**We Exist!**

You can’t erase us.

We exist.

Our memories are opulent –

with stories

from childhood tales

Ivasyk Telesyk, Lys Mykyta

with songs –

we still sing today

Nich yaka misyachna (What a Moonlit Night)

Chervona Ruta (Red Rue).

Beautifully decorated Easter eggs,

well-crafted pottery,

colourful embroideries.

Our histories, our cities,

towns, and churches

speak volumes

about the artistry

and culture of Ukraine.

The words of Lesia Ukrainka

and Taras Shevchenko

and countless other

poets and writers

present-day and

long-gone resonate.

They speak to

the power and the soul

of the people of Ukraine.

Some of us are far away from

the country of our heritage

but love and pride for our

motherland is strong.

Ukrainian blood courses

through our veins.

Bullies have tried

to erase us

many times before

but there’s a reason

Ukraine has been in existence

for over 1500 years.

Ukrainian power

is not abusive and bullying.

It’s not closed-minded and hateful.

Ukrainian power is strength

of soul, culture and artistry.

Strength of love,

faith, and people.

Once the cancer

that’s invaded us

is excised

we will continue

to survive and thrive

beyond another 1500 years.

We stand together,

and fight in the face of terror

for freedom of life,

faith, and humanity.

You can’t erase us.

We EXIST!