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## Ukraine's demographic time bomb: rising number of AIDS/HIV cases

by Nathan Hodge

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV — Situated not far from the Pecherska Lavra, Kyiv's Infectious Diseases Hospital has an unassuming facade. Hospital staff here endure the routine indignities of Ukraine's health-care system: unpaid wages, chronic shortage of pharmaceuticals and declining support from the Ministry of Health.

The hospital also copes with another burden: it treats a rising number of AIDS patients. Olha Selyukova, the director of the State Institute for Infectious Diseases, said that the situation here is a "demographic time bomb," and other medical experts warn that Ukrainian health authorities have been dangerously slow in responding to the crisis.

With 35,000 registered cases, Ukraine faces an alarming rise in the recorded incidence of HIV infection, and new reports estimate that Ukraine may have the highest infection rate in Europe. Up to 1994, Ukraine registered an insignificant number of cases, mostly among foreigners. In 1995 authorities identified 185 cases of HIV infection, mostly among drug users, and 228 cases of AIDS were recorded in 1996. Ukraine has no systematic collection of AIDS data, but current figures, even if they fall short, show an astronomical rise over a very short period of time.

The United Nations agency UNAIDS projects the true number of HIV-positive people in Ukraine at between 60,000 and 180,000. In a UNAIDS report based on information collected by the AIDS epidemiology laboratory in Kyiv and the department of demography of Ukraine's Academy of Sciences, epidemiologists warn that, in a rapid-spread scenario, there could be almost 1.5 million HIV infections by 2010, and as many as 1.8 million cumulative deaths from AIDS by 2016.

At present, the bulk of registered cases are among intravenous drug users. With the increased availability of cheap opiates and the growth of a local drug culture, public health experts fear that "bridge" populations will carry the disease into the general population. "The actual number of undiagnosed infections we presume to be much higher," said Valerii Ivasiuk, the former chair of the National Committee for the Prevention of AIDS and Drug Abuse.

"The rule of thumb is that for every case diagnosed up to 10 go undetected."

According to Mr. Ivasiuk, Ukraine is "utterly unprepared" for a wave of new diagnoses. "AIDS is rapidly becoming epidemic, but the Kuchma administration has abdicated all responsibility in face of this crisis," he said.

Mr. Ivasiuk's criticism of the administration's AIDS policy follows in part from the decision to remove him as chair of the committee in January of last year and to liquidate the committee entirely in May 1998, but he has offered compelling evidence that the government has shelved preventative measures in the face of crisis.

On March 3, 1998, President Leonid Kuchma signed into effect a new law on "AIDS Prevention and the Public Welfare." Originally drafted by Mr. Ivasiuk's committee, it contained several amendments that fundamentally changed the regulations governing Ukraine's blood supply.

The law allows the transfusion of unscreened blood in "urgent cases" and exempts physicians from legal responsibility in cases where they infect patients through the transfusion of tainted blood.

Even as experts warn that Ukraine lacks appropriate technology for screening its blood supply, the Ukrainian government has banned the import of HIV testing equipment. In a decree signed on January 19, 1998, Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko forbade the procurement of imported diagnostic systems "where appropriate quantities of Ukrainian-produced equivalents are available."

Mr. Ivasiuk has charged that the ban gives an effective monopoly on such equipment to a company called Diaprof-Med, the Ukrainian manufacturers of a test system, which, he claims, produces false results in up to one third of tests.

"In the West, these test systems are required to have 99.8 percent reliability," he said. "Independent laboratory tests have shown that Diaprof-Med's systems produce false results in 25 to 33 percent of cases."

According to Mr. Ivasiuk, several highly placed Ministry of Health officials have ties with Diaprof-Med, which stands to profit from exclusive state contracts for blood screening equipment. In particular, Mr. Ivasiuk named Yurii Spizhenko, the former minister of health and a current national deputy representing the pro-presidential National Democratic Party; Viktor Mariievsky, the former chief sanitary doctor of Ukraine and present director of the State Institute of Epidemiology; and Dmytro Martynenko, the deputy director of the Health Ministry's Committee on Immunobiological Compounds, as having financial interests in the company.

"If we look at the number of diagnostic tests for HIV that the Ministry of Health orders annually, we are talking about an enormous business," said Mr. Ivasiuk.

"Then consider how many cases

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## Verkhovna Rada passes budget

Reaction from the IMF is seen as critical

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — After some 20 votes and with half the national deputies absent, Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada passed a budget for 1999 on December 31, 1998, hours before the onset of the new year.

President Leonid Kuchma had warned that if the Parliament failed to agree on a budget, the parliamentarians and their staff would not receive salaries until a budget was enacted.

Nonetheless, many of the deputies failed to register for the final legislative session before the New Year. Most members of the Communist, Left Center (Socialist and Peasant parties) and Progressive Socialist factions, along with some members of the Hromada faction, did not take part in the voting as a protest against what they consider to be the failure by the national deputies to incorporate a sufficient safety net for workers, pensioners and the elderly into the budget, as well as to guarantee the payment of wage and pension arrears.

"We have never seen a more disgraceful adoption of a national budget bill," Natalia Vitrenko, leader of the Progressive Socialist faction, said before the budget finally passed.

The budget received the bare-minimum 226 votes necessary for approval with merely 235 national deputies registered for the roll call, which occurred only after Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko had brought the issue to a vote some 20 times. In order to convince hold-outs to go along, legislators tweaked certain figures during the debate, including the sum for servicing the foreign debt, some of which was re-allocated to boost education and health care financing.

They also agreed to strip 80 million hrv from the government administrative support budget and allocate it to the judicial sector.

The Ukrainian budget for 1999 calls for expenditures of 25.14 billion hrv (\$7.2 billion) against revenues of 23.9 billion hrv (\$6.83 billion), which is a deficit of 1 percent of GDP and well within the limit agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund.

The government will borrow 610 million hrv on the domestic market and 630 million hrv internationally to cover the budget shortfall, according to Interfax-Ukraine. In addition, the budget sets a cap of \$825.5 million in 1999 for servicing the current government debt and budget deficit.

The budget allocates 76.3 million hrv to the legislative branch for administrative support, 444.3 million hrv to the executive and 100 million hrv to the judiciary.

Spending on social welfare was set at 2.2 billion hrv; for the industrial and energy sectors at 2.1 billion hrv; for defense,

1.7 billion hrv; for law enforcement and government security, 1.65 billion hrv; education, 1.8 billion hrv; and health care, 530.6 million hrv.

The budget figures had been juggled considerably during the two-month budget process, which featured widely differing proposals from the Cabinet of Ministers and the Parliament's Budget Committee. The initial government budget proposal was submitted and then reworked by the Cabinet of Ministers to adjust figures that national deputies decided did not correlate properly with the new financial situation in the country since the financial crisis in autumn. But, the government's proposed budget was essentially ignored by the Verkhovna Rada's Budget Committee, chaired by Yuliia Tymoshenko of the opposition Hromada faction, which came up with a radically different set of numbers.

In addition to showing a balanced budget, the Tymoshenko budget called for a 33 percent increase in expenditures, to 32 billion hrv, mostly for social programs, and a 300 percent increase in the minimum wage.

That budget proposal, although criticized and discredited by many Verkhovna Rada leaders as unrealistic, passed an official first reading on December 10 before being sent back to the Cabinet of Ministers for further reworking.

However, the final budget proposal that

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## Ukraine's population declines to 50.09 M

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukraine's population continued to decline in 1998, according to figures released by the State Committee on Statistics.

On December 19, 1998, the committee revealed that Ukraine's population had decreased by another 205,000 in 1998, leaving the country with 50.09 million inhabitants.

The decrease was most notable among city dwellers, whose ranks fell by 134,000. The number of people living in rural areas decreased by 71,000.

The population of Kyiv, the country's capital, suffered a 0.11 percent decline and now stands at 2.62 million residents.

It is the fifth consecutive year the statistics agency has reported a population decline. Ukraine has shown steady decreases in population, with rising mortality rates and decreased birth rates, since 1993, when the population peaked at slightly more than 52 million.

# A divisive call for unity: the Russia-Belarus merger

by Paul Goble  
RFE/RL Newswire

An agreement between the Russian and Belarusian presidents to move toward the merger of their countries is sending shockwaves through both countries, the other post-Soviet states, and the West as well. And it is having this effect even though many people in all three places are now dismissing this accord either because they oppose such a new union state or because they doubt that these two former Soviet republics will ever form one.

On December 25, 1998, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his Belarusian counterpart Alyaksandr Lukashenka signed a series of accords in the Kremlin that both men said pointed toward the unification of the two countries into a single state, possibly as soon as mid-1999.

And while they promised that there would be "public discussion" of this idea – the Russian press even called for a plebiscite – the two presidents said that they had already agreed to introduce a single currency and common tax system early in 1998.

Not surprisingly, this announcement has had an immediate impact in the two countries most directly affected. In Russia, reformers have spoken out against this move. On the one hand, they are concerned about the way in which this agreement was reached.

And on the other, they view it as a threat to democracy and free-market economics, with many fearful that such a reunification would transform the authoritarian Belarusian president into a major player on the Russian political scene.

That latter possibility – a Lukashenka run for the Russian presidency – has somewhat dampened the enthusiasm of Russian communists and nationalists who otherwise welcome what they see as a restoration of the past and a challenge

to NATO and the West. Consequently, at least some of them may oppose the reunification of the two countries for the same reason they have blocked it earlier: the enormous financial costs unity would impose on Russia itself.

Meanwhile, in Belarus, the impact of the accord has been still more dramatic. Given the extent of Lukashenka's increasingly authoritarian control in Miensk, Belarusian officials have dutifully backed the Yeltsin-Lukashenka deal.

But democratic activists opposed to it clashed with police over the weekend. And the Belarusian Popular Front issued a statement noting that the accord reflects Lukashenka's willingness "to eliminate Belarusian statehood" in order to enhance his power.

This fundamental difference of opinion sets the stage for ever sharper political combat between Lukashenka and those Belarusians who are committed not only to national independence but to democracy, free markets and cooperation with the West.

As dramatic as that clash is likely to be in the coming weeks and months, the consequences of the Yeltsin-Lukashenka accord on Russian relations with the other post-Soviet states and with the West are likely to prove far more significant.

The Yeltsin-Lukashenka accord appears certain to presage an expanded effort by Moscow to promote the reintegration of the former Soviet republics. And such a move will almost certainly exacerbate relations within and among them.

Within many of these countries, some political factions will welcome proposals for closer relations, given their current economic difficulties. But there will be many more who will oppose any such moves lest they lead, as with Belarus, to the extinction of national statehood.

And whatever the outcome in the short term, such domestic conflicts are likely to leave many of the governments involved weakened politically, thus set-

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## FOR THE RECORD: Statement on Ukrainian-Russian treaty

Following is the full text of a statement released on December 28 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine regarding the Ukrainian-Russian Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership.

On December 25, 1998, the State Duma of the Russian Federation's Parliament ratified the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and Russia.

The long-awaited ratification of the treaty – the bedrock of the legal basis of relations between the two sovereign states – will raise relationships between Ukraine and the Russian Federation to a qualitative new level and open up new opportunities for further comprehensive development of Ukrainian-Russian relations. The leaders and peoples of the two fraternal nations are striving for exactly that.

Ratification of the treaty by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on January 14, and its ratification by the Russian State Duma confirmed that both Ukraine and the Russian Federation legally recog-

nize the inviolability of the existing borders between them, as well as their sovereignty and territorial integrity. They have also pledged to develop further relations on the basis of universally recognized standards of international law.

Ratification of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation constitutes a landmark historic event – not only in their bilateral relations, but also in the broader context of European and global security. It testifies to the fact that both Ukraine and Russia are well aware of their roles and responsibilities in building up a new European security structure and maintaining stability and security, not only in Europe, but in the world as a whole.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its satisfaction with the ratification by the State Duma of the major political treaty between the two states, as well as its confidence that, as the treaty enters into force, it will provide for further development of equal Ukrainian-Russian cooperation for the benefit of the peoples of both states.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Ukraine's eligibility for MFN confirmed

WASHINGTON – U.S. President Bill Clinton on December 29, 1998, submitted an updated report to Congress certifying that the emigration laws and policies of Ukraine and 10 other former Soviet republics do not violate the criteria for the continuation of most-favored-nation (MFN) status as set by the Jackson-Vanik amendment. (Eastern Economist)

### Kuchma assesses outgoing year

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma said at a state awards ceremony in Kyiv on December 28, 1998, that the year was "complex and contradictory," but that "the situation is neither hopeless nor tragic," Ukrainian Television reported. According to Mr. Kuchma, Ukrainians need to "stop complaining about unfavorable conditions, roll up their sleeves and get down to work." President Kuchma criticized those politicians who made "populist proposals and promises" during the debate of Ukraine's 1999 draft budget. "Unfortunately, I have no grounds to say that the upcoming year 1999 will be much easier than 1998. It is obviously impossible to resolve sore problems quickly and painlessly," he added. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Ukrainians reflect on events of 1998

KYIV – The majority of Ukrainians regard the flooding in Zakarpattia, the arrest of ex-Premier Pavlo Lazarenko, and Verkhovna Rada elections in March 1998 as the main events of 1998, according to a poll taken by the Ukrainian Institute of Social Research and Social Monitoring. Other noted events included the economic crisis in Ukraine (which took 10 percent of votes), the fall of the hryvnia exchange rate (7 percent), a general worsening of living conditions (3 percent), with the revival of Dynamo Kyiv and the civil unrest each taking 1 percent. In terms of world events, Ukrainians consider the recent Desert Fox bombings in Iraq, the impeachment procedures against U.S. President Bill Clinton, the world economic crisis and the world cup in soccer to have been the most memorable events. (Eastern Economist)

### Poll names 'Man of the Year'

KYIV – In a poll conducted by the Institute of Social Study and Social Monitoring in 12 regions of Ukraine, President Leonid Kuchma was declared the "Person of the Year" for 1998. The "Man of the Year" title went to National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Victor Yushenko, with Progressive Socialist Party head Natalia Vitrenko named "Woman of the Year." Mr.

Kuchma also took the title of most influential politician with 44 percent of the vote, edging out Oleksander Moroz (30 percent), Ms. Vitrenko (24 percent), Petro Symonenko (18 percent), Valerii Pustovoitenko (17 percent), Mr. Yushenko (15 percent), Vyacheslav Chornovil (12 percent), and Oleksander Tkachenko (11 percent). (Eastern Economist)

### Privatization revenues below target

KYIV – Ukraine raised less than 50 percent of its planned privatization revenues in 1998, the Associated Press reported. Vadym Vasylev, head of the State Privatization fund, reported that as of December 29, 1998, the state budget had received 422 million hrv (\$123 million U.S.) of the 1 billion hrv projected for the entire year. Mr. Vasylev said privatization was hindered by Russia's financial crisis, which he argued scared foreign investors away from Ukraine. The government has set its privatization revenue target for 1999 at 800 million hrv. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Fines canceled to promote tax collection

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has signed a decree canceling fines on companies that pay all their 1998 taxes by February 1999, Ukrainian News reported. Mr. Kuchma's decision is seen as a measure to improve poor tax collection. The nationwide tax debt skyrocketed from 2.3 billion hrv in January to 10.2 billion hryvni (\$3 billion U.S.) as of December 1. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Crimean deputy is arrested

SYMPEROPOL – Crimean police have arrested Mykola Kotliarevskyi, a deputy of the Crimean Parliament, Ukrainian Television reported on December 28, 1998. Mr. Kotliarevskyi is charged with plotting a contract murder and a long string of assaults and extortion, and engaging in swindling cases with the assistance of a gang in 1994-1997. Hennadii Moskal, head of the Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry's Crimean Directorate, said the Crimean Parliament "has at least three [other] deputies with a criminal record," but did not disclose their names. (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Kuchma, Blair on funds for sarcophagus

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma and British Prime Minister Tony Blair have appealed to the leaders of 10 countries to help renovate the sarcophagus covering a ruined reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the Associated Press reported on December 30, 1998. Ukraine has

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## Ukraine's demographic...

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could go undiagnosed," he added. "They are abetting the spread of AIDS in the interest of profit."

In November, Diaprof-Med issued a strenuous rebuttal of Mr. Ivasiuk's charges about the reliability of its test systems in the weekly newspaper Zerkalo Nedeli. Experts from the State Committee for Immunological Compounds pronounced Diaprof-Med's tests "98 percent effective" and blamed false results on the ineptitude of lab technicians. The same issue featured a flattering profile of Dr. Spizhenko without mentioning his or other health officials' alleged ties to the company.

The Ministry of Health has also shown a strong interest in defending Diaprof-Med from Mr. Ivasiuk's claims. In the same article in Zerkalo Nedeli, current Minister of Health Andrii Serdiuk said that Mr. Ivasiuk had "no experience in epidemiology or infectious diseases" and accused him of "getting involved in politics."

At a recent press conference, Raisa Bohatyriova, the first vice minister of health, also repeated Diaprof-Med's claims of "98 percent effectiveness" for its test system.

Mr. Ivasiuk is particularly dismissive of Dr. Serdiuk's claims, insinuating that he also is involved with Diaprof-Med. "He [Serdiuk] is just interested in feathering his retirement nest," he retorted.

Officials at Diaprof-Med have also denied that there is any connection between the company and Ministry of Health officials. Vasyl Slavsky, a company spokesperson, told the Kyiv Post newspaper that conflict of interest claims were unfounded, and that neither present nor former Ministry of

Health officials had any ties to the company.

A call to Dr. Spizhenko's office at the State Committee on Medical and Microbiological Compounds, however, confirmed that he works with Diaprof-Med, although his employees would not state what his position is in the company. Dr. Spizhenko could not be reached directly for comment, but his legislative staff, when asked for contact number at Diaprof-Med, gave the state committee's number.

Anatoly Padchenko, head of the Ministry of Health's Epidemiology Department, told the Associated Press in November 1998 that Ukraine's economic crisis made it too expensive to import HIV testing systems. "The decision was made purely for economic reasons," he said. According to company representatives, Diaprof-Med's system costs only 60 cents – an economical alternative to imported systems which cost twice as much.

Olha Selnykova, the director of the State Institute for Infectious Diseases, Kyiv's chief AIDS treatment center, said the Ministry of Health was ready to license other HIV test systems as soon as they appear.

"All this controversy about Diaprof-Med goes to show that we should have increased blood screening," she said.

Commenting on the response of the Ukrainian government to the AIDS crisis, Andrej Cima, the UNAIDS Intercountry Advisor for Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, said, "It's easy to say that the response of the government is not sufficient, but on top of all the other issues that Ukraine faces, it is to an extent understandable."

"The important thing is to find the correct approach, without confrontation," he concluded.

the interest of the nation," she said.

After extensive debate, the parliamentarians chose to continue to work on the government bill and rejected the one proposed by Ms. Tymoshenko's Budget Committee.

Communist faction leader Petro Symonenko said the next day that his faction would not support the government budget proposal because it did not adequately address issues in the fuel and energy sector, agriculture, science and education, and did not account for the repayment of wage and pension arrears.

Vyacheslav Chornovil, leader of the Rukh faction, called on fellow national deputies to seek compromise and approve a budget before the new fiscal year or face more criticism. He said all factions would be blamed, "both the right wing and the left wing, as well as those in the middle."

On December 31, after considerable voting, discussion, compromise and more voting, and with the New Year less than six hours away, those national deputies who were still around finally agreed on a budget a majority of them could live with.

oppose any such revision.

And third, by setting the stage for greater conflict among the post-Soviet states, as well as between Moscow and the West, this agreement may force Western governments to play a very different role than they would like.

While increased conflict in the region may lead some to advocate a further retrenchment of Western involvement in the region, increased conflict between Moscow and the West would likely have precisely the opposite effect.

And for all these reasons, the Yeltsin-Lukashenka accord appears likely to define the nature of many conflicts in the post-Soviet states during the next year as well as the ways in which all the players will respond.

## Tarasyuk discusses 1998, reveals 1999 plans

Eastern Economist

KYIV – Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, speaking on December 29, 1998, discussed major developments in 1998 and pointed to several key events coming up in 1999.

He said the worldwide financial and economic crisis of last year will significantly cut trade turnover between Ukraine and other countries. He called the world financial crisis the "1998 event with the most impact on Ukraine."

He noted that Ukraine was unable to resolve the issue of associate membership in the European Union in 1998. He also pointed to a lack of attention to developing relations with African, Asian and Latin American countries. Regarding Ukraine's role in the Commonwealth of

Independent States, Mr. Tarasyuk said the organization is now in a state of crisis, and this should be taken into account when a decision is made on joining the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

The foreign affairs minister pointed to two important events in 1999 pertaining to Ukraine's position in the Central-East European region: the summit of Central European governments in Lviv in May, and the meeting of presidents of the Black Sea Economic Council in Crimea.

Mr. Tarasyuk also said he plans to visit Argentina, Brazil and Chile in 1999. President Leonid Kuchma's first official visit to Sweden is also scheduled for this year. The presidents of Mexico, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, and Canada's prime minister are currently scheduled to visit Ukraine in 1999.

## BUSINESS IN BRIEF

### State Tourism Committee releases data

KYIV – According to the State Tourism Committee, about 2,500 firms have licenses to provide tourist services in Ukraine. As of December 15, 1998, a total of 3,524 licenses had been given out, but 243 have been annulled, 13 suspended and another 793 licenses deemed invalid. According to the committee, the largest number of tourist firms are located in Kyiv (674), Crimea (495), Odesa Oblast (192), Sevastopol (133), Dnipropetrovsk Oblast (132), Lviv Oblast (127) and Donetsk Oblast (121). The fewest licenses were allotted in Kirovohrad Oblast (14) and Sumy and Ternopil oblasts (15 each). (Eastern Economist)

### Tax police achieved better results in 1998

KYIV – Tax police contributions to the state budget are almost double last year's and add up to 1 billion hrv, said tax militia head Viktor Zhvaliuk on December 22, 1998. The results have increased due to improved control over money and product flows, and in particular a more efficient program to track the shadow economy. (Eastern Economist)

### Customs reports heavy holiday traffic

KYIV – During the celebration of Christmas according to the Gregorian calendar, more than 200,000 Ukrainians and foreigners crossed the state border. Of this number, the State Customs Service registered 100 violations of customs regulations. Two criminal cases have been filed over foreign currency contraband worth 214,000 hrv. During a Kyiv-Frankfurt flight, \$58,000 (U.S.) was confiscated from a Chinese citizen caught trying to illegally smuggle these funds into Germany. British Airways reported that it carried more than half a million passengers during the period of December 21-25, 1998. The airline said there were 132 round-trip flights between Kyiv and London, and passengers on these flights drank 5,000 bottles of champagne, ate more than 3,000 servings of Christmas pudding, 60,000 donuts and 50,000 turkey dinners. Due to increased demand during the holidays, the company introduced additional flights to Belfast, the Caribbean and India. (Eastern Economist)

### Confectioner produces Monika sweets

KHMELNYTSKYI – The Khmelnytskyi Confectionery Factory has begun production of a new brand of sweets called Monika, the newspaper Den (Day) reported on December 24, 1998. Named in honor of the Monica connected to the U.S. president, the sweets sell for 4 hrv per box. An Israeli firm has apparently already put in a large order for the sweets. (Eastern Economist)

### Obolon introduces new brand for year 2000

KYIV – Kyiv's Obolon brewery has started producing a new brand of beer called 2000. 2000 beer will come in new taller European standard bottles, which previously have not been used in Ukraine. (Eastern Economist)

### McDonald's opens seventh restaurant in Kyiv

KYIV – McDonald's opened its latest restaurant in Kyiv at Leninhadska Ploscha on December 26, 1998. All the materials and work force are Ukrainian. The chain now has seven restaurants in the Ukrainian capital. The company plans to open 16 new restaurants in Ukraine in 1999. (Eastern Economist)

### Two more McDonald's in Odesa

ODESA – McDonald's Ukraine Ltd. opened its second and third restaurants in Odesa on December 29, 1998. The company opened its first restaurant in Odesa on Dobrovolskyi Avenue in late October 1998. McDonald's Ukraine Ltd. has opened a total of 19 restaurants in Ukraine. (Eastern Economist)

### Gas chief gunned down near his offices

KYIV – Oleh Garbuz, president of the Konstanza gas company, was murdered in an apparent contract killing near his offices on December 23, 1998. His company transfers gas from Turkey to Ukraine. (Eastern Economist)

### Baby food shares bought by U.S. firm

KYIV – The U.S. firm F.D. Import & Export Corp. intends to purchase a share package of VAT Balta Children's Milk and Canned-Food Plant in the Odesa Oblast. According to the Anti-Monopoly Committee, the shares are being purchased with the objective of increasing the quality and competitiveness of the plant on both domestic and foreign markets. (Eastern Economist)

## Verkhovna Rada...

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reappeared in the Parliament was far from the Tymoshenko budget. Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov defended the new government numbers during parliamentary debate on December 29, calling the revenue projections of the Tymoshenko budget unattainable and said that to bring expenditures and revenues into alignment would require major cuts in proposed spending in defense, law enforcement and education.

As it began to appear more certain that the government version of the proposed 1999 budget would win out among the national deputies still interested in approving one before the New Year, Ms. Tymoshenko criticized the government proposal and said she would not work with "corrupt" government authorities to develop a compromise bill.

"My courage lies in the fact that I will not allow myself to be led by the government to gain certain privileges in return for giving the go-ahead to a budget not in

## A divisive call...

(Continued from page 2)

ting the stage for increased Russian influence there despite Moscow's current weakness.

But the greatest challenge by far that is posed by the Yeltsin-Lukashenka agreement may be to Western governments.

First, it represents a direct challenge to NATO, which is now scheduled to include Poland as a member later this spring.

Second, it highlights the continuing influence in Moscow of those interested in reversing the 1991 dissolution of the Soviet Union and calls into question President Yeltsin's past commitments to

## Ukrainian Technological Society honors Romankiw

by Marta Pisetska Farley

PITTSBURGH – The Ukrainian Technological Society of Pittsburgh, held its 29th annual dinner-dance on Saturday, November 28, and honored the 1998 Ukrainian of the Year, Lubomyr T. Romankiw, Ph.D.

Criteria for the award are: excellence in technological or professional accomplishments; contribution to the perpetuation of Ukrainian heritage; and humanitarian achievement.

As a scientist in the field of electrochemical technology, Dr. Romankiw is a holder of over 50 patents. He was instrumental in developing technology for IBM, which increased the density of magnetic storage for computers. As Dr. Romankiw put it, we should be proud that in our computers there is a "Ukrainian."

As a contributor to the perpetuation of Ukrainian heritage, Dr. Romankiw has been active and creative in the Plast Ukrainian Youth Organization. Dr. Romankiw has been elevated to the position of chief scout (nachalniy plastun), the highest honor bestowed by this youth organization. Dr. Romankiw has served as executive board member of the

Shevchenko Scientific Society, as well as in other organizations.

As a humanitarian, Dr. Romankiw devotes serious efforts to the recognition of Plast within the International Scouting Organization, based in Geneva. He has fervently worked towards the growth of Plast in Ukraine and promotes its contribution in forming a new generation of Ukrainian youth.

The Pittsburgh community welcomed Dr. Romankiw at the University Club of Pittsburgh.

The dinner-dance was attended by 100 guests, among whom were three debutantes: Ulyana Panchisin, escorted by Stephen Haluszczak; Nicole A. Reinhart, escorted by Ryan Reczek; and Luba Tyala escorted by Orest N. Konecky. Luba Hlutekowsky, impresario and president of the Pittsburgh branch of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, organized and introduced the young ladies and their escorts.

Charles P. Kostecki, UTS president, greeted the Ukrainian of the Year, past presidents of the Ukrainian Technological Society and past recipients of the award. He thanked the Ukrainian community of Pittsburgh for its enthusiastic support of the society's goals, espe-

cially its Ukrainian of the Year Award.

Marta Pisetska Farley and Michael Korchynsky nominated Dr. Romankiw as Ukrainian of the Year for 1998. The proclamation, signed by the president, Mr. Kostecki, and secretary, Debra A. Walenchok, was presented. The elegant proclamation was executed in oil by Kathy Boykowitz, a design artist.

Dr. Romankiw shared his experiences of growing up and being educated in Canada and the United States. As a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he was pursued by many companies. IBM "won his hand." There, he contributed to the technological revolution with his inventions. Using Boston as his stomping grounds, he was active in many facets of Plast activity and in student organizations. He encouraged all to work for the benefit of Ukraine, as well as their adopted country.

Mr. Kostecki offered a toast to the Ukrainian of the Year 1998, and the dinner guests saluted him with a resounding "Mnohaya Lita." The Rev. Steve Repa, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church of Carnegie, Pa., offered a blessing for the gathered. A splendid dinner followed, with dancing to music by the Fred Yasnowski Orchestra.

## Harriman Institute announces new endowment, professorship

NEW YORK – The Harriman Institute at Columbia University has announced the creation of a new endowment fund and the appointment of a visiting professor of Ukrainian studies.

The Volodymyr O. and Lydia Z. Bazarko Fellowship is intended for students interested in Ukrainian studies; the first award will be made in fall 1999.

The Harriman Institute sponsors and organizes numerous conferences, courses, and events dealing with Ukraine. Thanks to the generosity of the Bazarko family, the Harriman Institute can again reaffirm its commitment to Ukrainian studies at Columbia University. For further information, contact Frank Bohdan: telephone, (212) 854-6217; e-mail, fjb7@columbia.edu.

Frank Sysyn has been appointed as the first Petro Jacyk Visiting Professor of Ukrainian Studies at Columbia University. Prof. Sysyn is the director of the Petro Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta.

Among his published works are "Between Poland and the Ukraine: The Dilemma of Adam Kysil, 1600-1653" (Cambridge, Mass.: Ukrainian Research Institute, 1985), and numerous articles in European and American scholarly journals.

While at Columbia he will be teaching a course titled "Problems in Modern Ukrainian History." Prof. Sysyn's course will examine the evolution of Ukrainian identity, culture and political aspirations, placed in the context of the states that ruled Ukrainian lands and the diverse populations and non-Ukrainian cultures and political movements on these territories.

## VOA Ukrainian Service's chief Bilajiw retires

WASHINGTON – Wolodymyr Bilajiw, chief of Voice of America's Ukrainian Service since 1991, retired on December 31. Mr. Bilajiw joined VOA in 1984 and witnessed many of the events during and after the collapse of the former Soviet Union.

"I was fortunate to manage the Ukrainian Service during a historically unprecedented time for our audience," said Mr. Bilajiw noting that on August 24, 1991, the Parliament of the then Soviet Ukrainian Republic proclaimed the independence of Ukraine subject to a referendum to be held on December 1, 1991." Mr. Bilajiw was on the scene in Kyiv to cover the referendum in December of that year, the dissolution of USSR, as well as the first free election of the president of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk.

A new chapter opened for VOA's Ukrainian Service on July 15, 1992, when Ukrainian State Radio began to carry the service's programming on its network. An estimated 5 million Ukrainians tuned in to VOA Ukrainian-language broadcasts either on shortwave or on Ukrainian State Radio. A correspondent's office was also opened in Kyiv and is now staffed on a rotating basis by broadcasters from the service. In addition to regular correspondents reports, on-the-scene reports from four stringers in Ukraine are carried regularly on VOA broadcasts.

Before joining VOA, Mr. Bilajiw worked as a correspondent and contributing editor for many Ukrainian-language publications in the U.S., Australia, Canada and Western Europe. He writes poetry in his spare time and had two books of poems published in the 1970s.

On December 11, 1998, Voice of America's Ukrainian Service observed the 49th anniversary of its establishment, combining it with a tribute to its retiring chief.

During a reception held at VOA headquarters in Washington, D.C., Mr. Bilajiw was honored for his years of dedicated service by International Broadcasting Bureau and VOA Director Evelyn S. Lieberman who presented him with a Career Achievement Award on the occasion. The International Broadcasting



Wolodymyr Bilajiw (right), who retired as chief of VOA's Ukrainian Service, with (from left) Eurasia Division Director Jack T. Murphy, Dorothy Strom-Bilajiw and Evelyn S. Lieberman.

## St. Andrew's Brotherhood revitalized in Bound Brook

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – After nearly 15 years of inactivity, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church in South Bound Brook, N.J., has been revitalized.

At a meeting on November 22, 1998, chaired by Archbishop Anthony and the Revs. William Diakiw and Jurij Siwko, and with the blessings of Metropolitan Constantine, the revised constitution of St. Andrew's Brotherhood was adopted by the general membership and new members of the board were elected.

President Jaroslaw Hucul expressed his thanks to the members for the faith placed in him to lead the brotherhood in service to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the U.S.A.

Other members of the board are Victor Babanskyj, Walter Hryhorenko, Wasyl Krasnobryzj, Michael Shulha, Igor Sawon and Michael Zemlachenko.

Members of the Auditing Committee are: Oleksij Shevchenko, Lew Masurek, Emil

Skocypec and Victor Rosynsky.

Of particular importance within the brotherhood's new constitution is a paragraph explicitly stating that, with the blessings of the UOC-U.S.A. Consistory, the brotherhood can extend support and work with the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Ukraine and also with St. Andrew's Brotherhood in Ukraine.

On November 29, 1998, at the first board meeting of the St. Andrew's Brotherhood announced a contribution of \$1,000 to be donated to victims of the floods in the Zakarpattia region of Ukraine. The money will be contributed to a fund set up by the UOC-U.S.A. Consistory to help the thousands suffering in that region of Ukraine.

For more information, contact: Brotherhood of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church of the U.S.A., P.O. Box 445, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880; telephone, (732) 873-8701.

## UCC Saskatchewan forms Task Force on Denaturalization and Deportation

SASKATOON – The board of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress's Saskatchewan Provincial Council (UCC-SPC) has authorized the formation of a Saskatchewan Task Force on Denaturalization and Deportation. This is in response to the federal government's plan to deport alleged World War II criminals without benefit of a criminal trial.

The 19th Congress of Ukrainian Canadians held in Winnipeg in October of this year resolved that, due to the persistent, false and defamatory allegations linking the Ukrainian Community in Canada with Nazi war crimes, the issue of denaturalization and deportation is a priority issue for the Ukrainian Canadian Congress. The congress instructed the UCC Committee for Justice to organize and coordinate political action throughout Canada via UCC provincial councils and branches.

The UCC-SPC Task Force will coordinate the activities of the Provincial Council and its constituent members on this issue; make representations to the Provincial Government regarding denaturalization and deportation; and act as an informational clearinghouse for the province's Ukrainian organizations and the entire Ukrainian Canadian community of Saskatchewan.

For more information, contact Ostep Skrypnyk: at telephone, (306) 652-5850; fax, (306) 665-2127; or e-mail, ostep.skrypnyk@ucc.sk.ca. The task force address is 980-606 Spadina Crescent E., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3H1.

(Continued on page 10)

# THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

## Young UNA'ers



Andrew Myron Kuropas, son of Stefko and Lesia Kuropas of Schaumburg, Ill., is a fifth-generation member of the UNA. He was enrolled by his father, the UNA's first vice-president. Andrew's grandfather is former UNA Vice-President Myron B. Kuropas. One of his great-grandfathers is former UNA Vice-President Stephen Kuropas. His other great-grandfather, Michael Waskiw, was a longtime secretary of UNA Branch 88 in Kerhonkson, N.Y. His great-great grandfather, Victor Mehal, was one of the founding members and first secretary of UNA Branch 137 in Easton, Pa. One of Andrew's grandmothers, Lesia (Waskiw) Kuropas, was Miss Soyuzivka in 1957. His other grandmother, Larissa Dijak, is the present chair of the UNA District Committee in Boston.



Katerina Anna and Kyra Alexa Huxel, daughters of Alexa and Shawn Huxel of Jersey City, N.J., are new members of UNA Branch 155. They were enrolled by their great-grandmother Anna Farbanec.

## Branch 242 hosts St. Nicholas

MAIZEVILLE, Pa. – Under the sponsorship of Branch 242, headed by Joe Chabon, branch secretary, the Youth Group of St. Michael's/St. John's churches held its annual Christmas Play on Sunday, December 13, 1998, here at St. John's Church.

Parish youth from St. John's church, St. Michael's church in Frackville, and St. Nicholas's church in Mahanoy City participated. The Rev. John Seniw, pastor of St. Michael's and St. John's churches, welcomed the audience.

The theme of this year's Christmas play centered around the traditional Christmas Eve, or Sviaty Vechir, a fast day in remembrance of the hardships that Mary and Joseph had endured as they traveled to Bethlehem. Hay was placed on the table to signify the hay used in the manger. A candle was lit and family members sang "Boh Predvichnyi."

Traditional Ukrainian-embroidered tablecloths, serving bowls and dishes were used to serve the holy supper's 12 dishes

in commemoration of the 12 apostles. Honey, garlic and salt were passed around to each family member. The garlic symbolizes the bitterness of the night; the honey, the sweetness of God, which tempers the bitter; and the salt to brings zest in life.

After the holy supper, the cast re-enacted what happened that holy night. Youths dressed as angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary and Joseph, and the little drummer boy acted out events surrounding the birth of Jesus. Finally the cast sang "Nebo i Zemlia" upon the arrival of St. Nicholas.

St. Nicholas greeted the 50 children and gave each child a three-bar gold cross on a chain and a candy cane treat. The children's gifts were donated by the Ukrainian National Association's Home Office in Parsippany, N.J.

Immediately following the play and the gift-giving, parishioners and their families were treated to a bountiful meal prepared by the Sacred Heart Society of Maizeville.

– Joe Chabon, Branch Secretary

## ORGANIZING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNA DISTRICT COMMITTEES DURING NOVEMBER 1998

Districts	No. of Branches	New members Nov '98	Total in 1998	Amount of Insurance Nov '98	Total in 1998
<b>PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICTS</b>					
Philadelphia	22	1	47	5,000	110,000
Pittsburg	12	2	41	15,000	200,000
Scranton	10	2	24	5,000	240,000
Altoona	10	-	19	-	140,000
Wilkes Barre	6	-	0	-	55,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>1,045,000</b>
<b>MARYLAND DISTRICT</b>					
Baltimore	3	1	0	5,000	61,000
<b>NEW YORK DISTRICTS</b>					
New York	21	3	56	10,000	531,000
Syracuse	9	-	19	-	101,000
Rochester	7	-	17	-	42,000
Albany	2	2	35	5,000	221,000
Buffalo	3	-	8	-	76,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>1,071,000</b>
<b>NEW JERSEY DISTRICTS</b>					
Central NJ	3	1	27	40,000	270,000
Northern NJ	21	15	120	124,224	1,320,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>164,224</b>	<b>1,590,100</b>
<b>ILLINOIS, MICHIGAN, OHIO DISTRICTS</b>					
Chicago, Ill.	17	13	46	130,000	555,000
Detroit, Mich.	14	3	48	18,000	383,000
Cleveland, Ohio	13	1	13	50,000	320,000
Youngstown, Ohio	3	-	1	-	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>238,000</b>	<b>1,263,000</b>
<b>NEW ENGLAND DISTRICTS</b>					
Connecticut	5	1	28	10,000	264,000
Boston, Mass.	4	-	10	-	65,000
Vermont	3	1	11	25,000	261,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>590,000</b>
<b>WESTERN U.S. DISTRICTS</b>					
Central	5	-	3	-	20,000
Minneapolis	1	-	5	-	100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>120,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>74,000</b>	<b>1,050,000</b>
<b>CANADA DISTRICTS</b>					
Toronto, Ont.	13	2	58	25,000	2,525,232
Montreal, Que.	5	2	17	5,600	70,000
Windsor, Ont.	6	-	3	-	0,000
Winnipeg, Man.	7	-	2	-	211,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>30,600</b>	<b>3,806,232</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>675,624</b>	<b>10,700,400</b>

Maria Oscislawski  
Organizing Department

## Notice about UNA scholarships for the academic year 1999/2000

In accordance with a decision made by the UNA General Assembly at a Special Meeting held in November 1998, the scholarship program will be considerably simplified with a minimum of required documentation.

June 1, 1999, will be the new deadline for submission of the completed simplified application form and requested documents. New application forms will be mailed at the end of February 1999.

Application requests should be directed to:

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054

Please send me a scholarship application for the 1999/2000 school year

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of UNA Branch \_\_\_\_\_

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### The Rada approves a budget

The Verkhovna Rada did the seemingly impossible in its politically divided house and approved a national budget for 1999, hours before the start of the fiscal year on January 1. Of course, nearly half of the 450-member parliamentary body did not participate in the final vote. And there are those who say the document was put together in such a slipshod manner that it cannot be called a realistic budget. But a budget it is.

Although it would be nice to consider the document a New Year's gift to the Ukrainian people, little in the details could support such a proposition. Communists and Socialists abstained from voting to protest the insufficient funds allocated for social programs and wage/pension arrears, but the government is simply too poor to spend money on anything but the bare necessities to keep the country from sinking further economically. They also have called the budget IMF-directed.

To be sure, the budget was put together to appease the International Monetary Fund – to ensure that Ukraine will get the credits it has been promised through the IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to the tune of more than \$2 billion. Without the money Ukraine will be in dire financial straits in 1999.

A key IMF requirement for a minimal budget deficit was met; government figures forecast this year's shortfall at 1 percent. But another IMF requirement, perhaps its strongest demand, was that Ukraine put together a realistic budget for 1999. Whether this budget meets that demand depends on whether the government can collect the revenues it has projected for 1999. In 1998, government coffers received about half the expected revenues. Another source of revenues, through the privatization of government-owned industries, also has come up short in the past, with Ukraine failing to meet projected sales figures in both 1997 and 1998.

Also of concern is whether Ukraine will be able to pay off the foreign debt on government-issued bonds that will come due in 1999. The 1999 budget does not provide the needed money in full, and where it expects to get the funding is anyone's guess.

The IMF will make its decision on the merit of the Ukrainian budget, if it is in fact realistic, by February and then decide whether it will continue to provide credits through the EFF. Under pressure from its members to become more flexible in the aftermath of criticism of its policies in East Asia, the IMF may be inclined to put its stamp of approval on Ukraine's 1999 budget for all its shortcomings.

Nonetheless, that will not solve Ukraine's financial woes. Some political observers have predicted that Ukraine may be forced to begin printing money as it did in the first years of independence to make ends meet in 1999. That, in all likelihood, would result in the cancellation of the IMF program. The prognostication gains some value when one considers that 1999 is a presidential election year and, as many politicians are prone to do at such a time, President Leonid Kuchma may look for short-term solutions to long-term problems to put some money in the pockets of the voting public and make the economy appear as healthy as possible.

An IMF forecast for Ukraine released in mid-December paints a dismal picture for 1999 even without a money emission. Titled "World Economic Outlook," the annual report forecasts that economic decline will deepen in Ukraine in 1999: economic output will fall by 3.5 percent and inflation will surge to 32 percent from last year's 11 percent. If Ukraine begins printing money, inflation could spiral out of control.

Every New Year should begin with good feeling, hope and optimism. The Kuchma administration, however, would do well to temper its optimism, to maintain a program of austerity and let the nation know that 1999 will be another tough year, hopefully the last. And most importantly it must begin to follow through on its plans and promises to restructure the economy and the government, break the chain of graft and corruption, and move strongly to complete economic reform.

That will mean more sacrifice by Ukrainians in the new year, but brings with it the hope that the country will enjoy a better future in the new millennium.

### International Human Rights Day address: let's stop worldwide trafficking in women

*Following is the text of remarks delivered at the 50th anniversary observance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1998, at the University of Pennsylvania by Ulana Baluch Mazurkevich, chairperson of the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee and former public member of the U.S. Congressional Commission on the Ukraine Famine.*

The ringing words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were the worldwide response to the evil of Nazism. "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood." The words of the Universal Declaration were the guiding light for many human rights activists and human rights organizations – among them the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee which for over the past 20 years fought the suppression of Ukrainian language, culture and religion by Soviet authorities.

In working with former political prisoners, we were told that the holiest of holy days in the vast gulag of Soviet prisons was not Christmas, not Easter nor Yom Kippur. It was December 10, the day celebrated internationally as Human Rights Day. Outside the walls of the concentration camps courageous human rights activists from Moscow to Miensk to Kyiv would organize observances of this anniversary. Here in Philadelphia we united in solidarity with them and annually commemorated this great day.

In Ukraine, Soviet authorities tried to pit Ukrainians against Jews and vice versa. Guided by the words of the Universal Declaration, we worked together in a spirit of brotherhood. Together we raised our banners high: "Release Ukrainian Political Prisoners," "Release Soviet Jews," "Freedom for Rudenko," "Freedom for Sharansky."

Denial of basic human rights took a horrific turn in Ukraine 65 years ago with the murder of 7 million. In 1932-1933, 7 million Ukrainians were forcibly starved to death in a policy of total economic and political control engineered by Stalin.

In order to crush all vestiges of Ukrainian national sentiment, Ukrainian leaders were shipped to the gulag. For the rest of the populace, Stalin had a different plan. An artificial famine was directed at an area known as the "breadbasket of Europe." Soviet authorities scoured the countryside, removing all foodstuffs, every kernel and every grain; even bread baking in the oven was confiscated.

How could 7 million deaths be concealed? Simple: close the borders of Ukraine, isolate Ukraine, contain the famine and deny, deny, deny that millions were starving in an area that was exporting wheat to Europe.

In 1986 Congress mandated a congressional commission to investigate the artificial famine, collect eyewitness testimony and bring out the full scope and tragedy of this horror.

One of the most insidious and blatant violations of human rights is taking place at this very moment. It is the slave trade of women and girls. This is a global problem. Trafficking of women and girls has become one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the world. An estimated 1 million to 2 million women are trafficked annually. Trafficked women come from almost all corners of the world. They come from Ghana, Nigeria and Morocco. They come from Brazil and Columbia. In the Caribbean they come from the Dominican Republic. In

Southeast Asia they come from the Philippines and Thailand.

The flow is towards industrialized countries and involves, to a greater or lesser extent, all European countries.

Traffickers operate boldly across international borders. They lure their victims with promises of fantastic salaries and in most cases respectable jobs such as: night club entertainers, nannies, dancers, waitresses, sales clerks and models. This international organized crime generates high profits with relatively low risks. Trafficking, the actual sale, of Thai women to Japan, Germany and Taiwan generates close to \$3 billion. In Japan alone, Thai women and girls working as prostitutes bring in as much as \$4.7 billion.

One of the most lucrative sex trade markets and a new source of women for slave traffic is Central Europe and the new independent states of the former Soviet Union. Let me for a minute focus on Ukraine. With the break-up of the Soviet Union, Ukraine was peacefully transformed from a communist state into a true democracy. However, democracy does not spell economic success, and unfortunately a large segment of the population is caught in an economic nightmare. This situation brings out despair in many young women, who in many cases are highly educated, yet 80 percent of them cannot find work. These young women face stark reality: no jobs, no money. They turn to agencies that propose lucrative jobs. Unfortunately, many of the advertisements are from bogus agencies that act as fronts for syndicates trafficking women.

When the women arrive at their destination, they face the horror of their decision. They find themselves virtual prisoners with no resources, little recourse and no protection against violations of their most basic human rights.

Take the case of Irina: she responded to an ad in a small Ukrainian newspaper to be a dancer in Israel. She arrived in Israel thinking that she would work for one or two years, save the money and return home. One morning her boss at the nightclub where she worked drove her to a brothel, burned her passport before her eyes and told her in no uncertain terms that she was his property.

Another case involved a German citizen who recruited his victims by placing ads for babysitters. One of the victims was a 16 year-old who stated that her passport was confiscated, she was raped, beaten and taken to Hamburg. There she was placed in a brothel and forced to have sex with 10 clients per day. Police suspect that this man was responsible for trafficking up to 500 women into Germany – all under false pretenses.

The global community is responding to this violence against women. The United States and the European Union formally launched a joint information campaign to combat the trafficking of women. The United States is helping Ukraine in an information campaign targeting potential victims. The European Union is sponsoring a similar information campaign in Poland, since this country also is a source and transit venue for trafficking of women. The U.S.-European partnership provides information to local border and consular officials to help them recognize and deter slave traffic of women.

Today, on this anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, let us commit ourselves to join the battle against this insidious assault on women's dignity. The declaration created an ideal – an ideal that requires daily vigilance and courage.

January  
15  
1998

### Turning the pages back...

Last year on January 15, at a special gathering at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, Ukraine's chief rabbi, Yaakov Bleich, reported that the Jewish community is faring better in Ukraine than in any of the other new independent countries of that region.

A report on the presentation was filed by Yaro Bihun, The Weekly's special correspondent in Washington. Following are excerpts of his story.

Rabbi Bleich, who was born in the U.S. and has worked in Ukraine for eight years, said the welfare of Jews in Ukraine is tied to the general welfare of the country and cautioned that anti-Semitism should not be mistaken for nationalism. He reported that, organizationally, Jews in Ukraine, who number about 600,000, are "definitely far ahead" of Jews in any other post-Soviet successor states. There are over 300 Jewish organizations and four national umbrella organizations active in Ukraine.

"I think that this is in no small part thanks to the atmosphere that was created by the Ukrainian government since its independence – since 1991, when the Ukrainian government made it known that (it) will seek a European type of democracy, where national minorities will all be free and welcome to build their own communities within the framework of Ukraine," he explained.

As a result, he noted, there are 16 Jewish day schools in Ukraine, 12 of which are in part government-supported as Jewish national schools. More than 30 percent of Jewish children in Ukraine receive some sort of Jewish education – 10,000 out of a population of 30,000 with 5,000 of them in all-day schools. That percentage, he pointed out, is better than in the United States.

He quoted an official who said the government would like to make Ukraine "a better place to live – better than Canada for Ukrainians, and better than Israel for Jews." "That may be a far-reaching goal, and there's a long way to go," the rabbi added, "but I think that the Ukrainian government is doing a lot to try and make the Jews feel at home in Ukraine."

Source: "Chief rabbi praises Ukraine's government for positive position on minorities," by Yaro Bihun, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, January 25, 1998, Vol. LXVI, No. 4.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### UUARC is eligible to receive funds

Dear Editor:

Recently several letters to The Ukrainian Weekly have indicated a concern that the United Ukrainian Relief Committee of America is not listed in the brochures of the Combined Federal Campaign (for federal government employees), or in the brochures of the United Way (for employees of private firms). The authors of these letters assume that, therefore, the UUARC is not eligible to receive funds from these campaigns.

As it turns out, this is not the case. In checking personally with the UUARC office, I received information that *Natsionalna Trybuna* of September 14, 1997, published the UUARC appeal to federal, state and private employees for contributions. The Donor Code number for the Combined Federal Campaign is 2943; for the United Way it is 1838. I

have confirmed with the UUARC that the code numbers remain the same for the 1998 campaigns. I have also confirmed that my 1997 contribution via the United Way has been received by the UUARC.

I hope that, since the UUARC has not found a way to publicize its eligibility in the two campaigns, you will publish this letter, so that potential donors are aware of the opportunity to contribute to causes of interest to Ukrainian Americans. It seems that an appropriate notification in our community could reach, let's say, 1,000 new donors. Assuming a \$200 per donor contribution, the UUARC may be sitting on an untapped \$200,000 per year contribution to their budget.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Eugene Zyblikewycz, Bohdan Nehaniv and Rostyslav Chomiak for their concern – and to your newspaper for publishing these concerns – regarding the UUARC's participation in the annual charitable campaigns.

**Ihor Vitkovitsky**  
Silver Spring, Md.

### Kudos to Kohut for Yale lecture

Dear Editor:

On November 3, an opportunity was given to New Haven residents and students at Yale University to attend a lecture at Yale University by Prof. Zenon Kohut, visiting professor of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. His topic was Russian-Ukrainian unity and Ukrainian distinctiveness in early modern Ukrainian thought and culture – a timely subject.

In many instances lectures have proven to be dull and uninteresting, but in this instance Prof. Kohut's delivery was immeasurably smooth; he knew his topic and delivered it comprehensively. His audience showed great attention and interest. Prof. Kohut brought up detail, rather than stereotyped data familiar to those studying Ukrainian or Russian history. The 50 or more attendees, among whom were about 10 students from St. Basil Seminary in Stamford, Conn., generated a lengthy discussion.

I was especially encouraged and impressed that at last one of our own had endeavored to enlighten those who have been brainwashed into believing that Rus' and Russia are one and the same. More lec-

tures of this type are needed so that those who are constantly correcting articles appearing in magazines (such as *The World and I*, and *National Geographic*); dictionaries and encyclopedias that, without hesitation, define the founding of Rus' and the adoption of Christianity as events taking place in Russia; who place the daughters of Yaroslav and Wise, who married into the royal families of Sweden, Norway and France, into the historical context of Russia; who constantly refer to Kyiv as "the mother of Russian cities," etc.

Curiosity, at this point, prompts me to ask: Where are the recipients of scholarships granted by the Ukrainian National Association? It seems that the majority of them have vanished or disappeared into the intellectual world, without a thought as to who they are. I feel that we Ukrainians must take a positive step toward acknowledging who we are – from our original pioneer Ivan Bohun, who was a friend of Miles Standish, to Leonid Kadenyuk, our first Ukrainian cosmonaut who trained for the STS-87 mission and was on the space shuttle Columbia.

More respect and recognition should be given to our Ukrainian intellectuals who are out in the field awakening Ukraine's historical past. Kudos to Prof. Kohut.

**Wasyll Gina**  
New Haven, Conn.

### UCCLA welcomes Ukraine's Day of Remembrance

TORONTO – The Ukrainian Canadian community has welcomed the Ukrainian government's recent announcement that, henceforth, every fourth Saturday of November will be set aside for a National Day of Remembrance of Famine Victims.

Between 1932-1933, millions of Ukrainians were starved to death by the Stalinist regime, in what remains one of Europe's least known but greatest acts of genocide. This politically engineered famine, which was denied by Soviet officials at the time and thereafter, took the lives of well over 7 million Ukrainians. Despite the fact that many Western governments knew what was happening in Ukraine, they, and supporters of the Soviet regime, deliberately covered up this crime against humanity. To this day, Famine-deniers remain active in North America and Western Europe.

The chairman of the Ukrainian

Canadian Civil Liberties Association, John B. Gregorovich commented: "We welcome the government of Ukraine's official recognition of this genocide, which was probably the single-greatest crime against humanity perpetrated in 20th century Europe. We now call up the government of Ukraine to do whatever still can be done to bring those responsible for this atrocity to justice. Regrettably, many of those who were Stalin's willing executioners remain unpunished for their crimes, living in Ukraine and abroad.

"The government of Ukraine should bring those who remain in Ukraine to justice and should apply to various foreign countries for the extradition of all who willingly served Stalin and thus participated in the mass murder of millions of Ukraine's people. Certainly some of these Communist war criminals are still alive, hiding in North America, Israel, Western Europe and Russia."

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



### An eye for an eye: a story of redemption

During a dinner attended by Joseph Stalin, Winston Churchill and Franklin Delano Roosevelt in Teheran in 1943, the Soviet leader suggested that the Allies randomly shoot 50,000 German officers at war's end. Mr. Churchill was outraged. "I would rather be taken out in the garden here and now to be shot myself than sully my own and my country's honor by such infamy," he retorted.

Playing up to Stalin, President Roosevelt fatuously suggested a compromise 49,000 be targeted for execution. His son, Elliott Roosevelt, then a U.S. Army brigadier general, however, responded with a toast to the deaths of "not only those 50,000 ... but many hundreds of thousands more Nazis as well." Stalin, of course, was delighted.

Dwight D. Eisenhower shared President Roosevelt's loathing for the enemy. In a letter to his wife in 1944, America's future president wrote that "the German is a beast." He later suggested the liquidation of all leaders of the Nazi party, from mayors on up, plus all members of the Gestapo, a total of some 100,000 people.

The extermination of German POWs at the hands of the Allies after the war was documented by James Bacque in the 1989 publication "Other Losses: An Investigation into the Mass Deaths of German Prisoners at the Hands of the French and Americans After World War II." Douglas Botting who authored "From the Ruins of the Reich: Germany, 1945-1949," and Alfred-Maurice de Zayas who penned "The German Expellees: Victims in War and Peace" authenticated the slaughter of Sudeten Germans by the Czechs, expulsion of East Prussian Germans from Silesia by the Poles, anti-German terror of the Russians, resurrection of Nazi concentration camps by American masters and the disappearance of millions of dollars of gold bullion.

For me, however, the most riveting account of post-war retribution was a Soviet-inspired genocide documented in a 1993 book titled "An Eye for an Eye: The Untold Story of Jewish Revenge Against Germans in 1945" by John Sack. Soon after occupying Poland and East Germany, the Soviets established the Office of State Security and deliberately recruited Holocaust survivors, primarily Jews, to de-Nazify some 10 million Germans residing in the area. Office personnel rounded up German men, women and children, 99 percent of whom were innocent non-combatants, and trucked them to cellars, prisons and 1,255 concentration camps where between 60,000 and 80,000 perished as a result of torture, starvation and typhus. Tragically, the West was aware of these atrocities – they were referenced in the Congressional Record of August 2, 1945, and Mr. Churchill condemned them in the House of Commons on August 16 – but nothing was done. At the time, few people really cared what happened to Germans who, after all, had started World War II.

John Sacks spent seven years of research in Poland, Germany and Israel to write his 252-page book, which contains 65 pages of notes. He focused on the most brutal of the Jews, referring to them by their given names, Lola, Pinek, Shlomo, Moshe, etc. Most of them immigrated to America, Canada and Israel, where they prospered in various occupations. In 1993, for example, Lola was a California CEO of a large company worth millions. Moshe was in the construction business in Linden, N.J. All were interviewed extensively by Mr. Sacks.

Not surprisingly, the book was condemned by Jewish scholars who called it

"an audacious lie," "vile docudrama" and "anti-Semitic fodder." In a 5,000-word onslaught that appeared in the *New Republic*, Daniel Goldhagen described the work as "widely out of focus," "not beneath resorting to outright fictionalization" and the result of "sheer inventions." In his controversial book "Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust," Mr. Goldhagen later explained the Holocaust as the result of a "long-incubating, pervasive, virulent, racist, eliminationist, anti-Semitic German culture." National groups who aided the Germans in slaughtering Jews – primarily Ukrainians, Latvians and Lithuanians – Mr. Goldhagen continued, also "came from cultures that were profoundly anti-Semitic." Genocide against Jews, according to the new disputed "Goldhagen thesis," is the result of a long-nurtured ethno-national predisposition.

Following the uproar, Piper Verlag, a German publisher, abruptly canceled distribution of Mr. Sack's book and promised to recycle the 6,000 copies already printed in Germany because it could be "cause for some misunderstanding." Unbowed by the attacks, Mr. Sacks believes he "had a moral duty" to write what he did; the book, he says, is "the story of Jewish redemption."

A significant figure in Mr. Sack's book is Shlomo Morel, who ran an internment camp for German civilians in the Polish community of Schwientochlowitz. He lost his father, mother, brothers, uncles, aunts and all but one cousin during the Holocaust. He joined the Soviet-supported Jewish partisans and once the Soviets drove the Germans out of Poland, he became, at the age of 26, commandant of the camp. John Sacks describes the horrors experienced by the Germans at Shlomo's camp: "The guards put the Germans into a doghouse, beating them if they didn't say 'bow-wow.' They got the Germans to beat each other; to jump on each other's spines and to punch each other's spines and to punch each other's noses, and hit the Germans so hard that they once knocked a German's glass eye out. The guards raped the German women ... and trained their dogs to bite off the German men's genitals at the command of 'Sic.' And still 3,000 remained, and Shlomo hated them more ... hated them for not dying compliantly ... In time, three-fourths of the Germans at Shlomo's camp were dead ... and Shlomo still wasn't satisfied with his Schwientochlowitz score."

Today, Shlomo Morel leads a comfortable life in Israel. In December, the Polish prosecutor's office in Katowice charged Shlomo with crimes against humanity and demanded that Israel extradite him to Poland. Israeli authorities refused, informing the Polish Ministry of Justice that his alleged crimes are not perceived as genocide in Israel and are therefore subject to the statute of limitations. Apparently, according to Israeli reasoning, killing innocent Jews for no reason is genocide. Killing innocent Germans for no reason is not.

Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, research director of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, has condemned Israel's double standard. "How can organizations like the Simon Wiesenthal Center, or B'Nai Brith, or the World Jewish Congress, who have together orchestrated such a concerted demand for bringing alleged Nazi war criminals to justice, now allow such rank hypocrisy in Israel to go unchallenged?" he asks. It's not a rhetorical question.

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## Oseredok cultural center in Winnipeg sets sights on major expansion

by Yuriy Diakunchak

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WINNIPEG – The Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Education Centre, located in the Manitoba provincial capital's downtown area, is setting its sights on an ambitious expansion that will see it more than double in size over the next decade or so.

With seed money from various levels of government, Oseredok will add new space to house its ever-expanding archives, library, art collection and community services.

"We have nowhere to display a lot of our collection. We have one of the largest collections of Ukrainian artifacts in Canada," said Linda Hunter, president of Oseredok's board of directors since July. Ms. Hunter specializes in software development and Y2K conversions. At present, she is consulting for Credit Union Central.

Oseredok, which boasts 900 members, is currently located in a five-story building not far from the famously windy intersection of Portage Avenue and Main Street. Although Winnipeg's downtown has fallen on hard times in recent decades as the well-to-do have fled to its suburbs, a revival appears to be taking place. The Exchange District, just steps away from Oseredok's locale, offers art galleries, boutiques and the odd eatery. To the north, however, shabby hotels and rough bars along Main Street attest to the long road left to travel before the city's core is revitalized. Nonetheless, Oseredok may one day find itself in a very desirable part of town if the migration to the suburbs is reversed.

An initial budget for the Oseredok construction project drawn up in 1994 foresaw a cost of \$10 million for the entire project. "We have to take a look at that and see if a new funding structure is needed," said Ms. Hunter.

The building will take place in stages. The first stage is now expected to cost around \$4 million and will consist of renovating the old Oseredok building and partially constructing the "tower," a new five-story building that will be attached to the existing structure. The second phase will see the completion of the tower.

In the third phase, a permanent gallery and museum will be built to house Oseredok's collections. Initially these final two stages were to cost \$2.5 million and \$5 million, respectively, according to Ms. Hunter, but

these figures are now likely to increase.

Building timetables depend on how fast money can be raised. "It could be a three-year project or 15-year project, depending on funding," said Oseredok's board president. She said the center has not yet been very active in soliciting funds from the community but will soon start to do so.

### Ukrainian community ambivalent

The lack of a strong commitment from the Ukrainian community is a serious roadblock on the way to achieving this new center. "We don't know what the level of community support is [for this project]," said Peter Washchysyn, one of Oseredok's board members. The committee has spent a lot of time "navel gazing" on the project, as Mr. Washchysyn puts it, but doesn't have its finger on what the community wants or is willing to support. "I'm a bit disappointed that we haven't proceeded further," he said.

The project has been in the works for three years now and, according to Mr. Washchysyn, there is strong support for it at all levels of government and among Winnipeg's non-Ukrainians, but "I'm not sure where we stand with the [Ukrainian] community," he said.

The Ukrainian community's ambivalence poses a real problem for Oseredok, since a lot of government money for the project is contingent on matching funds that the center's activists can assemble, funds that obviously have to come from the community in one way or another.

Oseredok has received \$600,000 from the Infrastructure Program, a joint federal and provincial program. Each level of government kicked in \$300,000, contingent on Oseredok raising \$300,000 itself. Under this program, the fund recipient submits receipts, two-thirds of which are paid by the Infrastructure Program. So far, about \$200,000 of this has been spent on the design of the new Oseredok. The deadline to use the funds from this program is March 1999.

The Winnipeg Development Agreement committed \$1 million to the project. This is a \$75 million joint federal, provincial and municipal project that funds approximately 14 projects in Winnipeg. The \$1 million for Oseredok is part of the North Main Development Program administered by the city of Winnipeg. The deadline to use this money falls in 2002; it also is con-

tingent upon matching funds from the community. It is to be spent on the first phase of construction, which will cost about \$4 million.

Oseredok was also granted \$175,000 from the Winnipeg Foundation, an organization that funds charities in the city. The money was contingent upon starting construction, but the deadline has since lapsed and no construction has been undertaken. Mr. Washchysyn is confident that the money will be reinstated upon re-application to the fund, but that remains academic as long as Oseredok has trouble raising the matching funds it needs to begin construction.

### A restructuring, too

Oseredok's expansion is not exclusively a bricks and mortar affair. The center has recently undergone some restructuring, and the new team hopes to provide new services to revitalize the community. "Last year we let all staff but one go," said Ms. Hunter. A new executive director, Shelley Greschuk, has since been hired to act as the center's chief executive officer and head of fundraising.

The center's need for restructuring reflects Ukrainian Canadian society as a whole, according to its president. "We've become a fairly splintered group. We need to come together. We need to get youth at the grade school and high school level. We need to market to them, advertise to them what is available," Ms. Hunter observed.

She admits there are groups within Winnipeg that have never heard of the center. "We invited one of the girls in a bandura group to our art auction ... it was the first time she had heard of Oseredok."

Oseredok offers all types of programs, from art exhibits to garage sales. It hosts lectures and monthly Genealogical Society meetings which attract many people. There is also a program that helps new immigrants find housing, job opportunities and school placement for their children and otherwise acclimate themselves to life in Canada.

The programs for the new immigrants were the initiative of Oseredok librarian Larysa Tolchinsky, an immigrant from Kyiv who came to Canada in 1990 and was hired by the center in 1992.

"Shelley Greschuk and I decided we needed to pro-

(Continued on page 12)

## Kochan and Paris to Kyiv selected for musical showcase

by Diane Slawych

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

TORONTO – The sounds of Ukraine are back in the world music spotlight again, thanks to Alexis Kochan. The Winnipeg-born singer and her Paris to Kyiv ensemble were one of 48 groups chosen from among 250 applicants across Canada to perform at the Showcase of Culturally Diverse and First Nations Artists, held at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto on November 14.

Ms. Kochan and Paris to Kyiv – Martin Colledge, Julian Kytasty, Richard Moody and John Wyre – performed several pre-Christian songs, some connected to seasonal rituals of agricultural life, a polytonal duet and magical-sounding instrumental pieces on bandura, viola, cittern and pipes.

The ensemble played some new arrangements from its eponymous first release and selections from its most recent CD, "Variances."

The event was sponsored by the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA), a federal government agency that is part of the Canada Heritage ministry. According to the CCA's website, the aim was to develop "increased audiences and markets for culturally diverse and First Peoples artists," by putting them directly in touch with an array of promoters, called "presenters," thereby supporting their efforts to secure recording contracts and concert bookings.

Invitations were sent to agents, record industry representatives from both the United States and Canada, and a live Internet feed was provided on the CCA's website.

"This was a unique situation," said Ms.

Kochan. "Canada Council is beginning to see that there is considerable interest in world music. This is a good way to get people out of their community church basements and give them a bit of a push."

Paris to Kyiv, who took the stage at 9:30 p.m., was one of 16 groups that performed during the daylong Toronto (central Canadian) portion of the showcase. The other 32 ensembles appeared at the "eastern" and "western" showcases that took place in Montreal and Vancouver, respectively. Other groups presented the music of Asia (China, India and Japan), Africa (Ghana and Madagascar), Eastern Europe (Bulgaria), South and Central America (Peru), joined by First Peoples (Status and Non-Status First Nations, Métis and Inuit) bands that played a mix of rap, country and rock.

Paris to Kyiv's performance was enthusiastically received by the audience of about 100 presenters and another 300 members of the public. Ms. Kochan was also pleased. "I felt we sounded pretty edgy," the Winnipeg-based artist said. "A number of the Canada Council people, like the head of its music sector [Micheline Lesage] came up to us and said they were very moved."

"A few of the presenters expressed interest in my work," averred Ms. Kochan after the show. Among them was a representative of Toronto-based outfit Small World Productions, although no new concert dates were confirmed.

"Our next big gig will be for the World Music Institute in New York City at the Symphony Space in May," Ms. Kochan said, adding that the ensemble will be touring the Eastern Seaboard in the U.S.

during April and May.

Besides making it her mission to uncover and revive old Ukrainian folk songs, Ms. Kochan, with three CD's to her credit, is also making a contribution to the literature on world music.

Ms. Kochan recently consulted the "Rough Guide to World Music," published in London, England (perhaps the most comprehensive popular reference work on the global music scene), and noticed that two sections contributed by Simon Broughton, "Baltic to Baikal: The Music of Russia and the New Republics Spans the Continents," and "In Search of Gorale: Polish Highland Music and its Neighbors," devoted a mere two paragraphs to specific mentions of Ukrainian music.

The Manitoba-based musician took matters into her own hands. "I phoned Mr. Broughton to complain, and he said: 'Well, we just don't have anyone who knows enough about Ukrainian music,' and I said: 'That's not a problem, I'll do it, and bring along a few writers who really know the music, and what we don't know, we'll research,'" Ms. Kochan related.

It worked. Ms. Kochan and bandurist Julian Kytasty together researched and wrote some entries on Ukrainian music for the second edition of the guide that is due out early next year. They will be included in the chapter dealing with Eastern Europe.

"We tried to highlight how this very traditional folk music is being pulled into the world music scene," said Ms. Kochan. Their submission covered Ukrainian polyphonic folk signing and choral arrangements, and included a sidebar on the bandura.



Alexis Kochan

Ms. Kochan explained that a discography of material available on CDs, tapes and records was particularly important to the guide's editors. "We covered both the material that was published by the former Soviet Melodiya label and the stuff that was recorded in the diaspora."

Ms. Kochan said she's proud of her work with Mr. Kytasty in this regard: "I'm not sure how much it will turn out to be in the final printer version, but we produced about five solid manuscript pages of material. That's a lot better than two paragraphs."

## DATELINE NEW YORK: For Ukrainians, the Christmas season continues

by Helen Smindak

The Gregorian celebration of Christmas 1998, is a thing of the past, and the "Carol of the Bells" no longer rings out in department stores and concert halls and on the airwaves. But Christmas carols are still very much with us in New York City, where more than a dozen Ukrainian parishes celebrate Christmas according to the Julian calendar.

On January 10, the "bell" carol will resonate in St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Church on East Seventh Street, as New York's Dumka Chorus offers its annual Christmas songfest after the noontime liturgy. It will also be heard this afternoon at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine (St. James Chapel), where the Russian Chamber Chorus of New York is presenting a "winter celebration of traditional Slavic church and folk music" that includes a clutch of Ukrainian carols and, as an encore, a glorious rendition of the Ukrainian *schedrivka* (New Year carol) that became the "Carol of the Bells."

Next Sunday, January 17, the Dumka Chorus and conductor Vasyl Hrechynsky will continue their Christmas guest appearances with a concert of carols at St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church at 160 W. 82nd St. Concluding the Yuletide season in a truly festive fashion, Dumka choristers and members of the Ukrainian Sports Club will join forces at a January 14 dance to ring in the New Year together. The two groups have a mutual connection, since the Sports Club building at 122 Second Ave. has served as rehearsal quarters for Dumka for several years.

Ukrainian organizations and ensembles throughout the city have been very active with Christmastime events in recent weeks. An innovation this year at The Ukrainian Museum was the children's Christmas program directed by Olenka Klimenko, who once worked as an actress and set designer of children's TV shows in Ukraine. Ms. Klimenko arranged an afternoon for children age 2-9 (with parents and friends in tow) that included games such as musical chairs, recitations, songs, balloons, pretzels, soda and, of course, a visit from St. Nicholas.

On another afternoon, the New York Regional Council of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America held its annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony at The Ukrainian Museum. The regional council's president, Lesia Kirshak, and special events convenor, Olympia Rohowsky, led branch members in singing carols and lighting a tall tree profusely laden with colorful handmade ornaments.

Members of the Plast youth organization gathered at Plast headquarters on Second Avenue last month to greet St. Nicholas. This weekend, a group of Plast youngsters is scheduled to take a motor tour of Queens, stopping at Ukrainian homes to sing carols in true village style.

Alla Kutsevich, director of the Astoria branch of the New York School of Bandura, has been zigzagging around town with her ensemble – from a Christmas presentation at the Selfreliance Association in downtown Manhattan on December 17, to a special program at the Ukrainian National Home on December 27 in aid of the Zakarpattia flood victims. On January 17, Ms. Kutsevich and her ensemble will perform at the 1 p.m. *prospora* at Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in Astoria.

A Brooklyn-based choral group formed last year by musicologist Oksana Likhovid, a teacher at the Ukrainian Music Institute in New York, has been equally busy with Christmas caroling in Manhattan and Astoria. *Ukrayinska Rodyna* (The Ukrainian Family), a group of some 15 recent émigrés from Ukraine, has given concerts at Holy Cross Church in Astoria and the Ukrainian National Home in Manhattan. Dressed in Ukrainian folk costumes and holding aloft a pole topped with a star (symbolizing the star of Bethlehem and reminiscent of the elaborate star-topped poles once carried in Ukrainian villages), the ensemble recently performed at All Saints Ukrainian Orthodox Church and St. Mary's Byzantine-Rite Catholic Church in Manhattan. *Ukrayinska Rodyna* often concludes its program with a dramatic presentation: with the house lights down, the choristers, holding lighted candles, sing their final carol as they stand in a circle around a rushnyk-draped icon of the Holy Virgin.

The Ukrainian Engineers' Society and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America joined members of the Ukrainian Institute of America on December 19 for a traditional "Yalynka" celebration at the institute. The festive New Year's Eve Ball hosted by the institute on December 31 offered participants a variety of entertainment, including a Monte Carlo Club Room, a Viennese table and dancing to the music of the Luna Orchestra.

In Flushing, Queens, the main post office got into the spirit of the season by once again installing a huge sign in front of its building, proclaiming "Christ Is Born" in many languages. Among the greetings listed under the banner headline "No Matter How You Say It – Happy Holidays" is the Ukrainian Christmas greeting "Khrystos Rodyvsia." Volodymyr Kornaha of Long Island City, Queens, who sub-

mitted the idea last year to Queens' postal authorities, says the Ukrainian salutation is now written in Cyrillic.

### A phenomenal choir

During this holiday season, word reached Dateline about sacred music performed by Capella Dumka, the national choir of Ukraine, under the direction of Evhenyi Savtchouck. The choir has recorded two CDs, the first devoted to the "sacred" side of Ukrainian music, opening with Bortniansky's Choral Concerto No. 4 and including other well-known composers such as Rachmaninoff and Chesnokov. The second disc concentrates on folk and art songs, many of them using Tavener-like quarter tones and tonal clusters, multi-metered and very fast passages.

Reviewing the discs in the November-December 1998 issue of *American Record Guide*, Steven E. Ritter calls the choir phenomenal – "one of the most versatile, flexible and stunning that I have ever heard."

Mr. Ritter contends that if the Philadelphia Orchestra of old ever had a choral counterpart, Capella Dumka is it. He described the Dumka choir's proficiency in detail. "They have a staggering virtuosity, completely in control, a virile, steady, widely expansive vocal range that is set in recorded sound that measures itself only against perfection."

Mr. Ritter laments the fact that "we have absolutely no idea what they are singing about" since the excellent notes supply "not one whiff of text or translations." He feels the producer made an omission that should not be repeated.

In a preamble to the review, Mr. Ritter notes that Ukraine has a rich and varied musical history. Composers, like Dmitri (his spelling) Bortniansky, studied in Venice and later became official court composers (in Bortniansky's case, under Catherine the Great). Bortniansky attempted to recapture the old liturgical chants. Much of this music, says Mr. Ritter, is quite worthy of secular, if not church, performance and "some of it is spectacular."

To find this pair of discs in local record stores, ask for Capella Dumka K617086 (Qualiton). The two CDs are 115 minutes long.

### A "Russian" program?

The Russian Chamber Chorus's program at 4 p.m. today is a repeat of December concerts presented as a Russian Christmas program at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church on West End Avenue and the New York University Catholic Center on Washington Square South. Directed by Nikolai Kachanov, the chorus interprets Russian sacred music as well as Dmytro Bortniansky's Christmas Chorus (*Coro Per Il Natale*), performed in its Italian version, and Artem Vedel's composition "Lord Now Lettest Thou," from the Cantic of St. Simeon (Vesper Service).

In the program notes, Mr. Kachanov refers to Bortniansky as "a famous Russian composer of Ukrainian origin," while Vedel is identified as Kyiv-born and trained. Vedel (born Vedelsky), spent most of his life in Kyiv and Kharkiv, conducting choirs and composing church music for choir a capella.

Bortniansky's Christmas Chorus exists in two versions: one in Italian; the other, in Church Slavonic, is well known in church tradition. Mr. Kachanov said he came upon the Italian score by chance in New York City as one in "a number of rare Russian musical scores" given to him as a gift. Written during the young Bortniansky's sojourn in Italy from 1769 to 1779, the work is said to demonstrate his complete mastery of the compositional techniques of Western Classicism.

Although the English titles of Ukrainian carols suggested selections that would be known to Ukrainians ("O Eternal God," "Brighter than the Sun," "Rejoice" and "Joy"), the works sung by the chorus were unfamiliar to me. In a brief post-concert interview, Mr. Kachanov explained that he had delved into ancient folklore to discover little-known carols, and had arranged them "according to the style of contemporary Ukrainian carols which have been formed under the influence of Western musical tradition."

The 28-member chorus, founded by Mr. Kachanov in 1985, consists mainly of non-Slavic singers. Although the ensemble's stylistic versatility and heartfelt singing in Russian, Ukrainian and Italian can certainly be commended, Mr. Kachanov's program notes and the titling of the Christmas concert as a "Russian Christmas" program could stand some reworking. Also needed is a proper introduction for "Carol of the Bells." Without identification as a carol of Ukrainian origin, listeners can only conclude it is Russian.

### Holiday and year-round oases

The East Village boasts a variety of Ukrainian-owned eateries that offer Ukrainian as well as French and Italian cuisine. Located along lower Second Avenue and adjoining side streets, all are easy for shoppers and tourists to find.

- The Ukrainian East Village Restaurant, located on the first floor of the Ukrainian National Home, offers a full menu of Ukrainian foods – varenyky, borsch, stuffed cabbage – and other entrees, side dishes and desserts. Piped-in Ukrainian music and waitresses in embroidered blouses lend native color to the setting, with tables available for two or a large group. Located at 140 Second Ave., (212) 529-5024.

- Two doors away, the Veselka Restaurant can provide you with a bowl of Christmas borsch served with

(Continued on page 11)

## U.N. ambassador's wife hosts reception



NEW YORK – Iryna Yelchenko, wife of Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations, hosted an elegant Christmas reception for the wives of ambassadors and other international dignitaries at the Ukrainian Institute of America on December 10, 1998. Walter Nazarewicz, the president of the UIA, Halyna Woskobijnyk, whose family's art collection is currently on display at the institute, and Iryna Kurowyckyj, UIA board member, guided guests through the three floors of the Woskob art exhibit, as well the newly renovated interior. The event was festive, with beautiful holiday displays, delicious hors d'oeuvres and a performance by Lavrentia Turkewicz of Ukrainian Christmas carols to the soft notes of her bandura. Mrs. Woskobijnyk also presented Mrs. Yelchenko with three works of art for Ukraine's Mission to the U.N. Seen above (from left) are: Oksana Bojko, second secretary of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the U.N., Mary Pressey, Iryna Kurowyckyj, Mr. Nazarewicz, Mrs. Woskobijnyk, Mrs. Yelchenko, Ms. Turkewicz, Mrs. Nazarewicz and Dr. Marta Kokolskyj.

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## Basilian Sisters appoint members of Formation Team

FOX CHASE MANOR, Pa. – The Sisters of St. Basil the Great have recently made several appointments to their Formation Team.

Sister Paula Jacynyk was named novice director for the Sisters of St. Basil the Great and will serve in that capacity to one novice and four postulants.

A native of Clifton, N.J., Sister Paula attended St. Nicholas Parish before entering the Basilian order. She has served as a teacher and administrator of elementary schools in Chicago, Auburn and Cohoes, N.Y., and Philadelphia and as registrar at Manor Junior College. In addition, Sister Paula previously served as novice director from 1968 to 1974.

A past administrator of the Motherhouse in Fox Chase and provincial councilor, Sister Paula currently serves as councilor/secretary and as a mentor to candidates from Ukraine as part of the Sisters' Outreach Program.

The Ukraine Outreach Program, initi-

ated by the Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Fox Chase, provides an opportunity for young women from Ukraine to enhance their lives and discern their vocation through the experience of living with the sisters in the United States for one year.

Sister Lydia Anna Sawka was appointed vocation director for the Sisters.

Born in Hamtramck, Mich., Sister Lydia was a member of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Hamtramck before she entered the Order of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great in 1984.

Previously, she taught at St. Josaphat's School in Parma, Ohio, and at St. Nicholas School in Chicago. In addition, Sister Lydia served as director of youth ministry at the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Chicago and as general secretary in Rome in 1995-1997.

Currently she teaches religion at Immaculate Conception Grade School in Hamtramck.

## VOA Ukrainian Service's...

(Continued from page 4)

Bureau oversees all of the U.S. government's non-military radio and television broadcasting outlets, of which VOA is a part.

Among VOA staffers and guests at the reception were VOA Program Director Myrna Whitworth and former Ukrainian Service chiefs Mykola Francuzenko, Oksana Dragan and Michael Terpak. Also in attendance were the Second Secretary of the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington Hennadiy Nadolenko and Ukrainian National Information Service Director Michael Sawkiw.

Mr. Bilajiw, a resident of Chevy

Chase, Md., is married to Dorothy M. Strom. He has two daughters, Alla Rogers and Gina D. Bilajiw.

VOA's Ukrainian Service went on the air on December 12, 1949. Seventeen staff members, in addition to the director of the service work in two shifts to produce morning and evening programs. The service broadcasts programs on short-wave and on AM and FM on 10 local stations throughout Ukraine. VOA Ukrainian programs can be heard also on Ukrainian State Radio nationwide.

The Voice of America broadcasts world, regional and U.S. news in 52 languages, including English, to an estimated weekly audience of 83 million listeners. VOA Ukrainian is on the air two hours a day.

### Need a back issue?

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# Jazz pianist John Stetch performs at Ukrainian Institute of America

by Mary Pressey

NEW YORK – There is no doubt that John Stetch's rendition of his highly innovative and compelling works at the piano stirs one to the height of rapture. Performing at the Ukrainian Institute of America on November 21, 1998, as part of a trio, with Mark Turner on saxophone and Johannes Weidenmueller on bass, Mr. Stetch's brilliant jazz works were nothing short of supreme.

Mr. Stetch, born Ivan Stechisin, has received accolades for his outstanding performances in his native Canada, but is little known to the Ukrainian American. His humble beginnings are rooted in Edmonton, where his parents, totally immersed in Ukrainian culture, inspired him to participate in Ukrainian choral singing, dancing and music. He attended Ukrainian cultural camps for several summers, and joined and performed in the Ukrainian wedding band Dumka for many years.

Recently he was awarded a rare medal by the metropolitan of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church in Canada for outstanding achievement and inspiration to the Ukrainian Canadian community.

Mr. Stetch first played the saxophone,

graduating to piano at age 17. Mr. Stetch's interest in piano-playing came from his need to more fully bring out his talent. He had a feel for the keyboard, its intricate sound vibrations and the inner knowledge that, with practice, wonderful works could be accomplished.

In 1988 Mr. Stetch attended McGill University in Montreal, from which he received a bachelor of music degree in jazz piano with high distinction in 1991.

He also began his performing career in Montreal. He was a guest on Peter Gzoski's renowned morning talk show and recorded frequently for CBC's "Jazzbeat." He was a guest on Marian McPartland's NPR program "Piano Jazz" and has recorded four CDs as a leader, two of which have been nominated for a Juno award. He has earned second place in the International Thelonius Monk Competition for his composition skills.

In 1992 Mr. Stetch moved to New York and has since performed and recorded with such notables as Rufus Reid, Akira Tana and Billy Hart. Recently he received the prestigious honor of being added to the roster of Steinway Artists and was the winner of the 1998 Prix de Jazz du Maurier, awarded at the Montreal International Jazz Festival, for best Canadian ensemble.

Accolades for his outstanding performances have been constant and most generous in the Canadian press and radio.

According to Geoff Chapman of the Toronto Star, "His roaming delivery echoes Monk, Jarrett and early Kenny Kirkland – you measure the stretch of Mr. Stetch by new piano melodies, of course, but more so by the innovative harmonies and unexpected structures."

Roger Levesque of the Edmonton Journal states "Edmonton has turned out one of the best young pianists and composers in the country," while Peter Hadekel of the Montreal Gazette wrote of his work: "Some of the best jazz you're likely to hear on either side of the Canadian-U.S. border."

Mr. Stetch performed the concert at the Ukrainian Institute of America in conjunction with the release of his CD "Kolomeyka Fantasy," a collection of Ukrainian selections interpreted through his own jazz piano stylings.



John Stetch

## For Ukrainians, the Christmas...

(Continued from page 9)

mushroom dumplings, and kutia, the traditional Christmas Eve dish of boiled wheat, ground poppy seeds, walnuts and honey. The restaurant's Polish and Ukrainian waiters are polite and speedy, serving a mostly-young crowd at the sit-down counter and at tables. Poinsettias, lots of greenery and a long wall of glass facing Ninth Street give a conservatory feeling to the long, high-ceilinged room. Open daily, 24 hours, 144 Second Ave., (212) 228-9682.

Nick Sitnycky and his wife Valya and co-owner Myron Weiner have operated John's Restaurant for 26 years. The specialty here is northern and southern Italian cuisine, with extra fish entrees offered on Christmas Eve. The restaurant is popular with show-biz folks (whose photos cover the walls of a wide nook) and a succession of young Ukrainian waiters who have worked here over the years. Open from 4:30 p.m.-11 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from 3:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.,

302 E. 12th St., (212) 475-9531.

The Cloister Cafe, so named because of its secluded, monastic appearance, according to owner Nick Drobenko, is noted for its French and Italian Continental cuisine, luscious desserts and delicious cappuccino and espresso coffees. A very appealing feature is the open garden that is now decorated with a lighted Christmas tree and garlands of lights; a back section is canopied and heated for year-round use. Mr. Drobenko (the same man who operates the Arka store), used to run Leshko's Restaurant on First Avenue with his brothers. He will be happy to plan a party menu featuring Ukrainian foods. The cafe is open from noon to 11 p.m. daily, 238 E. Ninth St., (212) 777-9128.

The Kiev Restaurant at the corner of Second Avenue and 7th Street, though dreary-looking from the outside, has good counter service. The restaurant offers table service, too, and a variety of tasty Eastern European foods. Owned by Michael Hrynenko, it is open 24 hours daily, 117 Second Avenue, (212) 674-4040.

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*Ukrainian pro hockey update*  
 by **Ihor Stelmach**

**Bondra is Capital offense**

Defense, defense, defense. That's all you see and read about in today's NHL. The goaltenders are too good. Too many teams practice the neutral zone trap, choking almost all offensive thrusts. Heck, it's gotten to the point the league is trying some radical rule changes to add desperately needed scoring to the game.

Chris Pronger of the St. Louis Blues almost won the Norris Trophy (best defenseman) for actually helping his team prevent goals. What a concept - a defenseman being honored strictly for defending, and not joining the attack. That hasn't happened in some 14 years, since Rod Langway did it in back-to-back seasons with the Washington Capitals.

But what about goals? What about goal scorers? More specifically, what about Peter Bondra? You know the name, but you wouldn't recognize the face if he showed up on your doorstep selling raffle tickets for a game-worn Yvon Labre (ex-Capital captain back in their expansion years) sweater. Admit it, you wouldn't know Peter Bondra from the next guy on the street.

Just in case you missed it, the

Capitals' right-winger scored more goals in the past four years, 184 to be exact, than any other player in the National Hockey League. That would be seven more than John LeClair of the Philadelphia Flyers, eight more than last year's scoring champ, Jaromir Jagr of the Pittsburgh Penguins and 23 more than Brett Hull of the St. Louis Blues (now with the Dallas Stars), who once popped 228 goals in a three-year span.

That Bondra maintains a low profile, coupled with the fact the Capitals traditionally don't do much to promote their players, has helped keep him one of the league's most anonymous stars.

"I wouldn't say I'm shy," Bondra said. "But I don't go up to strangers and say, 'Hi, I'm Peter Bondra' either."

He is, without question, one of the game's most electrifying individuals, right up there with the likes of Paul Kariya, Teemu Selanne, Pavel Bure, Ziggy Palffy and Jagr. If you were impressed with the Capitals' 40-30-12 record and third-place finish in the tough Atlantic Division, credit Bondra. He meant more to his team than any playoff-bound performer in 1997-1998 other than

(Continued on page 13)

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**Oseredok cultural...**

(Continued from page 8)

mote the center to the large number of new immigrants coming to Winnipeg," said Ms. Tolchinsky. In order to do that, Ms. Tolchinsky contacted a number of government ministries like Revenue Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and Human Resources Development, and arranged for volunteers from those departments to conduct sessions with immigrants.

For instance, Revenue Canada held a workshop on how to fill out tax returns. The immigration department gave new immigrants pointers on how to bring in relatives to Canada. Other orientation sessions taught resumé writing and other job search skills.

This program was initiated in 1996 and lasted for two years, with Saturday morning sessions that were held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., but was suspended in January. Ms. Tolchinsky said she hopes it will start up again in September 1999.

This past summer, English language courses were offered to immigrants. The Oseredok librarian said about 60 people took advantage of these courses taught by George Duravetz and Jaroslaw Zurowsky.

The library collection that Ms. Tolchinsky oversees includes about

65,000 books - 40,000 of which have already been catalogued. There are also 450 periodical titles, including 250 daily or weekly newspapers. A separate section is devoted to DP publications issued in Germany. The library was set up in 1944, at the same time that Oseredok was established.

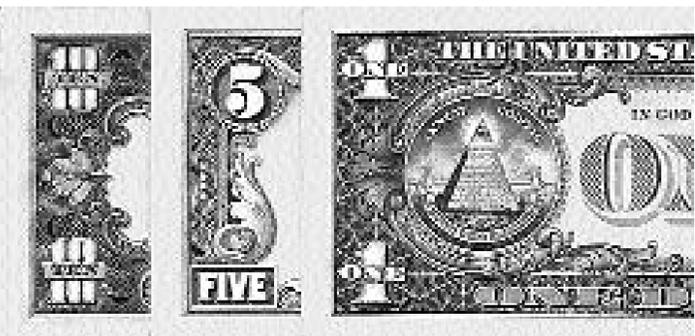
The library also offers a translation service in Ukrainian, English, Polish, Russian and Slovak. Fees are a very reasonable \$10 per page for recent immigrants and \$15 for others. Ten percent of the fee goes to Oseredok, and the rest to the translators.

Though Winnipeg has a large Ukrainian community, its impact is not always very visible. For example, the display on Ukrainians in the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature can be charitably described as meager. This is a fact recognized by Ms. Hunter. "It's really unfortunate we've kept our culture mainly to ourselves. We need to market ourselves and show how we've contributed to the city and the province," the Oseredok official said.

\*\*\*

For more information on the center write to: Oseredok, 184 Alexander Ave. East, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 0L6; call (204) 942-0218; fax, (204) 943-2857; or e-mail, uecc@mb.sympatico.ca.

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## Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 12)

Dominik Hasek of the Buffalo Sabres. And it's not like Bondra was getting a lot of help. Consider that his linemates entering last year's playoffs were center Andrei Nikolishin and left-winger Steve Konowalchuk. Both of these linemates happen to be Ukrainians. Enough said. Among the fastest players in the NHL, Bondra remains one of the few individuals who can score off the rush. And his goals almost always count for something, too. Usually a big something. He led the NHL with 13 game-winning goals last season. When the Capitals needed a pair of wins in their final two games to gain home ice advantage in the opening round of the playoffs, Bondra took matters into his own slick hands. He scored the winner in a 4-3 game over the Carolina Hurricanes, then fired both goals, one short-handed, in a 2-1 victory over the Hurricanes again.

Bondra is appreciated at home. In a column headlined: "Bondra's the man in our town," Washington Times columnist Dan Daly concluded that Bondra is the most important individual on any of the Washington major league teams. His competition included Chris Webber and Juwan Howard of the National Basketball Association's Wizards, Gus Ferrotte and Michael Westbrook of the National Football League's Redskins and, if you stretch the boundaries a bit, Robbie Alomar, Mike Mussina and Brady Anderson of baseball's Baltimore Orioles. An exclusive company of contemporary professional athletes, indeed.

"Hopefully things will change," said Bondra about his lack of recognition in the sports world. "Our team has to win a Stanley Cup. If you do that, you will get more recognition as an individual."

Bondra's 52 goals last season tied him with Selanne of the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim for most in the league. Too bad they weren't doling out the "Rocket" Richard Trophy for most goals last year - both of those guys (Bondra and Selanne) would have been very deserving winners of the award for the league's top sniper.

Bondra accounted for 23.7 percent of his team's goals. That's up from 21.5 the year before. Only Selanne, with 25.3 of his team's 205 goals, was better. Bure of the Vancouver Canucks was next at an even 23.0 percent. Take it all a step further, and Bondra scored 26.0 percent of his team's goals in games in which he played - second in the league to Selanne. Capitals' coach Ron Wilson said the

key to Bondra's game is his speed, which he has managed to use quite wisely and effectively.

"He's not just a guy who skates like a bat out of hell," Wilson said. "He hits holes as well as anyone in the league."

As a bonus, Wilson went on to say Bondra has become a reliable defensive player, pointing to his plus-14 ranking (second best on the Capitals) in 1997-1998 as proof.

"My message at the start of last year to him was, 'Take care of business in your own end and I'll make sure you get put into plenty of goal scoring chances,'" Wilson said.

Coach Wilson kept his word and Bondra-the-scoring-machine came through - in flying colors - Capitals' red, white and blue.

(Quotes courtesy of *The Hockey News*' Mike Brophy.)

### Ukrainian draftee in Kasparaitis mold

Those Mighty Ducks of Anaheim got very defensive at the 1998 entry draft, using their first two selections on physical blueliners who like to punish the opposition.

The Ducks took Vitaly Vishnevsky of Ukraine with the No. 5 pick overall and Stephen Peat of the Western League's Red Deer Rebels with their second round pick at No. 32.

Ducks' General Manager Jack Ferreira described Vishnevsky as a player in the mold of Pittsburgh Penguins' defenseman Darius Kasparaitis.

"Vishnevsky plays with an edge," Ferreira said. "He'll make you keep your head up."

The 6-foot-1, 187-pound Vishnevsky is also highly skilled and can man the point on the power play. He played for the Yaroslavl juniors in the Russian League and was the youngest member of the Russian national junior team that competed in the 1998 World Junior Championship.

The 6-foot-2, 205-pound Peat is also physical, but less skilled. He was described as more of a stay-at-home, punishing type.

Ferreira said the Ducks would try to sign Vishnevsky and assign him to either a Canadian junior team or the Cincinnati Mighty Ducks of the American Hockey League to begin his acclimation to North America.

(Quotes thanks to *Cammy Clark*, who covers the *Anaheim Ducks* for *The Hockey News*.)

## Ukrainian Scoring Leaders: (through games of December 3, 1998)

Player	Team	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Dimitri Khristich	Boston	22	11	15	26	20
Wayne Gretzky	N.Y. Rangers	24	5	20	25	4
Keith Tkachuk	Phoenix	19	13	9	22	16
Peter Bondra	Washington	21	10	3	13	18
Dave Andreychuk	New Jersey	15	6	5	11	6
Alexei Zhitnik	Buffalo	19	4	5	9	28
Mike Maneluk	Philadelphia-Chicago	20	2	7	9	8
Brian Bellows	Washington	22	3	5	8	8
Oleg Tverdovsky	Phoenix	19	4	3	7	6
Richard Matvichuk	Dallas	20	2	5	7	10
Andrei Nikolishin	Washington	13	2	4	6	6
Joey Kocur	Detroit	20	2	4	6	45
Tony Hrkac	Dallas	14	3	2	5	4
Curtis Leschyshyn	Carolina	24	1	4	5	32
Drake Berehowsky	Edmonton-Nashville	18	0	3	3	51
Ken Daneyko	New Jersey	22	1	2	3	23
Greg Pankiewicz	Calgary	13	0	2	2	8
David Nemirovsky	Florida	2	0	1	1	0
Steve Konowalchuk	Washington	7	1	0	1	0
Ed Olczyk	Chicago	8	0	1	1	0
Wade Belak	Colorado	8	0	0	0	23
Brent Fedyk	N.Y. Rangers	9	0	0	0	2
Dave Babych	Philadelphia	13	0	0	0	10



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**Newsbriefs**

(Continued from page 2)

appealed on previous occasions to the international community to help make the sarphagus safe. Since 1997, some 20 donor countries have pledged \$390 million toward the estimated \$758 million in repair costs. (RFE/RL Newsline)

**Parliament again raises minimum wage**

KYIV – The Ukrainian Parliament increased Ukraine's minimum wage on December 25, 1998, from 55 hrv (\$16) to 73.7 hrv and set the official poverty level at 90.7 hrv. The decision was taken two days after the legislature failed to override President Leonid Kuchma's veto on a bill passed in November, which nearly tripled the minimum wage to 148 hrv. (RFE/RL Newsline)

**New faction created in Rada**

KYIV – The creation of a new parliamentary faction Reformy-Tsentr (Reforms-Center) was announced on December 22, 1998. Faction member and National Deputy Mykhailo Syrota said that the faction was created in the wake of the Constitutional Court's decision earlier that month which overruled a previous ruling that Rada factions can be created only by parties that canvassed more than 4 percent in parliamentary elections. Fourteen deputies so far have joined the new faction, the first to be formed since the ruling. (Eastern Economist)

**Ukraine to send Iraq humanitarian aid**

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 23, 1998, approved a decision to provide humanitarian assistance to Iraq. The decision was approved by a margin of 226 to 29. The aid will consist of clothing left over from aid received after the flooding in Zakarpattia. (Eastern Economist)

**Educational reform program announced**

KYIV – Starting from the year 2001, a 12-year secondary education system is planned to be introduced in Ukraine. Education Minister Mykhailo Zghurovskyi announced on December 14, 1998, that the relevant draft law is now being prepared for the Verkhovna Rada's approval. He said that the 12-year system of education "will fully correspond to existing international standards as well as recommendations from medical experts to decrease the workload on school children." According to Mr. Zghurovskyi, vocational education programs will also be effected by the reforms. He said steps will be taken to better integrate vocational education into the production sector. Mr. Zghurovskyi noted an increase in the number of students in Ukraine from 1.2 million in 1990-1991 to 1.5 million in 1998-1999. This increase is caused by the growing number of private universities in Ukraine. According to the Education Ministry, 300,000 students are presently officially paying for their education. (Eastern Economist)

**Ukrainian naval strength increased**

KYIV – Navy First Deputy Commander Viktor Fomin said that six military ships and cutters were introduced to the Ukrainian navy's immediate response forces in 1998. The Ukrainian navy currently has approximately 40 military ships and cutters and 80 auxiliary ships. (Eastern Economist)

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### Broadcasting Opportunities Available

#### Distributor Sales Representative

This position is responsible for implementing national strategies, tactics and campaigns on the regional level for the marketing of the Ukrainian Broadcasting Network to Ukrainian American consumers. This person is accountable for sales results in consumer subscriptions as well as customer service and public relations in the distributorship. Fulfill other marketing tasks. Four positions will be based in Chicago, Philadelphia, New York City and California. Successful candidates are required to possess a bachelor's degree in a related field and to demonstrate three-five years' industry experience.

#### Advertising Sales

This position is responsible for developing and implementing national and local advertising campaigns for UBN Television and Radio, targeting Ukrainian-oriented and non Ukrainian-oriented businesses. This person is accountable for advertising sales for the entire network. This position is based in Fort Lee, NJ. Successful candidates are required to possess a bachelor's degree in a related field and to demonstrate three-five years' industry experience.

#### Customer Service

This position involves responding to customer calls concerning UBN Radio and TV service, and inbound as well as outbound telemarketing. Three 8-hour shifts, including weekend hours, are available. This position is based in Fort Lee, NJ.

#### Qualification requirements

To perform these tasks successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The additional requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

#### LANGUAGE SKILLS

Ability to read, write and understand the English language. Ability to comprehend complex instructions, short and long correspondence, and memos. Ability to speak in English effectively. Ability to compose short and long memos, correspondence and reports.

Candidate must also have the ability to read, write and understand the Ukrainian language.

#### CIVIC ACTIVITY

Candidate must have a proven track record of Ukrainian community activity and must have a demonstrable knowledge of who are the key leaders and organizations in the Ukrainian community and the nuances that affect it.

Send resume and cover letter to:

Ihor Dlaboha, General Manager  
Ukrainian Broadcasting Network, 2 Executive Drive, Suite 600, Fort Lee, NJ 07024  
Fax: (201) 242-3003

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

### Saturday, January 16

**WHIPPANY, N.J.:** The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Morris County Branch, is sponsoring its annual malanka in the church hall of St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church on South Jefferson Road and Route 10, starting at 9 p.m. Tickets: \$25 at the door; \$20, if purchased in advance. For reservations call Christine Bilanycz, (973) 983-7872.

**BALTIMORE:** The Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), Baltimore Branch, will hold its traditional malanka at SUM headquarters, 2301 Eastern Ave., starting at 9 p.m. Music will be by Mandry. There will be a hot and cold buffet, complimentary champagne at midnight, cash bar, silent auction, raffles and door prizes. Donation: \$40 per couple; \$25, single; or \$15, students. For additional information call (410) 276-1908 or (410) 687-3465.

**DALLAS:** Malanka '99, a Ukrainian New Year celebration, will be held at 7 p.m.-1 a.m. at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), 3911 South Walton Walker (Loop

12, between West Kiest Boulevard and South Cockrell Hill Road). Featured will be a buffet dinner with coffee and dessert station; performance by Zorya; party favors; D.J. for dancing (bring your favorite dance CD, and we will play it); and cash bar. Attire: "after eight" or folk costumes. Checks and ticket requests must be received by January 13. Mail checks to: UAST, 2231 Peters Colony Road, Carrollton, TX 75007. Tickets: \$40 for adults; \$20 for students and children (age 12 and under); UAST members, \$35 for adults, \$20 for children. Proceeds to benefit the UAST. For additional information call Michael Andriaschko, (972) 306-8407.

### Saturday, January 23

**BUFFALO, N.Y.:** The Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) will hold its annual malanka at the Dnipro Ukrainian Home, 562 Genesee St., starting at 9 p.m. Music will be by Na Zdorovya of Yonkers, N.Y. Tickets: \$20; \$15, with student I.D.; included in the price is a midnight buffet. All are invited to come and join the celebration. For further information call (716) 685-3114.

## Bryttan to conduct two concerts of New Jersey Youth Symphony

NEW PROVIDENCE, N.J. – Adrian Bryttan will conduct two upcoming concerts with the New Jersey Youth Symphony. This is his second year with the organization and he is now conductor also of the younger orchestra, the Philharmonia, in addition to the oldest orchestra, the Youth Symphony, which he led to a successful season in 1998 highlighted by the two performances of music with the film of Garbo's "Flesh and the Devil."

Mr. Bryttan will conduct the Philharmonia on January 10 in a program of works by Kenneth Leighton (Dance Suite No. 2), Merle Isaac (South American Overture) and others. Composer Myroslav Skoryk will also be

represented on the program with his beautiful and popular "Melody for String Orchestra." The concert with the Philharmonia will take place at the Seton Hall Preparatory School, 120 Northfield Ave., West Orange, N.J., at 3 p.m.

The second concert will include Ukrainian American French horn soloist Alex Shuhan, an alumnus of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, in the Mozart Horn Concerto No. 1. The concert will begin with the Shostakovich Symphony No. 9 and will conclude with the Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5. It will take place on Sunday, February 7, at 3 p.m. at Bridgewater High School on Garretson Road in Bridgewater, N.J. For further information call (908) 771-5544.

### Business Opportunity Meest America, Inc. in Linden, NJ is looking for a

licensed travel agent.

Position requires at least 5 years of experience in travel business.  
Knowledge of Ukrainian and English language is a must.

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- Thunder Bay** CHFD Sun. 12:00 PM
- Chicago** WFBT Sat. 4:00 PM
- Sacramento** RCC Ch 20 Mon. 7:30 PM
- Manitoba** CKY Sat. 11:00 AM
- Alberta** Access TV Sat. 2:00 PM
- Val d'Or Quebec** TVC-9 Sun. 8:00 AM
- Vancouver** RCC Ch 4 Tues. 8:00 PM

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