literature as an integral value of society, without which no full-fledged existence of the Belarusian nation is possible.

OUR PURPOSES

- to protect rights of writers as a group which freedom of speech is limited today
- to provide readers with free access to a wide spectrum of independent national literature
- to increase competences of writers who are members of the Union in the advancement of their rights and interests and possibilities of self-expression
- to increase the status of Belarusian works and authors in society



OUR COLLECTIVE

Photo by Jauhien Jercak

The UBW chairperson - **Barys Piatrovic (Sacanka)**, prose writer, editor-in-chief of Dziejaslou magazine; elected chairperson in 2011, re-elected in 2017 at the 17th congress of the UBW.



Ales Paskievic, first vice-chairperson, writer, scientist, editor of "Literary Belarus" at Novy Cas newspaper; he was UBW chairperson in 2002-2011.



Usievalad Scieburaka, vice-chairperson, coordinator of activity of regional branches.



Anatol Ivascanka, poet, secretary of Dziejaslou magazine, candidate of philological sciences.



Siuzanna Paukstela, administrative assistant, literary translator.



Cichan Carniakievic, UBW project manager, social networks manager, scientist, essayist, literary critic.



Viktoryja Laikouskaia (Vika Trenas), press secretary, reporter, photo journalist, manager of UBW web-site lit-bel.org, style editor.



ABOUT US: THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

The Union of Belarusian Writers is the oldest creative organization of the country; it was founded in 1934. The UBW members were the classics of national literature: Janka Kupala, Jakub Kolas, Kuzma Corny, Kandrat Krapiva, Michas Lynkou, Piatrus Brouka, Arkadz Kulasou, Pimien Pancanka, Maksim Tank, Ivan Samiakín, Vasil Bykau. Since its inception, the UBW has always been defending the Belarusian language, culture, and literature, which often led to prosecution on the part of the state.



Literary association "Uzvyssa". 1928

During the years of its existence, members of our Union wrote works which, without exaggeration, became part of the gold fund and are studied today at schools and universities. Such names of UBW members as Maksim Tank and Ivan Mielez, Vasil Bykau and Ivan Samiakín, Janka Bryl and Uladzimir Karatkievic, Ales Adamovic and Nil Hilevic, Ryhor Baradulin and Hienadz Buraukin, Ivan Ptasnikau and Michas Stralcou, and many others are well-known in the world.



17th congress of the Union of Belarusian Writers. Photo by Ales Kisialou.

In the 1980s, during Perestroika and Glasnost, UBW members headed the national independence movement and in 1994, when democratic transformations were stopped and attacks on the Belarusian language and culture began, UBW members battled against the establishment of dictatorship in the country, for the freedom of speech and thought, and were punished again. In 1996, according to the Belarusian president's order, the Writers' House that belonged to the UBW was expropriated; in 2002 - all editions that were founded by the UBW were expropriated, too. In 2005, the state-run union of writers - the Union of Writers of Belarus - was created. The newly created union was given the premises of our former House and the editions that belonged to the UBW. Thus, the state divided writers in "our authors" and "not our authors" - this divide was caused not by creative principles, but by loyalty to the existing authorities.



Ales Paskievic, Anatol Viarcinski, and Barys Piatrovic at the 17th congress of the Union of Belarusian Writers. Photo by Ales Kisialou.

In 2006 and in 2010, the state and the pro-state union made attempts to liquidate our organization, and only thanks to international support and solidarity of literary organizations of Europe we managed to preserve our Union and to avoid liquidation. However, prosecutions of members of our organization continue. There are so-called "black lists" of writers whose works and books are forbidden and cannot be published in state-run publishing houses and editions and whose meetings with readers in libraries and educational institutions are banned.



17th congress of the Union of Belarusian Writers. Photo by Ales Kisialou.

Today the UBW has 467 members - 332 male writers and 135 female writers, including all the most famous in Belarus and abroad - Anatol Viarcinski, Ales Razanau, Rajisa Baravikova, Uladzimir Niaklajeu, Svetlana Alexievich, Uladzimir Arlou, and others, as well as the most talented Belarusian authors of middle and younger generations. Their creativities cover all known kinds of literature: poetry, prose, dramatic art, translations, works for children, as well as essays, documentaries, and scientific researches. The organization has a non-fiction section and the Ukrainian Literature Association.



Svetlana Alexievich. Photo by Tacciana Matusievic.

Books of members of our organization are translated into various languages of the world. Belarusian writers have recently become winners of many prestigious international awards, and Svetlana Alexievich received the Nobel Prize in 2015.

We work for the sake of writers, teachers, young people who study, readers, fans of literature, creative youth, publishers, book sellers, and experts.

The UBW is a member of the European Literary Council, the Council of the Association of Baltic Literary Unions. The Dziejaslou Magazine published by the UBW is included in the European network of cultural magazines "Eurozine". In 2015, the UBW received the award "Heroes of Copyright" of the Swedish administrative center of copyrights in the branch of literature ALIS.



Session of the Council of the Union of Belarusian Writers. Photo by Vika Trenas.

The UBW's administrative activity is provided by the Secretariat (chairperson and vice-chairperson), the Council, the enrolment board and the auditing commission, as well as chairpersons of five regional branches.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

8 literary awards and not less than **40** winners;

5 festivals;

32 new books, including 7 books for children and audio books;

12 issues of "Literary Belarus";

6 issues of "Dziejaslou";

2 creative grants and **7** grant-aided students;

20 new students at the Young Writers School, 82 applications for training, more than 4 people for one place;

43,397 users and **162,411** hits of the web-site lit-bel.org from **10** countries of the world;

More than 400 events all across Belarus with participation of more than **23,805** people;

Not less than 100 mentions of the UBW in the Belarusian and foreign press with the coverage of not less than **100,000** readers.

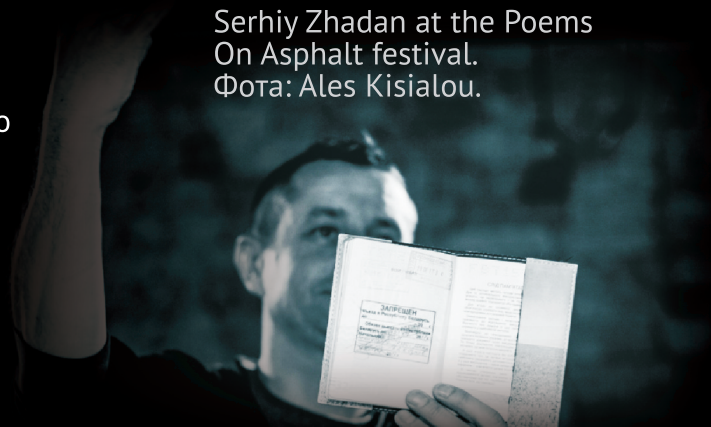


FOR THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, THOUGHT AND STATEMENTS

During 2017, the UBW accepted several tens of open statements concerning questions topical in the country, including those with the purposes of defending rights of writers, of celebrating the cultural heritage, of expanding the sphere of use of the Belarusian language and literature.

When in February 2017 the Belarusian law enforcement bodies detained the well-known Ukrainian writer Serhiy Zhadan who had come to take part in the 6th international poetic festival "Poems On Asphalt" dedicated to the memory of Michas Stralcou, thanks to joint efforts of public organizations the decision on his deportation within 72 hours was cancelled and the creator successfully performed in Minsk.

Serhiy Zhadan at the Poems On Asphalt festival.
Φοτα: Ales Kisialou.



In March 2017, at the 17th congress of the Union of Belarusian Writers, the resolution and statements "Concerning the 500th anniversary of Belarusian book publishing", "Concerning the exception of the UBW from the list of creative unions", and "Concerning the situation with literary museums" were accepted.

Public at the Stralcou Festival.
Photo by Ales Kisialou.



As a result of the open appeal to the highest state structures and the wide public discussion, the UBW restored its status of a creative union and members of the organization were freed from the so-called "tax on social parasitism".

Photo by Ales Kisialou.



The UBW publicly condemned the arrests within the "Patriots Case", made a statement to protect the poet Uladzimir Niaklajeu in court, and expressed its opinion in connection with the fact that lawyer Hanna Bachcina had been deprived of her activity license.

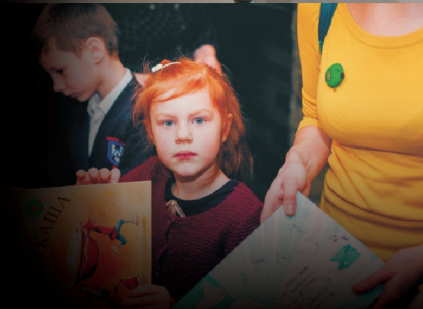
PUBLISHING AND PROMOTION OF BOOKS



The UBW has book series that are published in independent publishing houses.

In 2017 we published:

- constant authors, the "Writers' Bookshop" series - 18 books**
- debutants: "Starting Point" - 4**
- for children, Belarusian and translated: "Color Bicycle" - 7, including 3 audio books**
- translations of foreign literature: "PraidziSviet" - 2 books**
- "Library of Dziejaslou Magazine" - 1 book**



During presentations of children's books.
Photos by Zaryna Kandracieva, Ales Kisialou, Vika Trenas.

Nadzieja Kandrusievic, translator:

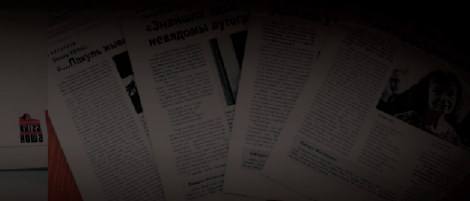
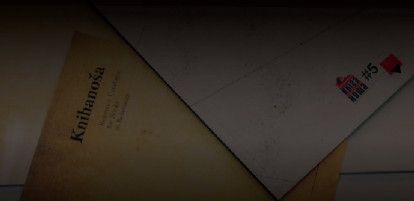
"The "Color Bicycle" series supported by the UBW was created to publish children's literature in Belarusian. The series publishes books of Belarusian authors, as well as books of Swedish children's writers translated into Belarusian. The children's book is the first meeting of a child with literature and art; therefore, the edition of quality books for children is very important. It is possible to see kids' interest in reading during presentations of published books. This year, the series issued the book of Gunilla Bergstrom about Bill and Bolla, which concerns the problem of distinction and our attitude to people who differ. All translations and projects I'm engaged in are very important to me and I'm very grateful to the UBW for its support and help in their implementation".

Photo by Vika Trenas.

Regional almanacs that present creativity of writers from regions are published every year: the Brest, Viciebsk, Homiel, Hrodna, and Mahilou Regions.



In addition to "Dziejaslou" Magazine and "Literary Belarus", the UBW has such periodicals as the almanac for children "Harbuzik" and the newsletter "Knihanosa".



The organization presents today's Belarusian and foreign literature in the Internet:

- Electronic and audio books on the UBW web-site - lit-bel.org/by/lib/books
- Literary Radio - litradio.by
- Internet magazine PraidziSviet - prajdzisvet.org

The UBW organizes **performances of independent creators** in Minsk and regions. During 2017, there were more than 400 presentations of new books, creative meetings all across Belarus with participation of more than 1,870 speakers and more than 23,805 spectators. Libraries, educational institutions, the courses "Mova Nanova" were given thousands of books.

The UBW pays much attention to the preservation of the memory about writers, cares of the cultural heritage, and celebrates anniversaries of well-known writers.

In 2017, the organization carried out events to the memory of poets and representatives of the intelligentsia who were repressed in Soviet Belarus in the 1930s.



Anniversary of "Dziejaslou" Magazine. Photo by Ales Kisialou, Vika Trenas.

The literary and art magazine "Dziejaslou" (www.dziejaslou.by) **celebrated its 15th anniversary** with a large-scale flashmob event in the Internet and a big concert with participation of tens of writers and musicians.

PUBLIC CAMPAIGNS



In 2017, the Union of Belarusian Writers together with the public cultural campaign "Budzma [Let's Be] Belarusians!" organized the action "500 Years" in honor of the **500th anniversary of Belarusian book publishing**. All across the country, in cities and towns, there were hundreds of educational meetings, lectures, and presentations attended by thousands of people.

LITERARY AWARDS

The Jerzy Giedroyc Literary Award is awarded annually for the best book written in the Belarusian language in the genres of "narrative literature" and "essayistics". The organizers of this contest are the Belarusian PEN center, Poland's Embassy to the Republic of Belarus, the Polish Institute in Minsk; the sponsors of the awards are the Idea Bank and the charitable foundation "Returning". In 2017, the winners are Zmicer Bartosik (1st place), Ludmila Rubleuskaia (2nd place), Adam Hlobus (3rd place). Awards for the second and third places - creative grants to visit Gotland (Sweden) and the edition of books – are presented by the UBW.



Jerzy Giedroyc Literary Award.
Photo by Nasta Hryscuk.

The Alexander and Maria Stahanovics Award is awarded for books written in Belarus in the Belarusian language in 2011-2014 in the field of documentary literature in the following genres: memoirs, memories, diaries, epistolary heritage (not only one's own, but also publications of other people's); biographies; travelers' notes). The partners are the Belarusian Institute of Science and Art, the Union of Belarusian Writers, the International Public Society "Belarusians' World Association «Backauscyna»" («Homeland»), the publishing house "Limarius". In 2017, the winners are Zmicer Bartosik (1st place), Vitaut Kipiel (2nd place), Siarhiey Cyhryn (3rd place).

Natalla Hardzijenka, archivist, scientist,
head of the non-fiction section of the UBW:

“Any awards, state-run or private, promote literature development; therefore, the more different awards there are - the better. The Alexander and Maria Stahanovics Award is important as it became the first specialized award for works written in the non-fiction field. For many a long day, this kind of literature in Belarus was perceived as something secondary. The Stahanovics Award allowed us to draw society’s attention to non-fiction literature, which popularization was then spurred by Svetlana Alexievich’s Nobel Prize.”

The Stahanovics Award bears the name of emigration figures and is funded by an emigrant, thus symbolizing a sui generis union of Belarusian literature abroad and Belarusian literature in Belarus”.



Photo by Ales Kisialou.

The award for translators named after Carlos Sherman

is organized by the Union of Belarusian Writers, the Belarusian PEN center, and the charitable foundation "Returning". In 2017, Andrei Chadanovic was awarded as the best translator for the book of Charles Baudelaire’s poetry published in the series "Poets of the Planet".

Carlos Sherman Award.
Photo by Vika Trenas.



The literary award "Debut" named after Maksim Bahdanovic was founded in 2010 by the Belarusian PEN center, the charitable foundation "Returning", and the Union of Belarusian Writers. It is awarded for a debut book to authors up to 35 years old for works in the genres in which Maksim Bahdanovic worked: poetry, prose, and literary translation. In 2017, the winners are Michal Baranouski (poetry), Andrus Horvat (prose), and Adela Dubaviec (literary translation).

The award named after Ciotka (Alajiza Paskievic) for the best book for children and teenagers was founded by the UBW, the Belarusian PEN center, and the charitable foundation "Returning" in 2015. The award is awarded in two nominations: for the best work for children and teenagers (irrespective of a literature kind - prose, poetry, dramatic art - to the author of an original Belarusian book) and for the best decorating of the book (the illustrator of the book). In 2017, the writer Uladzimir Arlou and the artist Paviel Tatarnikau were awarded for the book "Homeland - Colorful History".

The literary award named after Natalla Arsiennieva for the best poetic book was based in 2017 by the Orsa-Romano Culture and Education Foundation and the Charitable Foundation of the Association of the Belarusians in Great Britain. The co-founders of the award are the Union of Belarusian Writers, the Belarusian PEN center, and the IPS BWA «Backauscyna» («Homeland»).

Uladzimir Niaklajeu - the winner of the Natalla Arsiennieva Award.
Photo by Vika Trenas.



The "Golden Apostrophe" Literary Award for the best publication in the "Dziejaslou" magazine in 2017 was awarded for the 14th time. It was awarded to Kryscina Banduryna (debut), Valer Hapiejou (prose), and Michas Skobla (poetry).

The annual Belarusian-Ukrainian literary award "Soldier of Light" named after Michas Zyznieuski was based by the UBW and the National Union of Writers of Ukraine in the summer of 2015. In 2017, the winner is Michas Skobla for his essays book "Sarcophagi of Fear".



Photo by Vika Trenas.

Zmicier Bartosik, writer, winner of three awards in 2017:

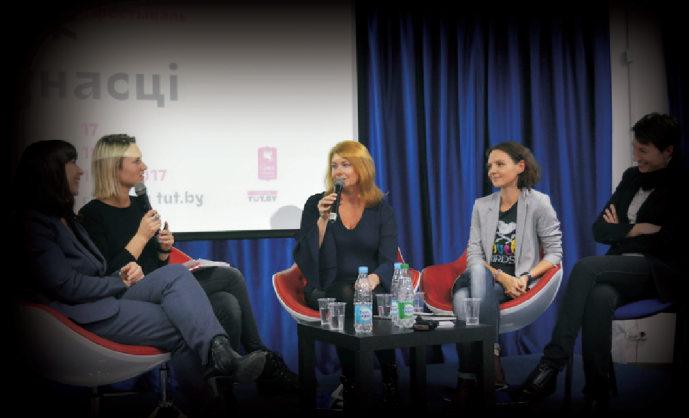
"If I say that literary awards are not the main thing for a real writer, it won't be something new. After all, books are written, of course, not for the sake of awards. Still, awards are a necessary thing. They spur people's interest. People who, thanks to these awards, find out that – as it appears - in Belarus there are authors! who write on such topics! Any award always draws attention of the mass media. Not a literary workshop, not an evening to the memory of a writer. But an award. And even a simple list of nominees spurs readers' appetite. And there must be more awards."

FESTIVALS

The annual **international poetic festival to the memory of Michas Stralcou "Poems On Asphalt"** was founded in 2012 by the UBW and the Belarusian PEN center. In different years, poets from Belarus, Germany, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine, Sweden, Finland, and Estonia were participants of this festival. Among traditional actions/events of the festival, there are poetic slams, literary readings, discussions, presentations of books and book series, musical performances, etc. In 2017, the festival was dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Michas Stralcou; it lasted three days on three platforms and united poets, translators, and musicians from Belarus, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Sweden, Ukraine, Poland, and Russia.

ВЕРШЫ
НА АСФАЛЬЦЕ

In 2017, the UBW founded the **literary festival "Sign of Equality"** aimed at actualizing the activity of the creators who are often pushed to the periphery of the Belarusian literary process. The three-day program of the festival suggested to address to the female presence in the present and the past of Belarusian literature and theater, to give Belarusian female writers a chance to share opinions, to voice the literary experience of regional authors, and to discuss features of the literary life outside the limits of the capital, as well as to view the basic ways of speaking about otherness in children's literature.



Participants of the festival "Sign of Equality": Heidi Marie Kriznik (Norway), Nadzieja Kandrusievic, Ulrika Karnborg (Sweden), Volha Hapieieva, Julija Cimafieieva. Photo by Vika Trenas.

Volha Hapieieva, poetess, translator, scientist, participant of the Sign Of Equality Festival:

"In spite of the fact that gender equality questions are mentioned more and more in the public sphere of our country, a lot of points of this sphere still remain little-known or are ignored absolutely. Therefore, the carrying-out of a separate festival, which would place emphasis on equality problems (not only those of a gender character), is a topical and necessary thing. I agreed with pleasure to carry out a discussion within the framework of the Sign Of Equality Festival, which Belarusian and foreign she-writers took part in. The problems discussed during this discussion showed that questions of discrimination of women in literature are still topical and that they concern Belarus, Norway, and Sweden. It would be good if this festival were annual."



The annual **literary-musical festival "Indian Summer" to the memory of Nina Macias** takes place in Bielaaziorsk (the Brest Voblast [Region]) where lived the well-known poetess, translator, public figure, foundress of the regional almanac "Chandelier" ["Zyrandola"], head of the Brest regional branch of the UBW. It is carried out in the local Palace of Culture and unites fans of Nina Macias' creativity, her friends and colleagues.



The festival to the memory of Nina Macias.
Photo by Vika Trenas.

Poetic readings to the memory of poetess Tacciana Sapac are carried out annually in the village of Markava, the Maladziecna Rajon [District], her native land.

The **Belarusan-Polish literary workshop "Biazmiezza"** is carried out annually in the Bialystok Region; it is organized by the creative intelligentsia of Podlachia: Jauhien Vapa, head of "Radio Racyja", the weekly journal "Niva" from Bialystok, and the UBW. Its three-day program includes literary readings, presentations of new books, discussions, musical performances, ceremonies of awarding winners of local literary contests for those who write in the Belarusian language.

The annual **poetic festival to the honor of Anatol Sys** is carried out in the poet's native village of Haroskau, the Recyca Rajon [District], and unites fans of poetry, his friends, and fans of his creativity.



The festival to the honor
of Anatol Sys.
Photo by Mikola Bianco.

YOUNG WRITERS' SCHOOL

The school has been working since 2012 as an informal educational project.

The work form: practical classes in prose with constant teachers, lectures and master classes of invited scientists and authors.

In 2017, the Young Writers' School was **attended by 20 new male and female students**. The contest was more than 4 people for a place (82 applications, 20 selected). For 5 years, more than 80 people studied at the YWS.

Following the results of each academic year, a collection of YWS graduates' works is published.



Classes at Young Writers' School.
Photo by Vika Trenas.



The fifth year of the Young Writers' School.
Photo by Vika Trenas.



Aramais Mirakyan, YWS graduate:

"The Young Writers' School has given me a lot of useful stuff - new acquaintances with people like me: creative, talented, and unusual. Also, theoretical knowledge and much practice, meetings with famous writers – too many to mention. The result is my debut in the periodical press..."

Photo by Vika Trenas.

CONTESTS

The annual **contest for young authors "Exlibris"** has a new topic every year. In 2017, the contest was named after Francysk Skaryna and dated to the 500th anniversary of Belarusian publishing; it was dedicated to translations into the Belarusian language. 5 young translators became winners of the contest.



Winners of the contest "Exlibris" 2017.
Photo by Nasta Hryscuk.

The **contest of young journalists named after Alexei Korol** was based by the newspaper "Novy Cas" with the assistance of the Union of Belarusian Writers in 2017. Diplomas were received by 8 authors. Next year, there will be a separate nomination for literary critics.



Winners of the contest named after Alexei Korol.
Photo by Vika Trenas.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Books From Belarus

The non-commercial project Books From Belarus (www.booksfrombelarus.net) is aimed at presenting and advancing the best works of contemporary Belarusian literature abroad, at building contacts with foreign publishing houses, and at promoting the translation of books into various languages. In 2017, Belarusian writers took part in book fairs in Bialystok, Lviv, and Frankfurt. Two books of prose by Alena Brava and Barys Piatrovic translated into the Polish language were published and presented in Bialystok. The translation of the book of essays by Tacciana Skarynkina received the award PEN Translates of the English PEN center. During the 6th Open Eurasian Book Forum and Literature Festival in Stockholm, Hanna Komar's debut poetic book "Fear of Height" from the UBW series "Starting Point" received the award named after Marzia Zakiryanava; it will be translated into English and published in Great Britain.



Belarusian and Ukrainian writers at the Publishers' Forum in Lviv.
Photo by Alaksandra Dvareckaia.

EWC

In the summer of 2017, Belarus was chosen to carry out the EWC – the General Assembly of the European Literary Council. The UBW is a member of the Council and will accept guests of honor. The event will happen in Minsk in June 2018.

LITERARY GRANTS

In 2017, the UBW announced the creation of the **grant named after Magdalena Radzivil for female writers and translators** and mentioned the names of those who received it.

The grant is given for creative work; it will be awarded once per year. The age of female authors nominated for it is not limited.

This year, it was given to Tacciana Barysik (Mahilou), Alena Brava (Barysau), and Darja Lis (Smarhon).



Laureates of the grant named after Magdalena Radzivil:

Alena Brava, Tacciana Barysik, Darja Lis.

Photo by Vika Trenas.

The creative grant to the **Writers' House on Gotland (Sweden) of the Swedish Union of Writers** is given by the Union of Belarusian Writers to four authors every year.

The **residence of young writers** is supported by the UBW, the Belarusian PEN center, and the Belarusian house of human rights in Vilnius.

The program allows creators up to 35 years old to live in the House of human rights in Vilnius for two weeks and to be engaged in literary work (poetry, prose, translations, criticism, etc.).

WORKSHOPS AND PROTECTION OF AUTHORS' RIGHTS

In order to increase authors' competences, in 2016-2017, the UBW together with the Kamunikat Library (www.kamunikat.org) organized a **series of lectures and workshops on copyright protection** in regional cities and Minsk.

The UBW lawyer Volha Siamaska conducted practical lessons for all who were interested in the basic rights of writers. Following the results of this series of lectures, we **prepared and published a book on copyrights** that has paper and electronic versions and can be downloaded free-of-charge on the UBW web-site lit-bel.org.



The organization's web-site has a separate section - "**About authors' rights**" dedicated to the corresponding subjects. There are our legal consultations. UBW members can ask their questions concerning the implementation and protection of their copyrights via email: law@lit-bel.org.

Volha Siamaska,
lawyer of the Union of Belarusian Writers:



"Possession of copyright basics is a sui generis engine that allows authors to offer their works to a wide circle of readers and to receive an adequate reward of their creative work or to refuse it. Ideally, the question "Is it possible to live exclusively thanks to the benefits of literary work?" should be answered in the affirmative.

UBW members want to know their own rights; therefore, every month there are questions concerning legal aspects of creation, distribution, and cession of rights to use literary works, as well as pictures, works of art, articles and interviews in the mass media."

GENDER EQUALITY



In February 2017, the series "Writers' Bookshop" issued a unique **anthology of female poetry of the interbellum** (1917-1941) "Lightning Strokes" compiled by Aksana Danilcyk and Viktar Zybul, UBW members, philologists-scientists. Thanks to this anthology, readers' wide circles, as well as researchers of literature, opened for the first time tens of names of forgotten poetesses of the 1920s-1930s.

The UBW Secretariat and management organized and carried out a one-day **workshop on gender equality** with participation of the expert in the field of gender from Sweden Vani Hermele. The workshop took place in Minsk at the UBW office on April, 21st, 2017.

Besides, we founded the **grant named after Magdalena Radzivil** for female writers and translators and carried out for the first time the three-day festival "Sign of Equality" dedicated to the discussion of gender problematics.

Alena Brava, author:

"An extremely important event for Belarusian authoresses and she-translators, I think, is that the UBW founded the grant named after Magdalena Radzivil. I'm proud that this year the Council of the grant headed by Svetlana Alexievich has chosen me to be one of three winners. It is known quite well that today it is more difficult for Belarusian penwomen than for men to implement and legitimize their right to creativity. Many talented girls, who began perfectly, stop writing because they have no time for literature – they have to work to earn some money; there are household chores that under our conditions remain mainly females' duty; all these do not allow them to concentrate, which is needed for writing. And when your ardent battle against household activities for the sake of life is evaluated and supported by well-known people, it is such a pleasure. You can allow yourself to concentrate on creative work - what else does the writer need? The grant named after Magdalena Radzivil will help our authoresses feel more free and enrich Belarusian literature with new poetry, prose, and translations."



THANKS

Our sincere gratitude to our partners:

International public society “Belarusans’ World Association «Backauscyna»” («Homeland»),
public cultural campaign “Budzma [Let’s Be] Belarusians!”,
Swedish Union of Writers,
Embassy of the Kingdom of Sweden to the Republic of Belarus,
European Literary Council,
Council of Association of Baltic Literary Unions,
Baltic center for writers and translators on Gotland,
Belarusan PEN center,
Embassy of the Lithuanian Republic to the Republic of Belarus,
Embassy of the Latvian Republic to the Republic of Belarus,
Poland’s Embassy to the Republic of Belarus,
Embassy of Ukraine to Belarus,
Embassy of Estonia to the Republic of Belarus,
Foundation of Literature and Art “Nioman”,
Charitable Foundation “Returning”,
Orsa-Romano Culture and Education Foundation and Charitable Foundation of
Association of Belarusians in Great Britain,
Union of Writers of Ukraine, Polish Institute in Minsk,
Goethe Institute in Minsk,
Office of European expertise and communication,
newspapers “Novy Cas” and “Niva”, “Radio Racyja”,
publishing houses “Knihazbor”, “Limarius”, and “Januskievic”.