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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Euro-2012 in Ukraine faces lodging crisis: shortages, high prices

by Zenon Zawada

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV – Ukraine is facing a lodging crisis for the 20 days it will host the Euro-2012 soccer championship this summer, reported government officials. A significant portion of the hotel rooms in the four host cities are already booked, according to media reports, with prices surging for the remainder.

“We gave them a zero profit tax rate and prices are increasing nevertheless,” Vice Prime Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine Borys Kolesnikov said at a February 17 press conference, UNIAN reported.

Between June 11 and July 1, the cities of Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv and Donetsk will host Euro-2012, a soccer championship between national teams organized every four years by the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA). Donetsk and Kyiv will host a semi-final matches on June 23 and 24 respectively, while Kyiv will host the final match on July 1.

Those looking to find housing in the coming months will have to turn to hostels, campgrounds in parks and local residents willing to rent out their homes for extra cash. The prices for remaining lodging will reportedly be anywhere between three and 30 times their regular rates, reported Delo ([www.delo.ua](http://www.delo.ua)), a Ukrainian business news website in the Russian language.

For example, Lviv’s four star-hotel Gerold is offering a room for two for \$409 a night, about three times its current rate, Delo reported. Meanwhile, an apartment for four in Kharkiv will rent for \$1,575 a night – more than 30 times the current price.

Meanwhile, hotels rated at three stars and higher are entirely booked in Kyiv and Donetsk, Dyelo reported.

The housing shortage also means that Ukrainian lodging, typically worse in quality than European accommodations, will be exponentially more expensive than in Poland, reported the 1+1 television network.

In one example, a 23-night package in a three-star hotel in Kyiv was selling for \$35,625, while 1+1 reporters found the same offer in Warsaw costing \$3,067, about a twelfth of the Kyiv price. Yet the quality of a three-star hotel in Kyiv is inferior to its Polish counterpart.

Part of the reason for the lack of housing is Ukraine’s miserable economy. The nation was ranked the worst in Europe on the Index of Economic Freedom released by the Heritage Foundation in January.

So, while Poland has moved towards free market economic conditions, enabling more competition and therefore lower prices for goods and services, Ukraine’s cities remain economically stagnant, hindered by an unreformed Soviet-era

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## World’s most influential women asked to help secure release of Ukraine’s political prisoners



Lina Kostenko



Nina Matvienko



Oleksandra Kuzhel

KYIV – Three famous women of Ukraine – author Lina Kostenko, singer Nina Matvienko and politician Oleksandra Kuzhel – have sent an open letter addressed to the 20 most influential women of the world, calling for help in securing the release of political prisoners in Ukraine, including former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

They also suggest that imposing sanctions on the leadership of Ukraine can make it more responsive to international appeals to release Ms. Tymoshenko and other political prisoners.

“Your personal support in countering human rights abuses in Ukraine with the assistance of the international community and international human rights institutions is extremely important to maintain the guarantees of security of our families and our nation,” the letter says.

According to a February 16 posting on the official website of Yulia Tymoshenko, Mmes. Kostenko, Matvienko and Kuzhel write: “We, the women of Ukraine, ask you and all prominent women of the world to help us in our common mission to defend our shared values of humanism and human rights. Help us to defend our liberty.”

Ms. Tymoshenko, they write, was “groundlessly sentenced and brutally jailed for her previous political decisions while in office, decisions which in a true democracy are evaluated not

by courts but by voters.” Her unjust imprisonment, they stress, is dangerous not only because Ukraine’s government has trampled on her rights and freedoms, but because this lawlessness has made every person in Ukraine vulnerable to the arbitrary whims of state officials.

The letter’s authors say they believe that Ms. Tymoshenko is the most successful female politician in the post-Soviet space. In the presidential election of 2010, which she lost by a slight margin to Viktor Yanukovich, she was supported by nearly 12 million Ukrainian citizens, their letter underscores.

The letter was sent to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė, Vice-President of the European Commission and European Union High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy Catherine Ashton, President Cristina Fernandez of Argentina, President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil, President Tarja Halonen of Finland, U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama, President of Liberia and 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, General Secretary of the National League for Democracy (Burma) and 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi and others. A separate letter is to be sent to the Council of Women World Leaders.

Sources: Ukrinform, [www.tymoshenko.ua](http://www.tymoshenko.ua).

## UWC to monitor Ukraine’s parliamentary elections

TORONTO – In response to the January 25 pledge by Ukraine’s foreign affairs minister to invite international election observers to monitor the October 28 parliamentary elections, the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) has announced that it will once again actively participate in Ukraine’s electoral process by hosting a delegation of international election observers.

Long-and short-term monitoring and reporting on the electoral process is critical to protect Ukraine’s fledgling democracy. As a result, at the last UWC board meeting, a motion was approved to establish a special committee to lead and coordinate an international election observation mission. The committee’s tasks are to solicit experienced volunteers from UWC member organizations worldwide, develop an election observer strategy, prepare training materials and briefings for the election monitors, and coordinate the observer mission.

Due to their long-time experience in leading past election missions, Tamara Olexy, president of the Ukrainian Congress

Committee of America, and Paul Grod, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, were appointed by the UWC board to serve as committee co-chairs.

Upon accepting her appointment as co-chair, Ms. Olexy emphasized the vital role of international election observers in enhancing the transparency of the election process. “I am grateful to the UWC board members for placing their confidence in Paul Grod and myself to co-chair the special committee to lead an international election observer mission,” she said.

Mr. Grod also thanked the board and added, “Ensuring free and fair elections is critical to Ukraine’s developing democracy, and we are proud that international election observers led by the UWC in coordination with its constituent country organizations will continue to stand by the people of Ukraine.”

Information on how to apply to become an international election observer with the UWC’s mission will be available in the coming weeks in the Ukrainian news media as well as on

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## ANALYSIS

## Ukrainian police crack down on electronic file-sharing service

by Pavel Korduban  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The Ukrainian authorities' decision to close a popular file-sharing service has almost provoked a revolution on the local Internet. Following a crackdown on ex.ua, which is Ukraine's most popular source of pirated videos and music, hackers flattened government websites – while the local media and Internet users poured scorn on the government's clumsy handling of the problem of Internet piracy. The state has had to back down.

Ex.ua has resumed its work, although an investigation into its activities is continuing. This shows that it would be difficult for a government technologically retarded and deeply mistrusted by the people to eradicate computer piracy.

Kyiv police closed ex.ua on January 31, after raiding its server rooms and seizing servers with some 6,000 terabytes of information. The Internal Affairs Ministry said it opened a criminal case against ex.ua over copyright violations following complaints from the international software companies Microsoft, Adobe and Graphisoft. The ministry said the company managers could face up to five years in prison. However, ex.ua representatives claimed that they had signed agreements with copyright owners, so there had been no violations (Interfax-Ukraine, UNIAN, January 31).

Microsoft-Ukraine's representatives denied that they prompted the crackdown on ex.ua, but said that as ex.ua has long been known as a pirate website, Microsoft considered its suspension natural (Interfax-Ukraine, February 1).

Ex.ua's lawyers said it was only Adobe that officially complained about the violations. In particular, five users uploaded pirated copies of Adobe's programs on the website. The Internal Affairs Ministry said this was only one episode in the fight against computer piracy, as some 600 criminal cases were referred to the courts last year alone (Kommersant-Ukraine, February 3; Interfax-Ukraine, February 4).

However, no previous case had provoked such a wave of indignation on the Ukrainian Internet and in the media as the closure of ex.ua. Its content has been easy to download and was used by everyone from Ukrainian teenagers to intellectuals for years.

Also, the crackdown came the a wrong moment. The popularity of the government is very low ahead of the October parliamentary election, as opinion polls demonstrate. It transpires from discussions on Internet forums and social networks that average Ukrainian Internet users, the plurality of whom are educated young professionals, do not accept that "the bunch of thieves" in power can teach ordinary people that it is wrong to steal intellectual property.

A backlash followed immediately. The websites of the presidential office, the Cabinet of Ministers, Parliament, the central bank, the Security Service and the ruling Party of Regions were put out by DDoS (distributed denial of service) attacks from multiple computers on February 1. Prime Minister Mykola Azarov's Facebook page was inaccessible on the same day due to spam.

The Internal Affairs Ministry's website suffered most, flattened by DDoS attacks in the evening of February 3 and was not

accessible for at least a week. Meanwhile, hackers made available scores of files from the ministry's server to Internet audiences (Ukrayinska Pravda, February 2-5).

The website Ukrayinska Pravda quoted an anonymous representative of a hacker group on February 2 as claiming that some 500 professionals were taking part in the attack aided by up to 300,000 volunteers. They had no leader and were "waiting for help from comrades in the U.S.," the source claimed.

The Ukrainian government had to back down. On February 2 the Internal Affairs Ministry said it recalled its request for the domain registrar to close ex.ua, as there had been "no sufficient grounds" for the closure. At the same time, the police said the investigation would continue (Interfax-Ukraine, February 2).

Ex.ua resumed its work on February 3, although many files were unavailable for downloading. The ministry complained that the sympathies of the media and Internet community were "on the side of the pirates and criminals," and admitted that it had not expected such a public outcry (Kommersant-Ukraine, February 3).

The crackdown on ex.ua may provoke a wave of anti-Americanism. Channel 5 reported on February 4 that the U.S. had reportedly demanded that ex.ua be shut down during a recent visit to Washington by Finance Minister Valery Khoroshkovsky, who tried to secure a loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Internal Affairs Ministry has had to deny reports that ex.ua was closed at the IMF's request.

The attacks exposed the flaws in the government's attitude to computer technologies and the Internet in particular. Hackers revealed and the Internal Affairs Ministry grudgingly confirmed that half of the programs used by the ministry were pirated (Kommersant-Ukraine, February 2). This again raised the question of legitimacy of a government that, while quietly using stolen intellectual property, wants to forbid citizens to use the same.

The director of the Cabinet of Ministers' information department, Dmytro Andreyev, admitted that the DDoS attacks were a serious test that forced his department to review the security system used by the government (Interfax-Ukraine, February 2). Tetyana Montyan, a lawyer and public activist, said the government's websites were so easy to crack because "money allocated for their protection was simply stolen" (Channel 5, February 3).

Meanwhile, the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA), which represents U.S.-based copyright industries, has asked the U.S. trade representative to consider trade sanctions against Ukraine for inadequate protection of intellectual property rights. The IIPA said the problem did not receive sufficient attention from Ukraine's government, adding that the government itself has continued to use unlicensed business software. Ukraine, according to the IIPA, has established itself as a "safe haven for copyright pirates" (www.iipa.com, February 10; Kommersant-Ukraine, February 13).

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### U.N. donates for Ukraine's homeless

KYIV – The United Nations has donated \$100,000 to aid Ukraine's homeless after over 150 people, many of them homeless, died during a severe cold spell. U.N. spokeswoman Viktoriya Andriyevska said on February 21 that the money would be spent on warm clothing, food and heating centers. Ukraine was hit hard by severe cold earlier this month that claimed 151 lives and left nearly 4,000 hospitalized with hypothermia and frostbite as temperatures plunged to minus 30 degrees Celsius (minus 22 degrees Fahrenheit). Emergency officials said that in 90 percent of the cases the victims died because they were under the influence of alcohol. Experts say the problem has highlighted Ukraine's inability and unwillingness to deal with homeless people. (Associated Press)

### Putin: No plans to withdraw BSF

KYIV – While Russia is not going to withdraw its Black Sea Fleet (BSF) from Crimea, it will develop its own base in Novorossiysk, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said at a meeting with army division and brigade commanders on February 22. "We are not going to pull out from Crimea. There is every reason for that: we signed the relevant inter-state agreement with Ukraine, regarding the presence of our fleet in the Crimea," Mr. Putin said. This agreement is "unique" in terms of the cost of the Black Sea Fleet presence in Ukraine, he said. Under the document, Russia is capitalizing the gas discount towards the rental, he said. "We are talking about billions of dollars here," he said, adding that "no one pays [such rentals] to anyone anywhere." He added, "Nevertheless, we are considering the possibility of the Black Sea Fleet being based at Russian ports as well, which is why we allocated the necessary funding for the development of a base at Novorossiysk and will develop it." (Interfax-Ukraine)

### Gazprom to end gas transit through Ukraine

KYIV – Gazprom claims that after the launch of South Stream and with the expansion of Nord Stream, Ukraine's role in

the transit of Russian gas will be reduced to zero, according to a statement from an official representative of Gazprom, Sergei Kupriyanov, released on February 22. "After completion of all the gas pipeline projects planned by Gazprom – South Stream's expansion and the completion of Nord Stream – as well as the company's existing transportation facilities in Belarus and in the Black Sea, Ukraine's transit role for Russian gas exports will be zero," he said. The head of Gazprom, Alexei Miller, on February 21 at a meeting with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said that Gazprom is ready to begin the construction of the South Stream pipeline to bypass Ukraine in December 2012. Mr. Medvedev instructed Gazprom to build South Stream with a maximum capacity of pumping 63 billion cubic meters of gas per year. (Ukrinform)

### Analyst: Russia will pressure Ukraine

KYIV – After the presidential elections, Russia will increase pressure on Ukraine in order to attract it to the Eurasian space – a project of Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who is expected to win the Russian presidential elections on March 4. That opinion was expressed during a roundtable in Kyiv on February 21 by Iryna Heraschenko, a member of the Ukrainian delegation of the Committee for Parliamentary Cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union. "There is the Russian factor. And I am convinced that after March 4 pressure on Ukraine from Russia will be strengthened in the context of pulling into the Eurasian space, which will become the main foreign policy project of Vladimir Putin's third term," she said. Given this, the Ukrainian national deputy noted the need to initial as quickly as possible the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU "so that the Ukrainian authorities, politicians and officials have no chance to get away from the path of European integration." She added that, "It is desirable to do so in February or March of this year." (Ukrinform)

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

## Yanukovich provides a “krysha” for organized crime

by Taras Kuzio  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The Party of Regions of Ukraine has acted as an insurance agency and protection racket for former state officials accused of abuse of office by giving them parliamentary seats and immunity from prosecution. The Party of Regions has brought together “much of the political opposition to President Yushchenko,” the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv reported (<http://www.wikileaks.org/cable/2007/09/07KYIV2286.html>).

When the Party of Regions is in power their friends and defectors from the opposition are rewarded, while enemies are punished – particularly if there is an opportunity to extract revenge for past humiliations and betrayals. Former Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Lutsenko is on trial on trumped-up charges as an act of revenge by the Yanukovich administration because of his zeal in destroying the organized crime-Party of Regions nexus and putting the current vice prime minister, Boris Kolesnykov, in jail in 2005 on charges of extortion.

Political corruption is ingrained in eastern Ukrainian (Eurasian) political culture. On four occasions since the 1998 elections, former President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister and President Viktor Yanukovich have sought to bribe, blackmail and coerce opposition deputies to defect to them.

In 2000, the Viktor Yushchenko government found line items in the budget they inherited of payments of \$1.5 million for deputies elected two years earlier in single mandate districts (<http://www.istpravda.com.ua/articles/2011/04/29/37058/>). In 2002, the Liberal Party and trade unionists defected from Our Ukraine to the pro-presidential coalition. In 2007, 20 Our Ukraine deputies defected to the Anti-Crisis Coalition leading to President Yushchenko's decree to disband Parliament. In 2010, over 60 opposition deputies from Our Ukraine-People's Self Defense (OU-PSD) and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) defected to the Stability and Reforms Coalition.

Allegations have long circulated that since 2010 they have received bribes of between \$1 million to \$2 million in lump sums and \$25,000 in monthly “salaries.”

OU-PSD Deputy Oles Doniy revealed he had been offered \$10 million for defecting

to the Party of Regions, and the second time \$1 million plus a \$20,000 monthly “salary” (Ukrayinska Pravda, February 4, 2011).

YTB Deputy Roman Zabzaliuk claimed he had been given \$450,000 to defect to the Stability and Reforms Coalition and a \$25,000 monthly “salary” (Ukrayinska Pravda, February 8). He taped the conversation with the offer of the bribe (listen here: <http://ostro.org/articles/article-349540/>). The lump sum has been donated to Batkivschyna, the party led by the imprisoned Yulia Tymoshenko (<http://tvi.ua/ua/watch/author/?prog=698&video=5562>).

A cable from the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv reported that “[Industrial Union of Donbas co-owner Sergei] Taruta dismissed the whole Donetsk-Regions group, saying ‘they are all looters’” (<http://www.wikileaks.org/cable/2007/09/07KYIV2286.html#>).

Former National Security and Defense Council Secretary, Volodymyr Horbulin, told U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst that the Party of Regions is “notable for its inclusion of criminal and anti-democracy figures” (<http://wikileaks.org/cable/2006/01/06KIEV400.html>).

Another cable from the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv described the Party of Regions as “long a haven for Donetsk-based mobsters and oligarchs,” led by “Donetsk clan godfather Rinat Akhmetov” (<http://wikileaks.org/cable/2006/02/06KIEV473.html#>).

The Party of Regions has given organized gang members places facilitating their election to Parliament, local government and the Crimean Parliament (on organized crime in Crimea see U.S. Embassy cable from Kyiv <http://wikileaks.org/cable/2006/12/06KYIV4558.html>). In the March 2006 elections to the Crimean Parliament and local councils, hundreds of candidates who had “problems with the law,” according to then Internal Affairs Minister Lutsenko, ran in the Za Soyuz (For Union), For Yanukovich and Kunitsyn election blocs. Party of Regions Deputy Vasyl Kyselev condemned the presence of “Seilem” organized crime gang leader Aleksandr Melnyk in the For Yanukovich parliamentary coalition in the Crimean Parliament. Mr. Yanukovich responded with the stern rebuke: “I take responsibility for him” (<http://www.pravda.com.ua/articles/2010/02/19/478859/>).

In February of this year Mr. Lutsenko addressed the court during his trial with a sensational disclosure related to when he was internal affairs minister during the early period of Prime Minister Yanukovich's 2006-2007 government (<http://kommer-sant.ua/doc/186743>). Mr. Lutsenko recalled: “In the evening the three of us – Yanukovich, I and a chauffeur – drove to Mezhyhiria [a Soviet-era palace, now Mr. Yanukovich's private residence], which had not then been ‘privatized.’ With music playing, the prime minister said to me, ‘Just don't go after Sasha.’ I asked him, ‘Which Sasha?’ He replied, ‘Do not pretend [you do not know]... Sasha Melnyk.”

Melnyk was No. 21 on the For Yanukovich election bloc list to the Crimean Parliament in the 2006 elections. He is the leader of the organized crime gang Seilem. Mr. Lutsenko replied to Prime Minister Yanukovich, “Viktor Fedorovich, there is a game called cops and robbers. Well, I am the cop.” Mr. Yanukovich looked back at him with a startled face and Mr. Lutsenko recalled, “He thought I was kidding.”

Mr. Lutsenko claimed that the current deputy procurator-general, Renat Kuzmin, was responsible for Mr. Melnyk's evasion of justice after the Party of Regions lobbied the Procurator's Office not to press charges: “Kuzmin signed arrest warrants for two gang members, but not for the boss. After his 72 hours of detention had expired, he was released and went straight to Boryspil [airport],” adding, “Having all the evidence connecting the gang to murders, including that of the murder of a police officer, Deputy Procurator-General Renat Kuzmin releases the man who Yanukovich shelters, the head of an organized crime gang.” Mr. Lutsenko also accused Mr. Kuzmin of “rehabilitating” another of Ukraine's most notorious crime bosses, Givi Nemsadze, who led an organized crime gang that allegedly committed over 100 murders (<http://kommer-sant.ua/doc/1867436>).

Mr. Lutsenko routinely complained that his efforts to fight corruption and organized crime received no support from President Yushchenko, whose two procurators-general, Sviatoslav Piskun and Oleksander Medvedko, were both Donetsk loyalists ([http://gazeta.ua/articles/politics/\\_lutsenko-rozpoviv-yak-medvedko-vid-bilyue-yanukovicha-vid-sudimo-](http://gazeta.ua/articles/politics/_lutsenko-rozpoviv-yak-medvedko-vid-bilyue-yanukovicha-vid-sudimo-)

[stej/325581](http://325581)). Ukraine has had a total of four procurators-general from Donetsk in the last decade with Mr. Piskun (2002-2003, 2005), Henadii Vasyliiev (2003-2004), Mr. Medvedko (2005-2010) and Viktor Pshonka (since 2010).

After the September 2005 memorandum was signed between Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich, the Party of Regions agreed to appoint Mr. Yanukovich's choice, Mr. Medvedko, as procurator-general. Mr. Medvedko began his career working in the local prosecutors' offices in Donetsk and Luhansk and maintained close ties to the Party of Regions. His appointment was crucial in allowing Mr. Yanukovich to prevent, hinder or halt investigations of state officials linked to the Party of Regions.

Two big organized crime bosses were elected in 2006 to the Crimean Parliament by the Party of Regions (Mr. Melnyk and Igor Lukashev, who chaired the Crimean Parliament's Budget Committee and was known as the “wallet” of the Seilem organized crime gang) and one by the Kunitsyn bloc (Ruvim Aronov, leader of the Bashmaki organized crime gang). Then Internal Affairs Minister Lutsenko told the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv that the Seilem organized crime gang had been responsible in the 1990s for 52 contract murders, including those of one journalist, two police officers, 30 businesspersons and 15 organized crime competitors (<http://wikileaks.org/cable/2006/12/06KYIV4558.html#>).

The Family, the newly emerging clan surrounding President Yanukovich, is becoming one of the strongest clans in Ukraine (<http://www.rosbalt.ru/ukraine/2011/11/22/915636.html>). Mr. Yanukovich may be seeking to emulate Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin whose fortune, according to the former Guardian correspondent in Moscow Luke Harding, is allegedly in the region of \$40 billion (Luke Harding, “Mafia State,” London: Guardian Books, 2011, pp. 22-23). This is at least \$11 billion more than Russia's wealthiest oligarch, Oleg Deripaska (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, July 26, 2010).

The Family includes former organized crime figures from President Yanukovich's hometown of Yenakievo in the Donetsk Oblast (see EDM, December 2, 2011). Yuri

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## First wine, then meat, then veggies. Now Russia cuts the (Ukrainian) cheese

RFE/RL

A dispute over Ukrainian cheese is threatening to further damage relations between Russia and Ukraine, where officials are accusing Moscow of political blackmail.

After Georgian wine, Polish meat and European vegetables, it's Ukrainian cheese that has come under the scrutiny of Russia's consumer-goods watchdog, Rospotrebnadzor.

The combative agency last week barred imports of cheese from three major Ukrainian producers, accusing them of using excessive quantities of palm oil in their products – a charge the producers vehemently deny.

Ukraine announced on February 13 that it would send samples to independent laboratories abroad for analysis after Rospotrebnadzor chief Gennady

Onishchenko abruptly called off an agreement under which the Russian agency and Ukrainian authorities were meant to jointly inspect the embattled cheese factories.

Like many officials in Kyiv, Anatolii Kinakh, a former Ukrainian prime minister and economy minister who now heads the country's Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, believes the so-called “cheese war” has, in fact, little to do with food quality.

“This process should be taking place without economic or political pressure,” Mr. Kinakh said. “The fact that Ukraine is forced to turn to a third party is not the ideal method to resolve such an issue.”

## Political stunts

His comments echo remarks by Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, who has accused Russian dairy producers of initiating the dispute to discredit their

Ukrainian rivals.

Russia last year accounted for some 80 percent of Ukrainian cheese exports.

Rospotrebnadzor's past bans on foreign food products have often been denounced as political stunts serving the interests of the Kremlin, and the “cheese war” is no exception.

“There is definitely a political aspect here,” said Pavlo Rozenko, an expert on social policy with the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center think tank. “Certain circles in Russia support an ideology that implies controlling Ukraine so that it is forced to compromise on gas issues, on the Customs Union, the free-trade zone and more generally on integration processes. And Ukrainian authorities are allowing others to make fun of them by playing the game of integration with Russia and the European Union.”

Russia has repeatedly called on Ukraine to join its Customs Union with Belarus and

Kazakhstan, while Kyiv has been pursuing a free-trade agreement with the European Union.

In recent years, Russia and Ukraine have also bitterly sparred over the price of Russian natural gas.

The impact of the “cheese war” is already being felt in Ukraine. At least one cheese factory has temporarily halted production and economists predict a drop in domestic prices if products originally destined for export start flooding the Ukrainian market.

Written by Claire Bigg, with reporting from RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service.

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## OBITUARY

# Peter Trimpolis, 100, deportation survivor and war veteran, author

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – Peter Trimpolis, who survived Soviet deportation and fought in the second world war before settling in Canada and publishing his memoirs, passed away on December 5, 2011, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Mr. Trimpolis was born in 1911 in the village of Nyzhnia Pokrova in the Kharkiv region. In 1929 his happy childhood was shattered when the Soviet regime confiscated the family's farm in the "dekulakization" campaign.

At the age of 18, along with his family of 10, Trimpolis and many other residents of Nyzhnia Pokrova were deported to the far north of Russia. Amazingly, he escaped

forced labor and became a fugitive.

Mr. Trimpolis assumed several false identities while crisscrossing the Soviet Union, working hard to send food parcels to his still-imprisoned family. It was during these tough years that he learned the electrical trade, which he would later practice in Canada.

When the Germans invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, he was conscripted into the Red Army, trained as a medic and deployed to the defense of Moscow. He survived four Nazi death camps and successfully avoided repatriation to the Soviet Union at the end of the war. After two years in a displaced persons (DP)

camp, Mr. Trimpolis came to Canada in 1947 with no money, family contacts or knowledge of the English language.

He first worked in a lumber camp in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and through mutual friends began corresponding with a Ukrainian girl from Winnipeg, whom he met during a brief visit and married in 1949. Mr. Trimpolis took up construction in Manitoba, and specialized in the electrical trade. He retired from Canadian National Railways in 1976 after 13 years of service, but kept himself busy by maintaining rental properties.

Mr. Trimpolis was predeceased by his wife, Mary, in 1998 and his son, Walter, in

1979. Surviving are daughters Helen and Lilly, two grandsons, one brother and two sisters, and numerous nieces and nephews in Ukraine.

Over the decades Mr. Trimpolis had amassed a collection of notes, which he compiled into a memoir that he published in 1998 in Ukrainian as "Ternystyi Skhliakh Zhyttia" and "My Rocky Road of Life" in English in 2000. At the age of 96 he completed a second book, "My Life in Canada."

Readers interested in purchasing either English-language book may contact Mr. Trimpolis's daughter, Lilly Burky, at 204-269-1614.

# Maria Luciuk, former slave laborer and DP, Ukrainian patriot and community activist

KINGSTON, Ontario – Maria Luciuk, a former slave laborer and displaced person, Ukrainian nationalist and community activist, died here on February 10. She was 84.

Born on July 17, 1927, in the western Ukrainian village of Kurnyky, Maria (née Makalo) was press-ganged to work on a Bavarian farm during the second world war.

In May 1945 she found herself among millions of political refugees unwilling to return home, all of Ukraine having fallen under Soviet occupation, the Stalinist regime brutally suppressing resistance into the 1950s. Maria's father, Stepan, captured by the Communists, perished rather than renounce the cause of Ukraine's liberation. The Iron Curtain then severed ties to her mother, three brothers and sister, a chasm un-breached until 1991 when

the Soviet empire fell and Ukraine recovered its place in Europe.

Finding sanctuary in the Freiman Kasserne Displaced Persons camp, near Munich, Ms. Makalo joined the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, becoming a trusted underground courier. The times were dangerous. Soon enough, she came under surveillance. She was stopped in Munich's English Gardens by Danylo Luciuk. Fortunately, he too was a nationalist. He became her unofficial bodyguard, eventually her husband, rarely leaving her side from then until she died, peacefully, in his arms, in their bed, in their home, after more than six decades of happily married life.

Resettled from post-war Europe to Kingston, Ontario, in 1949, Maria and Danylo Luciuk found work, she at Hotel Dieu Hospital, he at Brock Jewellers.

They lived in a boarding house on the edge of the city's immigrant and working class North End.

Wanting to start a family, they moved to 68 Nelson St., infusing it with all things Ukrainian. Crossing their threshold you entered Ukraine as they remembered or imagined it should be – a welcoming and happy place. When their children were born they named them Lubomyr, (Lover of Peace) and Nadia, (Hope) evoking what they had found in their new homeland.

Encountering fellow citizens who knew little, if anything, about Ukraine or Ukrainians, Mrs. Luciuk dedicated herself to overcoming that ignorance. She helped establish the Kingston and District Folk Arts Council, the Ukrainian Maky Dance Ensemble and the Ukrainian Canadian Club of Kingston, and was the



Maria Luciuk

(Continued on page 13)

## The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: January

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**TOTAL: \$4,577.50**

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## Klitschko retains WBA title against Dereck Chisora

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko (44-2, 40 KO) retained his title on February 18 in Munich against Dereck Chisora (15-3, 9 KO) of Great Britain. The 12-round fight at the sold-out 13,000-seat Olympiahalle Munich arena was scored unanimously in favor of Klitschko 118-110, 118-110, 119-111.

Klitschko's 28-year-old challenger attracted media attention to the pre-fight weigh-in, when he slapped the 40-year-old Klitschko. Chisora faces a \$50,000 fine from the WBC and a scheduled a hearing before Britain's Board of Control, and not for the first time, for his antics.

In the locker room prior to the fight, Chisora threatened to pull out of the fight when he was ordered to re-wrap the hand bandages after they had been inspected by Wladimir Klitschko, the champion's brother and cornerman, who complained of taping over the knuckles. And, in the ring, Chisora spat water at Wladimir Klitschko.

The first four rounds were dominated by Klitschko, with Chisora adopting a Joe-Frazier-style crouch. By the end of the eighth round all three ringside judges had Klitschko more comfortably ahead. One judge had Klitschko ahead by five rounds,

and two had him winning by six rounds. Although Klitschko was always in control, it seemed that Chisora's efforts were not being recognized. Although Chisora missed his opportunity to knock out Klitschko by the eighth round, he gave Klitschko one of the most grueling nights in many years.

In a show of his age, Klitschko suffered a "small rupture of a ligament in his left shoulder," a Klitschko spokesman told ESPN.com, but the champion hopes to fight again in September. Klitschko plans to undergo physical therapy to rehabilitate the shoulder. This derails his previous plans to fight three times this year.

"Klitschko underwent an MRI on Sunday and further medical examinations on Monday. Besides the ligament, a nerve in his shoulder was affected in round 3.... As a result, he was not able to use his left hand as he wanted to. First fears it could have been the same shoulder ligament that tore apart and made him stop the fight against Chris Byrd in 2000 have not been confirmed. Klitschko will have to pause for six to eight weeks before he can get back into full training," Klitschko's Facebook page noted.

During the post-fight press conference, a brawl developed between Chisora and for-



Dereck Chisora of Great Britain covers up to avoid a barrage from Vitali Klitschko at the Olympiahalle in Munich on February 18.

mer WBA title holder David Haye. It is believed that a glass bottle was thrown at Chisora by Haye, and Chisora's manager, Adam Booth, who tried to halt the scrap, ended up with nasty cuts on his face.

Dr. Tomas Putz, president of the Federation of German Professional Boxers, called for Chisora to be banned for life from the sport. He said he believes the Briton will

not be allowed to box in Germany again.

Although Klitschko told Die Welt newspaper he wants a rematch against Chisora to really punish him with a knockout, Klitschko's management ruled it out.

Wladimir Klitschko, who holds four other heavyweight titles, is scheduled to fight against Jean-Marc Mormeck of France in Dusseldorf, Germany, on March 3.

## Ukrainian Days in Washington to promote Ukrainian American community's concerns

*Ukrainian National Information Service*

WASHINGTON – The Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington public-affairs bureau of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), is organizing Ukrainian Days in Washington on Wednesday and Thursday, April 25-26.

The purpose of Ukrainian Days is to promote the concerns of the Ukrainian American community, as well as to establish better relations with administration officials, think-tank organizations, and elected representatives in Congress. Briefing papers on various topics will be supplied to all Ukrainian Days participants by UNIS.

On Wednesday morning, April 25, Ukrainian Days participants will gather for a

briefing session at the Charles Mott Foundation House on Capitol Hill and join other Central and East European communities who will also be in Washington for the annual Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) Advocacy Day event.

Presentations by American government officials and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are scheduled for the advocacy participants. Of particular interest will be a discussion topics such as the upcoming parliamentary elections in Ukraine; U.S. foreign assistance to the region in fiscal year 2013; energy security in Central and East Europe; NATO enlargement; continued advocacy of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933; as well as the overall context of U.S.-Ukraine relations.

The Ukrainian Days program will also include a gala reception on Wednesday evening commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Ukrainian National Information Service. Founded by the UCCA during the height of the Cold War in 1977, UNIS has been instrumental in advocating the community's concerns. Its unwavering commitment to securing independence for Ukraine and, since 1991, enhancing relations between Ukraine and the United States, has earned it much respect throughout Washington.

On Thursday morning, April 26, participants of Ukrainian Days will attend a breakfast meeting with congressional staffers and members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus (CUC), an officially regis-

tered group within the U.S. House of Representatives that is interested in enhancing relations between Ukraine and the United States.

Throughout the two-day event, participants will meet with their respective legislators in the House of Representatives and Senate in order to relate issues that concern the Ukrainian American community and establish closer communications with their offices. Such relations and contacts are critically important this year as both Ukraine and the United States will hold elections in the autumn, UNIS noted.

For further information about participating, readers may contact the Ukrainian National Information Service at 202-547-0018 or at unis@ucca.org.

## UWC to monitor...

(Continued from page 1)

the UWC website at [www.ukrainianworldcongress.org](http://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org).

"The monitoring of elections in Ukraine continues to be a priority for the UWC. The right to vote in free and fair elections is a fundamental democratic right that expresses the political will of the people. The UWC encourages all eligible voters to vote on October 28, 2012, during Ukraine's Parliamentary elections," stated UWC

President Eugene Czolij.

The Ukrainian World Congress is an international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The Ukrainian World Congress has member organizations in 32 countries and ties with Ukrainians in 13 additional countries. Founded in 1967 as a non-profit corporation, the Ukrainian World Congress was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status.

## Euro-2012...

(Continued from page 1)

bureaucracy plagued by inefficiency and corruption.

"The investment framework remains underdeveloped, and bureaucratic requirements deter much-needed growth in private investment," the Heritage Foundation reported.

Hyatt, Holiday Inn and Radisson are among the only Western hotel chains to open shop in Ukraine, with only five locations among them for the entire country.

Moreover, the five-star Hyatt Regency and Holiday Inn's Intercontinental are also some of the nation's most expensive hotels, situated in the historical heart of Kyiv and unaffordable for most travelers.

State officials plan to set up several tent campgrounds in Kyiv's wooded areas, including the Trukhaniv Island in the Dnipro River.

Private tent cities are surfacing as well. The price tag for a simple pup tent in Kyiv's outskirts is \$600 for six nights, with no refund, as advertised by the Kiev Football Fans Camp, a company advertising on international websites but offering no contact info.

In Donetsk, tents are renting for \$93 a night, while a hostel room for two has reached \$175 per night, the 1+1 network reported.

Ukraine's conditions have even deterred national teams from setting up their bases of operations in Ukraine. Of the 16 teams competing in the European tournament, only two have their bases in Ukraine, the UNIAN news agency reported.

At such prices, it may become less expensive for European visitors to fly to Ukrainian cities rather than stay there overnight, Mr. Kolesnikov said on February 17.

"Budget (airline) companies can fly from Europe to Ukraine for \$200 per match. Three matches from each team would amount to \$600, yet living here will be even more expensive," he said. "If the hotels don't reduce their prices, they won't earn anything. There's a good saying – greed gives birth to poverty."

Ukrainian civic activists have already begun to urge their fellow citizens to consider renting or subletting their apartments to Euro-2012 visitors, or even hosting them, so as to rescue their nation from international disgrace.

Real estate agents expect apartments in downtown locations, or near stadiums, will rent for at least \$100 to \$125 per night, 30-40 percent more than those further away, Delo reported.

"I think the biggest punishment for these hotel owners is that no one will come to them," said Markian Lubkivskyi, the director of the Euro-2012 city organizing committee. "People will decline to live in rooms that don't live up to expectations in service or prices."



Tamara Olexy



Paul Grod

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

# Yanukovich vs the UWC

Viktor Yanukovich and his cronies are at it again. Once again, they have chosen to belittle and disparage the Ukrainian diaspora. This time it is the National Institute for Strategic Studies, which functions under the aegis of the president, and it is targeting the Ukrainian World Congress.

As noted on the NISS website, "The National Institute for Strategic Studies is the main research organization, which provides analytical and prognostic support for the President of Ukraine activity. For more than 15 years experts of Institute carry out strategic initiatives, analytical research and practical recommendations to meet the full range of challenges of nowadays." (Their English, not ours...)

In an analysis clumsily titled "Technologies for Securing the Informational Competitiveness of the State in the Modern World: Conclusions for Ukraine" (as translated from the original Ukrainian; the analysis may be found at <http://www.niss.gov.ua/articles/466/>), the NISS speaks of Ukraine's image and the country's "branding" in the international arena, and provides proposals on how to optimize Ukraine's position in the "world informational space," especially now as the Euro-2012 soccer championships approach. It speaks of such moves as hiring PR specialists, restructuring and modernizing Ukrainian state television and radio, as well as Ukrinform (the national information agency), and creating an official web portal for Ukraine, as well as the importance of "spin-doctoring."

While the document says that Ukraine's relations with the Ukrainian diaspora need to be "normalized," it goes on to propose that the Ukrainian World Congress, which has issued a number of statements and appeals to world bodies that "discredit the actions of Ukrainian authorities in the eyes of the European and world communities," must be depicted, "at best, as a representative of only a specific segment, or more accurately, certain circles of the Ukrainian diaspora."

Thus, Ukraine's spin doctors must make sure that the UWC, "which positions itself as the 'highest community coordinating body representing all organized Ukrainians who emigrated to or have been born in the diaspora,'" must not be perceived as such. Therefore, the UWC's well-justified criticism of the Yanukovich administration's selective prosecution of opponents, targeting of independent media outlets and universities, destructive policies regarding the Ukrainian language and history (to cite just a few examples), must not be treated seriously – after all, these are the opinions of only a "segment" of the diaspora. Ukraine's image must be changed, not by altering its leaders' appalling behavior, but by simply spinning a different story.

For the record, the UWC, founded in 1967, represents the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians, has member-organizations in 32 countries and has ties with Ukrainians in 13 additional countries. It is hardly representative of a mere segment of the diaspora.

UWC President Eugene Czolij reacted to the NISS analysis by stating: "The Ukrainian World Congress calls upon Ukrainian government authorities to heed its appeals which are consistent with the position of the international community. Instead of attempting to marginalize the Ukrainian World Congress, which has represented the interests of the multi-million Ukrainian diaspora for 45 years, Ukrainian government authorities should change their current course and work actively toward making Ukraine a truly democratic European state."

The NISS recommendation regarding the Ukrainian World Congress brings to mind a commentary that appeared last year in May on the official website of Mr. Yanukovich's Party of Regions of Ukraine in which the author castigated Ukrainian Canadians and Ukrainian Americans for "tell[ing] us how to live, what to do and whom to elect based only on the fact that their parents trace their roots to Ukraine." The article also used a Soviet mode of attack – we suppose one would call that spin-doctoring in today's parlance – when he depicted members of the patriotic North American diaspora as Nazi collaborators. (You can read our editorial on that issue by going to our website, [www.ukrweekly.com](http://www.ukrweekly.com) and clicking on the issue dated July 17, 2011.)

The Yanukovich administration, it is clear, remains openly hostile to the Ukrainian diaspora. And, it appears it has no intention of changing its spots.

March  
2  
1997

## Turning the pages back...

Fifteen years ago, on March 2, 1997, Bishop Vsevolod, ruling hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in America, was enthroned as archbishop of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago. The move marked the unification of the two Churches in the diaspora and was regarded

as a step toward Church unity in Ukraine.

This was part of deliberate steps taken by the UOC-U.S.A. to fulfill Patriarch Mstyslav's final will and testament: the acceptance by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. of the omophor (spiritual authority) of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople; the creation of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine; and the unification of the two largest Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in America – the UOC of America and the UOC-U.S.A.

Patriarch Filaret, ruling primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, in an interview with *The Ukrainian Weekly*, said:

"Well, first of all, this is their own decision. Of course, we would naturally like the Ukrainian diaspora to belong to the Kyiv Patriarchate, but, they decided to join the Patriarchate of Constantinople. This unification is beneficial to us, in the sense that a hierarchy that Moscow does not recognize and does not regard as an Orthodox hierarchy has been recognized and accepted by Constantinople.

"Thus, if the ecumenical patriarch has now recognized a Church and its bishops, which in 1942 were declared uncanonical, this means that, from the point of view of Ecumenical Orthodoxy, our Kyiv hierarchy also is canonical, as are all Orthodox Churches."

In the interview, Patriarch Filaret also rebuked Moscow's claim to Ukraine as its

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

# Promoting Holodomor awareness in Connecticut

by Myron Melnyk

The Connecticut Holodomor Awareness Committee (CHAC), formed in 2008 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Holodomor, is continuing its campaign of promoting awareness of this great human tragedy. The campaign has seen a number of recent successes, including raising awareness through work with local media and with educators.

### Connecticut Public Radio program

On December 13, 2011, Connecticut Public Radio, through its hourlong "Where We Live" program, marked the unveiling of Yale University's digital archive of Joseph Stalin's personal documents. The program explored the "controversial figure's" life and shared new information revealed by the archive, including Stalin's policy directives and how the Holodomor was impacted by them.

The program's guests included John Donatich, director of the Yale University Press, which is charged with organizing the 28,000-document collection of Stalin's personal letters, notes, and policy initiatives and directives. Other guests were Yale University historian Timothy Snyder, whose area of expertise is Central and East Europe's history of the 1930s and 1940s. His 2010 book "Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin," has altered the mainstream thinking about the history of that era.

Alex Kuzma, executive director of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation and a CHAC member, was also a guest on the program, and presented the Ukrainian perspective on the events of this period.

During the program, Mr. Donatich provided details about some of the documents that were obtained in the 1990s through collaboration with the Russian State Archives. These materials, annotations to books read, personal letters and notes reveal a great deal about Stalin's development as a leader, his changing states of mind, his use of the army and secret police, and the evolution of his thinking.

Mr. Donatich cited a chilling example related to Stalin's readings of Vladimir Lenin's treatise "State and Revolution," which he read multiple times in order to appropriate Lenin's teachings. Each consecutive reading was marked with margin notes of a different color, as if Stalin himself was recording a chronology of how his thinking was evolving over the years. The initial set of comments was quite benign. Subsequent annotations became more ominous until, at the final reading, Stalin's notes foreshadowed his willingness to use mass violence as a tool to promulgate Communist revolution.

The digital archives are currently in beta format, accessible only to a select group of scholars. They will be available online in the spring of this year.

Prof. Snyder underscored the detailed nature of Communist records. Lenin and Stalin believed that in order to document the greatest transformation of society that, in their minds, was under way, materials should be meticulously preserved and studied by future generations.

Prof. Snyder summarized the events of the early 1930s, stressing Stalin's policies of industrialization and collectivization. In his analysis, Stalin was building a rival system to the prevailing capitalist model of the

times and needed to quickly modernize an agrarian society. Having no colonies outside his borders, Stalin chose to "colonize from within" and to exploit, to the maximum, available internal resources to make real his vision of a modern society. Food became the export currency to fund the effort, and state-driven collectivization became the method for controlling this currency, its production, distribution and export. The ruthless enforcement of these policies, which escalated in the early 1930s, resulted in peasant resistance, and eventually death by forced starvation, or what is now called the Holodomor.

In the course of the program, the host raised the issue of the use of the term "genocide," asking Mr. Kuzma if the word matters.

Mr. Kuzma responded with an emphatic "yes" and went on to eloquently explain why it does. He summarized the position of Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term and authored the Genocide Convention adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948; in Dr. Lemkin's view Soviet policies toward Ukraine fit his own classic definition of genocide.

While commending Prof. Snyder's work, Mr. Kuzma bolstered his Holodomor genocide argument by citing historical examples of Russian and Soviet attempts to suppress Ukrainian culture and religious identity, including Pyotr Valuyev's ban on Ukrainian language publications in 1863, the reversal of Soviet nationalities policy in the 1920s, the liquidation of prominent Ukrainian intellectuals in the Great Purges of the late 1930s, and the decimation of the Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic Churches.

At the end of the program, an interesting exchange took place related to Stalin's legacy and influence in Russia today. The program's host, John Dankosky, referred to Vladimir Putin's recent depiction of Stalin as a "good manager." Prof. Snyder agreed that Stalin's rule left an indelible mark on the psyche of present-day Russians, but noted that, unfortunately, Stalin's managerial and administrative "talents" were best applied to the annihilation of millions of lives in the 1930 and 1940s.

Mr. Kuzma noted the world's ambivalent and passive attitude towards Mr. Putin's remarks. He brought up an analogous hypothetical situation, saying that if German President Angela Merkel had commented favorably today on Adolph Hitler's efficiency, leadership and managerial skills, the world would be "up in arms." Yet Mr. Putin's remarks remain largely unnoticed and provoke little reaction.

The program may be downloaded in its entirety at: <http://www.yourpublicmedia.org/content/wmpr/where-we-live-stalin-soviet-union>

### Working with the NERC

In addition to its work with local media, the Connecticut Holodomor Awareness Committee (CHAC) has also been working with educators, in particular, with the Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies (NERC). The annual conference provides an opportunity for social studies educators from the New England states, New York and New Jersey to learn about new teaching resources and new ways of presenting topics in history, geography, citizenship and related social studies.

(Continued on page 16)

## From a Canadian Angle

by Oksana Bashuk Hepburn



# Diaspora's confused response to Ukraine's ongoing woes

There's been grumbling by some about the decision taken by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the umbrella organization for some 1.2 million Canadians, to pass up celebrations of Ukraine's independence of 1918 and unification of 1919. Other Canadians of Ukrainian descent consider historic celebrations of limited significance to issues confronting diaspora Ukrainians or those in Ukraine today.

Who is right?

This may come to a head in light of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) document of January offering "Україна кличе – не стій осторонь!" (Ukraine is calling – don't stand on the sidelines) as this year's theme. What Ukraine is "calling for" is not specified. Undoubtedly, the government of President Viktor Yanukovich is calling for support of his actions at home and abroad; Ukraine's opposition leaders and democrats – for robust criticism of the regime.

The UWC theme "not to stand on the sidelines when Ukraine is calling" – my translation – is supported by seven historic dates the community is to commemorate. This is hardly a fiery response to Ukraine's woes, including the over 100 incarcerated politicians and patriots calling out for justice. Most of the dates deal with events from over 100 years ago. In stark contrast, there is no hint of how to fight persecution, illegal prison terms, abuse of power or poverty – all of which would serve as the ways and means of responding to Ukraine's today needs. As written, the document is a stand-aside approach to the president's backsliding on democracy. Mr. Yanukovich must feel comforted.

True, elsewhere, the UWC website shows letters from executive members to Ukraine's leaders and international officials seeking justice for Yulia Tymoshenko and other opposition leaders. However, the historic list muddles the message and fails to provide leadership. What should be the response of some 20 million diaspora citizens to Ukraine's 2012 situation? A laundry list of remembering might fit better as a teaching aid for Ukrainian language schools or individual celebrants. Does the Ukrainian Catholic Church, for instance, need the UWC to remind it of the 120th anniversary of the birth of Patriarch Josyf Slippy? Or Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization of its 100 years of work?

Bereft of direction on how to convert the motto "not to stand on the sidelines" the UWC document fails Ukraine's pro-Westerners, while Mr. Yanukovich and Russia keep getting their way with Ukraine.

In politics, historic celebrations are relevant as springboards for today's agenda. Modern leaders know this. Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper refers to historic occasions briefly, then ties their values to today's policies. President Barack Obama's speeches on Martin Luther King Jr. Day never fail to address today's needs of Blacks and other Americans.

As Ukraine's democracy is imploding – opposition leaders in jail; Prosvita, Spadshchyna and other facilities taken

over illegally; over 300 citizens freeze to death without heat, while oligarchs make billions on energy – to be relevant the UWC leadership needs to morph historic events into "action now" occasions.

The Ukrainian World Congress might start by directing commemorations of historic events to become pro-active by including petition-signings to governments around the world thanking them for their already stated support for Ms. Tymoshenko, Yurii Lushenko et al and putting forward further action. The UWC could write to universities calling for honorary doctorates for the freedom fighters, and letters supporting Nobel Prize and other global nominations. This was done for leading democrats like Nelson Mandela and, more recently, Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi. The diaspora leadership must do this for Ukraine.

The UWC needs to address hot-button issues and define its response to stated themes. Does its current call not to stand on the sidelines when Ukraine calls mean demonstrations before Ukraine's Embassies and Consulates to protest violations of law? Acceptance or refusal by diaspora members of national awards from Ukraine's repressive regime? A boycott or support of Ukraine's Embassy events? Here, direction is lacking at all levels – global, national and local. And lack of leadership leads to a confused community. Take Canada.

A farewell to Ukraine's consul general in Toronto – the invitation reads "Proshai Druzhe" (Farewell, Friend) – is organized by, among others, Toronto's Ukrainian Canadian Congress. (As nice as he might be, one hopes organizers also sent him off with a stern reminder that Canadians, including Prime Minister Harper, are most critical of his country's bad behavior!)

A Canadian member of the Friends of Ukraine organization accepts an award from the regime. What is the message? Is the official policy of Friends to collaborate with a non-democratic regime? Whose "friends" are they anyway?

This lack of clear diaspora policy regarding Ukraine is not new. Confusion surrounding President Viktor Yushchenko, for instance, continues. Should he be tolerated because he raised patriotic symbols the diaspora interprets as patriotism and good governance?

Clear policy is a must. Personal friends take Embassy officials out for private dinners, but organizations devoted to Ukraine's democracy and representatives of odious regimes don't mix. Accepting awards from criminal states is tantamount to endorsing their actions; and Ukraine's leaders who promote national symbols but ruin a country are wrong. Diaspora leaders must take clear decisions even at the risk that some may disagree. That's leadership.

The Ukrainian World Congress is right to call for greater involvement in Ukraine. However, it needs more than sloganeering. Celebrating historic events for their own sake is not the answer.

Oksana Bashuk Hepburn may be contacted at [oksanabh@sympatico.ca](mailto:oksanabh@sympatico.ca).

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



# Tango OUN in Argentina

In April of 2000, Lesia and I traveled to romantic Buenos Aires. Tangos in the park. Gauchos on the pampas. Succulent steaks on the grill. And, of course, Ukrainians. All kinds. Third wave. Argentine-born. Fourth wave. Ukrainian Embassy officials. Melnykites. Banderites.

I had the pleasure of speaking to many of them at the Prosvita Hall. At the time, the Banderites had taken over Prosvita. I had visited with fellow Melnykites at their hall earlier and discovered that none of them, not even the Argentine-born Melnykites, would come hear my presentation. Why? Because I was speaking at a Banderite venue. Amazing.

Ukrainian immigration to Argentina began in 1897 when 12 Ukrainian families from Galicia (Halychyna) settled in Apostoles in the province of Misiones, a subtropical region in the northeast consisting of jungle and pampas. By 1914 there were some 10,000 Ukrainian immigrants living throughout Argentina. None of them were Melnykites. None were Banderites. Religious-cultural differences dominated.

Many of Argentina's early immigrants had planned to settle in the United States but immigration authorities here somehow steered them to Argentina, where they were welcomed with free land, food supplies, agricultural implements and a small subsistence. Like their counterparts in the U.S. and Canada, they were bereft of a strong ethnonational identity.

There were three initial waves to Argentina: pre-World War I, interwar and post World II. In his recently published book, "Ukrainians in Argentina, 1897-1950" (2011), Serge Cipko, coordinator of the Ukrainian Diaspora Studies Initiative at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), describes all three immigrations in loving detail.

Unlike the United States, where the Ukrainian religio-cultural wars during the first immigration raged among Rusyns, Uhro-Rusyns, and Russians, in Argentina the battles for identity was waged primarily between Ukrainian Catholics and the Ukrainian/Russian Orthodox.

Given the early absence of Ukrainian Catholic priests to serve the needs of the faithful, the Russian Orthodox Mission and the Polish Catholic Church was able to convert many of these early Rusyns. The situation improved following the arrival of Father Klementi Bzhukovsky in 1908 and Father Iaroslav Karpiak in 1909; they were able to convince Ukrainians who had strayed to return to their Catholic roots. The visit of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky in 1910 cemented the Catholic presence. Metropolitan Sheptytsky's visit to Misiones, writes Dr. Cipko, was "correlated with the need to strengthen the Greek-Catholic Church at home by ensuring its survival abroad as well and with the wider ongoing Ukrainian-Polish contest."

Ukrainian Orthodox in Argentina were vulnerable to Russian overtures. The arrival of the capable Father Tykhon Hnatiuk, who also arrived in 1908, changed that. Fluent in both Ukrainian and Russian, he was assigned to an established Russian Orthodox parish in Tres Capones. By the time of his arrival, some 600 Ukrainian Catholics had already converted to Russian Orthodoxy.

It was the defections to Orthodoxy that prompted the Roman Catholic nuncio in Buenos Aires to urge the Vatican to find a Byzantine Catholic priest. Fortunately, Father Hnatiuk visited relatives in Volyn in 1914, where he witnessed the collapse of imperial

Russia, the rise of the Ukrainian National Republic, and the establishment of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church. Returning to his people in 1924, he placed his parish and other parishes under the jurisdiction of Metropolitan Ioan Teodorovych of the United States.

The first Ukrainian cultural organization to emerge in Argentina was Prosvita, the first branch of which was founded as a reading room in Misiones by Father Karpiak in 1910. Other Prosvita branches were established in subsequent years throughout Argentina.

"Prosvita members in Argentina," writes Dr. Cipko, "were aware that they were part of a wider Ukrainian emigration. Ties between Ukrainians in Argentina and those in the United States...were close." When requests for financial assistance for the Ukrainian pavilion at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair were received, for instance, Argentina's Ukrainians donated \$1,500.

Following a path similar to that among Ukrainians in North America, struggles for the political identity of Ukrainian Argentines erupted during the interwar period among Communists, Nationalists and Hetmanites. The Communists were the best organized and, for a brief period, were able to take over Prosvita in Buenos Aires. They were eventually ousted and in 1929 established the Union of Ukrainian Worker's Organizations (UUWO). They remained a thorn in the side of Ukrainian patriots for years.

Under the leadership of Prosvita member Ivan Kryvyi, who had established links with a similar organization in Canada, the Ukrayinska Striletska Hromada (USH), a pro-OUN organization, was created in downtown Buenos Aires in 1933. Following a visit by Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists leader Senykh-Hribivsky in 1938, USH changed its name to the Organization for the Rebirth of Ukraine and a year later to Vidrozhennia (Rebirth).

The Hetmanites, committed to the political ideology of Viacheslav Lypynsky, established their first branch in Buenos Aires under the name Soyuz Ukrayinskykh Derzhavkyv, Pluh ta Mech (UUMH) in 1936. Group membership remained relatively small and all but disappeared after the second world war.

In addition to organizational histories, Dr. Cipko references individuals. The most fascinating for me were Vasyl Zhurkivsky, who earned a Ph.D. in the U.S., moved to China and India for further study, spent time in an Australian internment camp, and immigrated to Argentina; Hryhorii Matseiko, the assassin of Polish interior minister Bronislaw Pieracki, who escaped from a Polish prison and lived in Argentina under the pseudonym Petro Knysh; Oksana Drahomanov, whose father's cousin was Mykhailo Drahomanov; and the master of intrigue Oleksii Pelypenko, who posed as both a Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox priest in Argentina, undoubtedly played a role in "exposing" the "Nazis" of Vidrozhennia, and eventually found his way to the United States to testify about "pro-Nazi" Ukrainians here. Dr. Cipko tracks him later to Bolivia exposing the danger of the "Red Menace." My dad, Stephen Kuropas, knew the guy and originally believed he was a Soviet agent. Later Dad came to believe Pelypenko was a wretched opportunist.

For those interested in Ukrainian history, Dr. Cipko's treatise makes for an enjoyable read.

Myron Kuropas's e-mail address is [kuropas@comcast.net](mailto:kuropas@comcast.net).

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# BOOK NOTES

## Fifteen essays on the making of modern Ukrainian identity

*"Making Ukraine: Studies on Political Culture, Historical Narrative and Identity" by Zenon E. Kohut. Edmonton: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press, 2011. 340 pp. \$34.95 softcover. \$59.95, cloth.*

The making of modern Ukrainian identity is often reduced to a choice between "Little Russia" and "Ukraine." In this collection of 15 essays, Zenon Kohut, a professor of history and director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta, shows that the process was much more complex, involving Western influences and native traditions that shaped a distinct Ukrainian political culture and historiography.

He stresses the importance of the early modern period, in which the Ukrainian elite adapted the legacy of Kyivan Rus' into its conception of Kozak Ukraine as its fatherland. The development of Ukrainian

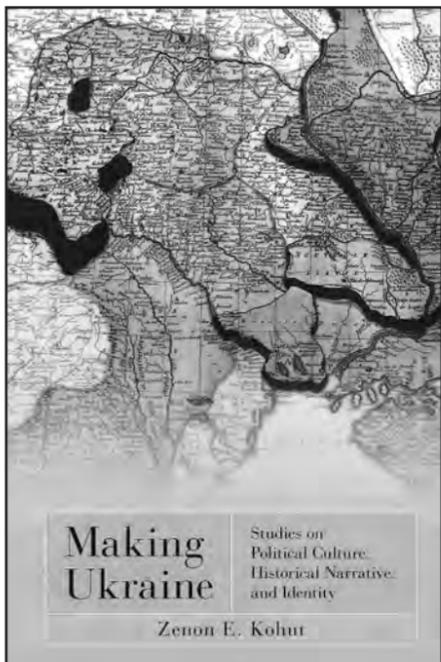
historiography, from the 17th century "Synopsis" and the Kozak chronicles to the 20th century state school, is analyzed in detail.

Among the topics singled out for attention are the Kozak struggle for rights and liberties, the ambiguous role of the concept of Little Russia, the Ukrainian elite's integration into the Russian nobility, the development of a stereotypical image of Jews, and post-independence relations between Ukraine and Russia.

Prof. Volodymyr Kravchenko of Kharkiv National University said Prof. Kohut's work "studies the related phenomenon of the so-called 'all-Russian nation' as the union of three branches – Little Russian, Great Russian and Belarusian. He seeks particularly to establish the Ukrainian origin of that idea, the motives and goals of its creators, and its subsequent transformation. ...In practice this amounts to the demythologization of widespread notions of age-old Ukrainian-Russian unity and, by the same token, the need to further differentiate the national history of each of these people."

Prior to his work at the CIUS, Prof. Kohut was a senior research analyst at the Library of Congress and editor of the "American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies." He is a renowned specialist in the history of Ukraine and Ukrainian-Russian relations, whose monograph "Russian Centralism and Ukrainian Autonomy: Imperial Absorption of the Hetmanate" and subsequent articles on Ukrainian history have received international recognition and acclaim.

"Making Ukraine" is part of the English-language monograph series of the Petro Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research. It is available from CIUS Press via its website, [www.ciuspress.com](http://www.ciuspress.com).



## Anna Yaroslavna, queen of France and princess of Ukraine – a history

*"Anna Yaroslavna: Queen of France and Princess of Ukraine," by Andrew Gregorovich. Toronto: The Basilian Press, 2011. 148 pp. ISBN: 978-0-921537-81-6. \$30.*

This historical treatment on "Anna Yaroslavna: Queen of France and Princess of Ukraine," by Andrew Gregorovich attempts to use all available resources to chronicle the life of the Ukrainian princess.

Born in 1032, Princess Anna Yaroslavna – or Anne de Kiev as she was known to the French – was the daughter of King Yaroslav the Wise of Ukraine. In marrying King Henry I of France (she was his second wife), she was crowned Queen of France in 1051 and served until 1071.

The book, the first English-language book about Queen Anna, features over 90 illustrations, photographs, portraits and maps. All of the existing portraits of Queen Anne are included in the book, with the exception of a very small one in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris.

Other daughters of King Yaroslav included Queen Elizabeth of Norway, Queen Anastasia of Hungary and Princess Agatha of England and Scotland. Also included in the text is a brief overview of Medieval Kyivan Rus' and the story of Evpraksia, empress of the Germanic Holy Roman Empire.

The book also aims to correct the birth year of Anna from 1024, as listed by the Library of Congress, to 1032, since as Mr. Gregorovich notes, when she married King Henry I she would have been an old woman, instead of a young woman as records indicate.

Mr. Gregorovich is a librarian emeritus of the University of Toronto and is the author of many articles and eight books, including "Chronology of Ukrainian Canadian History" (1974), and the "Anna Yaroslavna Bibliography" (2002).



Mr. Gregorovich has served as chairman of the Toronto Historical Board, president of the Ontario Library Association, president of the Canadian Multilingual Press Federation and a member of the Governing Council of the University of Toronto and executive director of the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center.

He is a member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the Order of St. Andrew, and is president of the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto. Mr. Gregorovich also served as editor of Forum: A Ukrainian Review for 43 years (1967-2010).

Readers may purchase copies of "Anna Yaroslavna" for \$30 from the author: Andrew Gregorovich, 195 Martin Grove Road, Toronto, ON, Canada M9B 4L2. The book can also be purchased at Ukrainian bookstores and museums.

## "Ukrainica in Italy" released in updated second edition

*"Ukrainica in Italy," by Daria Markus. Lviv-Rome-Chicago: Ukrainian Catholic University Press, 2011 (second updated edition). 139 pp., softcover, \$20.*

The second edition of "Ukrainica in Italy" is now available from the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation. First released in 1988 by Prof. Daria Markus (1935-2008), this new edition, in Ukrainian and English, with color photos, updates information researched by Prof. Markus. It is an especially useful guide for those interested in historical places and valuable monuments associated with Ukrainians in Rome and Italy.

The publication was prepared for print by the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv and supported by the Religious Association of St. Sophia and the Markus family. The English translations were done by the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation.

In the foreword to the newly released book, Rev. Borys Gudziak, the rector of the UCU, writes: "I see a particular symbolism in the publication of the new edition of Prof. Markus' work at this time. This book was first released when Ukrainians were celebrating the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine-Rus' in 1988. This new edition is

being presented during the 20th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, the declaration of which brought Daria Markus great joy and which she was able to witness in her lifetime."

"With the publication of this new edition," he continues "Ukrainians will have a greater opportunity to reflect and comprehend their role in Italy. During the last 25 years, both Rome and Italy have undergone a great transformation with regard to Ukrainians. In 1988, there were probably no more than 200 Ukrainians living in Italy; today this number reaches almost 1 million who live and work throughout the country."

In the first edition of the book, released in 1988, Prof. Markus explained that it was her "wish to contribute to the Millennium celebration of Christianity in Ukraine with this modest work, that hopefully will contribute to a better knowledge and understanding of Ukrainian ties to the Eternal City and to the beautiful country which is Italy."

In the new edition of the book, the biographical note on Prof. Markus provides the following comment: "Perhaps no one was better suited to write a guidebook to Ukrainica in Italy than Daria Markus. Much like Italy itself, Daria Markus always had a sunny disposition, a sense of history and its

importance in modern times, and the ability to see the better side of human nature even during catastrophe."

Prof. Markus was a well-respected community activist and the associate editor of the Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora. She was a full member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and active in the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. She was the founder and inspiration behind Friends of the Consulate General of Ukraine in Chicago – Club 500, a grassroots effort in Chicago to open the first Ukrainian Consulate in the United States.

She worked in Kyiv in 1993-1995 as the director of the Kyiv Office of the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX). Prof. Markus completed a doctorate in foundations of education, at Loyola University in Chicago. She was the director of the ethnic studies project at the University of Illinois in Chicago. A published author, her special interest was in cultural history and problems of ethnicity.

The second edition of Prof. Markus' book includes new color photos (the first book was in black and white) and updates through the summer of 2011 regarding some of the historical places researched by the author.

This new edition also includes the addresses and telephone numbers of Ukraine's diplomatic missions in Italy,

including its representation at the Vatican, the consular section of the Embassy of Ukraine in Rome, and the Consulate General offices in Milan and Naples.

The 139-page softcover book is available for \$20, which includes postage, from the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation. It can be ordered by sending an e-mail to [marta@ucef.org](mailto:marta@ucef.org), or by calling and sending a check or money order to UCEF, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622.

All proceeds from the book benefit the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.



## “Chornobyl Songs Project” presented at The Ukrainian Museum

by Ihor Slabicky

NEW YORK – With the sound of a rung bell still reverberating through the room, five women entered, one of them nestling a fiddle. As she started playing a familiar koliadka, in unison they sang: “Oy pan khaziayin, chy ye ty vdoma...” Thus began the “Chornobyl Songs Project” concert on Friday, December 2, 2011, at The Ukrainian Museum in New York City.

Organized by Maria Sonevytsky, with Eileen Condon of the Center for Traditional Music and Dance, this concert was the second stop of a four-day tour. The group had performed in Princeton University’s Taplin Auditorium on



Viriana Tkacz

A wedding song – “We’ve done what we set out to do: transformed a girl into a young woman” – with Caitlin Romtvedt and Maria Sonevytsky. (Projected photo by Jim Krantz.)



Alannah Farrell

Yevhen Yefremov, Maria Sonevytsky, Willa Roberts and Eva Salina Primak present songs from the Chornobyl region.

Thursday, December 1, and they were at the Washington Ethical Society Meeting Hall in Washington on Saturday, December 3, and at the Calvary Church in Philadelphia on Sunday, December 4.

The concert showcased village songs from the Chornobyl and Polissia regions that had been collected between 1979 and 1998 by ethnomusicologist Yevhen Yefremov, a founding member of Ensemble Drevo from Kyiv.

The performance featured the Ensemble Hilka: Suzanna Dennison, Brian Dolphin, Cherrymae Golston, J.R. Hankins, Julian Kytasty, Eva Salina Primack, Ethel Raim, Willa Roberts, Caitlin Romtvedt, Maria Sonevytsky, Nadia Tarnawsky, Shelley Thomas and Yevhen Yefremov.

Joining them at this New York City performance was the Ukrainian Women’s Voices: Alexandra Myrna, Julia Pivtorak, Oksana Rosenblum and Odarka Stockert.

Under the musical direction of Mr. Yefremov, the group presented a song cycle of traditional and ritual songs that would have been performed in almost any Polissian village up until April 26, 1986. On that day, the nuclear disaster at Chornobyl changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

The work of Mr. Yefremov has been transformed into the preservation of a way of life that has been lost to “the Zone.” Working with the ensemble, he explored polyphonic and heterophonic singing traditions of that region, incorporating the variation and improvisation that are so essential to a living folk song tradition.

Viriana Tkacz and the Yara Arts Group put together the visual projections with Mikhail Shraga. Many of the striking visuals showing scenes from Chornobyl region were by Jim Krantz or Mykola Seminoh.

(Continued on page 16)

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# Ukrainian folklore in Kazakhstan

by Natalie Kononenko

## PART I

Pavlodar is on the other side of the earth – quite literally. There is a 12-hour time difference between Edmonton, Alberta, where I live, and Pavlodar, Kazakhstan, where I spent a month of my summer. Thus, when it is 6 a.m. in Edmonton, it is 6 p.m. in Pavlodar.

Getting to Pavlodar takes a full day. I left on the evening of June 15 and, had I made all my connections, I would have arrived on the morning of June 17. Coming home, my travel time, with plane changes, was 23 hours and 45 minutes.

So why go to Pavlodar? Part of it is the adventure of it all. But it is not just the risk-taking side of my nature that took me to Pavlodar. There were many other reasons. The personal ones revolve around a desire to see Central Asia, to compare the Kazakh steppe to the Ukrainian one and to the Canadian prairies, to learn more about the Turkic world.

Like many Ukrainians born outside of their home country, I had an imagined Ukraine – a constructed and romanticized picture of my homeland that I had formed in my mind and that begged to be compared to the real thing. I have been able to satisfy my desire to see the real Ukraine, having done extensive fieldwork there since a few years after Ukrainian Independence and having travelled to many regions of the country.

Unlike many Ukrainians, however, I also had an imagined Central Asia. I am not sure how I acquired this image. Perhaps it was my work on Ukrainian “dumy,” epics in which Turkic warriors come charging from the steppe. Perhaps it was the time that I spent in Turkey working on my doctoral dissertation. Whatever the cause, I had acquired my imagined Central Asia – and I had never seen the real thing. Thus, my curiosity was great.

There were also academic reasons for

*Natalie Kononenko is professor and Kule Chair of Ukrainian Ethnography at the University of Alberta. She received her Ph.D. from Harvard University in Slavic and Turkic folklore under the direction of Omeljan Pritsak and Albert B. Lord, and taught for 30 years at the University of Virginia before coming to Canada. She is the author of “Ukrainian Minstrels: And the Blind Shall Sing” and “Slavic Folklore: A Handbook” and has edited books on Ukrainian dumy and “The Magic Egg and Other Tales from Ukraine.” Her trip to Kazakhstan was sponsored by the Kule Endowment.*



Greeting folklorists in Krasilivka. Liubov Yosipivna Loban holds the bread she baked. Next to her is Vira Afanasivna Shpyrt.

going to Pavlodar. Many of the villages to the north and east of Pavlodar, villages with names like Khmelnytskyye, were settled by Ukrainians at about the same time that Ukrainians came to Canada. Studying folklore in these villages would do a great deal towards helping me understand Ukrainian folklore in Canada. I had learned over my long academic career that comparative work is enormously rewarding. If one can look at a phenomenon such as adaptation to a new setting from more than one perspective, then the insights one gains are multiplied many-fold.

So, when the opportunity to do fieldwork in Kazakhstan presented itself, I accepted. I will not pretend that I did not hesitate. I knew that the trip would be difficult and that the circumstances under which I would work would be trying. Later, when things went wrong and a money transfer I sent was not accepted, when e-mail failed to function, when I was unable to reach any of my contacts by phone, my doubts about the wisdom of my decision to travel mounted. But I went nonetheless.

The catalyst for the trip was the Second All-Russia Folklore Congress in Moscow, held in February 2010. A friend talked me into going – then cancelled her trip so that I ended up being the only person from North America at the meeting. But the adventures of that meeting are the topic of another story.

Prior to that Congress I had felt that one of my tasks as a scholar was to present the folklore of the Slavic world, specifically Ukraine, in a manner that my Soviet Ukrainian colleagues could not. Soviet ide-

ology dictated a certain interpretation of folklore and allowed collection of only those genres that supported a Soviet-approved world view. Thus, genres that might be construed to extol Ukrainian nationalism, such as historical poems or dumy, were taboo, and I felt that it was my duty to write about these poems and other historical genres and about the professional minstrels who performed them, which I did.

The Second All-Russia Folklore Congress was not all-Russian by any means. In fact, there were many colleagues from Ukraine and other nation-states that had once been part of the Soviet Union. The papers these folklorists, and those from Russia itself, presented were very good. Listening to them I got no sense that something was being left unexplored or that scholars were forcing an interpretation onto their data. Their folklore work was of the highest quality.

At the same time it became painfully clear that similarly good folklore work was not being done in Canada. People would ask me about the study of Ukrainian and other Slavic traditions in Canada and I had to admit that much of the collecting work here was done by students. The sort of detailed and systematic research that was being done in the post-Soviet world was sadly lacking in Canada. It was this realization that led me to commit myself to Ukrainian Canadian folklore research.

I started on Ukrainian Canadian fieldwork in the summer of that same year. I headed out to the Peace country of northern Alberta with colleagues from the histo-



Bayterek, the observation tower in Astana.

ry department who were documenting the sacred heritage of the Canadian prairies, photographing rural churches that had fallen into disuse and might soon disappear. Working with this group I asked the historical questions that they wanted answered and, for the folklore component, I asked about rituals. I asked about holidays such as Christmas and Easter. I gathered information about weddings and funerals and baptisms. I also did some documentation of material culture, namely embroideries and other textiles, and interviewed collectors of Ukrainian folk art.

My work in Ukrainian Canada was most enjoyable and rewarding, but I knew it could be better still with a comparative dimension. Here too the Second All-Russia Folklore Congress came into play, for it was there that I met Alevtina Cvetkova, a folklorist from Pavlodar Toraygyrov State University. She invited me to join her on a field trip to the Ukrainian villages of Kazakhstan. For her, inviting me was an opportunity to learn about Western approaches. She perhaps also saw a chance to advance her own position at her university and to push for more attention to the study of Slavic folklore in a political atmosphere that promoted all things Kazakh at the expense of other nationalities. For me it was that chance to go to Central Asia.

Academically, the Kazakhstan project was to be similar to my work in Canada: it was to be the collection of ritual information. The comparative part was to include both Canada and Ukraine, because my many trips to Ukraine had also produced extensive documentation of ritual. I must thank Ms. Cvetkova for giving me my Kazakh opportunity and I must also commend her for having the courage to invite a woman she had barely met to come and live with her for a month.

I learned a great deal in Kazakhstan. I learned about ritual processes and adaptation to a new environment, the academic purpose of my trip. I also learned about possible reactions to the post-Soviet world and variation in the creation of new nation-states from old Soviet fabric. I learned about ethnic tensions. I learned about the role that folklore plays in the lives of people no matter who or where they are.

My trip began with official duties. Bureaucracy and proper procedure are very important in Kazakhstan, perhaps as much as they were the Soviet Union, and this was brought home to me time and again. My flight into Kazakhstan was

(Continued on page 17)



Peschanoye was once a Kozak outpost on the River Irtys. Shown are the remnants of a Kozak grave marker.



Alevtina Cvetkova in Pavlodar. She is a professor at Pavlodar Toraygyrov State University.

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

### 1M hrv for Holodomor memorial

KYIV – The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the allocation of funds from the state budget to boost the positive international image of Ukraine and for the implementation of measures to support contacts with Ukrainians living outside of Ukraine, it was announced on February 21. According to the adopted resolution, 1.13 million hrv are to be allocated for the construction of a Holodomor memorial in Washington, and 50,000 hrv are to be earmarked for financial support of the Ukrainian community living abroad for the organization and holding of foreign scientific and educational activities such as forums, congresses, conferences and seminars. In addition, 50,000 hrv will be allocated for cultural events and 15,000 hrv for financial support of Ukrainian schools abroad. The websites of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry and Ukraine's foreign diplomatic institutions will be upgraded at a cost of 100,000 hrv, with the posting of information in foreign languages in order to popularize Ukraine on the international level. (Ukrinform)

### Tax officials demand payment from Yulia

KYIV – The office of the State Tax Service of Ukraine for the Dnipropetrovsk region has demanded that former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko pay 2 million hrv in individual income tax, according to a statement posted on the office's website on February 20. "The court has found that in 1996-1998 Yulia Volodymyrivna Tymoshenko received nearly \$1 million that was transferred to an offshore company. However, she paid no individual income tax for the money obtained outside the country. Given this, Ms. Tymoshenko owes the Dnipropetrovsk region 676,954 hrv in tax and 1,355,908 hrv as financial sanctions, which totals 2,030,862 hrv," said the statement. On January 16, Ms. Tymoshenko's defense

team filed a complaint against a ruling of Kyiv's Administrative Court of Appeal upholding the ruling of the District Administrative Court of Kyiv on the legality of penalties introduced by the tax inspectorate against Ms. Tymoshenko in 2001 for the nonpayment of taxes on \$914,000 from the accounts of the offshore company Somolli Enterprises Ltd. (Ukrinform)

### Polish envoy: Ukraine should be in EU

KYIV – Ukraine should sooner or later become a member of the European Union, which will help expand the zone of stability on the entire European territory, Polish Ambassador to Ukraine Henryk Litwin said on Ukraine's TVi channel on February 17. "Since Ukraine has always been a part of Europe, it must sooner or later be a part of the European Union. And only then we will all be safe and secure, all in the EU, when the whole European territory will be in the EU, in the zone of stability, in the zone of economic prosperity," Mr. Litwin said. The diplomat said that such arguments were the reason for Poland supporting all steps by Ukraine towards European integration. "There is only one positive prospect for Ukraine, which gives a guarantee of stability in the European region – the economic and political accession of Ukraine and Belarus to the European zone of stability," he said. And this zone of stability, is guaranteed by the European Union. At the same time, Mr. Litwin said that it was Ukraine's choice. "We can only help, suggest and share our experience. We think that it is useful and interesting for Ukraine," he said. The ambassador also focused on common Ukrainian-Polish history. In his opinion, this is what helps Poland – better than other countries in Europe – to understand that Ukraine is part of Europe. (Ukrinform)

### President displeased with acquittals

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovich is concerned about the low number of not guilty verdicts brought by courts in Ukraine. He said this during a meeting with officials in Kremenchuk on February 17. "I am convinced that a small number of not

guilty verdicts in Ukraine is an unhealthy situation. It needs to be corrected," he added. According to President Yanukovich, the situation may be corrected through new laws, in particular on advocacy, which must be adopted this year. The president noted that the state should be ruled by law, and it will also be necessary to develop democratic standards so that other countries see that Ukraine is a state governed by law. For this purpose, according to Mr. Yanukovich, it is necessary to improve the work of law enforcement agencies and crack down on disgraceful events, such as torture and violations of human rights. According to statistics, Ukrainian courts acquit approximately 0.2 to 0.3 percent of all defendants. (Ukrinform)

### Peacekeepers sent to the Congo

KYIV – Ukraine has begun to send peacekeepers to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the press service of the Ministry of Defense reported on February 17. Four Mi-24 helicopter gunships were sent from the Brody military airfield (Lviv region) to Hostomel (Kyiv region) to further carry out United Nations mission tasks among the 18th Separate Helicopter Detachment of the Ukrainian armed forces. An An-124-100M Ruslan will deliver the helicopters to the African continent, first to Uganda and from there by U.N. Mission C-130 Hercules and IL-76 cargo aircraft to the Congo. Ukrainian peacekeepers in the Congo will conduct aerial reconnaissance and surveillance, hold containment measures and provide fire support for ground forces, as well as support the troops of the U.N. peacekeepers and escort humanitarian supplies. Crews and other professionals of the detachment were scheduled to be sent to the region on February 18. (Ukrinform)

### IMF could end agreement with Ukraine

KYIV – The World Bank (WB) on February 17 noted the risk of the termination of a Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) between Ukraine and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), according to the bank's Country Partnership Strategy for Ukraine for the period covering 2012-2016, which was approved by the World Bank's board of directors. "A key macroeconomic risk is related to access to external financing. The existing Stand-By Arrangement with the IMF is at risk of being discontinued, and rollover risks are exacerbated by large debt service repayments falling due in 2012, including to the fund," reads the document. According to the World Bank, "sustaining progress in critical areas such as fiscal consolidation is predicated on politically difficult reforms such as energy tariff increases for households and utilities, and addressing structural problems in the gas sector will severely test the government's resolve, especially ahead of the parliamentary elections in 2012." In addition, the World Bank noted that the exposure to European banks was high and Europe's banking crisis or bank deleveraging could cause financial instability in Ukraine. "These risks cannot be mitigated by the World Bank; however, the experience during the 2008-2009 crisis also suggests that the authorities can and do act quickly at times of crisis to regain access to financing," reads the document. Earlier, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said that Ukraine should not wait for the receipt of external financial resources. The Presidential Administration said that Ukraine would not face default, even without the IMF money. The Ukrainian government is now in talks with the International Monetary Fund on the provision of the next tranche of the Stand-By Arrangement. However, the IMF is continuing to insist that Ukraine raise gas prices for the public in order to balance the financial position of Naftohaz, Ukraine's state oil and gas compa-

ny. The state holding lacks \$500 million each month to cover losses. (Ukrinform)

### Yushchenko to run for Parliament

KYIV – Former President Viktor Yushchenko has said that he will not run for the Verkhovna Rada in a majoritarian district, but is ready to participate in the parliamentary elections on the list of the united opposition. "My party and other political forces will undergo the consolidation process and act as a unified political platform. I'll act in the place and in the capacity that will be needed for this political movement. I will accept any answer to the question, whether this will be for me to be first on the list, 101st or no number at all," he said. (Ukrinform)

### Filaret against transfers of sacred property

KYIV – The leader of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, Patriarch Filaret, has called on President Viktor Yanukovich to prevent the transfer by Parliament of national holy places to the Moscow Patriarchate. "I'm addressing you as a guarantor of constitutional rights on behalf of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate with a strong request to take all of the measures foreseen by the law to prevent the adoption and implementation of a provocative bill, No. 9690," reads the open letter from Patriarch Filaret to the president published on the website of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. According to the letter, behind "its nice name" bill No. 9690, on amendments to some laws of Ukraine (regarding the transfer of cultural heritage to religious organizations), is intended "to expand the privatization of Ukrainian national holy places, such as the Kyiv Pecherska Lavra, Pochayiv Lavra and Bohoyavlensky monastery in Kremenets, by the Moscow Patriarchate." The letter notes, "There is no legal guarantee that the Ukrainian holy places that were formally passed to the ownership of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate will not become the property of the Russian structure – the Moscow Eparchy." The letter also states: "Numerous examples, including the price of natural gas and the fight against Ukrainian cheese, demonstrate to us the unfriendly policy of the current Russian leaders toward Ukraine. I think that the wish of the Kremlin to seize control over Ukraine's gas transport system, join it to the enslaving Customs Union and the initiative to privatize Ukrainian holy places by the Moscow Patriarchate are similar." Patriarch Filaret also said that the authors of the bill argue that it is in line with European recommendations regarding the restitution of the Church's property. "But their references to these recommendations have no grounds, as their bill is aimed not at finding a full solution to the issue of restitution, but at transferring holy places of the Ukrainian people to a specific Church," reads the letter. The patriarch sent the same letters to the Cabinet of Ministers and the Ukrainian Parliament. Last month bill No. 9690 on the return of cultural heritage to religious organizations was registered in the Parliament. According to the bill, the Cabinet of Ministers within three months has to tackle the issues of transferring the facilities in Kremenets district, the Sviato-Bohoyavlensky nunnery of the Ternopil Eparchy and the Holy Dormition Pochayiv Lavra, and the Holy Dormition Church and the Pecherska Lavra in Kyiv to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate. Party of Regions National Deputies Andrii Derkach, Vasyl Horbal and Dmytro Shentsev, People's Party National Deputy Serhii Hrynevetsky, Communist Party National Deputy Oleksander Holub, and the head of the Reforms for the Future deputies' group Ihor Rybakov are the authors of the bill. (Interfax-Ukraine).

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## Maria Luciuk...

(Continued from page 4)

heart and soul of the Lviv, Ukraine pavilion during the annual Folklore festival, for 42 years.

Her commitment to her culture and, in particular, to Ukrainian embroidery and traditional cooking, were a delight within her own community and for the thousands of Kingstonians she met over several decades.

And yet, while she always made sure

everyone knew she was a Ukrainian, and what that meant to her, Mrs. Luciuk was equally keen on learning from all the other people she met. She was genuine in her advocacy of multiculturalism.

In Mrs. Luciuk's memory donations may be sent to the Luciuk Family Endowment, (c/o Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, 202-952 Main St., Winnipeg, MB, Canada, R2W 3P4, www.shevchenkofoundation.com), a trust fund supporting research travel and graduate scholarship on 20th and 21st century Ukrainian issues.



## Annabelle Borovitcky

June 10, 1029 – February 11, 2012



The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association regrets to announce to the members of the General Assembly, to members of Branch 230 and to the UNA membership at large that Annabelle Borovitcky, Secretary of Branch 230 for 28 years, passed away on February 11, 2012.

The Executive Committee and the entire UNA membership wish to express their deepest sympathy to her four children and their families — Deb and Tod Nagy, Diane and Jim Behmer, and Donna Saadey and Mike Schoen, and son Terry Borovitcky; four grandchildren; sister Delores Kovacich and brother Raymond. Mrs. Borovitcky was a very active and long-time supporter of the UNA; her loyalty and dedication to the Ukrainian National Association will not be forgotten.

Eternal memory!



Ділимося сумною вісткою,  
що дня 13 лютого 2012 р. в Торонто  
упокоїлася в Бозі на 90-му році життя  
наша найдорожча СЕСТРА, ТЕТА і КУЗИНКА

**СВ. П. ДР. МЕД.**

## МАРІЯ ФІШЕР-СЛИЖ

народжена 13 вересня 1922 р. в Коломиї, Україна в родині судді д-ра Адольфа й Ольги з Жолкевичів Слиж. Дружина покійного д-ра Рудольфа Фішера, сестра покійного проф. д-ра Антона Слижа.

Любов до свого краю засвідчувала конкретним прикладом, підтримуючи, як меценат, розвиток української освіти, науки та культури.

Залишені у глибокому смутку:

- сестри - Ярослава Панчук
- Дарія Грицак Самотулка
- брат - Володимир Слиж з дружиною Богданною
- похресники - Рута Панчук з чоловіком Андрієм Ріпецьким та доні Мая і Зоя
- Євген Грицак та діти Олесь і Наталка
- Мишел Слиж з чоловіком Rich Crawford та діти Rosie, Сесі і Anton
- Адріанна Слиж з чоловіком Julien Devriendt та доні Ксеня і Оленка
- сестрінки - Ока Грицак
- Христя Панчук з чоловіком Андрієм Фединським та діти Михась і Олеся
- Марта Самотулка
- братанки - Марко Слиж
- Стефанія Слиж з чоловіком Brad Simmons та доні Lizzie і Meredith
- Юрій Слиж з дружиною Емма та донями Теса і Сейді
- родини - Кришталович, Жолкевич, Воробець, Слиж, Скрибайло, Яцишин
- та ближча і дальша родина в Америці, Канаді й Україні

Вічна її пам'ять!

ПАНАХИДА відбулася в середу, 15 лютого в Торонто.

ПОХОРОН відбудеться у вівторок, 28 лютого о год. 10:30 ранку в церкві св. Михаїла в Hillsborough, NJ, а відтак на цвинтарі св. Андрія в South Bound Brook, NJ.

Замість квітів родина просить складати пожертви на: Ukrainian Catholic University - UCEF, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622



With deep sorrow we announce that

## Roman Hezzey

of Ipswich, MA, Knight of St. Gregory the Great and beloved husband of Mary (Burbela) Hezzey, died in his home on February 7, 2012 at the age of 88, surrounded by his family.



Born and educated in Ukraine, he was the son of the late Demetro and Julia (Smolnetska) Hezzey. He came to the United States in 1949, became engaged to his wife of sixty two years within a month, and then resided for many years in New Haven, CT, before moving to Ipswich, MA.

A mechanical engineer by training, at sixty five, Roman retired from his position as Vice President with the Handy & Harmon Company and embarked on a new career as a professor, teaching computer aided design at Waterbury State Technical College in Waterbury, CT, until he enjoyed his second retirement.

Roman was known for his dedication to his family, his church and the Ukrainian Community. He was a founder of the Ukrainian State Day in Connecticut, participated in the establishment of the Ukrainian Heritage House Museum in New Haven, CT, sat on the Ethnic Archives Committee, and supported many outreach and educational programs.

His many years of service to his church, through the Parish of St. Michael the Archangel in New Haven, CT, and through many significant capacities, were recognized by Pope John Paul II who ordained him as a Knight of St. Gregory the Great in 1992. When he relocated to the Ipswich, he continued his dedication to his new Parish, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Church in Salem, serving as Cantor.

In addition to his loving wife, Roman is survived by his daughters, Anne Hezzey and her husband Thomas Reardon and Christine Hezzey, his grandson, Tim Hezzey - all of Ipswich, his niece Katherine Ellis of San Diego, CA, and nephew Joseph Burbela of Madison, CT. He was also the brother of the late Orest Hezzey.

Panakahyda was held on Friday, February 10, at O'Donnell Funeral Home in Salem, MA. Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 11, in St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Church in Salem, followed by a private burial.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made in Roman's memory to the St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, P.O. Box 206, Salem, MA 01970. Please note on your donation that it is for the Roman Hezzey Memorial Fund with which he intended to support the building of a new Cathedral in Kyiv, Ukraine.



On Monday, February 20, 2012, at the age of 79,  
**Daria Alexandra Pushkar Shust**  
peacefully entered into eternal rest.



A member of Plast and the 90th branch of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, as well as chairman of the Mittenwald Gymnasium Alumni and former teacher at St. Basil Academy, Daria was active in the Ukrainian American community — especially in her help for orphaned children in Ukraine.

Funeral services took place on February 24, 2012, at the Annunciation of the B.V.M. Ukrainian Catholic Church in Melrose Park, PA.

Daria leaves behind:

- her beloved husband of 56 years, Ihor;
- her three devoted children: Christine with husband Andrew Fylypovych; Tanya Shust-Temnycky; and Dr. Mark with wife Dr. Helene Kaiser;
- her loving grandchildren: Laryssa and Natalie Temnycky, Andrea and Alexandra Fylypovych, Victoria and Markian Shust, Jr.;
- her sister Christina Pushkar Majewski and children Zorianna Altomaro (Robert) and Dr. Alexander Majewski (Susan) with son Alexander, Jr.;
- her brother Oleh Pushkar with children Larisa and Olesia;
- her brother-in-law Nestor Shust (Nina) with children: Roksolana Santone, Dr. Nestor Shust, and Adriana Lovell with their families;
- as well as the extended Shust family and the Krushelnytskyj, Oransky, Malaniak, Petyk, Balij, Hodowanec, Kokhanowsky, and Chabursky families.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to:

- |                                               |    |                                  |
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## COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

### “Souper Bowl” helps Ukraine’s elderly

PALOS PARK, Ill. – On February 5, “Super Bowl Sunday,” Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church’s parish community and its Ukrainian Orthodox League chapter hosted a “Souper Bowl” event for St. Andrew’s Society, which runs soup kitchens for the elderly in Ukraine.

A \$10 donation paid for the bowl and then participants could feast on all the soups, as many times as they desired.

Ten parishioners prepared their best recipes. The selections were: Ukrainian borsch – the Rev. Vasyl Sendeha; New Orleans gumbo – Howard Brooks; cabbage with pork – Gayle Woloschak; stuffed pepper – Janet Ganske; Italian wedding soup – Andrea Manson; cauliflower and fennel puree with bacon – Harry Oryhon; Baba Lidia’s green borsch – George Cepynsky; vegetable – Karoline O’Neil; chili – Noreen Neswick; and chicken tomato rice – Lydia Cepynsky.

Bob and Pat Lewandowski donated several loaves of tasty rye and wheat bread. Anatol and Kathy Bilyk, who coordinated the event, brought all of the necessary supplies, the bowls and spoons, as well as Super Bowl decorations. They did all the set up, got all the soups piping hot and helped with the clean-up. Other parishioners also brought breads and sweets.

Ss. Peter and Paul parish collected \$875 and plans to send St. Andrew’s Society a check for \$1,000 for its project of feeding the needy in Ukraine.



Parishioners of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Palos Park, Ill., fill up on a variety of soups at its “Souper Bowl Sunday” fund-raiser on February 5.

### Winter traditions at St. Andrew’s Parish in Orange County

by Luba Gensior Sadnytzky

CAMPBELL HALL, N.Y. – St. Nicholas visited the children and parishioners of St. Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church, located here on the grounds of the Holy Spirit Cemetery, on Sunday, December 18, 2011, during the annual Christmas bazaar.

Children waited in anticipation as St. Nicholas greeted them while they kept eagerly eyeing the presents under the Christmas tree. The many talents of the children – poetry recitations, piano playing and even gymnastics – entertained St. Nicholas.

The two-day Christmas bazaar was a huge success as people bought delicious Ukrainian food prepared by Maria Kostyk, assisted by her daughter Natalia. Shoppers browsed through the beautiful displays of Ukrainian and Christmas arts and crafts, books, CDs, icons, embroidery and Christmas tree ornaments from Ukraine.

Parishioners Rose Marie Pawluk and Leocadia Snihur organized the display. Irene Cholewka sold store gift cards to benefit the Church Building Fund. Guests lingered over lunch and enjoyed Christmas music.

On Sunday, January 15, parishioners and guests gathered for the “Prospora” and “Vertep” after the 11 a.m. liturgy. The vertep was directed by Ludmilla Naydan.

With a membership of over 50 families, St. Andrew’s Parish is the center of Ukrainian community life in Orange County, N.Y. The trustees, Helen Duss and Raymond Cholewska, keep affairs running smoothly. The Very Rev. Jaroslav Kostyk keeps the doors open to welcome new members and guests. For information readers may call 845-496-4156.



St. Nicholas during his visit to St. Andrew Ukrainian Catholic Church in Campbell Hall, N.Y.

### UMANA Illinois celebrates annual “Yalynka”



Children decorate gingerbread men during the “Yalynka” of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, Illinois chapter.

by Maria Hrycelak

CHICAGO – The Illinois chapter of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) held its traditional “Yalynka” on January 8 at the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union (SUAFUCU) corporate conference center in Chicago.

Over 100 members and guests attended the Ukrainian Christmas event, which was preceded by a short business meeting chaired by President George Charuk. Following the meeting, members enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by the



Ms. Oksana Leseiko and Dr. George Charuk at the clothing drive for orphaned children.

popular Ukrainian restaurant Shokolad. SUAFUCU President Bohdan Watral greeted the participants, welcoming them to the credit union’s conference facility and wishing them continued success in their chapter activities.

This year the chapter president’s wife, Katherine Charuk, launched the first UMANA Children’s Winter Clothing Drive benefiting the St. Nicholas Orphanage Fund. Oksana Leseiko, co-director of the fund, thanked the donors for their generosity. She explained that the fund supports 38 orphanages, orphan rehabilitation centers, halfway houses for street children (many of whom are orphaned or abandoned), a TB hospital for orphans near Lviv, and smaller family-type homes for orphans throughout Ukraine.

Ms. Leseiko said she feels that “The fund develops strong relationships with the orphaned and abandoned children, as well as the directors and administrators. This contact builds trust and cooperation, gathers in-depth knowledge as to their yearly needs, and leads to success with joint projects, bettering the orphans’ lives as a result.”

Nearly 100 coats, pairs of boots, hats and scarves were donated by UMANA members. This needed winter clothing will supply children at the Oriana Orphanage in Boryslav, and the Oranta Orphanage in Drohobych.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent with children of the UMANA members enjoying decorating gingerbread men and singing carols with the visiting carolers from Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

The Illinois Chapter of UMANA plans to hold several educational meetings in the spring and fall. For more information about UMANA readers may call 773-278-6262 or visit our website at [www.umana.org](http://www.umana.org).

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**COMMUNITY CHRONICLE**



One of the CPR classes sponsored by the UMANA Foundation was this one in Seattle.



Plast Chicago members who attended a CPR class.

**UMANA Foundation supports students, camp counselors**

CHICAGO – The Foundation of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA Foundation) continues to fund projects directed at improving medical knowledge and healthcare of Ukrainians worldwide.

The foundation's Dr. Walter and Olga Prokopiw



Artem Luhovy, UMANA Foundation scholarship award recipient.

Scholarship Fund supports medical students of Ukrainian descent studying medicine in the United States and Canada. In 2011 the Foundation awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Ukrainian Canadian medical student, Artem Luhovy.

Mr. Luhovy began his first year in an M.D.-M.B.A. program at McGill University in Montreal after completing a masters of science in experimental medicine. Despite his busy schedule, he has been president of the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK), worked as an assistant film editor, and is the marketing and sales director of MML Inc., which produces documentaries about Ukrainian history. He remains active in Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and has been the recipient of many scholastic and community awards.

The UMANA Foundation's CPR and first aid training courses for camp counselors is now in its third year. In the spring of 2011 the foundation sponsored free CPR and first aid classes for over 80 camp counselors from Plast and the Ukrainian American Youth Association. In preparation for the upcoming summer camp season, the counselors received basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation training (CPR) and Red Cross certification. They also reviewed principles of basic first aid. The classes were held in April and May at Ukrainian centers in Chicago, Philadelphia and Seattle. The UMANA Foundation plans to expand this project to other geographical centers, covering all expenses related to obtaining certification.

The UMANA Foundation also supports worthwhile medical education projects in Ukraine. It helped supply program materials for the participants of a first of its kind three-day nutrition conference held in Kyiv in the spring of 2011 sponsored by the Starving for Color Fund and other

international organizations. The conference attendees were nurses and physical therapists from Level 3 and 4 orphanages throughout Ukraine. The UMANA Foundation, along with the Starving for Color Fund, and the Dr. Tetiana and Omelian Antonovych Foundation, is supporting the translation of 1,000 copies of a pediatric nutrition textbook to be distributed at no cost to pediatricians, medical schools and hospitals in Ukraine.

The UMANA Foundation also provided financial support for Irene Zabytko's documentary film project "Life in the Dead Zone." The film is about elderly survivors who returned to their irradiated and abandoned villages within the 30 kilometer radius surrounding the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant.

The UMANA Foundation has partnered with the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, UNWLA, and Doctors Collaborating to Help Children in support of a project to improve pediatric burn care in Ukraine. Working with Harvard Medical School and Boston Shriners' hospital, a plan has been developed to expose Ukrainian physicians to the latest medical education in the areas of burn care. The UMANA Foundation has partially funded the visiting observership/professorship of Dr. Vasyl Savchyn, director of Lviv Hospital No. 8 Burn Unit, at Massachusetts General and Shriners in Boston. The long-term goal of the project is to create a network of trained physicians in Ukraine who would be able to treat the majority of pediatric burn patients in Ukraine, while referring the most severe cases to Shriners' Hospital in Boston.

To support the work of UMANA Foundation, readers may visit [www.umana.org](http://www.umana.org) for more information, or call 773-278-6262.

**UNWLA Branch 98 convenes annual meeting, seeks new members**

by Irene Krawczuk

HOLMDEL, N.J. – Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 98 of Holmdel/Middletown, N.J., started the new year with its annual meeting on January 11.

The agenda included a look back to 2011 with officers and committee members providing reports on their activities, starting with President Victoria Mischenko. UNWLA New Jersey Regional Council President Olha Lukiw presided over the well-attended meeting. Two new members were warmly welcomed.

Regular meetings and activities were held during the year, but the highlight of 2011 was the 29th UNWLA national convention that was held in New Jersey in May. Branch 98 had the responsibility for the exhibits and showed further support

through the attendance of its members.

In order to fulfill its obligations to the UNWLA headquarters, including sponsoring students through the UNWLA Scholarship Program, the branch fundraised during the year by conducting an annual picnic, a Christmas party and a gift-wrapping event at a local Barnes & Noble bookstore.

Although many of its members are bilingual, we are the only English-speaking UNWLA Branch in New Jersey. Our membership is scattered throughout the state, mostly in Monmouth and Ocean counties. Ukrainian American women wishing to join the branch may write to UNWLA Branch 98, P.O. Box 172, Holmdel, NJ 07733-0172, e-mail [nazustrich@verizon.net](mailto:nazustrich@verizon.net) or call 732-441-9530. More information about the UNWLA, Inc., at [www.unwla.org](http://www.unwla.org).



B. Krawczuk

At the annual meeting of UNWLA Branch 98 are: (first row, from left) Anna Krawczuk, Victoria Mischenko, Olha Lukiw, (second row) Irene Krawczuk, Elisabeth Barna, (third row) Helena O. Pawlenko, Orysia Jacus, (fourth row) Nadia Jaworiw, Luba Bilowchtchuk, (fifth row) Maria Ilczenko and Natalie Pawlenko.

## Promoting...

(Continued from page 6)

Recently, representatives from the Ukrainian American community in Boston presented a two-hour clinic at NERC that introduced the Holodomor via the film "Harvest of Despair," handouts, and a Q & A. Last year Maria Walzer, who works with the Massachusetts group, encouraged CHAC to participate. The CHAC proposal to conduct a workshop on the Holodomor was accepted by the NERC organizers for the spring 2012 conference to be held in Sturbridge, Mass.

The proposed workshop, titled "Turning a Blind Eye," will present the history of the Holodomor, address the reasons that it occurred and explain why it is still a relatively unknown chapter of European history. The goal of the workshop is to demonstrate how teaching the Holodomor is relevant to understanding our 21st century world.

Methodologically, the Holodomor as a case study can be integrated into a number of different teaching contexts. These include: 20th century European and U.S. history, the study of genocide and human rights, the role of media in our society, and the study of civic and global responsibility. The workshop presenters are preparing a complete instructional module using the latest research methods and instructional technologies.

Workshop participants will receive handouts and links for accessing additional digital resources, and educators will have an opportunity to simulate the integration of the Holodomor case study into their teaching of history, media studies, and civic and social studies.

Drawing upon the collective experience and professional expertise of educators and presenters Lidia Choma, Borys Krupa and Lana Babij, the teaching unit will be consistent with national and state of Connecticut standards for social studies.

After the conference, appointments will be scheduled with social studies supervisors throughout the state to present and assist with integrating the "Turning a Blind Eye" unit of study into their curriculum.

### The CHAC: background

At the 2008 initiative of Ukrainian National Women's League of America

Branch 108 of New Haven, Conn., a statewide committee was formed heeding then-President Viktor Yushchenko's call to action: "Ukraine Remembers, the World Acknowledges."

Throughout the course of its existence, the CHAC has enjoyed the active support of the Ukrainian Church hierarchy in the United States; Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Paul Chomnycky of Stamford, Conn., and Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. have participated in all of its major events. This assistance was crucial to gaining the cooperation of Connecticut parishes and communities.

Also important was the guidance and support of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, which provided publications, contacts and leads, and valuable advice. The CHAC is most grateful for the ongoing assistance provided by Michael Sawkiw and Tamara Gallo.

The committee understood well the need for credibility outside the Ukrainian community. Members worked hard to gain sponsorship from Sens. Joseph Lieberman and Frank Dodd from Connecticut, who are also co-sponsors of the Senate resolution on the Holodomor. Longtime Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro of the New Haven Congressional District is an honorary committee member.

Buttressed by its broad-based community support, its inclusive working manner and member enthusiasm, the CHAC has achieved notable success.

### Using the media

From the outset, a major CHAC goal has been to engage the media to promote Holodomor awareness. To accomplish this, a public relations team, under the leadership of Myron Melnyk in New Haven and Natasha Sazanova in Hartford, was assembled to work on the campaign. Natasha developed a website ([www.holodomorct.org](http://www.holodomorct.org)) to serve as a reference not only about the Holodomor but also about CHAC's ongoing activities. The site has proven to be invaluable in dealings with the press and other media outlets.

The team effectively utilized the stories of Holodomor survivors to spread its message. By identifying survivors in different parts of the state and approaching them for interviews, the committee was able to pitch their stories to local newspapers. This emphasis on the local angle proved to be a

very effective method for attractions media attention to the Holodomor.

### Notable events

In recent years the committee, under the direction of Lidia Choma, has organized many events to promote Holodomor awareness. Among the most notable was a statewide anniversary observance in the State Capitol building in Hartford in 2008. Ukrainians and guests from throughout the state attended a solemn memorial service led by Bishop Paul and Archbishop Antony at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hartford. Following the service, a mile-long procession took place from St. Michael's to the Capitol State Grounds for the remembrance ceremonies, which were led by Ms. Choma.

Among the distinguished speakers were Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Oleh Shamshur and former Rep. Lawrence DeNardis, who gave the keynote address. Representatives of Bosnia, Cambodia, Darfur, and Ireland actively participated in the commemoration ceremonies.

In 2010, committee member Ihor Rudko initiated a very successful event in the State Legislative Office Building. This edifice is an excellent venue for numerous exhibits which are displayed throughout the year. The committee capitalized on the location and staged a commemorative Holodomor photo exhibit. To open the exhibit, key Connecticut legislators from throughout the state were recruited to speak and to be co-sponsors. The opening ceremony, consisting of a brief prayer led by Bishop Paul, a bandura concert organized by Irena Kuzm, and speeches by legislators, was broadcast live to each legislator's office. The recorded event was rebroadcast repeatedly in the following weeks on CT-N, Connecticut's public affairs network.

For years committee member Lana Babij has leveraged her professional and academic contacts at the University of Connecticut to organize Holodomor-related exhibits and speakers at the university's campuses throughout the state, at Sacred Heart University, and at other local colleges, schools and libraries. She has hosted film screenings of "Genocide Revealed," "Harvest of Despair," and the "Soviet Story," and has successfully encouraged local film festivals to screen these films. Most recently she attended the two-week Summer Institute on Social Justice at

the University of Manitoba, which dealt with the pedagogy of human rights abuses. Upon completion of the program, she wrote an extensive article about the effective publicity and teaching techniques presented at the institute. (See The Ukrainian Weekly, October 9, 2011.)

### The past and the future

Much can be learned from the work of the CHAC. One lesson is that, to be successful, it is important to marshal and coordinate all available resources for the task at hand. The committee's ongoing efforts depend on the strong support of Churches and community organizations, as well as individuals. Financial assistance and services in kind have been provided by The Ukrainian Museum, the Ukrainian National Home in Hartford, Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Chicago Credit Union, by other organizations and by countless individuals who perform small deeds of support.

In addition to this internal support, it is critical to solicit help from outside the community. This assistance does not come easily and is often the result of contacts and relationships that have been painstakingly cultivated over many years by many different people – relationships with the press, political leaders, scholars, civic groups and human rights organizations.

Another takeaway is that success in a campaign like this one is measured by how many people are reached. Here the media play a special role. An event can draw hundreds or even thousands of visitors, yet one favorable, well-timed, and well-written article about that event can reach many thousands more.

Work to promote awareness of the Holodomor is painstaking on many different levels. Certainly the Holodomor is not in the mainstream of current public interest. And yet it is possible to gain traction on the goal of awareness and education: there are many who are open to the truth and eager to understand and learn from history. Much more can and should be done.

\* \* \*

Members of the Connecticut Holodomor Awareness Committee include: Lidia Choma (chair), Christine Melnyk (secretary), Ihor Rudko (treasurer), Myron Melnyk (public relations), Natasha Sazanova (webmistress), Lana Babij, Myron Kolinsky, Alex Kuzma, Boris Krupa, Julie Nesteruk and Natalka Rudko.

## "Chornobyl Songs Project"...

(Continued from page 10)

The song cycle began, appropriately, with two winter songs: "Oy Pan Khaziayin," a carol for the head of the household from Vilshanka, Polissia, and "Oy na Richtsi Yordani" a church song performed by the men.

Moving to the spring cycle, the groups performed "Oy Dai Bozhe Vyesnu Pochat," a "vesnianka" (spring song) from Lubianka, Polissia region, in which the women go to the highest point in the village and call out for spring to begin. This was followed by four other selections.

Harking back to the spring of 1986, "Khto Letyt u Nochi?" was an excerpt from "May" by Natalka Bilotserkivets which asked who is it that flies at night, referring to the helicopters and the efforts to bury the nuclear reactor at Chornobyl.

Next was a set of rare songs about "rusalky." Stories about these mythical figures (water nymphs) are well known, but the songs "rusalni," are very rarely heard. Hearing "Provedu ya Rusalochky do Brodu," a rusalna from Vilshanka, Polissia; "Rano, rano" from Richytsia, Chornobyl; and "Nasha Khata na Pomosti" from Korohod, Chornobyl, was a very special treat.

With summer over, the harvest songs were brought forth, including summer field songs and a hay mowers' song.

The wedding song cycle was the highlight of the evening. Not only was the audience privy to hearing songs

by the married women for the young woman about to be married, but also to witnessing a small portion of the wedding ritual. During this wedding song cycle, one of the Ensemble Hilka members sat at a bench. The other singers – the women of the wedding party – unplaited her long braided hair, combed it out, put it up, and wrapped it with not one but three "khustky" (kerchiefs), signifying her transition from a maiden to a married woman.

As after most weddings, then came family life. Ethel Raim performed a loving version of the lullaby "Koty, Koty, Kotochku," while holding in her arms a baby wrapped in a "rushnyk," or embroidered ritual cloth.

The yearly cycle was completed with a return to "Oy pan khazyayin."

Listening to the songs, one was immediately aware that not only were these songs sung loudly, they were sung with power. Besides seeing the performers, and hearing them, one could also feel them. Their voices expressed the energy and the power of the songs.

The songs' transcriptions are true to how the songs were sung – in the dialect of the Polissia and the Chornobyl regions. When Mr. Yefremov collected these songs, he kept them in the forms in which they had been sung, truly preserving these traditions.

Traditions are lost as the world gets smaller, and this process was hastened here by the Chornobyl nuclear disaster that took place 25 years ago. That event created an uninhabitable area – a zone whose residents, customs and traditions have been scattered about the world. These artists beautifully brought them back together so that they may live on with us.

## Turning the pages back...

(Continued from page 6)

canonical territory, "for in 1448 the Moscow Metropolia split off from the Kyiv Metropolia. So, in this case, Kyiv is the Mother Church and Moscow is the daughter."

Ukrainian Churches in the West have worked to bring unity to the Orthodox Churches in Ukraine and for the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople to recognize the autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine.

Archbishop Antony, Eastern eparch of the UOC-U.S.A., said: "All Ukrainian Orthodox Christians, from those in the loftiest of Episcopal positions to the poorest of worshipping grandmothers, who make up the Body of Christ – His Holy Church – must be prepared to compromise, to be 'poor in spirit' as we strive for the unification of the Church in Ukraine. Ancient hatreds and personal ambitions must be set aside for the glory of God. In the true spirit of Christ's love, I believe with every fiber of my being that we shall see a united Church in Ukraine as we close this second millennium and enter into the third millennium of Christianity. May the Holy Spirit enlighten us all."

Archbishop Vsevolod passed away in 2007 and was replaced by Bishop Daniel as Western eparch of the UOC-U.S.A. The Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and the UOC-KP (the two Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in Ukraine) have tried to unite multiple times, most recently in 2011. In the latest attempt, the UAOC demanded as a condition that Patriarch Filaret resign, which the UOC-KP refused.

Source: "Ukrainian Orthodoxy outside Ukraine undergoes fundamental changes in striving for church unity," by Irene Jarosewich, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 9, 1997.

## Ukrainian folklore...

(Continued from page 11)

plagued with problems from delayed take-offs to missed connections and lost luggage.

When I finally arrived in Pavlodar I was allowed to rest briefly and then sent to perform bureaucratic chores. I was told I had to register my residence, something I have not had to do in Ukraine since Soviet times. After standing in line for a long time to learn that Canadians did not need a residency permit, my hostess and I went to Pavlodar Toraygyrov State University, where I had to pay my respects to myriad officials. We went in reverse order, first the various lesser officials and then the higher-level dignitaries.

After that I went to pay my fees, a process that was in itself a bureaucratic nightmare. I could not simply sign an agreement saying that I would pay a certain price for my transportation and lodging; before I left Canada I had to send a letter from my university, complete with an official signature and a stamp. Since stamps are not part of Canadian bureaucracy, as onerous as it may be, finding something that would pass as a stamp proved to be a challenge. Once stamped, this letter had to go to Kazakhstan in hard copy; a fax would not do and, since registered mail is seldom sent between Edmonton and Pavlodar, this official letter (in three copies) took almost a month to reach its destination, something that made both me and my hosts very nervous. But the letter did arrive shortly before I did and I paid the agreed-upon fees.

The pressure to follow protocol did not end with my day of bureaucratic formalities at the university. In every village we visited I had to check in with the local "akim," or government head, and I had to pay my respects to every district akim as well. If the akim was not there on the day of my arrival, I had to go back and pay my respects at a later date, even if it interfered with my work, but not following proper procedure was not a option. When my trip was over, I had to return to the university for a round of formal farewells, something that I found quite burdensome since I was trying to pack and to make copies of all of my data.

The formalities were time-consuming. I also got the uncomfortable feeling that I was constantly under surveillance, that my every move was being watched. This too reminded me of Soviet times.

But as unpleasant as the formalities may have been, they did have their benefits. Because the whole trip was quite formal and official, there was always a place for us to stay. Sometimes there was transportation to the next village. People were ready for us, and we did not have to spend several hours explaining what we were doing. Often local officials had identified several people for us to interview. If I compare this to my field experiences in Ukraine where everything was quite free-wheeling and where my field partners and I would arrive in a village with no notice, no contacts and no certainty that we would find a place to stay for the night, I can see that the formality of my Kazakhstan arrangements did have its advantages.

Even being constantly tracked and monitored had its plus side. In Ukraine I had been taught not to let people know that I was a foreigner. I was told not to register or check in with village officials because that might make the people whom I wanted to interview nervous, and I got very good at blending in and virtually disappearing. This almost led to a real disappearance on one occasion when a couple of thugs in a particularly poor village did discover that I

was a foreigner and decided to kidnap me and hold me for ransom. I faced no such dangers in Kazakhstan.

In addition to the bureaucracy and the close monitoring of my activities, there were many other things in Kazakhstan that reminded me of my times in the Soviet Union. One was the lack of consumer goods, especially Western ones. There are no McDonalds in Pavlodar, or even in the capital, Astana. You cannot buy a Coke, though Ukrainian juices and horilka were available, and the local beer was quite good. There are some imported goods, like clothing and appliances, but most are from neighboring China or the Middle East, with a few things from Europe and nothing from the United States.

The official reason for lack of consumer goods is a policy of isolationism, keeping out foreign products that might compete with Kazakh-produced merchandise. There may also be some attempt to keep the local population from knowing about life in the West, much as there was in the Soviet Union. I cannot speak to this because this was not mentioned by anyone, but I can say that most television shows featured local or Russian programs. Foreign films dubbed into Russian seemed more scarce than in Russia itself.

While people in Kazakhstan got little chance to learn about life in the West, they could potentially see economic prosperity rivalling that of any Western city right in their own capital. There is a stark contrast between the countryside and the opulence of Astana. Many villages lack roads, and one simply drives across the steppe to get to where one is going. Electricity was available in all locations that I visited, but there was no gas except that sold in canisters, and there was no plumbing expert in a few houses where the owners had installed water pumps.

Meanwhile, Astana has gorgeous and literally shining buildings, coated with colored glass to reflect the sun. There are stunning flower beds with flowers planted to look like Kazakh decorative motifs. There are recreation and amusement areas with such frivolous attractions as an indoor wave pool and miniature replicas of world heritage monuments such as the Statue of Liberty. And there is an observation tower from which one could survey the whole glittering panorama.

People did not seem to resent the Astana/village contrast. Rather, they seemed to take pride in what had been accomplished in Astana and to feel that improvements would eventually come to villages.

Man-made factors are not the only thing that determines life in Kazakhstan. Climate and topography are very important. The land is harsh. The area where I was is flat and gets little rain. Lakes or ponds are few, and many of the ones that do exist are salt lakes and not potable; little grows around them. In the summer, the temperature can reach 100 degrees; in the winter, it can be minus 40.

Winds blow with no impediments and are strong enough to virtually knock you off your feet. A particularly fierce storm is the winter "buran," a white-out snow storm characterized by horizontally blowing snow. Trees grow only on river banks and in villages where they get some shelter from the wind. Attempts to plant rows of trees as windbreaks, something that was done successfully on the Ukrainian steppe, has, on the Kazakh steppe, produced rows of blackened tree stumps.

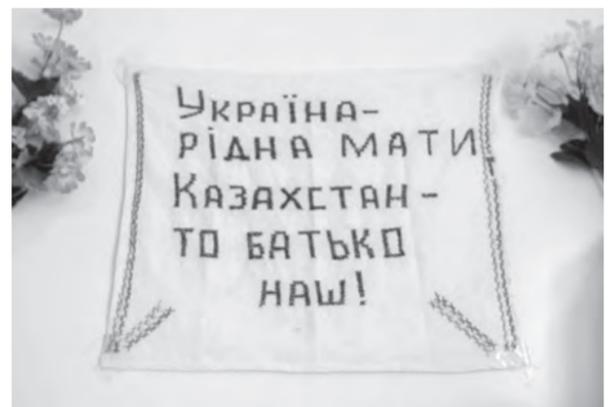
It is difficult to convey the overwhelming feeling of isolation that one gets in the wide open spaces of Kazakhstan. The horizons are endless and the land featureless. But the strongest impression was the feeling of falling off the edge of the world that I got when I reached the end of a village.

Inside a village one is surrounded by houses and vegetation. There are streets and animals and people. But when you come to the end of a street, as I did while walking around villages looking for the homes of people I had been told to interview, you are confronted with nothing. The village ends; the street ends – and there is steppe, just steppe, an endless expanse of brownish, sunburnt grass stretching as far as the eye can see. There are no houses, no trees, no animals – nothing. Sometimes far, far in the distance I could see a black mass – the village cattle herd. Sometimes closer by there would be the lone silhouette of a horse on the horizon – a beautiful picture, but one that emphasized the isolation of the steppe.

Needless to say, this is not an easy place to grow anything. All garden plants such as tomatoes are surrounded by little dams meant to trap the precious few drops of water. The most successful farm products are wheat, cattle and sheep. The latter are consumed primarily by Kazakhs; the Slavs prefer beef to mutton or lamb. The diet consists of various dough products and meat, which may not sound bad until one has eaten meat, often fatty meat, with various forms of boiled dough and virtually no vegetables for a month. This is a very practical diet. The "manty" and "pilmeni," two forms of dumplings filled with chopped meat,



Mykhail Serfiiovych Paripisa, the head of the Ukrainian organization in Pavlodar and all Kazakhstan.



An interesting embroidery in Krasilovka, The words read: "Ukraine is our dear mother. Kazakhstan is our father."

can be cooked for the midday meal and reheated for the evening meal and for breakfast. But it is a very monotonous diet and I had no idea how tasty something like corn or broccoli would seem until I had spent a month in Kazakhstan.

There was also a lack of fruits. Villagers did have berries such as strawberries and raspberries in their gardens, but I seemed to be one of the few people interested in eating them raw. Most people saw them as suitable for conversion into jam which would be eaten with the enormous quantities of tea with milk that everyone drank.

Kazakhstan is a very large country – the ninth largest in the world – but it is sparsely populated. It has mineral resources and oil and gas, but it is just not that wealthy. Kazakhstan's low population density and its flat landscape, probably along with its remoteness from Moscow and its non-European indigenous population, prompted the Soviet government to select it as the site for its atomic bomb testing program. The area around Semipalatinsk, not that far from Pavlodar, was the location of some 460 nuclear explosions between 1949 and 1989. Nuclear testing has stopped, but its legacy lingers.

Kazakhstan is still an area where pollution is tolerated. In Pavlodar itself there is an aluminum plant with three enormous smoke stacks that constantly spew toxins over the city. Concerns about its health effects surface constantly, and time and again the choice between the population's health and economic prosperity is resolved in favor of the latter.

As I drove around Kazakhstan, I saw other factories with smokestacks touching the clouds and adding a brown streak to them. I could not help but notice the general ill health of the population, the high blood pressure, the aches and pains, the mobility problems. Was this caused by pollution? It is almost impossible to tell without a systematic study. What I saw could also be the result of lack of health care: medical services, especially in villages, are difficult to obtain.

What was striking was that people had an almost macho approach to the situation. Pollution was one of the many adversities that the harshness of life in Kazakhstan presented and the country's residents took a certain pride in facing adversity. The climate was a challenge and pollution was another aspect of the environment that needed to be dealt with and overcome. The attitude toward pollution was analogous to the attitude toward the economy. There was optimism that, now that Kazakhstan was independent, the problems would be solved.



Map of Kazakhstan indicating the location of its capital and Pavlodar.

# Two singers from Ukraine to debut at the Met

by Helen Smindak

NEW YORK – Just a month after bass Paul Plishka gave his farewell performance at the Metropolitan Opera, two singers from Ukraine will make their Met debuts in leading roles in Mussorgsky's epic Russian opera "Khovanshchina."

Bass Anatoli Kotscherga, as Prince Ivan Khovansky, and lyric tenor Misha Didyk as his son, Prince Andrei Khovansky, will perform alongside Olga Borodina, Vladimir Galadine and George Gadnidge in the four-hour opera, sung in Russian with Met titles in English, German and Spanish.

Ukrainian baritone Vitaliy Bilyy, who has appeared at the Met in other productions, will sing the role of Shaklovity in the March 10 performance.

"Khovanshchina" will open on February 27, with later performances scheduled for March 1, 6, 10 and 13. The final performance – the March 17 matinee – will be broadcast live from the Metropolitan Opera stage in the Toll Brothers Saturday matinee broadcasts on PBS Radio.

The story of "Khovanshchina" concerns the rebellion of three factions – Prince Ivan Khovansky, a radical religious minority known as the Old Believers, and units of Russian guardsmen armed with firearms called Streltsy – against Peter the Great, who was attempting to institute Westernizing reforms to Russia.

While Mr. Kotscherga is new to New York audiences, Mr. Didyk appeared at the New York City Opera in two roles – Rodolfo in "La Boheme" and the Duke of Mantua in "Rigoletto" – during the 2000-2001 season.

Born in Kamianets-Podilsky, Khmelnytsky Oblast, Mr. Didyk is a graduate of the Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Music in Kyiv. He began his career in 1994 as a soloist at the National Opera of Ukraine with a repertoire that included Pinkerton in "Madame Butterfly," Lensky in "Eugene Onegin" and Alfredo in "La Traviata."

Ghermann, the central character in Tchaikovsky's tragic story "The Queen of Spades," became one of his signature roles, serving him well for his debuts at La Scala in Milan and the San Francisco Opera.

Mr. Didyk was invited to perform at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, singing Alfredo in Verdi's "La Traviata" for two seasons, then toured with the Bolshoi to St. Petersburg, where he reprised Alfredo at the Mariinsky Theater.

Mr. Didyk has won critical acclaim in the U.S. and in many foreign cities, including Marseilles, Berlin, Helsinki, Tel Aviv and Tokyo. In March 1999, he was invited to accompany the Ukrainian governmental delegation to Sweden during the official visit of President Leonid Kuchma, and performed for King Carl Gustav and Queen Sylvia.

The tenor was awarded the Taras Shevchenko State Award in 1998 and the

title of National Artist of Ukraine in 1999.

Mr. Kotscherga, born in the village of Samhorodok, Vinnytsia Oblast, studied at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Music in Kyiv in 1968-1973 and joined the Kyiv Opera while still a student. Under an agreement that then existed between La Scala and the USSR, he spent 1975-1976 apprenticing at La Scala.

He made his international debut as Ivan Khovansky at the Vienna State Opera in 1989 and that same year received the USSR State Award for his performances in "Boris Godunov" and "Don Carlo." Since then he has sung the title role in "Boris Godunov" at the Salzburg Festival and the Vienna State Opera, and the title role of "Falstaff" at Munich's Bavarian State Opera.

Mr. Kotscherga was due to make his Met Opera debut in December 1997, shortly after appearing with the San Francisco Opera. That event was not realized; a month before the scheduled appearance, he was held up at gunpoint in Mexico City and shot in the leg.

In the 1980s he learned that Soviet authorities had suppressed 17 requests from world-renowned Austrian conductor Herbert von Karajan, inviting him to appear with his orchestra. In fact, Soviet authorities had kept from Mr. Kotscherga a total of 190 invitations to perform in countries outside the USSR.

As one of the world's leading contemporary basses, Mr. Kotscherga has performed with such distinguished companies as the Paris Opera, Vienna State Opera, Bavarian State Opera in Munich, La Scala, the Deutsche Oper in Berlin, the Bolshoi and La Monnaie in Brussels.

His roles have ranged from Prince Gremin in "Eugene Onegin" and the Commendatore in "Don Giovanni" to Field Marshal Kutuzov in "War and Peace." His performance as

Kochubey in Tchaikovsky's "Mazeppa" is considered one of his finest roles.

This season, in addition to his appearances at the Met, Mr. Kotscherga is performing in Munich in "Don Carlo" and in Madrid in "Lady Macbeth of Mzensk."

Mr. Bilyy, who made his Met debut in 2007 as Col. Vaska Denison in "War and Peace," has also appeared at the Met as Count di Luna in a production of "Il Trovatore." This season he will perform at Padua's Teatro Verdi, singing the role of Enrico in "Lucia di Lammermoor," and at La Scala as Miller in "Luisa Miller."

The Metropolitan Opera stage has been graced in the past by several Ukrainian-born artists, among them the late bass-baritone Andriy Dobriansky, who held the distinction of having the longest continuous term of service of a Ukrainian-born artist with the Metropolitan Opera Company. He sang in Met productions for 27 years.

Other artists from Ukraine who have appeared at the Met include bass Dmitry Belosselsky, who made his Met debut last fall as Zaccaria in "Nabucco," sopranos Maria Guleghina, Victoria Loukianetz and Larissa Shevchenko, and mezzo Ludmila Schemtschuk. The male contingent includes tenors Volodymyr Grishko, Viktor Lutsiuk and Andriy Solovianenko, baritones Vassily Gerello, Georgy Zastavny and Mikhail Kit, and basses Vitaliy Kowaljow and Alexander Tsymbaluk.

Mr. Plishka, who gave his last performance at the Met in January, and bass Stefan Szkafarowsky, currently appearing as Bonze in "Madame Butterfly," are the company's best-known Ukrainian American singers.

The Met's evening performances of "Khovanshchina" begin at 7 p.m. except for the performance on March 10, which is scheduled for 7.30 p.m. The March 17 matinee performance will begin at noon.

## Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union looking for Compliance Officer

**Job Description:** Designs and implements programs, policies, and practices for the Credit Union to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements; Tracks laws and regulations that impact the Credit Union's policies; Conducts training to Credit Union staff of updates and new policies; Prepares compliance reports to present to management and the Board of Directors ("BOD");

Qualifications to include a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or Finance with significant years of experience in the field.

**This is a salaried full time position with benefits and possible other compensation.**

Send resumes to [ctorhan@ukrnatfcu.org](mailto:ctorhan@ukrnatfcu.org) and [bkramarchuk@ukrnatfcu.org](mailto:bkramarchuk@ukrnatfcu.org) or mail to UNFCU, 215 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10003, Attention – SEARCH COMMITTEE

## Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union looking for Internal Auditor

**Job Description:** Lead risk assessments and audits across the credit union to ensure the adequacy and effectiveness of key financial, operational, and technology controls; Ensures accounting and financial data are in compliance with accounting principles and guidelines; Identifies control gaps and improper accounting or documentation; Researches issues and makes recommendations to improve policies or procedures; Works with external auditors to support the external auditing function; Prepares audit reports to Supervisory Committee and BOD.

Qualifications to include Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with possible other relevant certifications – CPA, CISA, CIA, or other; minimum 5 years experience in the public accounting or internal auditing function. Experience with credit unions or other financial institutions and a broad understanding of technology audit concepts is preferred, but not required.

**This is a salaried full time positions with benefits and possible other compensation.**

Send resumes to [ctorhan@ukrnatfcu.org](mailto:ctorhan@ukrnatfcu.org) and [bkramarchuk@ukrnatfcu.org](mailto:bkramarchuk@ukrnatfcu.org) or mail to UNFCU, 215 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10003, Attention – SEARCH COMMITTEE

## Yanukovych provides...

(Continued from page 3)

Ivanushchenko, who "is a key player in the family group," is from Yenakiyev and may have "a criminal past" (Korrespondent, November 11, 2010; Kyiv Post, April 29, 2011). "Yuriy Yanakovo," as he has been nicknamed by the Ukrainian media, has been dogged by allegations that he has an

organized crime past.

Political corruption in Ukraine's Parliament and the judiciary is growing at an alarming rate and has deep roots. Political corruption will grow following the October elections, which will use a mixed election system last used in 1998 and 2002.

*The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, [www.jamestown.org](http://www.jamestown.org).*

DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF UNA BRANCHES OF DETROIT, MI announces that its

ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on

Sunday, March 25, 2012 at 1:00 PM

At the Ukrainian Cultural Center

26601 Ryan Rd., Warren, MI

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two delegates from the following Branches:

**82, 94, 165, 174, 175, 292, 341**

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

Meeting will be attended by:

Anatole Doroshenko – Honorary Member of the UNA General Assembly

DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Dr. Alexander Serafyn, District Chairman

Vera Krywyj, Secretary

Michael Shumylo, Treasurer

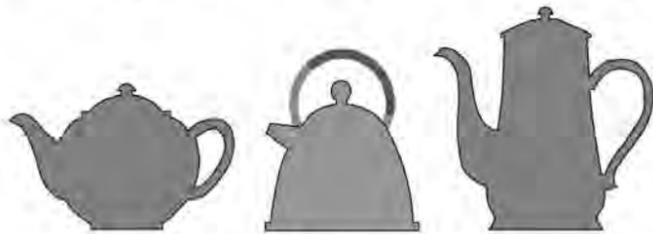
# OUT & ABOUT

- February 28  
New York Lecture by Oksana Yurkova, "The Institute of the History of Ukraine: History and Activity," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 or ma2634@columbia.edu
- March 3  
Chicago Performance, "Got Kapusta?" by Spaleny Teatr, Ukrainian American Youth Association, UAYA Center, www.cym.org
- March 3  
New York Concert featuring Trio Cavatina and violist Samuel Rhodes, Music at the Institute concert series, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660
- March 3  
Whippany, NJ Indoor soccer tournament, Chornomorska Sitch, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, andrewpanas@hotmail.com
- March 3  
Ottawa Pierogi and Vodka Night, Ukrainian Students' Club and the Polish Students' Society, University of Ottawa, uofoukrainians@gmail.com
- March 3  
Carteret, NJ Lenten retreat, St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, St. Demetrius Community Center, 732-541-1530 or www.stdemetriusuoc.org
- March 5  
Cambridge, MA Lecture by Robert Kravchuk, "Independent Ukraine 1991-2011: The Trajectory of Ukraine's Post-Soviet Economy," Harvard University, 617-495-4053
- March 7-8  
Ottawa Conference, "Ukraine at the Crossroads," Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Canada Ukraine Foundation, University of Ottawa, 204-942-4627 or http://cuf.eventbrite.com/
- March 8  
Hamilton, ON Presentation by Brian Dedora, "Kurelek in the Workshop: Craftsman, Framer and Artist," Art Gallery of Hamilton, www.artgalleryofhamilton.com or 905-527-6610
- March 8  
Ottawa Conference, "Quo Vadis Ukraine?" Canada Ukraine Foundation, Chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Ottawa, 613-562-5800, ext. 3692
- March 8  
New York Presentation by Oksana Kis, "Reclaiming the Political Meaning of International Women's Day: Feminist Activism in Ukraine Nowadays," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 or ma2634@columbia.edu
- March 9  
Whippany, NJ Varenyky dinner, Ukrainian American Youth Association - Whippany branch, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-713-6956 or 973-479-8715 or pierogi.dinner.at.uaccnj@gmail.com
- March 10  
San Francisco Taras Shevchenko concert, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council of Northern California, St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 650-281-6927 or www.stmichaelsucsf.org/shevchenko\_concert.aspx
- March 10  
New York Taras Shevchenko concert, featuring the Canadian Bandurist Capella, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America - New York branch, St. George Ukrainian Catholic School, 212-228-6840 or www.banduristy.com
- March 10-11  
Newark, NJ Pre-Cana conference, St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church, 973-371-1356
- March 11  
Jenkintown, PA Taras Shevchenko concert, featuring the Canadian Bandurist Capella, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1166 or www.banduristy.com

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to [mdubas@ukrweekly.com](mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com).

## "Tea with Friends & Family"

Sunday, March 25, 2012 at 1:00pm



### A Fundraiser for the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ)

Please join us at the Cultural Center and enjoy an afternoon of tea, an assortment of tea sandwiches and delightful desserts. A complimentary glass of wine included.

Many chances to win fabulous prize baskets, door prizes, bid on unique silent auction items and try your luck with the 50/50!

Gather your friends and family and let us help you organize a table.

Cash Bar

Advance ticket sales only  
Admission: \$40 per person

Checks payable to: ACE/UACCNJ  
Send to: UACCNJ Attn: Tea Fundraiser  
60 N. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07891

For information: [aceuaccnj@gmail.com](mailto:aceuaccnj@gmail.com) • 973-590-8026



UACCNJ

## Springtime and Easter PROGRAMS AT THE UKRAINIAN MUSEUM

2012

Limited space - Pysanky, Easter Traditions, and Wedding Breads workshops must be reserved in advance: 212.228.0110

### PYSANKY - UKRAINIAN EASTER EGG DECORATING WORKSHOPS

March 11, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
March 17, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
March 18, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. or 2-4 p.m.  
March 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. or 2-4 p.m.  
March 31, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
April 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Fee per session: Adults - \$15; students over 16 & seniors - \$10; children ages 12-16 - \$5; members - 15% discount

### UKRAINIAN EASTER TRADITIONS & baking of traditional Easter breads

March 24, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Adults - \$25; students over 16 & seniors - \$20; members - 15% discount

### DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE MAKING OF PYSANKY - UKRAINIAN EASTER EGGS

plus free screening of Slavko Nowytski's award-winning film *Pysanka* every half hour  
March 31, 1-5 p.m.  
Adults - \$10; students over 12 & seniors - \$8; children 12 and under - free; members - \$6

### BAKING TRADITIONAL WEDDING BREADS

Learn how to make a *korovai*  
May 5, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Adults - \$25; students over 16 & seniors - \$20; members - 15% discount

### FAMILY PROGRAMS

Craft workshops for families with children ages 5-12. Walk-ins welcome! Reservations not required.  
\$5 per family member  
\$3 per Museum member

### CELEBRATE SPRING!

Discover the symbols and techniques used to make a *pysanka* and create your own magical egg!  
April 1, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

### SCULPTURE WORKSHOP

Create your own sculpture using unique materials.  
April 22, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

### INTRODUCTION TO FOLK ARTS

Look at objects from the Museum's permanent collection and weave, embroider, sculpt, or paint your own folk art creation.  
May 6, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

### GLASS PAINTING

Create paintings on glass inspired by works from the Museum's collection.  
May 20, 1:30-3:30 p.m.



The Museum's programs are funded in part by the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



The Ukrainian Museum's traditional arts programs are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



### The Ukrainian Museum

222 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10003  
Tel: 212.228.0110 Fax: 212.228.1947  
[info@ukrainianmuseum.org](mailto:info@ukrainianmuseum.org)  
[www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org)

All programs include access to Museum galleries.

Museum hours:  
Wednesday - Sunday  
11:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

## Attention Debutante Ball Organizers!



As in the past,  
The Ukrainian Weekly  
will publish a special section  
devoted to the Ukrainian  
community's debutantes.

The 2012 debutante ball section  
will be published on March 25.

**The deadline for submission of stories and photos  
is March 12.**

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**March 11-April 1**

**NEW YORK:** Interested in taking up a new hobby? Honing your arts and crafts skills? The Ukrainian Museum has just the courses and workshops for you between March 11 and April 1. Get ready for Easter by making your own traditional pysanka, learn to bake Easter breads while learning about Ukrainian Easter traditions, or watch pysanka artists in action during live demonstrations of pysanka-making techniques. Pre-registration is necessary for some workshops – see details in the ad in this edition of The Ukrainian Weekly, or check the museum's education section online. Fees include all materials and access to the exhibition galleries. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St.;

telephone, 212-228-0110; website, [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org).

**Sunday, March 18**

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.:** The Washington Group Cultural Fund Sunday Music Series will present an afternoon of music devoted to the classical work of composer, musician and songwriter Boris Skalsky. Mr. Skalsky will be joined by a number of Washington- and New York-based musicians, including the MIVOS Quartet, guitarist Anthony Pirog, cellist Rubin Khodeli, and pianist – and mother of the composer – Zdana Krawciw-Skalsky. The concert will take place at the Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria, Va., at 3 p.m. Suggested donation: \$20; students, free. For further information call 301-229-2615 or e-mail [twgulturalfund@gmail.com](mailto:twgulturalfund@gmail.com).

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**.

Information should be sent to: [preview@ukrweekly.com](mailto:preview@ukrweekly.com) or Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510. **NB: If e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments; simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message.**

КАПЕЛЯ БАНДУРИСТІВ КАНАДИ

Canadian Bandurist Capella

PRESENTS



Слово  
Тараса

Унікальна музично-поетична програма на вшанування Великого Сина Українського народу Тараса Шевченка, поета, художника та гуманіста. A truly unique program to commemorate our poet, artist and humanist, Taras Shevchenko.

This program was first performed in 1939 and has not been staged in over 45 years. It interweaves choral pieces with narration, declamation and recital of Taras Shevchenko works, to the accompaniment of soft bandura music.



Tickets – \$25.00

Children under 12 – \$5.00

New York	10 March 2012 7:00pm	St. George Ukrainian Catholic School	215 E. 6th Street
Philadelphia	11 March 2012 2:00pm	Ukrainian Educational & Cultural Center	700 Cedar Road

Concerts sponsored by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, NYC branch and the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Philadelphia

Additional details: visit our website at [www.banduristy.com](http://www.banduristy.com) or phone 212-228-6840 215-663-1166

## SCOPE TRAVEL INC. 2012 TOURS TO UKRAINE



### TWO CAPITALS

9 Day All Inclusive Tour tw from \$2290  
via Lufthansa from Newark  
Kyiv, Lviv - the two "capitals" of E. & W. Ukraine.  
The leisurely pace of this tour permits for stays with friends, with extensions to Budapest, Vienna or Munich optional.  
Departures: **May 16, Jul 11, Aug 1, Sep 19**



### MINI UKRAINE

12 Day All Inclusive Tour tw from \$2790  
via Lufthansa from Newark  
Kyiv, Lviv, Yaremche and Kamianets Podilsky  
The two "capitals" of Ukraine, plus a three day bus tour to the Carpathian Mountains and Bukovyna with stops in Iv. Frankivsk, Bukovel, Kolomyia, Chernivtsi, Zarvanysia.  
Departures: **May 16, Jul 11, Aug 1, Sep 19**



### UKRAINE + POLAND and HUNGARY

via Lufthansa from Newark  
11 Day All Inclusive Tour tw \$2950  
Lviv, Krakow and Budapest – lovely combination of 3 countries and peoples whose history intertwined through the centuries. First class hotels, meals, tours and more!  
One departure only: **May 17, 2012**

**ETAP 1+2** Aug 8 – 25 \$2000  
УПН - УПУ - УСП - УПС  
пл сен Ореста Федіяк

**TOUR A** Aug 16-25 \$1990  
10 Days  
Lviv  
Координатор транспортів Scope Travel  
пл сен Петро Ставничий

**TOUR B** Aug 13-25 \$2290  
12 Days  
Kyiv + Lviv  
Провідник пл сен Марійка Гельб'іг

**TOUR C** Aug 13-25 \$2690  
12 Days  
Kyiv, Lviv, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky Sokil, Kolomyia, Zarvanysia  
Провідник пл сен Марійка Гельб'іг

**LETOM SKOBA** Aug 8 – 25 \$3000  
17 Days  
Kyiv, Kaniv, Iv. Frankivsk, Tatariv, Bukovel Kolomyia, Chernivtsi, Kamianets Podilsky, Kryshalevi Pechery, Zarvanysia, Lviv

Командант ст пл Александер Колос  
Оп'ікун пл сен Христина Храплива.



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