Ukraine marks 75th anniversary of the Holodomor

by Illya M. Labunka

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV — As Ukraine’s capital witnessed the first snowfall of the season on a gray and cold day, thousands of citizens from all corners of the country and Ukrainians as well as non-Ukrainians from as far as Australia and North America arrived in Kyiv on Saturday, November 22, to bow their heads and pay tribute to the memory of the millions of victims who perished in the Holodomor of 1932-1933.

Official ceremonies commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Stalin-engineered Holodomor commenced early in the morning as President Viktor Yushchenko placed flowers at the Holodomor Memorial on St. Michael’s Square. The memorial was erected in 1993, but only since Mr. Yushchenko’s presidency has the solemn memorial come to serve as a popular pilgrimage site to lay flowers and light candles in memory of the Famine-Genocide victims.

Following their visit to the Famine memorial, President and Mrs. Yushchenko attended a panakhyda (memorial service) in memory of the Holodomor victims at St. Sophia Cathedral. During the memorial service, foreign dignitaries and invited guests from around the world gathered at St. Sophia Cathedral, along with leaders, Ukrainian and U.S. government officials and diplomatic officials, and a Holodomor survivor.

The memorial service was concelebrated by hierarchs of all the major Ukrainian Christian denominations to the music of 20th century Ukrainian composer Kyrylo Stetsenko and voices of the Kyiv Chamber Choir.

Immediately following the memorial service, a commemorative forum, titled “My People Will Live Forever,” attracted officials from all heads of state and first lady were joined by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, National Security and Defense Council Chair Raisa Bohatyriova and Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Policy Ivan Vasiyuk.

Speaking at the blessing of the future site of the Ukrainian Genocide Memorial in Washington, Ukraine’s First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko shares some of her family’s tragic experiences during the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

The commemorative forum, titled “My People Will Live Forever,” attracted official delegations representing 44 countries, as well as members of the European Parliament, UNESCO and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The official U.S. delegation was led by Ambassador to Ukraine William B. Taylor Jr., who was joined by Marilyn Ware, former U.S. ambassador to Finland, and Lorne Craner, president of the International Republican Institute.

The forum began with a theatrical depiction of everyday family life in rural 1930s Ukraine. The performance was visually enhanced by enlarged black-and-white photos and streams of film footage of the same period projected on a large overhead video screen situated above the stage.

Subsequently the commemorative forum’s program was interspersed with official speeches and eerie theatrical dramatizations of Soviet collectivization, grain confiscation, arrests, incarceration, starvation and ultimately death by the Holodomor.

President Yushchenko, who expressed his gratitude to 13 countries and international organizations for recognizing the Holodomor of 1932-1933 as genocide against the Ukrainian people, was the first of five heads of state to address the international forum’s participants.

“Today we are united by the memory of one of the greatest catastrophes in human history and in Ukraine – the crime of genocide, the crime of the Holodomor on our land,” said President Yushchenko.

Emphasizing the artificial and deliberate
A new Ukrainian-Russian confrontation over gas

by Roman Kupchinsky

Eurasia Daily Monitor
November 24

Just when the outlook for normalization in the Ukrainian-Russian gas relationship appeared on the horizon, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Gazprom head Alexei Miller have upset the gas cart. On November 20 Kommersant Daily reported that Medvedev and Miller threatened to charge Ukraine $400 per 1,000 cubic meters for gas beginning in January 2009 if Naftohaz Ukrainy, the Ukrainian state-owned energy company, did not repay an alleged $2.4 billion debt to Gazprom.

Two days later, Gazprom spokesman Sergey Kuprianov, appearing on the Russian television program "Vesti," warned that Gazprom might be forced to cut off gas supplies to Ukraine beginning on January 1, 2009. "As you perfectly well understand, we cannot supply gas without a contract," he said. After Medvedev's announcement, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko demanded that Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's government pay this debt within five days. Mr. Yushchenko also called for a review of transit fees Gazprom pays to transport gas to Russia. Mr. Yushchenko, who was visiting Sweden, responded to Mr. Yushchenko's charges by saying that the alleged sum was "absurd" and that a Ukrainian debt to Gazprom existed only, in fact, owed by the shady Swiss middleman company, RosUkrEnergo (Kommersant Daily, November 22).

In what some interpret as an attack on Medvedev, Yushchenko, Miller, and Medvedev, Ms. Tymoshenko added: "I do not agree with is Promin, and not Dumka. You are to take personal responsibility once again to mix domestic politics with the continuing gas-price conflict by accusing the government with other questions. I think that our government will end corruption in the gas sector and not burden the government with other questions. I think that our government will end corruption in the gas sector and will begin to sign direct, transparent contracts" (Kommersant, November 23).

Soon after Mr. Yushchenko's rebufal, Naftohaz Ukrainy issued its own statement: "Gazprom claims that it has no debt to OAO Gazprom and calls on politicians and experts to stop speculating about such a debt." Naftohaz Ukrainy noted that Gazprom owes it $1.267 billion (Kommersant, November 22).

The Ukrainian weekly Zerkalo Tyzhny, however, reported on November 22 that sources in Naftohaz said that the company's debt to RosUkrEnergo was in the order of $2.25 billion, which included late payment penalties of $250 million.

In late 2007 Naftohaz signed a contract for 2008 purchases with RosUkrEnergo and not Gazpromexport, a subsidiary of Gazprom responsible for marketing gas. According to the scheme, Gazpromexport buys gas from Central Asia and resells it to RosUkrEnergo, which sells it to Naftohaz on the Russian-Ukrainian border. RosUkrEnergo, in turn, is obligated to repay Gazpromexport for the gas delivered to Ukraine.

The confusion in this opaque scheme stems from the fact that RosUkrEnergo is 50 percent owned by Gazprom, Alexander Medvedev, the deputy head of Gazprom and head of Gazpromexport, is also a member of the RosUkrEnergo coordination committee, so Mr. Medvedev in fact winds up selling and buying to and from himself.

Since commencing payment, Tymoshenko has determined to cut RosUkrEnergo out of the Central Asian gas supply chain and sign long-term normal, take or pay contracts directly with Gazprom. At her meeting with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in October, an agreement was reached that had raised the prospect for such a normalization of economic relations. The key passage of the agreement reads: "The parties acknowledge that the efficiency of the transition to direct relations in gas shipments depends on the speed of the separation of RosUkrEnergo's debt to OJSC for natural gas supplied to Ukrainian consumers" (Ukrainskaya Pravda, October 4).

It appears that Gazprom and the Kremlin, along with the Ukrainian "gas lobby," which is reputed to be close to both Mr. Yushchenko and his leader Yevgeny Yasin, the leader of the Russian Party of Regions, and to President Yushchenko, want to prevent RosUkrEnergo's normal and advantageous terms contracts, hence the Russian claim that the Ukrainian debt to Gazprom and RosUkrEnergo are separate. However, it is clear that RosUkrEnergo will remain the middleman.

Ms. Tymoshenko is also aware that Mr. Yushchenko's threat to increase prices for gas supplies to Ukraine beginning on January 2, 2009 if Naftohaz Ukrainy, the Ukrainian state-owned energy company, did not repay an alleged $2.4 billion debt to Gazprom.

Kyiv – Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko congratulated Hillary Clinton on her second term as the U.S. President-elect. "I congratulate you. I believe that your work is going to be for the benefit of all people of the world," Ohryzko said in an interview with 1+1 TV Channel. He also said that the inflation rate in 2008 would reach 27-30 percent on wholesale goods. The president noted that a fall in foreign trade in late 2008 and a decreasing demand for key products, particularly household appliances, cars, clothes and industrial goods, would cause definitively that general, inflation is decreasing, but this decrease won't be significant within these two months to achieve the target foreseen on the expenditure side of the budget," Mr. Yushchenko said.

Sevastopol nixes Ukrainian school

Kyiv – The Sevastopol City Council on November 21 voted against partially financing the construction of the first Ukrainian-language school in the Black Sea city. Of the more than 80 schools in Sevastopol – which houses both the Ukrainian and the Russian Black Sea fleets – only three schools are officially bilingual, with some classes are taught in Ukrainian, but the majority are in Russian. There is no school in the city which classes are in Ukrainian only. The Ukrainian government supports the establishment of a Ukrainian-language school and has authorized 5 million hryvnia (about $1 million) for its construction. By law, the local government must contribute 20 percent of the costs, or 500,000 hryvnia. The City Council, which had authorized the project on the issue again in December. (RFE/RL)

Our Ukrainian convenes congress

Kyiv – The Our Ukraine People’s Party Congress (Continued on page 14)

errata

The headline and the captions, however, contain a proofreading error. The first caption, "The Poltava Oblast 75 years later: The Poltava Oblast," is incorrect. The correct caption should read: "75 years later: The Holodomor Researcher Hanna Ohryzko has no debt to OAO Gazprom and calls on Yaapakova Rada electing the president. "I am confident that for a unitary state, Ukraine, this would be a crushing blow to freedom and democracy," Mr. Yushchenko stated. (Ukrinform)

YTB ready for coalition

Kyiv – National Deputy Volodymyr Pysarenko (Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc) said that the YTB is ready to form a coalition with any factions in the Parliament, including with the Party of Regions. At the same time, Mr. Pysarenko noted that the YTB proposes that the alliances form a new majority. The deputy also noted that the coalition’s format has not yet been determined, but added that it should be known by the morning of December 4. He under- scored that the YTB does not support the candidacy of Ivan Pliusch of the Our Ukraine – People’s Self-Defense bloc for the leadership of the Radio Nationalist of the -- Internet Party, Viktor Yushchenko, who was recently elected to head the Our Ukraine People’s Union, sup- ports Mr. Pliusch’s candidacy. (Ukrinform)

President predicts 23 percent inflation

Kyiv – Ukraine’s inflation rate in 2008 will approach 23 percent, predicted Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko in an interview with 1+1 TV Channel. He also said that the inflation rate would reach 27-30 percent on wholesale goods. The president noted that a fall in foreign trade in late 2008 and a decreasing demand for key products, particularly household appliances, cars, clothes and industrial goods, would cause definitively that general, inflation is decreasing, but this decrease won’t be significant within these two months to achieve the target foreseen on the expenditure side of the budget," Mr. Yushchenko said.

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(Continued on page 22)

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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

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The Holodomor 75 years later: The Zaporizhia Oblast

by Illya M. Labunka

KYIV – The territory of the present-day Zaporizhia Oblast at the time of the Holodomor 1932-1933 was under the jurisdiction of the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, one of the regions most devastated by the genocidal Famine of 1932-1933, suffering massive losses of population.

According to Prof. Viktor Gudz, who teaches Ukrainian history at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and is a member of the Ukrainian Holodomor Research Institute, the contrary to the popular understanding of the Holodomor-related field in the region.

Prof. Gudz, a native of the village of Ivanovka in Zaporizhia Oblast, recalled that he first heard of the Holodomor when he was about 12 from his paternal grandfather, Hryhorii Gudz, who had been recently released and sent to the labor camps of Kolyma.

“His grandfather was deported during the years of the so-called ‘anti-Nazi coalition’ and had not admitted to me the reason for his persecution. I presume it was for stealing wheat, but he was so frightened he never wanted to talk about it,” said Prof. Gudz.

Citing some of the specific characteristics of the Holodomor on the territory of Zaporizhia, Prof. Gudz said that German and Bulgarian colonies fared better than other ethnic groups on this territory because they were excellent farmers and happened to be slightly better prepared when the Holodomor finally arrived.

In addition, those peasants who lived near the Dnipro River beds as well as on the territory’s Black Sea coast, and especially fishermen, managed to survive the Holodomor in greater numbers. “This was particularly true with respect to the coastal city of Berdyansk, where people scavenged for any type of livestock and just fried in their pans whatever they could find on the sea beach. Children would search for and pluck snails out of the sand and eat them raw,” he added.

Because the territory of today’s Zaporizhia Oblast was already heavily industrialized by the early 1930s, the urban population, consisting mainly of Ukrainians and such cities as Melitopol and Berdyansk fared better than the rural, peasant population on the territory.

“We have to remember that this was also the time that the Dnipro Hydro-Electric Power Station (Dniprohrom) was being constructed, so those who managed to acquire a ‘residential pass’ into the city of Zaporizhia in order to work on the power station were the most fortunate ones,” explained Prof. Gudz. The residential passes, he said, were difficult to obtain, but some were sold on the black market. Similarly, factories in the cities of Melitopol and Berdyansk actually handed out daily rations of bread (250 grams) to its workers. Prof. Gudz added.

Prior to the Holodomor, approximately 70 percent of the population on the territory of Zaporizhia was actually Ukrainians. However, in 1934, immediately following the devastating population losses, 104,000 Ukrainian families were resettled from Germany onto the territory of Zaporizhia. Coupled with the genocidal Holodomor, the current heavy concentration of Zaporizhia Oblast’s population is directly attributable to the Soviet resettlement policies of the 1930s, according to Prof. Gudz. “In addition to the reorganization of the damaged Dniprohrom in 1943-1944 and the rebuilding of the ZaporizhStal steel plant all further exacerbating the detrimental Rassischen influence in the region,” Prof. Gudz remarked.

Even today, according to Prof. Gudz, the majority of Melitopol’s residents, particularly the older generation, still does not accept the Holodomor as genocide.

TheParty of Regions controls 85 percent of the seats in Melitopol’s City Council and, therefore, has a stranglehold on objective Holodomor-related propaganda. “They claim that the Holodomor was everywhere, including Russia and that the vital industrialization of the ‘mother-land’ demanded certain ‘sacrifices,’” Prof. Gudz stated.

Ukrainians also have a hard time because the local TV stations broadcast in Russian and the local newspaper are printed in the Russian language and are pro-Russian in their leanings.

(Conginued on page 22)
Daria Markus, educator, researcher, community activist, 73

By Marta Kolomayets

CHICAGO—Dr. Daria Markus, 73, passed away at her home in Chicago on November 17 after a long and courageous battle with a rare form of cancer. Funeral services were held at Sts. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church on November 24, and interment was at Forest Cemetery South, Bound Brook, N.J., on November 26. Dr. Markus is survived by her husband, Dr. Vasyl Markus, daughters, Taisa and Ukraina, son, Vitali, as well as her grandchildren Adrian and Thomas Iwashkiw and son-in-law Lionel Iwashkiw.

Dr. Markus’ achievements were many: she was a respected educator, accomplished author, thorough researcher, skilled editor, tireless community activist/organizer, a devoted wife, loving mother and grandmother and a loyal friend.

She was passionate about the causes she believed in—she was one of the first centered on Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora. She spent the last 20 years researching the legacy of the Ukrainian diaspora, the Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora, published by the Shevchenko Scientific Society. The volumes for Australia, Asia and Africa had been completed and the first volume of the North American edition was going to print.

“Ukraine was her life,” Nadia Zajac, the administrator of the Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora, told the Chicago Tribune. “She wanted to see Ukraine free, and she wanted to see it flourish as a country that could flourish.”

According to the aforementioned encyclopedia, Dr. Markus was born in the village of Batiatychni, Kamianka Strumilova region (now Kamianka Buzka raion) on January 15, 1935. During World War II, like many western Ukrainians escaping Soviet oppression, her family wound up in a displaced persons camp in Mittelwald, Bavaria, and later immigrated to Toronto, where she attended Queen’s University at the time Dr. Markus was married in 1960 by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City: at the time Daria Markus was an editorial assistant for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Soon afterwards, the young couple moved to the Chicago area; by 1966 the entire family (three young children were now part of the Markus brood) moved to Rome, where Prof. Vasyl Markus taught at Loyola’s Rome Center. Here Mrs. Markus spent a lot of time exploring important documents on the history of Joseph Slipyj. She lived in Rome in 1966, 1972, 1977 and 1982, and in France in 1983-1984. She also traveled extensively through Eastern and Western Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia. In 1976 she received a doctorate from Loyola University Chicago (in foundations of education and later taught at DePaul University, Chicago), Indiana University (Gary), Northeastern University (Chicago) and Oakton Community College (in a suburb of Chicago). Areas of special interest to her were cultural history and problems of ethnicity. She was the author of “Ethnic Heritage in America: Greeks, Jews, Liuhuanians and Ukrainians” (1979) and “Ukrainians in Chicago and Illinois” (1989). Dr. Markus’ infatuation with the Eternal City led her to publish a guide book called “Ucrania in Italy” in 1988. In her foreword, she thanked her husband for his “advice, helpful hints and suggestions.”

“It is also my 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,” she wrote in the 80-page booklet.

Dr. Markus loved adventure and travel. While most people start thinking about retirement in their late 50s, she took on the challenge of being the first woman director in Kyiv for the International Research Exchange Board in 1993. It was a job well-suited for a woman who loved being around young people, keeping up with the latest trends in time with Patrick Sheen, culture and politics, sharing her experiences and placing students in educational programs in the United States.

Soon after her arrival in Kyiv, Dr. Markus purchased an apartment that became the center of late-night discussions on politics, literature, culture and social issues. She ordered a custom-made round table from her husband’s native Zaporozhia so that everyone always felt equal in her home. She liked to refer to her guests as “the knights of the round table.”

In Chicago her home also had a well-worn welcome mat, as her hospitality was always appreciated. She was a woman whose character was always admired by politicians, diplomats, journalists and everyone who came to Chicago. She prepared a warm and hearty meal for everyone who came to her house. She hosted politicians, dissidents, literary figures, economists and historians. Everyone who came to Chicago wanted an invitation to the Markus home. Her New Year’s Eve parties were a tradition for her circle of friends.

She also found the time throughout her life to be an active member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America, the Chicago Rukh Chapter, and the Pokovna Sisterhood at St. Volodymyr and Olha Parish in the Windy City.

She and her husband were a team throughout their 48 years of marriage and complement each other in many of their endeavors. She was at St. Andrew’s Cemetery in South Chicago when her husband took over the Herculean task of editing the Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora, as someone declared its independence, she became the driving force behind Club 500, to establish a Ukrainian Consulate in Chicago. In a quick move, the couple established $500 each for the purchase of a building in the heart of Chicago where a Consulate office was housed. This was accomplished in 1993.

When Dr. Daria Markus lived in Kyiv in the early 1990s, she was invited to a “Dyvych Vechir” at which each married woman offered advice on the secrets of a successful marriage to the bride-to-be. Such an event, she noted, was to live life honorably. And through-out her life, she set that example.

Ukraine marks... (Continued from page 1)

nature of the Holodomor as an attempt to destroy an entire nation, Mr. Yushchenko underscored that the famine was selected as a weapon to crush the Ukrainian people.

“In terms of its scope, goals and methods, falls under the definition of genocide set by the convention adopted by the United Nations (1948),” stated Mr. Yushchenko. In support of his campaign to secure recognition of the Holodomor as genocide, President Yushchenko expressed his thanks to the world’s religious leaders for their prayers.

In particular, as a gesture of sincere gratitude, the president singled out Pope Benedict XVI and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I for their telegrams of solidarity. At one point in his address, Ukraine’s head of state cited a passage from Patriarch Bartholomew’s telegrams: “The Ukrainian nation and culture, throughout centuries did not break the back of the nation, they did not make the Ukrainian a slave or an obedient servant of others. In all of human history there has never been such a tragedy, where more people of one nation were destroyed in one year than was killed in wars and genocides over a year.

And no matter what people say, and no matter how they attempt to diminish the evil committed by the Soviet regime, the Holodomor remains an open wound that the Ukrainian people have to live with from day to day. It is part of Ukraine’s social condition”.

On behalf of Ukraine and its people, the president thanked the Georgian president, Mikheil Saakashvili for his words of sympathy and support. “In particular, as a gesture of sincere gratitude, the president singled out Pope Benedict XVI and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I for their telegrams of solidarity. At one point in his address, Ukraine’s head of state cited a passage from Patriarch Bartholomew’s telegrams: “The Ukrainian nation and culture, throughout centuries did not break the back of the nation, they did not make the Ukrainian a slave or an obedient servant of others. In all of human history there has never been such a tragedy, where more people of one nation were destroyed in one year than was killed in wars and genocides over a year. And no matter what people say, and no matter how they attempt to diminish the evil committed by the Soviet regime, the Holodomor remains an open wound that the Ukrainian people have to live with from day to day. It is part of Ukraine’s social condition.”

It was during her studies in Europe that It was also her wish to contribute to the Millennium celebration of Christianity in Ukraine with this modest work that, hope-fully, will contribute to a better knowledge and understanding of Ukrainian ties to the Eternal City and to the beautiful country which is Italy,” she wrote in the 80-page booklet.

President Viktor Yushchenko, First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko and Holodomor survivors light a symbolic candle in memory of the Holodomor’s victims.

Even 75 years after the Holodomor the seed of evil sprouts and humankind can be in danger again,” said the Georgian president. Mr. Saakashvili expressed hope that consolidated efforts of the world community can tackle the potential threat.

The president of Latvia, Vidsats Zatlers, who delivered the opening remarks of his speech in perfect Ukrainian rendition when switching to English, said it was necessary to condemn the crimes of the totalitarian Communist regime so as to make them impossible in the future. “Recognizing is not enough. It is necessary to understand and do one’s utmost to prevent the repetition of this in the future,” said President Zatlers.

Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus expressed satisfaction that the historical truth has triumphed over the decades of lies. “For the sake of those innocent people killed by the Holodomor, for the sake of fighters for the freedom of our nations, we must remember what happened, remember those tragedies of our nations caused by the totalitarian regime,” said President Adamkus.

During World War II, Mr. Adamkus was a member of the resistance movement for Lithuanian independence. He fled the Soviet regime during World War II, settled in the United States, where he worked as an engineer and eventually as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Polish President Lech Kaczynsky thanked President Yushchenko and the Ukrainian authorities for their most important effort in the revival of historical memory about the Holodomor in Ukraine as a crime of the Communist regime. Mr. Kaczynsky underscored that Ukrainian history must become an integral part of European history. “The Ukrainian people are choosing their own path. They have a right to do this. We are sure this path leads to the Western civilization. History is not the history of my country, is to become an integral part of European history, it is necessary to know the whole truth of the history said President Kaczynsky.

Official letters from foreign leaders expressing their solidarity in commemo-
rating the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor were read aloud to the audi-
ence. Among those who had their letters read aloud were: Prime Minister Mary McAleese, President of Lebanon Michel Suleiman, President of Paraguay Fernando Lugo Mendez, President of the (Continued on page 20)

(Official Website of Ukraine’s President)
Holodomor commemorated at London’s Westminster Abbey

by Alexa Chopivsky
Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

LONDON – The Ukrainian community in Great Britain commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor on Saturday, November 22, with services at London’s Westminster Central Hall and Westminster Abbey. The afternoon’s events were organized by the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain together with the Embassy of Ukraine.

Journalists Gareth Jones, a Welshman, and Malcolm Muggeridge, an Englishman, were posthumously awarded the Order of Freedom by Ukraine’s Ambassador to the U.K. Dr. Ihor Kharchenko, on behalf of President Victor Yushchenko, for their courageous reporting of the Holodomor in Ukraine to a then skeptical world.

Those gathered also heard excerpts from statements received on the anniversary by the presidents of Ukraine and the United States, from U.S. President-elect Barack Obama and the mayor of the District of Columbia, Adrian Fenty, and saw a performance of “It Began With a Dream,” a one-act play that tells the story of this Stalinist mass murder through the eyes of its victims and their children. Written by Susan Halmi, a graduate of Kean University, it was performed by the students of that New Jersey school.

The services came just four weeks after the European Parliament passed a resolution characterizing the Holodomor was a crime against the Ukrainian people and against humanity.

Highlights of the afternoon commemoration included an address by Tim Hitchens on behalf of Her Majesty’s government, as well as performances by the Bulava Chorus and Manchester and Bradford Girls’ Chorus.

“We are being joined by British Ukrainians and many national and civic dignitaries from outside our community,” said Zenko Lastowiecki, president of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain. “We all stand together united in the conviction that horrific events of this kind should not be forgotten and that the millions of innocent victims of the Holodomor should finally have their rightful place in 20th century history.”

Hryhory Kytasty named Hero of Ukraine

WASHINGTON – On December 2 here at the Embassy of Ukraine, First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko (right) delivered the “Hero of Ukraine” Award posthumously for Hryhory Kytasty, bandurist, composer and conductor. This award was presented to Andrij Kytasty (center) and other members of the family. The citation was signed by President Viktor Yushchenko and praised Maestro Kytasty’s “personal contribution to the national and spiritual rebirth in Ukraine, his promulgation of Ukrainian culture and the art of the kobzars throughout the world.” Ambassador Oleh Shamshur (left) and numerous guests were treated to a concert of several songs composed by the honoree and performed by members of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus from Detroit, conducted by Adrian Bryttan.
FOR THE RECORD

Restore our Voice

All eyes this week were focused on President-elect Barack Obama’s official announcement on Monday of the national security team – sometimes, he said, the a misnomer as the group also includes those charged with overseeing U.S. foreign policy.

Mr. Obama has made it known that, in the realm of national security and foreign policy he intends to use “all elements of American power: our military and diplomacy, our intelligence and law enforcement, our economy and the power of our moral example.”


As she was officially introduced as the secretary of defense, Sen. Clinton said, “I believe we are not at war with the Muslim world, but are engaged in a war of ideas.”

The following are excerpts from the statement of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, marking the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor in Ukraine.

Beloved children of the Church, dear Ukrainians!

By God’s Providence, we have another occasion for a paternal address to you. The Most Holy Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, hereby again addresses you with love not joy, but also with the prayers of our Lord Jesus Christ: “You belong to your father, the devil… He was a murderer from the beginning.” (John 8:44)

Three holodomors, repressions and war should have become for you, the Ukrainian nation, a stimulus to spiritual purification, moral improvement, repentance and to your forefathers’ Christian tradition with its own Church and internal Christian spirituality, and not an important external, formal Christianity verging on the worship of ritual.

Our visit to Kyiv for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus’-Ukraine showed us the real sons and daughters of the Ukrainian Church, who pray to God and not man, even if he holds a high post. We saw that even the tyrants of the 20th century did not break the backbone of the Ukrainian nation, did not make the Ukrainian a slave and obedient executor of other people’s intentions.

It is your duty to the memory of your great-grandparents, grandparents and parents, for who there was no tragedy in human history when more representatives of a single nation were destroyed in one peaceful year than during the several years of war. And no matter what anyone says or if they try to belittle the evil, this is the clear sign of genocide.

In the days of remembrance of the victims of the Great Holodomor of 1932-1933, especially on its 75th anniversary, your Mother-Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, greets together with you and expresses its deep and sincere sympathies to all of you and Ukraine’s president, Viktor Yushchenko, who represents Ukraine before the world and through whose persistent efforts the world learns increasingly more information about the terrible tragedy of Ukrainians in the 30th century. We bring to you our prayers to our Lord Jesus Christ and ask the Most Gracious Savior to give rest in holy dwellings to the souls of all those killed by the Fascists and admit them to the assembly of His Martyrs as those innocently killed. May their memory live forever and may the heavenly blessing of the Most High be on you all are alive!

The Ukrainian Genocide

VATICAN CITY – Pope Benedict XVI on November 23 prayed for the victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine that left millions dead.

The Vatican News Service reported: “In an apparent reference to the Soviet policies of collectivization and food confiscation that prompted the Famine of 1932-1933, the Pope recalled the Famine under the Soviet regime of Joseph Stalin caused millions of starvation deaths.”

Ukrainians were among the pilgrims in the audience on St. Peter’s Square, and the pontiff noted that November marks the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor.

“I express the strong hope that no longer will any political order, in the name of ideology, destroy the rights of the human person and his freedom and dignity, and I assure my prayers for all the innocent victims of this tremendous tragedy,” he stated.

Pope Benedict said he prayed that “nations go forward on the paths of reconciliation and build the present and the future in reciprocal respect and in the sincere search for peace.”

Sources: Catholic News Service, Associated Press.

IN THE PRESS

The Ukrainian Genocide

“European Genocide,” Review and Outlook, Wall Street Journal Europe, November 24:

“Among the past century’s horrors, the Great Famine in Ukraine manages to stand out. First, for the scale of the mass starvation, which is inflicted on more than 10 million people in Europe’s agricultural breadbasket. Second, for how little the world knows about this genocide. A now-free Ukraine wants to change that and just marked the 75th anniversary of the 1932-1933 ‘terror famine,’ or Holodomor. "[Ukraine] aim to crush ‘the memory of the USSR as a whole, and the Ukrainian nation,’ wrote Robert Conquest in his groundbreaking book, ‘The Harvest of Sorrow.’

“The Stalinist regime and its ideologi
cal soulsates denied the famine at the

(Continued on page 23)
“Reflections” on the Holodomor are published by the UCCLF

CALGARY, Alberta – To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation (UCCLF) is supporting the publication of a series of essays by leading journalists, public intellectuals and scholars titled “Holodomor: Reflections on the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine” (The Kishatin Press, 2008).

The goal of this campaign is to send copies of this book, edited by Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, chairman of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation, commenting to the news media on November 21 on Canada’s official recognition of the Holodomor as genocide; a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the Ukrainian Genocide Memorial in Washington on December 2. Outstanding accomplishments indeed, all chronicled in The Ukrainian Weekly. We have reason to be elated and of good cheer.

Yes, Ukrainians throughout the world worked hard to get this message out in 2008 and yet, as the year draws to a close, some people are telling me that they’ve had “enough.” They’re exhausted. They’re “Holodomored.”

One wonders why it is that when Ukrainians have momentum, the wind at our back, we tend to lose interest. The battle is far from over; there’s still much to be done. Holodomor denial is still alive, well and aggressive. This is not the time to take down our flags, fold our tents and go quiet into the night.

We’re aware of Duranty, Louis Fisher, George Bernard Shaw, H.G. Wells, Sir John Maynard, French Prime Minister Edouard Herriot and other Westerners who in the 1930s contributed to Moscow’s disinformation campaign of Holodomor denial. If you google “Holodomor denial” on the Internet, you’ll find more today than Holodomor deniers such as Douglas Tottle who authored the 1987 book “Fraid, Fatime, and Fascism: The Ukrainian Famine-Genocide Myth from Hitler to Harold”; Jeff Coplon who wrote a 1988 piece in the Village Voice titled “In Search of the Holodomor Holocaust”; Prof. Stephen Merl’s 1989 German-language re-examination of M. Tottie’s prevarication; Swedish-Flemish journalist Mario Sousa’s 1998 public denials of the Holodomor in which he accused Ukrainian nationalists of inventing the famine to push their anti-Soviet agenda. As late as 2002 British physician John Dantis published a pamphlet titled the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide Myth.”

In “Russia Today” website commentary by Prof. Borissov cited the U.S. House of Representatives’ condemnation of the Holodomor, arguing that the U.S. has no moral right to judge Russia. According to Prof. Borissov, the policies of Presidents N. V. Kruschev and Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression were no better than those of Stalin. Count on Vladimir Putin’s Russia to produce more of the same kind of dissembling.

And now we have a new twist. Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolitan Onufry (of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate) has allegedly declared that the Holodomor was a form of divine retribution, “a correction from God.” Arguing that more Russians than Ukrainians died during the Holodomor, Metropolitan Onufry of Chernivtsi and Bukovyna admonishes Ukrainians “to cease using the Holodomor as a wedge issue dividing Ukrainians and Russians.”

So where do we go from here? Our example should be the Armenians. They are still pushing for international recognition of their genocide, the 1915 Turkish slaughter of their people. Armenians have been at it a lot longer than we have and Turkey has yet to admit its guilt. To achieve worldwide recognition of our genocide, Ukrainians must be prepared for the long term, realizing that Moscow will continue to deny and splinter.

Russia’s leaders will adopt every subterfuge they can to escape blame. Moscow will vilify Ukrainians who identify the Holodomor as a genocide, claiming that they are foreign propagandists, or CIA agents, or that they have abused the victims, claiming that those who starved deserved to die because they were responding to foreign intrigues and subverting collective effort; others will claim that the Russia of today is not the USSR of yesterday and we should not apologize or that Russians also died during the famine; or that the starvation was due to a poor harvest. Today, some Russians dismiss the Holodomor by asserting that what happened 75 years ago is ancient history, it’s time to move on. Finally, some deniers will continue to question our numbers. “Ten million perished you say? Really? How do you know?”

In my opinion, the first order of business for the next skirmish in our ongoing battle should be a consensus among ourselves regarding the number that starved in Ukraine. President Yushchenko says 10 million perished. Some Ukrainian academicians believe that number to be far too high. We leave ourselves open to accusations of fraud if we can’t agree upon a basic statistic. Let’s look to the Jews for our example in this instance. They continually remind the world of their numbers and they’ve reached a consensus on a number.

Finally, we need to forthcomingly address the reality of our numbers. Of course, a lot of us know we’re weary, but I repeat. This is not the time to leave the field of battle. Victory is no nearer yet. Our struggle for truth never ends.
Site of Ukrainian...

(Continued from page 1)

father would recall seeing carts filled with dead bodies go by the house and how the remains of the many who died in her husband’s village were buried in nearby fields without any markers.

Noting the history of the official Soviet denial of the Famine-Genocide that took the lives of some 10 million people — half of them children — in Ukraine at the rate of some 25,000 per day, Mrs. Yushchenko said that this should serve as a lesson for people today about what can happen “when a totalitarian regime completely controls every aspect of society.”

She praised and thanked all those who worked on bringing this crime to the attention of the world, and singled out U.S. Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.) for his hard work and “moral conscience” in this effort.

Mrs. Yushchenko noted that the Famine of 1932-1933 is “only one layer of a many-layered genocide against the Ukrainian people.”

“Please remember that this is only the beginning, that there are very many more stories that need to be told about the other repressions,” she said, including the killing of Ukraine’s leadership, intellectuals and “any aspect of our society that could speak for Ukrainian language, tradition and culture.”

One must not forget also “the millions that were sent to the Gulag, never to return,” she stressed.

Rep. Levin in his remarks acknowledged that the world is 75 years late in commemorating Ukraine’s tragedy, but added that “it is never really too late to remember.”

“And now,” he stressed, “it is up to all of us, combined, with the government and with the Ukrainian American community — all of us in the United States — to make sure that there is a monument that is fitting the tragedy of 75 years ago and is also fitting in terms of this location.”

“We come together to say to the world today that this sacred spot will become a symbol not only for the community here and for the Ukrainian people, and not only for all of America, but for all the world,” Rep. Levin said.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Rights David Kramer, noting in his remarks that the Famine was “the consequence of cruel calculation, the deliberate use of food as a tool of totalitarian oppression,” stressed that this memorial should be used as symbol that this will never be allowed to happen again and that Ukraine can honor the victims’ memory by strengthening its democracy.

Olexandr Aleksandrovych, the minister-counselor of the Ukrainian Embassy who was master of ceremonies of the event, said that the Embassy had invited Halyna Kytysh, the widow of the famous bandurist-composer Hryhoriy Kytysh, to testify at the gathering about her personal experience as a Famine survivor. Because of health concerns, however, she was unable to make the journey from California, he said.

In her stead, Alexander Seweryn, a Holodomor survivor who now lives in Yonkers, N.Y., spoke briefly about what he witnessed as a child and thanked the U.S. government for recognizing its crime.

Also thanking the U.S. government, the president, Congress and especially Rep. Levin for championing the cause of erecting the memorial was Michael Sawkiw, the former president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), who chairs the National Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933.

The new UCCA president, Tamara Gallo-Olexy, was among the many people who came to participate in this event, as were former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Miller and his wife, Suzanne.

Leading the clergy in the religious part of the dedication ceremony were Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and Metropolitan Constantine of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

And while most who came to the event participated in the singing of the national anthems and liturgical songs, they were led by an ensemble of the famed Bandurist Chorus, under the baton of its new artistic director, Adrian Bryttan.

Later that afternoon, they were on hand at the Embassy of Ukraine for another ceremony, when Mrs. Yushchenko presented the “Hero of Ukraine” award to their founder, the late Hryhory Kytysh. The award was accepted by Mr. Kytysh’s son Andriy.
BOOK NOTES

A look at “year of revolution”


A new book by Mike Rapport details the revolutions of 19th century Europe and how Europe shed its absolutist tradition and embraced democracy — especially in 1848, the “year of revolution.”

Mr. Rapport explores serfdom in Ukrainian Halychyna (Galicia), describing the living conditions of the peasantry in Ukraine as being the worst experienced by European peasants. Under the Russian and Austro-Hungarian empires, these peasants were under a serf system, while in Hungary and the lands known as Bohemia, the peasants paid heavy taxes to their lord and were forced to work the land.

Violent lords often went unchecked and peasants spent over a third of their time working for their lords. Other times these peasants were forced to repair roads and perform other labor for the government.

The author details a revolt organized by the Polish to overthrow the encroaching Austrian Hapsburgs. The Poles promised the peasants freedom, but the Ukrainians decided to attack the Poles in an attempt to free themselves, but were ultimately made subjects of the Hapsburgs.

In a spark of nationalism, Poles, Jews and Ukrainians demanded provincial autonomy within the Hapsburg Empire, with the hope that with Galician autonomy would come Polish independence, Mr. Rapport notes.

The Austrians decided to play the Ukrainian peasants against the Poles and emancipated the serfs. This allowed for the first meeting of the Supreme Ruthenian Council, which took place in 1848 at St. George Cathedral in Lviv. The council demanded a separate Ukrainian administration, which undermined Polish authority in Galicia, and the council rapidly established local branches across the province. From this “revolution” the first Ukrainian periodical, “Osvona,” appeared in Ukraine in 1861, which sold over 4,000 copies per week and was later joined by six other publications. This was the beginning of the formal voice of Ukrainian national consciousness.

This was a significant shift in Ukrainian national identity. Instead of appealing their grievances to the emperor, for the first time Ukrainian peasants expressed their aspirations in national terms.

The book does not solely focus on the Ukrainian movement, but briefly describes it. The majority of the book is about Europe in general, contrasting Western empires versus the Russian Empire in the east and how the year 1848 played a significant role in the shaping of European democracies.

Mr. Rapport is a lecturer in history at the University of Stirling and the author of “Nationality and Citizenship in Revolutionary France,” “Nineteenth Century Europe” and “The Shape of the World.” He resides in Stirling, Scotland. Readers may obtain copies by contacting the publisher by telephone, 800-343-4499. The book is also available for purchase at Amazon.com.

UUA releases new edition on Petliura and the Jews


The Ukrainian Historical Association has just released a new edition of Prof. Taras Hunczak’s book, “Symon Petliura and the Jews: A Reappraisal,” originally published in 1985 in the UHA series, Ukrainian Jewish Studies. This updated and substantially revised publication now contains an “Addendum” in which the author discusses recent studies on Ukrainian-Jewish relations; additional documents found in the archives of the former Soviet Union and hitherto inaccessible that expand the source base.

The release of this new edition is very timely, especially in view of the continued interest in Ukrainian-Jewish relations, as well as the present re-evaluation in Ukraine of the historical activity of Symon Petliura as a politician, statesman, supreme commander of the Ukrainian National Republic’s Army, and the President of the Directory of the UNR.

Based on historical sources, Prof. Hunczak presents a clear picture of Ukrainian-Jewish relations during the short existence of the UNR and vindicates Petliura’s reputation from the charges of his personal involvement in anti-Jewish pogroms in Ukraine.

The new documents added to this edition further demonstrate that Petliura and the entire Ukrainian government adopted a democratic and humanitarian attitude toward the people of Ukraine – irrespective of their nationality and religion – with

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2008 9 No. 49
WASHINGTON – Ukrainian American devotees of classical music in the Baltimore-Washington area were thrice-blessed this past November.

They not only got to savor unique contemporary compositions of Myroslav Skoryk in a special concert on November 9 celebrating his 70th birthday (as reported in the November 30 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly). Over the next two weekends, they also had the opportunity to enjoy the virtuosity of two young solo musicians of Ukrainian origin performing center stage with two world-class orchestras: violinist Stefan Jackiw, playing the Beethoven Violin Concerto with the Baltimore Symphony, and pianist Valentina Lisitsa, playing Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Warsaw Philharmonic.

When he last played with the Baltimore Symphony in 2002, then in his mid-teens, Mr. Jackiw revealed “remarkable promise,” according to music critic Tim Smith, who reviewed his November 13 performance at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in the Baltimore Sun.

“Today, barely into his 20s, he plays with the incisiveness and exquisite taste of an Old World, long-seasoned fiddler,” he continued.

“What he did with the Beethoven concerto was startling, not just because of the impeccable intonation and sterling articulation, although that certainly proved arresting — his beautifully controlled trills would alone have made the performance stand out. It was, above all, the profound beauty of his phrasing that made this such a subliminal experience,” Mr. Smith observed.

What was heard after the concluding movement of the piece at this first and the two repeat performances that followed over that weekend at the Meyerhoff and the Music Center at Strathmore, on the outskirts of Washington, were prolonged ovations, to which Mr. Jackiw responded by playing the Largo movement of Bach’s Solo Violin Sonata No. 3.

“The son of physicist parents — his Ukrainian-born father teaches at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his Korean-born mother at Boston University — Stefan Jackiw began playing the violin at the age of four. A recent graduate of Harvard University, he also has an Artist-in-Residence Avery Fisher Career Grant. Mr. Jackiw has performed with a number of major orchestras in the United States, Europe and Asia. The weekend before his return engagement here with the Baltimore Symphony, he played with the Leningrad orchestra in the United States. Then there was the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto with the Warsaw Philharmonic at the Strathmore on November 20, a few days after their appearance at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

The Washington Post’s Daniel Ginsberg called her “the fine soloist in an account that was, thanks to precise balances and the soloist’s use of a mellow-toned Boesendorfer piano, more somber and carefully wrought than usual and thunderous.”

A few days earlier, The New York Times critic Steve Smith was somewhat more excited about her performance. Referring to her as “an appropriately extroverted soloist,” he added: “The work’s most ferocious passages apparently held no fear for her; a note or two fell by the wayside, but her technical

Violinist Stefan Jackiw
Pianist Valentina Lisitsa

Voloshky ensemble receives grant for dance spectacular

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – The Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Jenkintown, Pa., was recently awarded a $44,000 grant from Dance Advance, a program of the Pew Charitable Trusts and University of the Arts designed to promote projects in dance in the five-county region of Pennsylvania surrounding, and including, the city of Philadelphia.

The grant will be used to support the production of “Steppes: A Ukrainian Dance Spectacular” in the summer of 2009. This will be the second such production. The show first debuted in 2006. Ukraine’s Ambassador to the United States Oleh Shamshur has requested that the 2009 production also be performed in Washington.

The original grant application requested $40,000 to help fund new Ukrainian-made costumes for the planned premier of a Hutsul dance and to secure the performance of violin virtuoso Vasyl Popadiuk and his six-piece band.

In the ensemble’s application Artistic Director Taras Lewychy pointed to the success of the 2006 performance at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia. This inaugural performance was dedicated to master choreographer Anatoly Kryvokhyzha, who served as an artistic inspiration through his struggles during Cold War plight in Ukraine. Kryvokhyzha became the first recipient of the group’s Steppes Toward Liberty Award that recognizes contributions to and in the Ukrainian arts community.

This is the 10th Dance Advance grant for Voloshky, ranking it with such august grantees as the Pennsylvania Ballet, The Painted Bride Arts Center and the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival & Philly Fringe.

The Voloshky ensemble also counts the Ukrainian Federation of America and Selfrelance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union as major supporters, and it enjoys the support of private donors as well.

The ensemble has received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Philadelphia Cultural Fund. It has also been selected for inclusion on the prestigious, juried artist roster of Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour for the past decade.

The company was founded in 1972 by Zoia Hraur-Korsun and since 1999 has maintained the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Academy. The Academy has sponsored intensive training and performance opportunities for dancers and instructors from around the world.

Voloshky will soon be accepting nominations of candidates for the 2009 Steppes Toward Liberty Award. Nominations can be made by visiting www.voloshky.com or by writing to: Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046.
Canadian Nicole Chuchmach raises awareness with “Sophie’s Run”

by Yarema Belej

The drive from the Greater Toronto Area to New York City is a tough eight-hour slog, but for Nicole Chuchmach that distance seemed more fitting to run. On September 1, along with fellow runners Jill Harper and Natalie Atkinson, Ms. Chuchmach set out on the unbelievable journey for a cause.

It was dubbed “Sophie’s Run,” a memoir, educational and emotional run dedicated to Ms. Chuchmach’s recently departed mother who passed away from colorectal cancer. The trio ran to raise awareness about the disease through parts of Canada and the United States.

When her mother was sick, “I found comfort in sport, particularly running, running became my crutch,” she said. The 28-year-old Milton, Ontario, native. Upon the death of her mother, Ms. Chuchmach decided to raise awareness about the disease to help prevent other families from experiencing similar losses. The vehicle to raise awareness, it seemed logical, would have to be running.

“We partnered with the Colorectal Cancer Association of Canada for Sophie’s Run,” she said. “The goal of Sophie’s Run was to raise awareness about the disease and how to prevent its tragic results. Her mother, Sophie Chuchmach, ‘had ignored her symptoms for about two years before her diagnosis,’ Ms. Chuchmach said. ‘My mom and I argued for almost two years for her to go and see a doctor. Our families’ lack of education about colorectal cancer and my mom’s internal fear prevented her from making an appointment to discuss her early symptoms.’

“Being in an advanced stage, my mom needed to have aggressive treatment to try and treat her tumor,” she continued. “It was at this time that I decided to push both my career and personal life on hold and become her primary caregiver. My mom and I shared a special bond, and I was honored that she allowed me to be there for her. Seeing the strongest lady in my life go from independent to dependent was an internal struggle for me. We did a complete role reversal.”

Along the run from Milton to New York City – a courtesy of their run with traffic being halted for the influence and kindness was felt. Through the efforts of several local dignitaries and influential people, the runners got to run through the Lincoln Tunnel on the last day of their run with traffic being halted for the duration of their run beneath the Hudson River and into New York City – a courtesy afforded only to the President of the United States.

“I was bittersweet about the ending of the run,” Ms. Chuchmach noted. “I was proud of our team’s accomplishment to raise awareness and educate the public about the signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer but sad that I was still missing my mom. There were times that I thought my family was invincible and that cancer would never touch our lives. I was wrong to think this way. Although I was lucky to have my mom with me for 28 years, the pain of her loss will forever live with me.”

For more information on how to help in the fight against colorectal cancer please visit the website www.sophierun.ca (special thanks to Kyle Young who created the website).
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Exhibition of Trypillian culture opens at the Royal Ontario Museum

by Oksana Zakyldskas

TORONTO – The long-awaited exhibition “Mysteries of Ancient Ukraine: The Remarkable Trypillian Culture (5400-2700 BC)” is on display at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), Ukraine’s First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, honorary patron of the exhibition, spoke on November 27 at the media preview and thanked the ROM for its vision and its commitment to the project.

The exhibition was organized by the ROM in collaboration with the National Museum of the History of Ukraine (Kyiv), the Institute of Archaeology, the Archaeological Museum of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Odesa Archaeological Museum and the Vinnytsia Regional Museum and will be featured at the ROM from November 29 to March 22, 2009.

It explores the Trypillian culture and is based on artifacts first discovered by Ukrainian archaeologist Vikenty Khvoika in 1896 and those excavated from other numerous sites, of which there are about 2,000 in Ukraine. The exhibition includes tools, items of adornment, ceramic figurines, earthenware portraits and pottery which, with its sophisticated decorative schemes, attractive forms and fine execution is generally recognized as second to none in the Neolithic world. Some 300 artifacts, as well as a model of a Trypillian house and one of a Trypillian village are displayed in specially constructed spaces, marked out by wooden timbers that evoke Trypillian houses.

According to William Thorsell, Director and CEO of the ROM, it “is one of the most important international exhibitions ever mounted on the Trypillian culture.” Mr. Thorsell, who called the exhibition a “scoop” for the ROM, acknowledged the collaboration of the institutions in Ukraine, the involvement of the Ukrainian Canadian community – the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko is the exhibition patron – and Northland Power as the exhibit’s presenting sponsor.

James Temerty, chairman of Northland Power and Chairman of the ROM board of governors, explained that the idea for the exhibition was born in 2005 when he was in Ukraine at the inauguration of President Viktor Yuschenko, and the newly installed president gave him an “assignment” to stage a Trypillian exhibition at the ROM. President Yuschenko is a collector of Trypillian artifacts, several of which are displayed at the ROM.

The curator of the Trypillian exhibit and editor of the exhibition catalogue is Krysztof Ciuk (assistant curator, World Cultures – West Asia) who joined the ROM in 1983; he was formerly chief archaeologist at the Historical Museum of Warsaw. The 264-page colorful authoritative catalogue brings together essays and information on Trypillian culture and the exhibited artifacts. In 2001 Dr. Ciuk served as curator of the ROM exhibition “Legacy in Gold: Scythian Treasures from Ancient Ukraine.”

The Trypillian exhibition is organized around six themes. The first section “Who were the Trypillians?” introduces the ancient people – who they were, where and where they lived, and how they were sustained. It includes original reports and drawings by Khvoika and objects that he unearthed.

“The Neolithic Revolution” places the Trypillian culture in the context of Europe from the last Ice Age to the arrival of the Trypillians and other Neolithic cultures from Syria, Turkey and what is today Serbia. The section titled “Extraordinary Settlements” focuses on Trypillian settlements and how the Trypillians cultivated grain and vegetables, herded domesticated animals, hunted and gathered fruit. The Trypillian towns were the largest of the time and aerial photographs of archaeological digs show Taliansky, the largest Trypillian town discovered thus far.

“Domestic Life” presents other architectural structures, including a custom model of a Trypillian house showing a number of household activities. This section includes household tools, ceramic storage, and cooking and serving containers. “Spirituality and Artistic Expression” highlights Trypillian art – anthropomorphic figurines, decorated containers and enigmatic, hollow “binocular” pieces. The female figurines with exaggerated feminine features are believed by some scholars to represent a “great mother goddess.”

The exhibition’s final stop, “Continuing Discoveries,” emphasizes the ongoing interest and activity in Trypillian archaeology and features recently excavated objects. It also discusses the hypotheses as to how this ancient culture mysteriously disappeared.

The ROM has planned a variety of companion programming during the period of the exhibition. More information can be obtained on the website www.rom.on.ca. Admission to “Mysteries of Ancient Ukraine: The Remarkable Trypillian Culture (5400-2700 BC)” is included in general museum admission.

A delicate figure of a woman, the pierced edges likely held decorative organic material such as feathers or fabric strips. Earthenware. 3000-2700 BC.

A sculpted head, once part of a full-figure statuette of a woman. Earthenware. 3500-3000 BC.

“Binoculares” – the function of these bottomless objects is a mystery. Earthenware. 4500-4100 BC.

“Zernovik” – a large grain container, viper motif in black painted ornamentation. Earthenware. 4900-4500 BC.

Seated females, a sculpture type ubiquitous in Neolithic cultures. Earthenware. 4900-4500 BC.

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**NEWSBRIEFS**  
(Continued from page 2)

Union is the only political force that consistently defends the strategic national priorities of Ukraine and works toward their realization," President Viktor Yushchenko underscored on December 1 at the party’s congress. “Our political force supports everything that concerns Ukrainian independence, Ukrainian values,” he said. Mr. Yushchenko noted that today, all actions of the authorities should be aimed at overcoming the economic crisis, adding that this requires operative implementation of efficient mechanisms, primarily legislative ones. The president underscored the need for renewal of the Verkhovna Rada’s activity, which in December should focus its attention on anti-crisis measures. The president also noted that, under the current conditions of economic crisis, the government should not engage in populism, which was one of the reasons for the crisis in Ukraine. According to Mr. Yushchenko, “It is possible to mitigate the effects of the crisis by pursuing a sound economic policy.” At the same time, he expressed doubt that the present government is ready to do that. During the Our Ukraine People’s Union congress Mr. Yushchenko was elected party chairman. Presidential Press Secretary Iryna Vannykova said she believes this decision of the congress testifies to the recognition of Mr. Yushchenko as a political leader of this party. (Ukrinform)  

**Tatars launch protest actions**  
KYIV – To the strains of football horns, thousands of people at the beginning of December in Donetsk held a protest action near the Crimean Parliament demanding the allotment of land in Symferopol, in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The demonstrators expressed their discontent with the unresolved problem of allotting land plots in the city of Symferopol and in the Symferopol region. If their demands are not fulfilled, the participants of the protest said they intend to hold similar actions every day as of December 13, one of the protest initiators, Daniyal Ametov, noted. At present, according to the authorities, about 72,000 families of Crimean Tatars have received land plots and 80,000 Crimean Tatars have already already included on the register to receive such plots. According to various estimates, 240,000 to 270,000 Crimean Tatars live in Crimea. (Ukrinform)  

**Faina expected to be freed soon**  
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Yushchenko addresses UWC leaders

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on November 25 met with leadership of the Ukrainian World Congress. He expressed gratitude to the UWC for its participation in commemorations of the Holodomor’s 75th anniversary. For his part, UWC President Eugene Czolij stressed that diaspora Ukrainians have been very active on the Holodomor issue. “The day of November 22 was a day of sorrow for Ukraine. Ukrainians from all over the world paid tribute to Holodomor victims on this day and over the past week,” he said, adding that the UWC has been working hard to ensure that the world community recognizes the Holodomor as a genocide against the Ukrainian people. Mr. Czolij also reported that the UWC is working to ensure that truthful information about the Holodomor is included in school textbooks – and not only in Ukraine. The meeting participants discussed a broad range of burning issues related to the implementation of joint projects of the MFA and NGOs of the Ukrainians abroad. Special attention was paid to the state of Ukrainian communities in neighboring countries. The parties also exchanged opinions about the role of the world’s Ukrainians in assisting Ukraine’s democratic development and improving Ukraine’s image worldwide. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine registers 159th political party

KYIV – Yet another “progressive” party has appeared in Ukraine. In addition to the Progressive Socialists led by Natalia Vitrenko, the Progressive Democrats have now been established. The Justice Ministry registered the Democratic Party of Ukraine. The two parties agreed on the majority of clauses in the agreement’s preamble and a clause dedicated to the institutional framework of relations. In order to achieve the goals of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU, the delegations agreed to form joint structures, an association council, an association committee and a parliamentary committee on association, as well as to hold annual summits. Moreover, they agreed to create a forum on cooperation between the citizens of Ukraine and the European Union. The sides agreed on the need to intensify the negotiating process on a free-trade zone and sectoral issues within the framework of working groups. They agreed to hold the next round of talks on a free-trade zone in Brussels in late January 2009. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine-EU negotiations held

KYIV – The Ukrainian capital hosted the 10th round of negotiations between Ukraine and the European Union regarding the signing of an Association Agreement, the press service of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry reported on November 21. Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Kostiantyn Yeliseyev headed the Ukrainian delegation, while Deputy Director General of the European Commission’s Directorate General for External Relations Hugues Mingarelli headed the EU side. The two parties agreed on the majority of clauses in the agreement’s preamble and a clause dedicated to the institutional framework of relations. In order to achieve the goals of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU, the delegations agreed to form joint structures, an association council, an association committee and a parliamentary committee on association, as well as to hold annual summits. Moreover, they agreed to create a forum on cooperation between the citizens of Ukraine and the European Union. The sides agreed on the need to intensify the negotiating process on a free-trade zone and sectoral issues within the framework of working groups. They agreed to hold the next round of talks on a free-trade zone in Brussels in late January 2009. (Ukrinform)
Southwest Florida veterans post holds installation of new officers

by Jerry Zinycz

NORTH PORT, Fla. – Ukrainian American Veterans Cpl. Roman G. Lazor Post 40 of Southwest Florida on November 8 held an installation dinner-dance for newly elected officers at the Ukrainian Catholic Parish Center.

Since the establishment of the post in 1999, the local community has supported it by attending its functions and giving financial support. The annual dinner-dance is now a major social event of the year and a fund-raiser for UAV projects.

The ceremonies began with a grand march of UAV members followed by Ukrainian veterans of World War II and veterans from AMVETS Post 312. The color guard from North Port High School Junior Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps marched into the reception hall under the command of Marian Bojsiuk, UAV national officer, and posted the colors on stage. The attendees sang the American and Ukrainian national anthems.

The newly elected officers were sworn in by Past National Commander Atanas Kobryn. The new officers are: Commander Eugene Tomashosky, Vice-Commander Paul Wosny, Adjutant Roman Kilar, Finance Officer John Homick, Quartermaster Myron Ferenc, Service and Welfare Officer Demetrius Yadryn and Public Relations and Historian Jerry Zinycz.

Following the swearing in ceremonies, two past post commanders, Ihor Hron and Mr. Zinycz, presented and posted the post colors to the new post commander. He also presented UAV National Certificates to 12 Korean War-era veterans.

This year there were two recipients of the Person of the Year award. Mr. Hron presented the first award to Dr. Wolodymyr Korol, a Ukrainian veteran of World War II who is president of St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Religious and Cultural Center in North Port, for his outstanding community service and charitable contributions to Ukraine.

The second award went to Eugene Steckiw, M.D., member of Post 40, for his humanitarian work in Ukraine and his activities in cultural and community work. Unfortunately, due to illness, Dr. Steckiw was unable to attend. The attendees wished him a speedy recovery.

After the ceremonies, the Rev. Severyn Kovalyshin, pastor of St. Mary’s Ukrainian Catholic Church, blessed the food, and the attendees enjoyed a great dinner served by “Nasha Kukhnya” under the management of Lydia Manysyn.

The atmosphere at the dinner-dance was festive and the attendees danced till the wee hours of the night to music by the Merena Band.

On Tuesday, November 11, Veterans Day, Post 40 participated in the North Port Veterans Day Celebration at Veterans Park. The event is attended by local politicians, veterans organizations, police and fire departments and Junior Naval ROTC cadets, who posted the colors.

After the ceremonies at the park, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8203 served a luncheon at its hall to all attendees.

PALATINE, Ill. – Roman G. Golash was recently promoted to the rank of colonel in the United States Army Reserve. He is currently assigned as the chief of staff of the 332nd Medical Brigade in Nashville, Tenn., responsible for the training and mobilization of medical units in a 10-state area.

Prior to this assignment, Col. Golash served as the operations officer with the 5th Army as a Regional Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer (REPL0) Team 5 based out of Great lakes Naval Station in Illinois. The REPL0 5 team assisted the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the mitigation of terrorist or natural disasters by serving as conduits to the Department of Defense. This multi-service task force planned, trained and implemented programs with FEMA and other federal agencies.

Mobilized in 2005 for 16 months, Col. Golash assisted in the training of combat and combat service units in Mississippi and Wisconsin.

He is currently the commander of the Ukrainian American Veterans 1st Lt. Ivan Shandor Post 35 in Palatine, Ill. He resides with his wife, Anya, and two children, Matthew and Natalia, in Palatine. He is a member of Ukrainian National Association Branch 133.

Golash promoted to colonel in USAR
Ukrainian American Veterans Post 101 marks 25th anniversary

WARREN, Mich. – Ukrainian American Veteran Michigan Post 101 celebrated the 25th Anniversary of its founding at the Ukrainian Cultural Center here on Sunday, November 2.

After opening remarks, Commander Oleh Cieply ordered the posting of the colors and singing of the American and Ukrainian national anthems. Father Mario Daccchen, OSBB, delivered the invocation and a moment of silence was observed for fallen comrades.

Oleh Karanec, chairman of the 25th anniversary banquet committee, welcomed guests and Commander Cieply introduced the keynote speaker, Anna Krawczuk, past national commander of the UAV, who delivered a historical and interesting account of women in the military.

Mrs. Krawczuk’s presentation, “Century, New War and New Role for Women in the Military,” captured the interest of all. Her research on the subject identified women who served the U.S. as early as 1862, well before women were even allowed to serve in the military. Several key servicewomen were noted in her speech, including Lt. Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, who was promoted to four-star general on July 23, and U.S. Navy Capt. Heidemarie Stiefenyshyn-Piper, who was a crew member of mission STS-126 of the space shuttle Endeavour. Mrs. Krawczuk also spoke of “Ukrainian American service women from World War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom” who served in the U.S. military.

“During World War II, Capt. Tille Kazma Decyk served in the U.S. Army Nurses Corps and was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the World War II Medal and a Bronze Star to IAME Theater Ribbon,” Mrs. Krawczuk related. UAV members Mary Smolley Scott (Post 19) and Dorothy Sudomir Budacki (Post 28) both served in the U.S. Navy; Mary Capcura Holuszczak and Irene Zlans (Post 101) also served. Flight nurse Evelyn Kovalchuk served in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was honored by President George W. Bush at the D-Day Memorial dedication in Bedford, Va., in 2001.

“We also know of Lt. Oga Konopysky Pryjmak, who served in Vietnam as a nurse. A World War II orphan adopted by an American family, she met her husband Steven Pryjmak (himself a Purple Heart recipient) in Vietnam. Oksana Xentos of Post 101 served during the post-Vietnam era and attained the rank of Lt. Col. in the U.S. Army, retiring in 1995. Maria Matiak, lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps, retired in 1999. She was the 57th woman on active duty to attain the rank in 1982,” she continued. “This is just a short list – we know of many other women who

UECC welcomes new post at Veterans Day celebration

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – On Saturday, November 8, the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC) welcomed a new Ukrainian American Veterans Post and its members. The UECC honored the veterans with a brunch and short musical program by students of the Ukrainian Heritage School under the direction of Maria Kaminsky at the UECC Veterans Appreciation Day.

UECC President Borys Pawluk spoke briefly to the group, emphasizing the center’s commitment to the post. Ukrainian and American flags were handed out to the veterans as a symbolic thank you for their service.

The next UA V posts consolidation meeting was held on September 10, at the UECC; a board of officers was elected and a petition for the proposed consolidated post was also discussed. A third meeting is currently being planned. For additional information about the proposed post’s goals and perspectives members and, as a result of encouraging responses, the committee continued its work planning the consolidation.

The traditional reading of the credo was recited by Post 6 Commander Michael Fedirko, and the wreath-laying ceremony at the monument was done by Walter Bodnar.

Members of UAV Post 6 remember fallen comrades

by Walter Bodnar

UNION, N.J. – On Sunday, November 11, at Hollywood Cemetery in Union, N.J., members of the Ukrainian American Veterans Post 6 gathered at their monument and remembered their comrades who had departed into eternity. November is traditionally the month of veterans and soldiers, the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen and the end of World War I.

The ceremony of remembrance included ed prayers recited by Walter Bodnar, former UAV national adjutant. In addition to praying for the fallen comrades, he remembered the 10 million victims of the 1932-1933 Famine in Ukraine.

The traditional reading of the credo was recited by Post 6 Commander Michael Fedirko, and the wreath-laying ceremony at the monument was done with Danylo Murchishin. The official ceremony was concluded by the singing of “God Bless America.”

Members of Ukrainian American Veterans Post 6 gather to honor departed comrades at the veterans monument in Union, N.J.
Wresnewskyj appointed opposition critic for citizenship, immigration, multiculturalism

OTTAWA – Opposition Leader Stéphane Dion on November 14 named Member of Parliament Borys Wresnewskyj to the position of critic for citizenship, immigration and multiculturalism in the Liberal shadow Cabinet.

“Canada is a country blessed with natural resources; however, it is our human resources that are our nation’s greatest asset. It is our ever-changing multicultural mosaic which will provide Canada with our global competitiveness and dynamism in the 21st century,” said Mr. Wresnewskyj.

“I am truly honored that the leader has given me this tremendous responsibility of serving as the critic for citizenship, immigration and multiculturalism. I will work diligently on behalf of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, and defend, the rights of those new Canadians who have come here from all over the globe wanting to become productive and fully participating members of the best country in the world, Canada,” continued Mr. Wresnewskyj.

He went on to say that he believes that both his extensive committee work, and more importantly, the immigration work that he has done on behalf of his constituents in the riding of Etobicoke Centre in Ontario have prepared him well for his new responsibilities.

“As a child of refugee parents and grandparents who came to Canada in search of a new life and a bright future, and to whom Canada gave those opportunities, I understand fully the fears and dreams that citizens from every nation and every possible background hope to find in Canada. I will work with the government when I believe that they are acting in the best interests of Canada and these new citizens, and I will challenge them when they are not,” stated Mr. Wresnewskyj.

Lecture at Penn State looks at “Color Revolutions”

by Maria Znayda

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. – “The Real Causes of the Color Revolutions” was the title of a public lecture delivered at the Pennsylvania State University on October 13 by Dr. Lucan Way, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Way is currently in the process of completing two books: “Failed Authoritarianism and the Sources of Political Competition in the Former Soviet Union” and (with Dr. Steven R. Levitsky) “Competitive Authoritarianism: International Linkage, Organizational Power and the Fate of Hybrid Rule.”

The lecture was organized by the department of political science and by the Department of Germanic and Slavic languages and literatures, and was sponsored by the Woskob Family Fund-Endowment in Ukrainian Studies at Penn State. The lecture was attended by over 40 people, including faculty members, graduate and undergraduate students, and members of the local community.

The focus of Dr. Way’s lecture was to show how the result of the Orange Revolution in 2004 in Ukraine was tied to other so called “color” revolutions with regime changes in Serbia (2000), Georgia (2003) and Kyrgyzstan (2005). The radical reorientation in these countries partly resulted from the spread of a particular set of opposition strategies developed in Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia between 1996 and 1998.

Georgia and Ukraine, with weaker authoritarian regimes unwilling to use military force to maintain power, were more open to change than the other more authoritarian one-party successor states of the Soviet Union. Stronger contacts with the West also provided more fertile support for regime change, although, according to Dr. Way, internal forces were much more instrumental in effecting it than external ones. (A detailed article outlining Dr. Way’s ideas on the subject is found in the Journal of Democracy, Volume 19, No. 3, July 2008. That article is available on the journal’s website, http://www.journaldemocracy.org/articles/gratis/Way-19-3.pdf.)

There was a lively question and answer period following the lecture, which included discussion of NGOs, lustrations, NATO, the possibility of military conflict, and other issues. Given the current situation in Georgia and the upcoming pre-term parliamentary elections in Ukraine early next year, the lecture was a timely one. Since Dr. Way’s lecture was more theoretical and general in nature, in responses to questions he was somewhat hesitant in making prognoses on future developments in Ukraine.

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HURI honors Prof. George G. Grabowicz on his 65th birthday

CAMBRIDGE. Mass. — The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) sponsored a dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club for the first Dmytro Cyzevskyi Professor of Ukrainian Literature, George G. Grabowicz, on the occasion of his 65th birthday, with more than 70 of his colleagues and friends in attendance. During the course of the celebration Prof. Grabowicz was presented with a festschrift of 53 scholarly articles written in his honor by colleagues, friends and students that will be published by the institute.

Michael S. Flier, HURI’s director and Oleksandr Potrebniya professor of Ukrainian Philology, opened the evening by welcoming guests in attendance and honoring Prof. Grabowicz by reciting an entertaining overview of his academic career in verse.

William Mills Todd III, the Harry Tochman Professor of Literature, professor of comparative literature, and director of graduate studies in the department of Slavic languages and literature, spoke of Prof. Grabowicz’s contributions in comparative literature and to the department that he chaired for six years.

Lubomyr Hudy, associate director of the Ukrainian Research Institute, a contemporary and close friend of the honoree – they knew each other as children in a displaced persons camp in Germany – recounted a number of personal anecdotes to give further insight into the man, including moments from Germany, from Plast and from their student days at Harvard.

Roman Sepeduk, Mykhyalo Hrushovsky Professor Emeritus, spoke next, focusing on the impact that Prof. Grabowicz’s work in literature had on the study of Ukrainian history. “Because Prof. Grabowicz has been scrupulous in looking at the historical period, the various movements, undercurrents, politics, etc., his literary studies have had an impact on how historians look at Ukrainians and Ukrainian history,” he emphasized.

Paul R. Magocsi, professor of history and political science, Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Toronto, and a close friend of Prof. Grabowicz since their days together at HURI, stressed in his presentation that Prof. Grabowicz pursued Ukrainian studies for a time when few others did and that he continues to be a committed scholar to the field. Prof. Magocsi concluded by saying that Prof. Grabowicz should be praised for his unwavering commitment to the academic study of Ukrainian literature and research within the broader context of East European and world literature.

Halyna Hyn, editor of Harvard Ukrainian Studies, then spoke of her ongoing professional interactions with Prof. Grabowicz and recalled that she first met him when she was a graduate student beginning work on her doctoral dissertation on the journal Literarynyi Yarmark (published in Kharkiv in 1929-1930), just before the serious restrictions set in and showcased the best that had been achieved in Ukrainian literature and culture during the 1920s. She highlighted Prof. Grabowicz’s enthusiasm about her work, his encouragement, and continual assistance and advice.

Roman Koropecki, professor of Slavic languages and literature at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and a former student of Prof. Grabowicz, reminisced about his experiences with him as a graduate student at Harvard. He stressed that no one could have had a better mentor and adviser – Prof. Grabowicz cared about all of his students, and took extra time to go out of his way to guide their work and assist their research.

Finally, Serhi Plokhiii, Mykhailo Hrushovsky Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard University, read a number of the messages that had been received from Prof. Grabowicz’s colleagues from around the world. They included messages from noted Slavic studies scholar Edward L. Keenan; the Institute of History of Ukraine; the Polish Embassy in Kyiv; the staff of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv; the Ukrainian Program at Columbia University; the Ukrainian Institute of Literature in Kyiv; the Kowalsky Eastern Institute in Kharkiv; the History department of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy; the Institute of History of Ukraine of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU); Zenon Kohut, Director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS); Johannes Remy, lecturer in world history at the University of Helsinki, Finland; Iaroslav Isaevych, director of the Ivan Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies in Lviv; Hermanni Borach, head of the Department of Specialized Research and Electronic Resources at the Institute of History of Ukraine at the NASU; and Prof. Giovanna Brogi of Milan University, president of the Italian Association of Ukrainian Studies.

Prof. Grabowicz was born in Krakow, Poland, during World War II and spent time in Ukrainian displaced persons camps in Germany before coming to the United States in 1947. His family settled in New Haven, Conn., and took part in the life of the local Ukrainian community when he attended the School of Ukrainian Studies and was a member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

Prof. Grabowicz earned his Bachelor’s Degree cum laude in English at Yale University in 1965 and was awarded an Honorary Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. Following graduation he spent a year studying at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow as a Fulbright Scholar. In 1970 he received a master’s degree in comparative literature from Harvard University and in 1975 he was awarded his Ph.D. in comparative literature at Harvard, having successfully defended his dissertation on: “The History and Myth of the Cossack Ukraine in Polish and Russian Romantic Literature.” Prof. Grabowicz began teaching as an assistant professor at Harvard University in 1975 and attained the rank of associate professor in 1980 and full professor in 1983.

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Ukraine marks...
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United States George W. Bush, President-elect of the United States Barack Obama, President of Finland Tarja Halonen, President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Klaus, President of Switzerland Pascal Couchepin, Vice-President of Argentina Julio Cesar Cobos, Prime Minister of Spain Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, Foreign Minister of Austria Ursula Plassnik and British Foreign Secretary David Miliband.

In condemning the Holodomor as one of the greatest crimes in human history, Canadian Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney recalled in his speech how, during President Yushchenko’s visit to Canada earlier this year, the Canadian Parliament passed legislation calling for the establishment of a Ukrainian Famine and Genocide Memorial Day, which recognizes the Holodomor as genocide.

Mr. Kenney announced the Canadian government’s decision to establish a national monument to victims of communism, which will be erected in Ottawa.

“This monument will stand as a lasting testament to the millions whose lives were taken by a brutal, heartless, utopian ideology in the Holodomor and throughout what Pope John Paul II called ‘The Century of Tears.’ May the sacred memory of innocent men, women and children whom we call to mind today never be lost,” said Mr. Kenney.

Eugene Czolij, president of the Ukrainian World Congress, cited the work of Ukrainian author Oles Honchar, who claimed the Holodomor was a strategically diabolical plan intended to undermine the core of the nation and destroy the fundamental, centuries-old mores of the people by exterminating humanity from the soul and instead instigating a reign of terror, and instilling fear, suspicion, hate and brutality still prevalent in the mindset today.

Mr. Czolij underscored how the Holodomor of 1932-1933 – Ukraine’s deepest pain and mankind’s unhealed wound – is still affecting society today.

“Seventy-five years have since passed. But our nation still feels the terrible effects of the Holodomor as a catalyst of colonization, psychological fear, despair and Russification,” said Mr. Czolij.

As one of the last speakers to address the forum, Ukrainian poet Moisei Fishbein chose to focus on the fate of the village and its children as he conveyed the horrors of the Holodomor to the audience: “In 1932-1933 in the center of Europe the Ukrainian village was in agony. Children were screaming and begging for bread. The village began to wail... and then it began to moan, and then it just went silent and converted itself into a burial ground. I ask the world to recognize the Holodomor as genocide. It will always be in our memory.”

A member of the International Holodomor Commemorative Coordinating Committee, Ulana Mazurkevich, offered her comments on the forum. “The International Holodomor Forum was a success and very moving. It was very welcoming to hear words of overwhelming condemnation against the Soviet policy of the Holodomor. It was very satisfactory to hear such unanimous rhetoric from the presidents of Lithuania, Latvia and Poland. The tone and text of their speeches were so strident and so condemning of the Soviet system.”

“It was also very pleasing to witness how all these heads of state demonstrated their powerful friendship, allegiance and strong support for Ukraine’s continued independence. Hearing them, we know that there is no other way but to go West,” she added.

When asked what else can and should be done to push for further global recognition of the Holodomor, Ms. Mazurkevich said the issue needs to be continuously brought to the public’s attention. “Let the world know. If the people will listen and learn about it, they will condemn it and that is recognition in itself,” she observed.

Morgan Williams, president of the U.S.-Canada earlier this year, the Canadian Business Council and director of government affairs for SigmaBleyzer, a private equity investment firm operating in Ukraine, said he was very pleased with the outcome of the International Holodomor Forum. “The commemorative forum was very well conceived. The dramatic depictions of the Holodomor were very powerful. It was a top, world-class event,” said Mr. Williams.

As the forum came to a close, the 75th anniversary Holodomor commemorations concluded at the site of the yet-to-be-completed National Holodomor Memorial Historical Complex. Braving sub-freezing temperatures, wind, snow, sleet and rain, hundreds of onlookers, including a few Holodomor survivors, joined President Yushchenko, the first lady, national deputies, clergy, members of the Verkhovna Rada, Cabinet of Ministers, regional governmental officials, foreign dignitaries and guests at the unveiling, consecration and dedication ceremony of the recently constructed “Candle of Memory” monument situated between the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Kyiv Pecherska Lavra Monastery.

The official unveiling program began with the final phase of the “33 Minutes” ceremony, initiated by Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, that consisted of a public reading of known victims of the...
Ukraine marks...  
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Holodomor for a period of 33 minutes. Such ceremonies honoring those who perished had been taking place every weekend since September 6 throughout all of Ukraine. Following the “33 Minutes” ceremony, President and Mrs. Yushchenko, along with foreign dignitaries and guests, planted kalyna (viburnum) bushes at the base of the “Candle of Memory” monument.

Once the planting ceremony was completed, Metropolitan Volodymyr Sabodan, prelate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate, consecrated the Holodomor monument together with other hierarchs of the UOC.

Immediately following the consecration, President Yushchenko was joined by his wife and dignitaries as they placed candles near the monument, after which the president officially addressed all those present and the entire country in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor.

Stefan Romanish, secretary general of the Ukrainian World Congress and head of the International Holodomor Commemorative Coordinating Committee, joined the president during the ceremony in honoring the Holodomor victims.

In his speech, President Yushchenko expressed his gratitude to every Ukrainian citizen and to all Ukrainians throughout the world who sought to reveal the truth behind the Holodomor, and he encouraged everyone to continue that sacred quest. The president also thanked all the heads of state, parliaments, governments and international organizations who demonstrated their solidarity with Ukraine.

“This day unites millions as death has passed. We are alive. We are a state. We have prevailed. We have overcome evil,” said Mr. Yushchenko. “I call upon everyone, and the Russian Federation in particular, as true, honest and genuine brethren, to condemn the crimes of Stalinism and the totalitarian Soviet Union. We were all in this hell together,” exclaimed Ukraine’s president.

Following his address to the nation, President Yushchenko declared a National Moment of Silence in honor of the Holodomor victims. Afterwards Mr. Yushchenko descended into the Hall of Memory within the “Candle of Memory” monument to light the “Inextinguishable Candle” thus imitating the now-tradition al annual “Light a Candle” national ceremony, which was begun in 2006 by Ukraine’s president.

Once the official commemorative events ended, hundreds of citizens representing every region of Ukraine – many dressed in traditional folk costumes and carrying banners of their respective oblasts – marched in long, solemn columns in freezing wind and sleet toward the “Candle of Memory” to place lit candles in honor of the Holodomor victims.

According Ms. Mazurkevich the bleak weather only added to the solemnity of the entire dedication ceremony. “As snowflakes and then drops of sleet were coming down, it seemed as if the sky had opened up that day and began shedding tears – as if heaven was crying for the 10 million victims,” said Ms. Mazurkevich.

Mr. Williams commented that the dedication of the new memorial was carried out very effectively. According to Mr. Williams, President Yushchenko had been building up to this moment for over three years. “Every year since 2003 – except 2004 during the Orange Revolution – a major Holodomor commemoration has been supported by President Yushchenko and First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, and they are to be congratulated for bringing the commemoration up to the level which they did,” said Mr. Williams.

Without the president’s concerted effort, the commemoration would have never had the kind of exposure it received, and the fact that space in the Ukrainian Home in the city center is allocated to all the Holodomor exhibits continues to send a strong positive message, to Mr. Williams underscored.

When asked what else can and should be done to promote the truth about the Holodomor, Mr. Williams said, “the first thing the Ukrainian government under President Yushchenko must do is finish the historical complex of the National Holodomor Memorial. They need a complex that would include a library, an exhibition hall, a museum, archives and researchers studying the documents all of the time. Everything about the Holodomor should be brought together to one place, just like the Jewish community is doing, and all of the records should be copied in order to have a central focal point for research and history.”

According to Mr. Williams, further research needs to be conducted with respect to what was known in western Ukraine and in Poland about the Holodomor. “Also, a lot more work needs to be done with young people who are interested in educating others, regarding training courses for teachers, as well as the effective use of artwork as an instrument of enlightenment. In particular, there needs to be more engagement in exposing the crimes of communism against Ukraine,” added Mr. Williams.
A new Ukrainian-Russian...
(Continued from page 2)
underground gas storage in Ukraine would have a disastrous impact, not only on Gazprom and RosUkrEnergo, but above all on Naftohaz Ukrainy. The current price for storing gas in Ukraine is $6.68 for 1,000 cubic meters. In Germany the cost is $82.50. Two-thirds of the gas stored in these underground caverns, however, belongs to Naftohaz. If the Ukrainian government were to raise its storage tariff to half the German level, the financial impact on the state-owned company would be crushing.

As January 2009 rapidly approaches, Gazprom’s European customers will be closely monitoring developments on the Ukrainian-Russian gas front. The January 2006 cutoff of gas to Ukraine, in which RosUkrEnergo played a critical role, had a greater impact on European customers than on Ukraine. The possibility of having a highly suspect scheme, allegedly linked to organized crime, maintain such a powerful hold on gas supplies to Europe should be of concern to European leaders.

HURI honors...
(Continued from page 19)
That same year he was appointed chairman of the department of Slavic languages and literatures for five years and in 1989 he was named the director of HURI upon the retirement of its co-founder and first director, Prof. Omeljan Pritsak, and in that capacity for seven years.

Among the academic awards and scholarships that Prof. Grabowicz has received over the years are an NEH Scholarship, an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship and a fellowship with the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies, and appointments as an IREX Scholar, a Fulbright lecturer, a junior fellow of the Society of Fellows at Harvard University, and a research fellow of HURI.

In 1996 he received an honorary doctorate from the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and in 2004 received an award for “Intelectual Courage” from the Journal Yi, which is published in Livy.

At Harvard, Prof. Grabowicz has served as a member of the executive committees of HURI, the Center for Literary and Cultural Studies, and the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. He has also served as the chairman of the Shevchenko Studies Commission of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the United States, the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the Ukrainian Research Institute, Harvard University; chairman of the American Committee of Slavists; member and first president of the American Association for Ukrainian Studies; founding member and president of the International Association for Ukrainian Studies; and as a lecturer and academic coordinator for Ukrainicum at Goetshof University in Germany. In 2006, he became a member of the executive committee of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the United States.

A noted author and editor, Prof. Grabowicz in 1997 founded Krytyka, a monthly journal of analysis, criticism and commentary on history, literature and politics. The journal is the first and only journal of its type in Ukraine specifically aimed at Ukrainian cultural and social activists, intellectuals and decision-makers.

In 2001 he also founded the Krytyka Institute and has served as its chair for the past seven years. The purpose of the institute is to sponsor scholarly seminars, conferences, roundtables, workshops and lectures on various Ukrainian topics that adhere to Western scholarly standards and use Western methodology.

Finally, Krytyka Publishing House was also established to print scholarly publications, including documents, texts and other primary source materials in accordance with the most rigorous standards of academic criticism. A number of these publications have received prestigious awards. Among the most recent was “Letters of Pantaleimon Kuts” (Volume 1).

Fund’s annual series of Sunday concerts at the Lyceum, also in Alexandria.
Born in Kyiv, Ms. Lisitsa began playing the piano at the age of 3. At 7, she earned a scholarship to the Kyiv Conservatory and went on to win numerous international competitions. Since moving to the United States in 1992, she has performed extensively in this country and abroad. Over the past year she has given more than 100 performances – as a soloist, in duets with her husband pianist Alexei Kornetsov, with chamber groups and with orchestras.

Violinist Jackiw...
(Continued from page 10)
skills largely served her well. Ms. Lisitsa’s range of colors and expressive shadings was consistently impressive; in the second movement she executed trills with an attention-grabbing precision.

This was Ms. Lisitsa’s third appearance on stage in the Washington area in recent years – in March of this year she had a recital at the Schlesinger Concert Hall in Alexandria, Va., and in March 2004 she performed in The Washington Group Cultural Center.

The Holodomor...
(Continued from page 3)
out loud, and placed flowers at the local Holodomor memorial, all of which makes Prof. Guz optimistic.

He has been a resident of Melitopol, Zaporizhia Oblast, since 1979. In 1991-1994 he served as a member of Melitopol’s City Council. At present he serves as both deputy head of the Zaporizhia Oblast Representative Office and as head of the Melitopol Municipal Representative Office of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists.

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The Ukrainian...  
(Continued from page 6)

time and later. Walter Duranty, The New York Times’ longtime Moscow corre-pondent, was Stalin’s chief apologist, sending false dispatches from Ukraine; he was a main driving force behind it. At the post’s first membership meeting, Walter Duranty was elected to be the first post commander. In 1983 a ladies’ auxiliary was also established as a cognate organization with Post 101.

Twenty-five years have passed since these humble beginnings and today UAW Michigan Post 101 has grown to over 100 members.

Entertainment at the 25th anniversary was provided by the popular vocal ensem-ble Golden Bells, accompanied by Olga Solovey at the piano. The singing of indi-vidual military hymns of each branch of service and the recognition of each of the service members present was particularly moving. Dinner music was provided by Sylvan Kolyck, a Post 101 member and a Veteran of the Korean War.

“The exception is the current Russian leadership. …President Dmitry Medvedev accused Ukraine of seeking to achieve ‘opportunistic political goals’ based on ‘manipulations and distortions, falsification of facts about the number of dead.’ As in Stalin’s day, Ukraine’s independent identity and nationhood stands in the way of a resurgent Russian imperium. By remembering the Holodomor, Ukrainians say – never again.”

The Ukrainian American...  
(Continued from page 17)

have served and there are many whose his-tories are unknown to us. I appeal to every veteran to register so that your story can be known and told.” (Registration may be completed at www.uavets.org.)

Commander Krawczuk concluded her presentation in remembering Dr. Mary Virginia Beck, who sent Commander Krawczuk a short note upon election of Ms. Krawczuk to the position of UAW National Commander. Dr. Beck wrote: “Congratulations on your election as Commander (of UAW). It takes an unusual woman to capture a position that is usually considered a male prerogative. May suc-cess be with you all the way!”

Mrs. Krawczuk said she “was surprised to be called an unusual woman” by a woman who herself was so unusual and had achieved so much during her lifetime, as a pioneer on both the Ukrainian American and American frontiers. “She was a lady who had no equal and remains a shining example of what women are capable of achieving,” Mrs. Krawczuk said.

Past National Commander Krawczuk was presented with a plaque from Post 101 by Commander Cieply. Following her remarks, Warren City Council Member Mark Liss read a city proclamation recogn-izing the service of Post 101 members to our nation. Finally, Veterans of the Korean War were honored with a presentation of individual certificates recognizing their service during the Korean War.

UAV Post 101 was organized in Greater Detroit on September 14, 1983, by Stefan Fedenko, Petro Kapitancev, Myroslaw Pryjma, Woldodymyr Temnyk, Myron Woroszowycz and Woldodymyr Zacharj, who was the main driving force behind it. At the post’s first membership meeting Joseph Elnick was elected to be the first post commander.

The Ukraine...  
December 13  Yalyinka Christmas Party, Ukrainian Engineers’ Society of America, Ukrainian Institute of America, nyc@uesa.org or 212-288-8860

December 13  Christmas concert, the Ukrainian Dumka Chorus, Our Lady of Refuge Roman Catholic Church, 718-896-7624

December 14  Christmas Bazaar, Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 301-421-1739

December 15  Lecture by Volodymyr Kulik, “Minority Education in Ukraine: Combining Identity and Integration,” Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 202-691-4000

December 17  Christmas concert, St. Nicholauk Ukrainian Catholic School, 973-779-0249


December 20  Holiday Bazaar and St. Nicholas program, Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies, Westland Middle School, www.ukieschool.org

December 20  Christmas Bazaar, Ukrainian League of Philadelphia, 215-556-8521 or 215-332-5760

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; photos will be considered. Please note: items will be printed a maximum of two times each. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.
NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Chorus Dumka will perform Christmas Music at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Refuge Roman Catholic Church, 2020 Foster Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11210. The public is cordially invited. For additional information call 718-896-7624.

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Dr. Ihor Magun (New York) on the subject “A Diet that Is Beneficial to Your Health.” The lecture will take place at the society’s building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets), at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Business and Professional Group (UBPG) of Chicago invites members and the community to a presentation by Jaroslav “Slavko” Martyniuk on “Media Use and Public Opinion Trends in Ukraine.” Mr. Martyniuk is regional research manager with InterMedia, a leading international research and consulting organization, where he is responsible for qualitative and quantitative research in most of the countries of the former Soviet Union. A former administrator and diplomat with the organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Mr. Martyniuk has extensive experience in conducting research among difficult-to-access populations using unconventional methodologies. The evening’s program will also feature a festive Champagne Holiday Reception following the presentation, at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 7 p.m. Admission: $15 for UBPG members; $20 for non-members and guests.

Saturday, December 20

BETHESDA, Md.: The Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies will host a Sviatyi Mykolai Show and Holiday Bazaar. Students will present a St. Nicholas program at noon and Sviatyi Mykolai (St. Nicholas) will then meet with each grade/age group. The Heavenly Office will be open at 9:15-11:45 a.m.; please bring only one item per child ($2 fee) and have it clearly labeled (child’s full name and grade/age). The bazaar, scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to noon, will include home-baked goods, varenyky and vushka (frozen), books, gift items, etc. Location: Westland Middle School, 5511 Massachusetts Ave., Bethesda, MD 20816. For further information visit www.ukieschool.org or contact Lada Onyshkevych, lada2@verizon.net or 410-730-8108.

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.

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