

INSIDE:

• "2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW" – pages 5-45.

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Celebrities and big names top political parties' election lists

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – When Ukrainians choose their Parliament this March, they will recognize the name of pop singer Ruslana under the Our Ukraine bloc.

The Reforms and Order-Pora bloc also scored a top celebrity when it placed former heavyweight champion Vitalii Klitschko in its No. 1 slot.

The campaign for the March 26 parliamentary election was officially under way in December when the competing political blocs began revealing their electoral lists, those crucial ledgers that determine who will get priority for a parliamentary seat.

For the major parties and blocs such as Our Ukraine and Party of Regions, typically the first 100 to 150 people on the lists will get a seat in the Verkhovna Rada.

However, it's the top five names on the electoral lists that appear next to the bloc name in the voting booths.

Most of the top five are names voters would expect to see: Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov is ranked first for the Our Ukraine bloc; former vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs Mykola

Tomenko is ranked third in the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc.

On the Party of the Regions list, pro-Russian businessman Viacheslav Bohuslav is ranked fifth.

But next to the names of wealthy businessmen and professional politicians, some parties and blocs have mixed in a celebrity or two – a trend that is much more apparent in 2006 than in previous years.

Our Ukraine's leadership decided that, in addition to Ruslana Lyzhychko, who has the fifth slot in Our Ukraine's list, a second celebrity will also help their campaign.

They gave their fourth slot to Olha Herasymiuk, Ukraine's version of Barbara Walters. Ms. Herasymiuk is general producer for the 1+1 television network, co-host of the political show "Idna Vy" and host of her own talk show, "Bez Tabu," which typically explores emotional topics that appeal to women.

The People's Party of Ukraine also decided to take on a celebrity. Just after Volodymyr Lytvyn's top placing on its electoral list is the name of Sofia Rotaru, a popular Ukrainian singer during the last

(Continued on page 4)

Five years and one revolution later, the Gongadze case goes to court

RFE/RL Ukrainian Service
and RFE/RL Newsroom

The trial of three former Internal Ministry officers for their alleged roles in the 2000 killing of journalist Heorhii Gongadze opened briefly in a packed courtroom in the Ukrainian capital on January 9 before the presiding judge adjourned the proceedings until January 23.

Relatives of the slain journalist and their lawyers said they were "surprised" by Kyiv Appeals Court Judge Iryna Grygorieva's decision to adjourn the trial for so long – a move she announced after one of the defendants, former Internal Ministry officer Mykola Protasov, reportedly felt faint in the courtroom.

Reports from Kyiv said dozens of relatives, lawyers and prosecutors were packing the tiny courtroom, which was too small to hold the crowd of reporters covering the event.

Journalists tried to force their way into the room during the recess, arguing that the hearings were open to the public and that all media should be allowed to attend the trial. But guards drove them back.

Among those who attended the trial

was Gongadze's widow, Myroslava, who arrived on January 8 from the United States.

Addressing reporters outside the courtroom, she said those truly responsible for her husband's killing have not yet been arrested.

"I don't think this [trial] is enough, because these [three] people [defendants Valeriy Kostenko, Mr. Protasov and Oleksander Popovych] had no personal motives for killing Heorhii," Ms. Gongadze said. "They were carrying out a criminal order. They had the option of not carrying it out. They could have saved their honor and they could have refused to follow the order, but they killed Heorhii and they must be punished. The next step will be when the organizers of this crime are brought to justice. Their identities are known and they must be punished along with the people sitting in the dock today."

In comments made later to RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, Ms. Gongadze accused Oleksii Pukach, formerly of the Internal Affairs Ministry, of being one of the main organizers behind her husband's killing.

(Continued on page 4)

Verkhovna Rada votes to dismiss Cabinet; administration calls move unconstitutional

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's new year began with the government once again destabilized as the Verkhovna Rada voted to dismiss Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov and his Cabinet of Ministers, charging that they seriously mishandled the natural gas crisis with the Russian Federation.

Pro-Russian parties claimed President Viktor Yushchenko erred by further damaging relations with Ukraine's vital neighbor, while the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc claimed the government gave up too much when signing the deal with Russia.

The result was a 250-50 no-confidence vote on January 10 in which the Tymoshenko Bloc, once considered pro-Western, found itself aligned with the pro-Russian Party of the Regions, Volodymyr Lytvyn's People's Party of Ukraine and the Communist Party.

"Tymoshenko's policies are not pro-Western, nor are they pro-Russian: they are pro-Tymoshenko," said Dr. Taras Kuzio, a visiting professor at George Washington University.

The Verkhovna Rada's vote came as President Yushchenko arrived in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan, where he attended the inauguration of re-elected President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Pro-Yushchenko forces said the vote was unconstitutional, while opposition forces said the vote was within the Parliament's power because of the constitutional changes that went into effect on

January 1.

Though the vote dismissed the government, the Verkhovna Rada also required that the government keep working until a new Parliament is in place after the March 26 elections.

Addressing a special session of the Cabinet of Ministers on January 12, after he returned from Kazakhstan, President Viktor Yushchenko said the Verkhovna Rada's resolution on the government's dismissal is not constitutional.

"I would like to make it clear to the people, the Parliament and political forces that there is a full-fledged government in Ukraine, both in the center and locally. And it is working without any 'acting' prefix."

The president emphasized that the Yekhanurov government will legally conduct state policies until a new government is formed after the parliamentary elections in Ukraine. Mr. Yushchenko also reported that he had signed a petition to the Verkhovna Rada with a request to cancel the resolution on the government's dismissal.

A question of image

With no one leaving their government desks, the only possible damage done was to the image of Mr. Yushchenko and his Our Ukraine coalition.

Domestically, "Yushchenko has been made to look weak, as though he screwed up," said Ivan Lozowy, president of the

(Continued on page 3)



AP/Mykola Lazarenko, Presidential Press Service
President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine and President Vladimir Putin of Russia during a meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan, on January 11.

ANALYSIS

Yushchenko's government gets vote of no confidence

by **Taras Kuzio**

Eurasia Daily Monitor
January 11

Yesterday, the Ukrainian Parliament voted no confidence in the government of Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, which has only been in place since late September 2005, when he replaced Yulia Tymoshenko (rada.gov.ua).

President Viktor Yushchenko seems oblivious to the building furor over the new gas contract with Russia, suggesting that he is out of touch with reality and that the authorities are unable to muster a convincing case either at home or abroad.

The no confidence motion comes only six days after Ukraine and Russia signed a new gas contract to replace the 10-year contract signed in 2003 but unilaterally discarded by Gazprom. Although ostensibly a rebuff of the new contract, the vote also allowed parties to score points ahead of Ukraine's March 26 parliamentary elections.

Mr. Yushchenko is Our Ukraine People's Union (OUPU) faction voted against the no confidence motion, as did five satellite factions (Rukh, the People's Party, Reforms and Order, Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, and Revival), and the Socialist Party (SPU). The Communists' Party of the Regions, and the Social Democratic Party threw their combined 135 votes behind the no confidence motion, which passed thanks to an additional 133 votes from the Tymoshenko bloc and its satellite United Ukraine faction, as well as Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn's People's Party and its satellite People's Lytvyn Bloc.

The adoption of the no confidence motion marks the third time that the Tymoshenko bloc has voted against the government in the past four months. The faction voted against Mr. Yekhanurov's appointment as prime minister in late September and against the 2006 budget on December 20, 2005. Mr. Lytvyn's two factions have become a swing vote, siding with the government in favor of the budget and against the government in the no confidence motion.

These key parliamentary votes point to two likely problems after the elections.

First, the rift between President Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko is growing. Without a re-united Orange coalition, the OUPU may turn to the Party of the Regions to establish a coalition.

Second, as Mr. Lytvyn's "third force" is dropping in the polls, its political profile is becoming fuzzier. When asked if his People's Party is in opposition or with the authorities, Mr. Lytvyn responded, "We are a lot further from the authorities than the SPU and a lot closer to the opposition than the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc" (Ukrayinska Pravda, December 10, 2005).

Ms. Tymoshenko called for the government's resignation early in the gas row, a move the OUPU described as a "knife in the back" of the government while it was in the midst of difficult negotiations with Russia. The dismissal of the government, Dzerkalo Tyzhnia/Zerkalo Nedeli declared, "means throwing the country into total chaos" (December 17, 2005). Observers also found it suspicious that the Russian

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criminal case against Ms. Tymoshenko closed on December 26, 2005, in the middle of the gas war. The case related to a bribe that Ms. Tymoshenko allegedly paid to an officer in the Russian Defense Ministry while she headed United Energy Systems in the mid-1990s.

After the new gas contract was signed on January 4, the Tymoshenko Bloc and the Party of the Regions of Ukraine called for Parliament to return from its holiday break early, but Parliament did not reconvene until its scheduled session on January 10.

The hard-line opposition's criticism of the deal is difficult to take seriously. During the Kuchma era the energy sector was highly corrupt, and the two intermediary companies (EuralTransGaz in 2003-2004 and RosUkrEnergo from summer 2004) were created when the Party of the Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich was prime minister.

One accusation rests on the dubious claim that Yushchenko's foreign policy is xenophobically anti-Russian; therefore, he has forfeited the right to conduct negotiations with Russia. Mr. Yanukovich went one step further, claiming that Ukraine's tough negotiating position was due to instructions from the "CIA" as part of a plan to undermine constitutional reforms and cancel the elections (Ukrayinska Pravda, December 27, 2005, January 2).

Ms. Tymoshenko's three accusations are more credible. First, she argues that Ukraine should have followed through on its threat to take the dispute to the Stockholm Arbitration Court, because Russia broke the 2003 contract that set the price at \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters of gas. Second, the new agreement only guaranteed \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters of gas in the first half of 2006, while locking Ukraine into a fixed transit fee for five years. Third, the corrupt, non-transparent RosUkrEnergo now controls gas supplies to Ukraine.

The Industrial Union of the Donbas (ISD) and directors of Ukraine's largest plants also criticized the new contract. They, like Ms. Tymoshenko, could not understand why Ukraine abandoned the 2003 contract. ISD head Serhiy Taruta called the new deal the "worst document signed during independence" (Ukrayinska Pravda, January 9).

The counter argument, made by Naftohaz Ukrainy chairman Oleksii Ivchenko on Channel 5 TV (January 9), maintains that the highly corrupt barter scheme has been replaced by cash payments and that no future price changes can be unilaterally made by either side.

The OUPU also argued that the no-confidence vote was irrelevant, as the Yekhanurov government will stay on as a caretaker government until the March parliamentary elections.

Three conclusions can be drawn from the latest developments in Ukraine.

- First, the possibilities for re-uniting the Orange coalition after the elections are now more remote than ever.

- Second, President Yushchenko has been weakened by both constitutional reforms and the no confidence vote. Naftohaz Ukrainy's Mr. Ivchenko is also head of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, which, although a member of OUPU, is perhaps not the most appropriate political force to negotiate with Russia.

- Third, even the Russophile Mr. Yanukovich had to admit that Moscow's tactics have damaged Russia's image in Ukraine.

NEWSBRIEFS

Trial of Gongadze suspects opens

KYIV – The Kyiv Appellate Court on January 9 opened hearings in the case involving the murder of Internet journalist Heorhii Gongadze in 2000, Ukrainian news agencies reported. Journalists have been barred from the proceedings, which concern three former police officers – Mykola Protasov, Valerii Kostenko and Oleksander Popovych – suspected of killing the journalist. "I've spent a lot of time in the Procurator General's Office reading files of the case and I think that these people are guilty of perpetrating the murder," Myroslava Gongadze, Gongadze's widow, told journalists before the hearings. "But I think this is insufficient, since these people had no personal motives for killing Heorhii; they were just fulfilling a criminal order." Meanwhile, Lesia Gongadze, the slain journalist's mother, told journalists that she does not consider it necessary to attend the trial. "The hearings in the case are the same game that has been played by five prosecutors-general in a row," the Ukrayinska Pravda website quoted her as saying. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko lauds gas deal with Russia

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said on Ukraine's NTN television channel on January 7 that last week's deal on gas supplies to Ukraine between Russia's Gazprom, Ukraine's Naftohaz Ukrainy, and the Swiss-based RosUkrEnergo company is a "brilliant achievement," Interfax-Ukraine reported. "Only those who do not understand anything about the gas issue may criticize [the deal]," Mr. Yushchenko noted. "Ukraine got the prize of \$95 [for 1,000 cubic meters of gas]. Look at the map of Europe. Who else has got such a price? What have we surrendered? Nothing." Meanwhile, critics of the five-year gas deal maintain that the price of \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters is valid only for the first six months of 2006 and will be revised upward in the second half of the year, while the cost of Russian gas transit across Ukraine – \$1.6 per 1,000 cubic meters per 100 kilome-

ters – was set until 2011. "Ukraine and its energy diplomacy made a strategic mistake; the night of January 3-4 [when the gas deal was worked out] was a Pearl Harbor for the Ukrainian diplomatic service," former Ukrainian Foreign Minister Oleksander Chalyi told the BBC on January 6. "The consequences [of the deal] will be disastrous, particularly in the second half of the year," he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Vitrenko wants heads to roll

KYIV – Natalia Vitrenko, leader of the opposition Progressive Socialist Party, has called on the Verkhovna Rada to begin impeachment proceedings against President Viktor Yushchenko over the gas deal Kyiv signed with Russia, Interfax reported on January 5. Meanwhile, the opposition movement Ne Tak, which is led by former Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, called the deal "destructive for the country's economy" and demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov. Russia and Ukraine struck a gas deal on January 4. (RFE/RL Newsline)

.. while officials defend gas deal

KYIV – Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk and Naftohaz Ukrainy Chairman Oleksii Ivchenko defended the gas deal in a briefing for foreign diplomats on January 5, saying it is in the interests of both Moscow and Kyiv, Interfax-Ukraine reported the same day. Speaking to ambassadors from various European Union countries, as well as from the United States, Canada, Japan, Bulgaria, Turkey and representatives from the European Commission, Mr. Tarasyuk said the agreement ends the possibility for Moscow to pressure Kyiv with ultimatums. He added, however, that Ukraine has come to the conclusion that it should not rely on a single supplier for gas in the future. "We have plans to work with a number of countries on alternative routes of gas supplies to Ukraine and other countries," he said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

(Continued on page 46)

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Verkhovna Rada...

(Continued from page 1)

Kyiv-based Institute of Statehood and Democracy, which is exclusively financed by Ukrainian business donations.

In the West, investors in Ukraine weren't scared off by the vote, said Dmytro Tarabakin, director of sales and trading at Dragon Capital, a Kyiv-based investment bank.

"It didn't help the image of Ukraine, but I wouldn't say that it hurt Ukraine either," Mr. Tarabakin said. "With Ukraine, people have learned to see the forest for the trees. There was no real substance to the vote."

In fact, Mr. Yushchenko has emerged from the natural gas crisis with a favorable view from the United States and the European Union, especially after meeting in Astana with Russian President Vladimir Putin on January 11, Dr. Kuzio said.

The no-confidence vote revealed the viciousness of Ukraine's politics leading into the March elections.

Though Ms. Tymoshenko's forces had voted against Our Ukraine positions in three critical votes since Mr. Yushchenko fired her, the natural gas issue was the first time Ms. Tymoshenko directly attacked Mr. Yushchenko and his policies.

Whether she was seizing the moment for her own political gain or defending national interests, Ms. Tymoshenko blasted the agreement as an "absolutely conscious betrayal of Ukraine's interests," thus making the idea of Mr. Yekhanurov's resignation entirely logical.

Agreeing to \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters amounts to "the destruction of all of Ukraine's energy stability," she said of the price, which "won't hold up for a single month."

Mr. Yekhanurov shouldn't have signed a new agreement, Ms. Tymoshenko said. Instead, he should have fought to maintain the existing agreement with Russia that could have remained in place until 2010, she claimed. She maintained that the contract signed with Russia should be canceled, adding that her lawyers were preparing appeals.

Comments on Tymoshenko's moves

Ukrainian political observers are divided over whether Ms. Tymoshenko's fierce reaction to the deal benefited her politically or not.

Ms. Tymoshenko showed herself as a strong politician in criticizing what was a poor deal made by Mr. Yekhanurov, Mr. Lozowy said.

After months of passive observation, she had nothing to lose, he said, and was very concerned that, ultimately, Mr. Yushchenko would unite with former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich instead of her.

"Tymoshenko is very concerned that after the elections Yushchenko will come to agreement with Yanukovich instead of her," Mr. Lozowy said.

Dissension on domestic issues is more acceptable than on foreign policy, said Serhii Taran, director of the Kyiv-based International Democracy Institute, which is financed by mid-level Ukrainian businesses and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.

Ms. Tymoshenko should have opted to demonstrate to Russia a united political front in Ukraine, just as in the United States Democrats set aside their differences with the Republicans and voted to support the war in Iraq, said Dr. Taran, who is on the Reforms and Order-Pora electoral list.

"Tymoshenko overplayed politics in this case," Dr. Taran said. "I can understand that some people can be critical of the contract, but by no means should it be the reason to dismiss the government."

Despite her staunchly pro-Ukrainian

position, western Ukrainians will likely resent her for turning her back on Mr. Yushchenko and siding with the pro-Russian parties, Dr. Kuzio said.

American and European policymakers have become very disenchanted with her, he added.

"The central point for Ukraine is you can only integrate with the West and the European Union if you have good relations with Russia," Dr. Kuzio said. "In that sense, Yushchenko came out very well, and being seen with Putin again scores points with the West. Tymoshenko comes across as a firebrand and a de-stabilizer."

Western investors aren't too fond of her, Mr. Tarabakin said. "The sooner she's off the screen, the better," he quoted one of his investor clients as saying.

Party of the Regions position

In presenting the criticism of the Party of the Regions regarding the agreement, National Deputy Volodymyr Bronnikov delivered a brief speech repeatedly referring to the deal as a crime and uttering phrases and arguments that lacked explanation or reasoning.

"The agreement is criminal inasmuch as it reinforces Ukraine's vassal status before the U.S. and NATO," he said. "It reinforces Ukrainians in the role of black market workers in the European and Russian markets."

Industry will lose its chance to rebuild with basic energy-saving technologies, he said, and alternative energy means will reduce environmental waste, he said.

The agreement is also a betrayal of "Ukraine's strategic interests in the global fight for remaining energy resources, for which the United States is fighting with fire and sword, in the full sense, and Europe with sly politics by disconnecting Ukraine from Russia, where 50 percent of the world's energy resources are concentrated," Mr. Bronnikov continued.

The agreement was criminal because it causes substantial economic damage to those who make direct purchases of natural gas for personal needs, as well as payments for utility needs, he added.

In fact, most Ukrainians will not feel the effect of the new natural gas price because it almost exclusively affects Ukrainian industry, Dr. Taran said.

Assessments of the gas deal

There was no consensus among political experts as to whether Ukraine's natural gas pact with Russia was a good deal for Ukraine. Some argued it was horrible for Ukraine, while others said it was fair.

Given that Russia was arguing to raise the price fourfold, the Yekhanurov government managed a fair deal, Dr. Taran said.

"It more or less looks like a fair deal," Mr. Tarabakin said.

The deal "was a huge disaster," Mr. Lozowy commented.

Feeling heat from the European Union and mounting anti-Russian sentiment, it was obvious that Russia was desperate to sign a deal, Mr. Lozowy pointed out.

Ukraine had a "very strong bargaining position" on January 3, Dr. Kuzio said, but it walked away from the table with what he considered a weak deal.

Once again, Ukraine failed in its international public relations, he observed. While Gazprom was constantly making statements on television and in the press throughout the negotiations, the Ukrainian side had no one appearing on CNN or BBC.

The deal's biggest problem is that Ukraine's price of \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters is guaranteed only for six months, Dr. Kuzio said. "Are we going to have a crisis situation again the middle of the year?"

Also, no one has yet to identify the partners of RusUkrEnergo, the intermediary company in the deal that stands to

profit enormously. The 50 percent owner of RusUkrEnergo, Raiffeisen Investment, refuses to identify the Russian and Ukrainian partners.

When asked whether he knew who the partners are, Mr. Yekhanurov said he didn't care, according to Mr. Lozowy. "I was shocked," Mr. Lozowy said. "How can the prime minister not care about the company that has right to all natural gas imports into Ukraine?"

In fact, Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc members allege that corrupt mafia leaders such as the notorious Semion Mogilevych have ties to the company.

Many political experts are also convinced that Mr. Putin himself has indirect ties to the company and uses it as a means to launder money for his own slush fund. After all, he and former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma created the company in 2004. It's quite possible that funds from the intermediary could end up funding Mr. Yushchenko's opposition forces.

"They should be absolutely clear and demand to know who is behind RusUkrEnergo," Dr. Kuzio said of the Yekhanurov government. "I'm sure there's money funding (Volodymyr) Lytvyn, (Viktor) Medvedchuk or (Viktor) Yanukovich. I don't think RusUkrEnergo is corrupt. They're earning money legitimately for doing very little."

Administration rejects the vote

Mr. Yushchenko and his government swiftly and firmly rejected the no-confidence vote as unconstitutional, insisting that they would ignore it and continue working.

The vote was "a blow to the spine of Ukraine's strategic interests," said Anatolii Kinakh, the secretary of the National Security and Defense Council.

The January 10 vote was "incomprehensible, illogical and incorrect," Mr. Yushchenko said. "I don't believe Ukraine deserves this kind of a decision 80 days before the parliamentary elections," he noted. "This vote demonstrates a destabilization of the situation."

On January 12 Mr. Yushchenko announced he is withdrawing his signature from the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government and Opposition that he signed with Mr. Yanukovich on September 22, 2005.

The opposition had violated the agreement's fundamental principle, Mr. Yushchenko said, which was "cooperation in taking common actions towards stabilizing the internal political situation in Ukraine."

In response to criticisms of the natural gas deal with Russia, Mr. Yekhanurov acknowledged it was a compromise, but said his government was guided by Ukraine's national interests.

"I will say that the talks were difficult," Mr. Yekhanurov told the Rada before the no confidence vote. "Each party displayed toughness and persistence. The urgency of the gas issue was so important for our society that even those who lacked professional knowledge and couldn't imagine the complications and scale of this energy provision problem commented on it. And certain Ukrainian actors damaged the political and economic interests of this country by their comments."

On January 11 Mr. Yushchenko met with Mr. Putin in Astana, where they attended President Nazarbayev's inauguration. The Ukrainian president held a press event at which he was photographed shaking hands with the Russian leader as a demonstration of stability and partnership.

"I am deeply convinced that Ukraine and Russia today are at the stage of forming new, qualitative relations, which give our nations the possibility to find the necessary, timely and correct answers to even the most difficult of questions," President Yushchenko said.

As a result of the gas crisis, Russian-Ukrainian relations are "more understood, predictable, more transparent and mutually acceptable," he said.

Back in Kyiv on January 12, Mr. Yushchenko told his Cabinet of Ministers that he is prepared to be held responsible for each item of the agreement.

"For the first time in over 15 years, we came to the negotiating table as full-fledged partners and for the first time we achieved solutions that benefit the nation," he said.

When he was prime minister in 2000-2001, Mr. Yushchenko said he familiarized himself with the specifics of those gas agreements with Russia. He voiced disapproval of those leaders who "stole billions and now urge us to accept their advice as to how to handle the gas problem."

Quotable notes

Following are excerpts of statements made at the State Department Correspondents Association's inaugural Newsmaker Breakfast with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The event was held on January 5 at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington.

Question: If I can move to Russia. We saw a certain move by Russia the last few days, halting oil to Ukraine and Europe. The Russian support for Belarus continues. There are elections in Belarus in a couple months. Russia has just assumed the chairmanship of the G-8. Do you have any concerns about the responsibilities a major player in the world's (inaudible), as Russia would like to be, as it assumes the chairmanship of such an important organization?

Secretary Rice: Well, it was not a good week from the point of view of Russia's demonstrating that it is now prepared to act in a – as an energy supplier in a responsible way in energy markets. And I think that point was made very, very clear to the Russians. Perhaps even they were a little surprised at how clearly the point was made by European states in particular, that would have suffered from what appeared to us to be politically motivated efforts to constrain energy supply to Ukraine. The game just can't be played that way.

I mean, when you say you want to be a part of the international economy and you want to be a responsible actor in the international economy, then you play by its rules. And nobody said that Ukraine should not eventually – Ukraine and Russia shouldn't eventually get to some market-based price for gas. After all, everybody's trying to break down the old structures of the Soviet Union, which were inefficient and wasteful.

But when you do it in the way that this was done, with an obviously political motive, of course it causes problems. And yes, I think it was ironic and not good that they did it on the day practically that they became G-8 chairman. And I think that kind of behavior is going to continue to draw comment about the distance between Russian behavior in something like this and what would be expected of a responsible member of the G-8. ...

COMMENTARY

Crisis to crisis: Ukraine's political fiasco

by Walter Prochorenko

Ukraine has again shown that democratic rule may not be working in its new democracy. Once more, one crisis has not had time to simmer down when a new one erupted. The result will most likely be a complete lack of confidence in any form of governance, and a possible return to hysteria, hyperinflation and chaos.

Unfortunately, when such vacuums are created, the ruthless, the bandits and the oligarchs are the only ones who come out ahead. Can the only solutions be disbanding Parliament (which the president may no longer have the power to do) and instituting emergency rule measures?

The confusion created by the constitutional change on January 1 from a presidential-parliamentary to a parliamentary-presidential form of government, as well as the abuse that is already being perpetrated by the Verkhovna Rada, can only lead to a complete breakdown of the rule of law that these bodies have sworn to uphold.

Just two weeks ago the BBC reported that "Justice Minister Serhii Holovaty denounced the amendments as being ille-

Dr. Walter Prochorenko is currently director of publications at the Ukrainian National Association. His previous experience consists of over 30 years as a multinational entrepreneur, wealth management advisor and business consultant in international business. Part of his business experience consisted of establishing and running several successful development businesses in Ukraine for a period of over eight and a half years. Dr. Prochorenko obtained his Ph.D. in international business and wrote his dissertation on the economic and political situation of Ukraine since independence.

Celebrities...

(Continued from page 1)

three decades.

Although not in the top five, Soviet soccer legend Oleh Blokhin ranks 10th in the "Ne Tak" political bloc led by Leonid Kravchuk.

The fierce competition for the Verkhovna Rada, which will limit its seats to those parties or blocs that earn at least 3 percent of the vote, has caused competitors to resort to more unconventional tactics to draw votes, political experts said.

Specifically, Ukraine's democracy has transitioned from a patronage-based political system that thrived during the Kuchma years to a charisma-based election, said Serhii Taran, director of the Kyiv-based International Democracy Institute, which is financed by mid-level Ukrainian businesses and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.

Whereas Ukrainians used to vote for the party or bloc that did them the most favors, they are now casting votes based on the personalities they are familiar with and trust, Dr. Taran said.

For political parties and blocs, that means recruiting celebrities with name recognition, or those who will strike an emotional chord with voters.

"People are not voting for programs or ideologies, but for personalities," Dr. Taran said. "It was good for the Orange Revolution because charismatic personalities were able to win. But after charismatic people took office, they couldn't offer anything to the people except their charisma."

For Ukraine's democracy to further

develop, political parties and blocs will have to start proposing programs and ideologies, he said.

This is the first year that Ukraine's parliamentary election will be entirely decided based on the electoral list system. In prior parliamentary elections, party or bloc lists determined half the seats, while geographic electoral districts decided the other half.

To make the top spots in the electoral list, a person either has to have a political or celebrity status that draws votes, or exceptional political experience, skill or advantage, said Ivan Lozowy, president of the Kyiv-based Institute of Statehood and Democracy, which is exclusively financed by Ukrainian business donations.

About half of the top 100 seats are typically bought by businessmen, he said.

Our Ukraine's top three are Prime Minister Yekhanurov, National Security and Defense Council Secretary Anatolii Kinakh and Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk.

Though they currently hold high posts, these three will likely become national deputies because any new parliamentary majority won't allow them to remain in their positions in the administration, said Mykhailo Pohrebynskyi, director of the Center for Political Research and Conflict Studies, which is funded by Russian banks and "private Ukrainian organizations."

The top five on the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc electoral list are former Prime Minister Tymoshenko, former Security Service of Ukraine Chief Oleksander Turchynov, Mr. Tomenko, Social Democratic National Deputy Vasyl

gitimate and not meeting European standards."

Adding to the confusion, RFE/RL reported on January 10 that, according to its interpretations, in accordance with "a constitutional reform that took effect on January 1, it is the Parliament that now has the critical say in forming a governing coalition and appointing a new Cabinet. But the reformed text stipulates that those new powers belong only to the legislature that is to be elected in March – not to the sitting Rada." Thus, Parliament seems to be breaking its own rules and laws by taking the actions it did.

The constitutional changes were the result of 11th hour negotiations between President Leonid Kuchma and presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko at the end of 2004 during the Orange Revolution. They were agreed to at a time when the peaceful revolution could have erupted into violence and bloodshed had such agreements not been hammered out.

This agreement – which any court of law would have deemed to have been signed "under duress" should have been reviewed and revised by the president's administration and Parliament during the year 2005. The fact that it was not poses questions of competency regarding the leadership of the Yushchenko administration. At the same time, that does not preclude questioning the usurpation of power that Parliament is once again demonstrating.

IN THE PRESS

The Russian-Ukrainian gas crisis

"Russian Gas: Putin's Momentous Move," editorial, *The Guardian*, (London), January 4:

... This crisis has been about something larger and more complex than the price paid by Ukraine for Russian gas. Russia is the world's largest supplier of natural gas and its huge state-owned Gazprom energy company is fully entitled, in principle, to sell that gas at a market price. But Russia uses Gazprom to set its prices as a way of exerting political influence.

How else can one explain the fact that,

until January 1, the same 1,000 cubic meters of gas was sold at such a variety of prices as \$120-125 to EU customers, \$110 to Georgia, \$50 to Ukraine and \$47 to Belarus. And the same is true, in spades, of the \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters that Russia unilaterally demanded of Ukraine from Sunday.

This was not just a breach of a five-year contract that Gazprom made in 2004. It was also an attempt to destabilize the pro-Western government that came to power after Moscow's candidate was ousted in Ukraine's Orange Revolution nearly two years ago. ...

Five years...

(Continued from page 1)

"Pukach directly issued orders," she said. "Pukach took a direct part in this assassination. So far, nothing has been said [in court] about those who ordered the killing, and we intend to invite many witnesses who will be able to shed a lot of light on this case, even in this court session."

Mr. Pukach is wanted in Ukraine, but remains at large. His whereabouts are unknown.

Many in Ukraine suspect former President Leonid Kuchma and other top state officials of orchestrating the murder of Gongadze, who wrote about high-level corruption. Mr. Kuchma denies the accusations.

President Viktor Yushchenko, who took over from Mr. Kuchma following the 2004-2005 Orange Revolution, has publicly vowed to resolve the Gongadze case, calling it a priority.

Gongadze's mother, Lesia, refused to attend the January 9 court hearings, saying she no longer has faith in the

Ukrainian justice system.

In comments made on January 8, she said she was disappointed with a December 19, 2005, preliminary hearing at which the judge reportedly turned down her request for an additional probe to help find those responsible for organizing the killing.

Addressing reporters before the court session opened, however, Lesia Gongadze's lawyer, Andrii Fedur, said he attached great importance to the hearings. "For me, it will be very important to see what kind of statements will be made and what kind of questions will be asked, whether the trial will be the same as it was on the 19th, when the prosecutor acted as the main defender of the accused, or whether it will finally consider the real subject," Mr. Fedur said. "So, for me personally, this will be a key court hearing."

The 31-year-old Gongadze was abducted in 2000. His beheaded body was discovered in a forest near Kyiv.

Gongadze's murder is believed to have played a key role in eroding public support for President Kuchma and his government.

Onopenko and former journalist and former vice president of the public television network UT-1 Andrii Shevchenko.

The top five on the Party of the Regions electoral list are former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, Parliamentary Human Rights Ombudsman Nina Karpachova, Novokramatorskyi Automobile Factory President Heorhii Skudar, National Deputy Taras Chornovil and Motor Sich Airplane Engine Factory Board Chairman Vyacheslav Bohuslav.

The Party of the Regions list looks like a Who's Who of businessmen and officials accused of corruption, officials falsifying the 2004 presidential vote and advocating eastern Ukraine's secession.

Among them is Borys Kolesnykov, the Donetsk Oblast Council chair who was arrested in April and charged with extortion. He was among the leaders calling for eastern Ukraine's secession, along with Yevhen Kushnariov, who earned the Party of Regions' 11th spot.

The Procurator General's Office arrested the former Kharkiv Oblast Council chair in August, alleging Mr. Kushnariov abused his office and inflicted financial losses on the government.

Former Central Election Commission Chair Serhii Kivalov has the 27th slot. Fellow Yanukovich aides widely believed to have engaged in election fraud also appear on the list, including Eduard Prutnik (55th slot) and Andrii Kluyev, who led Mr. Yanukovich's dirty shadow campaign.

The Party of the Regions list also is full of Donetsk businessmen who have close ties to Ukraine's wealthiest entrepreneur, Rynat Akhmetov, who is in sev-

enth place on the party's list.

Among those close to Mr. Akhmetov is Yukhym Zviahliyskyi, a wealthy mine owner who hid in Israel for two years after being accused of stealing gasoline, Mr. Lozowy said.

"No question – the Party of the Regions is essentially one big Donetsk clan," he said. "These people aren't interested in business as such. They're interested in money, and the easy way to make money is mergers and acquisitions."

Viktor Yanukovich's son Viktor holds 89th place on the Party of Regions' list.

Former Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun was given 95th place on the Party of the Regions list, which may at least partly explain why many of the accused criminals were never prosecuted.

The top five on the People's Party of Ukraine electoral list are Mr. Lytvyn, Ms. Yevdokymenko-Rotaru, former cosmonaut Leonid Kadenyuk, National Academy of Sciences Institute of History Director Valerii Smolii and Supreme Court Chairman Vasyl Maliarenko.

The top five on the Socialist Party's electoral list are Party Chair Oleksander Moroz, State Property Fund Chair Valentyna Semeniuk, Education Minister Stanislav Nikolayenko, Silski Visti editor Ivan Spodarenko and Afghanistan veterans' advocate Vasyl Chervonopyskyi.

The top five on the Reforms and Order-Pora electoral list are Mr. Klitschko, Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk, Pora Political Council Chair Vladyslav Kaskiv, Reforms and Order National Deputy Taras Stetskiv and Pora Political Council Deputy Chair Yevhen Zolotariov.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Ukraine: big expectations tempered by reality

Ukrainians had high expectations of Viktor Yushchenko, sworn in as Ukraine's president on January 22 following the tumultuous Orange Revolution. Political experts predicted that the Yushchenko presidency could not realistically deliver on the campaign promises and idealistic rhetoric pronounced on the Independence Square stage.

And, while his popularity remained high in Western nations, Mr. Yushchenko's first year in office disappointed Ukrainians on many levels. The Ukrainian economy's Gross Domestic Product plunged in 2005, while many Ukrainians complained that inflation erased any real gains in government wage and pension increases.

Promises to bring to justice those who falsified the 2004 presidential elections went unfulfilled. Those who ordered journalist Heorhii Gongadze's murder were never charged. Numerous embarrassing scandals plagued the Cabinet of Ministers, led by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Mr. Yushchenko filled many posts with wealthy businessmen, some of whom were accused of abusing their government posts in order to pursue selfish business interests.

Then on September 9, Mr. Yushchenko stunned the world when he announced he was firing his Cabinet of Ministers, including his partner during the Orange Revolution, Ms. Tymoshenko. His decision caused a definitive split in the Orange Revolution forces, creating a new political enemy for himself in the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. As a result, Mr. Yushchenko's popularity plunged even further, with some late-year polls placing his political bloc in third place for the March 26, 2006, parliamentary elections.

Relations with the Russian Federation deteriorated, largely because of direct political provocations from President Vladimir Putin. Ukraine's year-end conflict with Russia over natural gas prices became an international crisis.

While relations with Russia were strained, Ukraine's standing with the European Union (EU) improved. After visiting Moscow immediately following his inau-



Yulia Tymoshenko waves as she goes to the presidential inauguration on Independence Square. AP/Efrem Lukatsky



President Viktor Yushchenko kisses an antique Bible after taking the oath of office on January 23. AP/Gleb Garanich, Pool

guration, Mr. Yushchenko's second foreign destination became the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Strasbourg, France, on January 25, where he declared, "We, along with the people of Europe, belong to one civilization."

In December the European Union officially granted Ukraine market economy status. The European government also sided with Ukraine in the natural gas crisis, criticizing Mr. Putin for his role and citing his policies as the main cause.

The inauguration

The new year began with a change in government ushered in by the events of the Orange Revolution. On January 5, President Leonid Kuchma accepted the resignation of his prime minister, Viktor Yanukovich, and appointed Mykola Azarov as interim prime minister. On January 10, Ukraine's Central Election Commission (CEC) officially declared Viktor Yushchenko as Ukraine's third president. The final vote count was 52 percent for Mr. Yushchenko compared to 44 percent for his opponent, Mr. Yanukovich. Thirteen CEC members voted in favor of the ruling, while two abstained.

Mr. Yushchenko took the oath of office on January 23, in the Verkhovna Rada's session hall. He then rode to Independence Square, where he delivered his inauguration speech in which he sought to heal the rifts that had divided Ukrainians during the presidential election campaign.

"I vow that everyone will be able to teach their children in the language of their parents," Mr. Yushchenko said. "Everyone will be able to pray in their own house of worship. Everyone will be guaranteed the right to hold their own views. We will be able to listen to one another because we will have freedom of expression and an independent press."

The president immediately replaced the Presidential Administration created by former President Kuchma in 1996 with the Presidential Secretariat. He selected campaign chief Oleksander Zinchenko as the state secretary, or his chief of staff.

The Secretariat would focus on taking Ukraine's economy out of the shadows, fighting corruption and EU integration, Mr. Zinchenko said, estimating 500 employees as compared to 2,000 in the former presidential administration. "This is a colossal intellectual challenge to society," Mr. Zinchenko said. "The work of the Secretariat lies in the coordination of daily political work."

Also in late January, Mr. Yushchenko selected close friend and wealthy businessman Petro Poroshenko as National Security and Defense Council chief and tapped Oleksander Tretiakov, who served as treasurer of Mr. Yushchenko's election campaign, as his first aide.

The Cabinet of Ministers

On January 24 Mr. Yushchenko named Yulia Tymoshenko as acting prime minister (subject to the Verkhovna Rada's approval).

Ms. Tymoshenko immediately pledged to make European Union (EU) membership a priority, as well as to maintain stable relations with Russia. However, Russian officials throughout the year made apparent their distaste for her politics. On January 26, Russia's chief prosecutor Vladimir Ustinov said his office would continue to investigate allegations that Ms. Tymoshenko bribed Russian military officers to favor her business operations.

On February 4 the Verkhovna Rada approved Ms. Tymoshenko as Ukraine's prime minister by a 373-0 vote. The next day, Ms. Tymoshenko led a meeting of Ukraine's new Cabinet of Ministers, which consisted of 15 members of the Our Ukraine coalition, three members of the Socialist Party, one member of the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and one Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc member.

Mr. Yushchenko selected Anatolii Kinakh of the Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs as first vice prime minister, Mykola Tomenko of the Our Ukraine bloc as vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs, Roman Bezsmertnyi of Our Ukraine as vice prime minister for administrative and territorial reform and Oleh Rybachuk of Our Ukraine as vice prime minister for European integration.

Also selected were U.S.-born Roman Zvorych of Our Ukraine as minister of justice; Borys Tarasyuk, minister of foreign affairs; Serhii Teriokhin, minister of the economy; Viktor Pynzenyk, minister of finance; Ivan Plachkov, minister of fuel and energy, Anatolii Hrytsenko, minister of defense; and Oleksander Turchynov, chief of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU).

The most surprising selection was Yurii Lutsenko of the Socialist Party as minister of internal affairs, the agency employing about half a million workers, many of which are Ukraine's policemen. Mr. Lutsenko had no experience in law enforcement and prior to his appointment, he mainly led anti-government street protests, beginning with the "Ukraine Without Kuchma" movement that started in 2000. During the Orange Revolution, he was referred to as the "field commander" for coordinating crowd movements.

Among Mr. Lutsenko's first decisions as minister was firing Lt. Gen. Serhii Popkov from his position as commander of Internal Affairs Ministry troops. According to Ukrainian and foreign media reports, Lt. Gen. Popkov was on the verge of bringing special-task police troops to Kyiv in late December 2004 to suppress the Orange Revolution. He denied the allegations, saying the troops were on battle alert but never left their deployment units.

The more controversial selections to the Cabinet involved Yevhen Chervonenko of the Our Ukraine bloc, who was selected as minister of transportation and communications. Mr. Chervonenko has ownership in Orlan, a business conglomerate that includes Ukraine's largest

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

international trucking company. His appointment presented a potential conflict of interest between private business interests and government service. Another controversial appointment was David Zhvania as minister of emergency situations. The wealthy businessman owns control of the Brinkford Cons Ltd., a company that conducts business in energy, ship-building, insurance and finance. Businessman Volodymyr Shandra, who served as board chairman of the Slavuta Ruberoid factory, was named minister of industrial policy.

Less than three weeks after Mr. Yushchenko appointed his new Cabinet of Ministers, a scandal erupted surrounding Justice Minister Zvarych. It was the first in what eventually became myriad controversies plaguing numerous Cabinet ministers and top-ranking officials in Mr. Yushchenko's government who had direct conflicts of interest between their government posts and business affairs.

Following a February 16 decree by the Cabinet of Ministers to ban oil re-exportation, Mr. Zvarych threatened to resign his post. He was the lone minister to oppose the ban, which was sought because Ukraine faced a deficit of oil and petroleum materials for agricultural use. The decree stated the government needed to guarantee the stability of Ukraine's oil-producing industries so that they adequately supply agricultural enterprises during the spring farming season.

Soon afterwards it was revealed that Mr. Zvarych's wife, Svitlana, is an assistant manager of Oil Transit, an oil re-exporting firm that buys oil from Russia and resells it to other European nations. It then appeared Mr. Zvarych's threat was an attempt to pressure the Yushchenko government to drop the ban in order to defend his wife's ability to conduct business.

In their defense, Mrs. Zvarych claimed she had no choice but to sell oil to National Deputy Ihor Yermeyev, a major shareholder in the Halychyna oil refinery whom she accused of being involved in corrupt tax schemes. Mr. Zvarych was going to resign in order to prevent the Yushchenko government from becoming linked with Mr. Yermeyev's corrupt schemes, she said.

After Mr. Yushchenko announced that he wouldn't sign any ban on oil re-exportation, Mr. Zvarych withdrew his threat of resignation on February 21.

Just two months later, Mr. Zvarych became the center of scandal that proved far more embarrassing for himself and the Yushchenko administration. Ukrayinska Pravda's Washington correspondent Luba Shara broke the story on April 14 that Mr. Zvarych did not have a master's degree in philosophy from Columbia University as he had been claiming in his official biographies for eight years.

The Weekly confirmed that Mr. Zvarych did study at Columbia University between fall 1976 and spring 1978, but he never completed a master's degree.

Mr. Zvarych also had said he was an assistant professor at Columbia University between 1981 and 1983, a claim he made in his biographical submissions to Who's Who in Ukraine, an annual directory published by Kyiv Informatsia Servis. He also said he was a professor at New York University for seven years, between 1983

and 1991.

New York University spokesman Josh Taylor said Mr. Zvarych was a "part-time lecturer at NYU's School of Continuing and Professional Studies, teaching sections of a social science class."

In an exclusive interview with The Weekly on April 28, Mr. Zvarych acknowledged that he never earned a master's degree from Columbia University. Instead, he maintained that he had some kind of academic degree "equivalent to that of a master's," he said. He reasserted that claim at a May 10 press conference.

In the interview with The Weekly, Mr. Zvarych corrected his own claim that he was an assistant professor at Columbia University, which is a tenure-track position that requires completion of a doctorate.

"I didn't have a title," he said. "I was an assistant. I had the possibility for seven or eight years of delivering lectures. This wasn't paid work. This was simply scholarly satisfaction that I gained for the scholarly preparation at Columbia University for my goal, which was the doctorate." Mr. Zvarych also acknowledged he was a "lecturer" at New York University, not a professor. However, he stressed that all his students referred to him as a professor and that all his letters from the university were addressed to "Prof. Roman Zvarych."

In the Yushchenko government's biggest scandal, the firing of his Cabinet of Ministers on September 8, Mr. Zvarych's name surfaced yet again.

Ruslan Boichenko, a Justice Ministry official in the Kryvyi Rih oblast, accused Mr. Zvarych of calling him and demanding that he execute orders to install court-appointed managers who represented the Pryvat Group, according to Ivan Lozowy, a political expert based in Kyiv.

Mr. Zvarych was allegedly acting on behalf of Ms. Tymoshenko, accused by Mr. Yushchenko of trying to swing control of the Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant to the Pryvat Group, which is led by Dnipropetrovsk billionaire Ihor Kolomoyskyi. When he refused to carry out Mr. Zvarych's orders, Mr. Boichenko alleged that the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Judicial Administration sent for him and forced him to sign a resignation letter.

Tymoshenko as prime minister

In commencing her leadership as Ukraine's prime minister, Ms. Tymoshenko outlined a five-year government program to combat corruption, separate business from government, raise living standards and lead Ukraine toward EU membership. Specific proposals included ensuring access to free medical care, protecting intellectual property rights, converting the military into a full contract service by 2010 and reforming Ukraine's judicial system.

On February 8 Ms. Tymoshenko began to reveal her bold ambitions for wide-scale re-privatization that Mr. Yushchenko would later blame for scaring off investors and prompting economic decline. She said the Procurator General's Office was examining all of Ukraine's past privatization deals.

Re-privatization became the first evidence of a rift

between the policies of Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko, who demonstrated a more radical streak. On February 15 President Yushchenko told a meeting of investors in Kyiv that his government would limit its review of the privatization of 30 to 40 enterprises. He said no mass re-privatization would take place in Ukraine, stressing that between 90 and 98 percent of businesses were privatized in accordance with the law.

The next day, Prime Minister Tymoshenko contradicted Mr. Yushchenko and made her now-infamous declaration that the Procurator General's Office would challenge in court the privatization of nearly 3,000 businesses.

Her statement sent shock waves not only throughout Ukraine's business community, but among entrepreneurs throughout the world who began doubting the stability of Ukraine's investment climate. Mr. Yushchenko referred to this statement when explaining why Ukraine's GDP growth was so weak this year.

On March 10 Ms. Tymoshenko said the government was considering a proposal requiring owners of key "strategic" enterprises unjustly privatized without tenders to pay the state the balance between the real value and the prices they paid during re-privatization. A week later, Mr. Yushchenko told Kommersant-Daily that the government would offer to allow the current owners of unjustly privatized companies to pay an additional sum to the government to close the gap between purchase prices and "real market price." If the owners rejected this plan, the government would propose their companies for new tenders to find new buyers.

On May 18 Ms. Tymoshenko revealed her frustration with First Vice Prime Minister Kinakh after he accused her government of drawing up a "black list" of 29 Ukrainian companies targeted for re-privatization. She insisted that such a black list had never existed and was never approved by government officials, and the mere suggestion of such a list "reeked of corruption." By this time, Ms. Tymoshenko's antipathy toward Mr. Poroshenko had also become apparent.

In August Forbes Magazine named Ms. Tymoshenko the third most powerful woman in the world, following U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Chinese Vice Premier of Health Wu Yi.

After the September 8 dismissal of the Tymoshenko Cabinet, newly appointed Presidential Secretariat Chair Rybachuk said on September 30 that Ms. Tymoshenko's style of management was a "one-woman show." "The meetings of the Cabinet last 12 to 14 hours," Mr. Rybachuk told the Kommersant newspaper. "But she was the only person to make decisions there, no matter who attended the meetings."

2005 budget passed

On March 25 the Verkhovna Rada approved Ukraine's budget without any opposition – among Ms. Tymoshenko's highlights during her brief tenure as prime minister.

The 2005 budget was widely characterized as the most socially oriented since Ukraine's independence, including higher allocations for pensions, government salaries and financial aid for new mothers. President Yushchenko signed it into law on March 30.

Not since Ukraine's independence had a budget been approved without opposition, garnering even the unanimous support of the Communist Party's national deputies who spent two sessions attacking the budget. It was the significant hikes in social spending that prompted politicians to avoid voting against it, political observers said.

More than 80 percent of the budget's expenditures were socially oriented (compared to 49 percent in the 2004 budget). Critics accused the Yushchenko administration of doling out money in order to gain popularity, particularly for the 2006 parliamentary elections.

Among the social improvements was a 17 percent increase in minimum monthly pensions to \$63 a month and a 27 percent increase in the minimum monthly wage for government workers to \$63 a month, said Finance Minister Pynzenyk. Middle-level salaries, such as those paid to teachers, doctors and scientists, improved by 57 percent. The budget also increased financial aid for childbirths by 12 times to \$1,619 per child, aid for single mothers fourfold, aid to disabled children by 4.5 times and aid to orphans by 5.2 times to \$89 per child each month, he said.

Spending to support the Ukrainian language increased by 50 percent, Mr. Pynzenyk said, while spending to support the Ukrainian diaspora increased by 11 times. Diaspora projects would include opening Ukrainian schools in the Transdniester region of



Alexander Chapko

A view from above of the inauguration celebration in Kyiv's Ukrainian House.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Moldova, where more than 200,000 ethnic Ukrainians live, officials said.

In order to finance the \$22 billion in expenditures, an 18.3 percent rise from the prior year budget, the Cabinet of Ministers targeted perks enjoyed by Ukraine's entrepreneurs and industrialists. Such perks included 11 free enterprise zones that had minimal results in stimulating investment and where businesses didn't pay taxes, Mr. Pynzenyk said. He also pointed to 15 technology parks that don't pay import duties, value-added taxes or taxes on profit.

Ms. Tymoshenko's opponents warned that the higher salaries and pensions would trigger inflation, a concern that proved legitimate during the remainder of the year. Ms. Tymoshenko had insisted inflation wouldn't exceed more than 9 percent.

Battling corruption

Meeting with representatives of several multinational companies in Davos, Switzerland, on January 30, Mr. Yushchenko discussed policies aimed at reducing corruption in Ukraine and separating business from politics. Businessmen entering the government would have to declare not only their own income and expenditures, but also that of their close relatives. They would also have to refrain from business activity during their government service, he said.

On February 4 Ms. Tymoshenko told the Verkhovna Rada her government was creating comprehensive and systematic measures to deal with corruption, which "has swept over all of Ukrainian society. But I think we will get rid of it very easily," she claimed. Her government would give top priority to "exterminating the vertical of corruption," in which money is collected by low-ranking officials and passed up to higher-ranking officials, she said.

On February 8 Mr. Yushchenko presented the newly appointed SBU Chief Turchynov, publicly instructing him to focus on fighting corruption and crime in the government, beginning with the Customs Service and police. "My goal is to have specific results by December," Mr. Yushchenko said. "Begin with three or four cases that are known to all the people. I'm sure that several successful investigations of public funds will help prevent thousands of wrongdoings."

Mr. Turchynov pledged that he would bring to "a logical end" all high-profile investigations that were either covered up or left unsolved. "There will be no cases that will be dropped or that will be impossible to investigate," he said.

On February 12 the Cabinet of Ministers decided to create a list of the prior Cabinet's resolutions that "illegally leased the best land resources in Crimea, around Kyiv and in all of Ukraine for 49 years to absolutely specific people from the former president's entourage," Ms. Tymoshenko said. She said two Cabinet resolutions had already been canceled on leasing 114 hectares of forest near Kyiv and 11 hectares of land near Sevastopol. "Both resolutions were adopted in favor of structures [controlled by former president Kuchma's] son-in-law, Viktor Pinchuk," she said.

The Cabinet also decided at the meeting to ratify the civil convention on the fight against corruption, which would start the practical work on rooting out corruption, Ms. Tymoshenko said.

On February 26 the Cabinet of Ministers voted to revoke Mr. Kuchma's extensive government benefits as a former president.

Hennadii Moskal, the deputy chief of Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry, announced that criminal charges were filed against 12 former deputy heads of oblast administrations and 58 heads of district administrations. All of the suspects were accused of bribe-taking and "exceeding their authority," Interfax reported on March 22.

Mr. Moskal said his office in March indicted Ihor Bakai, the head of Mr. Kuchma's property office, also known as the State Administration of Affairs, on seven criminal charges, including defrauding the state.

By the time the indictment came, Mr. Bakai had already fled to Russia. Among his egregious crimes, Mr. Bakai allegedly transferred ownership of a government-owned multi-million dollar dwelling used by Mr. Kuchma as his winter dacha to an offshore company after Mr. Yushchenko won election. In addition to doing Mr. Kuchma's bidding, Mr. Bakai allegedly attempted to steal plenty of property on behalf of Russian leaders.

Eventually, Mr. Putin granted Mr. Bakai Russian citizenship through a special decree for his contributions "on behalf of Russian culture and art."

On March 23 Deputy Procurator General Viktor

Shokin claimed that his office would prosecute at least two members of the Central Election Commission (CEC) for their role in falsifying votes. He also raised the possibility that former CEC Chair Serhii Kivalov would be held responsible. As of March 9 there were 255 alleged cases of criminal acts committed in relation to the presidential elections, according to the Procurator General's office.

The Procurator General's Office detained its first high-profile suspect on April 6 when it summoned Donetsk Oblast Council Chair Borys Kolesnykov for questioning. Although the reason for the summons was his role in organizing separatist activity during the Orange Revolution, the office said it was holding him on criminal charges of extortion and racketeering. Mr. Kolesnykov allegedly was behind a series of violent threats against a Donetsk department store owner, including two bombings and a spray of machine gun fire, in order to force him to sell his shares at a discount. Mr. Kolesnykov is a business partner of billionaire Rynat Akhmetov and close political ally of Mr. Yanukovich, who immediately labeled the arrest as "politically motivated."

The Procurator General charged Mr. Kolesnykov with extortion accompanied by a threat of murder on April 11. Mr. Yushchenko vowed not to intervene in Mr.

Kolesnykov's prosecution, and Ms. Tymoshenko declared that all those guilty of "robbing the country must be punished."

The Ministry of Internal Affairs opened a criminal case in late April against Volodymyr Scherban, the former head of the Sumy Oblast Administration, charging him with extortion. Mr. Scherban "forced the managers of a number of enterprises to conduct transactions involving state property," said Internal Affairs Ministry spokeswoman Inna Kysil. He demanded that controlling stakes in these businesses be sold to companies controlled by him, she said.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs next arrested former Zakarpattia Oblast Chair Ivan Rizak on May 13. A member of the Social Democratic Party - United (SDPU), he was charged with driving University of Uzhhorod Dean Volodymyr Slyvka to suicide in May 2004.

Authorities also accused Mr. Rizak of engaging in widespread corruption in the Zakarpattia Oblast, including extorting protection money from local business on behalf of SDPU. During the April 2004 mayoral elections in Mukachiv, Mr. Rizak ordered Internal Affairs Ministry special forces to assault Our Ukraine deputies and organize massive election fraud, Ukrainian authorities confirmed.

Membership in WTO: gains and setbacks

No other political issue better epitomized Ukraine's internal conflict over orientation toward East or West than the fight for World Trade Organization (WTO) membership waged by the Orange forces in the Verkhovna Rada.

Although the pro-Western deputies formed a majority in the Rada, the pro-Russian forces demonstrated this year that with enough obnoxious delaying tactics and even fisticuffs, a minority bloc can do a pretty good job in stalling votes on bills.

As early as the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on January 28, President Viktor Yushchenko set the goal of Ukraine meeting all WTO membership requirements by November.

It became apparent in late May that resistance to the WTO would be fierce. By a narrow margin, the Rada rejected a package of amendments to Ukraine's intellectual property rights laws that would have brought Ukraine into compliance with WTO standards.

International observers accused Mr. Yushchenko and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko of failing to inform and mobilize their parliamentary forces about the importance of the intellectual property rights vote. Numerous Our Ukraine deputies were either not present in the Rada for the vote or simply neglected to vote for the package of bills in June.

"The failure of the Our Ukraine bloc in the Parliament to strongly support Ukraine's rapid movement toward major international economic and trade agreements has been alarming to many private business and government leaders around the world," said Morgan Williams, the director of government affairs for SigmaBleyzer.

In response to Western investors and financiers, some voicing their concern about Ukraine's lack of progress at the World Economic Forum in Kyiv, Ms. Tymoshenko announced on June 21 she would lead a campaign to rally votes to support a WTO package of bills. She asked that the Rada approve a package of 14 bills critical to WTO admission.

On July 5 Mr. Yushchenko appeared before the Rada and urged the national deputies to consider Ukraine's national interests and vote for the bills with Ukrainian citizens' interests in mind. WTO membership would add \$1.6 billion to Ukraine's annual budget and improve GDP growth by 1.9 percent, he said.

To prepare Ukraine's economy for WTO admission, 350 laws needed to be amended, 150 government regulations needed to be reviewed and 1,300 laws had to be canceled.

However, Communists and pro-Russian parliamentary deputies proved that they were willing to go to extremes in order to prevent any progress toward WTO membership.

For two days on July 6-7 Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn tried to lead Ukraine's

Parliament in voting on 14 bills that would allow for WTO entry by the year's end. Pro-WTO national deputies outnumbered their enemies - the Communists and the Social Democratic Party - United (SDPU). Despite their majority, pro-WTO deputies managed to pass only two bills during those two days: a bill criminalizing the piracy of intellectual property and a law reducing import duties on meat and other products, except for wine, pure alcohol and tobacco.

Inconsistent support from the Socialist Party disappointed Economy Minister Serhii Teriokhin, who blamed them for the failure of several bills. The party should leave the Our Ukraine coalition government, he said.

Both the Socialist Party and Mr. Lytvyn's People's Party of Ukraine voted against the package of 14 bills, preferring to vote on each bill separately in order to protect special interests on specific issues.

Following the WTO legislative battle in the remaining days before the summer recess, during which the Rada approved only eight of 14 necessary bills, Ms. Tymoshenko said she considered the parties of Oleksander Moroz and Mr. Lytvyn her opponents, accusing Mr. Lytvyn of sabotage.

However, political observers put the blame on Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko, who didn't invest enough time to prepare the Rada and rally the necessary votes. Ms. Tymoshenko sternly rejected accusations that she waited until the last minute.

Little progress on WTO bills was made after the summer recess, as pro-Russian deputies managed to block voting on several occasions.

On November 1 the Rada approved two more WTO bills, the first amending the law defending domestic producers from import dumping, and the second amending the law to adopt special measures for imports.

At this point, Mr. Yushchenko estimated that Ukraine had passed 65 percent of the necessary legislation for WTO admission, while the Ministry of the Economy stated that Ukraine was in compliance with about 80 percent of the WTO's accession requirements.

It wasn't until the first anniversary of the Orange Revolution on November 22 that Mr. Yushchenko finally acknowledged in his speech that his country wouldn't make his hoped deadline of November to gain WTO admission.

On December 14 the Verkhovna Rada rejected two bills required for Ukraine's WTO accession, including one lowering export tariffs on ferrous scrap metal, live cattle and leather materials. The same day, U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman said in Hong Kong that Russia and Ukraine should join the WTO together.

But, Presidential Secretariat Chief Oleh Rybachuk had said on October 28 that Ukraine isn't conducting talks with Russia to join the WTO. "It is technically impossible to synchronize the two independent countries' entries."

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Late in the year, U.S. authorities arrested Mr. Scherban in Florida.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs summoned Mr. Yanukovich to appear on May 30 for questioning regarding alleged illegal government donations of about \$950,000 for the overhaul of the Donetsk airport. Mr. Yanukovich didn't appear, claiming he didn't receive a proper subpoena.

Earlier in May, Ukrainian prosecutors questioned Mr. Yanukovich over the business dealings of Mr. Kolesnykov, an incident he described as "political persecution." He finally showed up for questioning on June 6.

In mid-May, prosecutors re-opened a criminal case against National Deputy Nestor Shufrych for buying votes to win a seat in the 2002 elections. A second case accused Mr. Shufrych of stealing \$11.1 million in government funds for a gas-exploration project.

On July 26, the Procurator General's Office filed criminal charges against Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Chairman Mykola Shvets that included abusing enormous sums of government funds for personal gain during his tenure as oblast administration chair between 1999 and 2003. By the time the charges were filed, Mr. Shvets had left Ukraine.

Efforts to combat corruption came to a halt in August. The Kyiv Appellate Court released Donetsk

Oblast Council Chair Kolesnykov on his own recognition on August 2. Mr. Kolesnykov soon resumed his job as oblast council chair. Mr. Rizak, a former oblast chair, was released soon after Mr. Kolesnykov.

In late September, former SBU Chief Turchynov informed Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty that President Yushchenko had ordered a halt to his agency's investigations into allegedly fraudulent practices in transporting Turkmen gas into Ukraine by two companies, EuralTransGas and RosUkrEnergo. Mr. Turchynov said that Mr. Yushchenko told him to stop "persecuting my men" and that the investigation of RosUkrEnergo was "creating a conflict with Russian President Putin."

In addition, former Naftohaz Chair Yuri Boiko was interrogated twice by the Security Service and about to be arrested when Mr. Yushchenko ordered him left alone, Mr. Turchynov said.

The first 100 days

In evaluating his first 100 days in office, Mr. Yushchenko said on April 26 that freedom of speech and independent media had begun to become a reality in Ukraine. He noted that 70 percent of the 2005 government budget was "consumed by the poorest part of the population." Mr. Yushchenko also pointed out that the first group of Ukrainian peacekeepers returned from Iraq in March and the remainder would leave by year's

end. He noted that the term of military service was cut to 18 months in the naval forces and 12 months for infantry troops. He added that Ukraine has signed accords on \$2.6 billion worth of investment credits, which was "more than during the past five years taken together."

"We haven't betrayed any of the maidan's slogans," Mr. Yushchenko said in assessing his first 100 days. "Today I can approach any member of society – the veteran, the child, anybody – and say that we worked for you."

Mr. Yushchenko has remained Ukraine's most popular politician with a 60 percent approval rating, according to a recent poll by the Democratic Initiatives Foundation. About 47 percent of Ukrainians believed the nation was headed in the right direction. Only 21 percent believed the country was not headed in the right direction, according to the poll.

Another poll found that 60 percent of respondents said the first 100 days of the Yushchenko presidency were "generally positive." According to the poll conducted by the Kyiv International Sociology Institute, 31 percent said their attitude toward Mr. Yushchenko was "partly positive and partly negative," while 16 percent said they disapproved of his performance. More than 2,000 people in Ukraine were surveyed for the poll, which was taken after May 3, Mr. Yushchenko's 100th day in office.

Mr. Yushchenko's popularity had reached its peak around the time of his 100th day in office. Almost immediately, beginning with the Russian oil crisis in mid-May, Mr. Yushchenko's government began to stop functioning effectively as massive conflicts arose. A series of scandals and conflicts, particularly with Ms. Tymoshenko, eventually led him to the decision to dismiss his government and advisors. These political failures, coupled with economic woes, caused his popularity to plummet by the year's end.

Economic decline

By mid-August, the International Monetary Fund confirmed what was widely suspected by Ukrainian observers: Ukraine's economy had plunged into decline during the Yushchenko administration. The most serious problem was inflation, which was eliminating any of the improvements in real government wages provided by the 2005 budget.

Inflation in June, for example, increased 14.4 percent from the same period in 2004, reported Sigma Bleyzer, a Kyiv investment bank.

During the first half of 2005, cumulative GDP rose 4 percent from the same period last year, compared with 12.7 percent growth in the corresponding prior year period.

The Ukrainian economy grew 2.8 percent in the first eight months of 2005 compared with 13.6 percent in the same period a year earlier, it was later noted by Prime Minister Yuri Yekhanurov, who became the new prime minister on September 22.

Yushchenko-Tymoshenko rift

The crisis involving Russian oil prices drove the first definite wedge between Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko. The president criticized the way the prime minister dealt with the Russians and urged a more moderate approach in dealing with the higher prices, including establishing a "more clear position" on fuel price controls.

On May 18 Mr. Yushchenko issued a presidential order criticizing the way the Cabinet of Ministers, not Russian oil entrepreneurs, behaved during the crisis. "In May this year, a sharp deficit in high-octane grades of gasoline arose in the domestic market of fuel products," the order stated. "This crisis arose because the Cabinet of Ministers, in its price-setting, excessively regulated the gas and fuel market."

Regulating prices on the gasoline market doesn't conform to free-market principles, Mr. Yushchenko said in the order, forbidding similar tactics in the future.

At a May 19 meeting with the Russian oil executives, Mr. Yushchenko allegedly lost his temper with Ms. Tymoshenko, suggesting that she resign.

Dzherkalo Tyzhnia, Ukraine's weekly analytical newspaper, confirmed with four conference participants the conflict's details as revealed by a trusted confidant of Ms. Tymoshenko's.

When the meeting began, Ms. Tymoshenko immediately told those present that she disagreed with the first part of Mr. Yushchenko's order in which he said the government's response to the crisis was not market-oriented. He then apologized to the Russian oil executives

Energy crises escalate through end of year

On May 16 Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko picked a fight with the Russian Federation over gasoline prices, leading to a series of energy crises that would end up plaguing the Yushchenko government through the end of year, long after her dismissal from the prime minister's position.

She accused Russian oil companies of conspiring to sabotage the Ukrainian economy and the Yushchenko government of hatching a fuel crisis in which they inflated gas prices between 10 and 15 percent.

Three Russian oil companies control 90 percent of Ukraine's market, Ms. Tymoshenko pointed out. Just when the new government came to power, she said, this "cartel conspiracy" raised prices for oil products significantly higher than what had been agreed to.

After resolving the price increase by negotiating set prices with Ukraine's three refineries, oil producer TNK-BP responded with hostility by shutting down oil production in Ukraine immediately, she said, breaking its agreement precisely on the government's 100th day, May 3. Despite signed contracts and active pumps, Russian oil suppliers ceased deliveries to the massive Kremenchuk refinery on May 7 and suspended oil pumping for five days.

"It's an absolutely artificial crisis, which for an entire week was a full blockade," Ms. Tymoshenko said.

Ukraine is undertaking numerous initiatives to reduce its dependency on Russian companies for oil and gasoline, Ms. Tymoshenko said. She urged simplification of import procedures and the tax system in order to open the Ukrainian market to other nations' oil products. A government project is under way to construct a new oil refinery in the Odesa Oblast to process strictly non-Russian oil, Ms. Tymoshenko also announced.

In response to the oil shortage, the Verkhovna Rada passed on May 17 government-proposed amendments to several laws to cancel import duties on high-octane gasoline and diesel fuel.

In early June Russian officials already began warning Ukraine that the price for natural gas could increase by the year's end from the current \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters to \$160.

Then, in late July, Gazprom chairman Aleksei Miller informed Ukrainian energy officials that natural gas prices could spike in order to match world market prices and provide more revenue to finance Gazprom's activity. The proposed price at the time was still in the range of \$160 per 1,000 cubic meters, which even at that level was exaggerated and impossible, said Volodymyr Saprykin, an energy analyst at the Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Studies in Kyiv.

Gazprom triggered a major crisis on December 14 when it announced that it would not give Ukraine discounted rates under its current contract and threatened to cut supplies altogether if new terms weren't reached

by January 1. In what was widely perceived as Russia again pressuring Ukraine, Gazprom boosted natural gas prices for Ukraine to the European level of \$220-\$230 per 1,000 cubic meters from a rate of \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters.

President Viktor Yushchenko said Russia used the latest gas negotiations as an instrument of political pressure, but reassured Ukrainians that the issue would soon be "yesterday's problem." The Ukrainian government insisted on a step-by-step shift from barter transactions to money payments for natural gas.

Gazprom representatives accused Ukraine of dragging negotiations out after Ukraine had rejected a price of \$160 per 1,000 cubic meters offered earlier. "Ukraine has wasted time in these talks and now there can be no talk about \$160," said Oleksander Medvedev, Gazprom's deputy board chairman. "The market situation has changed."

Russian President Vladimir Putin asserted that Ukraine could afford market prices given that it has received money from privatizations and Western loans.

"We've got a contract with the Russian monopoly [Gazprom]," said Mykhailo Volynets, a member of the Ukrainian Fuel and Energy Complex in the Ministry of Heating and Energy. "According to this document, the [gas] price is unchangeable until 2009. I am sure that Ukraine will sue Gazprom based on this document," he added.

Meanwhile, President Yushchenko said it was necessary to launch a new energy concept for Ukraine and increase domestic oil and natural gas production on the Azov and Black Sea shelves. "My aim is to provide for the absolute energy independence of Ukraine," Mr. Yushchenko stated.

The gas crisis escalated after Prime Minister Yuri Yekhanurov returned from a failed December 19 meeting in Moscow with his Russian counterpart, Mikhail Fradkov. At a press conference in Kyiv the next day, Mr. Yushchenko accused the Russian state-controlled natural gas monopoly, Gazprom, of blackmailing the Ukrainian government. "You know, one has to be absurd in resolving this problem by resorting to such [methods] ... it's blackmail."

Rather than pursue further political negotiations, the Ukrainian leadership said it would turn to the Stockholm International Arbitration Court, Mr. Yekhanurov said at the December 20 press conference.

The Russian government offered Ukraine another way out of the crisis, expressing interest in a Russian-Ukrainian natural gas consortium that would give it co-ownership of Ukraine's transit pipelines, the Russian daily newspaper Kommersant reported. Mr. Yekhanurov rejected this plan, instead offering to pay market prices for natural gas as part of a gradual shift from barter transactions to cash payments during the next two or three years.

As threatened, Gazprom cut natural gas supplies to Ukraine on January 1, 2006.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

that the Ukrainian government did not allow them to conduct business.

It was at this point that Mr. Yushchenko allegedly said, "Ukraine's government is the worst in Europe and he regrets selecting Ms. Tymoshenko to her position," according to the confidant. He then allegedly suggested that she join the Social Democratic Party – United and resign. (The SDPU is a clan party that serves the business interests of its members.)

An anonymous source in President Yushchenko's camp offered a different version. The Ukrainian president reportedly called upon the Russians to conduct themselves as business partners and to refrain from organizing a fuel crisis every time Ukraine's sowing season begins.

Afterwards, Ms. Tymoshenko said her relations with the president were warm and friendly and she was convinced that no one could ruin their relationship. "We are one team that came to power seriously and for a long time," she said. "We feel an immense responsibility before the people who brought us to power, who are hoping and counting on us. We will never betray their hopes."

DAI dissolved

In a July 18 meeting with top Ministry of Internal Affairs officials, Mr. Yushchenko announced he would sign a presidential order the next day dissolving Ukraine's notorious traffic police known as the State Traffic Inspection (known by its Ukrainian acronym as DAI). It remains inefficient and corrupt, he declared.

"I have warned the ministers three times – if DAI [officers] continue hiding in bushes [to ambush cars in speed traps], there will be no DAI in this country," he said. The president's decision stunned most Ukrainians, including Minister of Internal Affairs Lutsenko, who admitted he hadn't expected such radical steps.

The ministry announced it would split DAI's 23,000 officers into two divisions: the Traffic Security Service and the Patrol Service under its jurisdiction. The Traffic Security Service would be in charge of regulating traffic, dealing with traffic jams, registering cars, issuing license plates, administering driving tests and providing escort services to Ukraine's president, prime minister and Verkhovna Rada chairman, said Hennadii Hrebniiov, the chair of the Office of Preventive Work in the State Traffic Inspection. The Patrol Service would focus on monitoring civil order on roads and sidewalks, patrolling designated territories and preventing criminal activity.

Soon after the DAI's elimination, government statistics confirmed that traffic accidents rose sharply as Ukrainian drivers took more risks on the road and became more reckless.

Andrii Yushchenko scandal

Perhaps the last thing President Yushchenko needed was a scandal that involved his family. Yet, in July, the reports of his son Andrii's alleged luxurious lifestyle involved expensive cars and restaurants dominated Ukrainian society.

Most Westerners didn't see the big deal in the president's 19-year-old son living it up in Ukraine's capital. However, in light of President Yushchenko's oft-repeated vows that "these hands never stole anything," Ukrainians were wondering how his son could afford a \$160,000 BMW M6 and a Vertu cell phone that costs at least \$5,800 if the president's salary is a mere \$56,160 annually, as reported by the Ukrayinska Pravda website.

The news company also revealed that Andrii Yushchenko was living in a 200-square-meter apartment, enormous by Kyiv standards and incredibly expensive.

In his defense, presidential spokeswoman Iryna Heraschenko said Andrii was renting the car with money earned from a job at a consulting firm. But without a college degree and only part-time employment (Andrii is a student at Shevchenko State University in Kyiv), the president's son could not possibly earn more than \$600 a month, an extreme salary in and of itself, Ukrayinska Pravda reported.

The probes into his son's lifestyle caused President Yushchenko to lose his temper with reporters at a July 25 press conference that took place on a particularly hot, humid day after he had just spent a grueling eight-hour session with the Cabinet of Ministers. The incident shocked reporters and average Ukrainians alike, revealing a side to Mr. Yushchenko that most Ukrainians weren't privy to.

When Ukrayinska Pravda reporter Serhii Leschenko asked the president whether it was ethical for his son to



Two women smile as they hold a photo of President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko during celebrations of Ukraine's Independence Day.

be living such a lifestyle, Mr. Yushchenko responded, "Conduct yourself as a polite journalist, not like a hired killer."

When describing how he advised his son to deal with journalists who were probing his spending habits at restaurants, President Yushchenko said he told him: "Pay the check in front of the journalist's 'morda' (mug) and then to court."

Ultimately, media analysts said the incident was a positive sign of Ukraine's flourishing democracy under President Yushchenko. During the Kuchma era, most reporters would have avoided posing such questions to the president out of fear of reprisals. And though the statements from the president's press office didn't adequately explain how Andrii Yushchenko could afford his luxuries, at least they provided a response without an attempt at denial or without entirely concealing the affair. Eventually, President Yushchenko called Mr. Leschenko, apologized and offered a verbal handshake over the phone.

Independence Day

Ukraine's government is finally guided by social justice in its socioeconomic policies, Mr. Yushchenko told 10,000 gathered on Independence Square on August 24. "For the first time, pensioners have received a minimum pension that is equal to subsistence minimum," he said on the 14th anniversary of Ukrainian independence. "For the first time, mothers with newborn babies have received a worthy assistance from the state." Under his presidency, Mr. Yushchenko said, businessmen have for the first time showed a willingness to leave the shadow economy and pay taxes. Media freedom has become a reality in Ukraine, he added.

The Gongadze case

Suppressed throughout Mr. Kuchma's presidency, the investigation of the Gongadze murder was picked up under the Yushchenko administration. The enterprising journalist who had written articles exposing Ukrainian government corruption for the Ukrayinska Pravda website had been found murdered in November 2000.

In addressing the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on January 25, President Yushchenko thanked its delegates for drawing attention and alarm to the Gongadze murder, vowing to provide "maximum assistance" to its investigation.

The Procurator General's Office led by Sviatoslav Piskun announced on February 16 that forensic experts from the Ministry of Health would re-examine Gongadze's body using DNA analysis, along with forensic experts from Munich, Germany. Experts from Zurich, Switzerland, conducted a separate, parallel examination.

On March 1 Mr. Yushchenko announced a breakthrough in the Gongadze case, confirming that Ukrainian police officers murdered him and that Mr. Kuchma intentionally suppressed evidence in the investigation. "The former government not only lacked the political will to solve the case," Mr. Yushchenko said. "There wasn't merely a deficit of desire. The government gave cover to the murderers. The goal was to never solve the case."

Procurator General Piskun the next day announced the arrest of two police colonels, later revealed as Valerii Kostenko and Mykola Protasov. Another suspect, Gen. Oleksii Pukach, had fled to Israel in late 2003 and was under an international search warrant. He was the former head of the external supervision department of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs. A witness, Yurii Nestorov, remained under house arrest and was wounded in late February when someone reportedly threw a grenade at him and his guard.

At a March 2 press conference, Mr. Piskun offered the first official details of what was a vicious murder. On the night of September 16, 2000, Gongadze left the home of Ukrayinska Pravda editor Olena Prytula. He approached a parked car strategically placed by the murderers who had been stalking him. Thinking it was a taxi cab, Gongadze sat in the passenger seat. The driver then told him the seat was broken and he should sit in the back seat. Once Mr. Gongadze switched seats, three police officers jumped in the back. The assailants drove beyond Kyiv, in the direction of Bila Tserkva.

"On the road, they beat him," Mr. Piskun said. "Then they brought him to their place, tied his hands, killed him, poured gasoline on his body and set it on fire." Mr. Piskun later added that Gongadze's murderers had choked him to death.

Two months after the biopsy, Mr. Gongadze's headless body was found in the Tarascha forest outside the city. Investigators still were unable to locate Gongadze's head. They believe he was shot in the head and then decapitated so the bullet could not be traced.

With the arrests, Mr. Yushchenko accomplished in one month what Mr. Kuchma had neglected to do in four and a half years. However, Mr. Yushchenko said the investigation wasn't finished. "My top goal is to get to the main point: who organized and ordered the murder?" Mr. Yushchenko said on March 1.

Mr. Piskun declined to comment on the murderers' motives and whether they were acting on a political order. When asked whether it was known who gave the policemen their orders, Mr. Piskun eerily replied, "There is such an individual."

Just two days later, former Ministry of Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Kravchenko, among the key suspects in organizing the Gongadze murder, was found dead in his suburban Kyiv home with two bullet wounds to his head.

He was scheduled to testify that very day at the Procurator General's Office. Police concluded that Mr. Kravchenko died of suicide, even releasing excerpts of a note in which he denied any involvement in the Gongadze murder and described himself as "a victim of the political intrigues of Kuchma and his entourage."

Most political experts and Ukrainian citizens doubted

Sale of Kryvorizhstal hailed as huge success

The Financial Times (London) commented in its October 26 editorial on the reprivatization of Kryvorizhstal, calling it "An Exemplary Start." Following are excerpts of that editorial.

"This week's auction of Kryvorizhstal steel mill was a resounding triumph for Ukraine's fledgling market economy and much-needed good news for Viktor Yushchenko's government. The 4.8 billion pounds paid by Mittal Steel exceeded expectations and was achieved through a fair and open process.

"It will reassure investors unsettled this year by divisive government debates; it will also reassure Mr. Yushchenko's restive supporters that he has the will to redress the wrongs of Leonid Kuchma's corrupt government.

"The sale of Kryvorizhstal last year was one of the worst of some questionable post-Soviet privatizations. Foreigners were excluded from the auction, and the mill was sold for only \$800 million (U.S.) to a group of local businessmen, among them Mr. Kuchma's own son-in-law.

"It was, therefore, the most obvious candidate for reprivatization. The more challenging question is what should be done next. ...

"Ukraine's review of past privatizations must be limited in scope, governed by transparent rules and completed within a clearly stated, and very brief, time. Otherwise, the process risks being distorted by political vendettas, as with Yukos in Russia."

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

the official version that it was suicide. If it was, then Mr. Kravchenko failed in his first attempt in which a bullet entered his chin, said Petro Koliada, the vice minister of internal affairs. After that shot, Mr. Kravchenko had to have lifted his firearm and fired the lethal second bullet through his own temple.

National Deputy Hryhorii Omelchenko, chair of the Verkhovna Rada commission investigating the Gongadze murder, told the media on March 3 that Mr. Kravchenko was under extreme pressure and might take his own life. Mr. Omelchenko also accused Mr. Yushchenko of having made a deal with Mr. Kuchma prior to the election by allegedly granting him immunity from prosecution, a charge Mr. Yushchenko had vehemently and repeatedly denied. Mr. Kuchma said he didn't need immunity because he had done nothing wrong.

Mykola Melnychenko, Mr. Kuchma's former security officer who made more than 700 hours of alleged secret recordings of conversations between the former president and his aides, has long maintained that the order to murder Gongadze came from Messrs. Kuchma, Kravchenko, Lytvyn and Leonid Derkach, the former head of the Security Service of Ukraine.

The former president has maintained that the recordings are doctored. "Before God, before the people, I have a clear conscience," Mr. Kuchma told reporters on March 4, referring to the allegations linking him and Mr. Kravchenko to Gongadze's murder. On March 10 the former president arrived at the Procurator General's Office and gave his official testimony in the Gongadze case.

The slain journalist's mother, Lesia Gongadze, announced by March that she was suing the Procurator General's Office for failing to act in July 2000, when Mr. Gongadze wrote a letter indicating that he was being stalked and needed protection.

Mr. Piskun invited Mr. Melnychenko to come to Ukraine to testify in the Gongadze case and turn over the original recordings and devices to representatives of the SBU, the Procurator General's Office and the special parliamentary commission for examination by phonoscopic experts.

Mr. Piskun said he'd admit the recordings as evidence if an international commission established their authenticity. He said he closed a criminal case against Mr. Melnychenko for illegal eavesdropping. Even before Mr. Piskun's offer, Mr. Melnychenko made clear he didn't trust the procurator general and preferred to deal with SBU Chief Turchynov. He also requested security assurance should he return to Ukraine.

Following the arrests, progress in the Gongadze case suddenly began to stall. On March 30 Socialist Party Chair Oleksander Moroz complained Ukraine was not advancing toward democracy. "The assassination of Gongadze and the protest actions linked to it four years ago have led to the Orange Revolution," Mr. Moroz said. "Today, after the victory of the revolution, its sources have been forgotten ... There is procrastination in [the investigation of] the Gongadze case in Ukraine, and PACE should monitor the case until it is passed to court."

On August 1, the Procurator General's Office announced it divided the Gongadze investigation in two phases and that it had solved the first phase by identifying Gongadze's killers.

The second phase would seek to identify those who organized and ordered the murder, Mr. Piskun said, but critics such as Myroslava Gongadze, the journalist's widow, and National Deputy Omelchenko immediately suspected that the case was being divided in order to prosecute the killers without bringing the masterminds to justice.

After a five-year exile, Mykola Melnychenko returned to Ukraine on December 1, where he was greeted by a hoard of reporters. He provided secret testimony to the Procurator General's Office, but didn't bring any additional documents for the Gongadze investigation and made no revealing statements, other than his belief that Mr. Lytvyn was involved in the Gongadze murder because of personal reasons related to a woman.

Yushchenko meets with businessmen

More than a month after firing his Cabinet of Ministers on September 9, Mr. Yushchenko invited 30 of Ukraine's most powerful businessmen to the Presidential Secretariat on October 14 for an unprecedented four-hour meeting. It was at this meeting that he declared the now-famous words, "The Orange Revolution is over."

"I give you a guarantee that I will do everything to convince you that relations with you will change radically during the next 12 months," Mr. Yushchenko said. "Nobody will prosecute you or tire you out with inspections." He assured those he once labeled criminals during the Orange Revolution that his government will cooperate with them and protect their property rights.

"Government is supposed to, first of all, correctly relate to business, respect ownership and learn to defend this ownership," Mr. Yushchenko told the businessmen, once referred to as oligarchs because they obtained and built their enterprises largely through government connections.

Mr. Yushchenko asked the businessmen to support Ukraine's attempt to integrate with the European Union and urged them to engage in charity to address social problems, build medical institutions and restore cultural and historic monuments.

Kryvorizhstal sale

During his presidential campaign, Mr. Yushchenko vowed to nullify the privatization of Kryvorizhstal, one of Ukraine's largest industrial assets, which employs about 52,000 workers in Kryvyi Rih and produces between 20 and 30 percent of Ukraine's steel.

In June 2004 the Ukrainian government had staged a rigged auction and sold the enterprise to a business consortium involving Interpipe, a corporation owned by former President Kuchma's son-in-law Viktor Pinchuk, and System Capital Management, a company controlled by Rynat Akhmetov, the Donetsk businessman with close ties to Mr. Yanukovych.

Despite bids from foreign firms as high as \$1.2 billion, the well-connected businessmen paid a bargain price of \$804 million – a price Mr. Yushchenko and his allies insisted was illegal, estimating the factory's value between \$4 and \$5 billion.

In early February a Kyiv district court blocked the Kryvorizhstal sale by freezing its shares. During the first Cabinet of Ministers meeting on February 5, Prime Minister Tymoshenko ordered the new government to begin the process of returning Ukraine's largest steel mill to state control in order for re-privatization to begin. On February 8 Ms. Tymoshenko announced the procurator general had appealed to the Supreme Court to overturn an October 2004 decision of the High Economic Court that declared the Kryvorizhstal privatization legal.

Kyiv's Economic Court of Appeals on June 2 rejected an appeal from lawyers representing Messrs. Pinchuk and Akhmetov and endorsed the Economic Court's prior ruling that the privatization of Kryvorizhstal was illegal. The court also froze the factory's shares and banned the two businessmen's consortium, Investment-Metallurgical Union, from all dealings involving Kryvorizhstal property.

Afterwards, Mr. Pinchuk said a compromise on Kryvorizhstal from the Ukrainian government would improve Ukraine's investment climate and reassure foreign investors. He pledged that he was ready to "sacrifice something, lose something."

Ms. Tymoshenko announced on June 8 that the Ukrainian government had taken full control of Kryvorizhstal. Then, on June 18, the Cabinet of Ministers voted to hold a tender for the re-privatization of the steel mill, of which 93.07 percent of the shares would be resold.

The Investment Metallurgical Union filed a lawsuit with the European Court for Human Rights on June 21, accusing the Ukrainian government of violating the union's rights in its re-privatization bid.

Finally, on October 24, the Ukrainian government sold Kryvorizhstal for \$4.8 billion to Mittal Steel Co., the world's largest steel company based in Rotterdam,

Ukraine's Cabinet: out with the new

It started when Mikhail Brodsky, a political ally of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, declared on September 2 that "there is nothing but corruption around Yushchenko." Three days later, Oleksander Zinchenko, the president's chief of staff, called a press conference in which he accused President Viktor Yushchenko's closest advisors of using their positions of power to advance their business interests. Mr. Zinchenko also announced he was resigning.

He was directly confronted by one of those he accused, Petro Poroshenko, who denied any wrongdoing.

In the early morning of September 8, Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Mykola Tomenko supported Mr. Zinchenko's accusations of corruption and said he, too, was resigning.

That was the straw that broke the camel's back for the Ukrainian president.

Just four hours later, he went on national television and stunned the world by announcing he was firing his prime minister, the Cabinet of Ministers and top government officials – all former allies who played critical roles during the Orange Revolution.

The press conferences and accusations by Messrs. Brodsky, Zinchenko and Tomenko that arrived in increments were all part of a script in which the Tymoshenko team braced itself for a schism that would divide the Orange Revolution's ranks.

The accusers fingered several or all of the same players in the Yushchenko team: Mr. Poroshenko, senior presidential aide Oleksander Tretiakov and Our Ukraine parliamentary faction leader Mykola Martynenko.

"A small group of political opportunists is trying to use the efforts of hundreds of patriots of Ukraine for the private interests," Mr. Zinchenko said. "They are exercising their power in order to privatize and lay hands on everything possible."

Mr. Zinchenko's accusations provoked a crisis in the government, which Mr. Yushchenko spent three days trying to resolve, said his press secretary, Iryna Heraschenko. A deal had been reached in which Mr. Poroshenko and several other officials would voluntarily resign, she said. However, Mr. Tomenko's press conference forced Mr. Yushchenko into his decision to dismiss the entire government, she added.

Mr. Poroshenko voluntarily resigned his post short-

ly after Mr. Tomenko in order not to obstruct an official investigation into the corruption charges leveled by Mr. Zinchenko.

Following the Cabinet's dismissal, Ms. Tymoshenko's close ally, Oleksander Turchynov, the chair of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), announced he was resigning because he believed the president's decision threatened national security.

Two separate governments had existed and clashed under the Yushchenko administration, Mr. Tomenko said. Mr. Poroshenko led the oligarchic interests, while Ms. Tymoshenko represented the lawful political interests, he said. He criticized President Yushchenko for a lack of communication in his government. Any attempt to communicate with the president had to meet the approval of Mr. Tretiakov, he said.

Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk supported that claim, stating he wasn't able to communicate with Mr. Yushchenko for three months due to Mr. Tretiakov's interference.

During his press conference announcing the dismissals, Mr. Yushchenko said he never again wanted to repeat the three days he spent trying to keep the Cabinet together. Throughout the months of Cabinet conflicts, Mr. Yushchenko said he felt as if he were a "baby sitter" – a position he felt a president shouldn't have to be in.

Explaining his decision, Mr. Yushchenko said he noticed his ministers didn't trust each other and were making side agreements that led to scandals, the latest of which involved the Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant.

Thus began Mr. Yushchenko's attacks against Ms. Tymoshenko that he repeated often and relentlessly.

In the plant's re-privatization, Mr. Yushchenko accused Ms. Tymoshenko of favoring the Pryvat business partnership led by Ihor Kolomoyskyi over other competitors. He likened it to taking a plant from one gang, led by Viktor Pinchuk, and giving it to another, led by Mr. Kolomoyskyi.

The next evening Ms. Tymoshenko appeared on national television declaring that her Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc would go into the March 2006 parliamentary elections on its own. She said she didn't want to join with Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc because of the corruption the president's entourage is mired in.

"It does not mean we are at war," she said on September 9. "But we have two different teams, two very different sets of people. I will not go to the elections together with the people who have so discredited Ukraine."

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Holland. The sum was five times more than what Mr. Pinchuk and Mr. Akhmetov had paid more than a year earlier.

"The transparent auction would not have been possible without the 2004 revolution," Mr. Yushchenko said in a statement released by his press office. "It demonstrated that our policy, supported on the maidan, was irreversible. Due to your steadfastness, the mill was legally returned to the state."

The \$4.8 billion equaled about 6 percent of Ukraine's GDP, analysts said. It compared with \$1.5 billion in foreign investment to Ukraine in all of 2004. More than \$800 million earned from the sale will compensate Mr. Akhmetov and Mr. Pinchuk, said Viktor Pynzenyk, Ukraine's Finance Minister.

About \$1.4 billion will enter directly into the national budget, Mr. Yekhanurov estimated. Revenues from the sale will go toward capital improvements projects for metro systems and airports, as well as increasing capitalization of government banks, Mr. Pynzenyk said.

Turmoil in Procurator General's Office

On October 14 Mr. Yushchenko fired Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun. While offering no reasons, Presidential Secretariat Chair Rybachuk said at an October 12 news briefing that Mr. Piskun was dismissed because he stalled investigations of high-priority crimes and launched criminal cases that had obvious political implications, including a criminal case opened against close Yushchenko associate Mr. Poroshenko. He also accused Mr. Piskun of repeatedly divulging investigation secrets, allowing criminals to flee arrest.

Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc members rallied behind Mr. Piskun, accusing Mr. Yushchenko of firing Mr. Piskun because four days earlier he had charged Mr. Poroshenko of bribing businessmen in order to gain control of a luxury high-rise apartment complex in Kyiv.

A few weeks later, the Procurator General's Office was thrown into disarray when a Kyiv court ruled on November 18 that Mr. Piskun was once again illegally fired from his post. As a result, the Ukrainian government had to deal with two acting procurators general because Mr. Yushchenko had already named Oleksander Medvedko as Mr. Piskun's replacement.

Just three days after the court decision, Mr. Piskun arrived at the Procurator General's Office to take his seat behind his old desk, but security guards prevented him from entering the building.

In response to the chaotic situation, Justice Minister Serhii Holovatyi called a November 25 press conference announcing that his ministry had appealed the ruling re-appointing Mr. Piskun.

Orange forces divided

Following the September 9 dismissal of the Cabinet of Ministers, National Rukh of Ukraine leader Borys Tarasyuk and Ukrainian People's Party leader Yurii Kostenko signed a statement calling on "all patriotic, democratic forces and all Ukrainian citizens to unite around the program of President Viktor Yushchenko." While Rukh did join the Our Ukraine political bloc, Mr.



Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov during a press conference on December 20.

Kostenko's party decided to go into the March parliamentary elections as its own bloc and faced little chances of obtaining the 3 percent vote necessary to have a presence in the next parliamentary session.

As a result of the division between the Orange political forces, polls began revealing that the Party of Regions has the most support in the Ukrainian electorate and could win the most votes in the March 26 parliamentary elections.

Of 2,400 Ukrainians surveyed in late October, 20.7 percent would vote for the Party of the Regions and 17.7 percent of Ukrainian voters would select the Tymoshenko Bloc.

Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine bloc placed third with 17.2 percent, according to the poll conducted by Kyiv's Socio-Vymir Center for Sociological and Political Research.

Then, on December 10, Vitalii Klitschko announced he was joining the Reforms and Order-Pora bloc to run for office. His celebrity status boosted the profile of the third significant political bloc to emerge from the split of the Orange forces, and gave Reforms and Order-Pora a legitimate chance to make the 3 percent vote barrier necessary for a bloc to enter the Verkhovna Rada.

Recognition of the UPA

By mid-February, Mr. Yushchenko was already taking the initiative to encourage reconciliation between veterans of the Soviet Red Army and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), with the hope that the two sides would reconcile by May 9, Victory Day, which marks the Soviet defeat of Nazi Germany. Mr. Yushchenko insisted the question of historic reconciliation was necessary for contemporary Ukraine, adding that "I will do anything possible so that this national dialogue will take place."

On May 10 Mr. Yushchenko instructed Ms. Tymoshenko to lead an inquiry into the Ukrainian Insurgent Army by a relevant government commission. Its task was to reach legally and historically substantiated conclusions and create an official government position.

The issue of UPA recognition reached a boiling point on October 15 when 80 UPA veterans and about 1,000 of their supporters marched down Khreshchatyk in an attempt to reach Independence Square to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of their army's founding.

Standing in their way were more than 3,000 well-organized Communists and Progressive Socialists led by Natalia Vitrenko, who succeeded in blocking their ceremony. They clashed with the UPA veterans and their supporters, hurling eggs and engaging them in fist fights.

Yekhanurov's prime ministership

Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, who took office on September 22, said the first priority of his Cabinet of Ministers was to reverse the rapid slowdown of economic growth.

In his first foreign visit Mr. Yekhanurov traveled to Moscow on September 30, assuring his counterpart, Mikhail Fradkov, that Russian business interests in Ukraine would be preserved and no privatization deals would be reversed. He addressed Russia's request to triple the price of natural gas, which he preferred to occur on a gradual basis.

He also said authorities would punish State Property Fund officials instead of businessmen in dealing with improper past privatizations. The interests of current owners in cases of flawed state sales will be taken into account during proceedings to address past injustices, Mr. Yekhanurov said, although he suggested "possible additional payments" may also be sought.

In a December 12 interview published in the Monday issue of *Ekonomicheskyye Investia*, Mr. Yekhanurov said it would be impossible to carry out radical reform in the near future. "I have studied the Constitution closely and have realized that no reform can be achieved in the near future," he said. "Implementation would be impossible."

The time to have implemented reform was in the spring following the Orange Revolution, he said, when authorities enjoyed "a colossal amount of confidence," Mr. Yekhanurov said. The window of opportunity had been missed.

Freedom Day celebrations

More than 100,000 Ukrainians gathered on Independence Square on November 22 to celebrate the first anniversary of the Orange Revolution. Mr. Yushchenko had signed a presidential order declaring

the anniversary Freedom Day.

While last year's participants united themselves under the anthem, "Together We Are Many," this year's crowd left the maidan divided between those supporting Mr. Yushchenko and others supporting Ms. Tymoshenko.

Ms. Tymoshenko herself acknowledged that those who stood on the maidan a year ago were now hiding their orange clothing or not wearing it.

Both leaders told the crowd that they would do everything possible to unite their political forces for the March 26 parliamentary elections, with Ms. Tymoshenko even guaranteeing unity. But then they attacked each other indirectly in what became political stump speeches for the two rivals.

Without mentioning her by name, Mr. Yushchenko repeated his accusation that Ms. Tymoshenko had pursued selfish ambition over the common good and political unity. The former prime minister repeated the accusation that some in Mr. Yushchenko's government weren't interested in cleaning up corruption.

The Ukrainian economy

Among Ms. Tymoshenko's bolder and most notable successes was the Stop Contraband! program introduced early in her term that sought to reduce duties on imports low enough so that businessmen would no longer bribe customs officials to avoid them. The program also tightened customs inspections and brought Ukraine's Customs Code into WTO compliance. At an April 27 Cabinet of Ministers meeting, Ms. Tymoshenko said about \$257 million was added to the government budget during the first quarter of the year as a result of Stop Contraband!

On June 16, the day before the World Economic Forum drew international businessmen and investors to Kyiv, Mr. Yushchenko, Ms. Tymoshenko and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn signed a memorandum guaranteeing property rights in Ukraine. It was the first in what eventually became a presidential policy of calming investors' fears over the wide-scale re-privatization that had been proposed by Ms. Tymoshenko.

"The memorandum signed right now means that Ukraine is putting a full stop in the discussion of privatization processes that has been pursued for several months," Mr. Yushchenko said.

At the forum, Mr. Yushchenko told more than 250 investors and economic leaders about the 10 steps Ukraine will take for rapid economic progress. They included enacting all legal changes needed for WTO entry before Parliament's summer break, creating a unit of specialists to support foreign investors, implementing a one-stop procedure for starting a new business, eliminating excessive regulation, repealing the Economic Code and enacting Commercial Law reform, enacting the Financial Securities Law that is essential for shareholder protection, implementing international accounting standards, passing tax reforms to increase Ukraine's competitiveness and generating higher tax revenue, improving management and business skills, and encouraging the transfer of knowledge and technologies from abroad and fighting corruption.

After being appointed Ukraine's new minister of the economy, 31-year-old Arsenii Yatseniuk said on September 28 that his main goal was to stabilize the Ukrainian economy and prevent its further decline.

"The situation is deplorable, and you may take any data from the State Statistics Committee," Mr. Yatseniuk told the *Kommersant-Ukrayina* newspaper.

By a single vote, the Verkhovna Rada on December 20 passed Ukraine's 2006 budget, strengthened by a 67 percent increase in government revenue from the prior year, according to Finance Minister Pynzenyk.

The jump in tax income revealed the progress made by the Ukrainian government to collect taxes and import duties from businesses, experts said. It also revealed that businesses have slowly started to reveal more of their profit.

Domestic politics

Following several foreign visits, Mr. Yushchenko visited Donetsk on February 10 in order to present newly appointed Donetsk Oblast Chairman Vadym Chuprun. When approaching the regional administration building, local Yanukovich supporters pelted him with snowballs.

In his speech to regional administration staff, the president warned leaders against taking part in corruption and pledged to try and bring two-thirds of the Donetsk economy from under the table. He also said he would punish those political leaders who threatened federalism

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

or separatism. "There will be no further talk of separatism or federalism," Reuters quoted him as saying.

The People's Agrarian Party led by Volodymyr Lytvyn voted on February 11 to rename itself the People's Party of Ukraine.

In early March Zhovta (Yellow) Pora announced its intention of becoming a political party. The decision created a permanent rift with Chorna (Black) Pora, which decided to remain as a grassroots civic campaign.

In mid-March an Odesa regional court ruled it would review the city's controversial mayoral elections of 2002 that involved voting fraud and resulted in the victory of Ruslan Bodelan of the Party of the Regions.

The complaint was filed by his challenger, Eduard Hurvits, who was supported by hundreds of protesters who showed up at a regional courthouse wearing orange clothes and waving yellow Pora flags. Mr. Bodelan's supporters responded with outrage and about 500 people showed up at the courthouse the morning of March 16, where they clashed with police.

On April 4 an Odesa court overturned the 2002 mayoral elections and named Our Ukraine candidate Mr. Hurvits as the rightful mayor. On June 13, an Odesa district court issued a warrant for the arrest of Mr. Bodelan, who had already fled to Russia.

In the weeks after the Orange Revolution, thousands of citizen and student activists throughout Ukraine continued to protest, hold hunger strikes and demand that corrupt government and university officials resign their posts, particularly those who violated election laws and persecuted Yushchenko supporters.

Students of the Khmelnytskyi National University of Cherkasy staged a seven-day hunger strike protesting against their rector, Anatolii Kuzmynskyi, whom they said pressured and bribed them to vote for Mr. Yanukovich. He eventually resigned.

Hundreds of activists in Dnipropetrovsk and Khmelnytskyi managed to force their oblast chairmen to resign when Mr. Yushchenko failed to remove them from office. In the case of Dnipropetrovsk oblast chair Serhii Kasianov, it was Mr. Yushchenko himself who had appointed him to the position, drawing outrage from many.

The Our Ukraine People's Union (OUPU) was the most popular political party by mid-June, enjoying the support of about 30 percent of the electorate, said Yurii Yakymenko, director of political-legal programs at the Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Research. On June 14 Ms. Tymoshenko said her *Bat'kivshchyna* (Fatherland) Party would enter into an electoral bloc with the OUPU. "I personally, as well as my political party, will support the president for the duration of our political life, in tough times and in moments of triumph," she said.

Dioxin poisoning

When speaking to reporters on January 24, Mr. Yushchenko confirmed the conclusion made by Austrian doctors and the British magazine *Nature* that someone had poisoned him with a dioxin-based substance. He also displayed his doctor's certificate which read, "This disease is not infectious. President Yushchenko is able to fulfill his duties under appropriate medical observation."

On February 9 Procurator General Piskun confirmed that Mr. Yushchenko was likely poisoned some time around September 5, the date on which he dined with Security Service of Ukraine officials. "There is no doubt that this was a planned act, in which several people from the government were probably involved," Mr. Piskun said.

On February 16 Russian political technologist Gleb Pavlovsky issued an official denial that he was the mastermind behind Mr. Yushchenko's poisoning. Months earlier, the investigative news program "Zakryta Zona" broadcast a secret recording involving an alleged Russian Security Service agent who learned from his Kyiv informant that Mr. Pavlovsky is "the author of the idea and its organizer." The dialogue was recorded by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) in one of Mr. Yanukovich's election headquarters. It also implicated Eduard Prutnik, Mr. Yanukovich's close political advisor, and former deputy prime minister Andrii Kluyev, who led Mr. Yanukovich's dirty shadow campaign.

During his February 15-16 visit to Lviv, Mr. Yushchenko said the SBU knew of the dioxin's origins and how it arrived to Ukraine from Russia. SBU Chair Turchynov said in the February 19 edition of *Dzerkalo Tyzhnia* that his agency was investigating Volodymyr Satsiuk, the first deputy head of the SBU, for his role in Mr. Yushchenko's poisoning, among other crimes. It

was during a dinner at Mr. Satsiuk's summer home that Mr. Yushchenko was believed to have been poisoned.

On June 7 Mr. Piskun charged Mr. Satsiuk "with committing a serious crime" and placed him on a wanted list because his whereabouts weren't known. Days later, the office said it was charging Mr. Satsiuk with abuse of office and forgery and issued a search warrant for him.

On September 15 Mr. Turchynov, now the former chief of the SBU, acknowledged that Mr. Yushchenko's poisoning had yet to be officially verified by authorities, thereby delaying the criminal investigation. An exam that included blood, skin and tissue tests was still needed and must be performed by Ukrainian experts, he said. Mr. Yushchenko had agreed to the tests, Mr. Turchynov said.

Relations with the Russian Federation

In a highly symbolic move aimed at stabilizing and improving relations with Russia, one of Mr. Yushchenko's first acts as president was a one-day working visit to Moscow. During his January 24 visit, he met with Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin and Gazprom director Aleksei Miller, among other high-ranking officials.

Mr. Yushchenko announced two new policy directives after his meetings: Ukraine would welcome the Single Economic Space as long as it would respect Ukraine's economic interests and cooperate with the European Union (EU). He also announced Ukraine's intention of reversing the direction of the Odesa-Brody oil pipeline if agreements were reached with Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. Therefore, Ukraine would transport oil from Odesa and Brody and on to Europe, instead of the current situation in which Russian oil was transported from Brody to Odesa's oil terminal and then to Black Sea tankers.

He also met with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Aleksei II to assure him of his unbiased policy toward all religious confessions in Ukraine.

Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov visited Kyiv on February 21, calling for Ukraine to follow-up on the 2003 accord signed by former President Kuchma declaring Ukraine's intention of joining the Single Economic Space (SES). Mr. Yushchenko reportedly told Mr. Lavrov that Russia is Ukraine's "eternal strategic partner," but added, "It is important that relations with the East don't block our path to Europe."

On March 20 President Putin visited Kyiv for the first time since the Orange Revolution. It marked the start of an unprecedented relationship in which the Yushchenko administration made clear it would determine Ukraine's foreign policy independent of Russian interests.

"In effect, Ukraine under Viktor Yushchenko is demanding that Russia treat it as a 'far abroad' state, like Poland, rather than a not-foreign 'near abroad' state, such as Belarus," Dr. Taras Kuzio wrote in a *Eurasia Daily Monitor* article published in *The Weekly* on May 1.

Mr. Putin sought to clarify Ukraine's participation in the Single Economic Space while border disputes were a top concern for Mr. Yushchenko. They were able to see eye-to-eye on the issue of transporting natural gas and expanding the customer base in Western Europe.

That morning, Mr. Putin told European leaders in Paris that Russia would be respectful of the new political landscape. "We will do all that we can to support the Ukrainian leadership and use all our influence to avert any political crisis in the nation," Mr. Putin said, words that proved hollow by the year's end.

Among the tangible results of two hours of discussion was the creation of a Putin-Yushchenko Committee consisting of subcommittees on defense, industry, foreign policy, economics and humanitarian affairs. The two presidents also announced a goal of creating a Russia-Ukraine gas-transit consortium that would include Germany, and possibly France and Italy further down the road. Germany is Russia's priority, Mr. Putin said, because it is the largest consumer of Russian gas and obtains its primary supplies through Ukraine's gas transit system.

"For us, it's important that it works and functions," Mr. Putin said. "We must be sure that the transport of Russian gas to our Western partners in Europe will work like clockwork." The two leaders reached the understanding that the gas-transit system will remain in Ukraine's ownership, Mr. Yushchenko said.

During their discussions, Mr. Yushchenko proposed to make 2005 the year that Russia and Ukraine definitively delineate their borders, particularly those of the Azov Sea and the Kerch Strait. Russia's lack of urgency in delineating borders with Ukraine was ever apparent in Mr. Putin's emphasis on creating the SES, which includes Belarus and Kazakhstan.

More than a month later, Ms. Tymoshenko caused an international scandal by abruptly canceling a scheduled trip to Moscow a day after Russia's top prosecutor said criminal charges were still pending against her.

Russian Procurator General Vladimir Ustinov said on April 12 that Ms. Tymoshenko could visit the Russian Federation without fearing arrest because of immunity provided by state leaders, but that she remained "on the wanted list."

The remark angered Ms. Tymoshenko, who immediately stated her official reason for canceling the trip as needing to prepare for Ukraine's spring field work. Days later, however, she revealed her indignation with



President Viktor Yushchenko and his wife, Kateryna, show Russian President Vladimir Putin their collection of antique art during his visit to their country home on March 19.

Mykola Lazarenko/UNIAN

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Mr. Ustinov in an April 15 interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC). "I want to believe the statement is just the stupidity of one bureaucrat and that is not the national politics of Russia," Ms. Tymoshenko said. "If that is the case, then that bureaucrat must correct his stupidity."

She also used the cancellation as an opportunity to demand new relations between Russian and Ukrainian government authorities, criticizing Russian leaders for their attitude toward their counterparts to the west. "I know the Russian political elite has gotten used to Ukraine suffering from an inferiority complex, but I want this to disappear from our relationship," she said.

Any resulting tensions were quickly eased when Defense Minister Hrytsenko and former National Security and Defense Council Secretary Poroshenko agreed to visit Moscow in her stead. Their purpose was to persuade Russian leaders that Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration does not threaten relations.

However just a few days earlier, Mr. Yushchenko had stressed that after having "achieved real sovereignty and freedom [only] a few months ago," Ukraine should not devalue its sovereignty by integrating into the SES.

First Vice Prime Minister Kinakh said on May 23 that Ukraine will certainly take part in the SES with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. "This is a unique opportunity for creating favorable conditions for trade cooperation, creating new jobs and increasing revenue for the budget," he said.

Confusion over the Yushchenko government policy on the SES re-emerged when Economy Minister Teriokhin said on August 19 that Ukraine would switch from multilateral to bilateral relations with Russia and would likely withdraw from the SES. Three days later, Mr. Yushchenko told journalists the opposite: that Ukraine will join the SES.

Relations with the European Union

Although former President Kuchma had spoken of European Union membership as far back as 1998, few leaders in Europe took him seriously. Mr. Yushchenko's presidency marked a revolution in how European leaders viewed Ukraine.

The European Parliament immediately voiced its support for Ukraine and the Yushchenko administration on January 13 when it voted 467 to 19 to give Ukraine "a clear European perspective, possibly leading to EU membership." It issued an appeal to the European Commission and EU Council to review the EU-Ukraine Action Plan, which didn't provide for Ukraine's future membership. The vote reflected "the great sympathy among the populations and governments of democratic countries towards the Orange Revolution," said Minister of Foreign Affairs Tarasyuk.

Demonstrating the high priority he had set for Ukraine-EU relations, Mr. Yushchenko made Strasbourg, France, the second foreign policy visit of his presidency. In his January 25 address to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Mr. Yushchenko declared that the realization of Ukraine's foreign policy strategy is EU membership. Domestic reforms to assist integration will become a real, not declarative reality, Mr. Yushchenko said, alluding to his predecessor's lack of substantive action toward EU membership.

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on January 28, Mr. Yushchenko announced Mr. Rybachuk as Ukraine's vice prime minister for European integration, a newly created position.

On January 31 EU foreign ministers adopted an upgraded EU-Ukraine Action Plan, offering Ukraine closer cooperation on trade, immigration and security. Under the plan, the EU also offered to support Ukraine's effort to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) and ease its ability to obtain loans from the European Investment Bank. However, the upgraded plan still made no mention of Ukraine's prospects for EU membership.

Foreign Affairs Minister Tarasyuk declared on February 1 that Ukraine's foreign policy will now be "consistent and predictable" and move away from the previous policy of "sending contradictory messages depending which country [former President Kuchma] was visiting."

At a February 15 meeting of investors in Kyiv, Mr. Yushchenko declared that Ukraine wants to begin talks on EU membership immediately after its fulfillment of the upgraded three-year EU-Ukraine action plan. He also set as a goal attainment of free market economy status from the EU by the year's end.

Less than one week later, the EU and Ukraine signed



The Ukrainian president among leaders at the summit of the NATO-Ukraine Commission on February 22.

a joint three-year Action Plan laying the groundwork for political and economic reform. At the February 21 signing ceremony, Council of the European Union President Jean Asselborn said the EU is committed to supporting the "ambitious program of political and economic reforms" launched by the Yushchenko administration. He said the EU offers support to Ukraine in the context of the European Neighborhood Policy, not from a membership perspective.

Nations such as France and Germany remained cold to the prospect of Ukraine's EU membership for fear of upsetting relations with Russia. French President Jacques Chirac left the Ukraine-NATO Commission talks early, perceived by many as an affront to Ukraine. France, a non-military member of NATO, was always lukewarm toward EU enlargement in general, while Great Britain has been more enthusiastic, wrote Dr. Taras Kuzio in the *Eurasia Daily Monitor* published in *The Weekly* on March 6. London remained apathetic toward Ukraine, but its position is likely to gradually become more positive, particularly with U.S. prodding, he added.

Addressing the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, on February 23, Mr. Yushchenko reaffirmed EU membership as Ukraine's foreign policy goal. Once Ukraine implements the three-year Action Plan, a new reinforced accord in the form of a European associate membership must be signed, Mr. Yushchenko said.

To encourage travel to Ukraine, particularly during the Eurovision 2005 Song Contest, Mr. Yushchenko dropped visa requirements for all European Union citizens between May 1 and September 1.

When newly installed Prime Minister Yekhanurov visited Brussels on October 6, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso advised him to execute the political and economic reforms needed for EU membership.

"The future of Ukraine is in Europe," Mr. Barroso said. "The best way to achieve it is not to discuss all the time European Union membership but to achieve concrete, pragmatic results."

In a major step toward Ukraine's accession to the European Union, EU leaders announced on December 1 that Ukraine had finally earned market economy status. At a Kyiv press conference, EU leaders cited significant progress in implementing the EU-Ukraine Action Plan signed on February 21. Ukraine had executed five of its six obligations, Mr. Yushchenko said.

Ukraine and NATO

North American Treaty Organization (NATO) Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer extended congratulations on January 20 to Mr. Yushchenko on his victory, expressing certainty that relations between the military alliance and Ukraine would gain further momentum.

"Please be assured that NATO stands ready to support your government's efforts to implement the ambitious common goals and principles that underpin our deepening relationship," Mr. Scheffer said in his message.

Just a little more than a month later, Mr. Yushchenko took part in a NATO Summit in Brussels where he declared his government's sincere intention of wanting to integrate Ukraine into NATO. Although former

President Kuchma had announced in 2002 that Ukraine was setting its sights on NATO membership, few officials took his statement seriously.

During the summit on February 22, Mr. Yushchenko engaged in his first meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush, who asked that Europe welcome Ukraine into the Euro-Atlantic family. "The meeting with President Yushchenko was, I thought, historic," said Mr. Bush, urging the Ukrainian leader to press forward in helping Ukraine adopt the institutions of a democratic state. Ukraine needs to take additional steps before it could join NATO, Mr. Bush said, "but we want to help them achieve that work."

Mr. Scheffer said the alliance had an "open door policy" on entry for democracies that meet membership criteria, though he offered no particular date or timetable for Ukraine's entry.

NATO announced a Partnership for Peace Trust Fund meant to help Ukraine destroy stockpiles of surplus munitions, small arms and light weapons, as well as rocket-propelled anti-aircraft missiles. The fund was a response to a Ukrainian request for assistance in eliminating 133,000 tons of munitions and 1.5 million small arms and light weapons, many of which are stored in the open. The four-phase project will span 12 years and cost about \$27 million in donor contributions.

Mr. Yushchenko was the only non-NATO president to meet with alliance leaders during the summit. At a session of the Ukraine-NATO Commission, Mr. Yushchenko said the main task of his new government was to bring the nation's political, socioeconomic and defense systems to Euro-Atlantic standards. Ukraine's NATO policy isn't directed against any other country, particularly Russia, Mr. Yushchenko said.

Representing the views of a large segment, if not a majority, of Ukrainian society, Mr. Yanukovich said February 24 that the question of whether Ukraine should join NATO must be decided in a nationwide referendum.

Meanwhile, Mr. Yushchenko issued a decree in mid-April reintroducing the declarations in Ukraine's military doctrine about the need to prepare for full-fledged membership in NATO and the EU. The declarations had been removed from the military doctrine by Mr. Kuchma in July 2004.

Foreign Affairs Minister Tarasyuk said on April 21 that Kyiv could complete the necessary military and political reforms for joining NATO within the next three years. Mr. Scheffer voiced support for Kyiv's NATO membership goal but declined to offer a timetable.

"Ukraine has clearly indicated that it wants to go along the long and winding road to membership," Mr. Scheffer said. "Given the fact that there has been a peaceful revolution, the membership standards can be much more easily fulfilled by the Yushchenko government than by the Kuchma government."

Other foreign relations

In an early March meeting with Polish Prime Minister Marek Belka, Prime Minister Tymoshenko secured a pact creating a committee on economic cooperation consisting of Polish authorities and Ukrainian Cabinet Ministers. Mr. Belka said he was ready to form a joint committee in order to begin work on extending the Odesa-Brody pipeline to the cities of Plotsk and

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Gdansk in Poland.

On March 8 President Yushchenko was given the rare opportunity to address the German Bundestag. He also witnessed the signing of a significant pact between Naftohaz Ukrayiny and Deutsche Bank, which extended Ukraine a \$2.4 billion line of credit enabling Ukraine's energy giant to bring its gas division up to European standards. Building on Ms. Tymoshenko's accomplishments with the Poles, the Deutsche Bank pact also included funds to help extend the Odesa-Brody pipeline to Plotsk.

Mr. Yushchenko announced in the Bundestag that Europeans would be able to enter Ukraine without a visa by the end of March. In return, he asked German politicians to ease visa restrictions for Ukrainian youths, students, journalists, artists and businessmen eager to interact with Germans. The timing of his request, however, was a bit awkward as German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer was in the midst of a scandal in which he was accused of relaxing the nation's visa regime between 1999 and 2001, allowing excessive numbers of illegal immigrants, some of them criminals and prostitutes, to enter Germany from Ukraine.

Mr. Yushchenko met with his Polish counterpart, Aleksander Kwasniewski, as well as with Prime Minister Belka and Sejm Speaker Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz in Warsaw on April 11.

They discussed progress in implementing the Polish-Ukrainian Odesa-Brody-Plock pipeline project, integration of the Polish-Ukrainian power grid and cooperation in Polish natural gas storage in Ukraine. President Kwasniewski confirmed to President Yushchenko that Warsaw supports Kyiv's NATO and EU aspirations.

President Yushchenko improved relations with Poland further when he joined President Kwasniewski on June 24 in unveiling two memorials at Lychakiv Cemetery in Lviv honoring Polish and Ukrainian soldiers who fought each other in the first world war.

Both leaders declared the June 24 ceremony a historic moment for Polish-Ukrainian reconciliation. More than 3,000 Poles crossed the border to witness the unveiling of the renovated Orliata (Eaglets) Memorial, which consists of a cemetery for 2,500 fallen Polish soldiers. The day's events focused on honoring Polish soldiers and appeasing Polish historical concerns as Mr. Yushchenko wanted to demonstrate Ukraine is a progressive society able to integrate into a European Union that has largely set aside rivalries.

U.S.-Ukraine relations marked by Orange glow

Relations between the United States and Ukraine in 2005 began in the glow of the Orange Revolution that brought Viktor Yushchenko to the presidency in Ukraine and opened a new chapter in the bilateral relationship.

The change was obvious, beginning with President Yushchenko's inauguration on January 23. President George W. Bush, who in past years had all but shunned his predecessor, Leonid Kuchma, telephoned Mr. Yushchenko on the eve of the inauguration, congratulating him on his and "democracy's victory" in Ukraine and pledging his support of Ukraine.

Secretary of State Colin Powell was selected to head the U.S. delegation to the inauguration, which began a year of high-level meetings and visits unseen in previous years, the highlight of which was President Yushchenko's official visit to the United States in April.

During a joint news conference following his meeting with President Yushchenko in Kyiv, Secretary Powell said they discussed not only bilateral issues but also Ukraine's movement toward Euro-Atlantic integration.

"I just want to assure you that you will continue to enjoy the full support of the American government and the American people, as you move forward now to undertake the efforts that the Ukrainian people are expecting," he told the newly inaugurated president standing beside him.

President Yushchenko was more specific about the meeting agenda, which, he said, included prospects for Ukraine receiving market-based economy status, acceptance into the World Trade Organization, opening of the U.S. market to more Ukrainian exports, the repeal of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment restrictions on Ukraine, as well as Iraq.

In addition to U.S. Ambassador John Herbst and Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky, the U.S. delegation to the inauguration included three Ukrainian American representatives: Ukrainian Federation of America President Vera Andryczyk, U.S.-Ukraine Foundation President Nadia Komarnyckyj McConnell and Northern Illinois University Adjunct Professor Myron Kuropas.

These issues would be revisited in subsequent bilateral meetings throughout 2005.

The next high-level meeting followed three days later in Krakow, Poland, where President Yushchenko and Vice-President Dick Cheney came to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi extermination camps in nearby Auschwitz and Birkenau.

Afterwards, at a news conference, the vice-president called President Yushchenko's accomplishments "remarkable and inspiring." He said that the new Ukrainian president was "an ally in freedom's cause" and that "President Bush and the American people stand with him."

President Yushchenko also received plaudits from prominent Congressional leaders, among them Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.), who one day after his inauguration nominated him and Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili for the Nobel Peace Prize "In leading freedom movements in their respective countries." They said in their nominating letter that Presidents Yushchenko and Saakashvili "won popular support for the universal values of democracy, individual liberty and civil rights."

Later, in an interview with the Voice of America on February 4, Sen. McCain spoke, among other things, about the need for U.S. assistance to Ukraine to help ease its energy predicament "because they are so dependent on Russia for energy supplies."

That problem would come to a head in the last week of 2005, when Russia demanded that Ukraine pay a more than fourfold increase for Russian gas, threatened a complete shut-off if it refused, and then, actually, turned off the supply, at least for a short while on New Year's Day.

On the same day that Sens. Clinton and McCain were nominating the Ukrainian president for the Nobel Prize, their Senate colleagues Carl Levin (D-Mich.) and Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) introduced legislation to get Ukraine from under the Jackson-Vanik amendment and grant it normal trade relations with the United States. The senators said that the Cold War-era trade restrictions that denied "most favored nation" trade status to imports from Soviet Bloc countries, were no longer applicable to Ukraine.

Two weeks later, on February 11, Sens. Clinton and McCain and nine other members of the House and Senate traveled to Kyiv, where they discussed these same issues with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn and other senior members of the Ukrainian government.

And, on February 17, Reps. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), Howard Berman (D-Calif.), Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) and Christopher Smith (R-N.J.) introduced a similar measure in the House of Representatives to remove Ukraine from under the Jackson-Vanik amendment.

While invitations, in general terms, for an exchange of presidential visits between Washington and Kyiv



Sen. Richard Lugar (right) with Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk in Washington on March 10.

were exchanged during President Yushchenko's inauguration, the official announcement that the Ukrainian president would visit the United States and have talks with President Bush on April 4 was made during Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk's visit to Washington on March 11. In his meetings with senior administration officials and congressional leaders, Mr. Tarasyuk prepared the groundwork for the presidential visit and focused on some of the issues that would be discussed. He was the first top-level Ukrainian government official to visit Washington since the changeover in Kyiv.

The highpoint of the developing Ukrainian-American relationship came on April 4, when President Yushchenko met with President Bush at the White House, beginning his four-day visit to the United States, which also included stops in Chicago and Boston.

In the joint statement following the White House meeting, the two sides affirmed "a new era of strategic partnership between our nations and friendship between our peoples."

In a meeting that lasted more than an hour, the two leaders discussed Ukraine's future in the World Trade Organization, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other Euro-Atlantic institutions, the importance of continuing on a path of democratic and economic reforms, relations between Ukraine and Russia, Iraq and the importance of cooperation in stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

White House Spokesman Scott McClellan noted that President Bush "made it clear that as Ukraine moves forward on democratic and economic reforms, the United States will be there to support them in those efforts."

First Lady Kateryna Chumachenko Yushchenko accompanied the Ukrainian president on the visit, as did the senior members of his Cabinet and staff.

During his first day in Washington, Mr. Yushchenko also met with Vice-President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and addressed students at Georgetown University, after which he and the Ukrainian delegation flew to Chicago, the first lady's home town, where his program included an address at the Chicago Council of Foreign Relations.

On April 5 he flew on to Boston, where he received the JFK Profile in Courage Award at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum and visited Nastia Ovchar, a 5-year-old Ukrainian girl undergoing treatment at Boston's Shriners Hospital for serious burns she suffered while rescuing her two-year-old sister in Ukraine.

President Yushchenko returned to Washington for the conclusion of his U.S. visit on April 6, which included addressing a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress, laying a wreath and addressing a rally at the Shevchenko monument and being the guest of honor at a banquet sponsored by the Ukrainian American community.

In his address to Congress, he thanked the United States for its support during the Orange Revolution and offered specific recommendations on how the United States could assist Ukraine in the future.

Members of Congress and their guests, some wearing orange lapel pins, warmly greeted him with a standing ovation as he entered the hall to chants of "Yushchenko, Yushchenko." His 40-minute address was interrupted by applause 26 times – five times with standing ovations.

President Yushchenko was the 97th foreign dignitary to address a joint meeting of Congress in the history of the United States. The first was the French general and Revolutionary War hero the Marquis de Lafayette in 1824.

Soon after President Yushchenko's Washington visit there were noticeable signs of an improving relationship:

- Rep. Smith, chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Ranking Commission Member Rep. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.) met with Ukrainian officials, non-governmental organizations, and religious leaders in Kyiv on February 26-27.

- A House-Senate conference committee on May 3 agreed to provide Ukraine with \$60 million in additional assistance funding in 2005.

- On May 4 the U.S. Embassy began issuing immigrant visas for Ukrainian citizens in Kyiv. Previously, immigrant visa applicants had to travel to the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw to complete the immigrant visa process.

- U.S. Energy Secretary Bodman arrived in Kyiv in the last week of May to discuss Ukraine's energy problems, including its continued vulnerability to fuel shut-offs from Russia. In his talks on May 27 with Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko he said that Ukraine must boost its energy independence and diversify sources.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Andrew Nynka

Presidents Viktor Yushchenko and George W. Bush with First Ladies Kateryna Yushchenko and Laura Bush at the White House on April 4.

- Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) headed a delegation to Ukraine on June 4-5 to hold discussions with senior Ukrainian officials on strengthening bilateral ties in defense and economic affairs. The delegation included Gen. Charles Wald, deputy commander of U.S. Military Forces in Europe, and Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense James MacDougall.

- Libby Pataki, wife of New York Gov. George Pataki, led a delegation to Kyiv on June 13 to launch a wheelchair distribution project, bringing along an initial donation of 280 new, high-quality wheelchairs for distribution to those in need.

- At the end of July President Yushchenko signed a decree easing visa requirements for American and Canadian citizens traveling to Ukraine. In a reciprocal move, the United States announced it had eased visa fees for Ukrainian citizens traveling to the U.S.

- During a visit to Kyiv in August, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar (R-Ind.) and Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) worked out an agreement with Ukrainian officials on securing biological pathogens and preventing the proliferation of biological weapons. They also assured the Ukrainian officials that they would support further steps toward Ukraine's membership in the World Trade Organization.

- The U.S. Trade Representative announced August 31 that the administration was lifting a \$75 million sanction on Ukrainian exports to the United States as a result of legislation passed earlier that month by the Verkhovna Rada improving the protection of intellectual property rights in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, the Yushchenko government recalled its ambassador in Washington, Mykhailo Reznik, in July. His position remained unfilled through the end of 2005. The appointment of his replacement, Foreign Affairs Minister Oleh Shamshur, was announced in mid-December, but he was not expected to arrive in Washington until mid-January or later.

A number of important visits took place in the last quarter of the year, not the least of which was a return visit to the United States by President Yushchenko in September to attend the opening of the U.N. General Assembly in New York and to receive the Philadelphia Liberty Medal. While in New York, he had a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Rice which focused on bilateral issues as well as the recent major governmental changes in Ukraine. He also delivered the keynote address at the founding dinner of the Orange Circle, a new international initiative aimed at supporting democratic reforms in Ukraine.

As President Yushchenko returned to Kyiv, his acting foreign minister, Borys Tarasyuk, went on for more talks in Washington, discussing, in addition to the normal bilateral issues, the recent internal political upheaval in Ukraine resulting from the dismissal of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and her cabinet. While dramatic, he said at one public venue, these events should not be viewed as a tragedy, but rather as "evidence of democracy, a part of a democratic process."

In early November, Ukraine's new prime minister,

Yurii Yekhanurov, spent two days in Washington meeting with top Bush administration officials, international financial institutions and business leaders, discussing primarily economic issues.

On November 8 the Millennium Challenge Corp., a U.S. government corporation whose aid to countries worldwide is based on the principle that aid is most effective when it reinforces good governance, economic freedom and investments in people that promote economic growth and elimination of extreme poverty, selected 13 countries to participate in the Threshold Program for fiscal year 2006. The Threshold Program is designed to assist countries that do not qualify but are close and are committed to undertaking the reforms necessary to improve policy performance that may eventually help them qualify for Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) compact assistance. Ukraine was among those 13 countries. It should be noted that Ukrainian American John Hewko is the vice-president for country relations at the Millennium Challenge Corp.

The Jackson-Vanik amendment issue came back into the forefront of the news on November 18, when the U.S. Senate passed a bill sponsored by Sen. Richard Lugar to repeal the Jackson-Vanik amendment for Ukraine and grant Ukraine Permanent Normal Trade Relations.

Various groups – among them the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition, headed by former U.S. ambassadors to Ukraine Steven Pifer and William Miller; a group of 61 former and current Peace Corps volunteers who served in Ukraine; and the Central and East European Coalition – began organizing a push to have the House of Representatives pass a similar measure before the Christmas holiday recess.

By the end of 2005, however, the House of Representatives had not acted on that measure.

As the year was coming to a close, Secretary of State Rice on December 7 paid a brief visit to Kyiv, where she met with President Yushchenko and addressed the student body of Kyiv State University.

Earlier, Chicago's Mayor Richard J. Daley came to the Ukrainian capital, which has a Sister-City relationship with Chicago. The three-day visit took place in October.

In addition to performing his official representational assignment, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst became active in charitable endeavors as he and his wife, Nadia Herbst, on October 15 hosted a fund-raising reception for the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, to help purchase new equipment for the neonatal intensive care unit at Kyiv City Children's Hospital.

On December 21, in his official capacity, Ambassador Herbst presented the government of Ukraine with the first delivery of reagents, detection kits, laboratory supplies and protective equipment to bolster Ukraine's capacity to detect and combat avian influenza. Ukraine has detected instances of avian flu in Crimea.

The condition and future development of post-Orange-Revolution Ukraine and America's role in it was the subject of a number of briefings, seminars and conferences in Washington during 2005. The earliest, in January, was organized by the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus in co-sponsorship with the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. Titled "Ukraine: Then and Now," this two-hour briefing looked at the results of the Ukrainian presidential elections and the future of U.S.-Ukraine relations.

In early February, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars presented a panel discussion with the State Department's point man on Ukraine, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs John F. Tefft, and two former U.S. ambassadors to Ukraine, Steven Pifer and William Green Miller.

Describing Washington's immediate intentions in the bilateral relationship, Mr. Tefft said that "there is a very clear sense that we now have to get very serious, to put real resources to it, to really work to make sure that the changes that have been mentioned are brought into being – that we deliver, that we help President Yushchenko and his team deliver on that. And that, I think, goes from the top on down."

Ambassador Pifer suggested the need for flexibility in Washington's assistance effort: "What we should be looking at is our assistance programs and re-calibrate them so that we're putting a maximum amount of assistance to those areas that the (Yushchenko) government has focused on now."

The planned withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from Iraq by the end of 2005 came up during another briefing, on March 3, at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington by Sen. Lugar. While the announced withdrawal was "not a plus factor" in its relationship with the United States, he said, it was being handled "tactfully" by the Yushchenko government.

The last of the 1,600 Ukrainian troops sent to Iraq in 2003 returned home on December 29.

As for U.S. assistance for Ukraine's changeover under the Yushchenko administration, Sen. Lugar cautioned American policy makers not to repeat the mistakes of the 1980s, when democratic movements were taking root in Latin America. "Then, unfortunately – I wouldn't say our country forgot Latin America – but our attention moved on."

"We really have to have an attention span that is supportive and cognizant of these changes if they are to take root," he said. And Ukraine, he added, "offers an extraordinary opportunity in terms of the strength of the people, well-educated, lots of talent, badly in need of capital, very much in need of political support on all fronts."

In March, the Ukraine-U.S. Business Networking Series in New York brought together more than 300 experts from the corporate and academic world, as well as key government representatives of the United States and Ukraine to evaluate Ukraine's ability to advanta-

Liberty Medal cites courage, vigilance

Following is the citation for the Philadelphia Liberty Medal awarded on September 17 to President Viktor Yushchenko.

"Across the centuries we have learned, and often painfully re-learned, a fundamental truth: the price of liberty is eternal vigilance.

"We have learned that this vigilance must be anchored in moral courage and in strength of spirit. We have learned that it must proceed from an unswerving commitment to recognize and root out

abuse of power and privilege, and to elevate and revere human rights and freedoms.

"Viktor Yushchenko has demonstrated this courage, this spirit and this commitment in challenging corruption and election fraud, and winning his nation's mandate to lead after the Orange Revolution.

"Today, his continuing vigilance in the service of liberty is guiding Ukraine's transformation to become a truly free and democratic society, and a prosperous nation.

"In recognition of his personal courage, his vision and his vigilance in leading Ukraine, the Philadelphia Foundation is proud to award the 2005 Philadelphia Liberty Medal to Viktor Yushchenko, president of Ukraine."

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Official Website of the President of Ukraine

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice with the Ukrainian president in Kyiv on December 7.

geously compete in the global economic arena.

In April, the Columbia University Ukrainian Studies Program, together with the Ukraine-U.S. Business Networking Series: Forum II hosted representatives of the Ukrainian government for the panel discussion "Ukraine's Economic Prospects following the Orange Revolution."

In June, the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation hosted the first working session of its Policy Dialogue Project in Washington. This two-year State Department-funded project was designed to complement official bilateral discussions and be a practical means to assist in the restoration of a genuine and meaningful strategic partnership between the United States and Ukraine.

And September saw the sixth annual conference of the "Ukraine's Quest for Mature Nation Statehood" series sponsored by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. This year's sessions, held at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, dealt with "Ukraine's transition to an established national identity."

Ukrainians in the U.S.: focused on Yushchenko

Coordinating, planning and preparing for the second visit to the United States of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and his wife Kateryna kept Ukrainians in the United States busy during 2005.

Following last winter's Orange Revolution in Ukraine, which helped bring Mr. Yushchenko to power, Ukrainians in America were eager to roll out the red carpet for Mr. Yushchenko's trip to Philadelphia, New York and Chicago.

In Philadelphia on September 17, as Mr. Yushchenko arrived to receive the Philadelphia Liberty Medal, busloads of youths from the greater Philadelphia area

arrived with their parents at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Following the ceremony and a subsequent press conference, President Yushchenko and First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, and their entourage, proceeded to the Ukrainian cathedral. Immaculate Conception Cathedral was filled to its capacity of 2,500, while hundreds more gathered outside the church.

President Yushchenko was met outside by Metropolitan Archbishop Stefan Soroka, leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States; Ulana Mazurkevich, president of the Ukrainian American Community Committee; the Rev. Ivan Demkiv, pastor of the Ukrainian cathedral; and other clergy. On behalf of the youth of Philadelphia, little Khrystyk Senyk McKernan of the Svitlychka (preschool) presented Mrs. Yushchenko with a bouquet of orange roses.

While walking down the cathedral's aisle with the first lady, President Yushchenko greeted the Ukrainian youth of Philadelphia – several hundred of them representing various local organizations, including Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM).

Two presentations were made on behalf of the Ukrainian community of Philadelphia. Children from Plast, SUM and the Ukrainian Heritage School presented President Yushchenko with an Orange Revolution banner signed by the youth of Philadelphia. The president later told organizers that the banner would be placed in the Museum of the Orange Revolution that is planned to be opened in Kyiv.

The day before Mr. Yushchenko's visit to Philadelphia, the president and First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko visited the newly built Ukrainian Museum in New York City on September 16. The two were met in the entryway of the museum by Olha Hnateyko, board president, Maria Shust, director, and Sophia Hewryk, board member. The president and his wife were presented with bouquets of flowers.

Just moments before the president arrived, outside of the museum, on the sidewalk and across the street, large crowds had gathered. Near the museum entrance, a group of children from St. George Ukrainian Catholic School, clad in embroidered shirts and blouses, some holding colorful bouquets of flowers, moved restlessly.

"Your visit, Mr. President and Mrs. Yushchenko, is a monumental historical event for The Ukrainian Museum, and it will be recorded in golden letters in the history of our institution," Mrs. Hnateyko said.

Valeriy Kuchinsky, Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations, with his wife, Alla, and Borys Tarasyuk, at that time the country's acting minister of foreign affairs, accompanied the presidential party. Along with them was the Ukrainian former heavy-weight championship boxer Vitalii Klitschko.

Prof. Jaroslaw Leshko, curator of the museum's premier inaugural exhibition "Alexander Archipenko: Vision and Continuity," accompanied President and Mrs. Yushchenko through the exhibition.

The day before her visit to The Ukrainian Museum, on September 15 Mrs. Yushchenko hosted an elegant reception "to celebrate the cultural heritage of Ukraine" at the Ukrainian Institute of America, a landmark end-

of-the-19th century mansion located on 79th Street and Fifth Avenue.

The event at the UIA, located on New York City's famed "Museum Mile," was attended by the U.N. secretary general's wife, Nane Annan; First Ladies Jolanta Kwasniewska of Poland, Silvia Gasparovicova of Slovakia and Andrée Lahoud of Lebanon, along with American political and cultural figures, and members of public and charitable organizations, as well as leading Ukrainian American women, among them community activists, professionals and journalists.

Mrs. Yushchenko, who was in New York with her husband for the World Summit at the United Nations, welcomed guests at her reception by quoting the words of Ukrainian poet Lina Kostenko, who described newly independent Ukraine as "a new state with a thousand-year-old culture."

The following month Mrs. Yushchenko met with invited leaders of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) at their Chicago headquarters on October 8 enlisting support from organized Ukrainian American health professionals in expanding and modernizing Ukraine's health system.

The Kyiv Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program (CSCIP) hosted the first lady's visit on the eve of Mayor Richard M. Daley's own trip to Kyiv exploring avenues of cooperation in health care fields. CSCIP Kyiv Chair Marta Farion and Health Subcommittee Chair Lida Truchly facilitated Mrs. Yushchenko's visits to several area hospitals and medical facilities.

Mrs. Yushchenko presented an overview of the Ukraine 3000 Foundation, with emphasis on a partnership program called "From Hospital to Hospital." The project seeks to raise the level of medical diagnosis and treatment in Ukraine to international standards within five years.

The following day, on October 9, Mrs. Yushchenko joined four choruses on stage in Chicago to sing the religious hymn "Bozhe Velykyi" as the finale to a concert highlighting the two-day Festival of Kyivan Liturgical Music. The festival included a daylong seminar on the Kyivan liturgical tradition and a hierarchical liturgy sung in the Kyivan style.

Several months prior to that liturgical concert, the United States Congress took up an issue of great concern to many Ukrainians. The Congressional Resources Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks, met on June 9 to consider the case for a Ukrainian Famine-Genocide memorial in the nation's capital.

House Resolution 562 "to authorize the government of Ukraine to establish a memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the victims of the man-made Famine" would memorialize the 7 million to 10 million people who died in the 1932-1933 Ukrainian Famine-Genocide.

Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), who introduced the resolution on February 2, said that the memorial should be separate from the planned Victims of Communism Memorial because of the Famine's significance and magnitude. Rep. Levin noted that the "Ukrainian government will donate the memorial" at "no cost to the taxpayers ... just the land needs to be dedicated."



Mykhailo Markiv

Children and teens of Philadelphia pose for a photograph with the president and first lady of Ukraine on September 17 at Immaculate Conception Cathedral.



Roman Czenstuch

President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine addresses the crowd after receiving the Philadelphia Liberty Medal on September 17.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The memorial is scheduled to open in 2008 as part of the commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide.

The effort to build the memorial got a boost when the U.S. House of Representatives on November 16 passed H.R. 562, a bill that authorizes the establishment of a memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the victims of the Famine-Genocide that occurred in Ukraine in 1932-1933.

The National Parks Committee's regional director for the National Capital Region, Joseph Lawler, expressed the committee's opposition to the legislation. "We believe that creating separate memorials for individual groups," stated Mr. Lawler, "would detract from the overall message of the Victims of Communism Memorial and could, potentially, create an unfortunate competition amongst various groups for limited memorial sites in our nation's capital."

Throughout 2005, the Ukrainian National Information Service continued its efforts to gain support for this legislation among members of Congress. In the end, 36 members of the House of Representatives co-sponsored the bill.

The Ukrainian Famine Genocide was taken up also on the state level by the Illinois State Legislature. State Rep. John Fritchey (D-Chicago), the sponsor of House Bill 312, said: "This long overdue legislation will help us ensure that our students learn of the devastating role that genocide has played around the world throughout history, and unfortunately, in current times."

Rep. John Froehlich (R-Schaumburg) co-sponsored the bill. House Bill 312 cleared the hearing in the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education on February 9. Committee members voted 13-8 in favor of the bill. On March 1 the Illinois House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of 96 in favor to 11 against, with seven abstaining.

Then, on August 5, Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed the bill into law. The bill requires that public high schools in the state teach about genocides worldwide, including the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. "In addition to learning about the Nazi atrocities of the 20th century, students will now learn about more recent acts of genocide around the world, including those in Armenia, Ukraine, Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Sudan," the governor said in a statement released the same day. The law took effect immediately.

Meanwhile, several months earlier, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Boston Chapter, sponsored a presentation about the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide for teachers gathered at the Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies held at the Boston Plaza Hotel on March 14-17. The presentation was offered as a special 70-minute session geared to teachers of high school and college/university.

The speakers included two local priests, Father Yaroslav Nalysnyk and Father Roman Tarnawsky; a Famine eyewitness, Anna Raniuk; and Dr. Lubomyr Hayda of Harvard University. The presentation also included the documentary "Harvest of Despair."

Other commemorations of the Famine Genocide in the United States included one organized in the Chicago area by the Ukrainian American community, which came together on September 18. The Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation - U.S.A. (UGFF) chose to hold the memorial service at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago's historic Ukrainian Village. Marching in the procession were three distinguished political guests: Illinois State Sen. Jacqueline Collins, Illinois State Rep. Fritchey and Christine Herbert, a representative of the office of Gov. Blagojevich.

In New York City, the annual national observance to commemorate the anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine Genocide of 1932-1933 was held on November 19 at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Cardinal Edward Egan of the Catholic Archdiocese of New York paid homage to the Famine's victims. He noted that St. Patrick's Cathedral welcomes all "to commemorate this tragedy of the Ukrainian people."

Of particular interest were remarks delivered by Nigel Colley, grandnephew of Gareth Jones, a Welsh journalist who exposed the true nature of the genocidal Famine in Ukraine in 1932-1933. "To the list of the millions of Ukrainian peasants who lost their lives due to Stalin's man-made Famine," Mr. Colley stated, "the name of the only Welshman, my great uncle, Gareth Jones, should perhaps now be added." He noted that newly discovered evidence at the British Public Records Office "points the finger of blame for Gareth's murder in 1935 in the direction of Moscow, quite probably in



Ukraine's First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko with Poland's First Lady Jolanta Kwasniewska at the Ukrainian Institute of America on September 15. In the background are photos from the Orange Revolution.

retribution for his international exposure of the Holodomor." Mr. Colley said Jones' only crime was his "dogged pursuit of truth."

The day before, Mr. Colley was among a small but vocal group of protesters who took to the streets in New York City to demand that The New York Times publicly repudiate the reporting of Walter Duranty, the newspaper's international correspondent who claimed that reports of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 were erroneous.

A solitary protester stood in front of the building's brass-framed revolving doors and handed out flyers as curious tourists walked by or as people came out of the building's lobby. Across the street a group of some 35 protesters called on the publisher of The New York Times, Arthur Sulzberger Jr., to acknowledge that the Pulitzer Prize awarded to Mr. Duranty in 1932 was given in error.

"It's the moral thing to do," said Volodymyr Kurylo, president of the United Ukrainian American Organizations of Greater New York. "After all, the lies that Duranty dispatched and were printed in The New York Times denied that Stalin was intentionally, with impunity, starving between 7 to 10 million innocent Ukrainian men, women and children to death."

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America celebrated its 65th anniversary in 2005. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Borys Tarasyuk sent greetings on the occasion. "I sincerely congratulate the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America on the occasion of its glorious jubilee - 65th anniversary - and on behalf of the entire government of Ukraine I thank you for your support, sincere determination and decisive action in promoting the interests of Ukraine within the international community, as well as assisting democratic development in our state," Mr. Tarasyuk said.

The Ukrainian National Information Service, the Washington office of UCCA, also made headlines in 2005. The Chicago Friends of UNIS mobilized their efforts to organize and host the 28th annual UNIS fundraiser event in Chicago on May 25. The event was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Chicago and was sponsored by the Heritage Foundation of First Security Federal Savings Bank and Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union.

The distinguished guest that day was Ambassador John Tefft, former deputy assistant secretary of state for European affairs, former U.S. ambassador to Lithuania, and currently U.S. ambassador-designate to Georgia. The event by the fund-raising committee of Chicago

raised \$60,000 for UNIS's continued operating expenses for the balance of this year.

Several months before the fund-raiser, the UCCA and UNIS organized Ukrainian Days in Washington on March 2-3. The goal of Ukrainian Days was to promote the concerns of the Ukrainian American community, as well as to establish better contacts with its members' elected representatives in Washington.

Over 30 community members participated in the two-day advocacy event, which began with a briefing session at the American Foreign Policy Council (AFPC), with the participation of the following individuals: Kyle Parker, vice-president, AFPC; Karen Stewart, senior desk officer, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova at the U.S. Department of State; Dr. Ariel Cohen, senior research fellow, Heritage Foundation; Jim Zogby, Ethnic Council director, Democratic National Committee; and, Mr. Sawkiw, president, UCCA.

In all of their meetings on Capitol Hill, the participants of Ukrainian Days presented members of Congress with various policy papers on issues of importance to the Ukrainian American community. Topics covered included: U.S.-Ukraine relations, foreign assistance to Ukraine, the proposed Genocide memorial in Washington, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with Ukraine.

Toward the end of the year, the UCCA was among several groups working to generate support for and interest in Ukraine's March 2006 parliamentary elections. The UCCA, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, the Columbia University Ukrainian Studies Program and the Brooklyn Ukrainian Group (BUG), joined forces to launch their "Race for the Rada" discussion series.

The first such event, organized by the Brooklyn Ukrainian Group (BUG), was held on December 15 at the UCCA's National Office in New York City. Serving as the evening's emcee, Roxy Toporowych, co-founder and board member of BUG, welcomed the guests to the first Race for the Rada discussion on the topic of the influence of musicians, celebrities and music on the Orange Revolution and during the run-up to the parliamentary elections in Ukraine. The evening's guest speaker, Dr. Adriana Helbig, an ethnomusicologist, delivered an interesting presentation on "Music and the Orange Revolution: Sounding the Ukrainian Nation."

The UCCA again saw itself in headlines when the Ukrainian Fraternal Association decided to rejoin the Ukrainian American umbrella organization. The decision was made during the UFA's annual meeting on June 23-24 and an announcement was published by the association's newspaper, Narodna Volia, on July 7.

Much earlier in the year, officials at the new \$9 million Ukrainian Museum building were happy to officially bless the building on February 6. Visitors were welcomed inside the three-story brick and glass structure for the first time since construction was completed.

Close to 500 people stood on the street outside the building at 222 E. Sixth St., listening intently as Bishop Basil Losten of the Stamford Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. concelebrated the blessing with solemn rites and prayers, sprinkling holy water on the edifice.

Olha Hnateyko, president of the museum's board of trustees, Maria Shust, museum director, and John Luchechko, former board president, cut the ribbon spanning the front of the building. Ms. Hnateyko radiated the joy of museum directors and staffers as she exclaimed, "Finally, we're going into our new home."

Iryna Kurowycyk, president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA), noted that the day was particularly meaningful for her organization, which initiated the museum 28 years ago with 800 artifacts. Since then, Ms. Kurowycyk said, UNWLA members have raised over \$3.5 million for the museum.

The 2005 annual meeting was the first held at the museum's newly constructed, modern facility. About 80 members and friends of the institution attended the proceedings, which were held in the comfort of the new building's lower-level auditorium.

The annual meeting voted in several new members to the 2005-2006 slate of the board of trustees. Ms. Hnateyko was elected president for a fourth term.

Also during 2005, the Ukrainian Institute of America honored Vitalii and Volodymyr Klitschko with its 2004 Persons of the Year award during a dinner at the New York Hilton on March 8. Some 400 fans and admirers mobbed Vitalii Klitschko during the cocktail hour and

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

between courses. They surged around him for autographs, picture-taking and a close-up look at the six-foot-seven-inch gladiator.

He graciously accepted bronze medals, one for himself and one for his younger brother, Olympic champion Volodymyr Klitschko, who was unable to attend because of a commitment to accompany President Viktor Yushchenko to a high-level meeting in Germany the next day.

Moving from the Ukrainian Institute of America to another New York-based organization, Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union donated \$50,000 to Vovcha Tropa Plast Camp.

Bohdan Kekish, president of the credit union, along with Bohdan Kurchak, treasurer and CFO, and Paul Liteplo, manager of member services, bestowed the check upon Yuriy Huk, president of the board of directors of the Vovcha Tropa Plast Camp, on January 29. The donation was used for the camp's building fund for an open-air pavilion.

In the summer of 2004, the camp's 12-member board of directors, known by its Ukrainian-language acronym OTK, determined that a pavilion should be constructed at Vovcha Tropa to provide a central gathering place for campers and parents. A \$10,000 donation made by a former camper who wished to remain anonymous initiated the planning for the pavilion.

The Ukrainian National Women's League of America hosted its most recent triennial convention on May 27-30 in Albany, N.Y. The four-day event included an intensive schedule of seminars, working meetings, elections and social events. The convention officially opened with a national board meeting held on May 27 chaired by UNWLA President Iryna Kurowyckyj, who was re-elected for the 2005-2008 term.

The evening also featured a guest appearance by Rep. Maurice Hinchey of New York, who represents the 22nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The highlight of an evening banquet was the presentation of the Young Women Achievers Awards to Orsya Woloszyn Dmytrenko, Christine M. Duzyj, Vera Farmiga, Roksolana Luchkan, Lusia Strus and Nadia Tarnawsky. Three additional award recipients, Larysa Halyna Pevny, Olenka Z. Pevny and Christina Zinycz, were unable to attend.

The following month the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) held its 38th Biennial Scientific Conference and 31st Assembly of Delegates on June 29-July 3 in Edmonton. Participants included nearly 100 health care professionals from the U.S.A., Canada and Ukraine. The guest of honor and keynote speaker was Dr. Mykola Polishchuk, minister of health of Ukraine.

The four-day event included two days of scientific presentations and one day devoted to the biennial business meeting with elections of new officers. The highlight of the business meeting was the election of the new administration for the term of 2005-2007 headed by Andrew Iwach, M.D. (Northern California), presi-

dent.

Minister Polishchuk addressed the gathering of UMANA delegates, focusing on how UMANA and similar organizations in the diaspora could best be of assistance to Ukraine in this time of its medical professional evolution. Dr. Polishchuk awarded a plaque to Dr. Ehor Gauk of OSVITA, formally recognizing the effort expended by that group over the last decade in philanthropic and charitable assistance to Ukraine.

Founded in 1950, for the first time in 20 years UMANA held both its Scientific Conference and the Assembly of Delegates in Canada.

Several months after the UMANA conference, the Ukrainian American Bar Association held its 2005 annual meeting at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel in South Beach, Fla. The meeting attracted a smaller group of participants, but it was attended by a considerable delegation from Ukraine that included notable judges, attorneys from Ukrinurkolegiua and other practicing jurists.

On September 17 the election of new officers and board of governors was held, with Andrew Pidgirsky elected president for 2005-2007.

Meanwhile, Ukrainians in the United States were also actively working in Ukraine this past year. The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation held its fourth annual Youth Leadership Program in 2005, which took place in Ukraine for the first time. The program, held on July 24-31, boasted the largest number of students ever – a total of 22 from more than 70 applicants. The final group consisted of four Ukrainian Americans, one Ukrainian from France and 17 Ukrainians from all regions of Ukraine.

Back in the United States, the Ukrainian Museum-Archives in Cleveland announced that it had received a \$50,000 grant toward its capital campaign from the Cleveland Selfreliance Federal Credit Union. The gift, to be paid over a five-year period, will assist in financing a new archives facility currently under construction. "We are deeply grateful to Cleveland Selfreliance for their support," said the museum's director, Andrew Fedynsky. "For the past 50 years, Cleveland Selfreliance has been a cornerstone of our community. The assistance they are providing us will help us preserve our collection for generations to come."

Meanwhile, in Ellenville, N.Y., the annual Lemko Vatra in the U.S. blazed for the fifth year in a row on June 24-26 at the resort of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM). Each year, this vatra blazes with others from around the world – in Lemkivschyna, Ukraine, Slovakia, Serbia and Canada. The Organization for the Defense of Lemkivschyna (known by the acronym OOL) conducts this festival in the U.S.

Later in the year, the Ukrainian American Veterans participated in the procession of colors at the opening ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., on Veterans Day, November 11. The ceremonies started at 11 a.m. with the placing of the presidential wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns by U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney.

Prior to the ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, the UAV held the 58th National Convention at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort on September 29 to October 2. The convention was run by the UAV national board headed by National Commander Anna Krawczuk with Immediate Past National Commander Mathew Koziak chairing the convention committee.

The weekend also made the 31st Convention of the UAV National Ladies Auxiliary, with Oksana Koziak elected as the new president. Outgoing President Helen Drabyk received a citation and a standing ovation for her devoted leadership and dedication to the UAV.

The UAV also solicited proposals for the design of a national monument to be constructed to honor Ukrainian Americans who served in the United States Armed Forces. While the UAV sponsored the project, the memorial is being erected to not only honor both present and past members of the UAV, but to remember and recognize all veterans of Ukrainian descent who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

The monument will be erected on the grounds of St. Andrew's Memorial Church and Cemetery at the Ukrainian Orthodox Archdiocesan Center in South Bound Brook, N.J., a venue that already contains many monuments to prominent Ukrainians. Mr. Koziak, of the UAV, and Protospesbyter Frank Estocin of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. are co-chairs of the UAV National Monument Committee.

Soyuzivka was also the host of a three-day conference, titled "A Day in the Life of the UPA – Ukrainian Insurgent Army" held on July 29-31. The event, based on the Litopys UPA (Chronicles of the UPA), was kicked off with the opening of an UPA exhibit.

At the entrance, a sign reading "Slava Ukraini – Heroyam Slava" (Glory to Ukraine – Glory to Our Heroes) welcomed visitors into the world of the Ukrainka Povstanska Armia (UPA) with archival photographs, maps, personal artifacts, graphics and a selection of books from the Litopys UPA, which publishes primary-source documents and materials from the World War II era with each volume or series of volumes devoted to a specific theme, a given time period and/or region.

Petrusia Paslawsky and Nadia Dubanowitz led a group walk of approximately 50 people to Soyuzivka's Studio, where groups of 10 were escorted into a below-ground, dark and dank room where a bunker might have existed. Artifacts from World War II silently represented what it would have been like for UPA soldiers spending time in hideaways such as this.

The case of John Demjanjuk was in the news again in 2005, when the chief immigration judge of the United States ruled on June 20 that Mr. Demjanjuk, who the U.S. Justice Department claims was a guard at Nazi concentration camps in Sobibor, Majdanek and Flossenberg, could be deported from the United States. At the same time, Judge Michael J. Creppy said Mr. Demjanjuk could fight any deportation order.

Mr. Demjanjuk, 85, was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 2002 because he allegedly lied on his application to enter the United States after World War II. The Demjanjuk case dates back to 1977, when the Justice Department first accused him of being "Ivan the Terrible," a notorious guard at the Treblinka death camp.

On December 20 Judge Creppy ordered that Mr. Demjanjuk be deported from the United States to his native Ukraine, adding that the former Cleveland autoworker could be deported to Germany or Poland if Ukraine refused to accept him. However, Mr. Demjanjuk's legal battle is not yet over as he has the right within 30 days to appeal the ruling to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Meanwhile, the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine (ODFFU) held its triennial convention on October 2 at the Ramada Inn in East Hanover, N.J. Michael Koziupa, 54, of Cedar Knolls, N.J., was unanimously elected president of the ODFFU.

Much earlier in the year, The Ukrainian Weekly learned that a long-running lawsuit by four individuals who claimed they were unjustly removed from the Ukrainian American Cultural Foundation's board of directors appeared resolved with all parties involved in the dispute willing to abide by a court-ordered agreement, which came on January 12.

The agreement between the feuding members of the board, made with the help of a New York State court order, added the four plaintiffs in the original lawsuit to the board plus one of their supporters – bringing the



Marta Baczynsky

Guests in the lobby of the new home of The Ukrainian Museum during the building's blessing on February 6.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

number of people now on the UACF board of directors to 13 – and affirmed the past actions of the original eight-member group.

Later in the year, on September 17, Ukrainian Day at Giants Stadium was held in East Rutherford, N.J. It was a daylong event that featured performances, vendors and sports. Ukrainian Day was organized by a special committee of area Ukrainian community activists – some 50 people in all – led by Gene Chyzowych, former coach of U.S. Olympic, World Cup and national soccer teams, who currently chairs the Metrostars Youth Development Committee. Profits of over \$6,000 from ticket sales (\$5 per ticket sold) were distributed as donations to 35 Ukrainian community groups.

The Hollywood Trident Foundation met on December 13 at the University of California at Los Angeles to celebrate its fifth anniversary.

Oleh Wolowyna, a demographer who writes about Ukrainians in the United States, reported in an article in *The Ukrainian Weekly* on January 9 about the “Fourth Wave” of migration from Ukraine to the United States.

Several months later, representatives from Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) chapters throughout the United States convened for a plenum at the SUM “Oselia” (resort) in Ellenville, N.Y., on Saturday, April 23. Bohdan Harhaj, the president of SUM, welcomed the 50 participants.

The cornerstone of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the Ukrainian American Youth Association’s campgrounds in Ellenville, N.Y., turned out to be the banquet and fund-raising cocktail reception that took place on July 9 at the “oselia.”

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Plast camp Pysanyi Kamin in Ohio marked its 40th anniversary. Celebrations of the milestone started with Sviato Yuriya (Feast of St. George) held on May 28-30.

The 27th biannual U.S. national conference of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization was held the weekend of October 22-23 at the Soyuzivka estate in Kerhonkson, N.Y. Over 100 members from various branches of the Plast organization in the U.S. came together to report on activities of the previous two years and also to map out goals and activities for the next two years. Conference delegates also elected a new U.S. Plast National Command under the leadership of Marta Kuzmowycz.

In the very beginning of 2005, an estimated 350 New York Ukrainians, most sporting orange scarves in support of Ukraine’s President-elect Viktor Yushchenko, ended their Christmas day on January 7 by caroling at Rockefeller Center. This was the first time that the renowned tree was left illuminated for the Julian calendar Christmas celebration.

Canada feels effects of Orange Revolution

For Ukrainian Canadians, the year 2005 still had an Orange glow. The wake of the Orange Revolution splashed over many events through the year – from academic panels discussing its effects, to awards to journalists who had covered it and to the Bloor West Village Festival parade, led by orange-clad election observers, who tried to revive the festive energy of Independence Square.

But, finally, the Orange wave retreated into memories and, when its first anniversary was marked in the Canadian Parliament, it officially became history. After a two-decades-long campaign by Ukrainians for acknowledgement and restitution, the issue of internment of Ukrainians during World War I was finally addressed by the government and given both legislative and budgetary attention. Finally, kudos to the tenacious Canadian Ukrainian for being successful in getting a public declaration from Canada’s national newspaper that “Ukrainians are not Russians.”

Former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner, who led the official contingent of 463 observers sent by CANADEM, the Canadian government-funded, Ottawa-based international peace and security organization to Ukraine, spoke at various venues about the role played by Canadians in the Ukrainian presidential election. He addressed nearly 1,000 guests who attended a



Among the members of the executive of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group gathered on March 22 are (from left): MPs Walt Lastewka, Peter Goldring, Joy Smith, Inky Mark and Judy Wasylcia-Leis, Sen. Jerry Grafstein, MPs Borys Wrzesnewskij, Mark Warawa and Eleni Bakopanos, Sen. Raynell Andreychuk and MP David Kilgour.

dinner, organized by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress in Toronto and he referred to the recent events in Ukraine at the Manitoba Historical Society’s annual dinner in Winnipeg marking the 190th birthday celebration of Canada’s first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald.

Mr. Turner said that the friendship between Canada and Ukraine was “enhanced in a remarkable way” through the interest shown by Canadians in “sponsoring democracy” in a country he hopes has now begun “a new era.”

Member of Parliament Borys Wrzesnewskij attended the inauguration of President Viktor Yushchenko. Mr. Wrzesnewskij was among the group of 40 heads of state invited to the inauguration ceremony on January 23 and the reception that followed. Mr. Wrzesnewskij also met with most of the soon-to-be-named Cabinet ministers, and discussed the general state of Canada-Ukraine relations with newly appointed Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and President Yushchenko.

Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, who officially represented Canada at the inauguration, sat next to President Yushchenko’s wife at his swearing-in ceremony and next to the president at his inaugural lunch.

On January 24, Toronto’s St. Vladimir’s Institute organized a public forum titled “Ukraine’s Orange Revolution: An Expert Assessment of the 2004 Presidential Elections.” Chaired by Prof. Frank Sysyn, the forum featured four panelists.

Prof. Olga Andriewsky, Trent University, said she disagreed with the image of a deeply divided Ukraine that became a cornerstone of analysis in the West. “It’s a stereotype that’s absolutely wrong but was repeated nonetheless: a Catholic, pro-Western, Ukrainian-speaking western Ukraine on the one hand, and a pro-Russian, Orthodox, Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine, on the other.” She expressed doubt about whether regional differences in Ukraine, which do exist, have actually consolidated into any kind of political identity.

Danylo Bilak was in Ukraine as an observer for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and saw the election result as a vote on values. “It’s a choice of a set of values that Ukrainians believe they share with the rest of Europe – liberal democratic rather than Asiatic authoritarian values. Fifty-two percent of Ukrainians chose the European values, but 44 percent did not. The national unity issue revolves about how to reconcile these competing values, and managing this will be President Yushchenko’s greatest challenge,” he said.

Graduate student Alesia Kachur described the role of students in the Orange Revolution, particularly the student organization Pora, which began organizing long before the opposition cried foul over the presidential elections.

Correspondent Mark MacKinnon of *The Globe and Mail* was the only Canadian journalist who was stationed in Ukraine throughout the election events. He described the difficult situation of foreign correspondents with respect to stories in “countries of second importance” but agreed that the presidential election in Ukraine was one of the top stories of the year.

On January 21, a workshop titled “Ukrainian Presidential Elections of 2004 in Comparative Perspective” at the University of Toronto featured four academic participants and was attended by over 130

persons. Mr. Bilak, senior advisor to the government of Ukraine from 1995 to 2002, served as commentator for the presentations.

Prof. Taras Kuzio, George Washington University, titled his talk “Ukraine is not Russia” and focused on the mistaken assumptions and wrong tactics of the Russian advisors to the Leonid Kuchma government and the Viktor Yanukovich campaign. Thanks to the Orange Revolution, the fact that Ukraine is not Russia is finally getting through to the world, even to the Western media, he concluded.

Prof. Marta Dyczok, University of Western Ontario, focused on the power of television in shaping the events around the election. The fact that the cable Channel 5 was able to broadcast real news about the events on Independence Square was important in finally breaking the back of censorship. Many people saw the lifting of censorship as a sign of the end of the old regime.

Prof. Paul D’Anieri, University of Kansas, stressed the institutional changes that Ukraine is undergoing, partly as a result of the Orange Revolution and partly as a result of other changes that were already under way, i.e., shifts to a parliamentary system, a fully proportional electoral system and an imperative mandate. Those three changes are making Ukrainian politics similar to an idealized norm of Western European politics, he said.

Prof. Michael McFaul, Stanford University, called the Orange Revolution “the event of the decade” and pointed out that one of the key common features with Serbia in 2000 and Georgia in 2003 was “the breakthrough democratic election.” He claimed that Russia does not have the characteristics needed for a popular revolution such as Ukraine’s.

At the beginning of the year, two types of wine from the famous Crimean Massandra winery, a sherry and a port, appeared on the shelves of Manitoba liquor stores with labels bearing the famous photograph of the sitting Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin posing at the 1945 Yalta conference. Complaints from Winnipeg residents against the image of Stalin on the labels was taken up by the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association. “It’s time we came to recognize that the Stalinist dictatorship was responsible for more suffering than any other regime in 20th century Europe. Ukrainians have just recently, with their Orange Revolution, rejected the legacy of communism. We don’t want Stalin exalted here in Canada, even if only on a wine label,” said Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk of the UCCLA.

Responding to the complaints, the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission announced on February 9 that it would immediately begin removing from its shelves the Crimean wines bearing an image of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin.

On January 28, just five days after President Viktor Yushchenko’s inauguration, the 53-year-old Ukrainian section of Radio Canada International stopped broadcasting its 30-minute Ukrainian program seven days a week at 7 p.m. Ukrainian time. The estimated audience of more than 2 million Ukrainian listeners will now only get to hear RCI’s Ukrainian service for a half-hour on Saturday and for the same amount of time on Sunday. Furthermore, the Ukrainian programs will no longer be on short wave and Ukrainians will have to rely on either catching the RCI Ukrainian service over the Internet or on cable in major cities.

Wojtek Gwiazda, 25-year veteran RCI announcer-

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Liberal MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj (left) presents a \$70,000 donation for The Ukraine List to Prof. Dominique Arel (center), Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa, and Prof. Francoise Houle, dean, Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ottawa, on October 25.

producer, who also served as spokesman for the RCI Action Committee, said there is a basic lack of understanding of the concept of international broadcasting at RCI. During the 1990s, the Ukrainian program had as many as five staff members and a 60-minute daily time slot compared to its current two staff members and 60 minutes of programming per week.

In a February 7 letter to the Rev. Ihor Kutash, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Quebec Council, Robert Rabinovitch, president of the CBC and its French-language public broadcasting counterpart, Radio-Canada, which oversees RCI, said the decision to reduce the Ukrainian service's schedule was "final."

In an interview, Mykola Maimeskul, who had been appointed Ukraine's ambassador to Canada by President Leonid Kuchma back in March 2004, said that he has known Viktor Yushchenko for over a decade. When asked whether he ever thought that Mr. Yushchenko would become Ukraine's president, the Odesa-born ambassador answered "A few years ago, possibly not. But in the last two years, yes." The ambassador explained that he changed his opinion as he watched Ukraine's opposition parties, including Mr. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine, gain momentum and because of Mr. Yushchenko's passion.

For a few tense weeks between the second round of voting in the presidential election on November 21 and the Supreme Court-ordered repeat second-round vote on December 26, Ambassador Maimeskul was in a "difficult situation," as he put it. More than 500 Ukrainian diplomats stationed around the world signed an "open declaration" to "protest against what has become the transformation of the presidential elections of 2004 into a disgraceful war against the people of Ukraine." At least four diplomats from the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington signed the statement, as did three from the Ukrainian Consulate General in Toronto and four from the Embassy in Ottawa. Mr. Maimeskul

was not among them. Now, Mr. Maimeskul is working with Canadian government officials to make Mr. Yushchenko's first official visit to Canada as Ukraine's president a reality.

The Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group, which has approximately 40 parliamentarians from all parties, representing all regions of the country, joining together in the interest of promoting relations between Canada and Ukraine, elected a new executive on March 22. It includes: Mr. Wrzesnewskyj, chair; MP Walt Lastewka, vice-chair; MP Inky Mark, vice-chair; Sen. Raynell Andreychuk, vice-chair; Sen. Consiglio Di Nino, treasurer; MP Eleni Bakopanos, secretary; Sen. Jerry Grafstein, MP Judy Wasylycia-Leis, MP Bernard Bigras, MP Peter Goldring, MP Joy Smith and MP David Kilgour, directors.

On April 19 the federal government unveiled its "white paper" on foreign policy – the International Policy Statement (IPS). The IPS sets out a new framework to make Official Development Assistance (ODA) more effective by targeting Canadian efforts and resources to key countries and key sectors within these countries. Under the new IPS, the government of Canada will focus bilateral development programming on 25 "Development Partners." Ukraine is the only European country to make the list of "Development Partners."

The new international plan also focuses on five sectors: good governance, private-sector development, environmental sustainability, health and basic education. Canada Corps, the mechanism by which 500 Canadian government sponsored election observers were provided during the Orange Revolution in Ukraine, will continue to play a key role in developing partnerships between government, civil society and the private sector.

Ukrainian products were winners at the prestigious Toronto Wine and Cheese Show held in April. Lvivske

lager beer won the gold medal for best European-style lager, while Slavutych won a bronze medal in the same category. Krimsekt semi-dry sparkling wine won the bronze for sweet sparkling wine. John Vellinga, CEO of Multiculture Bevco (the Canadian distributor for all three products) said, "It is our mission to bring the best of Ukraine to the rest of the world. This proves that not only are we bringing the best of Ukraine, but that the best of Ukraine is also the best in the world."

Prime Minister Paul Martin and MPs Wrzesnewskyj and Lastewka welcomed 28 Ukrainian university students from Ukraine participating in the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Program (CUPP) to Canada's Parliament. The university students began their internship with parliamentarians in May. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the CUPP. Under the direction of the president of the Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation, Ihor W. Bardyn, the CUPP has provided Ukrainian university students from Ukraine with an exceptional opportunity to learn how democracy functions in Canada by working closely with Canadian MPs of all parties.

An enthusiastic supporter of CUPP, Mr. Wrzesnewskyj and his family foundation Dopomoha Ukraini/Aid Ukraine, had recently donated \$15,000 to the Chair of Ukrainian Studies Foundation to help bring the 28 Ukrainian students to Canada.

The Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center (UCRDC) is preparing to publish a selection of its video and audio taped interviews in a book titled "The Ukrainian Woman in World War II." Natalia Fedorowych, a lecturer in sociology at the Pedagogical College at the National University in Lviv and an oral history researcher, spent four months in Toronto as a CIUS Kolasky Fellow, preparing the selected material for publication. The book is being edited by Iroida Wynnyckyj, archivist at the UCRDC.

The source material consists of 50 interviews with women, born in Ukraine between 1893 and 1941, who were witnesses and/or participants in events leading up to and during the second world war, as well as in events that were consequences of the war. The interviews were conducted in the period 1979-2004 in Ukraine, Poland, Canada, the United States and Australia.

On June 7 the Legion Charter of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 360 in Toronto, which has always been known as the "Ukrainian Legion," was abruptly suspended and the Branch premises closed by the Legion Ontario Command. Named after Filip Konowal, a World War I veteran, and the only Ukrainian Canadian to have been awarded the Victoria Cross, Branch 360 has played a unique role in commemorating the achievements of Ukrainians in the Canadian armed forces.

It was responsible for the placing of four trilingual plaques commemorating Konowal across Canada, a statue in his home village of Kutkivichi, Ukraine, and for financing the publication of a trilingual booklet about Konowal's life and times. More recently, the branch negotiated permission for a plaque to be unveiled on August 22, near Lens, France, just beyond Vimy Ridge, where Konowal's valor in battle earned him his VC. The branch sponsored a plaque at 218 Sussex Gardens in London, England, which served as a "home away from home" to hundreds of Ukrainian Canadian servicemen sent overseas during World War II.

Ukrainian Canadian veterans set up Branch 360 in 1946, bought the Queen Street property by pooling their resources and established by-laws that gave their branch a particularly Ukrainian Canadian mandate. Although recently the premises of the branch have been mainly used for "Club 360," a bar and lounge frequented by the hip Queen Street West crowd, the seizure of the assets of the branch by the Ontario Command has left many questions unanswered. The executive of Branch 360 is in the process of appealing the closure.

Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Pierre Pettigrew named Abina Dann as Canada's new ambassador to Ukraine succeeding Ambassador Andrew Robinson. A graduate of McGill University (1974), with an M.A. in Canadian politics and international relations from Carleton University (1980), she was an international fellow at the Harvard University Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. She joined the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in 1980 and served as trade commissioner in Sao Paulo, the Hague, New York and Mumbai.

In Ottawa Ms. Dann served in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) as deputy director of the Media Relations Office, director

Press Council rules on correct terminology

In a story published on May 10, The Globe and Mail wrote that "27 or 28 million Russians died during the second world war." Myroslaw Prytulak of Windsor, Ontario, disagreed. He maintained that, in fact, the figure included millions of non-Russian citizens of the Soviet Union and that Russia's losses were 5.8 million, including 1.8 million military and 4 million civilians, while Ukraine's losses were 8 million, including 2.5 million military and 5.5 million civilians.

He took his complaint about the inaccurate information to the Ontario Press Council. The Council upheld Mr. Prytulak's complaint with the following adjudication, issued on November 3:

"Myroslaw Prytulak of Windsor complained that a

Globe and Mail article from Moscow published May 10 erred in stating that 27 or 28 million Russians died during the second world war when, in fact, the figure included millions of non-Russian citizens of the Soviet Union.

"The newspaper said that before the war the terms 'Soviet citizens' and 'Russians' were considered synonymous in everyday usage and that the reporter saw the terms as interchangeable. But it ultimately conceded that the reference was inaccurate and, after expressing regret that it wasn't corrected at the time, offered to print a correction now.

"The Ontario Press Council commends the newspaper for its offer but, in upholding the complaint, expresses its regret that the inaccuracy was not corrected when first brought to its attention.

"At the same time, it rejects the charge that the newspaper attempted to 'airbrush' the enormous losses suffered by other Eastern European countries and sought to 'discredit and intimidate' the complainant."

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

of the Foreign Policy Communications Division and director for communications and media for the 2001 Summit of the Americas. More recently, Ms. Dann was director of the DFAIT's European Business Development and Connectivity Division.

On August 31, in Edmonton, Governor-General Clarkson bestowed a Certificate of Commendation on the UCC for its role in organizing the mission involving 500 observers for the presidential election in Ukraine. The commendation read, in part, "The effort undertaken by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress to raise funds, recruit observers, and mobilize and train the participants was unprecedented and is testament to the energy, dedication, and ideals of all those who took part in the mission."

UCC President Irene (Orysia) Sushko stated that, "The UCC is deeply honored to be recognized by Her Excellency for its efforts in assuring that the presidential elections in Ukraine were fair and transparent and reflected the will of the Ukrainian people."

Mr. MacKinnon of The Globe and Mail, Canada's national newspaper, became the first recipient of the new John Synnack Award for Journalism, sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, for his coverage of the Orange Revolution. Mr. MacKinnon wrote a letter of thanks to the presenters: "It is an honor to receive this award but it is an unnecessary honor as never before have I enjoyed my job as much as I did covering the happenings in Ukraine during the country's incredible fall and winter ... Ukraine, for a brilliant but too brief moment, grabbed the attention of the world's news media." The award was accepted on August 24 by Stephen Northfield, foreign editor of The Globe and Mail, on behalf of Mr. MacKinnon, who was on assignment in the Gaza Strip.

Named for John Synnack, an influential editor (1947-1970) of Ukrainian Voice, Canada's oldest Ukrainian newspaper, the John Synnack Award for Journalism recognizes the pivotal influence of media in presenting to all Canadians information on issues important to the Ukrainian Canadian community and will be presented annually.

With the assistance of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Calgary and other donors, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) published a collection of Soviet-era documents dealing with the causes and consequences of the 1932-1933 Famine in Soviet Ukraine, the Holodomor. Compiled and edited by Prof. Yuri Shapoval of Kyiv, translated by Marta D. Olynyk, and with a foreword by Dr. Luciuk, the 336-page book, "The Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine" consists of 81 documents (mainly in Russian, some in Ukrainian) complemented by English-language annotations, a list of acronyms and an introductory essay (in English and Ukrainian).

On October 25 Mr. Wrzesnewskyj, MP from the Toronto riding of Etobicoke Center, presented a check in the amount of \$70,000 to the Chair of Ukrainian Studies of the University of Ottawa on behalf of his family's Dopomoha Ukraini Foundation, to fund the chair's electronic newsletter, the Ukraine List (UKL).

During the Orange Revolution, UKL experienced phenomenal growth, reaching thousands of scholars, diplomats, international journalists, businesspeople, non-governmental organizations and community activists in over 40 countries.

The initial contribution of the foundation will support UKL, its network of research assistants and translators, as well as a project of web archives. This will enable UKL to strengthen its visibility internationally. The foundation is also underwriting an initiative aimed at developing a Center for Contemporary Archives on Ukraine.

"North American and European Aid to Ukraine" was the title of a two-part panel discussion held at the Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto on October 21. The first panel, titled "A Critical Assessment," was chaired by Prof. Andrewsky, Trent University.

Panelist Janina Wedel, George Mason School of Public Policy, is the author of the prize-winning and controversial book "Collision and Collusion: The Strange Case of Western Aid to Eastern Europe" and a social anthropologist. She aims to understand aid processes rather than the projects shaped by aid by looking at the agents of aid, the relationships formed between donors and recipients, and the effects of the relationships on aid outcomes. The critical aspect in her analysis of aid was the "disconnect" between East and

West, forged by the Cold War and exacerbated by barriers of language, culture, distance and information. Her conclusion was that most foreign aid to the former Communist countries has been ill-planned, poorly executed and misdirected.

Prof. Alexandra Hrycak of Reed College was largely in agreement with Prof. Wedel's analysis and she focused on the role of aid in the creation of transnational networks, using women's issues as a specific example. Although there is a dense horizontal network in Ukraine of women's organizations, many aid-funded NGOs bypassed and ignored them and created vertical structures tied to international bodies rather than empowering grassroots organizations in Ukraine, she said.

Mr. Bilak's topic was technical assistance in Ukraine and he maintained that there were three main challenges for its further development: a need to build in accountability and decentralization in order to address the issue of corruption; to facilitate and help locally generated NGOs; to work with a government in Ukraine that is interested in output rather than having a "grab and run" attitude.

The second session had, as its subtitle, "Lessons Learned" and was chaired by Prof. Sysyn of the (CIUS).

Bruce Steen, country manager, Canadian International Development Agency, explained that under Canada's new International Policy Statement, CIDA has selected 25 developing countries as targets for aid, with Ukraine being the only European one among them. Ukraine is a development partner identified in the new policy for several reasons: it has seized upon reform initiatives, it is using aid effectively, and Canada is particularly well positioned to offer the needed expertise there. Aid to Ukraine will now focus on four main sectors: governance, health, private-sector development and environmental sustainability, he said.

Ruslana Wrzesnewskyj, president, Help Us Help the Children, said that, although her organization uses Canadian and American volunteers, her main "lesson learned" in Ukraine was the necessity to stick to the grassroots approach, to develop Ukrainian partners and provide them with a "train the trainer" program. Marta Baziuk of Winrock International gave, as her main "lesson learned," the advice that process matters. "There are no shortcuts to effective implementation of a program," she said.

Although the likelihood of an election call before the end of the year put all federal riding associations on the alert, the executive of the Etobicoke-Lakeshore Liberal Riding Association in Toronto was caught off guard when it learned late on Friday, November 25, that their member of Parliament, Jean Augustine, had resigned her seat and that Michael Ignatieff, Canadian-born Harvard professor, was to be parachuted in by the Liberal party as the sole, uncontested candidate in a surprise nomination meeting scheduled for December 1.

Two candidates – Marc Shwec, a bilingual engineer

with an M.B.A. degree and president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Toronto Branch, and Ron Chyczij, president of the Etobicoke-Lakeshore Riding Association who is active in many Ukrainian community and volunteer projects – were able to prepare their application for nomination papers by the deadline but could not submit them as they were locked out at the Liberal Party Ontario headquarters. Mr. Ignatieff, who has not lived in Canada for 30 years, is considered by some members of the Ukrainian community to be a virulent Ukrainophobe based on what he wrote about Ukraine and Ukrainians in his 1993 book on nationalism, "Blood and Belonging."

The ninth annual Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival took place on August 26-28. Over 400,000 people took part in the three-day Toronto street festival, where headliners included singer-songwriter Vika Vasilevych from Kyiv, contemporary violin virtuoso Vasyl Popadiuk, the Syzokryli dancers from New York, cabaret performances and popular groups such as the Kubasonics from Edmonton, Taran from Winnipeg and the Dunai band. The ever-popular Saturday morning parade featured Ukrainian Canadian groups and an increasingly multicultural presence of Chinese, Croatian and other ethnic groups, who marched alongside former Prime Minister and 2005 Festival Parade Marshall John Turner.

On the eve of Canada's Remembrance Day commemoration on November 11, Dr. Ihor Lossovsky, consul general of Ukraine in Toronto, invited veterans of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), the 1st Division of the Ukrainian National Army (as the Galicia Division is officially known), the Red Army, the Canadian Armed Forces, as well as members of the Sich Riflemen Organization to a joint dinner and viewing of Slavko Nowytski's documentary film "Between Hitler and Stalin – Ukraine in World War II," made by the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center (UCRDC).

Consul General Lossovsky said the aim of the event was to hold a "first in Canada gathering-reconciliation of veterans of the most horrific war in the history of Ukraine." Davyd Modylevsky, president of the Veterans of the Red Army club in Toronto, who was the organizer of the Soviet veterans' group that came to the dinner, agreed to maintain a relationship with the UCRDC by helping the center, which holds an archive of oral testimony of persons involved in World War II events, to obtain interviews with club members. UCRDC archivist Iroida Wynnickyj immediately made arrangements for such interviews with several of the Soviet veterans present.

On November 6 the Ukrainian Canadian community of Saskatchewan, under the auspices of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Saskatchewan Provincial Council (UCC-SPC), celebrated the accomplishments of some of its notable citizens by awarding the 2005 Nation Builder Awards to Mike Boychuk (posthumously), a Saskatoon businessman and construction contractor;



A view of the August 22 unveiling of a plaque in Lens, France, dedicated to Filip Konowal, Ukrainian Canadian recipient of the Victoria Cross.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Stefan Franko, a community leader and benefactor who played a major role in the Ukrainian Self-Reliance movement and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress; Ehor Gauk, a pediatric neurologist who has visited Ukraine on numerous occasions dealing with the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster; Jennie Ortynsky, a registered nurse and president of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada; and Anastasia Zuck (posthumously), a teacher and pioneering leader with the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada.

The UCC-SPC also awarded the newly established Community Recognition Awards to Patrice Detz, specialist in Ukrainian costuming and history; Shawna Lee Kozun, dance instructor; Stacey Nahachewsky, an aspiring Olympian in canoeing-kayaking; Theresa Sokyrka, singer and finalist in the "Canadian Idol" competition; and Yaroslav Sywanyk for volunteerism.

On November 4 sculptor Leo Mol cut the ribbon officially opening the new offices of the Shevchenko Foundation in Winnipeg. The creation of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko was formalized by an Act of Parliament in 1963 and its initial grant in 1964-1965 was \$400. Today the Shevchenko Foundation provides over \$300,000 yearly for the preservation and promotion of the Ukrainian Canadian cultural heritage and the advancement of a flourishing Ukrainian community.

The opening ceremonies concluded with an address by President Andrew Hladyshewsky, who expressed his deep appreciation to Ben Wasylyshen for the architectural interior design and Mike Kuzyk of Sparkus Construction for creating space for the foundation. The new office reflects and showcases the work of the foundation, and the new home is truly a space of which the Ukrainian community can be proud, Mr. Hladyshewsky said.

After two decades of lobbying by the Ukrainian community, the issue of the internment of Ukrainians as enemy aliens during World War I was finally addressed by the Canadian government. The Ukrainian Canadian Restitution Act, Bill C-331, first tabled in 2001 as a private member's bill by MP Mark, Conservative from Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette (Manitoba), calls for the federal government to acknowledge and provide restitution for Ukrainians who were interned in the years 1914-1920. On March 24, Bill C-331 passed its second reading in the House of Commons.

Bill C-331 was endorsed by groups representing Canada's Ukrainian community, and supported by the Conservative Party of Canada, the Bloc Québécois, the New Democratic Party, as well as some Liberal members of Parliament. After the second reading, the bill was sent to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage. On October 21 MP Mark testified before the Standing Committee. "Both

the Ukrainian and the Chinese communities have been seeking recognition for over two decades in this country ... We are a multicultural society ... We need to fix our historical problems. These two issues are not currently part of our Canadian history," he said. The Standing Committee drafted a report to the House for further debate and a vote at third reading.

Finally, after eight years of intense work, MP Mark realized his wish for Canada's Ukrainian community as Bill C-331 was passed by unanimous consent in the House of Commons on November 24 and in the Senate the following day, and became law when it received Royal Assent on November 25.

MP Mark was presented a special Lifetime Achievement Award by the Ukrainian community of Calgary, Alberta, at a banquet held on October 28. Acknowledging the leading role Mr. Mark had played in promoting the Ukrainian internment cause in Parliament, the award was inscribed with the following: "Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Calgary Special Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Inky Mark, B.A., B. Ed., M.P. 'A True Nation Builder and Friend' 28 October 2005."

In the federal budget released on February 23, there was a \$25 million (about \$21 million U.S.) commitment over the next three years for redress issues "for commemorative and educational initiatives" directed to Canadian ethnocultural groups that carry "troubling memories ... as a result of events that occurred in Canadian history during times of war, or as a result of immigration policies of the day," which so far have been "unacknowledged." The amount allocated would have to be shared among several ethnic groups – including Canada's Ukrainian, Chinese, Italian, Indian, German and Jewish communities – all of which claim to have suffered some form of historic civil rights injustices.

On August 24 the government announced an agreement in principle with the Ukrainian community that would provide an initial payment of \$2.5 million to the community for the purpose of commemoration and education. Provisions of the agreement included: an initial contribution of \$2.5 million to the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko; coordination by the Shevchenko Foundation on the implementation of commemorative projects over the next three years; and commencement of work on proposals to help commemorate the Ukrainian historical experience, educate Canadians about the experience and the contributions the Ukrainian Canadian community has made to Canada.

The internment issue also had the attention of scholars. On March 31 Prof. Bohdan Kordan of the University of Saskatchewan delivered the 2005 Prof. Michael and Dr. Iraida Tarnawecky Distinguished Lecture titled "Canada's Enemy Aliens During World War I: The Predicament of Belonging" to over 150 people in St. Andrew's College. A total of 8,579 people of Ukrainian and Central European descent were interned in Canada in the years 1914-1920. The so-called enemy aliens were detained in 24 camps across Canada, most of them in Alberta and British Columbia, and forced to work on public works projects.

Dr. Kordan tried to answer the question: Why did Canada choose to intern civilians when the first world war broke out? The two main reasons, he said, were the imperial view of the Conservative government of the day – the view that people were ultimately loyal to the crown or leadership of the country they were born in, and hence, Ukrainians from the Austro-Hungarian empire were seen as still owing their first allegiance to the Austrian emperor. Secondly, there was an economic depression in Canada in the immediate pre-war period and immigrants, who were the first to lose their jobs, were seen to pose a threat to the established order.

On October 1 a trilingual commemorative plaque was unveiled in Fernie, British Columbia, for victims of internment at the site of one of 24 internment camps. About 250 local residents and guests from across the country were joined by MP Mark and Jim Abbot, MP for East Kootenay, at the unveiling ceremony.

For the last 19 years, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association has worked to place commemorative plaques at all 24 such camps in Canada. "We are grateful that Prime Minister Paul Martin acknowledged this dark chapter in Canadian history ... However, we have yet to receive any money from the \$2.5 million promised from the Acknowledgement, Commemoration and Education Fund, meaning that we continue to fund projects like this one at our own cost," said Dr. Luciuk, director of research for the UCCLA.

The Ukrainian diaspora: scattered near and far

As many as 7 million Ukrainian citizens currently reside outside the borders of Ukraine. This statistic was presented during a 2004 discussion in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada of a draft bill delineating a "Concept of a National Policy Regarding Ukrainians Abroad," which led to the creation of a national agency to handle migration-related matters. Signs of organized Ukrainian community life have been discerned among large numbers of legal and illegal immigrants from Ukraine in a dozen or so countries, including Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece. In fact, these immigrants, or temporary workers, are creating new Ukrainian diaspora communities, wrote Serge Cipko in the July 24 issue of *The Ukrainian Weekly*.

Following are some of the developments in the geographically expanding Ukrainian diaspora, as reported on the pages of *The Weekly* during 2005.

Early in the year, the British Ukrainian community suffered a loss when fire destroyed the Ukrainian cultural center in Manchester, England. There were no injuries, and no wrongdoing was reported regarding the cause of the February 2 fire. A community member reported that the assembly hall building was completely destroyed, but the original building that housed a social club and school rooms remained functional.

In May the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) issued a release on the 60th anniversary of the conclusion of World War II. It stated that, taking into account the aftermath of the war in Ukraine, any actual celebration was inappropriate. It was emphasized that May 9 should be an occasion for Ukrainians around the world to honor its martyrs and encouraged the UWC's membership to hold commemorative observances, liturgies and requiem services for those who "fought in different uniforms but with independent Ukraine in their hearts."

Among other projects in 2005, the UWC established a special Eastern Diaspora Fund in response to the many deficiencies brought to light by the presidential elections of 2005 in Ukrainian diaspora communities of Moldova, especially the separatist region of the Transdnister, and the Russian Federation. Although strict rules against election fraud had been instituted in Ukraine by the time of the December 26 election, they did not apply to polling stations in the diaspora, where foreign government influence and Russification are the norm, despite endeavors of Ukrainian community organizations like the Association of Ukrainians in Russia.

The UWC also said it will allocate monies from the Eastern Diaspora Fund to benefit Ukrainian diaspora projects in Moldova, the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan.

Coinciding with commemorations of the end of World War II in May, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, with the support of other Ukrainian organizations throughout the world, launched a campaign to establish an official Commission of Inquiry on Soviet War Crimes against Humanity in Ukraine. Participants from around the world mailed postcards to President Viktor Yushchenko demanding justice for extensive Soviet war crimes perpetrated in Ukraine. There was no response from the Yushchenko administration.

Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization made *The Weekly's* Ukrainian diaspora news twice in the past year. First came a report about summer camps held in December/January in the Patagonian Andes of Argentina. The second involved an ongoing struggle for Plast's membership in the Geneva-based World Organization of the Scouting Movement (WOSM).

Recognition by the WOSM would allow Plast to represent Ukraine as the nation's premier scouting organization in the world arena. Only one scouting organization from each nation is allowed to send delegates to its World Scout Conference, and WOSM was ready to designate SPOK (Spilka Pionerskykh Orhanizatzi Kyieva) as Ukraine's representative, despite objections from Ukraine's political and spiritual authorities.

Plast's credentials for membership in WSOM include an 84-year-old history in Ukraine, adherence to scouting principles set forth by scouting founder Robert Baden-Powell, and 10,000 members nationwide, encompassing Ukraine's diverse population. The WOSM announced that it had postponed its decision on which scouting



The Globe and Mail

Journalist Mark MacKinnon of The Globe and Mail.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Oksana Zakydalsky

Plast campers on a hike in the Patagonian Andes of Argentina in January.

organization will represent Ukraine.

On April 9-10 some 100 delegates representing 80 organizations from 46 Russian regions met in Moscow at the fourth Congress of the Association of Ukrainians in Russia to discuss past achievements and develop new plans. The congress acknowledged progress in the informational and cultural development of the Ukrainian diaspora in Russia, but expressed a need for professional support for its activities in order to become a stronger public association. Separate committees were proposed to deal with legal issues, education and language, mass media, religion, science, support of families and women, and business ties between Russian and Ukrainian entrepreneurs.

Regional representatives expressed frustration at the lack of legal grounds for their activities in Russia. The delegates also criticized Ukraine's state authorities for their lack of support of the diaspora and for their failure to realize the national program, "Foreign Ukrainians of 2005." The congress adopted resolutions for promoting its national-cultural program to the Russian government level and creating committees to head cultural activity, informational support, education, freedom of conscience, migration and legal issues, youth and sports events, business and veterans' issues.

In June it was reported that a monument to commemorate Ukrainian victims of the Soviet regime had been completed and erected in the town of Sandarmokh in the far northern Karelia region of Russia. Larysa Skrypnikova, leader of the Kalyna Association of Ukrainian Culture thanked all Ukrainians from the United States, Canada and Ukraine who personally donated funds for the creation of the monument and acknowledged Nadia Svitlychna and Bohdan Fedorak in particular for their efforts. It was also reported that some of the first donations for this monument came from then National Deputy and now President Yushchenko and Veniamin Trokhymenko, son of a Sandarmokh victim.

In July a project team backed by President Yushchenko enlisted the help of the Australian Ukrainian community in developing ways of marketing Ukraine to Western nations. Stefan Romaniw, chairman of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations (AFUO) agreed to help develop a 15-part documentary series aimed at providing insight into Ukraine's social and economic strengths, as well as President Yushchenko's new direction for Ukraine. Mr. Romaniw said he also intended to monitor activities that promote Australia-Ukraine relations, streamline business activity between the two nations via the Ukraine-Australia, House in Kyiv, promote new skilled migration opportunities for Ukrainians who can fill employment voids in Australia and sign a new agreement between Monash and Lviv universities.

An annual meeting of the Ukrainian World

Congress, led by President Askold Lozynskyj, took place in August in Kharkiv with 14 countries represented, including leaders from new Ukrainian communities in Italy, Spain and Portugal. According to Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) President Michael Sawkiw Jr., newer diaspora communities had the opportunity to get advice from established ones.

The UWC issued a memorandum to President Yushchenko, with whom they had a special meeting, and discussed the main points with Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn. At the top of their agenda, the UWC asked the Ukrainian government to recognize the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists – Ukrainian Insurgent Army. The UWC also stated that Ukraine must make voting more accessible to the more than 5 million Ukrainian citizens living and working outside Ukraine by increasing the number of voting precincts abroad. Another issue raised was the UWC's dissatisfaction with the government's efforts at linguistic and cultural "Ukrainianization" efforts.

Other topics discussed were the center to assist Ukrainians abroad established by Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry, the World Forum of Ukrainians that was to be held November and the March 2006 parliamentary elections.

During their stay in Ukraine, Ukrainian World Congress officials also met with Ukraine's political and religious leaders, including Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk

and Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate. UWC President Lozynskyj also had opportunities to meet briefly with Cardinal Lubomyr Husar of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and Chief Rabbi of Kyiv and all Ukraine Yakov Bleich.

In the fall, the chairman of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council, Mykhailo Horyn, reported that the fourth World Forum of Ukrainians had been postponed once again. He said a non-scheduled session of the UWCC Presidium, which was convened in mid-November had passed such a decision. At first, the fourth World Forum of Ukrainians was to be held on August 24, 2004, but was postponed until November 2005. Now, it was postponed again – this time to August 19-23, 2006.

Chairman of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists Mykola Plawiuk, Secretary General of the World Congress of Ukrainians Viktor Pedenko, Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee for Foreign Affairs Ihor Ostash, Chairman of the all-Ukrainian Association Congress of the Civil Society Borys Kozhyn and Chairman of the European Congress of Ukrainians Yaroslava Khortiani were the initiators of the press conference. They explained that the decision to postpone the forum was due to the change of the political regime in Ukraine, the difficulties of the new administration and, thus, the unavailability of state bodies and world Ukrainian public organizations to stage such a large-scale event.

In September The Weekly reported on the growth of credit unions in Ukraine, noting that although membership was increasing, credit unions still relied heavily upon support from the Ukrainian diaspora. The credit unions in Ukraine number 711 with more than 942,000 members. About 20 percent of these credit unions belong to the National Association of Credit Unions in Ukraine (NACUU), which in the next five years hopes to obtain official government status as a self-regulatory organization, change the law to allow credit unions to expand their services, install a new computer program and introduce electronic payment systems with plastic cards.

Two months later, Mykhailo Parypsa, head of the Association of Ukrainians in Kazakhstan, visited Washington at the invitation of the Council on Defense and Assistance to Ukrainians of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA). Mr. Parypsa informed Ukrainian Americans about the community life of Ukrainians in Kazakhstan and thanked Americans for their moral and financial support in constructing Ukrainian churches in Pavlodar and Astana, as well as opening a Ukrainian school and civic center in Kazakhstan.

Mr. Parypsa expressed satisfaction about the Ukrainian government's decision to make the Foreign Affairs Ministry responsible for contacts and cooperation with Ukrainians abroad. He said he believed this would facilitate the establishment of close cooperation between the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian diaspora. Mr. Parypsa also outlined a few possibilities for Ukraine's assistance to the Kazakh community, among which was the creation of a museum dedicated to former political prisoners in the USSR.



Officials of the Ukrainian World Congress meet with President Viktor Yushchenko in Kyiv in August.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Our Churches: working toward unity, recognition

Unity was the watchword in Church news during 2005, which was marked by diverse developments, both good and bad, affecting both the Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches.

At the beginning of the year there was news of a highly successful program dubbed "Christmas Together" that brought together Christians from Ukraine's eastern and western regions. The all-Ukrainian event supported by thousands of inhabitants of Ukraine's western regions was held on January 6-9. Lviv and other far western regions of Ukraine were the main centers of the event, though the southern region of Mykolaiv also participated.

Lviv hosted over 2,000 people in the course of the event, which was organized following an initiative by the Lviv Council of Rectors of Higher Educational Establishments. The young people who arrived from eastern Ukraine experienced more than just celebrating Christmas Eve with local families. They were also presented with an interesting program by the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU). The guests took part in religious services, saw *vertepy* (traditional Ukrainian Christmas pageants), and visited museums. The organizers of "Christmas Together" said they believe that celebrating together is the best implementation of the slogan that emerged on Kyiv's Independence Square during the Orange Revolution: "East and West are together!"

In Kyiv, a special Christmas celebration was held on January 7 in the national park near the capital city, where the Museum of Popular Architecture and the Life of Ukraine operates. In addition, the Office of the Mayor of Kyiv encouraged a renewal of Christmas celebrations. "We aren't simply recreating the image of how the Ukrainian village celebrated religious holidays, but are also trying to renew the traditions of our ancestors, so that today's generation does not forget its roots," said Tetiana Chuiko, the museum's ethnographer.

In the first three months of 2005, two hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. traveled to Ukraine to meet with representatives of various Churches and Ukrainian governmental officials as part of the Church's continued efforts toward the establishment of an independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the independent state of Ukraine.

Archbishop Antony, ruling bishop of the Eastern Eparchy and president of the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. visited Ukraine, accompanied by Hieromonk Daniel (Zelinsky), director of the Consistory Office of Public Relations, from February 28 through March 11. The archbishop met with hierarchs of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Andrii of Ivano-Frankivsk and Archbishop Makarii of Lviv, and with clergy who serve in the UAOC Patriarchal Office in Kyiv concerning recent developments in the life of the Church.

On March 11 the archbishop met with President Viktor Yushchenko to discuss the continued ecclesiastical struggles in Ukraine. He sought the government's assistance in resolving issues that divide the Church. The president expressed his deep desire to see a single, united Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Ukraine and indicated that he will work closely with all sides, in particular the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, to bring this unity about.

Archbishop Vsevolod, ruling bishop of the Western Eparchy, visited Ukraine as a representative of the UOC-U.S.A. and, in particular, of Patriarch Bartholomew, ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople. The archbishop met with Patriarch Filaret, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, with Metropolitan Volodymyr, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate and with Archbishop Makarii of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church in Lviv.

On March 24 Archbishop Vsevolod also met with President Yushchenko. According to a press release from the Ukrainian government, during their discussions the president stressed that his government will not directly involve itself in ecclesiastical matters. "We stand for the equality of all Churches," the president said.

Archbishop Vsevolod made an important statement during the meeting with the president, which reflects the position of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of



Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate.

Constantinople: "The position of the Mother Church, the Patriarchate of Constantinople, is that her daughter – the Moscow Patriarchate – consists of that territory, which it encompassed to the year 1686. The subjugation of the Kyivan Metropolia to the Moscow Patriarchate was concluded by Patriarch Dionysius without the agreement or ratification of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Great Church of Christ (the Patriarchate of Constantinople)."

A couple of months later, on May 1, Patriarch Filaret UOC-KP, said, "The Orange Revolution should help the creation and recognition of a national Church in Ukraine. The Ukrainian national Church already exists as the Kyivan Patriarchate."

He also said that Ukrainian President Yushchenko supports the creation of a national Church in Ukraine: "Every head of state should take care of the unity of the nation and the consolidation of society. How can society be consolidated if the Kyiv Patriarchate and the Moscow Patriarchate oppose each other?" At the same time, Patriarch Filaret stressed that no Church can be established by presidential decree, because that would be state interference in Church affairs. The patriarch said he thinks a national Ukrainian Orthodox Church can be created by the clergy and the faithful, while the Constantinople Patriarchate should confirm its autocephalous status.

Later in the year, the Religious Information Service of Ukraine, citing unidentified sources, reported that Patriarch Filaret had met with Metropolitan Mefodii (Kudriakov), head of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church in the patriarchal building of the UAOC in Kyiv on August 11. The two Church leaders reportedly discussed the unification process of their Churches.

RISU also reported that on August 11 the Hierarchical Sobor Assembly of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC) discussed the possibility of the unification of the UAOC with other Ukrainian Orthodox Churches into a single Ukrainian national Orthodox Church. Patriarch Filaret of the UOC-KP also attended the Sobor and offered his suggestion to unite into a single Church without any conditions on the part of the UAOC, with himself as one possible candidate for the head of the united Church.

The Sobor decided to hold a meeting in every eparchy of the UAOC on the unification issue as soon as possible and to summon the next Hierarchical Sobor in order to arrive at a final decision concerning the possible unification into a single national Church. According to the Sobor, the participation of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate, headed by Metropolitan Volodymyr (Sabodan), is very important for the unification process. The Sobor decided to invite representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople for active participation in the unification of the Ukrainian Orthodox Churches according to the canons of the Orthodox Church.



Cardinal Lubomyr Husar of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

On August 12 the Religious Information Service of Ukraine received a statement from Archbishop Ihor (Isichenko), head of the Kharkiv and Poltava Eparchy of the UAOC, in which he criticized the unification process of the UAOC, headed by Metropolitan Mefodii and the UOC-KP. According to Archbishop Ihor, "it was affirmed at this meeting that the statutes of the Kharkiv-Poltava Eparchy of the UAOC will not be registered and the existence of the UAOC will at that time cease." The text of the archbishop's statement says that the Kharkiv-Poltava Eparchy of the UAOC would continue its ministry under the spiritual guidance of the UAOC in the diaspora.

Archbishop Ihor claimed that the Kharkiv-Poltava Eparchy of the UAOC had not received any official appeals or proposals concerning its participation in the unification process and he emphasized that "the Kharkiv-Poltava Eparchy of the UAOC firmly stands on the positions of the National Sobor [Assembly] of the UAOC in 2000." He said he believes that the creation of a single national Church is to be conducted in a canonical way under the spiritual guidance of the most holy ecumenical patriarch and his archbishops and not by the orders of state officials. Archbishop Ihor also stated that the Kharkiv-Poltava Eparchy of the UAOC "will decide its future in a canonical way at a sobor summoned by competent Church authorities."

In October the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. called upon Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople "to defend" Ukraine from "the machinations" of the Moscow Patriarchate. "We call upon the high pastor to take strict measures to guarantee sovereign Ukraine the opportunity to enjoy the blessings of a national Church, free from external Church control and interference, despite possible threats and machinations of the Moscow Patriarchate," read the text of the resolution by the Metropolitan Council of the UOC-U.S.A., which is under the jurisdiction of Constantinople. The text of another resolution adopted by the same council said that "the united Church in Ukraine," the creation of which our hierarchs should work on, is to be built "under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate."

Patriarch Filaret of the UOC-KP continued to press for Orthodox unity when on November 17 he called upon all clergy and laity of the UAOC to unite with the UOC-KP without the consent of the hierarchs of the UAOC. "Our Church is ready to accept parishes and clergy to the Kyiv Patriarchate in order to create a single national Orthodox Church in Ukraine," said Patriarch Filaret. He also blamed the bishops of the UAOC for breaking agreements about unification reached between the Churches in September-October. Patriarch Filaret emphasized that the bishops of the UAOC were trying to blame the UOC-KP for the halt in the unification process. He noted that most bishops of the UAOC began to impose demands which meant only one thing: a necessary prerequisite for unification should be the resignation of the head of the UOC-KP,

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

which, he said, absolutely coincides with the position of the Moscow Patriarchate.

Patriarch Filaret said he is convinced that "external powers" stand behind all this. "Our neighboring country [Russia] and the Russian [Orthodox] Church are against the unification of Ukrainian Orthodoxy and the creation of a single national Church. The Moscow Patriarchate gains advantages from discord, not only in the political sphere but also in Church life. These powers are doing their best not to allow this unification," noted the patriarch. The patriarch said that, nevertheless, Ukrainian Orthodoxy will unite into a single national Church sooner or later.

Responding the next day, Metropolitan Mefodii of the UAOC said, "Ukraine will have a single national Church, but without the interference of political forces." He added, "The unification did not become a reality for one reason: it was not built by Patriarch Filaret in the spirit of love." The head of the UAOC noted: "Initially, my suggestion was to preserve the structures of both Churches, to revive eucharistic communion, and, for two or three years, or for as long as needed, to look for ways to full union and understanding, so that the clergy of both Churches would get used to it and felt no pressure." According to Metropolitan Mefodii, "All we were asking for was that, during the joint sobor [assembly], there should be not just Filaret but also other candidates running for the position of patriarch. We even suggested drawing lots, but the head of the UOC-KP rejected even this."

The head of the UAOC said that it is impossible to continue negotiations with the UOC-KP under the conditions presented by Patriarch Filaret.

Metropolitan Mefodii added that he is convinced the creation of a single national Orthodox Church in Ukraine is impossible without the participation of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP), the biggest Orthodox Church in Ukraine.

The UOC-MP, meanwhile, said that it had the right to unite Ukrainian Orthodoxy around itself, and the Churches of Ukraine should solve their problems themselves, without the interference of others, including the Patriarchate of Constantinople. Responding to journalists' questions on March 28, Patriarch Aleksei II, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, said: "We are aware that now is far from the best period in the history of canonical Orthodoxy in Ukraine. ... We value the support that rational forces are giving to the canonical Orthodox Church. An appeal to the patriarch of Constantinople could bring a new schism into the Church life of Ukraine, not stabilize it, and, on the contrary, complicate the situation in which Ukrainian Orthodoxy now finds itself. The Churches which are today on the territory of Ukraine should themselves solve their own problems, without outside influences. Because any interference will only complicate the situation and lead to new additions that will disastrously affect the Ukrainian Orthodox people."

Less than two weeks earlier, during his official visit to Ukraine on March 19, Russian President Vladimir Putin met with Metropolitan Volodymyr (Sabodan), head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP). "We always support friendly relations with the canonical Orthodox Church in Ukraine," said Mr. Putin at the meeting, "and Orthodoxy is one of the important cornerstones of our spiritual relations." Metropolitan Volodymyr characterized interdenominational relations in Ukraine as difficult and expressed hope that the situation would improve with the new government.

At year's end, the first All-Ukrainian Church-Civic Forum "For a Ukrainian National Orthodox Church" took place in the National Opera Hall in Kyiv. Participating in the December 13 forum were representatives of the episcopate, clergy and laity of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, state officials and social activists, politicians, scholars and artists, and representatives of the Ukrainian Kozaks, youth and other social unions.

The participants of the forum sent letters to President Yushchenko and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and appealed to the Ukrainian nation to support the establishment of the Kyivan Patriarchate as the Ukrainian national Orthodox Church. In addition, they created a church-civic committee "For a Ukrainian National Orthodox Church," with Archbishop Dymytrii and National Deputy Lilia Hryhorovych as co-chairs.

As regards the Ukrainian Catholic Church, its primate, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, traveled to Washington, where on March 4 he held a number of meetings related to the freedom of religious practices for the Church, as

well as societal changes in Ukraine after the Orange Revolution. Accompanying the cardinal was Archbishop Stefan Soroka, metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States, and the Rev. Robert Hitchens, rector of St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Washington.

The Ukrainian National Information Service reported that in a meeting with Ambassador John Tefft, deputy assistant secretary of the European and Eurasian Affairs Bureau at the U.S. Department of State, Cardinal Husar expressed his concern regarding the restrictions that are imposed on the faithful of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) in the Russian Federation. The cardinal remarked that considering the long and complicated history of the Ukrainian nation's oppression by Russia, it is difficult to estimate the number of ethnic Ukrainians residing in the Russian Federation; however, multiple attempts by the UGCC to organize parishes and send pastors to Russia have been met with resistance from the Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Ambassador Tefft replied that he is aware of this problem and that Protestant denominations that have attempted to set up congregations in Russia also have met resistance. "I assure you that we are already working with this issue. I will personally send a message to our Embassy in Moscow to raise this issue in the meetings with Russian authorities," said the ambassador. He also mentioned that these problems were pointed out in the State Department's Annual Human Rights Report for Russia, which triggered a very negative reaction

from the Russian government.

Cardinal Husar visited with Mykhailo Reznik, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, and met with Mark Levin, executive director of NCSJ, an advocacy group for Jews in the former Soviet Union. The discussion centered on restitution of religious communal property in Ukraine and the formation of a council of religious denominations.

In April, Ukrainians of all faiths lit candles, worshipped and prayed as they mourned the passing on April 2 of Pope John Paul II. The pope's historic visit to Ukraine in 2001 – which he described as the fulfillment of "a wish that I have carried in my heart for a long time" – had a profound effect on all of Ukraine. Catholics and non-Catholics alike heard and took to heart the message delivered by the pope, who called himself a "pilgrim of peace." It was a message of unity, of ecumenism, of reconciliation and, perhaps most important of all, of recognition of the suffering and sacrifices of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, which had been banned and persecuted under the Soviet regime.

Ukraine's leaders, representing the nation's diverse spectrum of confessions and faiths, expressed their sympathies and condolences to the Vatican.

President Yushchenko sent a letter of condolence to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, dean of the College of Cardinals that selects the pope's successor. "In the memories of Ukrainian citizens – Orthodox and Catholic, believers of other confessions, all who hold Christian values – there will always dwell a bright



Ukrainian Catholics gather for the August 21 liturgy held next to the Patriarchal Cathedral of Christ's Resurrection (under construction) to mark the transfer of their Church's headquarters to Kyiv. Zenon Zawada

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

image of the Holy Father," Mr. Yushchenko wrote. "Ukrainians, who are proud of their close blood relation with this great person have always been deeply grateful for the sympathy and sincere love of His Holiness, for my people, his respect for our European history and culture. [He was] a symbol of good, peace, justice, and love of neighbor."

In a letter to clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Cardinal Husar wrote: "The holy memory of Pope John Paul II during his many years of service as successor to St. Peter is of a man of Providence. Today, as we emotionally live through the pain of loss, we lack the perspective of time to properly value his historic stature and his multi-faceted activity. ... that during the years of his pontificate he greatly helped our Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in her passage from a state of captivity to a normal way of life. "Perhaps many of us feel regret that Pope John Paul II didn't complete all too well the beginning process of the rebirth of our Church, but the late Father himself stated that this is an act that in God's time will have its due fulfillment. He had hoped that he would be the one who accomplishes this, but it wasn't his fate."

"Of course, the pope's memory won't only be in the hearts of believing Catholics," said Metropolitan Filaret, the patriarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate. "Orthodox Christians will also remember him."

Metropolitan Volodymyr, leader of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate, also sent a letter of condolence to the Vatican. He wrote: "The Pontificate of His Holiness John Paul II became one of the most important periods in the life of the Roman Catholic Church. The pope was a person who was not indifferent to the problems of the current world and openly called for peace, brotherhood, mutual respect and love." The UOC-MP is under the jurisdiction of the Moscow patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, whose leader would not issue an invitation to Pope John Paul II to visit Russia, something the pontiff had longed to do.

Unable to travel to Vatican City for Pope John Paul II's funeral, Lviv's Catholics held their own ceremony to commemorate their spiritual leader. The night before the April 8 funeral, more than 5,000 people honored the pope by retracing the path he took when visiting Ukraine's bastion of Catholicism more than three years ago.

Those Ukrainian Catholic Church leaders who did manage to travel to the pope's funeral were Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, Bishop Yulian Voronovskiy of the Sambir-Drohobych Eparchy, Bishop Milan Sashik of the Mukachiv Eparchy, Bishop Volodymyr Vityshyn of the Kolomyia-Chernivtsi Eparchy and Holy Spirit Seminary Vice-Rector Sviatoslav Shevchuk. Two Ukrainian Catholic bishops permanently stationed in Rome also attended: Bishop Ivan Choma, Cardinal Husar's official representative in Rome, and Auxiliary Bishop of Lviv Hlib Lonchyna.

Cardinal Marian Jaworski, head of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of Ukraine, also attended the funeral. Archbishop Stephen Soroka of the Philadelphia Archeparchy, metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States, also traveled to Rome.

President and Mrs. Yushchenko also attended the funeral of Pope John Paul II at the Vatican on April 8.

Also in April, Cardinal Husar said he had "no intention to force the situation and declare himself patriarch." The cardinal said this in an interview published in 30 Days, an influential Italian magazine. Cardinal Husar said he believed that Ukraine's new president, Mr. Yushchenko, "would only benefit" from the establishment of a Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Patriarchate. However, the cardinal said he had no intention to act unilaterally and complicate the situation. "The creation of a patriarchate is a solemn event in the life of the Church, and it should proceed within the framework of legality," he stressed.

Once the successor to Pope John Paul II had been elected, Cardinal Husar spoke about the possible role of Pope Benedict XVI in the matter of a patriarchate for the UGCC and Catholic-Orthodox dialogue. "We are not expecting any radical changes in the structure of our Church, or any unforeseen new approaches. The patriarchate status is not a matter of radical change. The patriarchate, the patriarchal structure, is a normal way of existence, a normal structure of any Eastern Church with its own law [sui juris]. And every Church, as it develops and grows, comes to a certain point where the completion of this structure is quite natural, and not in any way radical," he said.

Cardinal Husar also said he thinks Pope Benedict XVI is well acquainted with the matter of patriarchates generally, and especially the UGCC Patriarchate, since discussion of this issue in the Roman Curia was requested by the late Pope John Paul II. The cardinal also said that the issue of a UGCC Patriarchate was recognized as absolutely legitimate, not as an unheard of radical change, which is why we should expect a normal further development of the matter, especially considering that it has been developing for so many years.

"Pope John Paul II of blessed memory did more than just confirm that a Patriarchate for our Church is justified and canonically right. He said he wanted to proclaim it himself. He did not get to do this for lack of time and life. However, the matter is moving, and I can foresee no special hold-ups and difficulties in the process," said Cardinal Husar.

Cardinal Husar said that the new pope is also "quite well-informed" about "some aspects" of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. "I myself gave him trouble," he said, laughing. "It's only been 15 years that [the Ukrainian Catholic Church] is legal [in Ukraine], so there are different problems, new situations that face our Church today that we had to submit [to the Holy See] to receive opinions," Cardinal Husar said. However, he observed that whenever he met with Cardinal Ratzinger, in his role as the Roman Curia's prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, the future pope was "always very open to listen and to react."

But Pope Benedict should not be expected to be as familiar with the Ukrainian Catholic Church as was his predecessor, the cardinal explained. As a Pole, Karol Wojtyla (Pope John Paul II) was a "neighbor, [who] lived under a Soviet Communist regime and had a very good understanding of the situation in Eastern Europe. "The present pope, coming from a different milieu, cannot be expected to have such a close understanding."

In an exclusive, 45-minute telephone interview with The Weekly conducted by Christopher Guly on the eve of a historic May 22 to 29 meeting of the Ukrainian Catholic Church's Permanent Synod in Winnipeg, Cardinal Husar said that though he didn't know when the Holy See would formally give him the title "patriarch," he said the Church is "going in that direction." The "difficulty," he explained, comes from two groups opposed to a Ukrainian Catholic Patriarchate. "Within the Church, there are fears that such a Patriarchate could separate us from the [Catholic] Church. And then there are also ecumenical considerations. There is much opposition on the part of some Orthodox neighbors," he said.

But Cardinal Husar said the creation of a Patriarchate would not give the Ukrainian Catholic Church "something extraordinary" based on "merit" or in recognition of the years of suffering the Church endured after being forced underground by the Soviets. "It is a natural form of existence," explained the white-bearded, five-foot-10, Lviv-born major archbishop.

However, Cardinal Husar who is often referred to as "patriarch," also rejected the idea of a Patriarchate as an all-or-nothing proposition. "There are those who say, 'If we have it, we'll survive; if we don't have it, we will not survive.' It is not that way. The Church has survived and it simply wants a [Patriarchate] within the bounds of its tradition – [and] within the concept of [Catholic] communion."

The Winnipeg meeting of the Ukrainian Catholic Church's Permanent Synod, which opened on May 22 with a pontifical divine liturgy, was the first time his "advisory group" of bishops had assembled in Canada. It was also only the second time that the Church's senior executive – which includes Cardinal Husar, U.S. Metropolitan Stefan Soroka, the archbishop of Philadelphia, as well as Bishops Michael Hrynchishyn of France, Yulian Voronovskiy of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Drohobych-Sambir and Volodymyr Juszczak of the Polish Eparchy of Wroclaw-Gdansk in Poland – has met outside Ukraine.

Cardinal Husar also met with about 200 Ukrainian Catholic priests from across Canada (about two-thirds of the country's total), along with female and male members of religious communities and monasteries, deacons, seminarians and the wives of married clergy in a three-day workshop dubbed "Encounter 2005," which ran from May 24 to 26.

The year 2005 was notable also for the fact that the ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople was invited to visit Ukraine. Following a request by President Yushchenko, State Secretary Oleksander Zinchenko paid a visit to Istanbul, Turkey, on March 15 to meet with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Mr.

Zinchenko delivered a personal message from the president, in which Mr. Yushchenko thanked the patriarch for his constant attention and sympathy toward Ukraine and invited him to visit Kyiv.

Patriarch Bartholomew stressed his special respect and sympathy for Ukraine and its people. He informed Mr. Zinchenko of his readiness for regular personal contacts with the Ukrainian president. Both sides stressed the importance of the state providing conditions for the harmonious development of all denominations and Churches in Ukraine, as well as the state's special role in the process of establishing and strengthening interdenominational peace.

Then, on June 8, President Yushchenko and Patriarch Bartholomew discussed religious issues in Ukraine during a meeting in Istanbul. "Ukrainian society awaits the creation of a single national Orthodox Church, but the unification question is exclusively the Church's question," pointed out President Yushchenko. Patriarch Bartholomew highly evaluated democratic changes in Ukraine and stated that Mr. Yushchenko's victory "opened a window to Europe for Ukraine."

In response, Mr. Yushchenko thanked Patriarch Bartholomew for his balanced position on this matter and invited him to visit Ukraine.

Also taking note of the new leadership in Ukraine was Rabbi Moshe-Reuven Azman, chief Rabbi of Kyiv and Kyiv Region, who expressed confidence that, under a Yushchenko presidency, Ukrainian-Jewish relations will get even better, reported Oksana Zakydalsky from Toronto, where the rabbi spoke on April 5. "Today, when the efforts of millions of Ukrainian citizens are crowned with success, we believe that during the presidency of Viktor Yushchenko, we will be able to move forward on the way to the strengthening of mutual understanding and respect between Ukrainians and Jews," he said.

Speaking at Beth Emmett Dais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto at the invitation of the Jewish National Fund of Canada, the rabbi spoke very highly of Mr. Yushchenko, emphasizing that he has known the new president for many years and highlighting the fact that "in the midst of revolutionary events in the country, he joined us at our synagogue for Chanukah celebrations and, after his victory, he officially invited me to attend the ceremony of his inauguration."

He revealed that at the end of March President Yushchenko had signed a decree restoring the second building of the so-called Brodsky Synagogue to the Jewish community, something the community had been seeking for 10 years. Other projects of the community include: the restoration of old Jewish cemeteries and their designation as national architectural monuments under official governmental protection, the creation of a Jewish orphanage and the building of a museum at the site of Babyn Yar.

But for most of the period of the co-existence of Jewish and Ukrainian communities, political power rested elsewhere. "For the first time in its history, Ukraine has a president elected in the most democratic way – through an open declaration of the people's will. The people gathered together to support their candidate and to preserve their right to honest, transparent elections, the right to elect their government and to choose their destiny," he said.

"There were a lot of miracles on the maidan – people experienced moments of despair and joy of triumph. Yet, to my mind, the most incredible was the miracle of unification. Those people, who in frosty and slippery weather stood on the maidan, did not care who stood next to them whether rich or poor, young or old, Ukrainians or Jews. The main thing was that they were free people, who believed in their own power."

Also in the news headlines during 2005 was a religious and historic landmark in Kyiv. On February 3, ukrane.com had quoted Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko as saying that the City Administration of Kyiv plans to build a new Church of the Tithes on the site of the original structure. Anatolii Antoniuk, head of the Ukrainian Restoration Project Institute, told Mr. Omelchenko that the Institute's experts are studying the possibility of building a new Byzantine-style building in place of the old church. The Ukrainian Restoration Project Institute had considered the possibility of reconstructing the church as it was, but was forced to give up the idea for lack of credible information about the church's original appearance.

Whether or not the historic Church of the Tithes (Desiatynna Tserkva) in Kyiv will be reconstructed will be decided by a civic council created specifically for that purpose, said Ukraine's Vice Prime Minister for

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Humanitarian Affairs Mykola Tomenko at a press conference on March 4.

The Church of the Tithes was the first stone church in the medieval East Slavic state of Kyivan Rus'. The church was built by Rus' and Byzantine architects in the late 10th century, in the time of Grand Prince Volodymyr, who baptized Kyivan Rus'. The church is mentioned in the "Tale of Bygone Years," a medieval Rus' chronicle. Prince Volodymyr donated one-tenth, or a tithe, of his income for construction of the church, which gave the church its name.

The church was destroyed by the troops of Batu Khan in 1240. By decree of Russian Tsar Nicholas I, a new building was constructed in 1842, ruining the last remains of the old church. The new building was taken apart in 1935 because of the reconstruction of Kyiv. Today the foundation of the ancient church is preserved where the Church of the Tithes once stood.

Then, on April 18, it was announced that scholars and national deputies of Ukraine opposed another attempt by the government to reconstruct the Desiatynna Tserkva. They feared that archaeological excavations planned before construction would ruin a unique architectural park on Starokyivska Hill. Absence of reliable information on what the Tithe Church looked like was another argument. National Deputy Mykola Zhulynskyi, head of the Subcommittee on Culture and Spirituality, said the reconstruction of the 10th century Church of the Tithes is impossible and noted that international agreements ratified by Ukraine protect the preservation of architectural monuments.

In July it was reported that the mayor of Kyiv had ordered the commencement of archaeological excavations and research on the foundations of Kyiv's historic Church of the Tithes. "The city government is carrying out the president's wish: to determine whether it is realistic to rebuild the legendary church. Several churches had stood on the foundation, destroyed in different times. ... We have to understand what to reconstruct. As far as I'm concerned, the Church of the Tithes should not be reconstructed, since nobody knows its original appearance. But, I repeat, that is why archeological excavations are being conducted," said Oleksander Bystrushkin, head of the Main Administration for Cultural Affairs of the Kyiv City Administration.

In related news, the remains of Prince Volodymyr the Great, who reigned in 980-1015 in Kyivan Rus' and brought Christianity to his realm, were returned to the Monastery of the Caves (Pecherska Lavra) on July 24. Metropolitan Volodymyr of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate was to bring the relics back from Rostov-on-Don, Russia. Prince Volodymyr's remains were discovered by archeologists in 1635 in a marble sarcophagus of the Church of the Tithes in Kyiv. Part of the relics went to the Kremlin's Assumption Cathedral; and part was placed in the Monastery of the Caves. The Kyiv relics were on loan to Leningrad prior to World War II for an anthropological study. The remains returning to Kyiv were transferred in the 1980s from the Kremlin to the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Cathedral in Rostov-on-Don.

Another major news story in Ukraine during 2005 was the transfer of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church's headquarters from Lviv to Kyiv.

Even before the move took place, the Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) meeting in Moscow on July 16, heard a report by Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad criticizing the wish of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) to move its seat from western Ukrainian Lviv to Ukraine's capital, Kyiv. The ROC hierarchs supported the metropolitan's position. The synod also expressed hopes of resolving existing problems and developing good relations with the Roman Catholic Church.

An information sheet attached to the synod's final resolution noted that, since the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI has stated his intention to develop cooperation between the Roman Catholic and the Orthodox Churches. The sheet goes on to say: "However, despite encouraging statements by Pope Benedict XVI, relations between the Russian Orthodox and the Roman Catholic Churches remain tense. In a meeting between Metropolitan Kirill and Cardinal Walter Casper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, on June 22, the Catholic side again stated its intention to move the seat of the head of the UGCC from Lviv to Kyiv and to confirm his title of patriarch of Kyiv. The Orthodox side stated the inadmissibility of the idea of mentioning Kyiv in the title of the head of the UGCC and the transfer of his seat to the city from the canonical, ecclesiological and

pastoral viewpoint."

Some Orthodox circles threatened conflict when Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church arrived in Kyiv to celebrate a divine liturgy marking the transfer of his seat from Lviv to Kyiv. The liturgy was slated for August 21 near the Patriarchal Cathedral of Christ's Resurrection, which is still under construction. Bratstvo, a radical political party led by Dmytro Korchynskyi, threatened "excesses," or problems, when the cardinal arrived. "For the sake of keeping peace between the confessions, we demand the end of the Catholic expansion on Orthodox Ukrainian lands, and for Lubomyr Husar to withdraw his transfer to the center of Orthodoxy," said Vitalii Chorny, the editor of the Bratstvo website, who led an August 17 protest at the Apostolic Nunciature on Turgenev Street in Kyiv.

Patriarch Aleksei II of the Russian Orthodox Church issued a statement on August 16 asking that the Vatican reconsider the transfer, accusing the Church of proselytism on Orthodox territory. "These actions cannot be justified either from a historical point of view, or by Church rules or canons," Patriarch Aleksei II said.

Metropolitan Volodymyr of the UOC-MP wrote to Pope Benedict XVI, telling him that the move, approved by the late Pope John Paul II, "has stirred up the Orthodox Church and secular communities in Ukraine, added confusion to the already troubled Church life, and provoked interconfessional and political speculations."

In response to the criticisms, Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church spokesman Father Ihor Yatsiv said the transfer of the primate's residence to Kyiv is a necessity that will improve administration of churches throughout Ukraine. "Our Church is not a regional one. Therefore, the move of the head of the UGCC to Kyiv is not a demonstration of aggression but a vital necessity," Father Yatsiv said.

On August 21 more than 3,000 Ukrainian Greek-Catholics joined Cardinal Lubomyr Husar and the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church's leadership on August 21 to commemorate the historic transfer of the Church's headquarters from Lviv's St. George Square to the banks of the Dnipro River in Kyiv. Threats from Russian Orthodox radicals to stop the divine liturgy proved hollow, largely because of heavy security provided by more than 1,000 police officers and Berkut Special Forces who protected the Catholics and allowed them to take part in a worship led by Cardinal Husar, major archbishop of Kyiv-Halych.

He delivered a sermon on the subject of Christian love – a topic appropriate for an event that drew more

than 800 Russian Orthodox who yelled anti-Halychyna slurs and heckled the faithful as they entered the worship area, an outdoor altar next to the cathedral under construction.

Kerchiefed older women were the most aggressive of the protesters, approaching the security barrier clutching icons and shouting at the Ukrainian Catholics. "Your grandfathers and ancestors were Orthodox!" they shouted. "We are all Orthodox, and so is Russia and Belarus!" Those phrases paled in comparison to the avalanche of slurs and chants from other protesters' such as "Banderites out of Ukraine," "Banderstad," "Fascists," "Inquisitors" and "Uniates get out."

Among the protesters were members of the Progressive Socialist Party, the Derzhava party and Bratstvo. Some waved blue and white flags symbolizing the Party of the Regions; one man held aloft a Russian flag. A handful of Russian Orthodox priests also participated in the protest, even holding a liturgy on their side of the barricade.

The Patriarchal Cathedral of Christ's Resurrection is located on the eastern side of the Dnipro, on the river's bank just opposite the Kyivan Caves Monastery (Pecherska Lavra). When completed, the cathedral is expected to be Kyiv's largest church.

Attending the ceremony were Ukrainian Catholic University Rector Borys Gudziak, Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskyj, National Deputy Andrii Shkil and Ukrainian pop star Taras Petrynenko, who performed his famous rendition of "Ukrayino" at a concert following the liturgy.

While the Moscow Patriarchate acted combatively, representatives of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church were present at the liturgy and even sat alongside Archbishop Husar during a concert afterwards.

"This is not the Orthodox faith," Father Yevstratii Zoria, press secretary of the UOC-KP, said of the protesters. "The Orthodox faith is one of love, a faith of peace and a faith that preaches that we must act with peace and love with anyone regardless of their faith, confession or national identity. This is a mockery of Orthodoxy." The Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate maintains a neutral stance toward the Greek-Catholic see's transfer to Kyiv, Father Yevstratii said.

Both the UOC-KP and President Yushchenko described the Church's decision as "an internal matter." However, Father Yevstratii did add a caveat. "We hope the Greek-Catholic Church will respect the fact that most Ukrainians are Orthodox, and Kyiv is the center of



Patriarch Filaret and Cardinal Lubomyr Husar lead a service on November 26 in Kyiv in memory of the victims of the Holodomor – the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine. Zenon Zawada

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

a thousand-year Orthodox tradition," Father Yevstratii said. "We hope they won't proselytize, therefore, they won't interfere with Orthodox believers going to their Church, as a systematic program. Proselytizing was forbidden for Churches 10 years ago," he noted.

A wooden chapel at the site of the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ under construction, was later reduced to ashes in an arson fire, police said. The fire was set inside the 538-square-foot chapel on November 19 between 5 and 6 a.m. A security guard immediately called police and firemen, but the chapel's wood burned quickly, and none of its contents could be saved. Only its concrete and steel foundation remained. "The guard had apparently fallen asleep," said Volodymyr Polischuk, the head of the Kyiv Department of Information of Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs. Prior to the fire, the chapel served as a place of worship where priests conducted divine liturgies. Now, priests conduct divine liturgies at the site from a temporary wagon placed on the foundation of the destroyed chapel.

During 2005 there was much activity surrounding the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

Cardinal Francis George, Roman Catholic archbishop of the archdiocese of Chicago, visited the Lviv region and Kyiv from May 10 to 18. A highlight of his trip was a visit to the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU). Among those in the cardinal's delegation were Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Richard Seminack of Chicago, Msgr. Martin Canavan of St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Cherry Hill, N.J., and John F. Kurey, Esq., president of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation.

Cardinal George's first stop was St. George Cathedral in Lviv, where he was greeted by Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. On May 11, the two cardinals concelebrated a memorial divine liturgy at the cathedral on the 40th day after the death of Pope John Paul II. Later that afternoon Cardinal George gave a press conference at the Ukrainian Catholic University. "This is my first visit to Ukraine," the cardinal told reporters. "One of the reasons I came to Ukraine was my desire to visit the Ukrainian Catholic University, for in Chicago a special foundation has been created that tries as much as possible to help this growing institution."

Later in the year, in the latter part of November, Cardinal George was seen on EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network), which bills itself as global Catholic television, when it presented a special program about Lviv's Ukrainian Catholic University. Titled "Ukrainian Catholic University: A Light in the East," the program was part of the "Catholic Compass" series on EWTN. It carried commentary by Cardinal George; the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, rector of UCU; and Prof. Jeffrey Wills; as well as comments by faculty and students of the Ukrainian Catholic University.

The Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv was inaugurated with an international ecumenical conference on June 13-14. Titled "Friendship as an Ecumenical Value," the conference drew approximately 300 participants: Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant, including more than 40 guests from the United States, Canada, France, Belgium, Poland, Switzerland, Italy and Ukraine. The UCU now has nine research institutes.

Among the presenters at the conference were Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., Dr. Konrad Raiser, former secretary general of the World Council of Churches; Konstantin Sigov, professor at the National University of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NUKMA); Archbishop Ihor Isichenko of the Kharkiv-Poltava Eparchy of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church; and Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

"Ukraine can become 'a laboratory of unity,'" said Cardinal Husar during his greeting to the conference on June 13. "But in order for this to happen, it needs to get rid of political, economic and other factors that put obstacles on the road to mutual understanding... People happily welcome meetings and joint prayers by hierarchs of different denominations. So what are we lacking in order to achieve unity? I believe we are lacking a concrete idea of what we are looking for. People have a desire, but don't have a specific description," the cardinal emphasized. "Hundreds of people talk about ecumenism," Cardinal Husar continued. "But it's hard to find even a few people who can clearly explain what they understand by the word 'ecumenism.'"

On August 28 on a 42-acre site in suburban Lviv, the

123,785-square-foot Holy Spirit Seminary and Church of the Holy Spirit were blessed. More than 1,000 Christians and 14 Ukrainian Catholic bishops worshipped at a divine liturgy, led by Archbishop Major of Kyiv-Halych Lubomyr Husar. The Holy Spirit Seminary and Church of the Holy Spirit form the architectural and social focal point of the Ukrainian Catholic University's (UCU) ever-expanding Center of Theological Education and Formation campus on Khutorivka Street.

The center is a milestone in Ukraine's higher educational system, making the UCU the largest theological institution of higher education in the country. The center was western Ukraine's largest construction project during the last four years, university officials said. The campus' other main structure, the nearby 59,200-square-foot Faculty of Theology and Philosophy building and library, will open its doors in January 2006, said Dr. Jeffrey Wills, UCU vice-rector.

The center's primary source of financing was Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), a Frankfurt, Germany-based international Catholic charity founded by the Dutch priest Father Werenfried van Straaten in 1947. ACN contributed about \$4.9 million to the center's construction. UCU Rector Father Borys Gudziak, estimated that the Ukrainian diaspora of North America contributed \$150,000 to the center's construction.

The Rev. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), completed two tours of North American Ukrainian communities during 2005 in an effort to raise awareness of and support for the university. Between March 29 and April 11 he visited Toronto, Los Angeles, Florida, Washington, Baltimore and Detroit. In November he visited New York, Chicago and Detroit.

For the first time in almost 90 years, Ukrainian children may have the option of studying Christian ethics in public schools, Yana Sedova of our Kyiv Press Bureau reported in July. Including Christian ethics in the school curriculum is an initiative proposed by Ukrainian President Yushchenko and supported by the leaders of Ukraine's four largest Christian confessions: the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyiv Patriarchate, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Moscow Patriarchate, the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

Deciding that the need for moral education surmounted any divisions among the confessions, the leaders are putting together a curriculum that will teach universal Christian principles. They've established a joint Church-education commission and are preparing the first textbook. The Christian ethics course won't teach the beliefs of any one particular confession. Interpreting beliefs or teaching rituals, such as prayer, would be forbidden.

On June 2 it was announced that a new bishop had been appointed for the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church. The Rev. Mitred Mykola Simkailo, administration of the Cathedral of the Holy Resurrection in Ivano-Frankivsk and dean of the Ivan-Frankivsk Eparchy, was tapped as bishop of Kolomyia-Chernivtsi. His episcopal ordination took place on July 12, and his installation occurred the next day.

At the same time, it was announced that Bishop Volodymyr Vityshyn, administrator of the Kolomyia-Chernivtsi Eparchy, was named as the bishop of Ivano-Frankivsk. Bishop Vityshyn was installed on July 12. He took the place of Bishop Sofron Mudryi, who had tendered his resignation as eparch of Ivano-Frankivsk.

On December 21 Pope Benedict VI blessed the decision of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) concerning the appointment of Father Dionisii Liakhovych, a priest of the Order of St. Basil the Great, as a curial bishop of the major archbishop of Kyiv and Halych (Patriarch Lubomyr Husar) and the appointment of Father Dr. Bohdan Dziurakh, a priest of the Redemptorist Order, as auxiliary bishop of the UGCC's Kyiv-Vyshhorod Archeparchy.

The UOC-KP also announced new appointments at the end of 2005. A session of the Church's Holy Synod headed by Patriarch Filaret, took place on December 14. Because of the death of Metropolitan Danyil (Chokaliuk) of Rivne and Ostroh, the synod decided to appoint Metropolitan Yevsevii (Politylo) of Poltava and Kremenchuk as metropolitan of that area, preserving his position as regular member of the synod. Archimandrite Mykhail (Bondarchuk), treasurer of St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery, was appointed bishop of Poltava and Kremenchuk.

Meanwhile, in the diaspora, a new bishop for Western Europe was consecrated by the Ukrainian

Orthodox Church on December 13 at St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Chicago. The new hierarch is Bishop Andriy (Peshko), who was elected during the ninth Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Diaspora held on October 20-23 in London, after the Standing Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine nominated him for the position. Bishop Andriy's seat is in the British capital.

In the United States, at least three parishes marked milestones during 2005.

St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, located in New York City's East Village on the corner of Seventh Street and Taras Shevchenko Place, marked its centennial. Among the events celebrating the historic anniversary was the 29th annual Ukrainian Festival held on May 13-15, which this year was dedicated to the parish's centennial. On October 16 the parish celebrated a special divine liturgy, with Bishop Basil Losten of the Stamford Eparchy and Bishop Walter Paska assisted by local clergy, including the pastor, the Very Rev. Barnard Panczuk, OSBM. The liturgy was followed by a biblical dramatization presented by theater students and seminarians, and a festive luncheon with an entertainment program.

Chicago's St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral Parish on December 4 began the celebration of its centennial with a hierarchical divine liturgy and banquet at which the parish's Centennial Calendar and Centennial Renewal Project were introduced. St. Nicholas Parish was founded at a meeting held on December 31, 1905, at which several families recently arrived from western Ukraine agreed to form a parish and purchase a church. The parish's centennial celebration is slated to conclude in November 2006.

Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Clifton, N.J., celebrated its 80th anniversary with special services and a banquet on November 6. On that occasion the parish was visited by the leader of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church - Kyiv Patriarchate, His Holiness Filaret, who in 2005 marked the 10th anniversary as patriarch. During his weeklong visit the patriarch also visited various Ukrainian community institutions, including the Ukrainian National Association, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, The Ukrainian Museum and St. George Ukrainian Catholic Parish in New York, as well as Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the United Nations and Ukraine's Consulate General in New York, where a reception was held in Patriarch Filaret's honor.

Also during 2005, a Ukrainian Catholic mission parish was established in Brighton Beach, N.Y., to serve the area's growing community of new immigrants from Ukraine. A small Roman Catholic church, St. Margaret Mary's, opened its doors to the Ukrainians on May 8, the date of the first weekly Ukrainian Catholic liturgy celebrated there. In a June 5 story in *The Ukrainian Weekly*, the Very Rev. Panczuk said of the 37,000 Ukrainians who now live in the area, up to 15,000 remain "churchless." The proposal for the newly organized parish was introduced by Father Panczuk, superior and pastor of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City, with the help of Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of the Brooklyn diocese and Bishop Basil Losten of the Stamford Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. St. Margaret Mary's Church is situated at 215 Exeter St. in Manhattan Beach.

The All Saints Camp Committee of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and many friends and supporters of the camp on Saturday, March 19, participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the chapel at All Saints Camp. Metropolitan Constantine of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. celebrated the ceremony along with Fathers Charles Baxter, John Nakonachny, George Hnatko, Stephen Repa, Stephan Zencuch and Mark Philips, Deacons Anthony Perkins and Dennis Lapushinsky, and over 70 friends and supporters of the camp. The All Saints Camp was purchased 27 years ago for the purpose of providing a place where Orthodox Christians could come to enjoy fellowship with one another amidst the beauty of God's creation. From the very beginning, the All Saints Camp Committee's goal was to build a chapel on the grounds of the camp.

As 2005 drew to a close, there was news from Ukraine that on December 28 President Yushchenko marked the religious holiday of Chanukkah with the Jewish community of Kyiv. The president greeted Jews on their holiday, stressing that he would spare no effort to ensure that representatives of all nationalities and religions could preserve and develop their traditions, culture and language. He wished all who celebrate Chanukkah, good health, peace, happiness and inspiration.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Academia: educating the public worldwide

In the world of scholarship, Ukrainian intellectuals and their organizations held conferences, panel discussions and worked throughout the year on a wide range of topics. The unifying theme in these events was a desire to share what scholars had culled from their extensive work and to further educate the public about Ukrainian academia.

It is no surprise that in the aftermath of the Orange Revolution numerous organizations hosted events that critically examined those momentous days. The work examined not only the Orange Revolution itself, but also Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and his administration 100 days into his first term. In some instances, the work of academic institutions played a significant role in the 2004 presidential election in Ukraine.

In the beginning of 2005 the staff of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) became increasingly focused on the presidential election. During this period, CIUS managed the Ukraine Transparency and Election Monitoring Project (UTEMP).

The Canadian government's decision not to recognize the officially announced results of the November 21 vote was in part due to the reports of Canadian parliamentarians, who participated in UTEMP-sponsored observer missions.

The CIUS staff in Edmonton and Toronto were often called upon by local and national media to comment on the elections and their aftermath. In Edmonton, Drs. Zenon Kohut, Serhii Plokhii, Bohdan Klid and David Marples gave interviews that were broadcast on CBC TV and Radio, and used by print journalists for articles that appeared in the Edmonton Journal and other newspapers.

In Toronto, Frank Sysyn, Marko Stech and Roman Senkus of the CIUS office there gave numerous interviews for CBC TV, radio and Voice of America.

CIUS was also involved in a joint venture through the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine with the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa and the Kennan Institute in Washington, to produce a regular bulletin on events in Ukraine related to the elections.

Following the election, a panel of Ukrainian specialists convened in late April to analyze President Yushchenko's first 100 days in office. The panel called the president's first three months mostly successful, but they cautioned people against being overly optimistic about the future of the reform-minded president's tenure.

"The First 100 Days of Yushchenko's Presidency: An Analysis" was hosted by Columbia University's Ukrainian Studies Program, which is affiliated with the school's Harriman Institute. The panel discussion was moderated by Prof. Mark von Hagen of Columbia University and included Stephen Nix, the director of the Eurasia division at the International Republican Institute; Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky, an assistant U.S. attorney in the district of New Jersey; and Eugene Fishel, a senior analyst at the U.S. State Department.

On February 16 the Harriman Institute and the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University honored Gen. Petro Grigorenko's memory by hosting the fourth annual Grigorenko Reading. The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. von Hagen, director of the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University. Panelists included Nadia Svitlychna, president, Human Rights in the 20th Century; Andrew Grigorenko, president, Gen. Grigorenko Foundation; Adrian Hewryk, president, East-West Management Institute; and Dr. Pavel Litvinov, physicist and human rights activist. This year's reading was titled "From the Ukrainian Human Rights Movement of the 1970s to the Orange Revolution."

Best known among Ukrainians as an ambassador for a democratic Ukraine in Moscow, and later in the West, Gen. Grigorenko was a founding member of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group and its representative to the Moscow Helsinki Group. "Petro Grigorenko didn't live to see the Orange Revolution or the collapse of the Soviet Union," Ms. Svitlychna said, "for February 21 marks the 18th anniversary of his death. Yet his ideals and values of human rights shaped the Orange youth in Ukraine."

Dr. Taras Kuzio, visiting professor at George Washington University's Elliot School of International



Dr. Zenon Kohut of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, in front of Athabasca Hall at the University of Edmonton.

Affairs, discussed "Ukraine's Orange Revolution: Causes and Consequences, Implications for the Future" on April 28 at the University of Kansas. As a multi-disciplinary scholar of Ukraine, Dr. Kuzio followed closely the events surrounding Ukraine's presidential election. Prior to his lecture, he showed video clips of Mr. Yushchenko. In addition, he interspersed his lecture with serious and humorous anecdotes from the presidential campaigns.

Meanwhile, a call for sweeping reform in Ukrainian higher education marked the sixth congress of the International Association of Ukrainian Studies (IAUS) in Donetsk. Dr. von Hagen stirred the typically placid congress in his opening remarks on June 29 by stating the nation's educational and cultural governing bodies need an Orange Revolution of their own.

"Despite years of post-independence reform programs and proposals, the organizations that are most critical to IAUS have failed to construct a meaningful agenda for Ukrainian nation-building and the development of civic consciousness through the support of basic scholarship and culture," Dr. von Hagen said in his speech addressed to more than 600 scholars gathered at Donetsk National University during the last week of June.

Such organizations, which Dr. von Hagen identified as impediments to IAUS's progress, are the National Academy of Sciences, the National Association of Ukrainianists, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Culture and the deputy minister for humanitarian affairs. Dr. von Hagen's speech not only called into question the health and relevancy of IAUS, but also exposed a rift that exists in the Ukrainian academic community between the conservative National



Dr. Mark von Hagen sits at an outdoor restaurant in Donetsk, as he speaks about the sixth congress of the International Association of Ukrainian Studies.

Academy of Sciences stalwarts on one side and reform-minded scholars on the other, namely Westerners and younger Ukrainians.

Dr. von Hagen thanked the Ministry of Education for providing the necessary funding for the congress, but then criticized its recent attempt to recentralize control of Ukraine's higher education system, thereby "rolling back important gains in university autonomy and academic freedom won since the end of Communist rule." Dr. von Hagen also singled out then Deputy Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Mykola Tomenko and Culture Minister Oksana Bilozir for allowing Kyiv's Monastery of the Caves (Pecherska Lavra) to deteriorate, the archival system to collapse and the nation's film industry to decline.

Mr. Tomenko delivered a speech at the conference's opening session, but left just before Dr. von Hagen spoke. He told Radio Svoboda afterwards that Dr. von Hagen does not have an adequate view of Ukrainian culture and even criticized IAUS.

At the final session of the congress on July 2, Dr. von Hagen announced that astronomer Dr. Yaroslav Yatskiv of Ukraine was elected as his successor to the IAUS presidency. IAUS national association representatives also selected Dr. Giovanna Brogi Bercoff, a professor of Slavistics at the University of Milan in Italy, as the new IAUS vice-president.

On July 18 the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute featured a roundtable discussion titled "This Year in Ukraine: Personal Observations and Perspectives." The event significantly deviated from other debates on the topic since the presenters were not professional economists, political analysts, or state officials, but current Harvard Ukrainian Summer School students, many of whom had never made public speeches in English before. The eight presenters included students and young scholars from Ukraine, Poland, Russia, Canada and the United States.

Alexander Dillon, director of the Harvard Ukrainian Summer School, called the roundtable discussion "one of the most important events held at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute this year."

Meanwhile, at the invitation of Dr. Larissa Zaleska Onyshkevych, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh), representatives of leading Ukrainian scholarly institutions in North America convened at the society's headquarters in New York City on October 1. The objective of the conference was to share information on the current status and future plans of each of these organizations with respect to Ukrainian studies and publications, and to examine the possibilities of coordination and joint projects in these endeavors.

The meeting expressed the need to put in order Ukrainian libraries and archives, including their computerization. The electronic Encyclopedia of Ukraine and other information published by CIUS were cited as examples to be emulated.

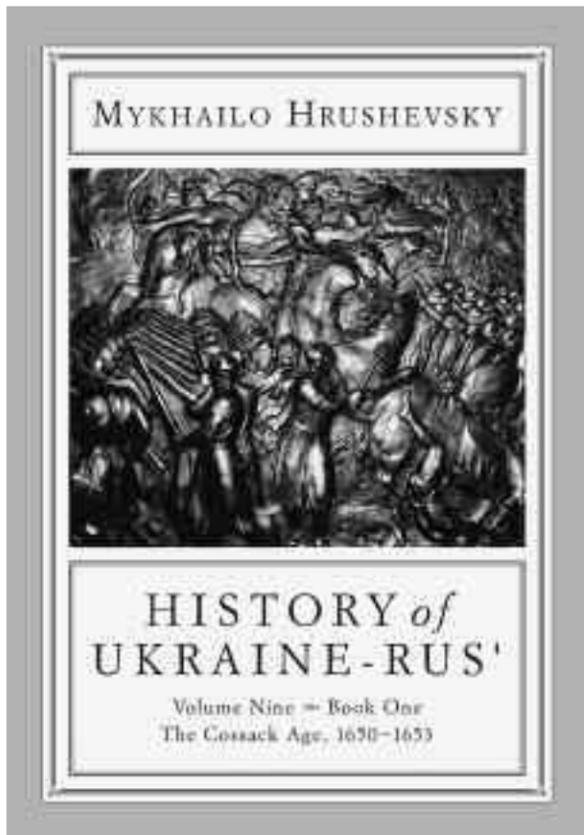
The Shevchenko Scientific Society, the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. (UVAN), the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) and the Harriman Institute of Columbia University (HICU) on March 5 co-hosted the 25th annual scholarly conference honoring Taras Shevchenko.

Welcoming remarks were delivered by Dr. Onyshkevych, president of NTSh, which hosted the conference at its building. In her lecture, "Shevchenko in the Evaluation of the Great Polish Emigration," Dr. Anna Procyk (UVAN) offered interesting and little-known aspects of the poet's relations with Polish intellectuals.

On October 18 a roundtable discussion was held at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU) in Kyiv titled "Problems of the Protection of Museums and the Archival Heritage in Contemporary Ukraine in the Context of the Losses from the Lviv Archives." The purpose of the roundtable was to start a dialogue and unite the efforts of various government organs, organizations, establishments and concerned individuals for the protection of Ukraine's documentary and museum treasures. The chairman of the State Committee on Archives, Hennadii Boriak, did not respond to an invitation to take part.

The roundtable stemmed from earlier news reports that important historical documents had been stolen from the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine in Lviv. It was reported that on July 16, 2004, then Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich made a pre-election gift "to the Ukrainian nation" donating to the Ukrainian Historical Museum in Kyiv 42 of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's letters, written in 1904-1911. As it turned

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



The cover of Volume 9, Book 1, of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's "History of Ukraine-Rus" depicts the Battle of Berestechko, part of the bas-relief on the sarcophagus of Polish King John Casimir.

out, those letters were stolen from the Lviv archives. Vice Prime Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk explained that Mr. Yanukovich had bought the letters from private collectors during his visits to the United States and France.

In addition, on October 17, the director of the Lviv Archives, Diana Pelz, fired one of the first persons to demand an investigation into the thefts, Halyna Svarnyk. Then, on December 1, the newspaper Postup reported that another whistle-blower at the archives, Ivan Svarnyk, had been fired by Ms. Pelz. (The Svarnyks are siblings.)

The Yanukovich "gift" brought to light the fact that massive thefts were taking place in the Lviv Archives. An appeal was made for a debate in the Verkhovna Rada on the archival losses and a demand to the procurator general to take charge and bring the investigation of the thefts to Kyiv. As 2005 came to a close, the investigation came to a dead end, while the director of the Lviv Archives continued to deny that anything important had happened.

A Committee for the Defense of the Archives of Ukraine was formed. The committee pressed for accountability and action and published an open letter to the international community.

While Lviv struggled to maintain its archives, news came out from eastern Ukraine that the Panas Myrnyi Children's Library in Poltava fell victim to an apparent act of arson in the early morning hours of October 11. Vandals threw explosive materials into the building, and as a result, nearly 10,000 books were burned. The library director, Leonid Chobitko, issued an appeal on behalf of Poltava residents to fellow Ukrainians around the world to help save the children's library.

The Harriman Institute of Columbia University hosted the 10th Annual World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) on April 14-16. More than 300 people attended the conference, whose theme was "Understanding Nationalism: Identity, Empire, Conflict."

Meanwhile, the Shevchenko Scientific Society dedicated a program held at the society's headquarters to reminiscences about the lives of Dr. Ivan Rakovsky (1874-1949) and Dr. Oleh Romaniv (1928-2005) on December 10. Both men were NTSh presidents.

The commemoration of Dr. Rakovsky was prompted by the publication of a book about his life by Ivan Holovatsky, while Dr. Romaniv was remembered and mourned because of his death in Lviv on November 3.

NTSh also organized and conducted two roundtables at the 2005 convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), which took place November 3-6 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The first roundtable, titled "Inter-Slavic Post-Soviet Cultural Influences: The Case of Ukraine," was chaired by Prof. Taras Hunczak (Rutgers University and NTSh). The second roundtable, titled "Facing Globalization?

Cultural/Linguistic Influences of Neighboring Countries on the Ukrainian Language in the Post-Soviet Period," was chaired by Dr. Onyshkevych.

Earlier in the year, NTSh held a unique scholarly archeological conference at their headquarters in New York titled "Ancient Ukraine: New Perspectives in Archeology" on April 9. The conference consisted of six presentations by Ukrainian archeologists from Ukraine and from the United States supplemented by commentaries. The conference was opened by Dr. Onyshkevych; she thanked Titus Hewryk, director of the society's Arts Section, for his input in organizing the program, and especially Dr. Renata Holod for bringing to New York the archeologists.

A scholarly conference commemorating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Ukrainian Historical Association (UHA) was held on April 3 at the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in New York. The conference focused on the extensive legacy created by UHA during its 40-year existence and also on the substantial contribution to historical knowledge made by three of its members; Prof. Olexander Ohloblyn, past president of both UHA and the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.; Dr. Marko Antonovych, past president of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S., vice-president of the UHA and co-editor of its journal, *Ukrainian Historian*; and Dr. Roman Klimkevich, initiating member of UHA and founder and secretary of the Ukrainian Genealogical and Heraldic Society.

The World Scholarly Council of the Ukrainian World Congress then sent a greeting to the UHA on behalf of its 40th anniversary. "Within a few years from its initial establishment, the UHA succeeded in uniting many prominent Ukrainian historians, as well as scholars from other auxiliary disciplines in the diaspora," the statement read. "The World Scholarly Council congratulates the UHA on its 40th anniversary and wishes it continued success in its future programs. We call upon the Ukrainian community to support the UHA as it continues its important work both within Ukraine and in the diaspora," the statement, signed by the presidium of the World Scholarly Council, read.

Then, on September 27, the National University of Ostroh Academy sponsored the first in a series of scholarly conferences held in Ukraine marking the UHA's 40th anniversary. The conference focused on examining the historiographic legacy established by the UHA during its 40 years of activity. It was opened by Prof. Ihor Pasichnyk, rector of Ostroh Academy, who welcomed Prof. Wynar, president of the UHA, to the academy.

Meanwhile, in December 2005 members of the Ukrainian American Association of University Professors (UAAUP), voting by mail, elected a new board of directors, headed by Lubomyr Wynar of Kent State University, president. Also elected were: Assya Humesky (University of Michigan), first vice president; Vsevolod Isajiw (University of Toronto), second vice president; Z. Lew Melnyk (University of Cincinnati), third vice president; Myron Melnyk (Kent State University), secretary-treasurer and director of research endowment; plus additional board members at large and auditing board members. The UAAUP brings together Ukrainian university professors of the United States and Canada and cooperates with various universities in Ukraine.

Back in Ukraine, the Institute of Ecumenical Studies at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv was inaugurated with an international ecumenical conference on June 13-14. Titled "Friendship as an Ecumenical Value," the conference drew approximately 300 participants: Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant, including more than 40 guests from the United States, Canada, France, Belgium, Poland, Switzerland, Italy and Ukraine. The UCU now has nine research institutes.

Among the presenters at the conference were Dr. Antoine Arjakovsky, director of the new institute, and Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. "Ukraine can become 'a laboratory of unity,'" Cardinal Husar said during his greeting to the conference on June 13. "But in order for this to happen, it needs to get rid of political, economic and other factors that put obstacles on the road to mutual understanding."

Meanwhile, the president of the University of Alberta, Dr. Rod Fraser, and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies hosted an intimate dinner in Edmonton on April 11 in which the memory and philanthropy of Peter Jacyk in support of Ukrainian studies were honored. The evening also marked the 16th

anniversary of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research, which was established at CIUS at the University of Alberta in 1989.

To mark the special relationship between the university and Mr. Jacyk, Dr. Fraser presented his daughter Nadia Jacyk with a portrait of her father.

Dr. Kohut, director of CIUS, spoke highly of how important Mr. Jacyk's contributions were in sustaining Ukrainian scholarship at the university level. Dr. Sysyn, director of the Jacyk Center, outlined the work of the center and, in particular, gave an update on the progress of the monumental translation project of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's 10-volume "History of Ukraine-Rus'."

The Jacyk Center announced on November 20 that the new volume of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's "History of Ukraine-Rus'" was published by CIUS Press. The new publication is Volume 9, Book 1, of the 10-volume series. Titled "The Cossack Age, 1650-1653," it is the fourth volume produced by the Hrushevsky Translation Project of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research at CIUS.

Volume 9, Book 1, is simultaneously the third volume in the history's subseries devoted to the Cossack era, titled the "History of the Ukrainian Cossacks." It is also the first portion of the longest and most extensively documented volume of Hrushevsky's history.

A series of book launches was organized to present the new volume to the scholarly community and the wider public. On June 29 Dr. Sysyn presented a copy to then Ukrainian Vice-Premier Tomenko at the International Congress of Ukrainian Studies in Donetsk.

The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, supported by the University of Alberta, invited Prof. Viktor Krevs, director of the Preparatory School for International Students at Lviv University, to visit the University of Alberta in January and February. The move was part of a larger agreement that dates back to 1988, when CIUS initiated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University of Alberta and the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv. The agreement encouraged both sides to facilitate research visits by faculty and graduate students at the partner institution.

During his stay at the university, Dr. Krevs gave a lecture on "The Ivan Franko National University of Lviv and its Role in the Orange Revolution" and held an informational meeting on "Opportunities for Study and Research in Lviv."

In September, Mr. Tonge visited Lviv University to meet with its officials and to determine the feasibility of initiating the exchange in the 2006-2007 academic year. During his visit he met with students and announced that the University of Alberta International would fund two scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each to help Lviv University students defray travel costs to Edmonton.

As a result of Prof. Krevs's visit, his collaboration with Mr. Tonge, and the latter's visit to Lviv University, a draft student exchange and study abroad agreement was prepared, and other areas of future collaboration were identified.

On January 17 the Ukrainian Free University (UFU) held its 84th annual Founders Day festivities, commemorating the 84th anniversary of its establishment in 1921. Dr. Reinhard Heydenreuter, chief archivist at the Bavarian Main Archives, opened the ceremony in his capacity as UFU honorary professor and director of the UFU Research Institute for German-Ukrainian Relations.

The highlight of the 2005 Founders Day was the presentation of the prestigious gold medal "Pro Universitate Libera Ucrainensis." This year's recipient was a former UFU rector and professor, Dr. Leonid Rudnytsky.

2005 was also an occasion to mark the 60th anniversary of the Yalta Conference, the 1945 summit widely seen as partitioning Eastern Europe in terms favorable to the Soviet Union. Four prominent historians came together at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City to mark the occasion on March 1.

The historians addressed the evening's theme - a meeting between then U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Marshal Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union that was held in the Ukrainian resort city in the Crimea. The four scholars generally agreed that the Yalta Conference no longer has a practical application and is now only a remnant of history.

The four historians were John Micgiel, adjunct associate professor of international affairs and the director of the East Central European Center at Columbia

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Andrew Nynka

At the Ukrainian Institute of America on March 1 discussing the 60th anniversary of the Yalta Conference are (from left): Adrian Karatnycky, John Micgiel, David Woolner, Vojtech Mastny and Charles Gati.

University in New York; Charles Gati, senior adjunct professor of European studies at the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University; Dr. David Woolner, a professor of history at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; and Dr. Vojtech Mastny, a senior research fellow at the National Security Archives at George Washington University in Washington.

Later in the year, an international conference on "The Legacy of Pope John Paul II and Ukraine" was hosted at La Salle University in Philadelphia on June 5. Held to mark the 30th anniversary of the St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics (USA), and to commemorate the late pontiff, the one-day conference was organized by a committee headed by Dr. Leonid Rudnytsky, president of St. Sophia.

Moving from the conference in Philadelphia to Ukraine, more than 80 scholars and community leaders gathered at Hohol Pedagogical University in Nizhen for three days beginning on June 23 to share their scholarly pursuits and experiences in the global Ukrainian diaspora. Scholars from eight different nations discussed their studies on diverse topics ranging from Ukrainian communities in Paraguay to the status of Ukrainian language studies in Moscow.

Moving from Ukraine to Germany, the seventh congress of the International Council for Central and East European Studies (ICCEES) was held on July 25-30, in Berlin, the very city where Eastern Europe was actually delineated on one side of the infamous Wall during decades of Communist hegemony. The congress venues were at Humboldt University, several city blocks from the Berlin's Brandenburg Gate.

The Berlin congress was attended by over 1,600 scholars and researchers. The largest group was from Germany, with about 466 scholars registered, followed by 239 from the United States, 169 from Russia, 119 from the United Kingdom, 115 from Finland, and a smaller number from other countries all over the world, including 51 from Poland, 38 from Sweden, 36 from Ukraine, and 30 from Japan. A total of 48 countries participated. From North America, there were about 20 scholars specializing in Ukraine.

On November 9 Prof. Lynne Viola, professor of history at the University of Toronto, delivered the 2005 Ukrainian Famine Lecture. The lecture was sponsored by the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Toronto Branch and the Toronto Ukrainian Charitable Fund.

Prof. Viola's presentation was titled "Before the Famine: Peasant Deportations to the North," but she called it the "story of the other archipelago." While the labor camps of the gulag archipelago – the Soviet penal network – have been studied extensively by scholars, less is known about the settlement archipelago, the system set up during the dekulakization period of collectivization. Prof. Viola argued that the mass deportations were the first phase in the repression of the village. They were a precursor of the Great Famine and part of the attempt by the Soviet authorities to decapitate the village of its leadership and thus stamp out any opposition to Bolshevik rule.

Among the most enduring Ukrainian scholarly traditions in the United States is the annual Conference on Ukrainian Subjects organized and sponsored each summer by the Ukrainian Research Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. To date, 24 such weeklong conferences have been held with the participations of scholars from around the globe. The 2005

conference was held from June 29 to July 2; its topic was "Ukraine and Europe."

The program of the conference comprised 10 sessions, which included two keynote addresses: Raisa Ivanchenko, International University of Kyiv, read a paper titled "Ukraine – The Eastern Shield of Europe," and John Fizer, Rutgers University of New Brunswick, spoke on "The Encounter of Ukrainian Philology with Western Methodological Strategies."

On July 1 Ukrainian studies joined Europe – at least at the University of Toronto. The former Center for Russian and East European Studies (CREES), which housed the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine and the Wolodymyr George Danyliw Foundation, was merged with the Institute of European Studies, the European Studies Program and the Joint Initiative in German and European Studies to create the Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies (CERES). According to the newly appointed director of CERES, Prof. Jeffrey Kopstein, the scholarly community at the university working on Europe, Russia and Eurasia, decided it was time to break down the intellectual walls set up during the Cold War.

The CERES inaugural event on September 27 was a panel discussion, titled "What's Ahead for Europe," featuring the ambassador of Canada to the European Union, Jeremy Kinsman, and other panelists. A few days before the event, the Petro Jacyk Program sponsored Prof. Timothy Snyder of Yale who spoke on Polish-Ukrainian Relations in the wake of Poland's accession to the EU and the Orange Revolution.

The 2004-2005 school year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign marked another successful step toward establishment of a chair of Ukrainian studies. Besides conducting the 24th annual Conference on Ukrainian Subjects, there were three Ukrainian courses during both semesters conducted by Prof. Dmytro Shtohryn and graduate teaching assistant Volodymyr Chumachenko. Over 40 students (about 10 of them of Ukrainian origin) attended courses on Ukrainian culture, Ukrainian literature and the Open Seminar on the History of Ukraine that year.

Culture and the arts: compendium from A to T

The outstanding event in the sphere of culture and the arts for the year 2005 – which signaled a milestone in the cultural life of the Ukrainian diaspora in North America as well as constituted an important event on New York City's art scene – was the inaugural exhibition "Alexander Archipenko: Vision and Continuity," that opened the new building of The Ukrainian Museum in New York City on April 3. The Ukrainian Museum has been a leading promoter of Ukrainian art and culture, serving its broad constituency as part of New York City's cultural community for over 28 years.

Highlights of this year's events in the sphere of culture and the arts, as recorded in The Weekly, appear below listed by category.

Architecture

The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos, designed in 1992 by Ukrainian Canadian architect Radoslav Zuk, was completed after years of planning and construction. The church was

designed by the internationally recognized architect and professor of architecture at McGill University in Montreal for the parish community of the city of Sykhiv, which forms part of greater Lviv. The Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos is Prof. Zuk's 10th church design, and the first to be built in Ukraine, in a project undertaken in association with Mistoproekt Institute in Lviv. The Church of the Nativity of the Theotokos was featured in the August issue of the journal *Baumeister: Zeitschrift für Architektur* in an article titled "Einfach komplex" (Simply Complex). Prof. Zuk also participated in the 20th anniversary celebrations of the *Architekturgalerie* in Munich, a premiere venue for the exhibition of architectural design work and a forum for discussion on contemporary architecture and related fields. In 1996 a traveling exhibition featuring his design of Ukrainian churches in North America and museum projects in Ukraine was held at the *Architekturgalerie* and an exhibition catalogue was published as part of the gallery's monograph series. At this year's anniversary exhibition, held April 7-May 7, Prof. Zuk presented his 1994 project for the expansion of the National Museum of Ukrainian Art in Kyiv (now known as the National Fine Arts Museum of Ukraine).

The "Building Faith" documentary series, an in-depth look at the architectural traditions of 13 local religious communities in the Toronto area, which was produced for OMNI Television, included an episode on Ukrainian church architecture. The three churches featured in the episode were St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Long Branch, Ontario, (1958), Yuriy Kodak, architect; St. Elias the Prophet Ukrainian Catholic Church, Brampton, Ontario, (1995), Robert Greenberg, architect; and, Holy Eucharist Ukrainian Catholic Church, Toronto, (1967), Radoslav Zuk, architect. Each of the 13 episodes was broadcast in two languages: English and the dominant language of the local faith community. Consultant to the program and narrator of the Ukrainian-language segment was architect Walter Daschko of Toronto. The series aired on September 3 and ran through December 5. The segment with Ukrainian narration was shown October 8 and 13; the English narration, November 19 and 20. The series was produced by Angus Skene, architect and director of Rewind Inc., in collaboration with producer Catherine Drillis.

Art

The inaugural exhibition "Alexander Archipenko: Vision and Continuity" opened the new building of The Ukrainian Museum in New York City on April 3, showcasing some 65 sculptures and sculpto-paintings by the Kyiv-born Ukrainian émigré artist, recognized as a major figure of 20th century art. The majority of the works on display were from the collection of Frances Archipenko Gray, the artist's widow and president of the Alexander Archipenko Foundation, with other works from a number of private collections and museums, including the Brooklyn Museum, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Whitney Museum of American Art and the Yale University Art Gallery. Guest curator of the exhibition was Dr. Jaroslaw Leshko, professor emeritus of art history at Smith College in Northampton, Mass. The exhibition was organized around four dominant concepts operative in the work of the artist: "Form and Space," "Motion and Stasis," "Construction, Materials, Color" and "Content into Form." Exhibit installation was by New York architects Michael Moore and Yoshiko Sato. An illustrated catalogue, featuring a comprehensive essay by Dr. Leshko, came out in a bilingual, English-Ukrainian, edition. The Archipenko exhibition was augmented with a variety of public programming, including tours, gallery talks, a lecture series, a symposium and a full range of educational material for teachers, students and families. Reviews of the inaugural exhibition were carried, among others, in the following press: The New York Times, The New York Sun, The Villager, Time Out New York, The Record, Bergen County, N.J.; Herald News, Trenton, N.J. The Morning Call, Allentown, Pa.; Kultur, Sweden; Svoboda and Meest, as well as on the websites of NY Arts and Ukraina Moloda. Extensive coverage of the inaugural exhibition and museum opening appeared in the March 27 and April 16 issues of The Ukrainian Weekly.

The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA) in Chicago presented the body of work of artist Aka Pereyma in a comprehensive exhibition of the artist's drawings, watercolors, oils, mixed media, sculptures and ceramics – underscoring the artist's significant con-

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Alexander Archipenko's, "Seated Black Concave" (Seated Figure), 1916, bronze.

tribution to contemporary Ukrainian art and culture, and art in general. Titled "Aka Pereyma, 40 Years of Creativity: 1965-2005," the exhibition was held at the UIMA on April 10-May 22. An exhibition catalogue, printed in Ukrainian as a publication of Fine Arts Magazine, Kyiv, with Mykola Marechevskyy, editor, appeared in conjunction with the opening of the exhibition. In her work Ms. Pereyma draws on the richness of Ukrainian cultural traditions and art forms, including folk art, as a source of inspiration, giving it contemporary expression. Reflections on the artist, who resides in Troy, Ohio, appeared in the April 3 issue of *The Weekly*, written by Christina Pereyma O'Neal, Ms. Pereyma's daughter and an artist, and Chicago artists Liala Kucma, chair of the UIMA Art Committee and organizer of the exhibition; and Alexandra D. Kochman, UIMA member.

Painter and graphic artist Jacques Hnizdovsky (1915-1985) – one of the foremost woodcut artists in America, whose creative legacy forms a valuable part of the permanent collections of leading American museums and institutions, and, since 1990, the museums of Ukraine – was reburied in Ukraine in accordance with his last wishes. The urn with the artist's ashes was transferred from the columbarium of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City to Lychakiv Cemetery in Lviv, where reburial took place on November 5. A commemorative art exhibition of Hnizdovsky's works opened at the National Museum of Lviv, where it was on view November 5-December 31. The 50 works that were on exhibit had been donated to the National Museum of Lviv, the National Fine Arts Museum of Ukraine in Kyiv and the Ternopil Regional Museum by Stefanie Hnizdovsky, the artist's widow, and Mira Hnizdovsky, the artist's daughter; they now form part of the museums' permanent collections. A bilingual, English-Ukrainian, exhibition catalogue titled "Jacques Hnizdovsky" and subtitled, "Commemorative exhibition held on the occasion of the reburial of the artist in his ancestral homeland and on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the day of his birth" accompanied the exhibition.

The exhibition, "The Sun, The Tree of Life and The Goddess: Symbolic Motifs in Ukrainian Folk Art" opened at The Ukrainian Museum on November 23 as the second inaugural exhibition held as part of the celebratory program marking the opening of the museum's new building in New York City. The exhibit draws on the museum's extensive folk art collection, showcasing over 100 artifacts – embroidered and woven textiles, ceramics, woodwork, metal work, pysanky (Easter

eggs) and holiday and ritual breads. Curator for the exhibition is Lubow Wolynetz, curator of the museum's Folk Art Collection. Consultants to the exhibition were Dr. Natalia Kononenko, professor of Slavic languages and literature at the University of Virginia, and Dr. Ludmyla Bulhakova, folklorist and chief curator at the Museum of Ethnography in Lviv. A bilingual, English-Ukrainian, illustrated catalogue accompanied the exhibition. The exhibition was designed by Natalie Fizer and Glenn Forley of Fizer Forley, a New York-based research and design office. The exhibit will be on view through September 2006. An installation titled, "Still the River Flows: A Glimpse into Winter Solstice and Christmas Rituals in a Carpathian Village," which echoes the themes of the museum's exhibition, was opened to the public on December 11. The installation was a collaborative effort, conceived by Virlana Tkacz and Watoku Ueno of the Yara Arts Group, with filmmaker Andrea Odezynska, photographer Alexander Khantaev and poet-translator Wanda Phipps.

The book, "Painted Wood: Naive Art of the Ukrainian Village," was awarded first prize at the National Ukrainian Book Forum in Lviv. The book, published in separate Ukrainian and English editions by Rodovid Press of Kyiv, was written in Ukrainian by the prominent Ukrainian ethnographer Lidia Orel and translated into English by Winnipeg writer and translator Orysia Tracz. The two books were launched last year in Winnipeg at McNally-Robinson Booksellers.

The National Museum of Lviv was renamed in accordance with a decree issued by President Viktor Yushchenko, after its founder and benefactor, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, former metropolitan of Halych, in a ceremony held on December 15, that marked the naming of the museum and the museum's 100th anniversary. A jubilee exhibition opened on December 19 to commemorate the history of the museum, as well as many of its contributors and benefactors, foremost among them Metropolitan Sheptytsky.

Dance

A jubilee celebration and concert titled "100 Years of Pavlo Virsky," marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of legendary Ukrainian choreographer Pavlo Virsky (1905-1975) was presented in Toronto on April 17 by the Desna Ukrainian Dance Company of Toronto and the International Summer School of Ukrainian Dance in Kyiv. The event featured Ukrainian dance companies from across Canada, as well as alumni of the world-renowned dance company, currently under the direction of Myroslav Vantukh. Guests of honor at the event included Valeria Virsky, widow of the famed choreographer and former dancer, and Gregory Chapkin, Merited Artist of Ukraine and one of the oldest alumni of the Virsky troupe.

The Hromovytsia Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of

Chicago, under the artistic direction of Roxana Dykyj-Pylypczak, celebrated its 25th anniversary with a jubilee concert held at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts on March 20. The concert featured the core ensemble as well as the troupe's youth division in an almost all-new repertoire performing before a most enthusiastic, sold-out audience. On April 4 Hromovytsia took part in welcoming President Viktor Yushchenko and his wife, Kateryna, to Chicago.

Film

A retrospective of the work of Kira Muratova, titled "Take No Prisoners: The Bold Vision of Kira Muratova," featuring eight of the Odesa-based filmmaker's full-length feature films dating from 1967-2004, was held at Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theater in New York, February 25-March 10. While six out of the eight films of the Romanian-born filmmaker shown in the retrospective were either entirely produced in Ukraine or were joint Russian-Ukrainian productions, the retrospective's program presented all of them as Russian. In his February 27 critical review, Dr. Yuri Shevchuk, director of the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University and lecturer of Ukrainian language and culture at Columbia, challenged the rationale offered by Alla Verlotsky, director of Seagull Films and organizer of the retrospective, denying that there was anything Ukrainian in Muratova's work, concluding that "It is the tenacity of imperialist attitudes that are so manifest in the curatorial decisions of the retrospective's organizers."

The Ukrainian Film Club, which has been in existence since 2004 under the direction of Dr. Shevchuk, continued to hold monthly screenings of classic and recent productions in an effort to foster interest in Ukrainian cinema in the West, provide exposure for Ukraine-based film directors and facilitate director-viewer interaction via the club's Internet site.

As part of its program the club presented three short-length films: Taras Tomenko's "Shooting Gallery" (2001) and "Parched Land" (2004), and Taras Tkachenko's "Tragic Love for Flighty Nuska" (2004), based on Yuri Vynnychenko's short story "A Grenade for Two." Both directors attended the event and engaged in a post-screening discussion with the audience. The Ukrainian Film Club continued to engage leading filmmakers in the discussion of Ukrainian and world cinema, with Dr. Shevchuk having conducted interviews with Polish film, theater and opera director Krzysztof Zanussi and American director Peter Bogdanovich. The interview with the latter was conducted as part of a project initiated by the Ukrainian film magazine *Kino-Kolo*. These, and other, interviews were posted on the film club's website.

Ukraine's debut at the Cannes Film Festival held May 11-22 in France also brought the country its first prize. The film, "Podorozhni" (Wayfarers), which was shot by

Documentary film on Ukraine in WWII

The documentary film "Between Hitler and Stalin," produced and directed by Slawko Nowytski for the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center (UCRDC), was successfully premiered in Ukraine prior to the official international commemorations of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II held in Moscow on May 9. The original, English-language, version of the film, with Jack Palance as primary narrator, premiered in Toronto on September 23, 2003. The Ukrainian-language version of the documentary, with Ostap Stryhun, narrator, had its premiere showing in Kyiv at the KINO film theater on April 18 of this year, organized by the Kyiv Memorial society under the direction of Roman Krutysk, a collaborator in the production of the film.

Additionally, a Ukrainian television broadcast on the national network UT-1 was held on May 3, where it aired together with a discussion panel. Representing the UCRDC on the panel was historian and advisor to the film Prof. Roman Serbyn from Montreal, who is well-known for his challenges of the official Soviet version of World War II as the Great Patriotic War – still the most widely accepted interpretation of the conflict in Ukraine.

The aim of the English-language version of the film was to inform Western audiences about the war in Ukraine, underscoring that the great struggle was first

of all, a war on Ukrainian territory. The task of the film in Ukraine was not only to inform, but also to address and challenge the decades-long myth of the Great Patriotic War and of the contribution of Ukraine to the "Victory over fascism." Such a Soviet interpretation, that ignores the period of Soviet-Nazi collaboration (1939-1941), as well as Stalin's internal war against its own population, still permeates school curricula and the mindset of the majority of Ukraine's population. It also divides the country and impedes the official recognition of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, or UPA, as the only armed formation that fought both Hitler and Stalin.

On July 28, a directive from Oleksander Zinchenko, then head of Ukraine's Presidential Secretariat, instructed all heads of oblast government administrations, as well as the ministries of Defense and Education to make arrangements for the screening of the film. The first 1,000 video cassettes of the Ukrainian-language version of the documentary were distributed in Ukraine by Kyiv's Memorial society, with the project financed by the League of Ukrainians in Canada.

Earlier in the year, "Between Hitler and Stalin," was a finalist in the film and video competition of the New York Festivals. Mr. Nowytski, the film's director and producer, was presented with a Finalist's Certificate at a gala reception held in New York on January 28. The film was also selected for the Fourth International Documentary Film Festival – Humanity in the World, held on March 17-20 in Stockholm, Sweden.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Ihor Strembitsky, 32, was awarded the prestigious Palme d'Or in the short film division at the festival. Mr. Strembitsky was also recognized individually, receiving the Norman McLaren Prize. Work on the film, three years in the making, included overcoming such adversities as lack of adequate film, the director having to act as his own cameraman, and having his wife serve as his producer and scriptwriter. Upon completion, the film was mailed out of Kyiv at the cost of 20 hrv to Cannes.

This year's Molodist International Film Festival, held in Kyiv on October 22-30, launched the inaugural cinema market "Kinorynok Molodist." Taking part in the event were 21 film producers and distributors, representing 100 films. For the first time, Ukrainian distributors signed contracts directly with the owners to the film rights. In the past Ukrainian distributors had little choice but to buy films from Russian distributors in Moscow, with the films dubbed exclusively in Russian. Molodist was founded in 1970 by the Filmmakers Union of Ukraine; by 1993 it had evolved into the Molodist International Film Festival.

The documentary film "Light From the East," which chronicles Yara Arts Group's first trip to Ukraine in 1991 as part of a cultural exchange project that focused on the life of the renowned theater director Les Kurbas (1887-circa 1942), had its premiere at the South By Southwest Film Festival on March 14 at the Dobie Theater. The film was written, directed and produced by American actress and filmmaker Amy Grappel, a member of Yara Arts Group at La MaMa Theater in New York City, with Christian Moore, producer and director of photography. At the time of their stay, Yara Arts members were witness to the momentous events that transpired with the collapse of the Soviet Union and Ukraine's declaration of independence. Executive producer for the film was Michael Bleyzer in association with Strike Productions.

"Zimove Vesilya" (Snowblink), a new Ukrainian film co-directed by Andriy Parekh and Sophie Barthes, was shown as part of New York's Tribeca Film Festival in the short film category. Screenings were held on April 25 and 30 at the Regal Battery Theater. A Minnesota native of Ukrainian and Indian descent, Mr. Parekh, recently named one out of the "25 New Faces of Independent Film" by Filmmaker Magazine (summer 2004), studied cinematography at the FAMU film school at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague and at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He has made more than 50 films, music videos and commercials, many of which have won awards. His "Mertvyi Piven" (Dead Roosters), shot in Ukraine, won the Grand Marnier Prize at the New York Film Festival (2004) and the Future Filmmaker Award at the Palm Spring Film Festival (2004).

Andrea Odezynska's new film, "The Whisperer," had its premiere at a special screening at La MaMa's Annex Theater in New York City on September 24. A 30-minute documentary, the film explores Ms. Odezynska's journey to a small village in western Ukraine, where she has an unexpected encounter with a village healer that changes the course of her life. The film, directed by Brooklyn-based Ms. Odezynska, with Kathryn Barnier, film producer/editor, opened the 15th anniversary celebrations of Yara Arts Group, a resident company at La MaMa Experimental Theater in New York. Ms. Odezynska, a graduate of the American Film Institute, is a professor of film at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. Her comedy film "Dora Was Dysfunctional" won her an award at the Hamptons and Rotterdam international film festivals.

Eugene Hutz, founder and frontman of the New York-based Gogol Bordello band, and Laryssa Lauret (Laryssa Lysniak), the well-known Ukrainian TV and Broadway actress, appeared in the role of Alex and Lista, respectively, in the film "Everything Is Illuminated" – a tale of a young man's quest to find the woman who saved his grandfather in a small Ukrainian town that suffered destruction at the hands of the Nazis during World War II. What starts out as a journey to piece together one family's story under absurd circumstances turns into a surprisingly meaningful journey with a powerful series of revelations. Mr. Hutz, who was initially invited to provide the music score for the film, appears in the film opposite actor Elijah Wood ("Lord of the Rings"). Originally from Kyiv, Mr. Hutz has been living since 1998 in New York, where his band has become an integral part of New York's art and club scene. His music, dubbed "gypsy punk," draws on his cultural inheritance of the Transcarpathian region, especially the Roma people, as well as contemporary Western music. "Everything is Illuminated," which was released in August by Hollywood's Warner Independent studio, is based on the eponymously titled novel by Jonathan Safran Foer.

Actress Vera Farmiga's recent roles in top independent films have secured her a spot as a legitimate, up-and-coming actress whose acting, according to film directors Anthony Minghella and Wayne Kramer, bears a distinct resemblance to the likes of Meryl Streep and Cate Blanchett. Ms. Farmiga's strong performance in "Down to the Bone," an independent film currently in theaters, secured her top roles in future productions, such as the upcoming Minghella film, "Breaking & Entering," in which she plays opposite Jude Law, and "The Departed," a Martin Scorsese film featuring Ms. Farmiga acting alongside Matt Damon and Leonardo DiCaprio. The New Jersey-born and -reared Ms. Farmiga, an active member with close ties to the Ukrainian community, is featured in an interview, titled "Drama Queen," with Elle magazine in its January 2006 issue, which hit newsstands in December.

Literature

Since its founding in 1990, Yara Arts Group, a resident company at La MaMa Experimental Theater in New York, has consistently explored new ways to present Ukrainian poetry – from ancient folk incantations to the newest writers working today – in the process, taking Ukrainian poetry to a new level of visibility. This year Virlana Tkacz, founding director of Yara, and her long-time collaborator,

African American poet Wanda Phipps, received the National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Translation Literary Fellowship. The fellowship has enabled them to translate into English the work of Serhiy Zhadan, a leading poet of the post-independence generation in Ukraine. Mr. Zhadan's work speaks to the disillusionment, difficulties and ironies of life in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union. The translators' latest project was the translation of ancient winter solstice songs, or "koliady," from the Carpathians, which were subsequently used in Yara's theater piece, "Koliada: Twelve Dishes" held at La MaMa in March. Contemporary scenes used in the production were written by Mr. Zhadan.

Ukrainian writer Yuri Andrukhovych's third novel "Perverzion" (1996) appeared in English translation by Michael M. Naydan as a publication of Northwestern University Press in its "Writings from an Unbound Europe" series. One of Ukraine's leading writers of today, Mr. Andrukhovych emerged as the patriarch of the Bu-Ba-Bu literary performance group that spearheaded the renaissance of Ukrainian literary culture in the mid-1980s and early 1990s. He is recipient of the Herder Prize (2001), the Antonovych Prize and the Erich Maria Remarque Prize. Michael M. Naydan is professor of Slavic languages and literatures at The

Orange revolution inspires creative arts

Orange was the color of the revolution that brought Viktor Yushchenko to power in Ukraine. The Orange Revolution also inspired musicians, artists, photographers, film-makers and others in the creative arts. As a result, the strong spirit of the people of Ukraine was conveyed – nationally and internationally – through various media. Artistic interpretations of the revolution made their mark on contemporary Ukrainian culture and continued to be felt in 2005.

Musically, the Orange Revolution produced success for an array of Ukrainian artists, largely by providing them with such a distinct opportunity to send their message to the masses. Perhaps the most well-known example of the revolution affording opportunity is that of the young rap group Gryndzholy (known in English as Greenjolly). Ivano-Frankivsk natives Roman Kostyuk and Roman Kalik, virtual unknowns before the revolution, saw their popularity skyrocket overnight as their song, "Together We Are Many – We Cannot be Defeated," was instantaneously adopted as the unmistakable anthem of the Orange Revolution.

This sparked a trend of revolution-oriented music – one that flowed over into 2005 – and, in turn, prompted the increased activity of such record labels as Ukrainian Records and Lavina Music, both of which represent highly influential Ukrainian artists who played roles in the revolution.

Maria Burmaka, a native of Kharkiv and one of the leading Ukrainian musicians whose songs kept the spirit of the maïdan alive during the Orange Revolution, was on a three-city inaugural North American tour that included presentations at Columbia University's Faculty House in New York on March 31, as well as performances in Philadelphia and Toronto. The tour was organized by the New York-based Brooklyn Ukrainian Group. Two of Ms. Burmaka's songs – "Ne Biysia Zhyty" (Don't Be Afraid to Live) and "My Idemo," played a crucial role in the mobilization of the maïdan.

It was, perhaps, the mediums of film and photography that best captured the spirit of the Orange Revolution, by providing for the rest of the world vivid images that have been permanently etched into the annals of history – like those of the vast ocean of supporters gathered on Independence Square (known as the "maïdan"), or the congregation of dedicated Ukrainian youth packed into in Kyiv's tent city.

Young documentary videographer Damian Kolodiy spent the duration of the revolution in Kyiv, where, from November 16, 2004, to January 25, 2005, he shot footage for a documentary. While spending time on the maïdan, as well as traveling with the Friendship Train organized by young Orange Revolution activists, Mr. Kolodiy conducted interviews with local supporters, youth activists and average citizens, as well as recorded speeches made by both local and national politicians. Mr. Kolodiy is still at work (and in search of financial support), with the documentary in its production stages.

A fellow young Ukrainian American, Adriana Kovalsky, spent the first eight days of the Orange Revolution in Kyiv photographing a variety of images representative of the spirit of the revolution. Among her subjects were the occupants of tent city, a grandmother proudly adorned with an orange kerchief and a young child perched above the crowd atop his father's shoulders. Upon her arrival back in the U.S., Ms. Kovalsky submitted her photos to the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago, where they were placed on exhibit between December 17, 2004, and January 30, 2005.

A similar photo exhibit, titled "Faces of the Orange Revolution," was on display at Columbia University from February 18 through mid-April, and featured photos taken by Kyiv photographer Kyrylo Kysliakov.

In the realm of fine art, the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago opened an exhibit titled "Artists Respond: Ukrainian Art and the Orange Revolution." Opened on December 1, the exhibit is set to run through the end of February 2006. It features the works of 15 young artists who took part in the demonstrations on the maïdan during the revolution. The Center for Contemporary Art in Kyiv became a birthplace for many of these artistic pieces, as it turned itself into a gallery and production space for young artists motivated by the events of the revolution.

Natalia Pohrebinsky, who lives and exhibits her work at The Stone House in Lexington, N.Y., made her painting "The Resurrection Song," a poetic evocation of the Orange Revolution, the focal point of an exhibit of her paintings and sculpture at the Roshkowsky Galleries in Windham, N.Y., on January 22-29.

Though the Orange Revolution is over, its spirit will live on in the hearts of many Ukrainians, and non-Ukrainians, around the globe, and be glorified through the arts for years to come.



Adriana Kovalsky's photo of riot police in Kyiv behind shields adorned with protesters' flowers.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Pennsylvania State University. He is the author of numerous books, articles and reviews on literary topics and a translator of works of poetry and prose from Ukrainian, Russian and Romanian. The translated novel carries an introduction by Prof. Naydan.

Six Ukrainian American and Canadian writers – Jars Balan, Halyna Hryn, Janice Kulyk Keefer, Myrna Kostash, Askold Melnyczuk and Irene Zabytko took part in a conference of the Association of Writers and Publishers held in Vancouver on April 2. At a conference panel titled, “Umbilical Ukraine: Canadian and American Writers of Ukrainian Descent Confront the Mother Country in Fiction and Memoir,” the authors reflected upon their identities, diasporic ties and frequent journeys to Ukraine as a source and resource for their writing. The writers were also invited to address members of Vancouver’s Ukrainian community at an event held at St. Mary’s Ukrainian Catholic Center, where they read excerpts from their work and reflected on the role of their Ukrainian heritage in their writing.

Victor Morozov, one-time member of the inimitable Ne Zhurys ensemble in the days of Ukraine’s pre-independence, has continued in his crusade to promote the Ukrainian language – this time, through the translation of J. K. Rowling’s best-selling “Harry Potter” series into Ukrainian. Given the book’s global appeal and the dearth of captivating Ukrainian-language books for children, his initial plan was to produce a Ukrainian translation before the Russian version was published, so that even in the Russian-speaking areas of Ukraine there would be a demand for the book. However, difficulties with translation rights as well as finding a publisher foiled his original plans for the first four books of the series. Nevertheless, the Ukrainian translation of the fifth book, “Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix,” not only beat the Russian version by three months but was, in fact, the first translation of the book in Europe. Many children liked the fifth Ukrainian-language book so much that they wanted to read the previous Ukrainian-language Potter volumes. The Ukrainian version of the sixth volume, “Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince,” was published on October 6. To meet the frantic demand, Ukrainian booksellers bought up 70,000 copies of the sixth volume before its official presentation in Kyiv at the Ukrayinskyi Dim by Ivan Malkovych, writer and the director of the publishing house, A-BA-BA-HA-LA-MA-HA. Mr. Morozov credits the Harry Potter series for contributing to children’s interest in reading books, after years of being mesmerized by computer games and television. In a country where a Ukrainian-language book selling 5,000 copies is considered a best-seller, Mr. Morozov’s translations of the first five Harry Potter books together have sold over 300,000 copies.

The Ukrainian Weekly informed its readers of the existence of Poetry International Web-Ukraine – an English-text site, with poetry in the original and in English translation, that serves to promote Ukrainian poetry worldwide. Editor for PIW-Ukraine is Kateryna Botanova. The site, <http://Ukraine.poetryinternational.org>, offers personal pagesites of such leading contemporary Ukrainian poets, writers and essayists as Yuri Andrukhovych, Natalka Bilotserkivets, Andriy Bondar, Halyna Krouk, Oleh Lysheha, Ivan Malkovych, Mykola Ryabchuk, Oksana Zabuzhko and Serhiy Zhadan.

Ukrainian émigré poet Vasyl Makhno was featured in the May issue of PIW-Ukraine. A native of Chortkiv in the Ternopil region, Prof. Makhno taught at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow in the late 1990s before moving to New York in 2000, where he is resident poet at the Shevchenko Scientific Society, and coordinates and conducts the society’s guest lecture series and special events. Intent on establishing contacts with fellow poets, as well as keeping abreast of contemporary currents in poetry worldwide, Prof. Makhno had the opportunity to attend international poetry gatherings in Serbia and Romania. He has compiled the anthology, “Deviatdesiatnyky: Antolohiia Novoi Ukrainskoi Poezii” (Poets of the Nineties: An Anthology of New Ukrainian Poetry, 1998); his most recent collection of verse is titled “38 Virshiv Pro Niu York i Deshcho Inshe” (38 Poems About New York and Other Things, Kyiv: Krytyka, 2004). To date, Prof. Makhno has published six collections of his poetry in Ukrainian, of which two have appeared in Polish translation. Prof. Makhno’s poetry has appeared in Polish, Russian, German and Serbian anthologies of Slavic and Ukrainian poetry, and his work has been translated into German and Romanian and, most recently, into English.

Alexander J. Motyl’s first book of fiction, the novel “Whiskey Priest” (Universe Inc., New York, Lincoln, Shanghai, 2005) was launched in New York at the

Ukrainian Institute of America and the Shevchenko Scientific Society. “Whiskey Priest” is set in the sordid milieu of former KGB spies-turned-hit men for the mafia, money laundering, grant money embezzlement and the international sex trade – with characters on the move between Kyiv, Lviv, Vienna and New York. Although having a good smattering of social satire as well, the genre of Motyl’s novel is the hard-hitting crime story, more specifically, the pulp fiction novels of Spillane and Chandler, albeit set in the sordid post-Soviet milieu. Dr. Motyl is professor of political science at Rutgers University–Newark, as well as a painter. A review of the book by Oksana Zakydalsky appeared in the July 24 issue of The Weekly.

The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, Andriy Hladyshevsky, president, announced that the inaugural Kobzar Literary Award, with a prize of \$25,000, will be presented in 2006. The award, to be presented every two years – with \$20,000 to the author and \$5,000 to the publisher – recognizes a Canadian writer who best presents a Ukrainian Canadian theme with literary merit through poetry, play, screenplay, musical, fiction, non-fiction or young people’s literature. The list of finalists for the award is to be released on January 16, with the inaugural winner to be announced on March 2 at a dinner and awards ceremony to be held at Toronto’s Eglinton Grand. The judging panel for the 2006 Kobzar Literary Award comprises: Myrna Kostash, journalist and non-fiction author; Mieko Ouchi, actor, writer and director for theater, film and television; Bill Richardson, writer and CBC broadcaster; and Antanas Sileika, journalist and fiction author, artistic director of the Humber School of Writers.

Music

British-born international opera singer, bass-baritone Pavlo Hunka, 45, was in Toronto this year, where he appeared as Alberich in the Canadian Opera Company’s (COC) production of Wagner’s “Siegfried” (January 27-February 1). Mr. Hunka has sung in more than 50 operas, including in 30 major operatic roles in the world’s leading opera houses in Paris, Vienna, Munich, Florence, Amsterdam, Madrid, London and Salzburg, and has performed under the baton of such eminent conductors as Claudio Abbado, Jeffrey Tate, Peter Schneider and Zubin Mehta. Mr. Hunka, who has been hailed as “one of the great singing actors of our time” by COC’s General Director Richard Bradshaw, will be performing in several leading COC roles in Toronto over the next five years. In England, Mr. Hunka promotes Ukrainian music as artistic director of the Coventry-based Bulava Choir, which performs Ukrainian folk, classical and religious works. While in Toronto, Mr. Hunka, who had conducted an Art of Singing Master Class organized by the local Ukrainian Canadian community, also made known his project to record the music of Ukrainian composers, including the art songs of Mykola Lysenko (1842-1912) and Kyrylo Stesenko (1882-1922), the latter with world-renowned pianist Albert Krywolt. A feature on the opera singer, penned by Olena Wawryshyn, appeared in the January 23 issue of The Weekly.

Soprano Maria Guleghina and bass Vitalij Kowaljow, two Ukrainian-born soloists, were featured in the Washington National Opera’s inaugural performance held September 17, marking the company’s golden anniversary and season opening with Verdi’s opera “I Vespri Siciliani.” Ms. Guleghina appeared as Elena and Mr. Kowaljow as Procida. Ms. Guleghina, a native of Odesa, began her career with the Miensk Opera in 1985 and since then has appeared in the world’s leading opera houses, including frequent performances with the Metropolitan Opera since 1990 and with the Washington National Opera since 2002. Mr. Kowaljow was born in Cherkasy, and since winning the Plácido Domingo Operalia Competition in 1999, has appeared throughout Europe and the United States, including frequent performances at the Metropolitan Opera.

Soprano Irena Welhasch Baerg and baritone Theodore Baerg, launched their new album, “La Mystique d’Amour” at Windermere Manor in London, Ontario, offering a retrospective of their individual, yet converging operatic careers, in an album featuring music by Claude Debussy sung by Ms. Welhasch Baerg, and that of Arnold Schoenberg and Maurice Ravel sung by Mr. Baerg. Mrs. Welhasch Baerg’s engagements include L’Opéra de Nice and the Canadian Opera Company. This summer Mr. Baerg, who heads the opera division at the University of Western Ontario, appeared in performance at the Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Bass-baritone Taras Kulish, who made his Canadian



Opera singer Pavlo Hunka

opera debut in 1992 as a member of the Montreal Opera young artists’ ensemble, appeared this year in return engagements with, among others, the Opera Lyra Ottawa in “The Tales of Hoffman”; the Manitoba Opera in “Rigoletto” and “La Bohème”; and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra as bass soloist in Nielsen’s 3rd Symphony. Forming part of Mr. Kulish’s general repertoire are the songs of Bohdan Wesolowsky (1915-1971), whose oeuvre, some 150 songs, comprise an array of tangos, foxtrots, waltzes and rumbas composed between 1930 and 1970. While on a working visit to Winnipeg, Mr. Kulish appeared in recital on November 6 at the Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Education Center, presenting a program of operatic arias, as well as songs by Wesolowsky. Mr. Kulish, who is in the process of doing a CD recording of a selection of Mr. Wesolowsky’s songs, plans to undertake a tour of Canada and the United States with this repertoire.

Pianist Nadia Shpachenko was featured in The Phillips Collection lecture-music recital program “Music and Modigliani,” held on February 27 in Washington in conjunction with the opening of the exhibition “Modigliani: Beyond The Myth.” The concert program comprised piano pieces by Erik Satie, Darius Milhaud and Francis Poulenc who were part of Modigliani’s bohemian circle in Paris’s Montparnasse. The Ukrainian-born pianist emigrated to the United States in the mid-1990s where she completed her master’s and doctor of musical arts degree at the University of Southern California. Currently, Ms. Shpachenko is associate professor of piano at the Shepherd University School of Music and a visiting faculty member at Pomona College.

The Canadian piano duo of Luba and Ireneus Zuk completed a two-week concert tour of China, which took place on November 8-23, as part of an initiative to promote cultural relations between Canada and China. The tour, which comprised eight performances in six cities in various provinces of China, was organized by the Performance Department of Huihuang Business and Advertising Co. of China and supported by the Arts Promotion Division of Foreign Affairs, Canada, and the Canadian Embassy in Beijing. The concert tour featured performances by the Zuk Duo in Shijiazhuang, Guangzhou, Changxing, Beijing, Guiyang and Kunming. The duo’s concert program included works by Max Bruch, Johann Nepomuck Hummel, Franz Liszt, Yannis Constantinides, Arvo Pärt, Myroslaw Skoryk, and Canadian composers Clermont Pépin, Violet Archer and Roger Matton. The Zuks, who are professors at McGill and Queen’s universities, respectively, also visited academic institutions, giving master classes and meeting with faculty at Shijiazhuang College, the Changxing Grand Theater, the University for Ethnic Minorities in Guizhou and the University for Art and Music in Kunming. The piano duo also appeared in a special concert held on November 14 at the Ambassador’s Residence of the Canadian Embassy in Beijing.

“Music at the Institute,” sponsored by the Ukrainian Institute of America (Mykola Suk, artistic director), pre-

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

sented the following five concerts in New York City as part of the institute's 16th-17th classical music concert season: Valida Rassoulova-Suk, piano (January 22); Cerberus Trio – Mykola Suk, piano, Byron Tauchi, violin, and Andrew Smith, cello (February 19); "Music at the Grazhda" Chamber Music Society, Volodymyr Vynnytsky, artistic director, Solomiya Ivakhiv, violin, Yuri Kharenko, violin, Randolph Kelly, viola, Natalia Khoma, cello, Mr. Vynnytsky, piano (March 19); The program "Mostly Beethoven," with Julius Berger, cello, Marina Strum, clarinet, and Mr. Suk, piano (April 16); and, the Colorado String Quartet, with Mr. Suk, piano (December 3).

The Sunday Music Series sponsored by The Washington Group Cultural Fund (Svitlana Fedko Shiells, director), under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine presented the following five concerts and two events as part of its 11th season: Mariana Sadovska, vocal artist and folklorist (February 13); Juliana Osinchuk, piano (March 13); Cerberus Piano Trio (May 20) The Continuum Music Ensemble – Joel Sachs, piano; Benjamin Fingland, clarinet; and Airi Yoshioka, violin, in a program devoted exclusively to works of 20th century Ukrainian composers: Borys Liatoshynsky, Valentin Sylvestrov, Leonid Hrabovsky, Virko Baley, Alexander Shchetynsky, and Valentin Bibik (October 16); and, Solomiya Ivakhiv, violin (November 13). Two other events forming part of the Cultural Fund's programming were a lecture on Ukrainian jazz by Larry Applebaum, jazz specialist and senior studio engineer at the Library of Congress (January 27) and an exhibition of works by the late artist Jacques Hnizdovsky (May 26).

The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago (Oleh Koverko, president; Lubomyr Krushelnycky, UIMA Music Committee Chairman) presented the following four concerts as part of the institute's 14th classical music concert series: Oksana Krovytska, soprano (February 6); Oleh Krysa, violin, and Tatiana Tchekina, piano (March 6); Yuri Kharenko, violin, Natalia Khoma, cello, and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano (October 16); and Dana Pomerants-Mazurkevich, violin, and Yuri Mazurkevich, violin, with Aidan Puodziukas, piano (December 4).

"Music at the Grazhda" (Volodymyr Vynnytsky, artistic director), presented the following seven concerts as part of its 23rd summer concert season, held on July 16-September 3 under the auspices of Music and Art Center of Greene County in Jewett, N.Y.: Lydia Artymiw, piano (July 16); Virlana Tkacz, artistic director, Yara Arts Group, and poet Wanda Phipps in a program of Ukrainian poetry in the original and in translation, titled "In Verse" (July 23); "Music at the Grazhda" Chamber Music Society – Alexandre Brussilovsky, violin, Solomiya Ivakhiv, violin, Borys Deviatov, viola, Natalia Khoma, cello, and Mr. Vynnytsky, piano (July 30); Oksana Krovytska, soprano (August 6); Iryna Krechkovsky, violin, and Marta Krechkovsky, violin, with Kevin Kwan Loucks, piano (August 13); Yuri Kharenko, violin, Mr. Vynnytsky, piano, in a program titled "A Viennese Evening" (August 27); and Vladimir Viardo, piano (September 3).

Accordianist Chango Spasiuk, a third-generation Ukrainian Argentinean, who refers to his Ukrainian heritage as a source of influence for his music, has garnered continued public attention since 1988, going on to establish himself as an Argentinean folk virtuoso. Playing in a musical style native to Argentina, dubbed "chamamé," Mr. Spasiuk uses elements of chamamé – an accordion-based derivative of tango, with various other forms of South American and African styles. Mr. Spasiuk's albums have been noted by The New York Times, BBC Radio and other prominent news media. His latest release was "Tarafero de Mis Pagos."

Ukrainian vocal artist, composer and folklorist Mariana Sadovska, who specializes in little-known songs and rituals from rural Ukrainian villages, led the San Francisco Bay Area Women's Vocal Ensemble Kitka on a three-week performance tour and research expedition of Ukraine on June 12-July 4. The tour, which included visits to the rural villages of Svarytsevychi, Havronschna and Kriachkivka, as well as larger cultural centers such as Kyiv and Lviv, offered the group opportunities to collaborate with professional folk singers, village musicians, choral directors and contemporary theater artists, as well as to gather stories and songs from village elders and perform in concert with Ukraine's premier folk singers and ensembles. As part of the tour, festival-style anchor performances, titled "Enchantment Songs," were held in Lviv (June 17) and Kyiv (July 1). The tour was documented by New York-based videographer and director Lars Jan.

The Kule Chair in Ukrainian Ethnography and the

Ukrainian Folklore Center of the University of Alberta sponsored a visit by Michael Taft, head of the Archive of Folk Culture at the American Folklore Center of the United States Library of Congress on March 16. While at the University of Alberta, Dr. Taft examined the Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives, assessing preservation and indexing procedures. On March 17, Dr. Taft gave a public lecture titled "The Ethnographic Archive in the 21st Century." Among Dr. Taft's most notable current projects is "Save Our Sounds," a U.S.-wide effort to digitize and preserve folksong recordings. Dr. Taft and an international team of folklorists are also working on a thesaurus to facilitate digital information exchange.

A Kyivan Liturgy Symposium was held in Chicago in early October as part of the Festival of Kyivan Liturgical Music. The symposium examined the development of liturgical music in Ukraine in the ancient, classical and modern eras. Among presenters at the symposium were Archbishop Oleksander Bykovets of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, Archbishop Vsevolod Majdanski of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.; Prof. Lawrence Ewashko, choral studies professor at the University of Ottawa; and Dr. Vasil Truchly. The festival was held on the 120th anniversary of the birth of Prof. Ivan Truchly, an eminent Ukrainian choral conductor and an expert on the Kyivan liturgical tradition, whose book of notation and research, titled "Liturgy," was recently published by his son, Dr. Truchly. The Festival of Kyivan Liturgical Music was organized to rectify the problem of neglect of liturgical music in the Soviet era and the lack of adequate support in the Ukrainian diaspora that has contributed to its decline. The two-day festival included a concert of liturgical and folk music presented by four Chicago Ukrainian choirs and two ensembles, with Dr. Truchly serving as conductor of the Festival Choir. Full text documents of the lectures delivered at the symposium, as well as a list of liturgical compositions by Ukrainian composers were made available via the e-mail address kyivliturgyfest@aol.com. A feature on the symposium and festival, written by Maria Kulczycky, appeared in the December 25 issue of The Weekly.

Ukrainian jazz was the subject of an extensive report by Larry Appelbaum, a jazz specialist and senior studio engineer at the Library of Congress, who posted his findings on the art form on the Internet, on the site www.jazzhouse.org. The report came about as a result of Mr. Appelbaum's research trip to Ukraine, undertaken in November 2004, during which he met with jazz musicians, composers, technicians, journalists, students and fans in Kyiv and Lviv. As part of his engagements, Mr. Appelbaum spoke about contemporary developments in jazz at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and met with his counterparts at the Ukrainian National Library. As part of his report Mr. Appelbaum noted that while Ukrainian jazz musicians are taking the genre in their own unique direction, their music is almost completely unknown in the United States and there is no outlet for Ukrainian artists' CDs here. Mr. Appelbaum's trip was organized by the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv to launch its 2004-2005 "Open Lands" music project. On January 27 Mr. Appelbaum shared his experiences and played some examples of contemporary Ukrainian jazz at a lecture and discussion held at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, organized by The Washington Group Cultural Fund. Selections of Ukrainian jazz were played on Mr. Appelbaum's radio jazz show, "The Sound of Surprise," on WPFM-FM.

Music recordings

The recording "Requiem for Larissa" by contemporary Ukrainian composer Valentin Sylvestrov was nominated for two of this year's Grammy awards in the category of best choral performance and best classical contemporary composition. Mr. Sylvestrov composed the work for mixed choir and orchestra between 1997 and 1999, after the death in 1996 of his wife, musicologist Larissa Bondarenko. The work was recorded in Kyiv in 2001 with the Dumka Ukrainian National Choir (Yevhen Savchuk, choirmaster), and the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine (Volodymyr Sirenko, conductor). The recording was released by ECM Records in 2004.

The Detroit-based Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus (UBC), which travels the world with Ukraine's rich musical heritage, undertook a tour, after a 10-year hiatus, of western Canada this November. The UBC also undertook two projects, augmenting its extensive discography. Among this year's recording releases were "Bayda – A Tribute to Four Centuries of Kozak Heroism by the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus," which documents the chorus' historic repertoire. The recording was distributed in

Ukraine, and to North American libraries and music institutions. Also released was a DVD and video of the chorus's 2003 tour of Europe. Photography editor for the project was the renowned James Ho Lim.

A project of chronicling immigration songs of the Lemkos, many of whom upon immigrating to the United States in the early 1920s had worked in the coal mines of Pennsylvania, resulted in the creation of a CD titled "Immigrant/Emigrant" featuring Lemko folk singer Julia Doszna. With the release of the album, which was recorded in the United States this year, Ms. Doszna, along with pianist David Libby, appeared in a performance of Lemko songs in New York City on September 8 as part of the events held at the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University. Initiator of the recording project was Brian Ardan of Lock Haven, Pa., faculty member in the Stevenson Library at Lock Haven University, who traveled to Polany and the greater Lemko region (located in current southeastern Poland) to collect and research Lemko songs with the aim of learning about his cultural heritage. The project was realized as a tribute to the early immigrants and to Mr. Ardan's grandfather, Stefan, who was born in the village of Polany and upon emigrating, worked in the coal mines in Marion Heights, Pa. Stephan was a grandfather whom Mr. Ardan never knew.

"Fragmenty," the latest compact disc by the Paris to Kyiv Ensemble, with Winnipeg's Alexis Kochan, principal vocalist, which was released this year, constitutes, in the words of reviewer Robert B. Klymasz, Ph.D., curator emeritus with the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec, "a powerful, beautifully crafted tribute to the Ukrainian lyrical folk song tradition and its overriding female dimensions: a rich sampling that underlines the plight of the woman in village society in a most eloquent way. These are haunting, poignant and often gut-wrenching songs nipped out of their Old Country setting and universalized." The recording which may be classified under "world music," includes 17 musical items presented in a characteristically innovative manner. "Fragmenty" was released by the Winnipeg-based Olesia Records; the CD booklet includes introductory remarks by Marcia Ostaszewski, song texts in Ukrainian and interpretive notes and art-design by Ron Sawchuk.

Philanthropy

Ian Ihnatowycz, president and chief executive officer of Acuity Funds Ltd. and Acuity Investment Management Inc., and his wife, optometrist Dr. Marta Witer, donated \$5 million to the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) in an announcement made on November 17 by Florence Minz, chair of the RCM Board of Directors. The gift, made to the RCM's Building National Dreams Campaign, went toward providing funds to advance the construction of the RCM's new home, preserve the conservatory's heritage building, and fund a special Piano Scholars Program. In recognition of their generous contribution, the historic wing of the conservatory's TELUS Center for Performance and Learning – 124-year-old McMaster Hall and 104-year-old Mazzoleni Hall – will now collectively be known as Ihnatowycz Hall, and the scholars program will be known as the Ian Ihnatowycz Piano Scholars Program. It was also announced that Mr. Ihnatowycz would be joining the RCM Board of Directors.

Popular music

Ukraine hosted the finals of the 50th anniversary of the Eurovision Song Contest at Kyiv's Sports Palace on May 21. Singers and rock bands from 24 nations competed in front of an international audience of 9,000 spectators and over 150 million television viewers worldwide. According to Mykola Tomenko, vice prime minister of humanitarian affairs, who was in charge of organizing the event, "This wasn't just a song competition, but above all a European presentation of Ukraine." Amid some controversy as to contestant status and eligibility, Ukraine was represented by Gryndzholy (Greenjolly) – the Ivano-Frankivsk trio. The group was brought into the contest, at the prompting of Ukraine's new government, directly into the final run-off; it had to rewrite its politically tinged hip-hop song "Razom Nas Bahato – Nas Ne Podolaty," which became the popular anthem of the Orange Revolution, as decreed by Eurovision executives or be eliminated from the competition. At Gryndzholy's performance the entire audience rose from their seats to clap, dance and sing along, finishing with rousing chants of "U-kra-yi-na." Despite the audience's enthusiasm, the group fared poorly in the international televoting. Helena Paporizou, a Swedish citizen representing Greece, won the competition with her song "My Number

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

One" and was duly congratulated by President Viktor Yushchenko, who appeared on stage to offer congratulations. Eurovision's executive director, Svante Stockselius, expressed his satisfaction with the excellent organization and execution of the Eurovision festival.

With the release of its latest album, "Gloria" in September, Okean Elzy, one of Ukraine's leading rock bands, embarked on a tour, with concerts held in its hometown of Lviv in October and in Kyiv on September 15. The recording features lead singer Sviatoslav Vakarchuk and Denis Hlinin, with a changed line-up of newcomers Denis Dudko, Milosh and Petro Cherniavsky. The band, which has been in existence for nearly 17 years, has six albums to its credit, and its success has taken it beyond Ukraine's borders, with tours of Western Europe and Russia. Original band members included Pavlo Hudimo, lead guitarist, back-up vocalist and co-songwriter; Yurii Khustochka, bass guitarist; and Dmytro Shurov, keyboard player. Since last year's Orange Revolution, Mr. Vakarchuk has worked for President Viktor Yushchenko, who named him as a presidential advisor on youth issues in January.

Anthony Fedorov, a 20-year-old from Trevoze, Pa., was one of the last four contestants, from the original 100,000 auditioners, vying for the title of this year's "American Idol," the popular reality show currently in its fourth season. As a toddler in Ukraine, Mr. Fedorov was diagnosed with a growth in his throat, underwent a series of surgeries in Moscow, with doctors ultimately telling him that he would never be able to speak again. Concurrent with his studies at Bucks County Community College, Mr. Fedorov is pursuing a singing career in New York City.

Photography

The retrospective exhibit, "Manufactured Landscape: The Photographs of Edward Burtynsky," organized and circulated by the National Gallery of Canada, was shown throughout the year at the Museum of Photographic Arts in San Diego (March 20-June 5), the Iris and B. Ferald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University in California (June 29-September 18) and at the Brooklyn Museum of Art in New York (September 23-December 11). The mid-career retrospective comprised 64 large color photographs taken from different series produced over the last 20 years. Mr. Burtynsky, a Ukrainian Canadian from St. Catharines, Ontario, is a graduate of Ryerson Polytechnical University in Toronto and the founder of Toronto Image Works. He has become internationally known for his industrial and manufactured landscapes of astonishing but troubling beauty. His photographs form part of the collections of the leading world museums and art galleries. Mr. Burtynsky's numerous solo shows have been reviewed by Harper's Magazine, The New Yorker, Smithsonian Magazine, The New York Times, The Globe and Mail, Art in America, Art Forum and Flash Art, among others. Mr. Burtynsky's book "Before the Flood," which documents the construction of the Three Gorges Dam project in China, won the Roloff Benny Photography Book Award (2004). In his acceptance speech at the Technology, Entertainment and Design Conference held in Monterey, Calif., last year, Mr. Burtynsky, as one of the three winners of the inaugural TED prize which carries a honorarium of \$100,000, proposed to use his art to open a global discussion about our ability to sustain the present pace of industrial development. In his own country, Mr.



Photographer Edward Burtynsky

Burtynsky has been elected to the Royal Canadian Academy and has had the rare honor of having the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa organize a traveling retrospective exhibition of his work. A feature on Mr. Burtynsky, written by Alexandra Hawryluk, appeared in the October 16 issue of The Weekly.

An exhibition of photographs by Vera Elyjiw Sytch, titled "Scenes of Village Life in Ukraine," documenting a trip to Ukraine taken by the photographer and her family, was on view from July 12 through August 31 in Rochester's Kodak Park. Ms. Elyjiw Sytch's photo journalist work covering a medical mission in Senegal, West Africa, in 2003 won her first and second place in Kodak's International Salon photo contest. Ms. Elyjiw Sytch, who holds a photography degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology, worked in Japan for the Minolta Camera Company as a technical writer and is currently a marketing communications writer for Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, N.Y. Ms. Elyjiw Sytch's photographs can be found in the Kodak Image Library.

Theater

Lidia Krushelnytsky, director of the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, was honored during a festive luncheon held on April 17 at the Pierre Hotel in New York in a dual celebration of her 90th birthday (which fell on May 1) and the 40th anniversary of the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble which she has been directing since 1965. For the past four decades, Mrs. Krushelnytsky, known as "Pani Lida" to her students, honed the talents of some 250 students, meshing amateur thespian and backstage abilities with the professional skills of guest choreographers, composers, actors and set decorators to produce 150 notable performances of plays and dramatic readings. Her troupe, acclaimed in New York and numerous U.S. towns and cities, received public and critical praise during appearances in Ukraine. At the celebration, Mrs. Krushelnytsky was presented with the St. Volodymyr the Great gold medal by keynote speaker Askold Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian World Congress, and the Kyiv pectoral award from Kyiv governmental and cultural organizations, presented by Dr. Valerij Hajdabura, artistic director of the Ivan Franko Theater in Kyiv. The event was planned and presented by the friends of the Ukrainian Stage Ensemble, all former students of Mrs. Krushelnytsky.

"Koliada: Twelve Dishes," was performed by the Yara Arts Group at La MaMa Theater in New York City on March 4-20. The idea for the play came about as a result of director Virlana Tkacz's research travels in the Carpathian Mountains, where many of the rituals relating to the winter solstice that are invoked in the play are still practiced. The play is framed by the traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve dinner. Music, which forms an important component of the play, features Hutsul "koliadnyky" (carolers) Ivan Zelenchuk and Dmytro Trafyichuk from the village of Kryvorivnia in the Carpathian Mountains. Ukrainian and English are interwoven in traditional folk song and spoken word, which includes the poetry of contemporary poet Serhiy Zhadan. Musical arrangements are by Mariana Sadovska; set design, Watoku Ueno.

Yara Arts Group went on to celebrate its 15th anniversary on September 24. The celebrations included the premiere of two short documentary films, Andrea Odezynska's "The Whisperer" and Amy Grappell's "Light from the East" as well as a performance by Yara artists offering excerpts from the 16 theater pieces that Yara created since its founding in 1990.

The independent arts group "Teatr v Koshyku" (Theater in a Basket), which, since its founding in 1997, stages productions in both Lviv and increasingly in Kyiv as well as abroad, came to the United States as participants of I-Fest, the first annual festival of international solo performances that was held in Chicago on October 22-30 at the Chopin Theater. In Chicago, the theater presented "White Butterflies, Plaited Chains," a work based on narrative vignettes by master of the short story genre, Ukrainian writer Vasyl Stefanyk (1871-1936). A special performance was held at Columbia University in New York City on November 11, with leading actress Lidiya Danylchuk, a co-founder of the theater, in a solo performance based on "The Dream," written in 1844 by Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko. Ms. Danylchuk was also featured in a solo performance at the Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York on November 13 in a repeat of the production "White Butterflies, Plaited Chains." Director and co-founder of Teatr v Koshyku, Iryna Volytska-Zubko, is a graduate of the St. Petersburg Institute of Theater, Music and



Theater director Lidia Krushelnytsky

Cinematography, and a recent recipient of the Les Kurbas National Theater Award. Ms. Danylchuk, who graduated from the Karpenko-Karyi National Theater Institute in Kyiv, is a prize-winner of the Ivan Kotliarevsky National Theater Award. Teatr v Koshyku's performances, which are characterized by a minimalist use of sets and props, include contemporary interpretations of Ukrainian classics. Teatr v Koshyku's festival invitations in Europe and abroad attest to the theater's appeal to broad audiences.

"Becoming Natasha," a collaborative multimedia production work-in-progress that draws on the international problem of human trafficking for its subject, had its premiere in New York on October 7-8, as part of the Six Figures Theater Company's fifth annual Artists of Tomorrow Festival. The piece, presented by Isadora Productions, with co-producers Stacey Cervellino and Anna Klein, and director, Nancy S. Chu, was inspired by the book "The Natashas: The New Global Sex Trade" by Ukrainian Canadian author and investigative journalist Victor Malarek. A special reading from "Becoming Natasha" was held as part of a series of events to raise awareness of human trafficking sponsored by Amnesty International in New York on October 10 at the HERE Arts Center. A subsequent performance of the work was held at HERE on November 18. Ukrainian cast member in the production is Nina Arianda.

Laryssa Lauret, the well-known Ukrainian TV and Broadway actress (Laryssa Lysniak), who in the early 1960s was a member of the experimental Ukrainian "Novyi Teatr" (New Theater) directed by Volodymyr Lysniak, starred in the off-Broadway production titled "Name Day." The play by Jovanka Bach – a drama about two Serbian immigrant families, set in southern California, circa 1985 – opened at New York City's Barrow Theater Group as a production of the Immigrant's Theater Project, where it ran June 1-19.

"Strike! The Musical," a dramatization of events dealing with the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919 – Canada's famous labor disruption that involved more than 30,000 people, opened in Winnipeg at the Theater in the Park on May 26, where it ran through June 14. Music and lyrics for the production were written by Danny Schur, with script co-written by Mr. Schur and Rick Chafe; choreography is by Tom Mokry. The musical includes characters who represent real people who had a role in events as well as fictionalized characters. The play's Ukrainian aspect is driven by the main character, Mike Sokolowski, victim and reluctant martyr of the strike who died when Royal North-West Mounted Police charged into a crowd of strikers on June 21, 1919 – a day that is known in Canadian history as "Bloody Saturday." The production received supporting grants from two wings of the Ukrainian community in Canada – the Taras Shevchenko Foundation and the Ukrainian Labor Temple Foundation. The musical received extensive coverage in the mainstream press, including Toronto's Globe and Mail.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The UNA: looking ahead to its 36th Convention

Like other Ukrainian community organizations in early 2005, the Ukrainian National Association was thrilled with the results of the Orange Revolution. In the January 9 issue of *The Ukrainian Weekly* and the January 7 issue of *Svoboda*, the UNA took out full-page announcements greeting the newly elected president of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko, and congratulating the people of Ukraine on their victory. "The people of Ukraine were finally heard, and the demand for democracy and a fair election process was realized. The people prevailed," wrote UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj on behalf of the UNA Executive Committee.

The message also noted: "The Ukrainian National Association is proud that we were able to make a contribution, albeit small, to this valiant effort. Many of our members, including the UNA president, traveled to Ukraine to participate as official election observers. We also assisted in financially supporting our young diaspora Ukrainians who took part as election monitors."

Several weeks later, *The Weekly* congratulated the Ukrainian National Association on its 111th anniversary, pointing to the fraternal society's "long and illustrious history" that "encompasses well over a century of service to its members and, indeed, to all Ukrainians."

An anniversary of another sort was marked by the Almanac of the Ukrainian National Association for 2005, which was dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. The 272-page almanac was released at the beginning of the year by the *Svoboda* Press; its editor was Petro Chasto, a member of the editorial staff of the *Svoboda* weekly.

Patriarch Filaret, leader of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, visited the Ukrainian National Association's Corporate Headquarters on November 10 and was welcomed with a traditional Ukrainian greeting at the entrance to the UNA headquarters by officers and employees of the Ukrainian National Association. Also present were representatives of the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, which has a branch office in the building.

During his visit to the UNA, Patriarch Filaret addressed an assembly of Home Office employees, among them editors of *Svoboda* and *The Ukrainian Weekly*, the UNA's two newspapers. He spoke of efforts aimed at the unification of Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in Ukraine, noting that obstacles are continually being set up by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate, which is part of the Russian Orthodox Church. Patriarch Filaret emphasized that Ukraine needs a truly Ukrainian Church.

The memory of the late Rev. Nestor Dmytriw, one of the founders of *Svoboda* and the second supreme secretary of the Ukrainian National Association, was honored on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of his death on October 23 in Hillside, N.J. In 1897 the Rev. Dmytriw was sent to serve the spiritual needs of Ukrainian immigrants in Canada. Much of Father Dmytriw's personal experiences and reflections were published in *Svoboda* in various articles and newspaper entries. A prolific writer, he also authored a history of the founding of the UNA.

A monument to the peripatetic priest, the work of sculptor Leo Mol, was unveiled in Dauphin, Manitoba, in 1977 next to the Cross of Freedom built 80 years earlier near the little house where the Rev. Dmytriw offered the first Ukrainian liturgy in Canada in April of 1897. When Father Dmytriw died in 1925 he was buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Hillside, N.J. – and almost forgotten in history. However, through the efforts of one Hillside parishioner, Olga Shatynski, and members of her family, his memory was rediscovered.

Continuing its proud tradition of educating the public, the Ukrainian National Association made available copies of the curriculum guide on the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 prepared by Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, an educator and historian. The guide, which includes a section for teachers and another geared for students, was prepared in 2003 on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Great Famine; it was published and funded by the UNA. The 29-page teachers' guide includes information on: "Soviet Policy and the Forced Famine," "The Organized Preparation of the Famine," "The Terror-Famine in Perspective," "Was the Famine Really a Genocide?" and "Food as a Political Weapon." Also discussed are the press cover-up of the Famine, the

Soviets' direct responsibility for the Famine and Soviet denials that the Famine took place.

The Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) was the subject of an exhibit on view during the fall of 2005 at the Ukrainian National Association's Corporate Headquarters. The exhibit, the property of the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center, had been developed and mounted in Toronto in October 2002 by the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations in close cooperation with the UCRDC. The exhibit is based on the authoritative *Chronicles of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (Litopys UPA)*; it encompasses historic photographs, archival documents, maps and various artifacts related to the UPA's fight for the freedom of Ukraine.

The official opening of the exhibit at the UNA headquarters on October 16 was scheduled to coincide with the Feast Day of the Protection of the Mother of God (Sviato Pokrovy), which is considered to be the day in 1942 when the Ukrainian Insurgent Army was founded. Opening remarks were given by UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich, who noted the importance of passing information about Ukraine's history on to the next generation. An introduction to the Ukrainian Insurgent Army was provided by Dr. Taras Hunczak, Rutgers University professor emeritus of history, who spoke of the UPA's battle for Ukraine's freedom as it was caught between two powers: the Soviets and the Nazis.

A showing of the documentary "A Daughter's Journey" by Christina Kotlar, who holds a master's degree in production for film and video from American University in Washington, was a highlight of the program. The filmmaker noted that she had read the memoirs of her father, Julian Kotlar, in *Litopys UPA* and realized "it was time to tell his story."

Among those who came to the UNA building to see the exhibit and Ms. Kotlar's work in progress were the Newark, N.J., branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Whippany, N.J., branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM).

The same exhibit had been on display at Soyuzivka, the Ukrainian National Association's estate in Kerhonkson, N.Y., over the weekend of July 29-31 as part of a broader conference titled "A Day in the Life of the UPA – Ukrainian Insurgent Army."

The UNA also assisted a young film-maker, Damian Kolodiy, by donating \$1,000 for his documentary on the Orange Revolution. Mr. Kolodiy filmed events of the Orange Revolution as they were unfolding, both on Independence Square in Kyiv and during the "Friendship Train" that drove through Ukraine's southern and eastern regions between the first and second run-off elections of Ukraine's presidential race in 2004.

Among the many activities benefiting from UNA support during 2005 was a special concert featuring Myroslav Skoryk, composer and pianist, and Oleh Chmyr, baritone, that presented arias from the opera "Moisei," other original compositions by Maestro Skoryk, as well as video excerpts from the opera. The event took place at the UNA Corporate Headquarters on February 20, with nearly 100 people in attendance. The concert was organized by the Morris County Branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and was sponsored by the UNA and Selfreliance Ukrainian

American Federal Credit Union.

A completely different type of event that enjoyed UNA sponsorship was the first ever Ukrainian Festival at New Jersey's Giants Stadium on September 17. The daylong event included performances, vendors and sports, including a special soccer match between the Metrostars Reserves and the Ukrainian American All-Stars, a combined squad that featured players from various teams. The UNA had an information table – featuring information about the UNA and its insurance plans, plus its publications and Soyuzivka – set up in the parking area where the Ukrainian program was held. Two lucky children won bicycles in a drawing sponsored by the UNA, and an adult festival-goer won a mini iPod.

A UNA district chairpersons' meeting and secretaries' course was held at Soyuzivka on April 1-3. Eight districts were represented, with 16 branch secretaries and eight members of the General Assembly attending the meeting, whose primary organizers were UNA National Secretary Christine Kozak and UNA First Vice-President Martha Lysko. Speakers presented talks on UNA insurance products and annuities, the organization's history and community involvement, and innovations at the UNA Home Office. Also on the agenda were tips on how to promote the UNA and enroll members.

During the weekend meeting, the UNA presented award certificates to: Lubov Streletsky, secretary of Branch 10, for the highest number of policies sold in 2004; Osyp Hawryluk, advisor and branch secretary, for having a high level of activity as an advisor, branch secretary and district chairman; Alexander Serafyn for long and dedicated services as district chairman and auditor; and Ms. Lysko, first vice-president, for her work on the Executive Committee and continued close cooperation with her fellow execs.

Advisor Stefan Hawrysz was not only recognized as a certificate recipient, but also as being the longest-serving district chairman and a former very successful supreme organizer whose service to the UNA spans over half a century. For many years he was also a champion organizer of the UNA. He served as UNA auditor and continues serving as UNA advisor and district chairman.

Another annual UNA gathering was the 31st annual UNA Seniors' Conference held at Soyuzivka during the week beginning June 12. The conference events included a special celebration of the 100th birthday of Dr. Roman Baranowsky, a longtime member of the UNA Seniors. It was noted that his consistent and unwavering support of the UNA and its seniors' club has only been matched by his strong concern for Ukrainian issues.

The UNA Seniors unanimously elected the following officers: Oksana Trytjak, president; Ihor Hayda, vice-president; Bozhena Olshaniwsky, secretary; and Olga Paprocki, treasurer.

The UNA marked the 100th birthday of a dedicated branch secretary, Stefania Kochey. At the annual meeting of the UNA District Committee of Chicago on Saturday, March 5, Mrs. Kochey received a bronze plaque recognizing her 48 years of service as secretary of UNA Branch 472 in Chicago. Making the presentation was Honorary Member of the UNA General Assembly Myron B. Kuropas, who commented on the



Roma Hadzewycz

Patriarch Filaret is greeted at the Ukrainian National Association's Corporate Headquarters on November 10.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

dedication and hard work of those of Mrs. Kochey's generation: "Your willingness to sacrifice and your enthusiasm for the UNA serve as an example for all of us." He told Mrs. Kochey that, "As of right now, you hold the record for longevity in the ranks of distinguished UNA secretaries."

Unfortunately, the UNA also lost a number of dedicated activists during 2005, among them, Barbara Bachynsky, former supreme advisor, who died on May 10 at age 71; and Tekla Moroz, honorary member of the General Assembly and former supreme advisor, who died on December 6 at age 78.

The UNA General Assembly held its annual meeting on September 23-25 at Soyuzivka. The business sessions focused on the UNA's operating results and adopted a new budget for the coming year, discussed a strategic direction for the fraternal organization and addressed various organizational issues. The annual meeting also provided an opportunity for advisors, auditors and honorary members to report on activities of their local community and UNA branches.

Prior to the General Assembly meeting, the UNA Auditing Committee on September 20-22 conducted a review of the operations of the Ukrainian National Association for 2004 and the first six months of 2005. The auditors' report noted: for the first six months of 2005 the UNA had operating losses of \$504,874, or \$487,000 less than in the first six months of 2004; for the same time period the UNA Corporate Headquarters building had a profit of \$98,000; and the UNA's reserves as of mid-2005 stood at \$4,854,000.

Meanwhile, at Soyuzivka, the UNA's estate in the Catskill region of New York, the summertime was filled with an array of camps and events. Among the camps offered in 2005 were: Tennis Camp, Tabir Ptshat (a day camp for Ukrainian-speaking pre-schoolers organized by Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization), Children's Day Camp (a bilingual, English-Ukrainian camp), Discovery Camp (for children age 8-13) and Adventure Camp (for teens 13-16).

During the summer Soyuzivka also hosted two tennis tournaments, the eastern and national championships, as well as the 49th annual national swim meet held over Labor Day weekend. The 2005 meet set a record for the number of competitors - 72. Organized by the Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK), the national tennis tournament was held on September 3-5. The 2005 tournament celebrated 50 years of consecutive play.

For the record, Labor Day weekend continued to be far and away the most popular weekend at the estate.

The annual crowning of Miss Soyuzivka took place on August 13-14, and the winner was Ksenya Hentisz, a sophomore at New York University studying international politics and history, a member of Plast and its Verkhovynky sorority, and a member of the Syzokryli dance ensemble.

The biggest news of 2005 regarding Soyuzivka was the establishment of the Soyuzivka Heritage Foundation a non-profit charitable entity that will operate

Soyuzivka as a cultural and educational venue. The foundation, which was incorporated in July and now awaits Internal Revenue Service (IRS) approval as a 501 (c) (3) charitable foundation, will be supported in part by donations, grants and annual membership fees.

UNA Treasurer Lisovich wrote: "Transferring Soyuzivka to a non-profit foundation will ensure that our Ukrainian American heritage continues to be promoted and recognized and that the foundation will continue in perpetuity. This should help reduce some of the tax burden and allow Soyuzivka to borrow independently without impacting the UNA's financial position for capital improvements. When these improvements are completed, Soyuzivka should become a full-season facility with a steady stream of income throughout the year."

During the year, the UNA continued to provide many fraternal benefits to its members. Among the most popular, of course, is the UNA scholarship program. The April 17 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly featured a special section about the 105 students who received \$20,850 in scholarships and awards for the 2004-2005 academic year.

Among the new benefits announced by the UNA during 2005 was Print Pal, a child identification and safety promotion program whose objectives are to increase awareness of the issue of missing and exploited children, and to educate both parents and children about prevention. The UNA began including a special fingerprinting booklet with every new insurance policy purchased for a child. The booklet is filled with comprehensive information describing the child, including everything from physical descriptions and locations of birthmarks, scars, etc., to detailed information on the parents, school and personal physician.

At year's end, the UNA's district committees held annual organizing meetings, whose principal topics were enrollment of new members. Speaking at one such meeting, which brought together the New York, Northern New Jersey and Central New Jersey Districts, UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich cited organizing statistics for the first nine months of 2005: the UNA enrolled 238 new members for \$5.86 million of insurance coverage, meeting 28 percent of the membership quota set for the year. Ms. Lisovich noted that poor organizing activity strongly affects the UNA's bottom line. She pointed out that most sales these days can be attributed to the work of the UNA Home Office staff, and she emphasized that the UNA needs others besides Home Office staff to enroll members.

The UNA treasurer also commented that "we need a different approach to sell to today's potential members," adding that playing up the UNA's community involvement is crucial. That involvement, she said, takes many forms, including publishing two newspapers, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, which receive a subsidy of approximately \$250,000 from the UNA; and operating Soyuzivka, a cultural-educational venue for Ukrainian Americans. She underscored that commercial life insurance companies, unlike fraternal associations, do not

support such community endeavors

In late December the UNA created a new position, that of director of publications, and tapped Dr. Walter Prochorenko for the job. He was introduced to readers in our December 25 issue via an announcement from the UNA Executive Committee that cited his extensive expertise in the field of business management and finance, his Ph.D. in international business management, and his international experience (including in Ukraine and the United States).

As the year drew to a close, activity at the UNA Home Office was geared toward preparations for its next quadrennial convention, which is scheduled to take place over Memorial Day weekend, May 26-29, 2006, at Soyuzivka - marking the first time a UNA convention will be held at the UNA estate.

The world of sports: Ukraine and diaspora

Vitalii Klitschko's retirement from the world of professional heavyweight boxing was among the most notable sporting events in 2005. Klitschko, 34, retired as the World Boxing Association's heavyweight champion on November 9 after spending a year trying to recover from a knee injury. Vitalii and his younger brother, Volodymyr, once dreamed of simultaneously holding heavyweight championship belts, but that dream was crushed after Vitalii's announcement.

Klitschko then said on December 10 that he was taking up politics, running in Ukraine's Parliamentary elections in March 2006. The Associated Press reported that Klitschko would sit at the top of the party list of a newly formed bloc that included a party headed by the country's finance minister, Viktor Pynzenyk, and the Pora youth movement.

Addressing his decision to retire, Klitschko said in a statement that he was tired of battling against injuries.

"Unfortunately, I've been fighting injuries recently more than facing rivals in the ring," Klitschko said. "The decision to end was hard to make. But I would like to end my career on top and with my retirement make the way free for my successor."

Just prior to his retirement, Klitschko had been scheduled to defend his title against Hasim Rahman in Las Vegas. However, four days before the fight, Klitschko injured himself again and could not fight. The injury came as Klitschko was sparring in preparation for the Rahman bout. He underwent arthroscopic surgery in Inglewood, Calif., according to the Associated Press.

Klitschko last defended his title in December 2004 against Danny Williams and was supposed to have met Rahman in April, but the fight was postponed when Klitschko pulled a thigh muscle and later injured his back.

Following Klitschko's retirement, the WBC replaced him with Rahman as the official heavyweight champion during a ceremony held in Cancun, Mexico, on December 20. The WBC also awarded Klitschko an emeritus championship belt during the ceremony. The organization also named the Ukrainian boxer a WBC World Ambassador for Peace and Good Will in the World. Klitschko "brought prestige to the heavyweight championship of the world," the WBC said.

Meanwhile, Volodymyr Klitschko overcame a series of devastating losses earlier in his career to beat Samuel Peter in a unanimous decision in September. The win put Volodymyr in the role of mandatory challenger for the International Boxing Federation heavyweight championship belt currently held by Chris Byrd.

Volodymyr Klitschko, 29, lost the World Boxing Organization title when he was knocked out by Corrie Sanders in 2003. His career was also seriously hurt after he lost the following year to Lamon Brewster, and much of the boxing community later criticized the Ukrainian for lacking toughness.

Volodymyr Klitschko spent much of the past year rebuilding his career. In his only other fight of the year, he knocked out Cuban fighter Eliseo Castillo in the fourth round of their bout in Dortmund, Germany, on April 23. His two wins in 2005 have helped position him for a run in 2006 for the International Boxing Federation championship belt.

However, earlier in the year, Volodymyr Klitschko lost his bid to be recognized as the mandatory challenger to IBF champion Chris Byrd. Volodymyr Klitschko, who was dropped to the No. 4 spot in the



UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj (back row, left) and National Secretary Christine E. Kozak (right) with UNA activists honored during the district chairpersons' meeting and secretaries' course held on April 1-3: (from left) Martha Lysko, Stefan Hawrysz, Joseph Hawryluk, Alexander Serafyn and Lubov Streletsky.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



UNIAN

Pora leader Vladyslav Kaskiv (left), former heavyweight boxing champion Vitalii Klitschko (center) and Reforms and Order Party leader Viktor Pynzenyk join hands after announcing their political bloc on December 10.

May 2004 IBF rankings, sued for breach of contract. DaVarryl Williamson, who was beaten by Klitschko in their only meeting, moved into the No. 3 spot. The No. 1 and No. 2 slots in the IBF were vacant, leaving Williamson scheduled to fight Byrd the following month.

Klitschko's attorneys asked U.S. District Judge William Martini to stop the Williamson-Byrd match. They alleged that Williamson promoter Don King had influenced the IBF to gain the higher ranking for his fighter. At the close of the year the situation remained unresolved.

While 2006 will surely see Volodymyr Klitschko focused on winning a championship belt, much of the Ukrainian sports world will be focused on the Ukrainian national soccer team, which qualified for the 2006 World Cup for the first time ever.

Ukraine became the first European country to advance to the 2006 World Cup, to be played in Germany, when it completed its September 3 game against Georgia with a 1-1 tie. President Viktor Yushchenko conveyed his congratulations to the Ukrainian National Soccer Team via Youth and Sports Minister Yurii Pavlenko, who attended the Ukraine-Georgia match in Tbilisi.

During its qualifying campaign in 2005, Ukraine beat Georgia, Turkey, Albania and Denmark, and had two wins against Kazakhstan. In addition to the tie against Georgia, the team also tied Denmark, Albania and Greece and then beat Greece 1-0 while on the road on June 8.

The Ukrainian national team is coached by former Soviet international soccer star Oleh Blokhin, who was brought in by the Football Federation of Ukraine shortly after Ukraine failed to qualify for the UEFA Euro 2004 tournament. A European Player of the Year in 1975, Blokhin instantly found himself on the same wavelength as his star player, Andriy Shevchenko. Both Blokhin and Shevchenko appear to have come together successfully to help Ukraine qualify for the World Cup.

The team will play its first World Cup match against Spain on June 14, 2006, in Leipzig, Germany, followed by a game against Saudi Arabia in Hamburg, Germany, on June 19, 2006, and their final match of the first round against Tunisia in Berlin on June 23, 2006.

About 100,000 people gathered on Kyiv's Independence Square on October 9 to celebrate the team's success. Andriy Shevchenko, Ukraine's top scoring threat, and head coach Oleh Blokhin attended the reception and were cheered loudly by the crowd. The rally included a performance by the band Green Gray and a fireworks display.

In other soccer news, Shevchenko was voted among the top 11 soccer players in 2004-2005 by FIFPro. According to its website, FIFPro is a worldwide representative soccer organization comprising 40 national

players' associations. The poll of 38,000 soccer players from 40 countries named Brazilian halfback Ronaldinho, who plays for a Spanish team, the world's best footballer. Shevchenko, who is the Ukrainian national team's top striker, plays for the Italian team AC Milan.

Back in the boxing world, Lennox Lewis, the former World Boxing Council champion, traveled to Kyiv in October to attend a boxing tournament in the Ukrainian capital. Lewis, who retired in 2004, on October 14 visited Kyiv's City Hall building, where he met with Vice Mayor Ihor Lysov.

Lewis told journalists in Kyiv that he came to Ukraine to show young Ukrainian boxers that they can become world champions like him or Vitalii Klitschko.

Vice-Mayor Lysov, referring to the retired Briton, said the visit to Ukraine by a great boxer would promote boxing in Ukraine. Lewis later met with Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko and attended a boxing tournament as a guest of honor, organized by the League of Professional Boxing of Ukraine.

In addition to Lewis, former heavyweight champion and controversial boxer Mike Tyson arrived in Ukraine on a private visit on August 28. Tyson and his 131-foot yacht Summer Wind landed at the Odesa Marine Port, the news agency Ukrinform reported, though they did not give a reason for his visit.

While Tyson's visit to Ukraine made waves above land, a team of Ukrainian spelunkers (cave explorers) made their own headlines below it. The team, a part of the Ukrainian Speleological Association's Call of the Abyss project, was sponsored by the National Geographic Society, and was part of a four-year project that set a new world record for the deepest descent into a cave.

The nine-strong group traveled 2,080 meters (6,822 feet) underground, passing the elusive 2,000-meter mark while in a cavern at Krubera, the world's deepest known cave located in Georgia's Caucasus Mountains. The May 2005 issue of National Geographic featured a story on the expedition and the team, which made breaking the 2,000-meter mark its goal.

The expedition included a support team of 56 cavers and six members of a discovery team that had to negotiate vertical drops and bursts of freezing water. During the descent, which took place between August and September 2004, the team was also forced to blast rubble from tight passages so that they could move deeper into the cave.

In October 2004, a team of nine cavers was sent back to Krubera to pick up where the previous group left off. They examined unexplored leads in the cave's lowest section until they broke through to a new series of passages and vertical pits. On October 19, 2004, team leader Yuri Kasjan dropped down to a lower chasm and discovered from his altimeter that he had passed 2,000

meters.

More pits and passages brought the explorers to a sandy chamber at 2,080 meters (6,822 feet), the deepest to date any caver has ventured below ground, according to the BBC. The team christened the chamber Game Over, and said it would like to return to the cave to see if it leads even deeper.

Moving from the claustrophobic world of caving to the open road of bicycle racing, American Lance Armstrong won his seventh Tour de France bicycle competition in 2005. Notably, Yaroslav Popovych, 25, a native of Drohobych, Ukraine, was awarded the title of the tour's best young cyclist. He was a member of the American Discovery Channel team, which included Armstrong. The honor is given every year to the tour's top rider under the age of 26.

Popovych's performance also impressed The New York Times, which included the Ukrainian among a list of five riders cited as early favorites to win the 2006 Tour de France, considered to be road cycling's premier event. "The best young rider in this tour, he may succeed Armstrong as team leader," The Times wrote on July 25. "Popo, as he is known, was strong in the mountains."

Yet another strong Ukrainian athlete in 2005 was Ukraine's Mykola Antonenko, who won the 2005 Baltimore marathon, finishing the race on October 15 in 2 hours, 15 minutes and 40 seconds. Russia's Mikhail Khobotov took second place with a time of 2:17:00, and Mindaugas Pukstas of Lithuania took third place with a time of 2:18:25.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's Ilona Barvanova took second place in the women's marathon, finishing the race in 2 hours, 44 minutes and 44 seconds. Russia's Ramilya Burangulova took first place with a time of 2:42:00, and her teammate, Marina Bychkova, took third place with a time of 2:46:07.

Just three days before the marathon, on October 12 Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko instructed his Cabinet to draw up a draft decree to further develop sports and a sports infrastructure in Ukraine. During his deliberations with sports leaders and ministers, Mr. Yushchenko issued instructions to the Cabinet to draw up a draft decree stating support for Ukrainian athletes. Even the smallest populated place must have a sports field; every city must have a palace of sports and a stadium, the president said.

The president said he supports the initiative by Minister Pavlenko, whose portfolio includes family, youth and sports to reform the sports system, in particular, by creating 12 sport bases for training summer and winter Olympic hopefuls.

In other Olympic news, former Olympic pole vault champion Sergei Bubka was elected on June 23 as president of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine. Mr. Bubka defeated former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, the loser of last year's presidential election, receiving 80 out of a possible 110 votes. Bubka, 41, won the gold medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and was a six-time world champion. He set both indoor and outdoor world records 35 times.

Yet another Ukrainian Olympic athlete making waves this past year was Olympic gold medalist Yana Klochkova, a world-renowned swimmer who announced she had returned to competition after taking a break from the sport, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Most recently, Klochkova won the 200-meter individual medley and the 400-meter individual medley events at the 2004 Athens Olympics. She also won both events at the 2000 Games in Sydney. After the 2004 Olympics, Klochkova left competitive swimming. It was the longest break the young Ukrainian had taken in her career.

Klochkova said she set her eyes on the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. If she medals there, she would become the third female swimmer to accomplish the feat, joining Australia's Dawn Fraser and Hungary's Kristina Egerszegi. "I think I can do it, but it gets more difficult every time," Klochkova said. "It's easier for the younger swimmers because they're more powerful. But the older swimmers have the experience."

In 2005 a battle over control of the Dynamo Kyiv soccer club spilled into the courts, which froze almost all of the soccer team's shares at the request of one of the feuding partners.

The Pechersk regional court ruled on February 23 that 98.71 percent of Dynamo Kyiv's shares were frozen indefinitely after Russian businessman Konstantyn Grigorishin filed a lawsuit to prevent any possible sales. In February Grigorishin owned 0.1 percent of a share of Dynamo Kyiv, but said he wanted to

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

take over the soccer club, or 98.71 percent of the remaining shares.

Grigorishin, who owns stock in at least a dozen of Ukraine's power distribution companies, was locked in a vicious feud for many years with the Surkis brothers, Ihor and Hryhorii, who own the largest stake in Dynamo Kyiv. He alleged that the brothers attempted to sell their shares in Dynamo Kyiv after ignoring his request to buy them. As a shareholder, he said, he had the legal right to buy the Dynamo Kyiv shares before they were sold.

"Although I didn't have the goal of taking Dynamo Kyiv, I will take it out of principle," he said. "My goal is to return the funds that were taken under pretense of Dynamo Kyiv." At one point, Grigorishin owned 18 percent of Dynamo Kyiv's shares. His partners authorized a stock split and reduced his stake to a mere 0.1 percent.

As part of the Pechersk ruling, the court asked that the partners submit all documents related to the stock split, their attempts to sell the stock and all their official meetings.

Ukraine's Minister of the Economy Serhii Teriokhin acknowledged on February 24 that Dynamo Kyiv's owners have had problems in dividing revenues among shareholders and, in particular, hiding revenues from their trades of soccer players. Several government officials, including Vice Prime Minister Mykola Tomenko, raised the possibility that the government would take possession of Dynamo Kyiv, though little had been resolved as the year came to a close.

In ice hockey, the Ukrainian national team was ousted from the qualification round of the 2005 International Ice Hockey Federation World Championship. Ukraine finished in sixth place in its group of six teams that included Latvia, as well as perennial powerhouses Sweden, Canada, Finland and the United States. Ukraine finished the tournament with one point, which it earned after tying the United States 1-1. Starting goaltender Konstyantyn Simchuk was credited with a stellar performance in keeping the game tight.

Ukraine lost both of its other games: 3-0 to Latvia and 2-1 to Canada, though it took a late third-period goal on the power play for Canada to beat Ukraine. Austria hosted the 16-team tournament in the towns of Vienna and Innsbruck.

Meanwhile, the Royal Canadian Golf Association (RCGA) and the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame and Museum inducted the first Ukrainians into the Hall of Fame in September. Wilfred (Wilf) Homenuik and Robert (Bob) Panasik were inducted to the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame as a part of the class of 2005.

As a pro golfer Homenuik amassed eight international professional victories and earned two CPGA Tour Championship titles in 1965 and 1971. While playing on the PGA Tour, Homenuik competed in 99 competitions placing in the top-10 11 times.

At the age of 15, Panasik made history at the 1957 Canadian Open by becoming the youngest player to make the cut at a PGA Tour event – a record that still stands. So far Panasik, of Windsor, Ontario, has collect-

ed two CPGA championships, three CPGA senior championship titles and 15 various provincial titles.

Organizers of an international chess tournament were busy making their own headlines. In a June 12 article, the New York Post reported on an entirely fraudulent international chess tournament, called the "Heroes of Chernobyl Memorial Tournament." Organizers of the competition claimed the tournament was held on April 14-26 in the Ukrainian town of Slavutysh.

The Ukrainian Chess Federation investigated allegations that the tournament had, in fact, never been held, and that the 14 internationally rated players listed on the event's website as invitees never played each other.

"We came across an open and shameless falsification," said the head of the Ukrainian Chess Federation, Viktor Petrov. "Did you not understand what a sin you were committing?" Petrov demanded to know from the organizers. Petrov said the bogus tournament was humiliating to "the memory of the numerous victims and true heroes of that terrible catastrophe."

With the baseball season wrapping up, both in North America and in Ukraine, Vasyl (Basil) Tarasko provided The Ukrainian Weekly with a brief baseball report on how the sport had developed in Ukraine in 2005.

Mr. Tarasko, an associate scout for Major League Baseball's San Diego Padres and the coach of Ukraine's national baseball teams, is responsible for forming at least several dozen Ukrainian baseball teams. He is also the district administrator of Ukrainian Little League Baseball, officially recognized by the sanctioning body based in Williamsburg, Pa.

The junior team (age 13-15) from Kirovohrad won third place in the Little League European Championships in Kutno, Poland, on July 17. Ukraine beat Lithuania to take third place, but lost to Belgium in the semifinals 7-6.

The team from Donetsk won the sixth annual Ukraine Little League Championship held at Puscha Vodytsia school on June 2-5. Donetsk beat the team from Kirovohrad 9-1. During the tournament, all-star teams from two orphanages, Donetsk and Radomyshl played exhibition games. U.S. Ambassador John Herbst presented both teams with uniforms.

The Tech University baseball club from Kirovohrad won the Confederation of European Baseball (CEB) qualification tournament in Utena, Lithuania, on June 18. Ukraine shut out its first three opponents by a combined score of 70-0. The Ukrainian side defeated the host team, Vetra, 7-6 and then faced Silesia from Rybnik, Poland, for the title. Ukraine's dominance in pitching continued with another shutout, with the final score of 4-0.

The Ukrainian Atma Sport Baseball Club from Kyiv took third place at the European Cup qualification tournament in Karlovac, Croatia, on June 19. Atma defeated club teams from Bulgaria and Greece, but lost 5-3 to host Karlovac. Ukraine took the bronze medal by beating BC Athletica Sofia 8-3.

Ukraine took fourth place at the European Juvenile Championship (under age 12) on July 12. The Ukrainian team defeated Lithuania and Moldova, but lost to Poland, the Czech Republic and to the eventual

winner Russia.

Ukraine finished in 10th place at the Pool A European Senior Baseball Championships held in the Czech Republic on July 17. Ukraine had won the Pool B European Championships in 2004 and moved up to face the elite baseball powers in Europe in 2005. Ukraine scored five runs in losing its first four games, but then beat Croatia, England and Russia to finish with a record of three wins and five losses.

Ten girls from the cities of Rivne and Kirovohrad represented Ukraine at the Junior Girls World Cup fast pitch softball championship in Plant City, Fla., on November 23-27. The tournament was held for girls age 16 and under, but unfortunately Ukraine lost its opening game in the single elimination portion of the tournament to Chinese Taipei 15-0 and was ousted early from competition.

Diaspora sports

In the world of diaspora sports, the University of Rochester inducted soccer legend Zenon Snylyk into its Athletic Hall of Fame on November 18. Snylyk, editor-in-chief of the Svoboda Ukrainian-language daily newspaper (1980-1998) and prior to that editor of The Ukrainian Weekly, was an accomplished athlete and three-time member of the U.S. Olympic soccer team. He died in 2002 at the age of 69.

Also in the world of soccer, former long-time New Jersey resident Chris Adamkiewicz was inducted into the South Jersey Soccer Coaches Association Hall of Fame. The honor came from coaching varsity soccer at New Jersey's Clearview High School, where he has worked for 25 years. His Clearview High School teams have recorded 243 wins, 140 losses, 37 ties and three league championships.

Coach Adamkiewicz also paid his dues to the rich history of Ukrainian athleticism by playing for the Newark Ukrainian Sitch Soccer club, where he remained until 1978.

The Carpathian Ski Club held its 51st ski races in Windham, N.Y., at Ski Windham on February 26 with racing in age groups ranging from 5- and 6-year-olds to age 60 and over.

Ninety-eight competitors signed up for the races – the vast majority of them skiers, although there was a sprinkling of snowboarders among the participants. It was the fourth year that snowboarders competed in separate categories.

Meanwhile, the Yonkers, N.Y., branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) and the Krylati Sports Club on April 16 welcomed 10 adult teams and seven youth teams back to Lincoln High School for their recently revived Spring Volleyball Tournament.

Co-ed teams from seven SUM branches participated in the youth division: Yonkers, N.Y. (three teams), Binghamton, N.Y., Whippany, N.J., Passaic, N.J., and Philadelphia. The teams were made up of "starshe yunatstvo" SUM members (boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 18). The final featured two Yonkers teams, who were playing for hometown bragging rights. In the end, it was the free-wheeling Skarpetky who prevailed over the coachless Yonkers I squad, 21-16, 21-7.

On the adult side of the tournament, the usual powerhouse teams of Khmeli/Spartanky (Plast), the Morris County Volleyball Club of New Jersey and Hartford SUM all happened to be drawn into the same "group of death."

The final saw the Khmeli/Spartanky squad, complete with two former All-Americans, successfully defend their title from last year against a tired, but dogged Hartford team, 15-7, 15-9. Krylati pushed the third-place match into a deciding third game as well, before falling to MCVV, 15-9, 13-15, 11-8.

Several months later, New Jersey's Morris County Volleyball Club (MCVC), conducted the first annual Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey Volleyball Invitational 2005 on October 22 with proceeds going to the building fund of its new community home. Co-hosts included the Whippany branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), the Newark branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Chornomorska Sitch sports club.

As expected, the fiercest competition came in the men's open division, where Chornomorska Sitch of Newark, SUM Hartford, the Trenton Ukrainian Home and the MCVV slugged it out. Sitch and MCVV wound up playing a see-saw, two-hour final until men's MVP Roman Bulawski finally took charge and led the MCVV to victory.

In the women's open division, the final came down to



George Hrabec (left) and George Popel at Soyuzivka during the 50th annual tennis championships at Soyuzivka.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Sitch and the MCVC as well. The MCVC took the first two games of the match, and held an early lead in the third. But the Sitch women, using only five players and no subs all day, finally shook off their initial rust and allowed their natural skills to re-emerge with each successive game. Led by the women's MVP, Alexandra Zawadiwsky, Sitch swept the last three games to win the match 3-2.

The youth division was an all-SUM affair, with Yonkers, Whippany and two teams from Passaic competing. Passaic took the crown among the under-18 co-ed teams, with Maggie Krol winning the MVP trophy.

The over-40 seniors' division witnessed MVP Jaroslaw Palylyk working tirelessly but ultimately proving unable to lift his Yonkers Krylati team over the MCVC seniors in the finals.

Finally, there was an overall club champion trophy awarded to the club that achieved the most top-five finishes across all divisions. The MCVC won the inaugural trophy, outdistancing Sitch, which came in second.

Moving from the volleyball courts to the swimming pool, on September 3, a record number of swimmers – 72 – registered for the 49th annual Labor Day Swimming Competition held at Soyuzivka, the Ukrainian National Association's estate in Kerhonkson, N.Y. Indeed, up to three heats had to be organized for some events in order to accommodate the under 10 age group.

After the competition, trophies and medals provided by the Ukrainian National Association were handed out to individual and team champions. First place in the team competition went to Tryzub with the final score of 149, Chornomorska Sitch came in second with 139 points and third place fell to SUM with 138 points.

Soyuzivka, the UNA's resort in Kerhonkson, N.Y., was also the site of the annual Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) Labor Day Tennis Tournament. Once again Erik Matkiwsky and Maryanna Milchutske won the men's and women's division, respectively. The tournament, held on September 3-5, celebrated 50 years of consecutive play.

The opening ceremonies, held on the tennis courts of Soyuzivka, were dedicated to the 50th tournament held at the UNA estate and the 50th anniversary of USCAK. Greetings and a short history of the tournament were given by Yuriy Kupchynsky, one of the organizers of the first tennis tournament held here. There were 19 men and 12 women in that tournament.

Finally, the 50th anniversary general meeting of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) – in which 31 delegates representing Ukrainian sports clubs in Chicago, Toronto, Rochester, Philadelphia, New York, Yonkers, N.Y. and Newark, N.J., participated – took place at the Ramada Hotel in East Hanover, N.J., on October 8. The evening also saw an anniversary banquet with entertainment held in the hotel's hall marking the organization's 50 years of activity. USCAK president, Myron Stebelsky, was re-elected to another term.

The noteworthy: people and events

Our "Year in Review" section is divided into various distinct categories. However, there are plenty of notable stories that don't fit into any of those categories, or into a single category. The following are noteworthy happenings, listed in the order in which they were reported by The Weekly during 2005.

- Over the course of the past 300 years, Bohdan Khmelnytsky's flag, which for many symbolizes the beginnings of Ukrainian statehood, has been in Ukraine only twice. The flag is the property of the Stockholm Military Museum, where it is part of its collection of ancient flags – considered the largest collection in Europe. Khmelnytsky's flag traveled to Ukraine for the first time on March 5, and was exhibited in Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv and Chyhyryn, along with other ancient attributes of Kozak authority. A solemn ceremony that unveiled the flag took place in Kyiv at the entrance hall of the State National Historical Museum of Ukraine on January 12. The flag was on display there until the end of March, together with the hetman's bulava, or mace, which came to Kyiv from the Warsaw Military Museum in Poland.

- Stories of strength, sacrifice and devotion to Ukraine are abundant in a new book, "Ukrayinky v

Istoriyi" (Ukrainian Women in History) released by Lybid publishers of Kyiv. Printed in large, legible letters and replete with artwork and photographs, "Ukrayinky v Istoriyi" is a 326-page hardcover text that contains the biographies of 63 women who had a significant influence on Ukrainian society.

- U.S. President George W. Bush met with 21 "Champions of Freedom" from 13 Central and Eastern European countries, including Ukraine, during his visit to Bratislava, Slovakia, on February 24. The group included Natalia Dmytruk, a sign language interpreter for UT-1, who is credited with helping galvanize independent media coverage of the 2004 Ukrainian presidential elections, and Vladyslav Kaskiv, a leader of Pora, a pro-democracy movement in Ukraine. Speaking in Hviezdoslavovo Square in Bratislava on February 24, President Bush said "With us here today is a group of remarkable men and women from across Central and Eastern Europe, who have fought freedom's fight in their homelands and have earned the respect of the world. We welcome you. We thank you for your example, for your courage and for your sacrifice."

- The federal bench welcomed another Ukrainian American to its exclusive club on March 4. Courtroom 19A of the Carl B. Stokes U.S. Courthouse in downtown Cleveland swelled with a standing-room-only crowd for the investiture of Christopher A. Boyko as United States district judge of the Northern District of Ohio. The ceremony was the culmination of a process that formally began on July 22, 2004, when President George W. Bush nominated Mr. Boyko. With the support of Sens. Mike DeWine and George Voinovich, (D-Ohio), and the highest rating from the American Bar Association, Mr. Boyko gained the approval of the Senate Judiciary Committee within two weeks. The Senate unanimously confirmed Mr. Boyko on November 20, 2004.

- Forbes published its regular list of the world's richest billionaires, including 131 new names. Ukraine had three businessmen on the list. Rynat Akhmetov (258th with \$2.4 billion) controls System Capital Management, the owner of a number of large industrial enterprises in the Donbas. Viktor Pinchuk (507th with \$1.3 billion), son-in-law of former President Leonid Kuchma, controls Nikopolsky Ferroalloys Enterprise, accounting for 11.5 percent of the world's ferroalloy market. Sergey Taruta (620th with \$1 billion) chairs the board of directors of the Donbas Industrial Union, which unites more than 40 ferrous metal enterprises.

- Eurasia Group announced the release of its first annual ranking of political leaders, the "Global Leadership 50," on January 14. Among the top 50 was President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine at No. 3. Eurasia Group President Ian Bremmer described the EG 50 as "a unique ranking because of its international scope and the way in which it identifies not only those people who are in the major headlines, but also the under-the-radar individuals who are truly shaping world events." The list identified 50 individuals from around the world who distinguished themselves in 2004 as extraordinary leaders in the political arena.

- Natalia Dmytruk and three fellow representatives of the women of Ukraine were honored in Washington "for their unyielding spirit and commitment to changing their country – and the world – for better." The honors were presented April 26 by Vital Voices Global Partnership, a non-profit, bipartisan American organization dedicated to increasing the rights and leadership role of women around the world. Also receiving the fifth annual Global Leadership Awards during the ceremony at the Terrace Theater of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts were women activists from three other countries, honored for their work on behalf of women's rights, for economic empowerment and against human trafficking.

- Ruslana and her crew performed on May 17 as part of a benefit concert to raise money to benefit ailing children and young victims of Chernobyl. The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (now known as the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund) a diaspora-led charity organization, had organized the concert with Ruslana and her promoters, who devoted all the concert's proceeds to support the Dzherelo Children's Rehabilitation Center in Lviv and two hospitals in Kyiv and Dnipropetrovsk. Before an international audience of some 3,000 gathered at the Arena Entertainment Complex on the Khreschatyk's west end, the concert demonstrated the high standards of choreography and pyrotechnics to which Ruslana and her staff have raised Ukrainian performance. The concert also boosted the CCRDF's status with Ukraine's new government led by President Viktor Yushchenko, who expressed his willingness to help expand the organization's efforts, said

Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, who co-founded the organization in 1990 with his wife, Nadia.

- Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko was listed among Time magazine's 100 most influential leaders in the magazine's April 18 issue. "When Viktor Yushchenko, his face bearing the tragic scars of a poisoning rode the 'Orange Revolution' to victory in Ukraine, it transformed a nation – and reverberated around the globe," noted Time. Mr. Yushchenko was listed under the category "Heroes and Icons."

- Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko was featured on the cover of the May issue of the Russian-language Elle



Wally Palmar, a.k.a. Volodymyr Palamarchuk.

magazine, which is published in Ukraine. Elle Ukraine's cover carried a photo of the prime minister posing in a designer dress; the issue featured an exclusive interview with Ms. Tymoshenko, who said, among other things, that she is making full use of her looks in the male-dominated world of politics. She also told the magazine that her look is all natural, as she has no time for beauty treatments. Ms. Tymoshenko appeared in four photos, wearing the designs of Louis Vuitton, Yves St. Laurent and Valentino, Red.

- Oleg Zhornitsky, a 39-year old immigrant from Odesa, ate 200 varenyky, entertaining a crowd of some 200 people who came to watch the inaugural varenyky-eating contest, held at the Ukrainian National Home in the East Village in New York City on May 21. The competition was sponsored by Ukrainian vodka company Shustoff, and was the first of its kind in the area. Mr. Zhornitsky won the competition by finishing the varenyky within an astounding 1 minute, 35 seconds. His prize: an all-expenses paid trip to Ukraine.

- President Viktor Yushchenko was named one of the 25 "Stars of Europe" by Business Week magazine, adding only more prestigious recognition of the Orange Revolution. The segment appeared in the May 20 edition of Business Week, where Mr. Yushchenko was featured among other significant European political, social and economic leaders.

- The Connecticut Immigration Coalition and Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz on April 14 honored Ukrainian American Ihor Rudko for his outstanding efforts in promoting economic development and service to the Ukrainian community. In a ceremony attended by many state dignitaries, including Gov. Jodi Rell, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and State Senate President Kevin Sullivan, Mr. Rudko was honored for his many years of service as chairman of the Ukrainian Self Reliance New England Federal Credit Union, as president of the Council of Ukrainian American Organizations of Greater Hartford and executive secretary of the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association.

- Wally Palmar, lead singer of the American rock band The Romantics, traversed the virgin landscape and his family's home village of Uvyn, in the Lviv Oblast, on June 9 with his mother, Theodosija, to finally lay his eyes on the Ukrainian homeland that he had heard, read and learned so much about, but never had the chance to see. It was his first trip to Ukraine. Growing up in his hometown of Hamtramck, Mich., Mr. Palmar was known by the name his parents had given him at birth: Volodymyr Palamarchuk.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Roman Cybriwsky

Nataliya Gudziy during a performance in Japan.

- Ukrainian American author Steve Bogira, a staff reporter with The Chicago Reader, spent a year profiling the biggest and busiest felony courthouse in the country. The result was a highly acclaimed new book, "Courtroom 302," an intriguing story of life behind the scenes at a criminal courthouse in Chicago. Mr. Bogira's book takes an interesting and insightful look at the day-to-day workings of one particular courthouse, and chronicles the work of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, clerks and guards in courtroom 302.

- Helen Badulak offered an interesting approach to the art of Ukrainian pysanky in her most recent book, "Pysanky in the 21st Century." The 240-page, full-color hardcover book features a unique insight on the timeless art of the pysanka. The book's pages are filled with delicately illustrated pysanky of both traditional and modern styles. Mrs. Badulak, who earned the title of master of pysanky, focuses on an instructional approach to making pysanky; she dubs it a "how-to" book for the modern pysanka artist.

- A federal judge in California dropped 15 charges against former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, according to various media reports. However, Mr. Lazarenko is still expected to receive a sentence of at least 10 years, a former prosecutor in the case said. A jury convicted Mr. Lazarenko, 51, last year of laundering money through California banks and extortion, but U.S. District Court Judge Martin Jenkins ruled late on May 20 that there was not enough evidence to sustain convictions on 15 out of 29 counts against the former Ukrainian prime minister.

- Country Living, America's most popular home magazine, announced in its May 2005 issue that the



Yana Sedova

Kyivan Harry Potter look-alike Valentyn Tykhenkyi, 12, examines his copy of the Ukrainian-language version of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

Ukrainian Festive Walnut Torte, baked by Paul and Helen Ewasko, won its "Mom's Best Cake" contest. Mr. Ewasko told Country Living that relatives in Ukraine passed along the original recipe for the Ukrainian Festive Walnut Torte, which made its way to the couple. The panel of judges selected the torte from a total of 904 entries, and their final decision was based on each cake's overall appearance, taste, appeal and the recipe.

- On June 8 Peter and Doris Kule became the first couple to be awarded joint honorary doctoral degrees by the University of Alberta. Long recognized as community leaders and philanthropists dedicated to supporting education, the Kules have supported education at all levels. They helped fund the "Bright Futures" stay-in-school program for new immigrants. They have given generously to Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton where they have supported the Ukrainian Resource and Development Center. They funded two chairs in Eastern Christian Theology at St. Paul's University in Ottawa, the only university in Canada with an Eastern Christian Theology program. They have also supported the University of Alberta, most recently by endowing the Kule Chair in Ukrainian Ethnography.

- Ukrainian singer Ruslana, the winner of the 2004 Eurovision Song Contest, agreed to support the campaign against human trafficking at a July 5 meeting in Kyiv with Helga Konrad, the OSCE special representative on combating trafficking in human beings. Ms. Konrad said: "Ruslana's ability to reach the young people in Ukraine and beyond makes her an asset in helping to raise awareness of the risks of human trafficking – this modern form of slavery." Ruslana met OSCE Chairman-in-Office Dimitrij Rupel in Ljubljana, Slovenia, earlier this year to discuss human trafficking.

- Among the most noteworthy Ukrainians living in Japan is 25-year-old Nataliya Gudziy, a beautiful and extraordinary talented young singer with a fascinating life story. She has lived in Japan since 1999. She has become fluent in Japanese, and sings and writes songs in that language, as well as in her native Ukrainian.

- The National Press Club Honored two Ukrainian women at its annual awards dinner in Washington on July 18. The two – Olena Prytula, who with Heorhii Gongadze co-founded Ukraine's leading Internet newspaper Ukrayinska Pravda, and Natalia Dmytruk, a sign-language news interpreter on Ukraine's UT-1 television network – were named this year's international recipients of the prestigious John Aubuchon Freedom of the Press Award. They were among 32 journalists honored with the National Press Club's 2005 awards for their work in various aspects of their profession.

- "Operatsiya Halychyna," a computer game in which the goal is to kill western Ukrainians while subduing Halychyna in the process, entered Ukraine's video game market, drawing outrage from political leaders who have called for its removal from store shelves. The game is a pirated modification of "Tom Clancy's Ghost Recon: Desert Siege," a licensed computer game produced by French video-game maker Ubisoft Entertainment and released in 2001. "Operatsiya Halychyna" was selling at \$6 per game. A Moscow-based company created the game, Yevhenii Mykhaylok told the Ukrayinska Pravda news portal, and they have instructed him not to disclose their identity.

- Yevhenia Tymoshenko, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's daughter, wed rocker Sean Carr of Yorkshire, England, of the band Death Valley Screammers on November 2, according to The Times online. Five months into Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Carr's relationship, he visited Ukraine, at the height of the Orange Revolution. One day into his trip Mr. Carr stood on the same stage on which Ms. Tymoshenko called for President Leonid Kuchma's resignation. The Times reported that Prime Minister Tymoshenko said of her son-in-law, "He is an excellent person." Though Mr. Carr was scared of Prime Minister Tymoshenko at first, he said he now calls her "Mama." The wedding was held in Kyiv.

- The Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA) on July 26 presented its annual Amicus Award to the Civil Chamber of the Supreme Court of Ukraine. The court exhibited an extraordinary act of judicial independence when it ordered a new election during last year's divisive presidential contest in Ukraine after it found evidence of electoral fraud and intimidation, the ATLA noted. Each year, ATLA's Amicus Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the civil justice system and notable efforts that foster a healthier, safer society.

- Dr. Lev E. Dobriansky was honored at the 2005 Captive Nations Week meeting with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Captive Nations

Committee (NCNC) and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) for his "inspiring leadership and unwavering commitment to the liberation of all Captive Nations and the national independence of all peoples." The award was presented by Michael Sawkiw Jr., UCCA president who stated that Dr. Dobriansky has been "a fixture for nations in Central and Eastern Europe" and that he "understood the need for ethnic politics like no one else." A letter was then read from President George W. Bush, who praised Dr. Dobriansky for his great contribution to the plight of captive nations and affirmed the "transformational ability of freedom."

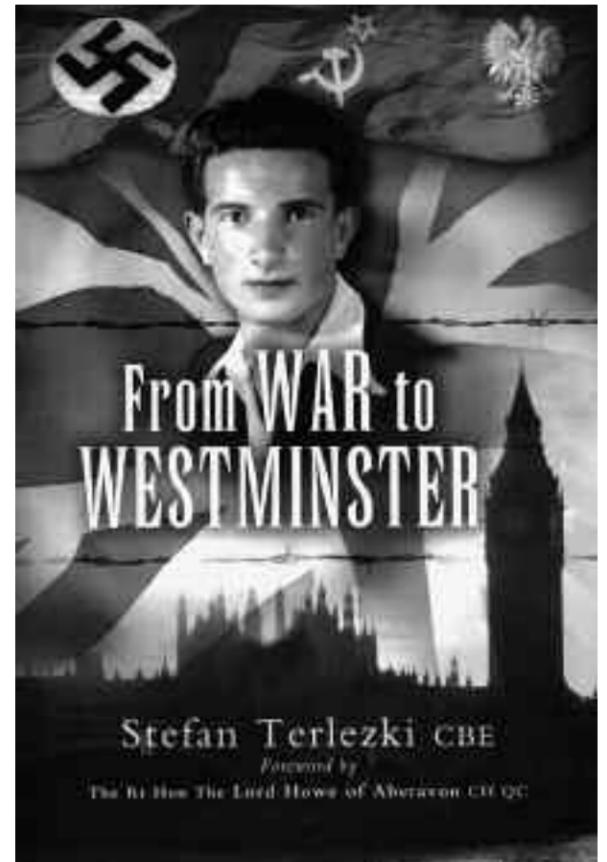
- Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko described as good news her recognition by the U.S.-based Forbes magazine as one of the most influential women. Speaking at a press conference in Symferopol, she said: "This is good news, but it is not going to influence my work. We still have to do a lot." Ms. Tymoshenko took third place in Forbes' ranking of the most influential women in the world.

- First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko was profiled in the September issue of Harper's Bazaar, the magazine's fall fashion issue. Mrs. Yushchenko was "profiled and dressed" by Tatiana Sorokko, who is identified as a contributor to the magazine. Headlined "Born in the U.S.A.: The First Lady of Ukraine," the article featured an introduction telling readers about Mrs. Yushchenko's Ukrainian American background and the Orange Revolution that brought her husband, Viktor Yushchenko, into office. Mrs. Yushchenko appeared in photos taken at the family's country home outside Kyiv.

- Sviatoslav Vakarchuk, the pop group Okean Elzy's soloist, was appointed a goodwill ambassador of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Mr. Vakarchuk also happens to be the Ukrainian president's non-staff adviser for matters of culture, youth, social and informational policies. Mr. Vakarchuk thus joined fellow singers Ruslana Lyzhychko and Ani Lorak, who serve as good will ambassadors for U.N.-affiliated entities, the former as UNICEF goodwill ambassador and the latter as U.N. goodwill ambassador for combating HIV/AIDS.

- Among the first wave of Ukrainian Americans to resettle in the newly independent Ukraine, Mary Mycio's years of freelance journalism had paid off with her first book, "Wormwood Forest," published in late September. The 242-page exploration of the 30-kilometer zone surrounding the shutdown Chornobyl nuclear power plant is available on amazon.com and at Barnes & Noble. "What I tried to do was weave personal travels with lyrical explanations of the natural history and science of Chornobyl," Ms. Mycio said. "It's the story of my travels in a radioactive wilderness."

- The College of Liberal Arts at Temple University presented Leonard L. Mazur, a 1968 alumnus of the school, with the Diamond Achievement Award at the college's 2005 Baccalaureate Dinner, held on May 16. The College of Liberal Arts Alumni Board presents its annual



Cover of Stefan Terlezki's book, "From War to Westminster."

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Diamond Achievement Award to an alumna or alumnus whose outstanding achievements have brought great honor to the college and the university. Mr. Mazur is an entrepreneur and pharmaceutical company executive who has been instrumental in creating enterprises within companies and as a founder of pharmaceutical companies.

- A Ukrainian-language version of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" rolled off the presses on October 6, joining German and French as the first translations of the latest novel in J.K. Rowling's wildly popular series. To meet the frantic demand, Ukrainian booksellers bought up 70,000 copies of the series' sixth installment before its official presentation at the Ukrayinskyi Dim in Kyiv. The official 574-page Ukrainian translation arrived two months ahead of the Russian version. The Harry Potter translation team consisted of nine workers who toiled through the translation project without taking time off for weekends or vacations. More than 200 Ukrainians, mainly mothers and their excited children, swarmed the presentation party in Kyiv, catching their first glimpse of the bright, colorful cover. The book presentation in Kyiv became a festival for children, who enthusiastically chanted the right answers in response to Harry Potter trivia questions that Ivan Malkovych of the publishing house A-BA-BA-HA-LA-MA-HA shouted above the crowd.

- Stefan Terlezki, the first Ukrainian elected to the British Parliament, documented his life and accomplishments in his book, "From War to Westminster." His story is filled with tales of escape, separation and loss, which are well-chronicled in his autobiography. It follows his turbulent childhood years under Polish rule, followed by his escape from Soviet imprisonment and his rise to certain political power.

- Amidst extravagant white gowns, wine glasses and the melodies of Strauss, Lviv hosted its first annual Viennese ball in the evening of October 29. About 530 Ukrainians, Poles and Austrians joined the festivities, many of them dancing well past midnight. Among them were 24 pairs of debutantes from the Lviv region who spent a month immersing themselves in the waltz, polonaise and tango. Though nowhere near the scale of the balls that are still the tradition in Vienna, it was a promising start. Lviv college students played the key role in organizing the ball.

- Canadian Journalists for Free Expression selected two journalists to be honored at their eighth annual International Press Freedom Awards gala for outstanding contributions to the freedom of expression. The 2005 award winners were Mykola Veresen of Ukraine and Alagi Yorro Jallow of Gambia. The awards gala, held on November 1 in Toronto featured as guest speaker American investigative journalist Seymour Hersch, who recently captured the spotlight with his stories on the Abu Ghraib scandal in Iraq and 30 years ago broke the My Lai massacre story in Vietnam.

- Adam Platosz, a Connecticut native and secretary of Ukrainian National Association Branch 254, was elected to the New Britain City Council on November 8. He was nominated on September 12 at a special meeting of the New Britain Town Committee to fill a vacancy in Ward 2 for alderman to represent Districts 2, 3 and 6. Mr. Platosz is known in the Ukrainian community as a member of St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian Club, and as a former president of the local branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM).

- Ukraivin Productions released an instructional cooking DVD, "Ukrainian Christmas Eve," which provides detailed, yet simplified instruction on how to make the most popular traditional recipes. The two-hour English-language DVD shows the "must have" Christmas Eve recipes. Chef and host Pavlo Czerwoniak takes the viewer step-by-step through each recipe, using time- and labor-saving techniques. Along with the printable recipe files provided on the DVD, the viewer will learn how to overcome the often-times monumental task of putting together a traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve meal.

- Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko was honored with the 2005 Ukrainian of the Year Award for his lifelong advocacy of democracy and human rights in Ukraine by the Ukrainian Technological Society of Pittsburgh at the society's 36th annual dinner-dance on November 26 at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association. Accepting the award on behalf of President Yushchenko was Dr. Sergiy Korsunsky, the chargé d'affaires at the Embassy of Ukraine. In his acceptance remarks, he brought greetings to the society's members and the Western Pennsylvania Ukrainian community from President Yushchenko, and expressed thanks for the award.

Our community mourns their passing

We mourned the passing during 2005 of many members of our Ukrainian community. Among them were the following.

- Metropolitan Vasyly Fedak, 95, archbishop of Winnipeg and primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada since 1985; established eucharistic union with the Patriarchate of Constantinople in 1990, and oversaw the UOCC's membership in the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the Americas; worked closely with the World Congress of Free Ukrainians and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Winnipeg, January 10.

- Dr. Mary V. Beck, 97, lawyer, Ukrainian activist and female pioneer in American politics, the first woman to be elected to the Common Council of Detroit (1950) and to serve as its president (1957) and as acting mayor of Detroit (1958-1962); promoter of numerous Ukrainian causes, sponsor of numerous political initiatives on behalf of the Captive Nations, publisher and editor of Ukrainian journals, longtime officer and organizer of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, supporter and patron of the arts, effective ambassador of Ukrainian culture and of the achievements of the Ukrainian diaspora – Sterling Heights, Mich., January 30.

- Varvara Yushchenko, 86, teacher and mother of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko; born in Khoruzhivka, Sumy Oblast, where she worked as a teacher of mathematics – Sumy, Ukraine, January 3.

- Gene Kinasewich, 63, Harvard University ice hockey star and college hockey legend, magna cum lauda graduate of Harvard University, who went on to earn two master's degrees and a doctorate from Harvard's Graduate School of Education; served as assistant dean of Harvard College; and was sponsor of a hockey exchange program with North American and Ukrainian youth and promoter of the sport in Ukraine – Boston, February 23.

- Daniel Slobodian, 86, longtime leader of the Ukrainian community in Kerhonkson, N.Y.; a pioneer and first manager of Soyuzivka, the upstate New York resort of the Ukrainian National Association; a graduate of New York University in business administration; served as first lieutenant in Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army in World War II – Kingston, N.Y., February 26.

- Christine Nawrocky, 87, longtime activist and offi-

cer of both Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, including its U.S. National Plast Command, and the Ukrainian National Women's League of America – New York, March 4.

- Daria Telizyn, 44, Ukrainian Canadian pianist, graduate of the University of Western Ontario, the Paris Conservatory, and Baltimore's Peabody Conservatory, who concertized throughout North America and Europe – Dunedin, Fla., March 21.

- Marian Kouzan, 80, Ukraine-born composer, graduate of the Paris Conservatory of Music, whose work – primarily oratorios and cantatas, was performed in France, throughout Europe and, after 1991, in Ukraine; his work was performed in the United States at New York's Lincoln Center on the occasion of the celebration of the Millennium of Christianity in Rus' Ukraine – Framont, France, April 12.

- Barbara Bachynsky, 71, longtime activist of the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian National Women's League of America; worked in the UNA's organizing department, was secretary of UNA Branch 184 and chaired the New York UNA District Committee – New York, May 10.

- Luba Halibey, 87, longtime teacher at Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic School in Jersey City, N.J., and subsequently, in the New Jersey public school system; active member in leading Ukrainian community organizations and institutions – Denville, N.J., April 28.

- Stephen M. Wichar, president of the Warren Ukrainian Village Corp., former Michigan state commander of the Ukrainian American Veterans, former national executive board member of the Ukrainian Fraternal Association, former vice-chairman of the Detroit District Committee of the Ukrainian National Association and active member of many other Ukrainian community organizations – Warren, Mich., May 12.

- Dr. Mikhail Stern, physician, human rights activist and former Jewish refusenik from Vinnytsia, Ukraine, who called the USSR "a prison of nations"; was sentenced to a labor camp on trumped-up charges; was freed in 1977 after an international campaign for his release, settling in Amsterdam, the Netherlands – June (exact date unknown).

- Mikhail Wengryn, 86, former national commander of the Ukrainian American Veterans, highly decorated World War II veteran who fought in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operation; community activist, president of the Ukrainian Home in Passaic, N.J. – Clifton, N.J., June 4.

- Roman Babowal, Ukrainian Belgian poet, member



Metropolitan Vasyly Fedak



Dr. Mary V. Beck



Daniel Slobodian



Stephen M. Wichar



Dr. Oleh Romaniv



Tekla Moroz

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

of the New York Group and author of numerous books of poetry in Ukrainian and French, among them "The Deceit of Millk," "Letters to Lovers" and "Travelers of the Probable" – Mintigny-le-Tilleul, Belgium, June 15.

- **Henrikh Altunian**, 72, veteran human rights activist and Soviet political prisoner; native of Tbilisi, Georgia; moved with his family to Kharkiv, Ukraine, in 1951; a founding member of the Initiative Group for Human Rights in the USSR, active member of the Kharkiv Memorial Society and the National Rukh of Ukraine; national deputy of Ukraine (1990-1994) and active participant of the Orange Revolution – Jerusalem, June 30.

- **Valeriy Illya**, author of a number of books of poetry, including "Blacksmiths in the Fog" and "Svarha," editor of Kyiv's literary journal *Osnova*, married to Ukrainian poet Valentyna Otroshchenko – Kyiv, July 27.

- **Mary Yuzyk (née Bahniuk)**, 91, wife of the late Sen. Paul Yuzyk, the first Ukrainian to be appointed to the Canadian Parliament's upper chamber, where he served for 22 years and is remembered as the father of Canada's multiculturalism policy – Ottawa, August 17.

- **Viktor Kordun**, member of the Kyiv School of Poets, longtime vice secretary of the Writers' Association of Ukraine, editor of the journal *Svitovyd*, author of numerous books of poetry, including "Slavia," "Solstice" and "Wintry Sound of the Woodpecker," – Kyiv, September 3.

- **Dmytro Hryhorczuk**, president of the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association from its inception and a longtime leader of the World Council of Ukrainian Cooperatives – Chicago, October 30.

- **Dr. Oleh Romaniv**, 77, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) in Ukraine and secretary general of the Shevchenko Scientific Society World Council; professor at the Lviv Polytechnic Institute, member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and a leading Ukrainian authority in the field of metallurgy and the strength of materials – Lviv, November 5

- **Anatole Fourmanchuk**, Ukrainian American stage director, a graduate of the Karpenko-Karyi Institute in Kyiv and Rada in Moscow; director of some 70 theater productions, including in Ukraine, Russia, Spain and the United States; upon emigrating to the United States in 1995, taught acting at the Michael Howard Studio in Manhattan and founded the New York Art Theater – Jersey City, N.J., November 7.

- **Roksolyana Fokshey**, 45, dentist and former professor of general dentistry at the University of Medicine in Lviv (1986-1991), and active member of the New Jersey Ukrainian community – Sparta, N.J., November 25.

- **Tekla Moroz**, 78, honorary member of the Ukrainian National Association's General Assembly, longtime UNA leader, chairperson of the Montreal District Committee since 1968, and UNA supreme advisor (1974-2002) – Lachine, Quebec, December 6.

- **John Spencer**, 58, actor of stage, screen and television, whose last current engagement on the award-winning television drama series "The West Wing" as the politico Leo McGarry won him an Emmy in 2002 for best supporting actor in a drama series – New York City, December 16.

Meanwhile, here at The Ukrainian Weekly

Slava Ukraini! That was the message on the orange banner on the front page of our first issue of the year. We'd used spot color on the front page of several issues published at the time of the Orange Revolution to highlight our support of democracy, justice and fairness in Ukraine. Once the results of the presidential election were announced in January, we carried an orange banner reading, in Ukrainian, "Glory to Ukraine!"

The year 2005 was notable for this newspaper's coverage of the new administration of President Viktor Yushchenko, beginning with his inauguration and appointment of ministers and other top administration officials. Our Kyiv Press Bureau provided information about the new officials' backgrounds and professed goals. (But then you can read all about that in the first section of this Year in Review issue ...)

The Weekly provided complete coverage of Mr. Yushchenko's historic visit in April to Washington,



Anna Murphey/New Jersey Herald

Andrew Nynka speaks on February 28 at Pope John High School in Sparta, N.J., about the Orange Revolution.

where he addressed a joint meeting of both houses of the U.S. Congress, as well as to Chicago, where he met with prominent business and political leaders, and Boston, where he received the Profile in Courage Award. On the eve of the presidential visit, The Weekly's former staffer Marta Kolomayets filed an exclusive interview with First Lady Kateryna Chumachenko Yushchenko. Later we covered the president's trip to Philadelphia, where he received the Philadelphia Liberty Medal.

How we managed to cover all the developments in Ukraine is a story in and of itself.

When Roman Woronowycz left our staff in early December 2004, Andrew Nynka volunteered to serve at the Kyiv Press Bureau in the interim (through mid-January), while we searched for a full-time replacement. (We, and our readers, owe Mr. Nynka a great debt of gratitude.) We were extremely lucky to hire Zenon Zawada, an experienced journalist, to work out of our Kyiv Press Bureau. He took up his assignment on February 16 and hit the ground running. After all, this was just three weeks after the inauguration of President Yushchenko and there was so much happening in Ukraine. Mr. Zawada had previously written several free-lance articles for The Weekly in 1998 and 2002. Prior to that he had interned at The Weekly's Kyiv Press Bureau in September though December 1997, while he spent a semester studying at Taras Shevchenko University.

On June 23, after realizing some savings on expenses at our Kyiv office, we were able to hire not merely a replacement for our loyal and hard-working secretary Tatiana Matviichuk, but an editorial assistant, Yana Sedova, who functions as the office staff and has contributed quite a number of news stories to our paper. Ms. Sedova left her position as a journalism instructor at Kyiv International University to join the Kyiv Press Bureau. She has been an invaluable addition.

Speaking of the Kyiv Press Bureau, it is important to note that the entire staff of The Weekly believes the bureau is essential to our newspaper because we are able to report the news that the mainstream media ignores and to provide the details that they either do not understand or are not interested in.

Other members of The Weekly's editorial staff are: Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzewycz (who this year was honored by the Carpathian Ski Club, or KLC, for her years of community service, including 25 as editor-in-chief) and Editor Ika Koznarska Casanova, who is also our de facto arts editor. The production staff members are Larissa Oprysko, design artist, and Awilda Rolon (who marked 25 years with The Weekly in December), our typesetter and layout person. Our student intern for the summer, was Roxolana Woloszyn, a veteran intern who had worked with us also during the summers of 2003 and 2004. Also helping out during part of the summer was Danylo Peleschuk, a sophomore at Northeastern University in Boston.

Our veteran Washington correspondent Yaro Bihun continued to provide essential news from the U.S. capital, plus unique feature articles. Oksana Zakydalsky did likewise from Toronto. And then there were other free-lancers who contributed occasional articles or community activists who kept us in touch with their communities. Our thanks go out to them all.

During 2005 The Weekly published a number of special issues or sections: "Year in Review: 2004" appeared in our January 16 issue, weighing in at 48 pages; the "Ukrainian Debutante Balls" section appeared on March 13; and the annual pullout titled "A Ukrainian Summer" was part of our May 1 edition.

In addition, there were several noteworthy series, among them: "Messages from the Orange Revolution," a compilation of daily e-mail messages by Petro Rondiak, an American living in Kyiv who chronicled the events of the revolution as they happened over an 18-day period. The series appeared in the first three issues of 2005.

In addition, there was the series "Reflections of election observers," in which volunteers who traveled to Ukraine to observe the presidential election shared their experiences and commentaries. These appeared in the fourth, fifth and sixth issues of the year.

The Weekly also introduced two new columns: February marked the debut of Taras Szmagala Jr., whose column is titled "View from the Trembita Lounge" (yes, that's a reference to Soyuzivka's bar); and Mr. Zawada soon afterwards began writing his occasional column from Kyiv called "Reporter's Notebook."

There was some controversy on the pages of The Weekly during 2005, engendered by commentaries and analyses submitted by writers within our community.

On August 7 we published an article written jointly by Dr. Taras Kuzio, visiting professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, and Orest Deychakiwsky, senior staff advisor at the U.S. Helsinki Commission, titled "A guide to who's who in D.C.'s Ukraine-related activities." Of



Sergei Chuzavkov/AP

Zenon Zawada of the Kyiv Press Bureau.

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

course, there were reactions to who was, or wasn't, cited in the article, and to the criticisms expressed regarding our community's level of involvement and visibility in Washington.

The main point of their article: "The U.S. leads the Western world in both the degree of outreach to experts and in its high level of interest in Ukraine. Much of this activity is not publicly reported and, therefore, Ukrainian Americans, and Ukrainians, do not know of it. ... Washington is strategically the most important Western city for Ukraine and for its aspirations to join the WTO and NATO and, to a lesser extent, the EU. It is, therefore, imperative that Ukrainian Americans, while recognizing that many other institutions and individuals are involved with Ukraine compared with the pre-independence period, re-assess the strategic importance of providing sufficient resources and personnel to have a meaningful, sustained presence in Washington, which includes having influential and committed people on the ground."

Another controversial article appeared earlier, on April 24, under the heading "Reflections on President Viktor Yushchenko's visit to the U.S." The article by Peter T. Woloschuk was titled "The good, the bad and the ugly: a look at the visit to Boston." While hailing the visit to Boston as a huge success, Mr. Woloschuk suggested that, "With the event still in our memory, it is appropriate to examine and learn from what worked and what didn't, and then to constructively go forward." Mr. Woloschuk, who teaches communication and journalism at Boston College and Northeastern University, proceeded to outline, not only the "good," but also a series of shortcomings, mistakes and miscues – much to the dismay of some in the Boston community and beyond.

Other views of President Yushchenko's visits to the United States were penned by a university student, Christina Paschyn, who wrote "A journalism student's view of the big event in Chicago," and a high school student, Andriy Zwarych, whose October 2 story was headlined "Ukrainian American youths and community of Philadelphia welcome Yushchenko."

Speaking of students, another notable event in this history of The Weekly came on February 28 when Mr. Nynka presented Pope John High School in Sparta, N.J., with a picture of the historic events that unfolded in Ukraine as he covered the Orange Revolution for The Ukrainian Weekly. Mr. Nynka wrote about the day – during which all of the nearly 900 students of the private Catholic high school, gathered in smaller groups, had an opportunity to hear a 40-minute presentation about the historic events of 2004 – in his article titled "A Catholic high school in New Jersey learns about the Orange Revolution."

The event was the brainchild of Elizabeth Buniak, a Ukrainian American computer science teacher at the high school, who was assisted by the school principal, fellow teachers, librarians and members of the Ukrainian American community.

Our website, called The Ukrainian Weekly Archive, now includes 16,424 full-text articles, which includes the full texts of articles published from 1996 through 2003, and articles from various other special issues, as well as an extraordinary section about the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 – one of the best available on the World Wide Web. The latest addition – the 1,918 articles published during 2004 – was unveiled, as has become tradition, in February on the anniversary of the founding of the Ukrainian National Association, our publisher. Our website, www.ukrweekly.com, is updated each week with excerpts from The Weekly's top news stories.

Currently in the works is a new website, with exciting new features. Also planned are online subscriptions to The Ukrainian Weekly, which is very important as we try to attract younger generations of readers who have become used to getting their news via the Internet.

The online edition of The Ukrainian Weekly is one of the topics discussed this year with Honorary Member of the UNA General Assembly Taras Szmagala Sr., who chairs the assembly's Publications Committee. Mr. Szmagala traveled to the Home Office on August 5 to meet with the editors-in-chief of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly in order to discuss the well-being of the Ukrainian National Association's publications. Mr. Szmagala and members of the Publications Committee also had a brief meeting with the two editors-in-chief during the General Assembly's annual meeting in September; more such meetings and consultations are expected in 2006.

The year 2005 marked the 72nd anniversary of the founding of The Ukrainian Weekly. In an editorial written on the occasion we noted: "We can't help but be proud of our paper's illustrious history, which was made possible by visionaries who brought this newspaper into existence, including activists of the Ukrainian National Association and Editor-in-Chief Luke Myshuha of Svoboda, our sister publication. The Weekly's anniversary is a fitting time to pay tribute to these leaders who understood that an English-language newspaper could accomplish two very important tasks: reach beyond the Ukrainian community to tell the truth about Ukraine and its people, and keep a new generation of Ukrainians who no longer were fluent in the Ukrainian language involved in Ukrainian affairs."

It is fitting also to give thanks to our supporters, the countless people who make donations to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund. During 2005 their contributions totaled \$27,660.76.

To conclude this year's edition of the "Year in Review," allow us to cite the traditional year-end statistics. The 52 issues of 2005 brought you 1,444 pages, filled with 1,490,595 words. And, speaking of words, "Ukrainian" appeared 13,129 times, while "Ukraine" appeared 13,330 times and "Ukrainians" 1,470 times.

With that, we sign off, wishing you all the best in 2006 and beyond.

Credits

The 2005 edition of our "Year in Review" was written by the staff of The Ukrainian Weekly: Roma Hadzewycz, Andrew Nynka, Zenon Zawada and Ika Koznarska Casanova. Also assisting were: Yaro Bihun, Oksana Zakydalsky, Deanna Yurchuk and our intern, Danylo Peleschuk.

The material is based on stories published during 2005 in The Weekly, including our regular news sources, such as Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Eurasia Daily Monitor, Religious Information Service of Ukraine and Ukrinform.

Of necessity, the "2005: The Year in Review" cannot include every single story published during the year; selections were made based on the editors' discretion.

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(Continued from page 2)

Yulia to challenge deal in court

KYIV – Yulia Tymoshenko said on January 5 that she will challenge in court the deal Ukraine reached with Russia's Gazprom, Interfax-Ukraine reported. "It is necessary to cancel all [gas] deals that contradict national law," Ms. Tymoshenko said. She also pledged to request that the Procurator General's Office open a criminal case against Ukraine's state gas company Naftohaz Ukrayiny and the Energy Ministry. Under the deal, RosUkrEnergo – a Swiss-based joint venture between Gazprom and Austria's Raiffeisen Zentralbank – will purchase gas from Gazprom at \$230 per 1,000 cubic meters and sell it to Ukraine for \$95 per 1,000 cubic meters. Ms. Tymoshenko, former prime minister of Ukraine, has denounced RosUkrEnergo, which was set up by former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's government, as a "criminal canker on the body" of Naftohaz Ukrayiny, Reuters reported on January 5. Critics have said the complicated and opaque arrangement could lead to widespread corruption, Reuters reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

U.S. criticizes Russia on gas dispute

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in Washington on January 5 that Russia was wrong to launch its recent "politically motivated" natural-gas dispute with Ukraine and warned Moscow to stick to international rules, Reuters reported. "The game just can't be played [by making arbitrary changes]," she said, adding that "when you say you want to be a part of the international economy and you want to be a responsible actor in the international economy, then you play by its rules." Dr. Rice said she feels that international attention will be paid to the "distance between Russia's behavior on something like this and what would be expected by a leader of the G-8," whose rotating chair Russia now holds. She pointed out that Moscow launched the gas dispute "with an obvious political motive" and noted that "it was ironic and not good that they [cut back supplies on January 1], the day they became G-8 chairman." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Russia rejects U.S. criticism

MOSCOW – The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on January 7 that it does not accept a recent statement by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that Russia sought to pressure Ukraine in the recent gas price dispute for political reasons, regnum.ru reported. "The agreement reached on Russia's initiative in bilateral format with Ukraine lays the basis for stable ... supplies of Russian gas to Europe in the long [term] and is an important contribution to providing energy security for the European continent," the statement claimed. It added that Moscow "cannot agree with [Dr. Rice's] opinion that Russian activities [are not in keeping] with its status as a G-8 member ... Without even mention-

ing the Russian-Ukrainian agreement, Ms. Rice [in effect] accused Russia of politically motivated actions." The statement concluded that "it is not at all clear on what her assertions are based." (RFE/RL Newsline)

Putin seeks to reassure EU over gas

MOSCOW – President Vladimir Putin told Gazprom Chairman Aleksei Miller at a Moscow meeting on January 4 that the Russian-Ukrainian gas agreement "creates stable conditions for Russian gas supply to European customers for many years ahead," Reuters reported. But Martin Bartenstein, who is economy minister of Austria, which holds the rotating chair of the European Union, said in Brussels that the EU must reduce its dependency on Russia and other outside suppliers by making more efficient use of energy, improving infrastructure, and making greater use of renewable energy sources. He added that he hopes the Russian-Ukrainian agreement "will ensure ... the long-term security of supply of gas" to the EU. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Germans debate Russia's reliability

BERLIN – Following recent criticism of the Baltic underwater gas pipeline (NEGP) backed by President Vladimir Putin and former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, leading German Social Democratic Party legislator Ludwig Stiegler said in Berlin on January 4 that "the problems arising in the process of the transit of natural gas through somebody else's territories indicate the need for its transportation without intermediaries along the bottom of the Baltic Sea," ITAR-TASS reported. He called the pipeline a "strategic investment in the uninterrupted gas supply to Germany and Western Europe" and a contribution to the energy security and future of the continent. But the newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung wrote the following day that Moscow has needlessly set off a debate in the European Union on the reliability of Russian gas supplies and strengthened the hand of the EU's newest members, who have long warned against placing too much trust in Russia as a partner. The daily charged that Moscow's decision to launch the dispute had nothing to do with market-related issues, but rather stem from political considerations, including shoring up a growing corrupt and authoritarian system at home, in which the oil and gas industry plays a central role. The paper predicted that this will not be the last confrontation over gas launched by Moscow, but when the next one comes, Russia will not find Chancellor Angela Merkel as easy to deal with as Mr. Schroeder. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Merkel has 'concerns' about Russia

BERLIN – German Chancellor Angela Merkel told the weekly Der Spiegel of January 9 that she hopes that Russia will take as democratic a path of development as possible. She added that one must understand the traditions from which Russia is emerging and be careful not to

(Continued on page 47)

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(Continued from page 46)

"systematically transfer our understanding of democracy" to Russian conditions. Ms. Merkel noted, however, that "there are developments [in Russia] that cause me concern, such as the new legislation regarding NGOs." She argued that the lesson for her country of the recent Russian-Ukrainian gas price dispute is that Germany needs to have "good, stable relations with Russia," but also to diversify its energy sources so as not to be dependent on any particular supplier. It will be necessary to import Russian gas, but that must not be the only or primary source of Germany's energy supplies, the chancellor said. She described German-American relations as "friendship" because they are deeply rooted in "the normal lives of the people." She used the term "strategic partnership" for Berlin's ties to Moscow, however, adding that "we do not yet share as many values with Russia as with America." (RFE/RL Newswire)

Ukraine discovers new gas reserves

KYIV – Additional reserves of natural gas have been discovered at Ukraine's gas-condensate field in Kharkiv Oblast, Interfax-Ukraine reported on January 5. The press service of the oblast administration said the reserves were discovered after the opening of a new well in the field. Kharkiv Oblast Administration Chairman Arsen Avakov said that as a result of the new reserves, the region would increase gas production by 3-5 percent in 2006. "But if there are further pleasant surprises like this, I think the growth will be higher," Mr. Avakov said. (RFE/RL Newswire)

Interdenominational church for Kyiv

KYIV – The Interdenominational Church of St. Nicholas is to be constructed in the center of Kyiv, on Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street. At the initiative of local residents, a chapel-wagon will be established on the sidewalk. The site for the construction of the future church was blessed on December 19, 2005, the feast of St. Nicholas on the Julian calendar. A joint prayer service was conducted by priests of three Churches of the Kyivan tradition: the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP), the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC) and the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC). In the past there used to be a St. Nicholas Chapel not far from the site, but it was ruined during the Soviet regime. Nevertheless, the people living in adjacent buildings were inspired to construct the church, mostly because of a threat: investors had decided to build a block of apartments there. The Kyiv City Council allotted the land for construction in 2003. But local residents fear that the construction will ruin their homes, as several holes have been fixed already. The new large-scale construction may create cracks. In that case, the old buildings will be declared hazardous and the residents will be moved to the outskirts of Kyiv, while "elite" apartments and offices will be constructed in the city center. A cross was placed in October as a sign that a new church will be constructed there and blessed by priests of the UOC-KP, UAOC and UGCC. Since that time, "the investors" tried to throw it away several times. "People have approached us and we are guarding the place," said Vitalii Boryshpolets, a member of the Kyiv Rescue Forum Civic Union. The men put up tents and spend nights there, while "the investors" threatened to take the case to court. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Husar speaks on Church unity

KYIV – "The transfer of the residence of the head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church [UGCC] to Ukraine's capital will further interdenominational dialogue," said Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the UGCC, at a press-conference in Kyiv on December 19, 2005. The cardinal stated that all previous attempts on the road to unification among the Churches have been unsuccessful. He noted that the hope for understanding appears when we can learn to see ourselves in our neighbor and, on the basis of this, will be ready to accept him or her the way he or she is. The head of the UGCC said he is convinced that the transfer of the center of the UGCC to Kyiv and the construction of the Patriarchal Church of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ should bring the Churches together, as it gives more opportunities to meet, to conduct discussions and to develop plans for future unification. "We lack a vision of possible unification," said Cardinal Husar. "How do we see this today? Either all Greek-Catholics join the Orthodox Church and become Orthodox or all Orthodox join the Greek-Catholic Church and become Greek-Catholic? But this is not the only variant there is. We have other possibilities. We have only begun to take the first steps which could bring us to the outcome where nobody would lose the good they have. Nevertheless, everybody would stay in full communion, as Jesus Christ would like it to be." (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

New Greek-Catholic bishops named

LVIV – On December 21, 2005, Pope Benedict XVI blessed the decision of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) concerning the appointment of Father Dionisii Liakhovych, a priest of the Order of St. Basil the Great, as a curial bishop of the major archbishop of Kyiv and Halych (Cardinal Lubomyr Husar) and the appointment of Father Dr. Bohdan Dziurakh, a priest of the Order of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists), as auxiliary bishop of the UGCC's Kyiv-Vyshhorod Archeparchy. At a press conference conducted by Cardinal Husar, head of the UGCC, in Lviv, it was announced that Father Liakhovych will be ordained bishop in his native Brazil on February 2, and Father Dziurakh will be ordained bishop in Lviv on February 15. Cardinal Husar also stated that the former Kyiv-Vyshhorod Exarchate of the UGCC has been raised to the level of archeparchy, as it holds the residence of the head of the UGCC. It was also reported that Father Mykhailo Mazur will be ordained to serve as bishop in Brazil. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

9,000 to run for 450 Rada seats

KYIV – The total number of candidates for national deputies, who were nominated by 19 election blocs and 33 political parties for the March elections, has reached 9,133 persons, Chairman Yaroslav Davydovych of the Central Election Commission said. As of December 27, 2005, documents from 22 political forces arrived for registration at the CEC. December 30 was the last day to receive documents for registration, the CEC chairman noted. The elections of national deputies to the Parliament and to local councils will be held on March 26. For the first time ever, the election will be held on a completely proportional basis. If all political forces stating their intention to compete for 450 parliamentary seats are registered, 52 political forces will participate in the elections. (Ukrinform)

Peace Corps inducts 103 volunteers

KYIV – One hundred three new volunteers of the U.S. Peace Corps swore an oath in late December 2005 to strengthen respect and friendship among the people of Ukraine and the United States, becoming the 29th group of volunteers that has been working in Ukraine since 1992. Peace Corps volunteers assist Ukrainian pupils and students in learning the English language and actively participate in public events, promote healthy lifestyles and conduct ecological campaigns. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine not ready for NATO

KYIV – Ukraine is not ready to become a full-fledged member of NATO, according to former U.S. ambassador to NATO and U.S. representative to the West European Union Robert Hunter. In an interview published in mid-December 2005 by the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations, Mr. Hunter said: "I can say that Ukraine is not ready to become a member of NATO, NATO is not ready for that and NATO-Russia relations are not ready, too." A nation, stating its intention to join the alliance, must be fully ready to become a part of the West, he explained. Any state may join NATO, if it meets internal demands of the organization, realizing that NATO doesn't threaten any subject of international relations. Mr. Hunter said there are two summits slated at this point. One will almost certainly take place in Riga, Latvia, probably next October or November; a smaller summit is planned for the last year of the Bush administration. Some people are saying that the second summit should issue an invitation to Ukraine to join along with possibly one or two other countries, like Croatia. He said this is going to force a major debate – a more serious debate than any other on NATO enlargement since the very first one at the Madrid Summit in 1997 over the entrance of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland – for a couple of simple reasons. Among these he named both internal and external factors. For one thing, it is still not clear that the democratic experiment in Ukraine is taking hold and there are certain differences in the Western and Eastern populations' perception of NATO integration. (Ukrinform)

Late pope's book presented in Kyiv

KYIV – A presentation of the last book by the late Pope John-Paul II, which was translated into Ukrainian, took place here on December 14, 2005. The book, titled "Memory and Identity: At the turn of the Millennium," was printed through joint efforts by Litopys publishers, the Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv) and the Italian Culture Institute in Ukraine. According to the

institute's director, Franco Balloni, the book is composed of the pope's separate conversations, in which he discussed the roots of evil in humans, which reached its acme last century. The book presentation was attended by the primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar. Cardinal Husar noted that the book allows the reader to get a better insight into the pope's thoughts, which are very close to ordinary people's needs, worries and interests in the modern world. (Ukrinform)

Antonov plane presented in Berlin

KYIV – The O.K. Antonov Aircraft Design-Manufacturing Complex and the Russian company Volga-Dnepr in December 2005 presented their joint project of resuming serial manufacture of AN-124-100 Ruslan jumbo transport planes in the German capital, Berlin. The program is broadly viewed as one of the most promising Ukrainian-Russian joint projects, noted Antonov designer Dmytro Kiva. According to Mr. Kiva, thanks to Ukrainian aircraft designers' efforts, the newest version of the Ruslan plane will be unrivaled. The new plane is equipped with the most advanced avionics; its load-carrying capacity has been raised to 150 tons; and the plane's range will be longer, too. In addition, the plane's crew will be numerically smaller. Mr. Kiva said the new Ruslan plane's technical performance characteristics make it superior to America's C-17 plane, though the Ruslan's price is much lower. As Volga-Dnepr company president Aleksei Isaikin noted, the AN-124 project, which was launched in 2003, embraces two decades and provides for making 100 planes. The project's implementation will cost \$6 billion (U.S.), Mr. Isaikin disclosed. He said the first AN-124-100 will be assembled in 2008 by the Russian aircraft producer Aviastar-SP in Ulyanovsk. The AN-124-100 Ruslan is the civilian modification of the military plane AN-124, the world's biggest serially made transport plane, second only to the Mria (there is only one such plane in the world, which Ukraine has designed, made and keeps operating). The Ruslan is equipped with four D-18T turbojet engines. The plane can operate in all climatic zones. Its maximum speed is 865 kilometers per hour; its cruising speed averages 800 kilometers per hour. With maximum load the plane can reach destinations 4,500 kilometers away. The plane's maximum take-off weight is 392,000 kilograms. The plane needs a 900-meter runway and consumes 12 tons of fuel per hour. The plane has two decks. The crew's cabin, the relief crew's cabin and the cabin for personnel, who accompany the cargo (21 persons) are located on the upper deck. Cargo compartments are located on the lower deck. The cargo compartment's volume is 1,050 cubic meters. (Ukrinform)

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Ukrainian community of Ottawa celebrates with Father Chirovsky

by Rosemary O'Hearn

OTTAWA – Two events brought the Ukrainian Catholic community together on November 26-27, 2005, at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine in Ottawa. The first was a pontifical divine liturgy, during which Father Andriy Chirovsky was elevated to the rank of

Cherwick and Directors Ed Hladunewich and Walter Bilous, who were present for the occasion. He recognized Vice-Rector Colin Levangie and the administration of St. Paul University. Finally, he expressed his gratitude to Peter and Doris Kule, and to the many others who support the institute in prayer and generous giving.

The following morning, Father



Fathers Andrew T. Onuferko, Andriy Chirovsky, Peter Galadza and John Jillions from the Sheptytsky Institute celebrate following Father Chirovsky's elevation to the rank of mitred protopresbyter.

mitred protopresbyter.

Father Chirovsky is well-known to the Ukrainian Catholic community in Ottawa, as well as throughout Canada and the United States. He is the founder of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, initially established at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago in 1986.

In 1990 Father Chirovsky transferred to St. Paul University in Ottawa. The institute was established as a unit of the Faculty of Theology in 1992, and has since developed a full program of theological studies, from a one-year certificate to the doctorate.

In 2003 Father Chirovsky moved to Arizona for personal health reasons. He continues to teach students at the Sheptytsky Institute through teleconferencing and with frequent trips to Ottawa.

The pontifical divine liturgy was presided over by Bishop Stephen Chmilar, who drove from Toronto for the occasion. He noted that the bestowal of Father Chirovsky's new mitre will make him stand out among the people and he thanked Father Chirovsky "for bringing joy and beauty to our Church."

A long-time friend and acting director of the institute, Father Andrew Onuferko, delivered the homily. He asked the community to pray for Father Chirovsky's work as a theologian and teacher, for his priestly ministry, and for his desire to do good in life.

Father Chirovsky thanked the bishop for bestowing this blessing upon his head but stressed it belonged to the institute and to those with whom he has worked over the years at the Sheptytsky Institute and on the Sheptytsky Institute Foundation. "MASI is the work of many people and there aren't enough mitres around for those who deserve them. I must first bow to those who have helped me along the way."

He thanked Father Onuferko, as well as fellow professors Father Peter Galadza and Father John Jillions. He acknowledged the support of foundation President Eugene

Chirovsky celebrated the early morning Ukrainian divine liturgy in celebration of 25 years of priesthood.

Father Galadza preached before the parish community, noting Father Chirovsky's remarkable achievements and dedication, against great odds. The Ukrainian Catholic Women's League generously provided a reception in the church hall after the service.

Father Chirovsky thanked St. John the Baptist Shrine for allowing him to minister there for over a decade. He expressed his deep love for the Ottawa community and asked for continued prayers for himself, his wife, Halyna, and the rest of his family.

Father Chirovsky, born in 1956 in New Jersey, studied in Rome at the Pontifical Urban University, Seton Hall University in New Jersey and St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, where he earned an M.A. in theology at the Institute of Christian Thought; he did doctoral studies at the University of Notre Dame and St. Mary of the Lake, earning a doctorate in sacred theology in 1990. He is the Peter and Doris Kule Professor of Eastern Christian Theology and Spirituality at St. Paul University. He is also the editor-in-chief of the respected scholarly revue Logos: A Journal of Eastern Christian Studies.

The author of numerous books and articles of both a scholarly and popular nature, Father Chirovsky has lectured extensively throughout North America, Europe and Australia. He married Halyna Pawlyshyn of Rochester, N.Y., in 1979. They have two children, Sophia (born in 1983) and Alexander (born in 1987). He was ordained to the priesthood by Patriarch Josyf Slipyj in Castelgandolfo, Italy in 1980.

In addition to published articles on iconography, Father Chirovsky also produced two video programs on the subject: "The Iconography of Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Church in Chicago," and the six-hour series "To Write an Icon," both available from the Sheptytsky Institute in Ottawa.

Alberta UCC holds Youth Conference



Participants of the Youth Conference held by the Alberta Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

CANMORE, Alberta – The Alberta Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress convened its youth conference on November 11-13, 2005, here at the Chateau Canmore. UCC-APC President Dave Broda welcomed participants at the opening reception and a presentation was shown about UCC-APC activities. The program content was filled with many interesting sessions and exhibits, among them the following. Andriy Nurek (Calgary) and Bohdan Szewchuk (Edmonton) of the Ukrainian Youth Association of Canada; Amanda Shuya of the Ukrainian Orthodox Youth, St. John's Institute; Patty Faulder of the Ukrainian Catholic Youth, Edmonton Eparchy; and Andrij Nykyforuk of the Ukrainian Students' Society made presentations about their organizations activities. Participants expressed interest and stressed the importance of cooperation to be more effective in reach-

ing mutual goals. On Friday evening, participants enjoyed a rare opportunity to view three interesting short films by Ukrainian Albertans. The award-winning film "A Requiem for January," written by Sasha Simcisin, filmed by Gord Yaremchuk and directed by Ivan Zubritsky, focuses on one man's reflection of "the old country," and was filmed in Alberta at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village. "Holod," written by Joanna Krupicz, on the subject of Ukraine's genocidal Famine of 1932-1933 was both produced and shot in Alberta. "Remembering Community – Local Culture and Diversity on the Prairies," a documentary on community life and identity on the Canadian prairies to 1939 was

(Continued on page 50)

COMMENTARY: At the Youth Conference

by Pavlo Grod

CANMORE, Alberta – I was fortunate to spend a weekend among a group of young, dynamic community leaders in Canmore, Alberta, where the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Alberta Provincial Council organized its first annual Alberta Youth Conference on November 11-13, 2005. Fifty Albertans, who ranged in age from 18 to 30, provided thought-provoking commentaries and insights during a vibrant discussion about the future of the Ukrainian Canadian community.

Leading a session on volunteerism, I was pleased to learn the following about these young leaders:

- They spend between two and 10 hours per week volunteering, of which 60 to 100 percent is for the Ukrainian community.
- Volunteer activities include youth and student organizations, church groups and cultural ensembles.
- Reasons for their volunteerism include: personal growth, networking, socializing, giving back to the community, but for the most part because they view the Ukrainian community as integral to their lives.
- When asked about the most relevant Ukrainian organizations in Canada, the vast majority listed the UCC, youth organizations (SUM, Plast, SUMK, etc.), church organizations (Orthodox and Catholic) and cultural organizations (in roughly that order).
- Each participant believed that today's community organizations are relevant to them but some felt that they were at a stage in their lives where they no longer fit in the youth/student groups and didn't

(Continued on page 50)

Pavlo Grod, vice-president of the Ukrainian Canadian Committee, was a speaker on the "Youth – Our Future" panel at the UCC Alberta Provincial Council's Youth Conference.

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NEW RELEASE: "Wondrous Star" Alberta UCC...

UTICA, N.Y. – Vocalist Andriana Gnap has released the CD "Wondrous Star – A Ukrainian Christmas." Her unique arrangements of "koliadky" and "schedrivky" feature vocal harmonies, accompanied by violin, mandolin, guitar, piano and hints of decorative percussion.

"I've always loved the rich melodies of Ukrainian carols, and I wanted to record them in a way that would appeal to a broad audience," said Ms. Gnap. Selections include "Silent Night," sung in English and Ukrainian, and an original version of "Carol of the Bells."

Ms. Gnap has performed as a vocalist, violinist and dancer throughout New England, and in New York and Los Angeles. Her theater credits include the Williamstown Theater Festival of Massachusetts. Recently, she produced a show titled "From Gypsy to Jazz" at the Lunaria Jazz Club in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Ms. Gnap began performing Ukrainian folk songs and dance at age 4, accompanied by her mother, Halyna, a music teacher and classical pianist. "Music has always been in my family. My grandfather played the accordion during his youth in Ukraine. My



mother and aunt, Wolodymyra, both sing, and play guitar and piano," she said.

Ms. Gnap returned to her home town of Utica, N.Y., to record her Christmas CD, which features her mother on piano and her aunt on percussion. She noted: "I recorded 'Wondrous Star' as a gift for my grandparents, Nadja and Gregory Gnap, to thank them for passing down their beautiful traditions, language and music."

"Wondrous Star" may be purchased online at www.Andriana.org.

(Continued from page 49)

produced by Dr. Andriy Nahachewsky, Nadya Foty and Mariya Lesiv through the Ukrainian Folklore Center.

There was a short question and answer period with the producers.

A presentation of political participation and how to get involved featured a neat rap introduction. The demographics on voting were interesting: only 22 percent of eligible voters in the age category of 18-20 actually vote. In the age category of people over 58, 80 percent of the eligible voters vote.

Paul Grod, UCC vice-president, highlighted the importance of volunteering within the Ukrainian community and ways everyone can get involved. The focus of his presentation was that youths should not consider themselves the leaders of the future, but the leaders of today.

His presentation ended with an interesting group discussion regarding whether Ukrainian youth organizations should all be organized under one umbrella organization or if they should be organized separately as they currently are. The debate centered around the con-

cern that there is a lack of cohesion among Ukrainian youths.

Presentations were given by two observers of Ukraine's Orange Revolution. Andriy Nykyforuk was sent to Ukraine on behalf of the UCC-APC and Rhonda Zuk was sent on behalf of CANADEM. Their experiences varied in terms of the extent of election training and their encounters with fraud and suspicious occurrences.

A poll was taken and the majority of conference attendees said they would be interested in being observers for the upcoming 2006 parliamentary elections in Ukraine.

Mr. Grod, head of mission for the 2004 Election Observers in Ukraine Project, told the participants about the UCC's involvement and plans for the 2006 vote.

Canada World Youth introduced some programs that the organization offered and explained the benefits of participating in an exchange program. Different lengths of exchanges exist and participants can request to be assigned to a particular continent. It was interesting to learn that not very many people request European countries. Therefore, lots of opportunities exist to do an exchange program in Ukraine.

Tamara Tatuch gave information regarding the growth of the tourism industry within Ukraine. This can be seen as real progress for Ukraine, as it has not typically been seen as a vacation venue. People generally traveled there only to visit family, and now more people are seeking out Ukraine as a tourist destination.

Romana Poritska presented information regarding financial planning – the different aspects and priorities. Her advice was very practical, "Start now and know where you are going. Stick to your plan."

Andriy Hladyshewsky gave a very emotional presentation that touched everyone's hearts. He spoke of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko. Listening to the anecdotes and experiences of the organization, the conference ended on a very positive note, full of encouragement and with a strong sense of pride in the Ukrainian culture and heritage.

At the youth...

(Continued from page 49)

quite feel they were part of the professional groups.

- Most felt that they wanted to volunteer for the UCC and viewed the UCC as a focal part of the community.

- As for the topics of individual memberships in UCC and the unification of youth organizations – there was a lively debate that generated good topics for another conference.

- When asked about the next observer mission to Ukraine for the March 26 parliamentary elections, their hands shot up as each was prepared to volunteer for the next mission.

From the interest expressed by the participants in having another conference next year, it is abundantly clear that there is a need and an interest for similar youth conferences to be held by all UCC provincial councils and branches and by UCC National on an annual basis. However, all should be forewarned: Alberta has set a very high standard.

As someone who is not far off in age from this group, I was enthused to see such a dynamic group of leaders with whom I look forward to working for the advancement of the Ukrainian community. I am pleased to say that these conference participants are not only the future leaders of the Ukrainian Canadian community – they are today's community leaders.

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I wish to thank Mr. Charles Christolon and Ms. Emily Rivers of Eastern Region Little League Baseball. These two wonderful individuals have helped me help the children of Ukraine by donating baseball equipment to the children in Ukraine. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Basil (Vasyl) P. Tarasko
District Administrator of the Little League in Ukraine (1995)

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To order the book, please send \$25 and your requests to: The Ivan Bahriany Foundation, Attn.: DeEtte K. Riley, AW & Sons, 309 East Beaver Ave., State College, PA 16801

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UNA BRANCH 76

As of December 28, 2005, the secretary's duties of Branch 76 were assumed by Mr. Michael Koziupa.

We ask all members of this branch to direct all correspondence regarding membership and insurance to the address listed below:

Mr. Michael Koziupa
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Yonkers bazaar highlights art by Mykhaylo Barabash



“Kozaka Street,” (1996, monotype picture, 46x56) by Mykhaylo Barabash.

by **Olia Szkafarowsky-Rudyk**

YONKERS, N.Y. – It is not always easy to see the things around us. They are too familiar to be noticed. This is why we enjoy the ordinary exposed to us on a small piece of canvas through the eyes of the artist. Yet, Mykhaylo Barabash is far from an ordinary artist creating images on canvas. It is his talent, vision and more so his heart that guide the paintbrush to create beauty in simplicity, expose the unexpected and give joy to the viewer.

Mr. Barabash was born in 1952 in the village of Vidnyky, Lviv region of Ukraine. He studied at the graphics department of Ivan Fedorov Ukrainian Polygraphic Institute in Lviv. He continued his studies at the Lviv College of Decorative and Applied Art and in 1998 became head of the graphics department.

Mr. Barabash is multi-talented, for he has creatively worked in the area of easel painting, book illustrations and advertising graphics. He has been a participant in numerous regional Ukrainian and international exhibits, and more importantly held his first personal exhibition of graphics in 1986 in Lviv.

While visiting the United States for a few months in 1991, Mr. Barabash was overwhelmed by New York City. He

quickly began creating a series of graphic works and paintings, which culminated in a personal exhibition in New York City in March of 1991. All his pieces were marked by depth and conveyed his first impression of America.

Mr. Barabash's main works include a series of engravings “The Features of Lviv's History”; a series of graphic prints, “My Childhood”; and a series of lithographs of Lviv's panoramic views.

Mr. Barabash participated in an art exhibit and Christmas bazaar on December 11, 2005, at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 21 Shonnard Place, Yonkers, N.Y., sponsored by Branch 30 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. Mr. Barabash exhibited his current creative works in oil and oil-based pastels. The themes for the paintings are his native village, views of Lviv, the Carpathian Mountains, still life drawings and portraits.

In addition to Mr. Barabash, Branch 30 invited Olia Basarab Kolodij from Philadelphia with her unique collection of glass paintings, embroidery, handmade clay jewelry and gerdany; and Myron Bokalo and Daria Hanushevskya, with their handmade Trypillian and Hutsul ceramics, not to mention Christmas ornaments.

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Respectfully,

Walter Prochorenko, Ph.D.
 Director of Publications
 Ukrainian National Association

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By completing the questionnaire below, you could win a free weekend at Soyuzivka!

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Sports in Ukraine			
Sports in the U.S. where Ukrainians are involved			
Columnists, commentary			
Community events calendar			
Reviews of (Ukrainian) restaurants			
Art/music/book reviews			
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Education news			
Children's corner ("UKELODEON")			
Political cartoons			
Historical and geographical information about Ukraine			
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We are grateful for your participation. To thank you for taking the time to complete this survey, your name and address will be placed in a random drawing for a free weekend at Soyuzivka during 2006 (except on the Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends, and subject to room availability).

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Night of contemporary poetry held at the Shevchenko Scientific Society

by Dr. Orest Popovych

NEW YORK – Three luminaries of contemporary Ukrainian poetry – Bohdan Rubchak, Oleksander Irvanets and Vasyl Makhno – treated a packed house at the headquarters of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) to a delightful evening of their art on December 17.

Doubling as an emcee, Prof. Makhno introduced his two colleagues as representatives of two distinct schools of Ukrainian poetry.

Prof. Rubchak is a member of the renowned New York Group of Ukrainian writers, who were especially active in the 1950s and 1960s. According to Prof. Makhno, this unique group provided a much-needed contribution to Ukrainian literature by reviving Ukrainian modernism, which in Ukraine was decapitated in the 1920s. Mr. Irvanets, a guest from Kyiv, is a representative of the so-called Bu-Ba-Bu Group in Ukraine.

When Prof. Makhno referred to the two guests as “great poets,” both of them graciously interrupted to say that the great poet among them was the one holding the microphone.

The first featured speaker was Prof. Rubchak, poet, prosaist and literary critic. This was his first appearance in New York after several decades of teaching at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has recently settled in New Jersey.

Citing T. S. Elliot’s motto that “home is where one starts from,” Prof. Rubchak started by reciting nostalgic verses about his native Ukraine, followed by lengthy excerpts of prose from his memoirs of the great escape from Ukraine to the West in 1944. At that time many among the Ukrainian intelligentsia, especially in western Ukraine, chose the hardships and dangers of exodus when faced with

the alternative of impending enslavement or worse by the Stalinist Soviet regime.

Choosing “travels” as the theme of his narrative, Prof. Rubchak recalled how he as a little boy traveling with his family joined the massive escape to the West by car, horsecart and on foot. Relating in painful detail the miseries of the day-to-day existence of the refugees, he cited examples of the ugliness and cruelty exhibited by some people under the stressful conditions. That included a blow to the head of the little boy by an angry Nazi policeman, which caused physical damage that has lasted a lifetime. “Angst” is the word Prof. Rubchak used to describe the mental state of the refugees.

Next to address the audience was Mr. Irvanets whose writings have been described as falling into two categories: irony, expressed by satirical verses, and other, more serious, works. He is the author of several collections of poetry, five plays and a novel.

Mr. Irvanets began by recalling the first, historic meeting between members of the Bu-Ba-Bu Group and the New York Group, including Prof. Rubchak, which took place in Kyiv in 1989 on the occasion of the World Festival of Ukrainian Poetry.

He then recited several short verses of his political satire directed at situations and attitudes in Ukraine, at its leaders, and even at Russia’s President Vladimir Putin. Written in the years 2003-2005, these very entertaining verses are usually composed of three stanzas, with four lines each. This format was mandated in part by the fact that the poetry had to fit into brief TV slots assigned to it in a program called “5 Kopecks” broadcast on Ukraine’s Channel 5. This was the only opposition channel functioning during the regime of Leonid Kuchma. A collection of these satirical verses titled



At the Shevchenko Scientific Society (from left) are: poets Vasyl Makhno, Bohdan Rubchak and Oleksander Irvanets.

“Preambles and Texts” (Kyiv, 2005) was available for sale at the end of the program, as was Mr. Irvanets’s book of plays and more serious verses, titled “Lyskunchyk – 2004” (Kyiv, 2005).

Prof. Makhno, a representative of the modernist school and the resident poet at NTSh, opened with his as yet unpublished poem “Gertrude Stein,” which was inspired by the statue of that American writer and patron of the arts in New York’s Bryant Park. Next came “The Weekend of An American Family,” a jarring, heart-wrenching exposé of the tragic lives of two illegal aliens who cohabitate as a couple, having left their wedded spouses in their home countries.

The poem “Nytka” – “The Thread”

– was used as a metaphor for human life, enabling the poet to express his philosophical views. Prof. Makhno concluded with an old favorite of his “The New York Group” – about the previously mentioned group of Ukrainian poets, one of whom (Prof. Rubchak) was present. That poem has been published in Prof. Makhno’s collection of verses about New York.

To date Prof. Makhno has published six collections of his poetry in Ukrainian, of which two have been published also in Polish translation in the form of two books. Many of his individual poems have been translated also into German, Russian, Serbian and Romanian, and, most recently, into English.

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Soyuzivka's Datebook

January 27, 2006

Pre-Malanka Pub Night featuring music by Zukie & Friend, 9 pm

January 27-29, 2006

Church of Annunciation Family Weekend, Flushing, N.Y.

January 28, 2006

2006 Ukrainian Engineers' Malanka

February 10-12, 2006

Valentine's Day Weekend

February 11, 2006

Five-Course Dinner featuring music by Askold Buc

February 17-20, 2006

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February 18, 2006

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February 25, 2006

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April 16, 2006

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April 22, 2006

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April 28, 2006

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- Malanka in January.
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- Labor Day at Soyuzivka in September.
- Morskyi Bal in November.
- Koliada in December.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, January 21

SILVER SPRING, Md.: The Shevchenko Scientific Society, Washington, D.C., branch, presents journalist Mykola Francuzhenko, who will give a personal reminiscence of the life and work of renowned Ukrainian graphic artist Jacques Hnizdovsky (1915-1985). The talk will be given in Ukrainian at the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Andrew, 15100 New Hampshire Ave., at 12:30 p.m. Admission free, donations gratefully accepted. For further information call (202) 514-1822 (day) or (301) 230-2149 (evening).

CARTERET, N.J.: The St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a Malanka, with music by Fata Morgana, to be held at the St. Demetrius Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave., in Carteret. Tickets are \$45 (includes admission, choice of meal, drinks, midnight hors d'oeuvres and a champagne toast); there will also be a cash bar. The St. Demetrius Center is located off Exit 12 of the N.J. Turnpike. There is also a Holiday Inn near the exit. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., and music starts at 8:30 p.m. For table and ticket reservations call Peter Prociuk, (732) 541-5452, by January 16. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Sunday, January 22

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago invites members and the community to a meeting and discussion with Mary Mycio, author of the highly rated new book "Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chernobyl." In her book Ms. Mycio explores the "terrible paradox" represented by the contaminated area around the nuclear disaster, which has become Europe's largest "wildlife sanctuary" teeming with diverse, rare – and radioactive – flora and fauna. The presentation, at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., will include a 1 p.m. brunch reception; and 2 p.m. discussion. Admission: \$10, UBPG members; \$15, non-members and guests. For additional information, call (847) 359-3676.

NEW YORK: The "Music at the Institute" chamber music series invites the public to a concert of new music as part of its Sunday afternoon series, "Anthology of Ukrainian and American Chamber Music." The program, titled "Two Cities, One Spirit – Music of Kyiv and New York," performed by the Musiciens sans Frontières ensemble, George Stelluto, music director and conductor, features the U.S. premiere of Ivan Karabyts' Symphony No. 3, the World Premiere (String Version) of Huang Ruo's "Leaving Sao" written especially for the UIA and Musiciens sans Frontières, David Diamond's "Rounds" and William Schuman's Symphony No. 5. The concert will be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 3 p.m. A reception will follow the performance. Donation: \$30; UIA members and senior citizens, \$25; students, \$20. For additional information and reservations call (212) 288-8660 or visit www.ukrainianinstitute.org.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday, February 25

LOS ANGELES: The California Association to Aid Ukraine (CAAU) will host its annual charity ball and presentation of debutantes on February 25. Pack your beach hat and join us at the Marriott Hotel in Marina Del Rey, Calif., south of Los Angeles. Proceeds from the 2006 ball are designated for biomedical research in Ukraine. Admission: \$95 per person, adult; \$85, per student. Admission price includes champagne and hors d'oeuvres, three-course meal, live music and dancing. The silent auction will feature a dazzling array of Hollywood items, Ukrainian gifts, baskets, artwork and toys. For reservations please send a check to the CAAU's treasurer, Marta Mykytyn-Hill, at 1219 Via Arroyo, Ventura, CA 93003. Accommodations are available at the hotel. For preferred rates please book before February 6; mention CAAU when booking. Rooms are subject to availability. For further information contact Luba Keske, (818) 884-3836 (home) or (310) 449-3485 (office), or Shannon Micevych, (818) 774-9378.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (**\$20 per submission**) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Payment must be received prior to publication.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be **no more than 100 words** long; all submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment of \$20 for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Items may be e-mailed to preview@ukrweekly.com.

Attention Debutante Ball Organizers!

As in the past, The Ukrainian Weekly is planning to publish a special section devoted to the Ukrainian community's debutantes. The 2006 debutante ball section will be published in March. The deadline for submission of stories and photos is March 6.