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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

Lazarenko, still under investigation, portrays himself as wronged party

by **Vasyl Zorya**

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV — National Deputy of Ukraine Pavlo Lazarenko, who was released on \$3 million bail by Swiss authorities and returned to Ukraine on December 21, has just begun his relationship with criminal investigators of the two countries.

Speaking at a press conference in Kyiv on December 22, Mr. Lazarenko said he had become convinced of the objectivity of Swiss justice. Of the 21 charges filed against him in a Geneva court, the former prime minister of Ukraine said 19 were dropped after presentations by his lawyers.

At the same time, however, Mr. Lazarenko said he does not trust officials of the Ukrainian judicial system and is demanding the appointment of an independent prosecutor to lead the investigation into his case in Ukraine.

Ukraine's Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko has asked the Verkhovna Rada to remove Mr. Lazarenko's immunity as a national deputy, which would pave the way for the arrest of the Hromada Party leader and the institution of criminal proceedings against him.

At a press conference on December 21, the procurator general claimed he has evidence on direct connections between

Christmas lights in Canadian capital extended until Jan. 8

OTTAWA — Christmas lights on Parliament Hill in the Canadian capital will remain lit until January 8 as a result of lobbying by ethnic communities that celebrate Christmas on January 7.

Sen. Raynell Andreychuk announced she is delighted that the Senate has displayed sensitivity to Canada's multicultural communities. She had raised the matter in the Senate in December.

"I want to express my appreciation to Sen. Al Graham, the leader of the government in the Senate, for his understanding of our multicultural communities and to the National Capital Commission for extending these illuminations," Sen. Andreychuk said.

Oksana Bashuk-Hepburn, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Ottawa Branch, who lobbied for the extension of the lights, said, "This is great news. We are impressed with the government's response. The blackout is over, the lights are shining. Merry Ukrainian Christmas, Canada."

Canadian multicultural communities,

(Continued on page 3)

Mr. Lazarenko and the theft of more than \$2 million (U.S.) from Ukraine's state budget. He added that he is certain further abuses will be uncovered by criminal investigators.

At the Verkhovna Rada the next day, Mr. Lazarenko presented his version of what has happened. He described his short-term arrest following a decision by a Swiss court as a personal humiliation orchestrated by the executive branch of power in Ukraine.

The real reason behind this scandal, Mr. Lazarenko stated, can be found in Ukrainian officials' attempts to discredit him before the 1999 presidential elections or, failing that, to physically destroy him before the elections. "Lazarenko is not needed on the eve of the presidential

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Russian Duma ratifies long-awaited treaty on friendship and cooperation with Ukraine

by **Pavel Polityuk**

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV — The government of Ukraine has welcomed Russia's ratification of a basic treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two former Soviet republics, saying it would improve bilateral relations.

Russia's State Duma, the lower house of Parliament, on December 25 ratified the long-stalled treaty with Ukraine despite political disagreements and worries that this Slavic neighbor is forming close ties with NATO.

After a heated debate, the Duma voted 243-30 to ratify the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership signed in May 1997 by Presidents Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine and Boris Yeltsin of Russia. The treaty had been ratified in January 1998 by

the Verkhovna Rada.

The reaction of officials in Kyiv was prompt, and positive.

"The ratification of the treaty is of extraordinary importance for relations between our two countries, because it has secured Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity," said Valerii Rylach, vice-chairman of the Russia department at Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Russia and Ukraine, together with Belarus, played a key role in dissolving the Soviet Union in December 1991, but bitter rows over trade, the Soviet-era Black Sea Fleet and the status of its naval base in Sevastopol, and the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine had soured bilateral relations.

President Kuchma welcomed the treaty's ratification. "The ratification is advantageous not only for Ukraine, but Russia as well," the Interfax-Ukraine news agency quoted the president as saying.

"We have made a big step toward each other, throwing away all that is unnecessary," the ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko as saying. "I think for many citizens of Ukraine and Russia a long-awaited dream has come true," he added.

But Ukrainian officials said Russian deputies had been delaying the ratification for too long, causing fears in Kyiv that relations between the two countries could be strained further.

"It is not good that our partner and neighbor delayed the ratification for so long," Mr. Rylach said.

Russian lawmakers had said they would be ready to approve the friendship treaty only after the Ukrainian side had ratified several agreements regarding the status of the former Soviet Black Sea Fleet.

A day before the friendship treaty was signed, Ukraine's and Russia's prime ministers had also signed several special documents that outline major principles of the Black Sea Fleet's division between two Black Sea countries.

According to the documents, the Russian fleet will be permitted to use several bases in the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol for the next 20 years, though the Constitution of Ukraine prohibits the basing of any foreign forces on Ukraine's territory.

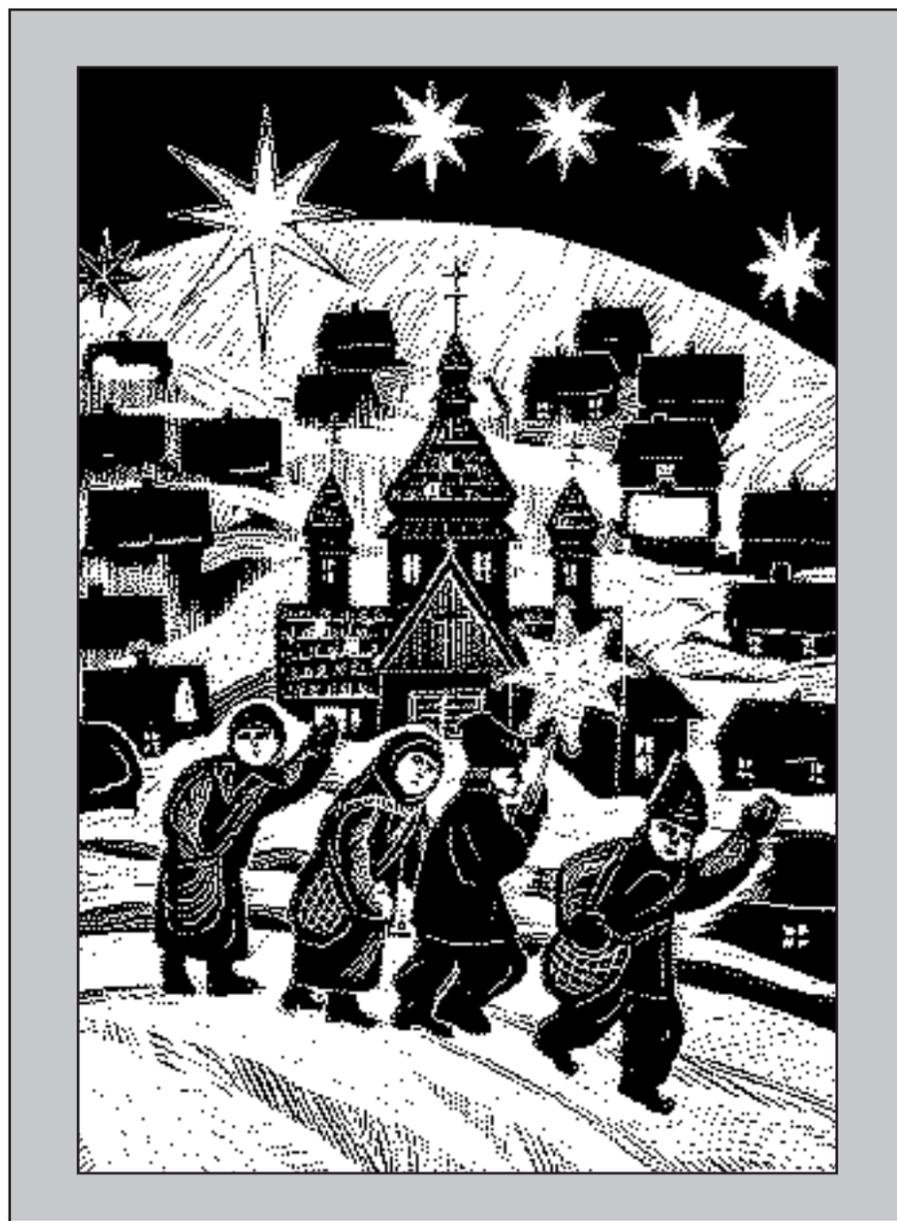
The Ukrainian Parliament had declined to approve the fleet agreements and this led Russian deputies to postpone ratification of the friendship treaty.

Russian nationalists have also questioned Ukraine's rights to the predominantly Russian-populated Crimean peninsula, a former province of Russia formally signed over to Ukraine in 1954 by then Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev.

Russia, which dreads the prospect of any ex-Soviet republic joining NATO, has also been alarmed by Ukraine's progress in ties

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CHRIST IS BORN — GLORIFY HIM!



"Happy Carolers" (1992), by Luba Maksymchuk, from a Christmas card published by the Ukrainian National Association.

ANALYSIS

Ukraine straddles the new divide

by Christopher Walker
RFE/RL Newsline

Despite internal weaknesses and a range of external challenges, Ukraine has registered a number of impressive foreign-policy achievements since gaining independence in 1991.

In order to do so, it has had to juggle demands, as a result of an unstable and unpredictable Russian Federation to the east, unsteady neighbors to the north and south (Belarus, Romania and Moldova), and the expanding NATO and European Union blocs to the west. Whether Ukraine will be able to maintain this level of performance in its foreign policy over the longer term remains to be seen.

While the external demands posed by its neighbors are substantial, Ukraine is equally threatened – in terms of its democratic development and stability – by its inability to settle its own domestic affairs.

In an effort to normalize regional relations, Ukraine has concluded several important agreements with neighboring countries. Those pacts include a Joint Statement on Mutual Reconciliation with Poland, a Treaty on Good Neighborly Relations and Cooperation with Romania, and, following a nearly four-year delay, a Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership with Russia.

At the same time, Ukraine has slowly cultivated closer relations with the West.

The NATO-Ukraine Charter on a Distinctive Partnership signed at the Madrid Summit in July 1997, established a new framework for NATO-Ukraine relations. Recognizing Ukraine's unique position in the region, the charter establishes a "distinctive partnership" between NATO

Christopher Walker is manager of programs at the European Journalism Network.

New "Z" vodka imported from Ukraine

WASHINGTON – Carter Andress, president of Drakon International Inc., announced recently that the United States Securities and Exchange Commission has qualified his company for investment in a new stock offering.

Zhitomirska Jubilee (Z Vodka) is the first Ukrainian vodka ever imported into the United States. Ranked the No. 1 vodka by the Wall Street Journal in the \$7 billion annual U.S. vodka market, Zhitomirska is created by master distiller Kristina Kiruk, winner of 17 gold and silver medals in Ukraine since 1991, as well as in the former Soviet Union, for her vodka. Ms. Kiruk draws upon more than 500 years of tradition in the distilling of vodka, which was invented and perfected in Ukraine.

Z Vodka, made with all-Ukrainian ingredients, is distilled five times with deep aquifer water from the Carpathian Mountains, the finest wheat available anywhere and subtly blended, by utilizing the classic "nastoika" technique with over 25 different herbs and spices to create the smoothest possible vodka.

A company news release notes: "Ukraine, the birthplace of vodka, deserves a place in the American super premium vodka market." Interested persons should contact Three Arrows Capital Corp. for a copy of the offering circular; call 1-888-286-1911 or visit: <http://www.Zvodka.com/>.

and Ukraine. The expansion of the alliance has been a difficult question for Ukraine, as Russia has made clear its opposition to further NATO expansion. While Russia continues to view NATO as a threat, Kyiv's position has shifted over the last several years. In July 1998, Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk said Ukraine sees NATO enlargement as a "process of expanding the area of stability and democracy."

It is not yet clear whether the majority of Ukrainians believe the potential benefits of greater cooperation with NATO – or possible future admission to the alliance – outweigh the costs. Russia's own instability and deviation from the path of democratization may provide Ukrainian leaders with further arguments for exploring still deeper relations with Western security alliances.

Thus, Ukraine is faced with the challenge of developing relations with the West without overly antagonizing Russia. Such antagonism would entail several risks, especially since Ukraine is still heavily reliant on Russian trade and energy resources.

Early last year, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma blamed Moscow for the poor state of Russian-Ukrainian relations, claiming that Russia's "biased, prejudiced attitude toward Ukraine has intensified." He added that Russia views Ukraine as a constituent part of the federation or at least as existing within the Russian sphere of influence.

With Ukraine moving more perceptibly toward closer relations with the West, it is not unreasonable to expect Russia's insecurities to intensify. Much of Russia's political elite has not accepted Ukraine's post-Soviet status as an independent, sovereign state. Of all the former republics, the loss of Ukraine, has arguably been the most difficult for Russians to swallow.

The issue of ethnic Russians in Ukraine is of potential concern. Post-Soviet Russia is a nation-state that has 25 million ethnic Russians outside its borders – 11 million of whom live in Ukraine. The treatment of ethnic Russians in the former republics has been a controversial issue for Russian nationalists. Ukraine's leadership has wisely refrained from pushing too hard on issues that could prompt a reaction from ethnic Russians in Ukraine or be used as a pretext by Russian nationalists looking to stir the ethnic pot. In Crimea, where ethnic Russians are in the majority, the threat of unrest is greatest.

In general, Ukrainian-Russian discussions of such thorny issues as the payment of outstanding debts, the negotiation of energy agreements and questions of European security, have been quite tough and often heated but have never slid out of control. However, Russia's internal situation is fluid and volatile, as is Ukraine's. And neighboring Belarus, which has distinguished itself by demonstrating belligerence in international relations, might complicate Ukraine's relationship with Russia, not to mention the entire regional security order.

Unlike Belarus, whose main foreign-policy objective has been to pursue a rather flimsy union arrangement with Russia, Ukraine has seized opportunities to settle territorial claims and to otherwise ameliorate differences with its neighbors. Its pre-1991 role as the westernmost tenant of the former Soviet Union has been transformed into that of eastern-most flank of the still evolving new Europe. As a result, Ukraine is faced with a wide range of responsibilities. Considering the relative immaturity and fragility of the Ukrainian state, Kyiv has so far handled this challenge with considerable dexterity.

NEWSBRIEFS

Duma ratifies Russian-Ukrainian treaty

MOSCOW – By a vote of 244 to 30, the lower house of the Russian Parliament on December 25 ratified the Russian-Ukrainian Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership that had been signed in Kyiv in May 1997. Officials in both capitals greeted the move, with Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Igor Ivanov saying that the Duma's ratification of this treaty and the accord with Belarus "will become a step toward the unification of the three Slavic nations." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Nationalists demand Tkachenko's ouster.

KYIV – Ten nationalist parties on December 21 demanded that Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko be sacked for appealing during his trip last week to Moscow that Ukraine integrate with Russia, ITAR-TASS reported. Mr. Tkachenko said in Moscow that Ukraine must integrate more closely with Russia by creating a "common defense doctrine and economic space" and sharing a "single currency." Mr. Tkachenko told journalists in Kyiv on December 21 that when he was in Moscow he was expressing the Ukrainian Parliament's point of view, not only his own. "I express my opinions as head of the Verkhovna Rada, as a state official. I have said some time ago that I am not the first [ranking official], but neither am I the second," Ukrainian Television quoted him as saying. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yeltsin, Lukashenka sign new "union" ...

MOSCOW – Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka on December 25 signed a series of agreements that they said pointed toward a new "union of Russia and Belarus," Russian agencies reported. The documents call for a staged integration of the economic and political systems of the two countries over the next year, public discussion and a possible referendum on union, and opportunities for citizens of each country to participate in the political life of the other. (RFE/RL Newsline)

... but many uncertain of its meaning

MOSCOW – Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka suggested that the Russian-Belarusian accords pointed to a rapid reunification of the two former Soviet republics, a position supported by Russian Communist Party chief Gennadii Zyuganov. But other Russian officials were much more cautious. Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Igor Ivanov noted that the documents signed were "a declaration, not a treaty of further unification." And President

Boris Yeltsin's own spokesman Dmitrii Yakushkin said that no one was talking about a single army or a single budget for the two, still sovereign states. But CIS Executive Secretary Boris Berezovskii suggested the new agreements ended what he said was an "unnatural" relationship between Russia and Belarus and could be adopted by other former Soviet republics as well. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Lukashenka dwells on future union

MIENSK – During a live two-hour television appearance on December 27, President Alyaksandr Lukashenka presented his vision of the Belarus-Russia Union. He said the union should have supranational power and administration bodies, including a legislative body and a government. Mr. Lukashenka insisted that the two countries "will remain sovereign states," but that the union leadership should be empowered with such functions as the coordination of foreign policy, defense, customs service and border troops. He added that privatization should be carried out independently by each union state. He did not rule out a common president "if a presidential form of government is chosen"; at the same time he denied reports that he is preparing to run for the Russian presidency. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Belarusian opposition protests union

MIENSK – Police arrested some 10 demonstrators in Miensk on December 25 during an opposition protest against the Belarus-Russia declaration on a single union state signed by Presidents Alyaksandr Lukashenka and Boris Yeltsin in Moscow the same day, Reuters and RFE/RL's Belarusian Service reported. The demonstrators, who carried white-red-white flags, paralyzed traffic in the center of the Belarusian capital for some 15 minutes. Two protesters have been hospitalized after their arrest. Meanwhile, Stanislau Shushkevich, Mechyslau Hryb and Syamyon Sharetski, three former speakers of the Supreme Soviet dissolved by President Lukashenka in 1996, denounced the signing of the union declaration as a "crime against the Belarusian nation." They said that "Lukashenka is afraid of free elections. That is why he is going to surrender our country's independence, in the hope of acquiring supreme power in the united state." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Fewer Ukrainians, and less healthy, too

KYIV – In seven years of independence, the population of Ukraine has decreased by almost 2 million. According to the Ministry

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Justice Minister clears Galicia Division

TORONTO – Minister of Justice and Attorney General Anne McLellan has confirmed that Ottawa has not uncovered any evidence that would allow for the commencement of court proceedings against any member of the Ukrainian Galicia Division.

This finding confirms the conclusions reached by the Justice Jules Deschenes whose Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals likewise concluded that mere membership in the Galicia Division was insufficient to justify prosecution and no revocation of citizenship case could be made against individuals based on their membership since the government of the day was fully aware of that membership.

Responding to a letter from the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Minister McLellan wrote:

"... over a number of years the War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity Section of the Department of Justice has, in conjunction with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, investigated allegations against individual members of the Division. In particular, all archival and investigative records of relevance in Eastern Europe have been reviewed since the collapse of the former Soviet Union.

"My officials advise me that while the Waffen SS was primarily made up of combat troops, there were a number of occasions on which individual units of the Waffen SS were directly involved in war crimes or crimes against humanity.

Particular attention has been paid to identify any specific individuals who may have had involvement in police units or other German-controlled organizations prior to joining the Division. The evidence we have been able to uncover is insufficient to merit the commencement of court proceedings against any members of the Division."

UCCLA Chairman John J.B. Gregorovich commented: "We trust this will bring to a close media reports about the alleged presence of thousands of Nazi war criminals hiding in Canada. These unfounded allegations were made before the Deschenes Commission and were found to be 'grossly exaggerated.' Ever since, however, the persons who originally made those claims have been molly-coddled by the media, which has continued to report the same old allegations as if they were proven fact, instead of fantasy.

"The minister's letter confirms that no member of the Ukrainian Division Galicia can be prosecuted for a war crime or crime against humanity since no evidence of any such crime exists, as we have said all along.

"If Ottawa has compelling evidence that proves that a person is guilty of a war crime let them make their case in a Canadian criminal court. We support that. We do not support trial by media or the less rigorous denaturalization and deportation procedures that the government retreated to after discovering that there is no hard evidence confirming the existence of any Nazi war criminals in Canada."

Russian Duma ratifies...

(Continued from page 1)

with the Western alliance.

"Ukraine does not now have a plan to join the alliance, but we are an independent country and we have full rights to form our own foreign relationships with any country or organization," Mr. Rylach said.

Members of Communist factions in both the Ukrainian and Russian Parliaments were extremely pleased about the ratification. Russian Communists in the Duma called the ratification a "new stage in the development of Russo-Ukrainian relations."

In a statement issued on December 28, the Duma's Communist faction said the ratified treaty will create favorable opportunities for the development of cooperation on the basis of the economic, defense, scientific, technical and cultural potential accumulated by the people of the two countries.

At the same time, however, Russian Communists urged the Ukrainian

Parliament to do everything necessary to create conditions for the normal functioning of Russia's Black Sea Fleet on Ukrainian territory, and to ensure the rights and cultural and humanitarian needs of ethnic Russians.

Independent analysts in Ukraine said the months-long delay in the treaty's ratification showed that Moscow still wanted to dominate the bilateral relationship.

"Russia ratified the treaty, but a year after Ukraine did so, demonstrating to Kyiv that the treaty is more important for Ukraine than to Russia," commented Serhii Naboka of the Respublika news service.

Mr. Naboka also said Russia had agreed to ratify the bilateral friendship treaty only after Kyiv promised to join the Russian-led Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"I am sure nothing will change for Ukraine after the ratification, but, unfortunately, we again have showed Russia that Ukraine is dependent on its northern neighbor," said Mr. Naboka.

Christmas lights...

(Continued from page 1)

including the Ukrainian, Armenian, Serbian, Coptic and other members of the Eastern Catholic and Orthodox communities, celebrate Christmas according to the Julian calendar. A number of individuals had made representations asking that the Christmas lights display schedule on Parliament Hill be adjusted to reflect their celebrations of this key religious and family holiday.

"The communities have made a massive contribution to Canada and possess a natural desire to feel a part of Canada. In turn, Canada has displayed the courtesy and sensitivity to the fact that they celebrate Christmas on different dates and through the Christmas Lights Program has recognized this reality," Sen. Andreychuk added.

A news release from the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association noted that, acting on the initiative of Member of Parliament Sarkis Assadourian, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the UCCLA and individuals in the community wrote to

the National Capital Commission to recommend that the Christmas lights on Parliament Hill remain lit until at least January 8. Support for this initiative also came from supporters of the community, like the MP for Kingston and the Islands, Peter Milliken, who is deputy speaker of the House of Commons.

On December 10, 1998, Jaap Schouten, vice-president of the NCC's National Programming and Marketing Branch, informed Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk of the UCCLA that this year the Parliament Hill display will be the last site to have its lights dismantled. In coming years, he noted, the NCC will "take good note" of the suggestion of extending the illumination dates of the program, which "many people have requested."

The UCCLA urged community members to add their voices to requests that the Christmas Lights Program on Parliament Hill be permanently extended until January 8 each year by writing to: National Capital Commission, 202-40 Elgin St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 1C7.

Lazarenko, still...

(Continued from page 1)

elections," he said.

The Hromada leader warned his political opponents, "There won't be any winners in this war."

"Lazarenko, unfortunately, is not an angel; that is the truth. But all this does not in any way compare to the circles surrounding today's president," he stated. That is why Mr. Lazarenko said he is asking the Verkhovna Rada to pass a bill appointing an independent prosecutor; a draft proposal to that effect has already been prepared by his lawyers. Mr. Lazarenko also said he isn't going to leave Ukraine under any circumstances.

For a year and a half, the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine has been investigating the activities of the former prime minister. However, no charges could be brought against Mr. Lazarenko because of his deputy's immunity. The prosecutors have had the support and encouragement of the presidential administration and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

At present, Ukrainian investigators accuse Mr. Lazarenko of abuse of power during his tenure as prime minister, opening accounts in banks outside of Ukraine and illegally depositing 4.4 million Swiss francs and more than \$1 million U.S. If found guilty Mr. Lazarenko could face 15 years of imprisonment.

The definitive decision in this situation is the Ukrainian Parliament's. However, political observers say the Verkhovna Rada is unlikely to grant the procurator general's requests in the Lazarenko case. All the members of Parliament enjoy immunity from prosecution and many have kept their mandates because of solidarity within the Verkhovna Rada. Stripping one national

deputy of immunity could also mean the beginning of a long-term procedure whereby an amendment to the Ukrainian Constitution is submitted for the deputies' consideration.

But, if even a vote on the immunity issue does take place, that Mr. Lazarenko would face prosecution is far from certain. Pro-presidential deputies would support the institution of criminal proceedings against Mr. Lazarenko, but Hromada deputies would definitely protest. Thus, the deciding votes may belong to Communists. The former prime minister, it should be noted, has repeatedly demonstrated his sympathy with voters of the left.

In his public statements Mr. Lazarenko continues to underline that he is ready at any given time to voluntarily decline his deputy's immunity, but with one condition: the president and his advisers have to relinquish their own immunity and stand ready to take responsibility for some of their actions.

Representatives of the Procurator General's Office are continuing to decline comment regarding accusations of abuse of power by high-ranking officials of the current presidential administration. Investigators also have gotten no response to questions about whether President Kuchma knew about his prime minister's business activities two years ago.

Citing their leader's quick return to Ukrainian society, Hromada members paint a picture of Mr. Lazarenko as a wronged opposition leader.

Meanwhile, President Kuchma, in commenting on Mr. Lazarenko's accusation that he is involved in his former prime minister's arrest, said, "Law enforcement agencies exist for that. ... if Lazarenko really had any incriminating materials [against me], he would have used them 10 times already."

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

20,000 fictitious firms are uncovered

KYIV – The State Tax Administration has uncovered 20,000 fictitious foreign trade structures. According to STA head Mykola Azarov, a total of 2.5 billion hrv was not returned to Ukraine during the first 10 months of 1998. He said that the number of shadow bodies uncovered was only a tenth of the actual number. Mr. Azarov also reported that currency exchange points received a total of 20.75 billion hrv during 1998, but as of October 1 they had reported the use of only 405 million hrv. During the first 10 months of 1998, small and medium businesses paid 178 million hrv in taxes. (Eastern Economist)

Tax incentives in place for innovative companies

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 1, 1998, amended the law on taxation to introduce an investment tax incentive. The incentive takes the form of a delay in payment of company profit tax. It is available to businesses that aim at increasing their financial resources to implement innovative programs. Further incentives in the form of favorable tax terms on increased profits resulting from implementation of the innovations also are scheduled. (Eastern Economist)

New electronic locks made in Ukraine

ODESA – Serhii Popov, chair of CLS, on November 9, 1998, presented its latest product, the Cassette Lock System, a mechanical door lock operated with a plastic card the size of a credit card. The lock is the first of its kind in the world. Patented in Ukraine, Europe and the U.S., all components, except the plastic cards themselves, are produced in Ukraine. (Eastern Economist)

Viagra gets clearance in Ukraine

KYIV – Ukraine became the 71st country in the world to officially approve the sale of Viagra anti-impotence tablets, it was announced on December 9, 1998. According to official statistics, out of 26 million men in Ukraine, 1.7 million suffer from impotence. The scientists behind the drug received a Nobel Prize for their efforts. The black market price of one Viagra pill in the West is around \$10 (U.S.) (Eastern Economist)

Computer giant to manufacture in Ukraine

KYIV – Universal Trading Corp. on December 10, 1998, announced plans to start manufacturing computers in Ukraine. According to UniTrade's Volodymyr Kolodiuk, the firm will produce both personal computers and professional workstations. The company was founded in 1993 and has 20 regional offices and 50 dealerships all over Ukraine. (Eastern Economist)

Hartford banquet recognizes staunch supporters of CCRF

HARTFORD, Conn. – Over 250 supporters and activists from across Connecticut packed the banquet hall at the Ukrainian National Home here recently to honor several individuals who had made outstanding contributions to the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund.

Among the honorees was Toby Moffett, a former congressman from Connecticut who helped the CCRF secure over \$400,000 in funds from the Monsanto Co. and \$300,000 of high-quality antibiotics from Monsanto's subsidiaries, Searle Pharmaceuticals and Nutrasweet-Kelco.

Also honored were Canton, Conn., residents Louis and Judi Friedman, who have helped raise thousands of dollars for the CCRF by hosting benefit concerts in their home, and by helping to build coalitions between the CCRF and various corporate and grassroots organizations.

The CCRF also honored Hartford's Fox-61 television news journalists Shelly Sindland and Paul Quimby, who traveled to Ukraine last fall to produce an award-winning four-part series on the aftermath of Chernobyl. The series won several Emmy nominations and has already won a national award for artistic merit from the Society of Professional Journalists.

The dinner drew activists from many cities and towns across Connecticut, including Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, New Britain, Willimantic, Colchester, Terryville and Glastonbury.

Among the dignitaries who attended the Hartford banquet were the mayor of Wethersfield, Wayne Sassano, and one of Connecticut's congressmen, Rep. Sam Gejdenson, who was introduced by his long-time friend Orest Dubno, chairman of the CCRF's board of directors.

The CCRF has received strong support from Willimantic and Colchester, two small Ukrainian communities in Rep. Gejdenson's district that had raised more than \$10,000 for a medical shipment to Luhansk. Rep. Gejdenson, whose forefathers emigrated from Belarus and Lithuania, told the crowd that he is proud of his immigrant roots. Speaking from experience as a member of the House Foreign Relations Committee, Rep. Gejdenson said that relief efforts initiated by ethnic communities, such as those launched by the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, have had a tremendously positive effect on U.S. foreign policy as they strengthen ties between the American people and other nations seeking to overcome the legacy of communism.

In accepting his award, Mr. Friedman praised the CCRF as a "remarkable organization" that deserves the support of all Americans not only those with direct ties to Ukraine. He urged the audience to reach out beyond the Ukrainian American community, to people who would care more about Chernobyl and its victims, if they were more informed about the disaster's long-term aftermath. He stressed the vital importance of coalition-building and media outreach.

The September 27, 1998, dinner received coverage in the Hartford Courant and on Fox-61 News. As a press coordinator for Connecticut-based environmental organizations, Mr. Friedman had helped to secure dozens of favorable news stories on

Ukraine and the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund.

"This is very hard work," said Mr. Friedman, who had organized numerous fact-finding missions for American environmentalists and business developers seeking to build ties with Ukrainian entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations. "It's lonely being out front on these issues, taking risks and confronting the pain and poverty of countries like Ukraine. All of us have to acknowledge this fact. But we cannot let ourselves become discouraged ... we must focus on each glimmer of hope ..."

Echoing her husband's sentiments, Ms. Friedman stirred many in the audience to tears when she said: "That spring of 1986 is scorched into the walls of our collective memory ... for the children are all our children ... We are one human family, and part of our future has been stolen."

She added "Chernobyl has spoken to my soul and with all my mind, all my heart, all my spirit and all my energy, I will work to prevent another Chernobyl."

At the conclusion of the program, CCRF Executive Director Nadia Matkiwsky also presented a special award to Stephanie Pryshlak, the founder of the Hartford chapter of the CCRF and one of its most effective organizers. Mrs. Matkiwsky called Mrs. Pryshlak "the moving spirit" and the "motivational catalyst" of the Hartford Chapter, which was named "Outstanding Chapter of the Year" during CCRF's 1997 convention. "Though soft-spoken and modest, Stepha has always been fiercely devoted to her family, her community, and to the future of Ukraine" said Mrs. Matkiwsky. "She is a fighter who believes that when the health and safety of children are at stake, failure is not an option."

As the program came to a close, several supporters of the CCRF stepped forward to pledge substantial donations to support the foundation's 20th humanitarian airlift which was completed in the fall. The first, Ivan Zakoworotny of Winsted, Conn., pledged \$11,000 to purchase a transport incubator for the Vinnytsia Regional Children's Hospital. Other major donors included Irene Chaikovsky, who donated \$5,000; Anton Ferenc – \$2,000; Lydia Ficalowich; the estate of Wasyl Lekanka; Michael and Halyna Shulewsky; the Ukrainian National Home of New Haven and an anonymous contributor from Colchester – \$1,000 each. The Hartford fund-raiser has already raised over \$35,000 and additional donations are still coming in.

The president of CCRF's Hartford chapter, Nadia Haftkowycz, expressed her thanks and congratulations to all the volunteers and contributors who helped to make the dinner successful: master of ceremonies Lana Babij; members of the organizing committee Eugene Babij, Wanda Baxer, Luda Chmeliwsky, Ulana Hryn, Irene Krasij, photographer Borys Krupa, Orest and Oksana Kuzma, press coordinator Mike Matiash, Julie Nesteruk, Andriy Rudko, Ihor and Natalia Rudko, Halyna Shulewsky, Inna Stachiw and Eugene Syrotiuk.

Those interested in contributing to this humanitarian mission are urged to write to: Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, 272 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, NJ 07078.

Washington shrine set to begin final stages of construction in 1999

WASHINGTON – The Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family is set to begin the final stages of construction in early 1999. This timetable will meet the goal of completing the shrine for the year 2000.

Throughout the years numerous benefactors, both individuals and groups, have sustained the dream of a national shrine through their generous contributions. The Rev. Thaddeus Krawchuk, who recently returned to head the shrine, said he is very grateful to all who have sacrificed to make the shrine a reality. He noted that the supporters are building a fitting symbol of the Ukrainian Catholic faith in the nation's capital, thereby emphasizing the strength of our community and the role of Ukrainian Americans in American society.

In addition, the shrine is a symbol of the unity and sanctity of the family and its central role in the Christian faith during these troubled times. This distinguishes the shrine as the only national shrine in the United States dedicated to the Holy Family. "As such, we have a unique role," claimed the Rev. Krawchuk. "We serve as a reminder of the importance of family life in Ukrainian culture and the sanctity of life. We are also a beacon to all Catholic faithful for devotion to the Holy Family and the values, strength and spirituality that it symbolizes."

The importance of the shrine was noted by Pope John Paul II when he blessed the cornerstone in 1979. Furthermore, the Pope John Paul II Center will be located just a few steps from the shrine.

"We are at an important juncture," said the Rev. Krawchuk. "We can rightly take

our place in the Catholic faith with a national shrine that emphasizes our unique cultural roots and traditions, and yet stands as a fitting symbol to all of the importance of the role and spirituality of the Holy Family. I know that our benefactors have been generous in the past, and I am very grateful for that support. But I ask that you extend your support at this crucial time and help us fulfill this dream for ourselves, our children, and our faith."

The Rev. Krawchuk noted that the shrine is not only a spiritual center but is fast becoming a cultural magnet. Over the past year, the Dumka Choir of New York appeared at the shrine and the shrine hosted a major photo exhibit on Ukraine. On December 11 Marlin Fitzwater, former press spokesman to Presidents George Bush and Ronald Reagan, spoke at the shrine.

"These activities show that the shrine is quickly taking its place as a leading cultural center for Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian events," noted the Rev. Krawchuk. "In this manner the shrine is helping to broaden awareness of the Ukrainian faith and culture. This is important for all Ukrainians throughout the United States and beyond and is one of the reasons the shrine should be supported," he added.

Donations to help in the final stages of construction of the national shrine can be mailed to: Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family Building Fund, 4250 Harewood Road NE, Washington, DC 20017-1594. The Rev. Krawchuk noted that all donors will be remembered in the shrine's prayers.

New Ukrainian Catholic church is dedicated in Georgia city

by Tony Jatcko

CONYERS, Ga. – The new Mother of God Catholic Church of the Byzantine Ukrainian Rite, the fruit of many long hours of work and prayer by Msgr. John Stevensky and his congregation during the long hot Georgia summer of 1998 – was dedicated here on October 11, 1998. Bishop Robert Moskal, Msgr. Tom Sayuk and Deacon Mike Levy joined the Rev. Stevensky and his congregation on a beautiful fall Sunday morning, and performed the dedication rite witnessed by over 3,000 attendees.

The date for the dedication was chosen to coincide with the annual pilgrimage of more than 200,000 faithful from around the world to a site nearby where an apparition of the Blessed Mother of God was expected.

Morning and evening divine liturgies conducted at the new church were attended by tens of thousands of visiting pilgrims. A special outdoor covered platform and altar were constructed to accommodate the crowds for the liturgies, while a continuous flow of visitors came to pray and admire the new church.

The dedication rite began with a procession from the new church, the interior of which was recently adorned with a display of the art and icons of the renowned iconist Mila Nina, assisted by the Rev. Basil Krainiak.

Bishop Moskal and his procession were met at the outdoor altar and welcomed with traditional gifts of bread and salt to begin the ceremony. A bouquet of roses was presented and a welcoming poem was recited by two students, Andrew Pfundstein and Steven Luong of the Mother of God Learning Center, which was recently established adjacent to the church.

"We are very pleased to be blessed by the establishment of the new Mother of God Parish for our faith-community here in the Atlanta area," said Tony Jatcko, a representative of the parish community. "We are also blessed by the presence of a fine priest like Msgr. John, Sister Cecelia Sworin, [SSMI] and Sister Evelyn Stock [SSMI] to lead us in our spirituality within the Eastern Rite doctrines," he added.

Bishop Moskal began the dedication ceremony by leading his group of concelebrants into the church for anointing and blessings. The Revs. Omar Huesca, Basil Krainiak, Msgr. Sayuk, Deacon Mike Levy and Msgr. Stevensky assisted Bishop Moskal in a very beautiful outdoor divine liturgy. Sister Cecelia led the congregation choir and as the crowd joined in the divine liturgy was heard afar.

After the liturgy, members of the congregation hosted a brunch reception in the rectory for Bishop Moskal and visiting clergy.

"I sincerely thank Bishop Moskal and my fellow priests for being with us to bless our new church this fine morning," said the Rev. Stevensky. "I also especially want to thank my new faith-community for doing the impossible to prepare this dedication and assure them all that God has to be with us to bless us as He has."

"And I would also like to thank the many pilgrims who have visited, and continue to visit, us here," he added. "We are blessed with an outstanding Center of Spirituality right next door, by merit of the apparition site of our Blessed Mother as well as the Monastery of the Holy Spirit, that are both an attraction for many Christians." Combining this now with our new Catholic parish, Mother of God, makes for a complete spiritual journey for our visitors," he noted.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Home Office tabulates November organizing results

by Maria Oscislowski
Organizing Department

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – During the month of November 1998, 62 new members insured for \$675,224 were enrolled into the Ukrainian National Association. These organizing achievements are the result of the work of 26 branch secretaries, five branch organizers and four professional salespersons.

The top organizer for the month was Andrij Skyba, secretary of Branch 399, who enrolled 10 new members insured for \$187,000.

In second place was newly elected UNA Auditor Yaroslav Zaviysky, secretary of Branch 155, who signed up three new members insured for \$30,000.

Five UNA activists enrolled two new members each: Advisor Tekla Moroz, secretary of Branch 465 (\$6,000 of insurance); Advisor Eugene Oscislowski, secretary of Branch 234 (\$25,000), Advisor Andre Worobec, secretary of Branch 76 (\$16,224), Michael Turko, secretary of Branch 63 (\$10,000), and Petro Zaluha, secretary of Branch 183 (\$13,000).

Twenty three other UNA activists signed up one member each during the month of November.

Organizing results for the first 11 months of 1998 indicate that the top branch organizer is Mr. Oscislowski with 34 members insured for \$737,455, while Mr. Skyba is in second place with 28 members insured for \$441,000, and Mr. Worobec is in third with 21 members insured for \$283,795.

The most popular insurance policies sold in November were: term, 19; whole life, 13; 20-payment life, nine; universal life, six; and endowment certificates (E-18, E-20 and E-65), 14. The total amount of dues brought in during November was \$15,678.37.

The 1998 quota for new members (with 1,250 set as the goal) was filled by 58 percent as of the end of November. Three UNA districts, Woonsocket, R.I., Northern New Jersey and Boston, had reached or surpassed their annual quotas, respectively by 110, 109 and 100 percent. The Albany and Connecticut districts are close to meeting their quotas with 89 and 90 percent fulfillment, respectively.

Introducing our new branch secretaries

by Martha Lysko
UNA National Secretary

Joyce Kotch: Branch 39 in Syracuse has the good fortune to have not only a new secretary, but a person who is a very active and exceptional organizer. In spite of the fact that she took over this branch only last February, she has already signed up 11 new members through October for total insurance coverage of \$109,000. Mrs. Kotch is a teacher of religion. She is the head of the Prayer Ministry at St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Syracuse, N.Y., and belongs to many church organizations. The Rev. Deacon Myron Kotch and Mrs. Kotch are the proud parents of three grown daughters. In order to keep current with UNA activities, both took part in Soyuzivka training sessions. We would like to express our thanks and wish Mrs. Kotch even greater success in months to come.



Gloria Horbaty: In February of this year Mrs. Horbaty assumed the secretarial responsibilities in Branch 414 in Connecticut. During the initial months of her tenure she was busy acquainting herself with the UNA, branch activities and branch membership. Before long, however, she was actively recruiting new members. Together with her husband, Donald, she participated in the training courses for new secretaries offered in August at Soyuzivka. Thus far, Mrs. Horbaty has recruited five new members for a total of \$62,000 in insurance. Given her active involvement in community activities, we expect that the months to come will prove even more fruitful. She is actively involved in St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Ukrainian Day Festival in Connecticut, the Ukrainian Heritage Committee and the Committee of Ethnic Archives in New Haven. Our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to Mrs. Horbaty on the success already achieved.

RECORDING DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP REPORT – OCTOBER 1998

Martha Lysko, National Secretary

	JUV.	ADULTS	ADD	TOTALS
Total Active Members – September 1998	8,005	17,372	4,387	29,764
Total Inactive Members – September 1998	7,419	17,965	0	25,384
Total Members – September 1998	15,424	35,337	4,387	55,148

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in October 1998

New members	20	44	0	64
New members UL	1	15	0	16
Canadian NP	2	2	0	4
Reinstated	0	1	1	2
Transferred in	2	6	2	10
Change class in	4	4	0	8
Transferred from Juvenile Dept.	0	0	0	0
Total Gains:	29	72	3	104

Losses in October 1998

Suspended	19	29	15	63
Transferred out	2	6	2	10
Change of class out	4	4	0	8
Transferred to adult	0	0	0	0
Died	2	79	0	81
Cash surrender	19	34	0	53
Endowment matured	19	17	0	36
Fully paid-up	11	24	0	35
Reduced paid-up	0	0	0	0
Extended Insurance	0	0	0	0
Certificate terminated	1	1	5	7
Total Losses	77	194	22	293
Total Active Members – October 1998	7,957	17,250	4,368	29,575

INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Gains in October 1998

Paid-up	11	24	0	35
Extended insurance	10	16	0	26
Lapsed	9	13	0	22
Total Gains	30	53	0	83

Losses in October 1998

Died	2	38	0	40
Cash surrender	18	19	0	37
Reinstated	0	1	0	1
Lapsed	9	13	0	22
Total Losses	29	71	0	100
Total Inactive Members – October 1998	7,420	17,947	0	25,367

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – October 1998	15,377	35,197	4,368	54,942
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Our new pioneers: notable branch organizers

by Martha Lysko
UNA National Secretary

Lubov Streletsky: The new secretary of UNA Branch 10 in Philadelphia, Mrs. Streletsky, has achieved exceptional success in organizing new members this year. Through October she has enlisted 14 new members for insurance coverage of \$92,000, although she has been the branch secretary for only two years. She is actively involved in the Ukrainian Baptist Church and with the immigrant aid committee affiliated with this church. Mrs. Streletsky and her husband, Basil, have two lovely children, Nadia and Alexander. We congratulate Mrs. Streletsky on her success, and hope and expect greater achievements in the future. May she join the ranks of the top three organizers for the year 1998.



Attention, Students!

Throughout the year Ukrainian student clubs plan and hold activities. The Ukrainian Weekly urges students to let us and the Ukrainian community know about upcoming events.

The Weekly will be happy to help you publicize them. We will also be glad to print timely news stories about events that have already taken place. Photos also will be accepted.

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD.

Need a back issue?

If you'd like to obtain a back issue of The Ukrainian Weekly, send \$2 per copy (first-class postage included) to: Administration, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The sacred and the profane

So it's here: The Weekly's first issue of the final year of this decade, this century, the last of this millennium - 1999. Soon we will all get into the habit of at first correcting mis-dated checks and then filling in blanks on applications and forms with this odd number. It seems as though it should be a special year - a memorable and dramatic year - given that it is the last, yet it seems to be off to a less-than-cheerful start.

As members of our community continue to celebrate the holy days of the Nativity of Christ and the Epiphany, the secular world pushes in: unrest in the Middle East with Iraq and Hussein, as well as a no-confidence vote in the government in Israel; a dreadfully harsh winter in Eastern Europe, coupled with calamities such as floods, as well as an almost total economic meltdown in Russia resulting in energy and food shortages, and increasingly frequent reports of deaths among orphans and pensioners from cold and malnutrition; never-ending bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia; and despite economic stability in the U.S., the possibility of an impeachment trial of the president.

In Ukraine, which is only slightly better off economically than Russia, the political posturing on the part of the elected and appointed leadership is reaching new lows of irresponsibility. When people lament the return of the "Communists" - in many ways, what they are referring to is not necessarily the return of the political party, but the more insidious aspects of Soviet mentality and methods that never really disappeared. Only the rhetoric and trappings of ideology slipped away. But the concentration of power in the hands of a few (and the consequent corruption); arrogant demands from the heads of factories and collective farms for obsequious supplication (modern-day "dannyna"); disrespect for the individuals, their capabilities, qualities and individual achievements - all this remains, even flourishes.

Is there really a difference between the pompous "businessman" Lazarenko (who stands accused of stealing millions from the coffers of Ukraine, under the guise of free enterprise) and the pompous "Communist" Tkachenko (who, under the guise of helping the people, stole from the same coffers by defaulting on a \$75 million loan)? They both used their positions of power and public leadership not to lead, but to lie, cheat and steal on a grand scale. Who cares what they call themselves.

Is there much of a difference between the Pustovoitenko-supported, supposedly market-driven FIGs (financial-industrial groups) controlled by the economic reins in Moscow, and the Tkachenko-proposed, legislatively driven tripartite Slavic union controlled by the economic reins in Moscow? For the people of Ukraine it doesn't much matter.

As the profane tries to push its way into our holiday celebrations, it's more important than ever to remember that this time of celebration is really a time to honor the sacred. The small and large prayers, the rituals of family and religious tradition, reverence for the ancient and respect for the elderly, individual acts of kindness and youthful celebrations of joy. All the religions at this time of year celebrate the unity of the human spirit with the miraculous and the holy, and the perseverance of faith. In our community our religious traditions bracket the beginning of the secular new year. So, during this time, we wish you, our readers, happy and peaceful celebrations of the sacred in our lives.

January
5
1860

Turning the pages back...

Vasyl Liaskoronsky was born in Zolotonosha, a town located across the Dnipro River from Cherkasy, about 90 miles southeast of Kyiv, on January 5, 1860. He studied at Kyiv University under the historians Volodymyr Antonovych and

Ivan Luchytsky, graduating in 1885.

Liaskoronsky then joined several archaeological expeditions led by the pioneering Vikentiy Khvoika which discovered and excavated various Paleolithic sites throughout Ukraine, as well as Neolithic Trypilian burial sites, Iron Age and Bronze Age settlements and fortifications. He wrote about these expeditions for the journal *Kievskaya Starina* and other scholarly publications.

He also wrote about the excavations of the St. Sophia Cathedral, the Golden Gates and other sites around Kyiv.

An active participant of the all-(imperial) Russian archeological congresses held in Kyiv (1899), Kharkiv (1902) and Katerynoslav (1905, now Dnipropetrovsk), Liaskoronsky published the official congress bulletins and set out on the expeditions organized under their auspices.

Liaskoronsky specialized in historical geography, historical topography and numismatics. His doctoral dissertation on the history of the Pereiaslav region (ranging from prehistoric times to the 13th century) was published in 1897. In 1901, his two studies of the work of foreign cartographers, including Georges Le Vasseur de Beauplan, appeared in print.

In 1903, he travelled to Moscow University, where he worked as a senior lecturer (privatdocent) until 1907, when he was given permission to return to his alma mater and assumed a similar position.

In 1909, Liaskoronsky was named a full professor at the Nizhen Historical-Philosophical Institute. After the revolution of 1917, he worked at various institutions in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Nizhen, but the most important post he occupied was that of head of the archaeological department of the All-Ukrainian Archeological Committee in the national capital.

Liaskoronsky died in Kyiv on January 1, 1928.

Source: "Liaskoronsky, Vasyl," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 3 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993).

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER

Strengthening all of our families

From the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine to the Esteemed Clergy, the Deaconate in Christ, the Venerable Monastics and God-loving Spiritual Children of the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church:

Christ is born, give ye glory. Christ comes from heaven, meet ye Him. Christ is on earth, be ye exalted. O all the Earth sing unto the Lord, and sing praises in gladness, O ye people, for He has been glorified. (Irmos).

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

With what great joy we greet the Nativity of the Son of God, Jesus Christ!

We are happy and thankful to God for all His mercies so generously bestowed upon our pioneers and their descendants, who manifested their great faith in Christ the Savior in their prayers and deeds.

We and the faithful Ukrainian people express this holy faith and love to the Newborn Jesus Christ through our deeply meaningful worship services and our diverse ecclesiastical and folk rituals and traditions.

Heaven and Earth welcome and glorify the Newborn Child, God before the ages.

This miraculous greeting is received by the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of the Newborn One and by the Guardian, the Righteous Joseph.

The Holy Angels sing the first heavenly carol/koliada: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:14)

Through this heavenly carol/koliada, the Holy Angels foretell the accomplishments and life of the people of faith, people of good will. Where shall these people of good will come from? Who will form these people? The answer is - the family.

Dear brothers and sisters, in order to focus the attention of the clergy and faithful on the importance of the family in the process of raising people of good will, we, your bishops, declare the year 1999 as "The Year of the Ukrainian Orthodox Family."

St. John Chrysostom, the great saint and teacher, taught that the family is a small church, for in it the father, mother and children are formed to be virtuous members of the Church common.

Who if not parents are encouraged to fulfill God's commandments in the raising of children in the spirit of God, in our native Ukrainian culture and the good culture of our country so they will develop as virtuous members of the Church and society? The family is indeed the basic unit of society.

The major responsibilities of the home, the family, of the "Home Church" are to foster: 1) a deep and abiding faith and hope in God and His help; 2) love and trust between all family members; 3) love for our Church and our Ukrainian Christian heritage.

The Church family - the parish, is an extended family, with the spiritual father, the parish priest, as its head. A parish cannot be viewed as merely an "organization" or a "social club," and even more so, it must not be looked upon as a business or other type of commercial enterprise. The parish is an ecclesiastical and eucharistic family. Its responsibility is to care for the spiritual life and moral integrity of its members. Our parishes, our communities, must be centers for fostering traditional family values and healthy family life. And in this, the parish priest and the parish executive must function as role models for others.

The parish family, subsequently is part of the diocesan family of parishes gathered around their spiritual leader - the local bishop, who is the chief celebrant of the Holy Mysteries and teacher of the Gospel, and who acts in the parishes under his care

through his representatives - his "vicars" - the presbyter/priests. The diocese in turn, is a component of an even wider family, the local Church. The widest body of the Church family is the ecumenical Church, which consists of all the Orthodox Churches from numerous nations and peoples. This family embraces the whole People of God, in all nations and at all times throughout history.

We, the Permanent Conference of the Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine, on the occasion of this joyous feast of the Nativity of Jesus Christ, call upon our clergy to place the families of their parishes under their own special care, to ensure that the children are being raised up to be good and believing Christians, conscious of their spiritual and cultural heritage. We call upon all of our institutions to plan activities and events throughout the year to help strengthen our families.

Let us greet the joyous feast-day of the Nativity of Christ with thanksgiving and an appeal that the Son of God will always abide with us and will bless all of our good intentions and the aspirations of our holy and unwavering faith with success. We sincerely wish everyone to have this holy faith and love toward the Newborn Savior: our families and all our organizations who work for the good of our Holy Church and our people.

On the occasion of this joyous feast-day we greet His All-Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew I, all Ukrainians in Ukraine and the diaspora, and all people of good will.

We desire for the entire Ukrainian nation that God would bestow upon it His peace and wisdom and we further pray that in 1999 all the branches of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Ukraine may come together into one Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church. With this accomplished, all Ukrainians worldwide will rejoice.

Celebrate with joy, celebrate spiritually, keeping the Newborn Christ-Child in your hearts and in the bosom of your family.

Heaven and earth are united today, for Christ is born. Today God has come upon earth, and man gone up to heaven. Today for man's sake is seen in the flesh He who by nature is invisible. Therefore let us also give glory and cry aloud to Him: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, which Thy coming has bestowed upon us, O Savior: glory to Thee.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

† **Wasyl**

Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **Constantine**

Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and Diaspora

† **John**

Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **Antony**

Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., Ruling Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Australia and New Zealand

† **Vsevolod**

Archbishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

† **Yurij**

Bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **Ioann**

Bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the Diaspora

† **Jeremiah**

Bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Latin America

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER

Recognizing the blessing of this feast

To the Reverend Clergy, the Religious and Faithful of the Diocese of Stamford, "in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"¹

Khrystos Razhdaietsia!

As we draw near to the Great Jubilee, the beginning of the Third Christian Millennium that we shall celebrate in the year 2000, the Catholic Church now invites us to turn our prayerful attention to God the Father, Who has sent His Son to save us. As St. Paul exhorts us, we should "give thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."²

God the Father is "the God of peace and Father of mercies"³ Who sends us His Son to be our peace. By His incarnation, by destroying sin and death, and laying low the power of the devil, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, "has made the Father merciful to the creation."⁴ It is Jesus Christ who reveals the Father to us⁵ and who brings us back to the Father.⁶

Our Christian faith is above all Trinitarian. The goal of all our faith and striving is to share ever more deeply in the life and mutual love of the Most Holy Trinity. We must have the Holy Spirit (Whom we have received in Holy Chrismation) dwelling and praying within us. We must "confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father,"⁷ as we chant in the divine liturgy before Holy Communion. God the Son, Jesus Christ, was born of His Blessed Mother, the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, to bring us the glory of God the Father. We who are baptized have been called, sanctified by God the Father and preserved in Jesus Christ, that God's mercy, peace and love may be multiplied in us.⁸ "Christ our God is the Son and the Brightness of the Father ... and has redeemed us back again⁹ to our Heavenly Father.

As we prepare for Christmas, the Church sings "behold, the Son and Word of God the Father comes forth to be born of a Virgin."¹⁰ The Virgin Mary now becomes the Mother of the Son Begotten of the Father "before the morning star."¹¹ In the words of the popular Ukrainian Christmas carols, the Immaculate Virgin bears a Son; the Word of the Father becomes a Man.¹² The Virgin Mary spontaneously turns to

God the Father, asking God the Father to provide for her Son, and the Father at once sends His angels to bring clothes and gifts to the Blessed Mother.¹³ The Holy Fathers and our liturgical texts dwell on the mirror-image, as it were, of God the Son eternally begotten by God the Father without a mother, and born in time of the Blessed Mother, the Ever-Virgin Mary.¹⁴ The motherhood of the Virgin Mary as she gives birth to Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, revealed the fullness of the paternity of God the Father.

By the prayers and love of our Blessed Mother, through whom God has become man for our salvation, may everyone in our diocesan family know the joy and blessing of this Christmas feast. Grace, mercy and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.¹⁵

† **BASIL**
Bishop of Stamford
(New York and New England)

Given in the Cathedral of St. Vladimir the Great on the Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, December 6, 1998.

- 1 Thessalonians 1:1.
- 2 Ephesians 5:20.
- 3 Orthros, Christmas Day, first Canon (by St. Cosmas), Hirmos, Ode 5.
- 4 Orthros, Christmas Day, second Canon (by St. John of Damascus), first tropar, Ode 5. 5.
- 5 John XIV 8-9.
- 6 Cf. Prayer for the Omophor, Vesting Prayers, Pontifical Divine Liturgy.
- 7 Philippians 2:11.
- 8 Jude 1:2.
- 9 Orthros, Christmas Day, first Canon (by St. Cosmas), third tropar, Ode 1.
- 10 Vespers, Forefeast of the Nativity, Aposticha (Greek use).
- 11 Orthros, Forefeast of the Nativity, Ode 9; Psalm 109:3 (LXX); introit of the divine liturgy, Christmas Day.
- 12 "Небо і Земля," verses 2 and 3.
- 13 "По Всьому Світу," verses 2 and 3.
- 14 E.g., Kondak for the Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos – the Second Day of Christmas (by St. Romanos the Melodist).
- 15 2 John 3.

Ukrainian World Congress greets diaspora and Ukraine

Following is the text of a Christmas greeting issued by the Ukrainian World Congress, which held its seventh congress in early December, electing Askold Lozynskyj as president for a five-year term.

Christ is Born!

With the approaching celebration of Christ's Nativity and the coming of the New Year, the Ukrainian World Congress sends sincere and heartfelt greetings to the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Churches and unifications, to the Ukrainian people in Ukraine and in the diaspora, to the president and government officials of Ukraine, as well as to the government officials of those countries where our Ukrainian brothers and sisters reside and who support the growth and development of the cultural, national and human rights of their Ukrainian settlers.

Christ's Nativity is a feast of happiness, reunion and generosity. The UWC extends its hand to every Ukrainian wherever he or she may reside and assures them that they may depend on our help and support. The UWC is proud of the successes of independent and democratic Ukraine in its eighth year of independence, and laments its hardships and failures. Nevertheless, we believe in the power of the Ukrainian spirit and are certain that, as in its tragic but glorious past, our nation will overcome today's hardships and will develop its potential.

Recently, the Seventh Ukrainian World Congress concluded its business, during which a new Presidium was elected and resolutions and directives were adopted. The UWC considers itself to be the defender and representative of Ukrainians throughout the world, and is prepared to protect their interests in the global forum and before governments of the world. We are certain that the strength of our nation lies in its ability to unite in crisis and that the mis-

fortunes of the past will not be repeated. This is guaranteed by the independent democratic Ukrainian state, as well as the 20 million Ukrainians who live outside the borders of Ukraine.

Recently we commemorated the greatest tragedy that ever befell our nation. In 1932-1933, 7 million to 10 million men, women and children perished as a result of the Great Famine, which was perpetrated against our brothers and sisters by the occupying enemy and its henchmen. The UWC is striving to ensure that Ukrainians around the world understand and appreciate their history and the power of the invincibility of the spirit of our nation, which could not be destroyed even by the most inhuman cruelty and torture.

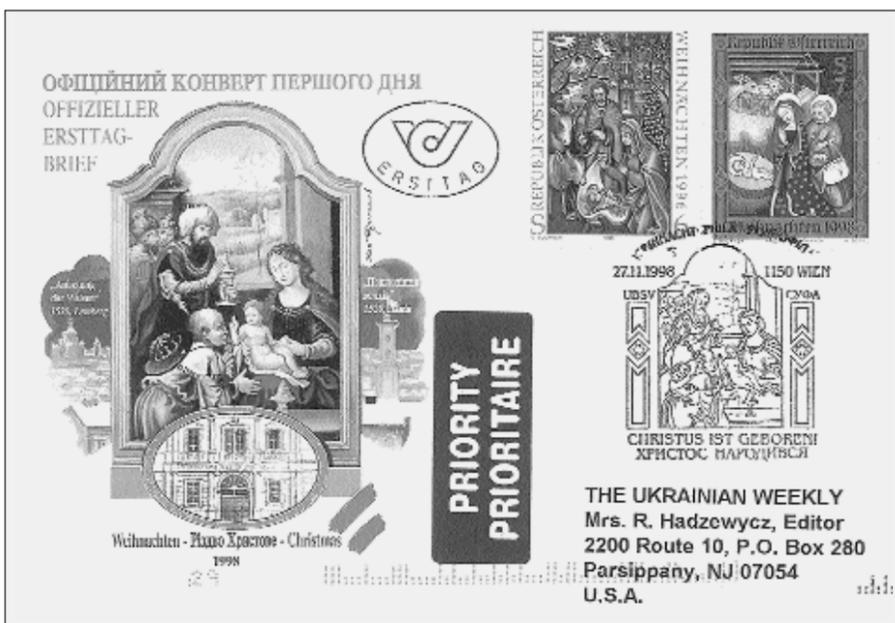
Vasyl Symonenko declared: "My nation is and always will be; no one will ever destroy my nation." We need the words of the poet as a guide for our actions. During this time of the great solemnity of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ and with the hopes of the New Year, we declare our deep devotion to this sentiment. We pray to the Newborn Child and to the Blessed Virgin to continue to be our protectors.

God's grace, which has held our nation in its embrace for over a millennium, has made possible its rebirth. Our country arose. During this festive season we in particular remember this blessing and thank the Lord for His protection. With every new year our nation is growing more robust and is gaining strength.

It is this faith in the Lord's justice and in His blessing that has kept and maintains the positive spirit of our nation. The renewed celebration of the Birth of the Child of God gives us hope for a better future.

Christ is Born!
Praise Him!

**Presidium of the Secretariat
of the Ukrainian World Congress**

Austrian postal issue features icon from Lviv gallery

Christmas 1998, an official cover and cancellation published by the Ukrainian Stamp Collectors' Club of Austria, pictures the icon "Adoration of the Kings" created in 1520 by an unnamed artist from Utrecht. The icon is the central portion of a triptych that today is part of the collection at the Lviv Picture Gallery, which includes more than 53,000 works of fine and decorative arts by European and Ukrainian masters of the 14th through 20th centuries. The depiction is by Lviv artist Ivan Turetskyi, while the cover design is by Erhard Steinhagen of Vienna.

New York governor sends holiday greetings to Ukrainians

Below is the text of a holiday greeting addressed to Ukrainian Americans from the governor of New York, George E. Pataki.

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send holiday greetings to the Ukrainian American community.

The holiday season provides our families with the opportunity to embrace their time-honored traditions, to strengthen the bonds that unite them and to reflect on the importance of sharing and giving in this season of renewal. This is a special time of year when families, friends and communities give thanks for their blessings and look ahead with renewed hope for peace and prosperity in the New Year. As both governor and the grandson of immigrants, I fully understand the importance for our citizens to renew their commitment to the fundamental val-

ues that give special meaning to their lives and the ideals we share as Americans. The Ukrainian American community's efforts to advance and strengthen these goals merit the highest admiration and praise.

Our religious institutions serve as beacons for the faithful and as foundations upon which families and communities grow, strengthen and prosper. They offer extraordinary leadership throughout the year, as well as during the holidays, playing a significant role in our community's celebration of renewal and rebirth. Their teachings also reach out to people of goodwill everywhere, reminding them not to forget the less fortunate and most vulnerable members of our human family as we celebrate this season of giving.

From my family to yours, please accept our best wishes for a happy holiday season.

George E. Pataki



FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych

The Madonna on Ukrainian stamps

During Ukraine's first period of stamp production – from 1918 to 1923 – no religious stamps were produced. The subsequent seven decades of atheist Soviet rule left a religio-phobic legacy among Ukrainian postal officials that has been difficult to overcome.

In the first five years of newly acquired independence (1991-1996), only one stamp (in 1994) was released with a truly religious subject. Over the past couple of years, however, the attitude seems to have softened a bit: last year, Ukraine issued its first Christmas stamp, and this year two stamps appeared showing the Mother and Child. This article will take a closer look at these four stamps, all of which depict the Madonna.

Ukraine's very first issue of 1994 was a semi-postal stamp dedicated to the Ukrainian Charity and Health Fund (Figure 1). Semi-postal stamps have a surcharge added to them; the extra amount above a regular postal value is allocated to a relief or welfare fund. In this case, 150 karbovantsi helped pay a standard postal rate while the extra 20 karbovantsi went to the fund.

Depicted on the stamp is a drawing by the famous German Renaissance artist Albrecht Dürer showing Mary holding her son Jesus. The figures are shown in black and white, and the halos are gold. Originally this stamp was to be released in 1993 (that is the date on the design) but delays pushed this issue over into the next year.

Christmas stamps are a very popular topic for collecting. The United States

released its first such stamps in 1962 and has continued to prepare them annually. Canada's first Christmas issue was in 1964; it, too, has continued to release them uninterrupted since then.

Ukraine's first Christmas stamp came out on December 20, 1997 (Figure 2). The main image (in full color) is from an 18th century Nativity icon, by an unknown artist, found in a ruined village church near Pereiaslav-Khmelnytskyi (Kyiv region). Presently, this art piece is housed at the Ukrainian Museum of Art in Kyiv. At first the stamp was prepared for Christmastime release in 1996, but there was some unexplained delay. The stamp was subsequently reprinted. Although identical to the first design, the date was altered to 1997.

In June of this year the Lviv Art Gallery was honored with a set of stamps and a souvenir sheet (a stamp or stamps surrounded by a commemorative margin). All of these items depict artwork from the gallery in full color. The Lviv Art Gallery was set up in 1939 by the new Soviet regime on the basis of various confiscations; it currently holds one of the richest collections of Western art in Ukraine. The stamp set was issued as a triptych (Figure 3); the high value middle stamp shows the icon "Madonna With Child" from the Lviv icon school of the 17th century. The souvenir sheet (Figure 4)

(Continued on page 14)



Figure 3



Figure 4

An appeal: help build a cathedral in Kolomyia

To our brothers and sisters in the American diaspora, our compatriots from the Kolomyia and Hutsul regions, and to American charitable organizations:

Created in October 1993, through the grace of God's providence and with the blessing of Pope John Paul II, the Kolomyia-Chernivtsi Eparchy of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church to this very day does not have its own cathedral in the city of Kolomyia, the eparchial center.

Two years ago, as a result of our own efforts and after overcoming many difficulties, we were finally able to acquire a plot of land for construction of a cathedral in the city center. A cross was erected at the site of the future edifice and the land was blessed by Bishop Pavlo Vasylyk.

Much has already been accomplished: the land was cleared for construction; architectural plans and projected costs for the new cathedral were prepared, paid for and reviewed by experts. A temporary chapel was built on the lot, and priests celebrate divine liturgy for the faithful.

The issue before us now is the actual realization of construction plans for the Cathedral of the Transfiguration of Our Lord. Although we were successful in collecting a small amount of money from the faithful, it is far from sufficient to proceed with this great and much-needed construction.

For this reason we must turn to all of you with our appeal for assistance with the sincere hope that, with your help, the cathedral's cupolas may soon grace the skyline of our ancient and picturesque subcarpathian city of Kolomyia. Names of benefactors will be recorded in a memorial book and remembered in our divine liturgies in perpetuity.

With love in Christ, and sincere wishes and prayers,

The Most Rev. Pavlo Vasylyk
Bishop Ordinarius of the
Kolomyia-Chernivtsi Eparchy

Contributions may be sent to: Self Reliance Association – COTL's T#8956, P.O. Box 9332, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



Bishop Pavlo Vasylyk of the Kolomyia-Chernivtsi Eparchy and the Rev. Petro Semenyuk at the site of future Cathedral of the Transfiguration of Our Lord in Kolomyia.



Figure 1



Figure 2

A simple koliada

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

They were friends, buddies on the highest level, bonded by their love and knowledge of Ukrainian music. And yet, in their correspondence, they still addressed each other as "Vy," the formal, respectful way. Oleksander Koshetz [Koshyts] and Pavlo Macenko were musicologists, conductors, composers, arrangers, professors. Born in Ukraine, but through circumstances of history living the rest of their lives in North America, each contributed his enormous talent to the rich heritage of Ukrainian liturgical, classical, and folk choral tradition.

Koshetz and Macenko corresponded between New York and Winnipeg. In 1954 Pavlo Macenko published the letters he had received from Koshetz in "Vidhuky mynuloho: O. Koshetz v Lystakh do P. Matsenka" [Echoes of the Past: O. Koshetz in Letters to P. Matsenko] through Kultura i Osvita, the publishing wing of the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center in Winnipeg (which Macenko and Koshetz's widow, Tetiana, helped found in 1944).

Along with his great knowledge of Ukrainian music and its history, the letters reveal a picture of Koshetz's hard life struggling as a musician, his concern about aspects of Ukrainian culture and life in North America, some kind and some caustic observations about other musicians and their work, his health, and his worry about his wife's well-being after he is gone.

Koshetz had collected and arranged very many Ukrainian ritual songs, including koliadky (carols) and schedrivky (New Year's songs). These arrangements are an integral part of many choirs in the world, especially of the Oleksander Koshetz Memorial Choir in Winnipeg, which originated as a choir during the Ukrainian Cultural Courses in Winnipeg in the 1940s, at which Koshetz taught. This letter to Macenko written on December 24, 1941 (the recipient's birthday), is devoted to a koliadka, "Narodyvsia Nam Spasytel'."

This koliadka has been recorded by the Koshetz Memorial Choir, and is a delight to hear and sing. It is an example of the many Christian koliadky in which Ukrainian peasants saw the Holy Family as very human. In the lyrics, there is concern for the Baby's warmth, with both the angels preparing the silken layette and Joseph folding diapers. The latter are especially important, as any mother – human or divine – knows from experience. Many different koliadky express concern about diapers for the Christ Child. The Holy Family and the saints go about everyday household and farm tasks, including hauling water, plowing the fields, and breaking up rocks in the fields.

Here is a translation of a portion of Koshetz's letter about this koliadka:

"I sent you a greeting in pencil, and along with it some [music] notes. This time, I am sending you an interesting koliadka, which I received from Porfiryi Demutskyi, and one which old timers also sang in my village. It is a joy to see how our people see even religious feast days in light of their own humor, such a gentle and inoffensive humor, that it harms neither the feast day nor religious feelings. One needs to understand and know the creativity [folklore] of our people for this to be clear ..."

So, at home this koliadka was sung on the level of all others. But imagine if it were sung here, in America, among our church hypocrites. What a ruckus there would be: an affront! an offense against God's majesty!, etc., etc., all the usual high-falutin' words. I am reminded of that [other] koliadka written in the finest religious vocabulary, but with the melody of a simply vulgar "polka," which you can

hear on the albums of the Lviv seminarians. That one they sing out, in churches and homes, the faithful, seminarians and the clergy, but this one they would not sing!

Here are its lyrics:

Narodyvsia nam Spasytel'
Aly-alyluia! [refrain]
V staini, u zhlobi, u pivnichnii dobi.
Hospody pomylui! [refrain]
Ani podushky, ani peliushky...
Tilky sintsia, sintsia po kolintsia...
Ryby-plotytsi, nesite vodytsi...
A vy rybalky, stupajte za mamky...
Shchob nam dytyna tai ne z-holodnila...
Shchob nam dytyna tai ne z-kholodnila...
A vy yanholy, zlytaite dodolu...
Budemo spivaty, Khrysta vykhvaliaty...
A Andriy z Morozom drabyniastym vozom...
Vezut nam horilky chotry barylky...
Arkhanhel u trubu dunuv na vsiu hubu...
Hodi holosyty, chas horilku pyty...
Hospody pomylui!

The Savior is born to us
Alle-Alleluia! [refrain] Alle-Alleluia!
In a stable, in a manger, during midnight
Lord have mercy! [refrain]
Not even a pillow, not even a diaper...
Only hay [diminutive], hay up to the knees...
Dear fish [female, diminutive], bring water...
And you fishermen, help out as mothers...
So that our Baby will not be hungry...
So that our Baby will not get cold...
And you angels, fly on down...
We will sing, will praise Christ!...
Andrew with Frost on a ladder-back wagon...
Are bringing us four barrels of horilka [vodka]...
The archangel is blowing into the horn with full lips...
Enough praise, it's time to drink the horilka...
Lord have mercy!

The humorous lyrics are infused with such tenderness, and the heavenly powers so gently are invited to this humble joy! This must be understood and felt along with that completely Ukrainian ornamentation – that Moroz [frost] and Andriy [the feast day of St. Andrew is on November 30, or December 13], who on a ladder-sided wagon over frozen clods of earth hurry to us with horilka [vodka] already a month before Christmas, on horses, and probably even with rope bridles ... And the clods on the road are frozen; there is, no snow. The straw is flying off the wagon in the wind, and your soul is being shaken out of you on that wagon!

Even if this were a "bursa koliada" [one composed in the college/seminary dormitories centuries ago], its folk elements are wonderful. I believe this is a completely original folk [koliada], but the bursa [boys] gave it choral harmony...



A portion of the music for the koliadka "Narodyvsia Nam Spasytel'."

Writers from Ukraine descend on Toronto for two literary events

by **Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj**
Toronto Press Bureau



TORONTO – In the space of a fortnight, two wings of Ukraine's literary beast descended on Ontario's provincial capital.

First, Ivano-Frankivsk-born-writer Yuri Andrukhovych, representing the western Ukrainian wing, took part in this year's prestigious International Harbourfront Author's Festival.

Then authors Solomea Pavlychko and Oksana Zabuzhko, both based in Kyiv, arrived to take part in the launching of the anthology of Ukrainian Canadian and Ukrainian prose in translation, "Two Lands: New Visions," co-edited by Ukrainian Canadian writer and scholar Janice Kulyk Keefer, published by the Regina, Saskatchewan-based Coteau Books.

Mr. Andrukhovych's presence also helped to promote an English translation of his novel, "Recreations," published this year by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press.

A gracious provocateur

Mr. Andrukhovych, a member of the Bu-Ba-Bu triad of Ukrainian neo-Dadaists together with Viktor Neborak and Oleksander Irvanets, was accorded two events at the author's festival. The first, an informal public "dialogue," with University of Toronto's Prof. Sam Solecki acting as the host, took place on October 24, 1998.

Prof. Solecki, a lecturer in English literature but also well versed in the Eastern European literary scene, was an excellent choice of interlocutors, as he matched his guest's acerbic humor. Right off the top, Prof. Solecki quipped that he was "tempted to cause a multicultural scandal by conducting the interview in Polish." The Toronto-based scholar averred that it was always a pleasure to meet a member of

what Czech exiled author Milan Kundera called "the literatures under threat."

The interviewer asked whether the writer's experience of the West mirrored that of a Polish writer who marvelled at the contrast to his home country's grayness. Mr. Andrukhovych said that such perceptions are probably outdated now that the Iron Curtain has been lifted and Eastern Europe has become more open to the West and its influence, but admitted that after only three days in Toronto, he was struck by the variety of its people. "The entire planet lives here. It's a source of great joy to see the world's various faces; this city truly does have a multicultural essence."

He said that in Eastern Europe "the U.S. is the embodiment of the future; the place where something better is attained," but since for many it is unattainable, this was with a whimsical suspicion that "the North American continent doesn't exist – there's simply an agreement among people who say 'We've been to America.' They invariably mention the skyscrapers and Niagara Falls."

Asked which writers influenced him, Mr. Andrukhovych mentioned, to the Torontonians' surprise, turn-of-the-century realist Thomas Wolfe (author of "Look Homeward Angel"). Prof. Solecki said, "You've written what appears to be an archetypal post-modern novel; it's surrealist, if anything." To which the Lviv-based author rejoined: "I'm glad you say that, because it suggests I've become independent; after all, I first read Wolfe when I was 16, and I wrote 'Recreations' when I was 30."

Mr. Andrukhovych also alluded to Pavlo Tychyna ("An extraordinarily tragic figure who was unable to resist the pressure of the Stalinist regime and was transformed into a graphomaniac") and Bohdan Ihor Antonych ("He lived only 27 years and yet left a deep mystical and mysterious mark on Ukrainian poetry").

Mr. Andrukhovych said his generation

of writers was very fortunate to emerge when it did, just before the Soviet Union fell apart. "Freedom under Gorbachev was not complete, and thus not overwhelming. We discovered freedom in ourselves, at our own pace."

Had the USSR continued to exist, the novelist said, "we likely would not have become collaborators, but it's equally doubtful that we would have become dissidents or overtly anti-regime."

Prof. Solecki picked up on this thread and asked if the author rejects politics. Mr. Andrukhovych replied: "Actually, I'm interested in politics, but I try to be very careful when politics threatens to influence my work. When I wrote 'Recreations' in 1990, I was taking part in the formation of Rukh, and this appears in the novel, but I mainly wanted to show what I found funny in that movement, and what I believed actually undermined and discredited it."

Prof. Solecki quoted critic George Steiner who, while deploring the USSR, said that the serious attitude to culture, both by the regime and by people at large, had been lost. "Is there anything of value that was lost with the USSR?" the interviewer asked.

Mr. Andrukhovych replied: "I don't believe in any cultural or spiritual values that have to be defended by tanks and dogs," adding that both in the West and in former Soviet countries there is a "bizarre nostalgia" for the regime. At the same time, he said that the period since 1991 has been paradoxical – "On one hand, total collapse [in the cultural sphere], on the other, total flowering."

He mentioned that "you have to live there [in Ukraine], you have to rid yourself of pre-conceived notions of what a functioning cultural environment is." Mr. Andrukhovych also said the opportunities of meeting writers from the Ukrainian diaspora is stimulating, and mentioned members of the New York Group of Poets, including Bohdan Boychuk, Bohdan Rubchak and Yuriy Tarnawsky.

During the "dialogue," University of Toronto doctoral student Marko Andryczyk (a chronicler of some of Mr. Andrukhovych's activities for The Weekly), acted as interpreter for a demanding audience. It seemed that the audience needed an interpreter much less than Prof. Solecki did, and the frequent flow of corrections to the stage prompted the interviewer to congratulate the Philadelphia native "for an excellent job of interpreting in a room full of interpreters."

For his second appearance, at the Harbourfront's Toronto Dance Theater Main Stage on October 27, Mr. Andrukhovych chose to eschew his native language and benefit from the English translation of "Recreations" prepared by Australian scholar Marko Pavlyshyn.

The author read a passage describing a dinner scene in which writers and artists gather at a restaurant, with an unctuous KGB-type festival organizer in tow. His rich accent gave the reading a Chaucerian flavor, which supplemented the writer's playfully wry style with the additional charm of distended diphthongs and exaggerated "r's"

Thus, the narrative's hilarious parodies and carnivalesque proceedings were spiced up with phrases such as "from the kee-tchen pr-r-roceeded gr-r-reat ar-r-rmeez of schnyee-tzels."

Mr. Andrukhovych shared the bill with critically acclaimed U.S. novelist Jim Harrison.

Bond across the pond

On November 1, 1998, the new downtown flagship of Chapters' Bookstores

(Continued on page 12)



Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj

"Two Lands, New Visions" co-editor Prof. Janice Kulyk Keefer (above) and Oksana Zabuzhko (below) address the audience at the anthology's book launch, held in the downtown Toronto branch of Chapters' Books.

Harvard hosts young Ukrainian American writers

by **Khristina Lew**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Five young Ukrainian American writers from across the United States met at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute here on November 6-8, 1998, to discuss the role their heritage plays in the creation of their work. The diverse group of poets and prose writers was brought together by Askold Melnyczuk,

editor of the literary journal Agni and author of the novel "What is Told," in the first such conference of Ukrainian American writers sponsored by HURI.

The conference posed the question "Made in America or Made in Ukraine?" and explored such issues as the marginality of a Ukrainian American upbringing, Ukrainian American – Jewish American

relations, and how the Ukrainian American first-generation experience impacts each individual's work.

Opinions were as diverse as the five participants. Olena Kalytiak Davis, a poet, was raised in Detroit and currently resides in Juneau, Alaska. Her first book of poetry, "And Her Soul Out of Nothing," is the win-

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Adrian Gawdiak

Participants of the writers' conference at Harvard University's Lamont Library: (from left: Khristina Lew, Olena Kalytiak Davis, Volodymyr Dibrova, Dzviniya Orlowsky, Kristina Lucenko, Bohdan Rubchak, Larissa Szporluk and Askold Melnyczuk.

Ukrainian bar associations of the U.S. and Michigan hold joint meeting

by Donna Pochoday

WARREN, Mich. – The Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) and the Ukrainian American Bar Association of Michigan (UABAM) met for a joint fall meeting on October 16-17, 1998, at the Ukrainian Cultural Center here. Although the meeting had a low turnout of both UABA and UABAM members, nonetheless, it provided an opportunity for small group discussions and analysis of the issues on the agenda, as well as camaraderie and an opportunity to renew acquaintances.

UABA President Donna Pochoday opened the meeting on Saturday morning and UABA Treasurer Bohdan Ozaruk presented his financial report.

After the report, Ms. Pochoday began a discussion on the need to inform potential candidates about the UABA Scholarship Fund, its application and recipient election process. Two Ukrainian law graduates studying in law programs in the U.S. under grants provided by well-known scholarship donors participated in the discussion. The students shared with the audience the application and selection process utilized by popular grant donors, such as Muskie and Soros, and stressed the importance of broadly publicizing among Ukrainian law graduates and students the existence of the UABA scholarship and its eligibility requirements. One of the law graduates noted that it is essential to make the application and selection process non-discriminatory and independent, and asked that the UABA not rely solely upon the subjective recommendations of one or two deans of Ukrainian law schools known to the UABA.

Another topic on the agenda was the ongoing project on commercial law reform in Ukraine. Ms. Pochoday reported that the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) grant for the Commercial Law Project of Ukraine to ABA/CEELI (American Bar Association/Central Eastern European Law Initiative) to form a legal clearinghouse in Ukraine and to form an advisory board consisting of Ukrainian and American legal experts, was still being finalized.

She noted that the amount of this USAID grant is minimal, that it discounted funding for all the necessities for the project, such as office space, computer equipment and computer technicians to gather existing Ukrainian laws, regulations and law projects into one database, and that it relies extensively, if not almost exclusively, on pro bono efforts of Ukrainian and American lawyers. She also stated that despite specific proposals made previously to the USAID over the last few years, the agency would not commit to fund substantive commercial legal reform in the future – which the speaker said is the core and most critical aspect of commercial reform in Ukraine.

During the afternoon session, a nominating committee was elected to propose a slate of officers and Board of Governors of the UABA to be elected at the next UABA meeting, in June 24-27, 1999, in Virginia. The names of proposed candidates, who must be UABA members, for any of the four officer positions or any of the seven positions for the Board of Governors, should be submitted no later than February 1, 1999, to: Walter M. Lupan, Brooks & Lupan, 20 N. Main St., Suite 200, Sherborn, MA 01770; telephone, (508) 653-9275; fax, (508) 53-7791; e-mail, wml@capecod.net.

Taras Gawryk and Lidia Shanor serve on the committee along with Mr. Lupan. The president indicated a need for a complete review and overhaul of the UABA By-Laws and Constitution. The Constitution and By-laws will be available on the UABA webpage (<http://www.brama.com/uaba>). Any proposed changes by UABA members to the existing Constitution and By-Laws should be directed to Peter Piddoubny at: Drobenko & Piddoubny, 25-84 Steinway St., Astoria, NY 11103; telephone, (718) 721-2000; fax, (718) 721-8812; e-mail, dplaw@webspan.net. All proposals should be submitted by December 31.

Ms. Pochoday, presented background to the CBS/FCC administrative and litigation matter. Her presentation included an overview of the evidence of news distortion by "60 Minutes" during the airing of its October 1994 news segment, titled "The Ugly Face of Freedom."

Ms. Pochoday explained that more than seven months after oral arguments, on August 11, the U.S. Court of Appeals rendered its decision. This decision vacated the FCC orders (orders that had denied the appellants' petitions to deny CBS applications for broadcast license and denied the appellants the right to a hearing on the issues), and remanded the matter to the FCC for further proceedings. Ms. Pochoday noted that the Court of Appeals decision did not specifically order the FCC to designate the matter for a hearing.

The District of Columbia Circuit Court opinion stat-

ed that the FCC did not apply the correct standard (as to whether the appellants had presented enough evidence to warrant a hearing before the FCC.) nor provide a reasoned explanation in its decision. It further concluded that the FCC acted arbitrarily and capriciously in denying the appellants' petitions to deny CBS station licenses, without analyzing more specifically the evidence that was presented to the FCC. (See UABA web page: <http://www.brama.com/uaba> for a full copy of the U.S. Court of Appeals *Serafyn v. FCC* decision, or the U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit homepage).

A lively discussion ensued on the nature of the evidence presented, the support of the Ukrainian American community for future litigation and FCC proceedings; the legal cost and expense thereof, both out-of-pocket and attorney time, what the community has a right to demand and expect out of these legal proceedings, and the possibility and nature of settlement, if any.

Ms. Pochoday informed participants that information has come to light recently that Ukrainians, who were members of the Galicia Division during World War II, are being harassed by the Office of Special Investigations of the U.S. Department of Justice. In the case of non-U.S. citizens, they are being denied entry to the U.S. from the other countries at entry points, such as JFK Airport, on the basis that they were members of the division, or alternatively, that they did not disclose the fact of their membership when questioned.

The Division was cleared of any wartime wrongdoing by the Canadian Deschenes Commission in 1986 after exhaustive hearings. Ms. Pochoday explained the "Catch-22" that these former "diviziynyky" face. If they

were members of the division and are not U.S. citizens, then they might be denied entry into the U.S., even if they have not committed any crime and there is no other reason for denial of their entry.

Conversely, if they falsely state that they were not members of the Division or fail to "volunteer" information about such membership, they could be barred from entry due to misstatement of facts and/or concealment under existing immigration laws.

Current U.S. immigration and naturalization laws and regulations permit this type of activity by the Immigration and Nationalization Service (INS) and the OSI. The suggestion was made that recourse should be had through Congress to amend existing laws and regulations to prevent these type of situations. Both Congress and the INS should question the basis for exclusion of certain classes of people and the practice of "blacklisting" innocent people without prior hearings and findings to support such blacklists.

Ms. Pochoday indicated that there is a great need for UABA members to provide general counsel to the Ukrainian American community as to the legal aspects of denial of entry and deportation, and assist the community in petitioning the INS and the OSI for greater accountability and change of current legislation. This is an important matter that would require dedication and support not only on the part of the lawyers, but even more so, on the part of the general Ukrainian American community.

Attending the meeting were three lawyers from Ukraine. The meeting participants were given the opportunity to pose questions to the guests about current legal developments in Ukraine.

World Congress of Jurists held in Lviv

by Donna Pochoday

LVIV – The Fourth World Congress of Ukrainian Jurists (WCUJ) met on September 17-20, 1998, in Lviv. A world organization formed in 1992, the WCUJ encompasses 13 legal associations worldwide. The Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA), is one of the founding members of the WCUJ.

The UABA sent a small delegation to the fourth congress, in contrast to much larger delegations of UABA members that attended the 1991 and 1992 sessions. Regardless of the reasons – financial cost of the trip, lack of sufficient notice about the congress from organizers in Ukraine, lack of interest in Ukraine in general, or bad timing – it is clear that attendance at these conclaves is waning, not only on the part of UABA members, but also on the part of other country delegations.

The fourth congress held its opening ceremonies on September 17 at the Lviv Opera House and among the dignitaries to address the audience were Lviv Mayor Wasyl Kuybida, Minister of Justice Suzanna Stanik and First Vice-President of the Supreme Court of Ukraine Volodymyr Stefaniuk. Greetings were offered also by representatives of each country delegation, including UABA President Donna T. Pochoday.

Arriving at the Lviv Municipal Building for the conference the next morning, participants observed a dozen or an demonstrators rallying in front of the building – not so uncommon sight in today's Ukraine. The protest was against the city administration's approach to business investments. The demonstrators alleged that the city was permitting Poles and Russians to set up business ventures, to the exclusion of Ukrainians, causing further unemployment and economic maladies.

Some of the most well-known and respected Ukrainian legal minds and scholars addressed the audience during the congress, including National Deputy Victor Shyskyn, Mr. Stefaniuk, and Prof. Mykhailo Kostytskiy, justice of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

Conference topics included "Realization of Legal Reform in Ukraine: the Current Status and Perspectives," "Activities of the Constitutional Court," "Administrative Reform in Ukraine," "Problems of Formation of the Institute on Human Rights," "The Search for a Judicial Model in Ukraine" and "Theoretical and Practical Problems in the Formation and Functioning of the Supreme Justice Council of Ukraine."

The lectures and discussions covered legal concepts in contrast to legal conferences in the West, during which there is a noticeable lack of discussion about constitutional principles or basic legal and democratic concepts. Western practitioners tend to focus more on civil or criminal procedure or discussions of the application of the law in their daily practices.

Western lawyers noted an obvious lack of understand-

ing, and open and outright disregard for the concept of conflict of interest among the judicial, legislative and executive functions in Ukraine. For example, it was surprising to hear a member of the Ukrainian judiciary comment on the pending court appeal of Serhii Holovaty's fate as a national deputy of Ukraine, or to hear about the appointment of an individual to a judicial, as well as a legislative position.

On September 19, the nominating committee struggled to find consensus on a candidate to be president for the 1998-2000 term. The only proposed candidate from Ukraine was Valerii Evdokimov, head of the Supreme Justice Council, and president of the Union of Ukrainian Jurists, one of the larger and more powerful bar associations. There was also one candidate from Canada, Ihor Bardyn, a Ukrainian Canadian activist who in the past has headed several of the organizational committees of the WCUJ and was one of its vice presidents.

During the formation of the WCUJ in 1991-1992, there was an unspoken agreement that the member-organizations would take turns proposing a presidential candidate. Volodymyr Stretovych, a member of the Union of Ukrainian Jurists, had served for two terms (1994-1998). For this and other reasons, the Western delegates believed that Mr. Evdokimov, a member of the same Ukrainian legal association, should not be a candidate for the 1998-2000 term.

Western delegates also stated since there was no other Ukrainian candidate being proposed, the candidacy of a Canadian, Ihor Bardyn, should be upheld. It was argued that Mr. Bardyn could help find international funding for the WCUJ and could preside over the WCUJ objectively during a term that included a significant presidential election in 1999. Others contended that it was unlikely that a candidate for WCUJ president from Ukraine could be objective and keep his personal political convictions out of the presidential elections. Others further argued that Mr. Evdokimov had a conflict of interest as he serves on the Supreme Judicial Council that licenses prospective jurists, including prospective members of bar associations in Ukraine that compete with his association.

The debate over the candidates was probably one of the most acrimonious electoral debates that has taken place since the formation of the congress, surpassing even the difficulties in 1991 and 1992 in forming the congress.

Since the nominating committee was unable to come to a consensus on a nominee for president the congress participants went through a formal voting process.

The voting was conducted by confidential written ballot. Each delegate had to provide a passport to validate identity, re-register as a delegate of the Congress, and be personally present during the voting. After a count of the ballots, Mr. Evdokimov won by two votes.

(Continued on page 12)

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Writers from Ukraine...

(Continued from page 10)

served as the venue for the Toronto launch of an anthology of short stories from both sides of the Atlantic, "Two Lands, New Visions: Stories from Canada and Ukraine." Both co-editors, Kyiv-based Ms. Pavlychko and Guelph University's Prof. Keefer, were on hand, as were a brace of the collection's 20 authors.

Prof. Keefer, who has a wide range of short stories and novels to her credit, as well as several monographs on Canadian literature, started off the proceedings with a note of thanks to Geoffrey Ursell, the general editor, who came to her with the idea of bringing together writers from the two countries. She also thanked the god of technology, who made communications with her counterpart across the big pond easier. "Thank God for e-mail," the editor said.

"There has always been a yearning for contact with the ancestral homeland," Prof. Keefer said, adding that the collection was a testament to the solidity of these ties. She expressed her regret that it was limited to 10 stories from each country.

She also expressed her gratitude to the translators, husband and wife team Marta Horban and Marco Carynyk, to the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and to the Kyiv-based Osnova Publishers.

Ms. Pavlychko mentioned that the anthology had been conceived in a kitchen in Kyiv when her co-editor came to visit, and that the stories by Ukrainian authors, six men and four women, had mostly been written in 1995-1996. As such, it represented the latest production from those active on the literary scene.

Ms. Pavlychko read engagingly from a gothic tale by Lviv's Yuriy Vynnychuk, "The Day of the Angel." She was followed to the lectern by Ms. Zabuzhko, whom somebody billed as "the Margaret Atwood of Ukraine," but happily her reading style was much more spirited than the Canadian literary giantess's habitually dreadful monotone. Ms. Zabuzhko read from her story, "I, Milena."

Then it was the turn of the Ukrainian Canadians. Patricia Abram wilyly rendered a passage from her wan story "Green Sundays." A welcome departure from this was the gutsy yet polished Marusia Bociurkiw, who said it was "time to let in some of the people who have been absent from Ukrainian literature — the queers, the people of the street."

Ms. Bociurkiw, the author of a collection of stories called "The Woman Who Loved Airports" read from her "The Children of Mary" — taken from an as yet unpublished novel "Water Over Stone" depicting "three generations of a dysfunctional Prairie family."

Ukrainian Canadian literary lion Myrna Kostash, arriving straight from the airport, reminisced about her own meeting with Ms. Pavlychko in 1988 as a guest of the latter's family. "I don't think we could ever have dreamed that we could end up here together. It's thrilling to be a part of

this," Ms. Kostash said.

She read from her non-fiction contribution, "Ways of Coping," part of which appears in her latest book, the combination erotic memoir/political-historical treatise "The Doomed Bridegroom."

Prof. Kulyk Keefer concluded the afternoon's readings by saying that she expected that soon more Ukrainians would assert their presence in Canadian literature, and said they will help reinvent their ethnicity.

On hand was a pair of dancers from the Shevchenko Ensemble, who both served as a rather retrograde symbol of ethnicity unreinvented, and were oddly out of place on the third floor of a Chapters bookstore.

Fortnight's nightcap

The literary fortnight was capped by an event not as well attended as the other two, but which provided a fitting bookend nonetheless — a reading by Toronto-based émigré poet Lydia Palij at The Idler pub, sponsored by the League of Canadian Poets.

Over the years, the graphic artist and literary activist (a longtime member of PEN International) has been instrumental in bringing Ukraine's poets Vasyl Holoborodko, Ivan Drach and Ihor Kalynets for readings at the Harbourfront Authors' Festival, and played a part in securing Mr. Andrukhovych's place in this year's program.

On the evening of November 1, Ms. Palij read verse (in her own translations from Ukrainian) from her collection "Junction Without Signposts," whose appropriate autumnal flavor was colored by the poet's characteristically gentle and reflective whimsy.

World Congress...

(Continued from page 11)

Some claimed that the voting was conducted in violation of the WCUJ By-Laws, which require a majority of the registered delegates, not a simple majority of those physically present and voting.

The day after the elections, rumors and accusations of voting illegality were bantered about. However, after consideration of the options, and the costs and efforts that would be involved, the dissatisfied member-associations decided to not take any further action with respect to the results.

Mr. Evdokimov, the newly elected president, pledged to cooperate and work closely with all associations and members of the WCUJ. He also stated that he would be able to provide office space and assistance for the WCUJ's needs.

The reception after the difficult election process, which ended close to midnight on Saturday evening, ended the congress on an acrimonious, hostile note. Nonetheless, most agreed that it was necessary to work together for the good of all.

Preliminary discussion indicate that the WCUJ's fifth congress may be held in Poland in 2000.

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Receives certificate in international relations

MEDFORD, Mass. – Paul T. Rabchenuk, an attorney and a Boston-area Ukrainian activist was honored at a reception held at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in September 1998.

Mr. Rabchenuk was the first recipient of the Fletcher School's first Certificate in International Relations, having completed the new program designed for professionals working within the global marketplace. The Fletcher School is recognized as the premier school of international affairs in the country.

The certificate was presented by Gen. John R. Galvin, a retired NATO commander, who is now the school's dean. He was accompanied by Ilga Paddock, the program director, who stated that, "The program is aimed at professionals like Paul Rabchenuk and based on the premise that there is no such thing any more as a completely local enterprise."

Mr. Rabchenuk, whose father came from the Novhorod-Volynsky area of Ukraine, also holds a master's degree in public affairs from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh, and a law degree from the New England School of Law. He has taught public management courses up to the graduate level at several local universities.

He has held several positions in public administration, including those of town manager in Saugus and North Reading, Mass., and directed urban development programs in Haverhill, Mass., and Nashua, N.H.

For the past six years he has presented proclamations from the Massachusetts Governors office recognizing Ukrainian independence at every Boston-area celebration and was instrumental in arranging Ukrainian Independence Day photo opportunities with Boston-area Ukrainian leaders and the governor on these occasions.

He is a member of the Ukrainian American Bar Association and an associate member of The Washington Group.

A staunch advocate of American support for Ukraine, Mr. Rabchenuk's letters and commentaries on the International Monetary Fund and foreign aid to Ukraine have appeared in a number of newspapers. In 1997 he authored an article on U.S. support for NATO expansion, which was published in *Zycie Poloni* under the editorship of the late Dr. Bohdan Struminski.

Mr. Rabchenuk was prompted to enroll in the Fletcher School's program after he observed an increasing international character to his law practice primarily involving Eastern Europe. The innovative program is designed for professionals who, reacting to a rapidly changing global marketplace, want increased expertise in global business, international law and foreign policy.

Promoted to major at ceremony in Seoul

NEWARK, N.J. – Francis L. Holinaty was promoted to major in the U.S. Army during a military ceremony held recently in Seoul, South Korea.

Maj. Holinaty, son of Nikolaus and Marion Holinaty of Lakehurst, N.J. and a recipient of the ROTC scholarship, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps upon graduation from Rider University in May 1987.

He participated in Operation Just Cause in Panama in 1989 and spent a year in the Persian Gulf during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. For his meritorious service in support of military operations against a hostile force he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

His next assignment was as a team commander searching for missing Americans from World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. He led search teams to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Korea and Japan.



Francis L. Holinaty

Maj. Holinaty is currently stationed in Seoul, where he lives with his wife and two sons. He is a member of Branch 27 of the Ukrainian National Association.

Obituary for Julian Wojtowych

Our "Tato", Julian Wojtowych, 82, died October 22 at his daughter's home in Genesee, Idaho. He was born on June 10, 1916 in Labova, Ukraine.

Julian Wojtowych attended theological gymnasium in Premysl and Ukrainian Catholic theology school in Lviv. In late 1941 Julian was captured near Mykolayiv and spent the rest of WWII in Nazi Concentration Camps: primarily Dora, Bergen Belsen and Buchenwald. After the war, he studied forestry in Munich before immigrating to the United States in 1949. He married Ivana Demkiv while in Germany, but lost her in childbirth with their first son in 1952.

Julian was capable of communication in his native Ukrainian, Polish, Russian, German, Latin and Greek but did not yet have a working knowledge of the English language upon his arrival in America in 1949. He worked, studied and earned his B.S. in Forestry from Syracuse University in 1953. He obtained his U.S. citizenship in 1954.

His first assignment following graduation was with the U.S. Forest Service on the Ripple Brook Ranger District, Mt. Hood, Oregon. Specializing in reforestation, Wojtowych was later responsible for reforesting the Yacolt Burn, Mt. St. Helens District in Washington and Fort Rock Ranger District in Central Oregon. When the hills got too steep to climb, Wojtowych took over as manager of the Bend Pine Nursery. Upon his retirement in 1983, after 27 years of service in the U.S. Forest Service, he joined the Peace Corps. After 25 years in Central Oregon, Julian resided in Longview, Washington before moving to Idaho.

He loved philosophy, historical novels, travel, languages, growing trees and America. During his retirement Julian carved over 1,000 pieces, mostly birds, from his favorite pieces of wood. He also enjoyed oil painting and left his family with more than fifty paintings – mostly the landscapes he loved.

On December 31, 1960, he married Dorothy Gevers-Wojtowych, Longview, Washington. They had three daughters; Elisabeth Nugent, Tanya Woytowych and Helen Wojtowych. He had one grandson, Matthew Nugent and is survived by one nephew in the United States, Julian Woytowich of Michigan, and numerous nieces and nephews in Ukraine and present-day Poland.

Julian Wojtowych was laid to rest in Bend, Oregon on October 27, 1998.

If you knew our Tato and could provide any pieces of his life or any stories of the time you spent with him, we, his daughters, would be deeply grateful. Please contact Tanya Wojtowych, Genesee, ID 83832 or e-mail juliana@moscow.com.

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The Madonna...

(Continued from page 8)

presents a 16th century Italian painting "Madonna with Child and Two Saints [unidentified]." The saint on the right (a martyr) gives new meaning to the phrase "a splitting headache."

Looking ahead

Ukraine Post has announced plans to release another Christmas stamp this year; it remains to be seen what subject(s) will be depicted.

Preliminary stamp-issuing plans for 1999 include several with religious topics. Under a listing of Special Persons is Ukraine's patron, St. Andrew, while the topic Ukrainian Folk Arts includes the "Sviatohorska Zymnenska Icon of Mary, Mother of God." The category of Religious Holidays consists of St. Valentine's, Christmas, as well as "Vesniansky" and "Hahilky" (for Eastertime).

A stamp honoring St. Valentine's Day would be quite unique, as this is not a

holiday that has ever been observed in Ukraine. The U.S. has issued "Love" stamps occasionally since 1973, but never one solely for the February 14 holiday. Canada, which is well-known for its striking and innovative stamp designs, has never produced either a Love or St. Valentine's stamp.

Easter stamps, too, are a bit unusual. Ukraine released one in 1993 showing a wooden candelabra, krashanky (solid-colored Easter eggs), and babky (glazed Easter breads). But this issue was not, strictly speaking, religious.

Nonetheless, these plans would seem to indicate that Ukraine is slowly reaffirming its religious heritage. We can all look forward to the new year and what promise to be some very exciting new stamp releases.

My best wishes for a joyful Christmas and happy New Year to all readers of The Ukrainian Weekly!

Dr. Ingerit Kuzych may be contacted at: P.O. Box 3, Springfield, VA 22150.

Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

of Health, in the next several years the population will decrease even further to reach 48 million in 2002. Health Minister Andrii Serdiuk drew particular attention to the dramatic increase of death rates among men. At present, there are three to five times more men age 18 to 60 dying every year in Ukraine than women in that age bracket. According to the ministry's statistics, more than 6 million Ukrainians suffer from cardiac disease, more than 1.2 million have psychological defects, another 1.2 million are disabled, 800,000 suffer from alcoholism, 700,000 suffer from tuberculosis, 300,000 are diabetics and 120,000 are invalids from birth. Dr. Serdiuk stressed that all these figures "significantly affect" the average life expectancy and indicate a further worsening of the demographic situation in the country. (Eastern Economist)

Rada delays adopting 1999 budget

KYIV - The Verkhovna Rada on

December 25 postponed debate on the government's 1999 draft budget after deputies failed to agree on the projected deficit of 1 percent of GDP. The draft budget provides for revenues of 23.4 billion hrv (\$6.8 billion U.S.) and expenditures of 24.6 billion hrv, with annual inflation forecast at 19 percent. Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov, who presented the budget to lawmakers, argued that with Ukraine's economy expected to decline by 1 percent in 1999 it is unrealistic to count on revenues and expenditures as high as the Parliament wanted. Meanwhile, President Leonid Kuchma on December 26 said he will leave lawmakers without their salaries unless they pass the 1999 draft budget. "This is for sure. This cannot go on like this," ITAR-TASS quoted him as saying. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Rada approves Crimea's Constitution

KYIV - By a vote of 230 to 67, the Verkhovna Rada on December 23 approved a new Constitution for Crimea, Ukraine's only autonomous republic. The Constitution allows Crimea to have its own government and legislature and permits the republic to independently sign foreign trade deals. It also stipulates that all taxes and duties collected on Crimean territory are to be directed to the republic's budget. Over the past six years, Crimean lawmakers have submitted four constitutional drafts, but all were either rejected or approved only partially due to what Kyiv's parliamentarians considered separatist provisions. The latest draft was approved after deputies had inserted a separate provision that bans Crimea from approving legislation not in accord with Ukrainian law. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Crimean Tatars demonstrate for rights

SYMFEROPOL - Some 1,000 Crimean Tatars demonstrated in Symferopol on December 21 to protest the adoption of the Crimean Constitution in its current version, Ukrainian Television reported. They called on the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada not to approve the Constitution until it incorporates provisions that would guarantee Tatar representation in the Crimean legislature and local government. (RFE/RL Newswire)



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TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 466

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Harvard hosts...

(Continued from page 10)

ner of the 1997 Brittingham Prize in Poetry.

Kristina Lucenko, a prose writer, will receive her master's degree in creative writing from the City College of New York in January 1999. She has contributed to and served as an editor of the college's literary journal, the Promethean. She lives in downtown New York City's "Ukrainian Village" section.

Dzvinia Orłowsky, a poet, grew up in the Midwest and currently lives with her husband and two children on the South Shore of Massachusetts. Her first book of poetry, "A Handful of Bees," was published in 1994. Her second book will be published next spring. She is a founding editor of Four Way Books.

Larissa Szporluk, a poet, teaches at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Her first book of poetry, "Dark Sky Question," is the winner of the 1997 Barnard New Women Poets Prize.

This writer is a former assistant editor of The Ukrainian Weekly.

Mr. Melnyczuk, a professor at Boston University, served as the moderator of the conference and organized its four sessions. He explained the impetus for organizing a conference of Ukrainian American writers: "I was deeply curious to see whether there was some larger sense of commonality experienced by American writers, at least one of whose parents came from the same country."

"My own feeling at the end of the day was that yes, there was - five extraordinary writers who took part in the event discovered they shared singular and familiar ghosts, and that they had the strength and the responsibility of a common history," he continued.

"While the difference between each of the participating writers was striking, the fact that they had common ground and had an opportunity to discuss it in the semi-formal setting seemed to me the real surprise and the source of some real solace and inspiration," Mr. Melnyczuk noted.

Participants met informally on Friday, November 6. The conference's first session on Saturday gave the writers an opportunity to get to know one another and explore issues of concern. "A lot of questions, a lot of stirrings came to the surface," said Ms. Orłowsky. "It was good to get together, to have a reiteration of people with similar questions, fears, vulnerabilities and literary boundaries."

During the second session participants met with James Carroll, best-selling novelist and columnist for the Boston Globe. Mr. Carroll's memoir, "An American Requiem: God, My Father and the War that Came Between Us," won the National Book Award in 1997. Many of his novels chronicle Boston and the American political scene, with emphasis

on the Irish American community.

Mr. Carroll, an Irish American, discussed the importance he places on maintaining his Irish heritage. He recalled being inspired to apply for an Irish passport after former President Mary Robinson, in her inaugural address, welcomed all people of Irish descent back to Ireland. He now carries two passports and told conference participants, "I claim the right to be more than one thing."

Saturday's third session was addressed by Bohdan Rubchak, one of the founders of the New York Group, a coalition of Ukrainian writers and poets. A poet who writes in his native Ukrainian, Mr. Rubchak, a professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, discussed the experience of émigré writers.

Conference participants met on Sunday morning for a final session with Volodymyr Dibrova, a noted prose writer from Ukraine and current writer-in-residence at HURI. His two novellas, "Peltse" and "Pentameron," were recently translated and published by Northwestern University Press. Mr. Dibrova discussed his experience as a writer in Ukraine prior to its independence.

The conference culminated in a reading of selected works by the five conference participants at Harvard University's Lamont Library.

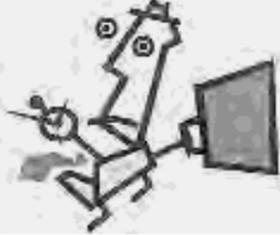
"The aspect that I found most striking about the experience was that one could take away the question of Ukrainian-ness and still say that this was a conference of first-class writers, each with distinctive individual voices and each already with mature identities. The fact that each also is grappling with questions of what it means to be Ukrainian American in the 1990s leads to fascinating results for anyone interested in American literature," said Robert De Lossa, director of publications for HURI. The Ukrainian institute plans to publish an anthology of each participant's work next year.

Mr. De Lossa, who sat in on all the conference's sessions, said he was pleased with its outcome. "The conference tried to achieve a number of things. It was a symposium of people grappling with issues of ethnicity and identity in very creative ways. At the same time, it was a gathering of a new generation of Ukrainian American writers in a way that hadn't previously occurred. Therefore, this weekend may well have witnessed the birth of a new literary phenomenon."

Mr. Melnyczuk said he left the conference with the hope that a second conference could take place with more participants, including "Jewish Ukrainian Americans, who could take part in a dialogue about Ukraine, its past, present and future." He added that the conference felt powerful and important, and expressed his desire that "the Ukrainian American community continue to make its presence felt through visible contributions to the American culture that has allowed it to thrive."

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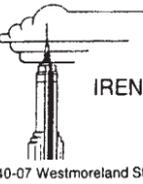
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Thursday, January 7

PARMA, Ohio: St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral will sponsor its 12th annual Christmas radio program for their sick and elderly shut-in parishioners. The entire Christmas divine liturgy will be broadcast live at 10 a.m.-noon over radio station WERF, 1300 AM. The liturgy will be celebrated by Metropolitan Constantine assisted by the cathedral clergy. Responses will be sung by the Ukrainian and English choirs of the cathedral. Also at St. Vladimir's, Great Complines and Matins will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6.

Sunday, January 10

WEST ORANGE, N.J.: Adrian Bryttan will conduct the New Jersey Philharmonia Youth Orchestra in a program of works by Leighton, Nelhybel, Isaac and Skoryk at Seton Hall Preparatory School, 120 Northfield, Ave., at 3 p.m. For further information call (908) 771-5544.

Monday, January 11

WASHINGTON: John Tedstrom, research leader for Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian affairs at the RAND Corp., will speak on "Ukraine in 1999: Objectives for U.S.

Policy" at noon at the Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson Center, 1 Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. For information call the Kennan Institute, (202) 691-4100.

Saturday, January 16

WARNERS, N.Y.: A malanka, on Ukrainian New Year's Eve dance, will be held at St. Luke's parish hall, 3290 Warners Road. A hot buffet dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Dancing to the sounds of Vorony of Syracuse will follow. Tickets: buffet and dance, \$15 per person, \$10 for students; dance only, \$5. For reservations call (315) 672-5371 or 468-2804. Please make reservations by January 10.

TUCSON, Ariz.: Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 122 will hold a dinner-dance malanka with traditional Ukrainian food. An open bar begins at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. Music will be by Klaus and Becky. Donation: \$15 per person. The event will be held at the Heidelberg, 4606 E. Pima St. at Swan Road. For reservations call Irene Drownicky, (520) 795-6689, or Pauline Farrell, (520) 294-1835.

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