Famine Remembrance Week begins with conference at Columbia University

by Roma Hadzewycz

NEW YORK – An international conference at Columbia University featuring speakers from the United States, Ukraine and the United Kingdom marked the beginning of Famine Remembrance Week in New York City on Monday, November 10.

“The conference on “The Man-Made Great Famine in Ukraine of 1932-1933 (Holodomor)” was opened by Prof. Mark von Hagen of Columbia, who underscored that the Famine was “a particularly stark demonstration of the brutality of the Soviet regime.”

The Famine was declared for 55 years in Ukraine and elsewhere in the Soviet Union, Prof. von Hagen noted. “Compounding this conspiracy of silence relentlessly enforced by the Soviet government was the complicity of many governments of ‘civilized’ people and the reporters of the foreign press in Moscow, most notoriously Walter Duranty of The New York Times,” he said, adding that “sadly, professional historians reinforced this silence with their own denials until recently.”

Among those in the audience at the opening were two ambassadors to the United Nations, Valeriy Kuchinsky of Ukraine’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations, the declaration will be read before the U.N. General Assembly by Secretary General Kofi Annan. Ambassador Kuchinsky noted that the declaration – which is signed by, among others, the Russian Federation, the United States and Canada – is “the result of hard work and strenuous efforts of Ukrainian diplomats who have spent many months in intense consultations and discussion within the United Nations, as well as with various capital cities. These efforts have informed many political activists and, in turn, their respective nations of the true nature of the Great Famine in Ukraine.”

He characterized the declaration as “unique in that it is the first of its kind within the United Nations to publicly condemn the Soviet totalitarian regime for the murder of millions of innocent victims.”

“When we’re modeling our human nature, it is hard to have such a statement of our human nature, it is hard to have such a statement. This motion will assist the government in seeking support for a resolution to the United Nations in November 2003, putting these facts on the international agenda.”

The event was sponsored by the Columbia University Ukrainian Studies Program, the Ukraine-Center, the National Security Studies Program and the School of International and Public Affairs. The conference was also supported by the Ukrainian American Cultural Institute, the Ukrainian National Association, the World Council of Americans of Ukrainian Descent and the Ukrainian World Congress. The event was co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Lawyers Association.

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By Roman Kupchinsky

As the presidential elections in Ukraine wind down and the election campaign draws to a close, a number of incidents have occurred that indicate the use of dirty tactics has already begun.

Viktor Yushchenko, the leader of the Our Ukraine opposition bloc, announced in late October that he had received a number of death threats and that some 40 members of his bloc have been notified of investigations against them by the Procurator General’s Office. In response to this, President Leonid Kuchma announced that he had ordered the Security Service of Ukraine to provide bodyguards for Mr. Yushchenko.

On October 30, Our Ukraine was scheduled to hold a regional conference in Donetsk, but at the last minute the hall rented for this purpose was cancelled by the city administration. When Mr. Yushchenko arrived in Donetsk with his party, a large number of demonstrators from local pro-Russian organizations were at the gate protesting his arrival. As members of Our Ukraine tried to enter the conference hall, they were blocked by hundreds of demonstrators, while televised footage showed police standing by without interfering.

The following day another Our Ukraine rally was to have been held in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv. Here, too, the Obstal chairman, an appointee of the pro-Russian administration, local state administration and signed by a high-level instruction circulated by the presidential administration and posted on November 7 to mark the 86th anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik revolution by Our Ukraine in Sumy, northeastern Ukraine. According to Interfax, four masked men armed with clubs broke into the store, smashed computers and windows, and destroyed books before fleeing. They left the inscription “This is for Sumy” on the floor, in an apparent reference to the attempt at a forum of democratic forces organized by Our Ukraine in Sumy, northeastern Ukraine, on November 9. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Communists want return of USSR

KYIV – Hundreds of Communist Party supporters, pensioners and war veterans took part in a rally in Kyiv on November 7 to mark the 86th anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik revolution and called on the government to prevent bread prices from rising, Reuters and Interfax reported. Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko told the crowd that Ukraine’s possible entry to the World Trade Organization would ruin the country’s agro-industrial complex. Mr. Symonenko also spoke against NATO entry for Ukraine. Meanwhile, some 2,000 Communist Party members and supporters in Symferopol called on the Ukrainian authorities to ratiﬁ the creation of a Single Economic Space with Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus as the ﬁrst step toward restoring the Soviet Union. Interfax reported. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Quotable notes

“My father was a prisoner of Auschwitz for your sake, lackey!”

– Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko in Donetsk on October 31, on seeing billboards depicting him in a Nazi uniform with a hand extended in a Nazi salute, as quoted by Grani on November 3 and cited by RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report.
Kuchma names new envoy to U.S.

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KVIY – Ukrainian opposition forces claimed they were again subjected to harassment and intimidation tactics as law enforcement officials idly stood by, this time in the northeastern city of Sumy, where they held a forum of democratic forces on November 9.

In their most serious charge, forum participants, which included members of the Our Ukraine and Yulia Tymoshenko Blocs and the Socialist Party, said that individuals threw firecrackers and stones and a crowd of several thousand people who were attending a rally, to which state militia workers were slow to react.

State militia said that 24 individuals were arrested as a result of civil disobedience.

The renewed charges came a little over a week after widespread demonstrations and harassment in Donetsk effectively prevented Viktor Yuschenko’s Our Ukraine coalition from holding a congress in the city. Our Ukraine has claimed that local officials organized the protests on orders from government leaders in Kyiv.

In addition to firecrackers, organizers and participants of the forum were pelted with eggs as militia officers watched. Our Ukraine also noted that organized groups of vandals slashed the tires of dozens of buses – they counted 91 tires in Sumy and pelted others with rocks.

The buses were used to bring Our Ukraine supporters to Sumy for the forum.

In response, according to Ukraina Moloda, National Deputy Tanya Stetsik held several teenagers who had broken the windows of a bus, while two state militia officers – a lieutenant and a major, who had passively watched the events unfold from a distance – turned and ran from the scene.

Ukrainian leaders also charged that organized bands of students roamed the streets around the area where the events took place, distributing Bogdan boglaaks inciting citizens to “bury Yuschenko alive” and handing out 10-hrv notes to people who agreed to demonstrate against Mr. Yuschenko.

They said the political bloc was denied access to the airwaves of the local television station just before the electricity at its studio was unexpectedly shut off. An interview at the Sumy newspaper, Panorama, was canceled after electricity at its offices mysteriously was cut off.

Our Ukraine bloc, which had by far the largest representation at the forum, stated that the actions in Sumy, similar to the harassment that occurred in Donetsk on October 31 and in Livy earlier in the month, was part of an organized campaign set up by the authorities in Kyiv to split Ukraine and turn the presidential elections slated for next year.

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THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAMINE-GENOCIDE IN UKRAINE

Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center hosts teachers’ program on Ukrainian Famine

by Vsevolod Onyshkevych

LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J. – A special program at the Julius and Dorothy Shevchenko Scientific Society, director of the Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center, Dr. Hunczak launched into a detailed factual and emotional exploration of this tragic episode of history.

Holodomor perpetrated by the Stalin regime in Ukraine in 1932-1933

The lecture was given by Dr. Taras Hunczak, professor of history and political science at Rutgers University, on October 15. It was followed on October 16 by the center’s annual fall program for high school teachers, with over 50 members of Holocaust/genocide studies in attendance at which Dr. Hunczak was the featured lecturer.

These events were organized by the Resource Center, with assistance from the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

After brief introductions by Dr. Mordechai Rozanski, president of Rider University, and Dr. Marvin Goldstein, co-director of the Holocaust/Genocide Center, Dr. Hunczak launched into a detailed factual and emotional exploration of this tragic episode of history.

In the middle of the 20th century, Holodomor became a subject of public concern, as is the common public perception of the Holodomor. As is the common public perception of the Holodomor, it is difficult to comprehend the extent of the deaths, and numerous reports of cannibalism and bands of parentless, feral “wild” children, Dr. Hunczak reported.

The Holodomor was not just a simple act of mass murder. It was a deliberate attempt to depopulate the Ukraine, as is the common public perception. The Ukrainian ethnographer, translator and frequent contributor to The Ukrainian Weekly. The variety, and yet universality, of the humanist influence of the terrors these people faced, and never forgot.

Copies of “Holodomor: The Ukrainian Genocide, 1932-1933,” may be ordered from the publisher for $5.95 plus $2 U.S. postage ($3 in Canada and $4 foreign). To order, write to: Charles Schlack, Jr., Publisher, P.O. Box 1256, Idyllwild, CA 92549-1256.

Dr. Harvey Kornberg, president of the Association of New Jersey Holocaust Organizations, pledged to introduce a resolution mandating the Holocaust as one of the genocides to be covered in New Jersey’s core curriculum.

The journal features the following articles:

• Foreword: “1933. Genocide. Ten Million Holodomor” by Peter Borisow, president of the Hollywood Trinidad Foundation and the Genocide Awareness Foundation, focuses on the fact that it is necessary to correct the erroneous perception that Holodomor (literally death by forced starvation) was a weather-generated event. He also discusses the role of public perception gained through the use of the term “famine.”

• Gareth Jones: A Voice Crying in the Wilderness by Margaret Sirioli Collee and Nigel Linsen Collee is based on the Welsh reporter Gareth Jones’ articles (including those that first broke the news of the Famine to the west), diaries and letters, as well as official British government documents. It is a profound influence of the terrors these people faced, and never forgot.

• Dr. James E. Mace, professor of political science at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, contributed the article “Is the Ukrainian Genocide a Myth?” Citing Stalin’s letter to Kaganovich of September 11, 1932, he points out the questionable fact that the genocidal aspects of the Holodomor were both known and condoned at the highest level of the Stalin regime.

• “The Holodomor: 1932-1933” by guest editor Cheryl A. Madden, provides an overview of how the Holodomor makes up a variety of international and multi-ethnic issues to support its vast points of view. It is a Selective Annotated Bibliography of Books in English Regarding the Holodomor and Stalinism and a review of the book of primary source famine-appeal letters, “We’ll Meet Again in Heaven: Ukrainian Famine Letters, 1921-1923.”

• The Holodomor and the Ukrainian Indentity of Suffering: The 1932-1933 Ukrainian Famine in Historical Culture” by Johan Ohman, a Ph.D. candidate at University of California, Los Angeles, examines the ways in which Ukraine’s subjugation by the USSR, especially as demonstrated by the ravages inflicted upon the popula-
A tale of two journalists: Walter Duranty and Garrett Colley

By Dr. James Mace

On June 24 the Pulitzer Prize Committee was sent an open letter by Dr. Margaret Siriol Colin and Nigel Linsan Colin of Brackla on behalf of themselves and family, and the letter was published in The Weekly on July 20. The letter begins:

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to request that you consider the possibility of awarding to Dr. Walter Duranty the Pulitzer Prize for a story on the Holodomor, the great famine of 1932-1933 in the Ukraine. I would like to begin by giving you the background to this letter so that you can understand why I believe that Dr. Duranty should receive this award.

Dr. Duranty was a journalist who covered the Soviet Union from 1927 to 1945. He was a Pulitzer Prize winner in 1932 for his reporting on the Sino-Japanese War. However, it is his reporting on the Holodomor that I wish to bring to your attention. Dr. Duranty's reporting on the Holodomor was so effective that it convinced the world that a famine was taking place in the Ukraine. His reporting was praised by the New York Times, and he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his reporting.

However, in recent years, there has been growing evidence that Dr. Duranty's reporting on the Holodomor was not accurate. In fact, it is now believed that the Holodomor was a deliberate act of genocide by the Soviet government. Dr. Duranty has been accused of covering up this genocide.

I urge you to consider awarding the Pulitzer Prize to Dr. Duranty for his reporting on the Holodomor. His reporting was instrumental in bringing this genocide to the attention of the world. It is only fair that he be recognized for his work.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Re: airbrushing history

Will the airbrushing of history related to the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine continue in this, its 70th anniversary year?

We spoke to developments on two fronts. First, of course, is the case of the infamous Walter Duranty of The New York Times, whose Pulitzer Prize-winning dispatches in the 1930s from Stalin’s para- disse upheld the party line and denied that a Famine was raging in Ukraine. The New York Times — its publisher and other media outlets — has expressed concern that reviving Duranty’s Pulitzer is akin to airbrushing him out of history, much like the Soviets used to airbrush persons non grata out of the picture, both figuratively and literally.

But as Prof. Mark von Hagen (the full text of the letter he sent to the Times appears on the facing page) and others have argued, what those who want Duranty’s Pulitzer rescinded seek is exactly the opposite: not the airbrushing of history, but an exposé of the true facts — that the Famine-Genocide did take place and that Duranty was among those complicit in denying that fact.

There is also the case of the highly significant Senate Resolution 202, which unequivocally states that the Great Famine was genocide. “We’ve written before about the Russian government’s opposition to the measure via the interventions of its Embassy personnel in Washington. And we know that Russia was opposed to it.”

While Senate resolutions do – is stuck in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where Chairman Richard Lugar is being pressured by the administration to not let the resolution stand as written. Though the resolution, which is a “sense of the Senate” resolution, does not express the policy of the Bush administration, the administration nonetheless wants it to be watered down, with references to the Famine as genocide removed. A touch of airbrushing? Meanwhile, S. Res. 202’s sponsor, Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, is standing firm, which makes him all the more courageous a figure as he is going against the wishes of the Republican leadership.

What can you do? If your senators are not among the current 23 co-sponsors (Sens. Joseph Lieberman and Mark Dayton have joined the list since our last report), ask them to sign on. Contact the National Security Council to express your dismay over this position of the Bush administration, most notably from the National Security Council. Whether the reason for this opposition is President George Bush’s good buddy Vladimir [Putin], we do not know. But we do know that the resolution – which has about 110 co-sponsors more than Senate resolutions do – is stuck in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where Chairman Richard Lugar is being pressured by the administration to not let the resolution stand as written. Though the resolution, which is a “sense of the Senate” resolution, does not express the policy of the Bush administration, the administration nonetheless wants it to be watered down, with references to the Famine as genocide removed. A touch of airbrushing? Meanwhile, S. Res. 202’s sponsor, Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, is standing firm, which makes him all the more courageous a figure as he is going against the wishes of the Republican leadership.

It’s time to call things by their true names, to stop the airbrushing, to tell the whole truth about the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

Turning the pages back...

In 1999, The Ukrainian Weekly ran an editorial commenting on the memorial procession and service held in New York City on November 20. Following are excerpts from that editorial:

Stop the silence and end the lies. That was the principal message carried forth by those who participated in the Famine-Genocide memorial procession and service. Ukrainians of all ages, members of various organizations, faithful of different Churches congregated to bear witness to the man-made Famine that decimated the Ukrainian nation in 1932-1933 during Stalin’s reign of terror. They came to remember the greatest tragedy that has ever befallen Ukraine and to mourn its innocent victims, to pledge that they will never forget and will tell the world about one of this century’s darkest periods. That was evident from the placards they carried and from the observations they shared when questioned by a reporter.

But mostly the marchers and mourners came out of the strong conviction that this is among this century’s darkest periods. That was evident from the placards they carried and from the observations they shared when questioned by a reporter.

One of them noted, most notably from the National Security Council. Whether the reason for this opposition is President George Bush’s good buddy Vladimir [Putin], we do not know. But we do know that the resolution – which has about 110 co-sponsors more than Senate resolutions do – is stuck in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where Chairman Richard Lugar is being pressured by the administration to not let the resolution stand as written. Though the resolution, which is a “sense of the Senate” resolution, does not express the policy of the Bush administration, the administration nonetheless wants it to be watered down, with references to the Famine as genocide removed. A touch of airbrushing? Meanwhile, S. Res. 202’s sponsor, Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, is standing firm, which makes him all the more courageous a figure as he is going against the wishes of the Republican leadership.

It’s time to call things by their true names, to stop the airbrushing, to tell the whole truth about the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

Statement in support of remembering the victims of Ukraine’s Great Famine

Following is the full text of a joint “Statement in support of remembering the victims of Ukraine’s Great Famine: issued by the Ukrainian World Congress and the World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations regarding the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1935. The statement was submitted on November 10 to Secretary General Koff Afnan for circulation among the missions of the member-states of the United Nations. The UWC and the WFWO are non-governmental organizations accredited at the U.N.’s Economic and Social Council in consultative status.

When I awoke, before the dawn, and under the sleep I heard my sons ... weep and ask for bread...”

— Dante’s description of Hell, ninth and final circle.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the forced famine of 1932-1933, engi- neered by the Soviet regime in which 7 million to 10 million Ukrainians perish, on the sheer numbers alone to qualify this entry as the world’s most massive genocide. We honor the millions of victims of this most heinous mass crime ever committed by man against man. Historians conclude that no nation lost more than the Ukrainian during the 20th century. Together the famines, purges, persecutions, wars resulted in over 20 million lives lost.

In observance of this year’s commem- oration lies not only in reflection. Seventy years ago when Ukrainians were being racially murdered, the world governments in the many countries in the world were establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. Worse, even the press continued to conceal, among other things, the notorious New York Times chief corre- spondent Walter Duranty.

In 1983 Time magazine wrote about the victims of the famine of 1932-1933: “Their extermination was a matter of state policy, just as the ovens of Dachau were a matter of state policy. The Ukrainian kulaks died ... for the convenience of the state, to help with the organization of the new order of things ... they died and yet the government had the world’s memory of their murder. Why? ...”

To date this tragic event lacks due con- demnation, as is the case with many international institutions and governments.

On November 20 a U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine concluded: “The Genocide Convention defines genocide as one or more specified actions committed with intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group wholly or partial- ly as such ... One or more of the actions specified in the Genocide Convention was taken against the Ukrainians in order to destroy a substantial part of the Ukrainian people ... Overwhelming evi- dence indicates that Stain was warned of impending famine in Ukraine and pressed for measures that could only result in its occurrence and exacerbate its effects. Such policies not only came into conflict with his response to food supply difficul- ties elsewhere in the Soviet Union, but some of them were implemented with greater vigor in ethnically Ukrainian areas than elsewhere and in order to eliminate any manifestation of Ukrainian national self-assertion.”

In 1989 the United Nations Congress convened a tribunal of eminent interna- tional jurists to conduct hearings on the 1932-1933 Famine. This tribunal deter- mined that the Famine was planned by the totalitarian regime of the USSR, that it targeted the Ukrainian nation, and that it claimed at least 7 million lives.

(Continued on page 20)
Published on the 70th anniversary of the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, this book presents an analysis of documents about the Famine found in Western and Russian archives.

It examines reports about the Famine sent at the time by the German, Italian and British consulates to their governments. Up to now, little has been written about these reports. The reports give a shocking picture of the unbelievable tragedy that was unfolding. They also indicate that the Famine was brought about intentionally by the Soviet government.

The book examines Famine witness testimonies collected both in the West and in Ukraine since its independence. A special section is devoted to “Testimonies from Kyiv,” which include articles prepared by Volodymyr Maniak and Alexander Zhuk.

The pressure exerted by the Soviet regime on the Western press to deny the Famine and the willingness of some reporters to comply is also a focal point of the book. A unique article by Terry Martin on the letters of Stalin, recently discovered in the British archives, linking the Famine to Stalin’s hatred of the Ukrainian independence movement of the last report in that section called “Famine Initiators and Executors: Personal Papers.”

In the section “The Other Famine,” the book examines two other famines in Ukraine spawned by the Soviet regime in the 20th century: “The Origin of the Ukrainian Famine of 1921-1923 in the Light of Recent Research” by Roman Serbyha and “The 1946-1947 Famine in Ukraine: A Comment on the Archives of the Underground” by Peter J. Potichnyj.

The book contains an introduction by Dr. Weswold Isiavij; an extensive bibliographic on the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide prepared by Olya Pavlyshyn is included at the end of the volume.


BOOK NOTES: New compilation of materials about Famine-Genocide


FOR THE RECORD: Prof. von Hagen’s letter to the editor of The New York Times

Below is the text of a letter to the editors of The New York Times sent on October 25, 2003, which was intended to be published in the Columbia University. The letter was written in response to a news story (The New York Times, October 23) that quoted a letter to the Pulitzer Prize Board by Times publisher Arthur Sulzberger Jr.

Dear Editors:

I write in response to the suggestion in the letter that [Arthur] Sulzberger Jr., sent to the Pulitzer Prize Committee that revoking Walter Duranty’s 1932 prize was somehow equivalent to Stalin-era airbrushing. Although Mr. Sulzberger did not direct his comments at me, since my report did not include a recommendation about the prize (though the concluding sentences probably gave away my sentiments), I feel that I am now retroactively in the camp of virtual Stalinist airbrushers and compelled to reply.

As historians of the tragic Stalin period know well, all historians are entitled for “airbrushing” were already murdered or languishing in the Gulag (or, in fortunate cases, forced to exile) after being charged on trumped-up charges of espionage, treason, sabotage and other “crimes.” After their arrests or exiles, the NKVD ordered a further “denunciation” of the very victims by directing libraries to expunge all mention of them in books and journals, to remove their books if they had written any, and to generally relagate these victims to the status of non-persons, a fate that persistad for many until the Gorbatchev era. Revoking Duranty’s Pulitzer Prize hardly seems in the same universe as this practice. Duranty died a peaceful death at home, not prosecuted for any crimes, nor having suffered any jail sentence.

Moreover, his articles will remain, in perfect, available in the archives of The New York Times and his books on the shelves of any major library. He will not be relegated to the status of non-person.

Finally, whereas, the purpose of the airbrushing was to suppress the truth about what was happening under Stalin, my intention in speaking in favor of revoking Duranty’s prize is quite the opposite, to bring greater awareness to the standards of reporting and the potential long-term damage that Duranty’s reporting did for our understanding of the Soviet Union.

In the end, if I were a holder, current or future, of the Pulitzer Prize, I would think I rather not be in the company of a journalist whose own NYT colleagues acknowledged was one of the worst reporters they ever published, than to be in his company.

Mark von Hagen
Professor of History
Columbia University

DENVER does it again

Readers of The Ukrainian Weekly will recall that on April 28, 2001, Ukrainian Americans in Denver, commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster, with events that lasted two days. A full-page story appeared in the June 17, 2001, issue of The Weekly.

Denver has a relatively small contingent of Ukrainian Americans. They’re small in numbers, but big in ideas. When Ukrainian Denverites commemorate Ukrainian events, they don’t do it in some isolated, “for Ukrainians only” locale, where they speak exclusively to Ukrainians. The Chornobyl event took place in Denver’s Chessman Park, where the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America (Soyuz Ukrainok) had planted an ash tree and dedicated a Chornobyl commemorative bench in 1986.

Given their approach to Ukrainian commemorations, it should come as no surprise that this year Denver’s Ukrainians did it again. This year they put together a 75th anniversary commemoration of the Great Famine (Holodomor) that was held at the campuses of Regis College and the University of Denver.

The Regis College event was held on Friday, November 7, in the Science Amphitheater. It featured history professor Dan Clayton; Cheryl Madden; Regis emeritus professor Daniel Gallagher; a jovial Irishman and local political mover and shaker who recently became a member of the Holy Transfiguration Ukrainian Byzantine Ukrainian Catholic Church; and this writer, who served as a public member of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine. Soyuz Ukrainok (UNWLA) prepared and coordinated an exhibit of Ukrainian artifacts for the occasion.

A highlight of the evening was a reading by local poet Rawdon Tomlinson, whose original poem dedicated to the Famine brought many in the audience to tears.

The following day some 45 history and social studies teachers from various high schools in the state attended a special event at the University of Denver (UD). The theme was “Food as a Political Weapon.” Presenters included Dr. Carol Holstonky of the department of history, whose topic was politically engineered food shortages in Italy during the Mussolini years, Ms. Madden, who offered a power-point presentation about the Great Famine featuring letters by 1932 inhabitants in Ukraine to their relatives in the United States and Canada, and this writer who reviewed his recently updated Famine Resource and Curriculum Guide for Teachers.

Originally published in 1983, the Famine Guide was recently re-published by the Ukrainian National Association.

An exhibit coordinated by Soyuz Ukrainok featured Ukrainian breads, Ukrainian embroidery and books on the Famine. Soyuz Ukrainok also provided a complimentary lunch for all participants.

Receptions by participating teachers, some of whom will receive one hour of graduate credit from the University of Denver, were held in Chicago, Detroit, Newark and Denver back in 1983. Twenty years later, it’s time to do it again. Why not hold workshops every year, not just once every so often?

Our community needs to get the Famine message out because no one else will. There are many ways to do it, but one of the best is through a university that is willing to offer graduate credit to teachers. It’s a big project, but it can be done if a handful of dedicated individuals decide it should be done. The UNA will supply you with the Famine curriculum guides. Let Denver be your guide. Get busy!

“but I was pleased. You could have charged $100 and it would have been worth every penny.”

The weekend concluded with a commemorative divine liturgy at Holy Ghost Roman Catholic Church, where three priests concelebrated and hundreds participataed.

Special praise belongs to Dr. Ania Savage, who coordinated the UD event and was able to obtain graduate credit for the teachers who participated; Taran M. Bugir, who prepared a CD on the Famine for teachers; Tatiana A. Wynar, who organized the exhibits; Marta Arnold and Inya Saldyt, respectively, UNWLA president and treasurer; Olena Morozewycz who prepared a commemorative cross for the occasion; Roxolana and Misio Wynar, young activists who convinced some of their college colleagues to help out and to sign cards demanding the revocation of Duranty’s Pulitzer Prize; Lileya Palissa, who organized a candlelight remembrance on Saturday evening; and Nadya Mironenko, who coordinated the food drive.

Denver is not the first community to hold workshops for teachers this year. A similar event was held on October 16 at Rider College in Lawrenceville, NJ, where the newly revised, UNA-produced teacher’s curriculum guide was used for the first time.

Teacher-training events were also held in Chicago, Detroit, Newark and Denver back in 1983. Twenty years later, it’s time to do it again. Why not hold workshops every year, not just once every so often?

Our community needs to get the Famine message out because no one else will. There are many ways to do it, but one of the best is through a university that is willing to offer graduate credit to teachers. It’s a big project, but it can be done if a handful of dedicated individuals decide it should be done. The UNA will supply you with the Famine curriculum guides. Let Denver be your guide. Get busy!

Cover of curriculum guide featuring original artwork by Roman Zavadovych.
A tale of two...  
(Continued from page 5)

Gareth Jones spent a couple of weeks, walked about 40 miles, talked to people, slept in their huts, and was appalled at what he saw. “I walked alone through villages and 12 collective farms. Everywhere was the cry, ‘There is no bread; we are dying...’”

Moscow they knew – on the understanding, of course, that their names would never be mentioned – Jones decided it was worth it to defy the prohibition and buy a ticket at the train station to the places assigned for most correspondents. There was a way to avoid this, but Jones did it anyway. He spent a couple of weeks, walked about 40 miles, talked to people, slept in their huts, and was appalled at what he saw. “I walked alone through villages and 12 collective farms. Everywhere was the cry, ‘There is no bread; we are dying...’”

The whole story of denying the crimes of the regime that cost millions of lives is one of the saddest in the history of the American free press, just as the Holodomor is certainly the saddest page in the history of a nation, whose appearance on the world state was so easy to discern. For I was that once young man. But, in contrast to Jones, I have found it next to impossible to love, and have a forum from which I can from time to time be heard. Despite Duranty’s prophecies, the Ukrainians did not forget what had happened to them in 1933, and 70 years later the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the Ukrainian World Congress, with support from a number of other leading Ukrainian diaspora organizations, including the Holodomor Research Institute, have organized a campaign to reopen the case of Walter Duranty 1932 Pulitzer Prize with a view to stripping him of it.

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Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization is reborn in central New York state

by Borys Buniak

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – After nine years of dormancy, Plast has reorganized and rekindled an active association in the city of Syracuse, N.Y. An initiative to consolidate a group of individual members scattered throughout Central New York resulted in an enthusiastic rebirth of the Syracuse Branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

After the difficult task of restructuring was completed earlier this year, Syracuse has become an official group under the auspices of Plast-U.S.A.

On September 21, a merger of individual groups from Binghamton, Syracuse and Utica celebrated their joint venture with a successful opening day ceremony at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Syracuse, followed by a picnic organized by Lida Buniak at Pratt’s Falls Park in Manlius, N.Y.

The protocol for the event was read by lawyer John I. Hvozda, and implemented by Dr. George Temnycky. Blessings and a prayer were led by Father Wasyl Kadylo.

Children and adults alike enjoyed food, nature walks to the scenic waterfalls, organized games, sports, Plast songs and pleasant conversation. Plans for continued growth and activity within our community were a topic of great discussion. With kind support from Father Ivan Kaszczak, Plast will hold regular meetings in the undercross of the church with periodic relocation to either Binghamton or Utica to reduce travel burden on individuals living outside of Syracuse. Such camaraderie is reminiscent of the early organizational cooperation in the early 1960s when these same three cities worked together to raise their children in the spirit of Ukrainian Scouting.

Under the leadership of Dr. Borys Buniak, Plast in Syracuse intends to grow with assistance from its additional members. A total of 14 children gathered at the picnic in order to begin the year of preparation for promotions, activities and friendly sports competition. Counselors for the group’s young members are currently attending local universities and are prepared to conduct regular meetings and organize field trips with their assigned groups. Among them is Orest Mykyta, a student at Syracuse University, who has been a counselor in Syracuse since March.

Plast-Pryiat, a parental support organization for Plast, will be under the direction of Martha Salenko of Binghamton. This post was previously held by Roma Temnycky, who has now assumed the role of treasurer. It is the commitment of such talented parent and student volunteers that ensures the bright future of Plast in upstate New York.

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With Plast’s rebirth in Syracuse, there is anticipation that this group will enhance participation in organized social and community events between former, current and future scouts to strengthen our Ukrainian character and tradition.
NEW YORK – Dr. Vitalii Klitschko will be back in the ring on December 6, for the first time since his highly disputed defeat against WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis. The venue for the fight will be Madison Square Garden in New York City, where Klitschko will try to become the official WBC heavyweight contender again. For this to happen he will have to beat Canadian Kirk Johnson – not an easy task.

The Klitschko vs. Johnson bout will be a 12-round WBC No. 1 mandatory eliminator; Lewis must fight the winner of this fight in his next bout, or be stripped of the WBC title, his only remaining belt. HBO Sports will televise the heavyweight extravaganza, the first card in the main arena at the Garden since Bernard Hopkins-Felix Trinidad in September 2001.

The Ukrainian boxer – whose record is 32-2-0, 31 KOs – is the WBC's No. 1 contender and is regarded as one of the best fighters in the division, coming off his impressive performance against Lewis in June. "Dr. Ironfist" was leading on all three judge's scorecards when the bout was stopped due to several cuts Klitschko suffered during the bout, giving Lewis the decision.

Originally, December 6 was reserved as the date for a rematch between Lewis and Klitschko. But Lewis backed off the bout, declaring that he would not be fighting anymore this year. Klitschko, in contrast, stuck with the date, confirming that he would definitely have his next fight in early December.

Lewis was scheduled to fight Kirk Johnson in June, but the fight did not come through because Johnson contracted an injury, and so Vitalii stepped in. If Klitschko beats Johnson – ranked No. 9 on the WBC's heavyweight list – there will be no excuses left for Lewis not to fight Vitalii in a rematch.

"In my eyes, Vitalii beat Lennox. So, Vitalii is the man to beat right now. For him to be fighting me now – it's a wonderful thing. I didn't see any weakness in Vitalii in his fight with Lennox. But, nobody is indestructible. Come fight night, I will box, punch and finish Klitschko just like I finished (Lou) Savarese," Johnson said during a recent press conference in New York City.

"It's been a long-time dream for me to fight in Madison Square Garden. I promise that I will give just an exciting performance against Johnson as I did against Lennox Lewis," Klitschko said. "I wanted very badly to fight Lewis. But he will not fight. I cannot wait for Lewis to make a decision about his career, so I am ready to fight Kirk."

"I am fully prepared for the fight. But I know that beating Johnson won't be easy. It is my wish to show to supporters around the globe the full spectrum of positive emotions that make boxing worth seeing. Therefore, I am inviting them all to follow the fight," Klitschko said.

***

The Klitschko Fan Club USA will be organizing fan sectors to support Vitalii at MSG; call 732-921-8862 for details.
UNESCO Champion

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization named Serhiy Bukha of Ukraine a UNESCO Champion for Sport on November 4 during a ceremony at the organization’s headquarters in Paris. According to the UNESCO website, the award recognizes “Bukha’s role in the promotion of peace and tolerance through sport and the Olympic spirit, his humanitarian activities in favor of young people, his action to enable disadvantaged children to benefit from physical education and his dedication to the organization’s ideas.”

Ice Hockey

Jordin Tootoo, who became the first player of Inuit descent to play in a National Hockey League game when his Nashville Predators’ took on the Anaheim Mighty Ducks on October 9, is also part Ukrainian. According to the Canadian Press, Tootoo’s father, Barney, is of Inuk heritage, while his mother, Rose, is Ukrainian. The Canadian news wire reported that the five-foot-nine, 20-year-old hails from Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, a town located just south of the Arctic Circle with a population of some 2,500.

Swimming

Ukrainian swimmer Natalia Khudakova was suspended from international competition for two years on October 13 for using an anabolic steroid. Her teammate Angela San Juan, swimming’s governing body, FINA, said in a statement recently.

Rowing

Ukraine took fifth place in the women’s quadruple scull event at the 2003 International Rowing Federation World Championships in Milan, Italy, finishing the race in 6 minutes and 55.40 seconds. The performance earned the team a spot at next year’s Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. Austria took first place in the race with a time of 6:46.52, while Belarus took second place with a time of 6:48.87, and Germany took third place, finishing the race in 6:49.34.

Ukraine took first place in the B pool final of the women’s double scull event, finishing the race in 7:00.19. Although they did not qualify for the A pool final, the crew’s seventh place overall finish was good enough to earn them a spot at next year’s Summer Olympic Games. New Zealand won the event, finishing first in the A pool with a time of 6:45.79

Ukraine took second place with a time of 6:47.57, while Russia took third place with a time of 6:49.50.

Cycling

Ukraine’s Iryna Shpiliova took 15th title, defeating Ponomariov in the quarters. She finished second, while her teammate Polikarpenko finished the race in 1 hour, 54 minutes and 39 seconds. The performance earned the team a spot at next year’s Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. Austria took first place in the race with a time of 6:46.52, while Belarus took second place with a time of 6:48.87, and Germany took third place, finishing the race in 6:49.34.

Fischer took third place.

Marathon

Natalia Berkut of Ukraine took 13th place in the women’s division at the New York City Marathon on November 2, finishing the race in 4 minutes and 5.26 seconds. Turkey’s Suyreya Ayhan took first place with a time of 2:23:04. Lornah Kiplagat of Kenya took second place with a time of 2:22:31, and her teammate Catherine Ndereba took second place with a time of 2:23:04. Lornah Kiplagat of the Netherlands took third place, finishing the race in 2:23:43.

Chess

Ukraine’s Ruslan Ponomariov finished in a disappointing 13th place at the 2003 Rapid Chess World Championship in Cap d’Ade, France, on October 24-30. Vishwanathan Anand of India took the title, defeating Ponomariov in the quarterfinals. Russia’s Vladimir Kramnik took second place, while his teammate Torri Edwards came in second and third, respectively, posting times of 10.87 and 10.98.

Tatiana Tereschkou Antipova took fifth place in the women’s 400-meter hurdles, finishing the race in 55.06 seconds. Russia’s Yuliya Pechonkina took first place with a time of 53.49, Sandra Glover of the United States took second place, finishing in 53.87, and Romania’s Ionela Titea took third place, finishing the race in 54.83 seconds.

Viktoria Stiopina of Ukraine took second. (Continued on page 23)
The kobzari journey across Europe: Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus's 85th anniversary tour

by Anatoli W. Murha

The all-male Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus has a long and proud history of representing Ukrainian bandura and choral music on the international stage since its founding in 1918. Fortified by a whole new generation of young musicians, the chorus has captivated audiences in major concert halls in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia and Ukraine for more than 50 years. Today the majority of chorus members are second- and third-generation Americans and Canadians, with a growing number of recent immigrants from Ukraine.

The musicians all volunteer their talents and time for the mission of the ensemble. Though the chorus has been based in the Metro Detroit area since 1949, it represents talented artists from all across North America, including Alberta, British Columbia, Maryland, Michigan, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and elsewhere.

Members travel to Detroit for weekend rehearsals. On a typical Saturday, the chorus will rehearse for over eight hours. Rehearsal starts at 9 a.m. on Sunday and finishes in the afternoon.

The year 2003 commemorates the 85th anniversary of the chorus. For this celebration, the chorus presented concerts in Windsor and Toronto, Ontario; Detroit and Cleveland, Ohio, and in what was the first time a chorus before departing for its historic tour of Europe.

The idea of a European tour arose in the year 2000. Discussions and ideas among members began earlier, but it was not until the new millennium arrived that the executive board and the Artistic Committee of the chorus agreed to undertake this ambitious project. A meeting of touring Europe to a new level of commitment. As the president of UBC, the mission was truly understood of working with a highly motivated team. The mission was truly understood of working with a highly motivated team.

Various ideas and plans were present- ed, and in the end, a decision was made to work with a professional touring company that specializes in organizing tours for musical groups. We chose to work with Classical Movements Inc, an interna- tionally recognized touring company whose clients include some of America’s most beloved institutions: John F. Kennedy Center for the Arts, the National Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

The mission of the tour
For approximately two years, I worked with Classical Movements on behalf of the chorus to develop an itinerary that best suited our goals for the tour. We had four objectives in mind:

• introduce the bandura and Ukrainian song to the general European audience;
• visit the Ukrainian populace where the chorus last visited in 1958;
• meet other cultural institutions and develop artistic relationships; and
• commemorate our 85th anniversary with a historic achievement.

To gain a better understanding of the tour route and logistics surrounding them, Classical Movements requested that I, along with Oleh Mahlay, the UBC’s artistic director and conductor, visit the locales the chorus was planning to tour. For eight days in November of 2002 we visited Manchester and London, England; Paris, Strasbourg and Saint Avoold, France; Munich, Germany; and Vienna, Austria. Making our way back to the United States, we both were very impressed with the venues Classical Movements had chosen, and even more impressed with the contacts they had to ensure those venues as performance stops.

For the next eight months our rehears- al schedule was more intensive. Our work as the executive board and Artistic Council expanded as various logistics had to be handled, such as finalizing the concert ensemble, preparing logistics of concert program, rental sound equipment, and finalizing plans for a video, audio and stage crew. While the adminis- trative responsibilities were challenging, the leadership of the group had the pleasure of working with a highly motivated team. The mission was truly understood by the membership.

Destination: Manchester
Chorus members knew that June 25 was an important date. The plane tickets and itineraries were all set for a June 25 departure. Being that the chorus is spread all throughout North America, we flew from Detroit, New York and Toronto.

Upon arrival in Manchester on June 26 the excitement intensified and we were ready to get on with the tour. We had 66 people on the tour plus a profes- sional tour guide (Constanze) provided by Classical Movements. The 66 included 51 performers, plus wives of members and guests who paid to join the tour, along with a video, audio and road crew.

The individuals were assigned to one of two buses. The Kyat and Bozhk buses had their own historical signifi- cance. Vołodymyr Kyat conducted the UBC during its 1958 tour of Europe, and via the buses they were once again with us in Europe.

Upon arrival at the hotel, we had the opportunity to relax before our welcome dinner hosted by the touring company.

June 27 – our first concert
We departed the hotel in shirts and ties on Thursday morning for an afternoon rehearsal at the Ukrainian Hall. Here the managers and workers of the hall warmly welcomed us as we fine-tuned for the evening’s performance – our first concert in Europe since 1938. As the afternoon progressed, the excitement grew among the group, even with the rain pouring away outside.

Our venue was the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM), which has roots dating back to the 19th century, and was described to me as the Juilliard of England. Our concert would be held in the hexagon-shaped Brown Shipley Concert Hall.

Once we arrived, the process of set-up began. The road crew and choir members positioned speakers, microphones, cables, wires and monitors, while the other members of the road crew helped set up the sales table, the video crew set up their cameras, and the instrumental- ists tuned their banduras. The 8 p.m. cur- tain time was approaching. In our new costumes, which were exquisitely pre-

(Continued on page 13)

MUSIC REVIEW: Zuk Piano Duo plays with heart
by Thomas Davidson

MONTREAL – After numerous days of rain, the clouds lifted and the sun shone here on Tuesday, October 28. That evening the Zuk Piano Duo also gave an eagerly anticipated and heart-warming concert at McGill University’s Pollack Hall to a large and enthusiastic audience.

The program began with excerpts from the monumental and somewhat sombre “Musical Offering” by J.S. Bach. Almost in homage to the atmospheric and meteorologi- cal conditions of the recent past, the thick- ness of contrapuntal texture and the continu- ous falling chromatic lines of the thematic material in the music gave the listeners cause for reflection. The Zuk Duo suitably cap- tured the architectural design of the music.

The sun then came out in the “Hymn to a Great City” by Arvo Pärt. The sim- plicity of his work’s harmonic structure and its spacious design gave the Zuk Duo an opportunity to show off their exquisite control of tonal color and balance. This was tone-painting of the highest order.

Since the program began with Bach, it seemed most fitting to end the first half with George Fiala’s Sonata for Two Pianos. This very skillfully crafted work is rich in counterpoint and also contains a great deal of variety. Here, the pianistic prowess of the performers really came to life. Their deep understanding of the music was realized through absolute control of rhythm and texture. Contrasting musical ideas were clearly presented and each one came alive with its own individu- al character. A wide dynamic range and the duo’s trademark control of sound were also noteworthy. The performance left this listener wanting to hear the piece again in order to retain the wealth of this “musical offering.”

Luba and Irenesuk Zuk are well-known for their premiere performances of contem- porary music, and this occasion was no exception. The second half began with a wonderful performance of “Ancient Dances” by Tchaikovskaya, Tchaikovsky’s engaging work, a complex and driving rhythmic figure was used throughout. Here, Luba Zuk showed off an admirable control of dynamic articulation while her brother, Irenesuk, provided orchestrations over-top with sounds that ranged from swirling cloud-like wisps to bell-like sonorities. The presentation was very effective.

This program was not without its stormy moments either. Take their per- formance of Liszt’s “Mazeppa.” However, the excitement managed here was not at the expense of a grandiose symphonic scheme. Liszt would have been proud. This was an impressive tech- nical display at the service of the music. The Zukos were called back for an encore – the second movement from a Sonatina by Borh Bihorad, involving a wistfully romantic folk-song melody. The playing of this beautiful piece exempli- fied the way the Zuk Duo seemed to invite the audience to join them for a per- sonal and heartfelt evening of music.

This is what communication and artistry is all about and was perhaps the most striking feature of the performance.
The kobzari journey...

(Continued from page 12)

pared by artisans in Ukraine, we were ready for our first concert. The excitement of the audience fueled our intensity on stage. We received a standing ovation at the end of the first half of the concert after performing the epic piece “Bayda,” with solosists Andrij Soroka as the Sultan and John Zinchuk as Bayda. We performed three encores after the second half of the concert to standing ovations. It was a great way to kick off a tour. June 28-29 – London

We departed London on Saturday, June 28, and had an opportunity to stop in Oxford for lunch. We arrived in London in the early evening and had the opportunity to walk around and tour the city. We were fortunate that our hotel was very close to the British Museum and the Millennium Wheel, along with other tourist attractions.

On Sunday, June 29, we started our day sharing our music by singing the divine liturgy at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Family in Exile. The cathedral invited the chorus for a lunch which was very well received by the mixed audience of English and Ukrainians.

June 30-July 2 – Paris

On June 30 we departed on another rainy morning for Paris. This travel day would take us through the Channel. The buses drove up into a rail car and 30 minutes later we were in Calais, France. Heading towards Paris, we stopped at Vimy Ridge to pay our respects to the Canadian soldiers who fought in World War I. Vimy Ridge is a strategic escarpment that overlooks the Douai Plain in France. The Germans controlled the ridge, while 150,000 French and British troops died trying to take it back. The Canadians came in with their battle plan and overtook the ridge, losing 3,600 soldiers in four days.

The limestone memorial at Vimy Ridge with its twin stone pillars list the names of 11,285 soldiers who died in the battle. The memorial was dedicated by Pope John Paul II in 1984.

That evening, the chorus performed a special performance at the Cathedral of Notre Dame. Chorus members pose for a photograph in front of Notre Dame before the concert.

Before the concert in St. Avold, UBC President Anatoli W. Murha (center) and UBC conductor Oleh Mahlay (second from left) accept a gift from the city of St. Avold from Sir Benno Niedzielski (far left) and representatives of the mayor of St. Avold.

The chorus posed for this picture after singing a divine liturgy at the Ukrainian Catholic church in Munich. Afterwards the chorus sang a memorial service for two of its members, Omelan Helbig and Makar Sushko, who had passed away in the United States and Canada, respectively, while the chorus was on tour in Europe.
Self Reliance...

(Continued from page 1)

contribution would help entice other donations. “Dear boys and girls, when you go home tell your parents: ‘Open up and make a tax-exempt donation to the foundation.’” Although it was not announced during the assembly, Mr. Lozynskyj said he personally made a donation of $100,000 to the foundation.

It was reported in early June that, in response to news that the two schools were facing serious financial difficulties, an independent charitable foundation was formed in order to lend support to both St. George School and St. George Academy.

The foundation, a not-for-profit corporation, is based in New York City and is a tax-exempt, 501 (c) 3 organization. According to the foundation’s certificate of incorporation, the organization’s board of directors is composed of Bishop Basil Losten, the Rev. Sandrich, Oksana Bodnar, Myra Kovalchik, Peter Shyska, Sister Chrysostom Lukiw, Mr. Lozynskyj, Marta Kostyk and the Rev. John Terlecky.

That document also stated that the corporation is “organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to institutions that qualify as [tax] exempt.”

In this case, officials at the foundation have said that the beneficiary of their funding will be the two Ukrainian Catholic schools.

The Rev. Sandrich estimated the annual cost of running both schools at $51 million and said that the goal of an endowment composed of $3 million to $5 million would cover the school’s annual costs and go toward improvements.

According to the foundation’s certificate of incorporation, the organization was created to “solicit, collect and otherwise raise money to support St. George Elementary School and St. George Academy.” The foundation is a separate entity and has no authority over either St. George Academy or St. George School.

The document states that “nothing herein shall authorize the corporation [St. George Ukrainian Catholic Schools Foundation] to operate or maintain a nursery school, elementary school or secondary school. Nothing herein shall authorize the corporation to operate or

New compilation...

(Continued from page 7)

Silence: The Response of the Western Press Corps in Moscow to the Ukraine Famine in 1932-1933” by Susan J. Taylor, (author of the highly acclaimed biography “The Nebraska Episcopalian: St. George’s Episcopal Church in Lincoln, Nebraska”)

The price of the book is $20 (Canadian funds within Canada; $20 U.S. outside of Canada), plus shipping and handling. Orders may be placed by phone, (416) 966-1819; fax, (416) 966-1820; e-mail, ucrcdc@interlog.com; or mail, UCRDC, 620 Spadina Ave., Toronto, ON M5S 2H4, Canada. Payment is accepted only in cash, check or money order.

To subscribe: Send $55 ($45 if you are a member of the UNA) to The Ukrainian Weekly Subscription Department, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.
The kobzari journey...
(Continued from page 13)
coned our music extremely warmly. Strasbourg is home to the Council of Europe, an intergovernmental organiza-
tion that works to better the cultural, humanitar-
ian, and political aspects of Europe. The Council of Europe is a dis-
tine forum that we could be confused with the European Union.

The following day, we were part of yet
another historic event.

July 4 – Saint Avold

After a morning tour of Strasbourg, we departed for Saint Avold, France, site of the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial that is the burial ground for 10,489 American soldiers who died in World War II. Saint Avold was a strategic communications center for the Third Reich during the war.

Since World War II, Saint Avold and the United States have shared strong cul-
tural, social and political ties. This is most clearly evidenced by the efforts of Sir Benno Niedzielski, our host in Saint Avold. Sir Benno fought for her majesty’s military during the second world war and was eventually knighted for his efforts in bringing down the Germans – both by showing down German planes and by taking out a submarine installation.

Over the years Sir Benno and his fel-
coworkers – cultural enthusiasts in Saint Avold felt it was necessary to keep strong ties with America. When Sir Benno first heard of the UBC’s tour, he asked Classical Movements to schedule a con-
cert in Saint Avold to perform on July 4. A week’s worth of cultural activities was planned leading up to our arrival and even-
tional concert.

Our July 4 started with a commemora-
tion service at the cemetery, where we were greeted by Sir Benno, and American mil-
itary personnel from the cemetery – the largest burial ground of American sol-
diers in Europe, surpassing that of Normandy. Here, flanked by local televi-
sion, the UBC had an opportunity to sing “Amazing Grace,” “God Bless America” and “Vichnaya Pamiat” out of respect for the fallen soldiers that commemorate America’s independence.

After visiting the cemetery, the UBC was invited to the City Hall and present-
ed with a gift on behalf of the mayor of
Vienna, one could feel a sense of accom-
plishment by members of the chorus. The last two weeks saw eight full perfor-
mances, two liturgies, and a once-in-a-life-
time performance at the Cathedral of Notre Dame. Our mission was complet-
ed. We presented Ukrainian music and the bandura to audiences that were famil-
 iar with the chorus, and to audiences who had never heard Ukrainian music or the bandura. Thousands heard us, and the word has spread to North America.

For more information about the cho-
rus, its releases and events, visit our web site or read about our future perfor-
mances online. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our readers and to our newly re-
PASSAIC, N.J. – Ukrainian American Veterans Post 17 commander Walter Kupecky was recently honored by the state of New Jersey and the 26th New Jersey Legislative District for meritorious service during the Korean conflict.

The citation reads: “Your meritorious service, outstanding leadership and selfless acts during your military career have exemplified true patriotism and concern for others.” The presentation took place at the American Legion Post 279 in Lincoln Park, N.J., on May 17.

The ceremony commenced with the posting of colors by the American Legion color guard. Lincoln Park Mayor David G. D’Andrea led all assembled in the “Pledge of Allegiance” and the national anthem was rendered by Larissa D’Andrea. The Rev. Tom Beringer delivered a moving invocation; Mayor Baker delivered the welcoming remarks and reminded all assembled of the supreme sacrifice made by our nation’s young men.

U.S. Rep. Rodney P. Frelinghuysen presented the medal in the presence of Mr. Kupecky’s family and state and county legislatures. In his remarks prior to the presentation, Rep. Frelinghuysen reminded the honored guest and all attendees of the sacrifices faced by American men and women in uniform throughout the world in defense of democracy.

Mr. Kupecky received the Korean War commemorative medal and service ribbon, which he will add to his numerous citations and medals.

After the presentation refreshments were served, and the assembled veterans and guests were seen in heated discussions about the Korean “police action.” Commander Kupecky, always a true Ukrainian, reminded Rep. Frelinghuysen to support the bill granting a federal charter to the UAV, which is sitting in committee lacking the necessary co-sponsors.

Mr. Kupecky has been re-elected as Post 17 commander for 2003-2004 and has a full calendar for the post and its members.

The post is holding its gala Christmas party on December 21 at the Mountainside Inn in Clifton, N.J. The post holds its monthly meetings the second Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian National Home in Passaic; all Ukrainian American veterans are welcome.
events in Donetsk on October 31, according to many observers, developed in accordance with this instruction. According to many Ukrainian publications, including the Ukrainska Pravda website and the Grani weekly, the plan of "countermeasures" against Mr. Yushchenko in Donetsk was coordinated by Donetsk Oblast Council Chairman Borys Kolesnykov, Donetsk Oblast Chairman Anatoli Blizniuk and Donetsk Oblast Vice-Chairman Vasyl Dzharta.

The entire "anti-Yushchenko operation" was also allegedly supported by Rinat Akhmetov, Ukraine’s richest oligarch, whom many call the “real boss” of Donetsk and the backbone of the Donetsk clan.

The anti-Yushchenko groups in Donetsk consisted mainly of students from colleges and vocational-training schools, and outdoor-market vendors. Some of the students were reportedly paid 20-40 hrv ($3.75-$7.50) for participating in the anti-Yushchenko action. Most of them were treated to free beer and, to a lesser extent, free vodka. Vendors were reportedly released from paying market fees for three days. Additionally, they were threatened with losing their market stalls if they failed to appear at the rally.

Every group of 10 to 15 anti-Yushchenko demonstrators had a “leader” – usually a young man with a shaved head — who told them what anti-Yushchenko slogans to shout and when. Grani called these young men "Akhmetovjugend," but did not provide more details about their organizational affiliation.

"All who are today involved in politics and want to feel spicy sensations, while not anticipating the reaction of the Ukrainian people to this, should most likely secure themselves with diapers instead of engaging themselves in politics," Prime Minister Mr. Yanukovych commented on the Donetsk events, adding that Our Ukraine forgot to "measure the temperature" in the city before it went to hold a congress there.

Ukrainian commentators perceive this comment as Mr. Yanukovych’s unambiguous approval for how the Donetsk authorities welcomed Mr. Yushchenko in the city. Moreover, according to some reports later corroborated by Mr. Yushchenko, the firm that placed billboards with the Our Ukraine leader in a Nazi uniform belongs to Mr. Yanukovych’s son. At first glance, it might appear that Mr. Yanukovych emerged as the winner of this clash with Mr. Yushchenko in Donetsk, which has been seen by many as an unofficial inauguration of the 2004 presidential election campaign in Ukraine.

However, some aspects of the anti-Yushchenko hullabaloo in Donetsk might be extremely uncomfortable with Mr. Yanukovych as a potential rival of Mr. Yushchenko in the presidential election. For example, many anti-Yushchenko demonstrators waved Russian flags and shouted insulting remarks about the Ukrainian language. These two things alone, even apart from the heavy-handed orchestration of "popular protest" in Donetsk against Mr. Yushchenko, hardly present Mr. Yanukovych in a positive light, as a potential leader to be accepted by most Ukrainians. After all, a national leader should not be associated with any denigration of the indigenous language or culture of the country he runs or seeks to run.

Thus, it seems that someone, either in the Donetsk clan or in the presidential administration, intentionally “over-stretched” the anti-Yushchenko protest in Donetsk “in the eastern direction” in order to harm Mr. Yanukovych’s chances of being chosen by President Kuchma as a successor.

Mr. Yushchenko’s lesson from Donetsk is bitter. Some even speculated that he might be able to strike a deal with the Donetsk oligarchs ahead of the presidential election. For example, they could support the our Ukraine leader’s presidential bid, while he, after being elected president, would appoint a prime minister proposed by them. Now it is clear that Mr. Yushchenko and the Donetsk oligarchs are at war, and he cannot count on tapping their financial resources or using their political clout in eastern Ukraine.

Our Ukraine’s alliance with a political force that is not seen in eastern Ukraine as a “nationalist” and/or “anti-Russian” now seems to be a must if Mr. Yushchenko wants to be a serious presidential rival to the candidate fielded by the “party of power” and the oligarchs.

Since Our Ukraine’s election alliance with the Communist Party of Petro Symonenko seems to be one of the least-probable political developments in Ukraine, one should now expect a warming of relations between Mr. Yushchenko and Oleksander Moroz, leader of the Socialist Party of Ukraine.

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**Hard lessons... (Continued from page 2)**

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UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS

The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus (UBC) would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all donors for their continued support. The UBC is proud to preserve its role as ambassadors of Ukrainian music and bandura across the globe due to generous supporters. Below is a list of donations from the United States, Canada and United Kingdom from June 1, 2002 – October 31, 2003 for the Chorus’ 85th Anniversary Concert Season and historic Western European Tour.

Friends of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus – P.O. Box 1219, Detroit, MI 48212 www.bandura.org
**NEWSBRIEFS**

(Continued from page 2)

voting is required to interpelate the Ukrainian president. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv holds off on ratification of SES

KYIV – Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko told journalists in Kyiv on November 6 that Ukraine will consider the ratification of an agreement on the formation of a Single Economic Space (SES) with Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus only after resolving the dispute over the construction of a dam in the Kerch Strait by Russia, Interfax reported. Gryshchenko asserted that Ukraine is interested in determining the status of the Azov Sea and the Kerch Strait as soon as possible on the basis of international law. Asked if Russians have to pay large fees for passing through the Kerch Strait, Mr. Gryshchenko said the Ukrainian state does not apply any duties, as all fees go to the Kerch port authority. He said the fees are not large, adding that the issue is not serious enough to be raised in talks with Moscow. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Rada members comment on dispute

KYIV – “Tuzla symbolizes a fundamental crisis in our relations with Russia.” We have never discussed so actively the possibility of an armed conflict even when we were dividing the Black Sea Fleet,” Reuters quoted Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko, a likely presidential candidate next year, as saying. Our Ukraine lawmaker Yuriy Yekhanurov said during debate in Parliament that Ukraine needs to restore its nuclear arsenal. “Naturally, we cannot afford an arms race, but our country is not too poor to create anew a small nuclear arsenal that it would be able to serve as a factor of deterrence for some ‘excessively friendly’ neighbors,” Interfax quoted him as saying. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Deputy says dispute will be resolved

MOSCOW – Duma Deputy Dmitrii Rogozin, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, said the conflict over the Russian dam being built near Tuzla Island is “the result of Ukraine’s ambitions to join NATO.” RTR and NTV reported on October 22 Ukraine claims that the Tuzla islet is its territory and that it is threatened by the dam. “In fact, there is no Tuzla islet at all,” Mr. Rogozin said. “It is merely the above-water part of a seabed sand spit that reaches far out into the Kerch Strait.” He added that if Russia and Ukraine are unable to agree on the status of the Azov Sea, it could acquire the status of international waters and other countries, including NATO countries, could gain the unrestricted use of it. “I am sure that President [Vladimir Putin has] levers to deal with this problem,” Mr. Rogozin said. “I am sure he can just call Leonid Kuchma and say a few words. President [Leonid] Kuchma understands Russian better than Ukrainian,” he added. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv seeks to work on satellite system

ASHGABAT – Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, on an official visit to Ashgabat, told his Turkmen counterpart, Rashid Meredov, on November 5 that Ukraine would like to work with Turkmenistan on developing a satellite-communications and radio-broadcasting system. Interfax reported. Mr. Meredov replied that Ashgabat is interested in involving Ukrainian firms in large-scale projects in Turkmenistan. Ukraine is already involved in various natural-gas projects in Turkmenistan as partial payment for annual gas supplies to Turkmenistan. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Kyiv, Moscow discuss sea border

KYIV – Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Kaluzhnyi met with his Ukrainian counterpart, Oleksander Motnyk, in Kyiv on November 5 to discuss the contentious issue of the border delimitation in the Kerch Strait and the Azov Sea. Interfax reported. They agreed that government-level talks on the issue will be held every month. Mr. Motnyk told journalists that the Ukrainian side presented the Russian one with a package of documents confirming that the Tuzla Island in the Kerch Strait belongs to Ukraine. “We have some documents saying that this island belonged to Russia or Kazakhstan [Krai],” Mr. Kaluzhnyi responded, promising to send them to Kyiv so that during the next meeting, scheduled for December 5, “both sides will have something to speak about.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

Opposition disrupts Rada session

KYIV – Lawmakers from Our Ukraine, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Socialist Party blocked the parliamentary rostrum and brought a Verkhovna Rada session to a halt for the second consecutive day on November 6. Interfax reported. The opposition protest followed an unsuccessful attempt to sup- port a motion to hear government officials report on the foiled Our Ukraine congress in Donetsk on Oct. They agreed that government-level talks on the issue will be held every month. Mr. Motnyk told journalists that the Ukrainian side presented the Russian one with a package of documents confirming that the Tuzla Island in the Kerch Strait belongs to Ukraine. “We have some documents saying that this island belonged to Russia or Kazakhstan [Krai],” Mr. Kaluzhnyi responded, promising to send them to Kyiv so that during the next meeting, scheduled for December 5, “both sides will have something to speak about.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

President urges political reform

KYIV – Speaking at a forum of business representatives from Ukraine and Serbia and Montenegro in Kyiv on November 5, President Leonid Kuchma warned of negative consequences for Ukraine if it fails to adopt constitutional reform. Ukrainian Television reported. “There are no checks between the executive and legislative branches of power,” Mr. Kuchma said. “There is no mutual responsibility. Tell me, please – I don’t want to offend anyone among the deputies – but isn’t there anybody there whose head is hurting because Parliament is not working today.” Mr. Kuchma added that if political reform is not implemented now, the next president will never make it happen. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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On the 70th Anniversary of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine (Holodomor) [murder by hunger]:

In the former Soviet Union millions of men, women and children fell victims to the cruel actions and policies of the totalitarian regime.

The Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine (Holodomor), which took 7 to 10 millions of innocent lives, became a national tragedy for the Ukrainian people. In this regard we note activities in observance of the 70th anniversary.

Honoring the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian tragedy, we also commemorate the memory of millions of Russians, Kazaks and representatives of other nationalities who died of starvation in the Volga river region, North Caucasus, Kazakstan and in other parts of the former Soviet Union, as a result of civil war and forced collectivization, leaving deep scars in the consciousness of future generations.

Expressing sympathy to the victims of the Great Famine, we call upon all member-states, the United Nations and its special agencies, international and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, foundations and associations to pay tribute to the memory of those who perished.

Based on the foregoing, we call upon the governments of the world community of nations and U.N. non-governmental organizations to recognize the 1932-1933 Famine in Ukraine as genocide against the Ukrainian people and to remember the 7 million to 10 million innocents who perished.

On December 2, 1998, at the plenary meeting of the 53rd session of the U.N. General Assembly on agenda item 46(b) “Fiftieth Anniversary of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide” Ukraine’s permanent representative to the U.N. stated: “Last month Ukraine commemorated one of the most tragic chapters in its history, the 65th anniversary of the man-made famine of 1932-1933, when the Ukrainian people became the object of a conscious and deliberate genocide undertaken by the Soviet regime.”

On April 14, 2000, at a meeting of the U.N. Security Council on the situation concerning Rwanda, Ukraine’s permanent representative to the U.N. stated: “For Ukraine, genocide is not just a term. We experienced difficult times in our own history; this century alone witnessed an unspeakable tragedy, when more than 7 million people were exterminated within two years by a well-planned famine. These events took place in a country once called the breadbasket of Europe.”

On September 24, 2003, at the general debate of the 58th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ukraine’s president urged: “Seventy years ago the totalitarian Soviet regime engineered an artificial famine in Ukraine, which claimed the lives of 7 million to 10 million of our compatriots. Unfortunately, back in 1933 the world did not respond to our tragedy. The international community believed the cynical propaganda of the Soviet Union, which was selling bread abroad while in Ukraine the hunger was killing 17 people a minute. From this podium, I would like to call upon all of you to pay tribute to the memory of those who perished.”

This year the Parliament of Ukraine adopted a statement on the 70th anniversary of the Famine honoring the victims and identifying that heinous act as genocide. The legislatures of Argentina, Australia, Canada and the United States passed similar resolutions. Others are pending.

Statement in support...

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Demonstrations slated in NYC

NEW YORK – In view of the fact that Pulitzer Prize Board will meet in New York City, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, in cooperation with the Ukrainian World Congress, is organizing demonstrations before The New York Times building in New York City, as well as bureaus throughout the U.S. to protest the Pulitzer awarded in 1932 to Walter Duranty.

Demonstrations are scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, at noon and proposed in cities where Ukrainian communities reside, including: Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Hartford, Albany and Washington. Similar demonstrations are planned in major cities throughout the world where The New York Times foreign bureaus are located.

On Friday, November 21, a second demonstration is planned before Columbia University’s School of Journalism as the Pulitzer Prize Board and its special subcommittee on Duranty meet to presumably decide the fate of Duranty’s Pulitzer Prize.

Famine exhibit... (Continued from page 1)

and said that a joint statement on the 70th anniversary of the Holodomor, drawn up by the delegation of Ukraine and co-sponsored by many member-states, will be distributed as an official document of the United Nations General Assembly.

He went on to say: “We are convinced that exposing violations of human rights, preserving historical records and restoring the dignity of victims by recognizing their suffering, will help the international community avoid similar catastrophes in the future.”

Askold Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian World Congress, paraphrased a very moving excerpt from Vasyl Barka’s “The Yellow Prince” a ground-breaking literary work about the Famine.

Since the U.N. hosted the exhibition, numerous dignitaries from that world organization attended the opening of the exhibition. Among them were: Prof. Gido de Marco, president of Malta and former president of the U.N. General Assembly, Julian Hunte, president of the 78th session of the United Nations; Jean-Marie Guehenno,

Famine Remembrance... (Continued from page 1)

Ukraine and Yezhzan Kh. Kazykanov of Kazakhstan; Ukraine’s Consul General in New York Serhiy Pohoreltzev, and National Deputy Hennadii Udovenko, chair of the Verkhovna Rada’s Committee on Human Rights, who is a former ambassador of Ukraine to the United Nations as well as a former minister of foreign affairs. Messrs. Kuchinsky and Udovenko spoke at the conference’s first panel on the topic “National and International Response to the Man-Made Famine: The Politics of Acknowledgment.”

Mr. Kazykanov delivered a statement of support and condoleance on behalf of Kazakhstan.

Other speakers on the first panel were Dr. James Mace, former staff director of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, and Dr. Margaret Sirol Colley, niece of Gareth Jones, a Welsh journalist who exposed the Famine-Genocide but who for 70 years “has been conveniently airbrushed out of history.”

Subsequent panels were devoted to the topics of “Archival Evidence Since the Fall of the Soviet Union” and “The Ukrainian Famine-Genocide in Memory and the Arts.”

The daylong conference, which took place at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs, was held under the aegis of the Ukrainian Studies Program and the Harriman Institute at Columbia University, the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences.

More details about the conference and other events of Famine Remembrance Week will appear in succeeding issues of The Ukrainian Weekly.
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Federations World Athletics Final held in Monaco on September 13-14. Russia’s Svetlana Krivelyova took second place with a mark of 240.88 feet. Cuba’s Yipsi Moreno took first place in the event with a throw of 246.00 feet. Several athletes took second place with a throw of 233.47 feet, and Michaela Melinte of Romania took third with 233.36 feet.

In the women’s hammer throw event, Ukraine’s Vita Pavlysh took first place with a throw of 81.36 feet, while Ukraine’s Ostapchuk of Belarus took third with a throw of 81.76 feet. In the men’s hammer throw on September 7 with a throw of 218.05 feet. Cuba’s Yipsi Moreno took first place in the event with a throw of 218.05 feet. Russia’s Olga Kuzenkova took second place with a throw of 233.47 feet, and Michaela Melinte of Romania took third with 233.36 feet.

In the men’s high jump event, Ukraine’s Yurii Bilonoh of Ukraine took second place with a jump of 7.55 feet, while Russia’s Tatyana Lebedeva took first place in the event, clearing 7.45 feet, and Yaroslav Rybakov of Ukraine took second place with a jump of 7.55 feet. Stefan Holm of Sweden took third place with a jump of 7.23 feet.

In the women’s high jump event, Ukraine’s Babakova took fifth place with a jump of 6.53 feet. Hestria Cloete of the Republic of South Africa took first place, clearing 6.66 feet. Hestria Cloete of the Republic of South Africa took first place with a jump of 6.59 feet. Aldama of Cuba took second place with a jump of 6.53 feet. Babakova’s Babakova took fifth place in the event, clearing 6.43 feet.

Ukraine’s Lishchynska took 10th place in the women’s 1,500-meters, finishing the race in 5 minutes and 5.89 seconds, while Turkey’s Ayhan took first place with a time of 3:54.89. Kajsa Bergqvist took third place with a jump of 3:57.72. Kenya’s Jackline Maranga took second place with a time of 4:01.48, and Hayley Tullet of Great Britain took third with a time of 4:01.60.

In the women’s triple jump event, Russia’s Tatyana Lebedeva took first place in the event with a jump of 49.44 feet, while Russia’s Tatyana Lebedeva took first place in the event with a jump of 49.67 feet, and Cuba’s Yamila Aldama took third place with a throw of 49.21 feet. Ukraine’s Inga Babakova and Iryna Mykhalchenko tied for 10th place, clearing 6.23 feet.

In the women’s 100-meters, finishing the race in 11.27 seconds. Chryste Gaines of the United States took first place in the event with a time of 11.04. American Torri Edwards took second with a time of 11.06, and American Torri Edwards took third with 11.06.

In the women’s discus, Ukraine’s Olena Pospisilova took first place with a throw of 206.82 feet, and the Czech Republic’s Vera Pospiskova took first place with a throw of 213.58 feet, and the Czech Republic’s Vera Pospiskova took first place with a throw of 214.63 feet. American Aretha Hill took second place with a throw of 213.58 feet, and Ekaterina Vokhod of Greece took third place with a throw of 208.50 feet.

In the women’s long jump, Ukraine’s Andrii Skvorak took fifth place in the men’s high jump on September 7, hitting a mark of 67.36 feet, and Christian Cantwell of the United States took first place with a throw of 67.36 feet, and Christian Cantwell of the United States took first place with a throw of 67.36 feet.

In the men’s long jump, Ukraine’s Volodymyr Zasukh took sixth place with a jump of 67.36 feet, and Christian Cantwell of the United States took first place with a throw of 67.36 feet. Hestria Cloete of the Republic of South Africa took first place, clearing 6.66 feet. Hestria Cloete of the Republic of South Africa took first place with a jump of 6.59 feet. Aldama of Cuba took second place with a jump of 6.53 feet.
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