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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Yushchenko honors Bandera with Hero of Ukraine title

As runoff nears, election battles erupt between Tymoshenko, Yanukovych forces



Official Website of Ukraine's President

President Viktor Yushchenko presents the Hero of Ukraine order to Stepan Bandera, grandson of the nationalist leader Stepan Bandera.

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko fulfilled the hopes of patriotic Ukrainians by posthumously bestowing the nation's highest honor, the title Hero of Ukraine, on Stepan Bandera, the nationalist hero who led the Ukrainian liberation movement for three decades against Polish, Nazi and Soviet oppression.

Stepan Bandera, the hero's Canadian-born grandson who has lived in Kyiv for 12 years, accepted a certificate and medals from the president at a January 22 ceremony at the Shevchenko National Opera House commemorating Unity Day.

"What was hoped for for decades has finally happened," Mr. Bandera said after accepting the award. "The Ukrainian state has recognized the heroic deeds of Stepan Bandera and the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian patriots who died for this country. This order is a brave act towards historical justice which affirms the truth and a new era of a Ukraine that we dream of."

As the end of his presidential term approached, ethnically conscious Ukrainians pleaded with the president to bestow the honor upon Bandera, recognizing the nation won't likely have a president in the next five to 10 years with the political will to take the controversial step.

Deputies of the Ternopil City Council, as well as the Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk oblast councils, made such appeals last year after the 100th anniversary of Bandera's birth was commemorated in Stryi Uhryniv on January 1, 2009, along with the 50th anniversary of his assassination in Munich.

The appeals were repeated by the Svoboda All-Ukrainian Union, the country's leading nationalist party. The president issued an official decree on Unity Day on January 22, which commemorates the 1919 unification of the Western Ukrainian National Republic and the Ukrainian National Republic.

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Dmytro Korabliov/UNIAN

Police on January 25 confront national deputies from the Party of Regions who were guarding the Ukrayina Polygraphic Plant, where election ballots are printed.

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Election battles erupted between Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and pro-Russian leader Viktor Yanukovych as their campaigns launched aggressive raids and attempted to sack officials in key government posts in their fight to influence the vote.

About 300 private soldiers, escorted by police, on January 25 stormed the Kyiv factory where election ballots are printed in order to install a director loyal to Ms. Tymoshenko. In turn, Party of Regions national deputies forced their way into a

key appellate court to search its computers the next day.

The next act of retaliation was a January 28 extraplenary session of Parliament, during which the Party of Regions collected 231 votes to oust Ukraine's much-criticized police chief, Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Lutsenko, whose role in coordinating the raid became the last straw for his opponents.

"We truly have chaos in Ukraine and we truly have a political circus," Mr. Lutsenko said at a press conference a few hours after his dismissal.

As the February 7 presidential runoff draws nearer, the competing candidates are attempting to gain or maintain control of government bodies that play a central role in the elections, observers said.

"Both sides feel the need to intervene because the normal system doesn't work," said Ivan Lozowy, president of the Institute of Statehood and Democracy in Kyiv.

Already in December, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc was fighting to gain control of the Higher Administrative Court, which reviews the Central Election Commission's final results. Tymoshenko supporters tried but failed to replace Judge Oleksander Paseniuk, who is loyal to the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU).

But the battles weren't violent until 6 a.m. on January 25, when soldiers with the Schyt security firm broke the front glass façade of the Ukrayina Polygraphic Plant and released tear gas in their attempt to install the director appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers a week earlier, Volodymyr Khomko.

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"Freedom in the World 2010": A global erosion of freedom

Freedom House

WASHINGTON – For the fourth consecutive year, global declines in freedom outweighed gains in 2009, as measured by Freedom House's survey of political rights and civil liberties, "Freedom in the World 2010." This represents the longest continuous period of decline for global freedom in the nearly 40-year history of the report.

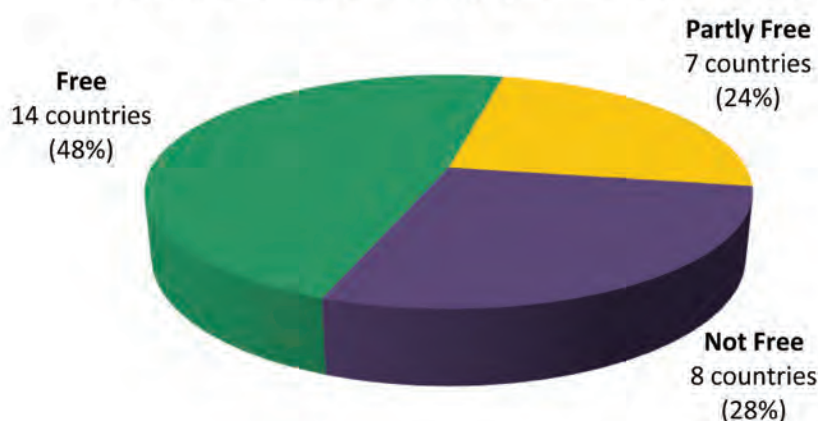
In a year marked by intensified repression against human rights defenders and civic activists, declines for freedom were registered in 40 countries in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and the former Soviet Union – representing 20 percent of the world's total polities.

Authoritarian states including Iran, Russia, Venezuela and Vietnam became more repressive. Declines in freedom also

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Freedom in the World 2010: Regional Data

Central and Eastern Europe/Former Soviet Union



Freedom House

ANALYSIS

Russia reflects on ramifications of presidential election in Ukraine

by Pavel K. Baev

Eurasia Daily Monitor

January 19

The outcome of the first round of the presidential election in Ukraine is fairly clear, despite the usual procrastination with confirming the results, but it could have more impact on Russia's stalled political modernization than the misanthropic political elite in Moscow expects.

Taking a lesson from their utterly counter-productive involvement in the previous elections in fall 2004, the Russian leadership has remained demonstratively indifferent to the political battles in its most important neighboring state.

President Dmitry Medvedev has singled out President Viktor Yushchenko as a man he could not do business with, anticipating his imminent political fiasco. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, on the contrary, has conducted a lot of business with his counterpart Yulia Tymoshenko, but declared that he did not support her in the elections (Rossiyskaya Gazeta, December 3). He also mentioned "special relations" between United Russia and the Party of Regions, but not Viktor Yanukovich, whom he congratulated twice with the victory that never came in 2004.

Mr. Yanukovich now radiates confidence that the elections will not slip away, but the Russian public opinion by a considerable margin expects Ms. Tymoshenko to snatch victory (www.levada.ru, January 14). The mainstream media in Moscow sticks to the line – also drawn by Mr. Putin – that no candidate in the remarkably diverse Ukrainian list could be seen

as "pro-Russian" (Ekspert, January 14).

This impartial attitude reflects the gradually matured acceptance of the political reality of a Ukrainian state that pursues its own interests and cherishes its vision of becoming a part of Europe rather than reintegrating with Russia. Ukraine is still seen as culturally too close to be just another foreign country, yet the disappointment in building a "union state" with Belarus, poisoned by endless economic quarrels and political scandals, informs a progressively sober perspective on the Slavic "post-brotherhood" (www.gazeta.ru, January 11).

The feature of the elections that gains the most attention within the Russian media is the bitter acrimony and tilt towards negative campaigning, which is presented as a consequence of a protracted political crisis created by the Orange Revolution (Rossiyskaya Gazeta, January 15). Still, the express-poll by Moscow Echo radio showed that 90 percent of its audience preferred this kind of competitive election to the heavily manipulated quasi-elections held in Russia (Ekho Moskv, January 15).

Irresponsible populism may still dominate in the debates, but experts point to the evolving culture of compromise and the rise of a new generation of politicians, like Sergey Tigipko and Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who try to bridge the "Orange versus blue-white" divide (Vremya Novostei, January 15). Whatever the vitriol in the Russian political bureaucracy about the self-destruction of the Orange Revolution, its legacy lives in the uncensored media, the politically engaged pop-

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A look at Russian policy objectives in Ukraine's presidential election

by Vladimir Socor

Eurasia Daily Monitor

January 21

From its preliminary stages down to the January 17 first round, Ukraine's presidential election has occasioned a full and continuous display of Russia's strategic policy objectives toward the country.

Irrespective of the presidential runoff's outcome on February 7, Moscow has already achieved – largely by default – three basic objectives regarding Ukraine.

First, the Kremlin no longer has reasons to fear the Orange freedoms' contaminating effect upon Russia. Given Ukraine's political and economic predicaments, it has lost the attractiveness of a democratic example to Russia's populace or elite circles. If anything, Russian business interests associated with the political authorities' powers seem poised for predatory takeovers of crisis-hit Ukrainian assets.

Second, Russia has managed to remove discussion of Ukraine's hypothetical NATO membership from the political agenda. All serious parties and candidates now avoid this subject as a political liability in Ukraine and as an irritant to Russia.

And third, Moscow has been content to watch the defeated President Viktor Yushchenko instrumentalize Ukrainian national identity issues as his last resort and "anti-Russian" card. Mr. Yushchenko's tactics seemingly vindicated Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's August 11,

2009, open-letter warnings to him and Ukraine. The outgoing president's campaign has split the Ukrainian electorate in the west and center, complicating the country's post-election politics even further.

The next tier of Russian objectives emerged both before and during the Ukrainian presidential election campaign. They can also be deduced in part from presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich's campaign statements.

The operational order of Russia's priorities should become somewhat clearer after the runoff's outcome. Moscow's post-election goals are mostly familiar ones, albeit in a changing Ukrainian and international context. They include:

- introducing some form of shared control over Ukraine's gas transit system (several forms are theoretically available), notwithstanding Ukrainian legislation explicitly banning all forms of alienating that transit system;
- acquiring ownership in Ukrainian industries through Russian state banks and Kremlin-connected oligarchs;
- expanding the use of the Russian language in Ukraine's public sphere; and claiming an inherent Russian vetting right on Ukraine's educational policies and interpretations of the national history;
- using Ukrainian interest groups to link Ukraine with the planned Russia-Belarus-

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NEWSBRIEFS

Russian envoy arrives in Ukraine

KYIV – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to Ukraine Mikhail Zurabov on January 25 handed in his letters of credence to Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Petro Poroshenko. Mr. Poroshenko commented to the news media that the huge potential of Ukraine-Russia relations had obtained a new impetus with the arrival of Mr. Zurabov. He also said one of the main tasks is to improve trade and economic relations, and reach the 2008 level of trade turnover – over \$40 billion (U.S.). In turn, the Russian diplomat noted that Ukraine and Russia are the countries that, with a good relationship between their leaders, may convert bilateral cooperation into higher living standards. Mr. Zurabov also noted that the two countries need to deepen cooperation during the global economic slump. When Ambassador Zurabov arrived in Ukraine on January 25, the staff of the Russian Embassy in Ukraine and representatives of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry met him at Kyiv's Boryspil Airport. "The Russian leadership is sure that Russian-Ukrainian relations have a strategic potential for development," Mr. Zurabov said, adding that he will do all he can to implement this potential. On January 19, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev ordered Mr. Zurabov to take up his duties in Ukraine. The decree appointing Mr. Zurabov as Russian ambassador to Ukraine was signed on August 5, 2009. (Ukrinform)

Poroshenko on relations with Russia

KYIV – Foreign Affairs Minister Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine has said that Ukraine's relations with Russia have improved over the last three months. He said this at a meeting with representatives of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine on the evening of January 26. Mr. Poroshenko said that the two countries had not yet reached the level of strategic partnership relations, however, permanent steps forward had been seen after an economic summit in Yalta that took place in November 2009. "Starting from

January 1, we removed some trade barriers with Russia and we drafted a very positive scenario that will be implemented after February 7," he said. Mr. Poroshenko offered his opinion that it is not only Ukraine that is to blame for the worsening of Ukrainian-Russian relations. He said that Russian policy is in many respects based on emotions, whereas it should be pragmatic and mutually beneficial. (Ukrinform)

Tymoshenko speaks on Unity Day

KYIV – Ukrainian presidential candidate and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, during her working visit to Lviv on January 22, called the Day of Unity a landmark event in Ukrainian history because on January 22, 1919, western and eastern Ukraine united thanks to political leaders' will. "This was possible because political leaders managed to put their own ambitions aside. And I as a presidential candidate cannot but say the following: I will also do the utmost to strengthen Ukrainian state, so that our people would not be separated either by language or history," Ms. Tymoshenko pledged. (Ukrinform)

PRU insists on Lutsenko's dismissal

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada First Vice-Chairman Oleksander Lavrynovych, who represents the opposition Party of Regions, has tabled in Parliament a bill on the dismissal of Yurii Lutsenko as Ukraine's internal affairs minister. The document was registered in the Verkhovna Rada on January 25. Mr. Lavrynovych said Mr. Lutsenko should be dismissed as he "systematically violated current laws" on elections and repeatedly tried to intervene in the election process during the presidential election, contrary to the bans set by laws. (Ukrinform)

Tomenko: no grounds for Rada elections

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Vice-Chairman Mykola Tomenko, a member of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, said he is confident there are currently no grounds to hold snap parliamentary elections.

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ANALYSIS: Russian-brokered diarchy would best suit Moscow in Ukraine

by Vladimir Socor

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and opposition Party of Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich (a two-time former prime minister) will face each other in the presidential election runoff on February 7. Russia has made clear that it is willing to work with Ms. Tymoshenko, Mr. Yanukovich, or both leaders at present and in the post-election period.

By all indications, Moscow does not have a preferred Ukrainian candidate. However, Moscow must contemplate a preferred outcome, which could well be a diarchy in Ukraine. A Russian-brokered governing diarchy would enable Moscow to play both sides in Ukraine and emerge as a political arbiter or balance-holder between them.

Moscow has previously supported diarchy-type arrangements in two post-Soviet republics: in Armenia in 1998-2000 and in Moldova in 2001. Both experiments ended with the imposition of de facto presidential rule by Moscow-friendly presidents, despite the mixed presidential-parliamentary systems formally existing in both countries.

Ukraine's existing constitutional arrangements are a prescription for stalemate, pitting the presidency against the government and parliamentary majority, and turning rivalries between parties into conflicts between institutions. The 2004

constitutional compromise aggravated this situation, with often paralyzing effects. The Orange Revolution's unintended result turned out to be disorganization of the state and generalized dysfunctionality of its institutions.

As President Viktor Yushchenko – who bears a major share of responsibility for that situation – departs the scene, Ukraine's three-cornered power contest is turning into a bipolar one involving the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB). A fragile and unstable equilibrium between these rival forces after the presidential election would open possibilities for Russia to advance its objectives in Ukraine. From Moscow's standpoint, the optimal solution for Ukraine would be a tense diarchy.

An unstable Ukraine or a dysfunctional Ukrainian state, however, is clearly not in Russia's interest. Ukrainian political leaders would simply be unable to deliver on agreements reached in such circumstances. Ukraine's Western partners, as well as Russia, have learned this repeatedly from 2005 onward – with the partial exception of the YTB-led government in 2009. Moscow needs a Ukrainian president and government sufficiently effective to deliver on agreements, but still unconsolidated and insecure in power, and leaving scope for Moscow to deal alternately with Ukraine's rival political forces.

Whether Ms. Tymoshenko or Mr. Yanukovich win the presidency, Moscow

may well encourage diarchy-type arrangements to take shape for the post-election period. That would involve a Russian-brokered cohabitation between the Ukrainian president and government, as well as between the parliamentary majority and an almost evenly matched opposition. A delimitation of spheres of authority at the level of institutions could then, with Russia's encouragement, take shape also between Kyiv and Donetsk, formally or informally.

Russia, therefore, can be expected to resort to a soft version of the general post-Soviet paradigm of controlled instability. In Ukraine's case it can exploit the stalemate between institutions and branches of power and their respective political exponents. The Kremlin had earlier invoked more severe forms of controlled instability by playing on Ukraine's regional differences, e.g., to influence the presidential election in 2004 and derail the Ukraine-NATO Membership Action Plan in 2008. At this time, however, Moscow has no cause to encourage centrifugal forces and no interest in doing so.

On January 19, two days after the first round of Ukraine's presidential election, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev instructed Ambassador Mikhail Zurabov in front of TV cameras to take up his post in Ukraine immediately. Mr. Zurabov had been appointed in August to fill that vacant post, but was never actually sent to Kyiv as the Kremlin refused to deal with President Yushchenko.

Once Mr. Yushchenko lost the election's first round on January 17, Mr. Medvedev instructed Mr. Zurabov in this set-piece meeting to work with the first-round winners in Ukraine. Without naming names and without awaiting the runoff, Mr. Medvedev expressed confident hope that "capable, effective authorities

would emerge in Ukraine [from this election], willing to develop constructive, friendly, multi-dimensional relations with Russia." The message to Ms. Tymoshenko and Yanukovich is that Moscow is ready to work with either of them or both.

Mr. Medvedev elevated Mr. Zurabov's status by appointing him special presidential envoy for economic relations with Ukraine (i.e., reporting directly to the Russian president), concurrently with the ambassadorial assignment (Interfax, Russian Television, January 19).

If Ms. Tymoshenko wins the presidency, Ukraine could overcome the political stalemate without a Russian-brokered diarchy solution. According to many observers, a Tymoshenko success would induce defections from the PRU and residual pro-Yushchenko sub-factions, reinforcing the YTB-led parliamentary majority and government. Should Mr. Yanukovich win the presidency, however, he is widely expected to trigger pre-term parliamentary elections for a new majority and government under his PRU (UCIPR, "The Obvious and the Hidden," Research Update, January 14).

Yet another electoral campaign, if Mr. Yanukovich does trigger it, would cripple Ukraine's and international lenders' efforts to deal with the economic crisis in the country. It would also prolong Ukraine's permanent election campaign syndrome (almost continuous since 2004) even further. And, it would increase Moscow's opportunities to play arbiter and stabilizer between Ukrainian political forces, for greater Russian political influence in the country.

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European Union's energy security may depend on Ukraine's runoff

by Alexandros Petersen

RFE/RL

This winter may not see a natural-gas crisis in Ukraine, but then again, the country's presidential election isn't over. The outcome of the February 7 runoff may well determine whether the gas crises continue, and by extension, shape the future of European energy consumption.

President Viktor Yushchenko, the dioxin-scarred pro-Western reformer, is not only out of the race, but never had a chance. A combination of Russian meddling and European Union apathy transformed Orange Revolution hopes for sweeping reforms and Western integration into the desperate situation we see today: a bankrupt government begging the International Monetary Fund to float another loan so that it can pay Moscow for last month's gas bill. This after gas cutoffs by Gazprom in 2006, 2008 and 2009 that saw Ukraine's geopolitical woes passed on to freezing consumers in central Europe.

But fault does not lie only with external actors. Mr. Yushchenko's principled, yet uncompromising approach to governance inspired historic protests on Kyiv's Independence Square, but found him few friends in Ukraine's tumultuous political arena. Hence the final round between Mr. Yushchenko's two political rivals: Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

Conventional wisdom dictates that should Mr. Yanukovich – Russia's man during the 2004 election – come out on top this time, the pressure from Moscow on Kyiv to pay its bills to Gazprom will dissipate. Ukraine's leadership will prize its special relationship with Russia over NATO and EU membership, reforms will be put on the back burner, and the opaque, corrupt practices of Ukraine's energy sector will continue, benefiting government-

tied oligarchs in Ukraine and Russia alike. This geopolitical and governance "reset" will mean that Gazprom's Kremlin leadership will no longer seek to use energy as a weapon against Ukraine – and thus EU consumers will not experience natural-gas cutoffs down the pipeline.

But 2010 is not 2004. Moscow's lesson from the Orange Revolution was that it cannot put all its eggs in one basket, so Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin have cozied up to both contenders, with particular attention paid to Ukraine's perennial political question mark: Ms. Tymoshenko.

Famous for her braids and political brawn, Ms. Tymoshenko was originally Mr. Yushchenko's Orange ally, but broke from that coalition to cultivate her image as a middle-ground pragmatist with particular expertise in the energy sector.

That image paid off in November when Ms. Tymoshenko, as prime minister, worked out a deal with Mr. Putin to reform and regularize the energy relationship between Ukraine and Russia. In the process, she significantly lessened the likelihood of a 2010 gas cutoff and garnered praise from both Brussels and Moscow. That arrangement could collapse on or after February 7, depending on Gazprom's whims. But, it is the closest to a stable energy relationship that the two countries have had in the past six years.

And, Ms. Tymoshenko showed that she could negotiate practically with Mr. Putin. That cannot be said of Mr. Yanukovich, because he owes too much to his Russian backers.

Most importantly, because of the political ground she has carved out, Ms. Tymoshenko is probably the only leader in Ukraine who can negotiate on good

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Berezovsky: Ukraine vote is "key" for West's future

RFE/RL

LONDON – Fugitive Russian oligarch Boris Berezovsky says the world's key political event is currently taking place in Ukraine, not Iran, RFE/RL's Russian Service reports.

Mr. Berezovsky told RFE/RL from London that he thinks "the West does not comprehend the importance" of the political situation in Ukraine, which he said is more complex than in Iran and the Middle East.

Mr. Berezovsky said that in addition to "Russia's fortunes," the "future of the values of Western civilization" is being decided in Ukraine.

He added that neither opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich nor Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko will be able to solve Ukraine's biggest problem – bridging the division between the pro-Russian, mostly eastern part of the country with the pro-European mainly western part. The two are in "severe confrontation," Mr. Berezovsky said.

Mr. Berezovsky said "one part of [Ukrainian] society is rushing toward civilization, and the other is pulling back toward barbarism."

He also accused both outgoing President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko of responsibility for the fact that the 2004 Orange Revolution did not live up to people's expectations.

Mr. Berezovsky added that Mr. Yushchenko will be regarded by history as the "great reformer" but also as the

person who did not take advantage of the enormous amount of trust Ukrainians placed in him after the Orange Revolution. He said Mr. Yushchenko's main weakness is that he is not a politician but "an ideologue."

Mr. Berezovsky said he has no business interests in Ukraine, only political interests. With Russia, he said his interest is to do everything possible to help it "become a civilized country."

Mr. Berezovsky said that although the second round of the Ukrainian presidential election on February 7 marks a choice "between two great evils," he would prefer to see Ms. Tymoshenko as president.

Despite that, Mr. Berezovsky said he is optimistic about the general situation and thinks "those who want a civilized future for Ukraine" will eventually prevail.

Mr. Berezovsky has been living since 2001 in Great Britain, where he has political asylum.

In June 2009 a Russian court found Mr. Berezovsky guilty in absentia of stealing \$1.8 million from the AvtoVAZ and LogoVAZ automotive companies in the early 1990s and sentenced him to 13 years in prison. In 2007 a Moscow court sentenced Mr. Berezovsky to six years for embezzling \$9 million from the state airliner Aeroflot.

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Yanukovych and Tymoshenko: foreign and security policiesby **Taras Kuzio***Eurasia Daily Monitor*

Viktor Yanukovych and Yulia Tymoshenko will face each other in the second round of Ukraine's fifth presidential election on February 7. In foreign and security policies there are seven key differences between the two candidates.

1. The Black Sea Fleet based in Sevastopol

Mr. Yanukovych's election program proclaims support for Ukraine's neutrality and opposes Ukraine's membership in military blocs. Nevertheless, on many occasions Mr. Yanukovych has stated his readiness to discuss prolonging the Black Sea Fleet's (BSF) basing in Sevastopol beyond 2017, when the 20-year treaty expires.

Is this a contradiction? Of course, but this is nothing new. Meanwhile Ms. Tymoshenko has never supported prolonging the BSF's lease.

2. Relations with Russia

Both candidates are seeking to improve relations with Russia, but in very different ways. Mr. Yanukovych has repeatedly stated that he supports Russia's proposals for a new European security architecture that NATO has received with skepticism (UNIAN, January 12). Ms. Tymoshenko has never mentioned the Russian proposal nor has she ever endorsed it.

Mr. Yanukovych supported the abusive criticism in August 2009 in President Dmitry Medvedev's letter to President Viktor Yushchenko. Ms. Tymoshenko, like Yushchenko, criticized the Medvedev letter. Mr. Yanukovych's Party of Regions has a long-term cooperation agreement with the Unified Russia party unlike Ms. Tymoshenko's Batkivschina party. The Party of Regions has also supported the CIS Single Economic Space (SND YES) Customs Union, which Ms. Tymoshenko has again not mentioned. No country can be in two customs unions (SND YES and a Free Trade Zone with the EU), but such

contradictions are quite common for the Party of Regions.

3. The gas lobby

Mr. Yanukovych and the Party of Regions have financially gained from and supported gas intermediaries such as RosUkrEnergo (RUE) and the gas lobby that took over the party in 2006-2008. Ms. Tymoshenko was involved in cleaning up the energy sector during the last decade and is the only member of the Ukrainian elite who has been imprisoned for battling energy corruption (February 2001). In 2009 Ukraine had no gas intermediaries, because of the contract negotiated by the Tymoshenko government.

A Yanukovych victory may return RUE and the resultant massive corruption in Ukrainian politics. Mr. Yanukovych has strongly supported a gas consortium with Russia to receive gas subsidies (Ukrayinska Pravda, January 19). Ms. Tymoshenko has never done so.

4. NATO membership

Mr. Yanukovych has always adopted a hard-line on NATO membership, opposing any Membership Action Plan (MAP). President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Mr. Yanukovych requested MAP at the Prague and Istanbul NATO summits in 2002 and 2004. Ms. Tymoshenko signed a joint letter with President Yushchenko and Verkhovna Rada Chair Arseniy Yatsenyuk in January 2008 requesting that NATO offer Ukraine a MAP at the Bucharest summit.

The Party of Regions' two Crimean allies, extremist Russian parties in the For Mr. Yanukovych bloc, launched anti-American-NATO protests that blocked (after a decade of no interruptions) joint military exercises with NATO. Ukraine's cooperation within NATO's Partnership for Peace may only return to Kuchma-era levels following Ms. Tymoshenko's election.

5. Relations with Europe

Mr. Yanukovych is seeking to embolden his pro-European credentials

(Ukrayinska Pravda, January 19), but there is strong suspicion that the rhetoric is as empty of content as it was under President Kuchma. The Party of Regions has not shown itself to be a pro-European political force: for example, it turned its back on the election fraud of 2004. Mr. Yanukovych continues to argue that there was no fraud and that he was legitimately elected in November 2004.

The Party of Regions has a cooperation agreement with Unified Russia, but not with any other political group in the European Parliament. Batkivschyna, the party that Ms. Tymoshenko has led for 11 years, is the most active Ukrainian party in the European Parliament. The center-right European People's Party, in which Batkivschyna is a member, issued a statement in support of Ms. Tymoshenko calling upon all "Ukrainian democratic forces" to back her in the second round (<http://vybory.tymoshenko.ua>, January 18).

Ultimately, what is important is which of the two candidates will reset relations with the EU and NATO after three years of Ukraine-fatigue. This is more likely to be Ms. Tymoshenko than Mr. Yanukovych in whom there is still lingering suspicion in Brussels that he represents the old regime.

6. The WTO and the IMF

The Tymoshenko government was instrumental in ensuring that Ukraine completed its entrance into the World Trade Organization in 2008. When in opposition in 2005-2006, the Party of Regions aligned itself with the Communists in voting against the legislation required to enter the WTO. WTO membership is the major steppingstone to the signing of a free-trade zone agreement with the EU in 2010 or 2011. Ukraine's oligarchs see the free-trade zone and visa-free regime in a positive light, as opening up a large market and trading area, while looking aghast at the huge number of Copenhagen criteria-

style requirements that Ukraine will be forced to undertake. Mr. Yanukovych cannot decide in which customs union he wishes the country to join: the CIS Single Economic Space or the EU free trade-zone.

Since the onset of the global financial crisis, the Ms. Tymoshenko government has proven its commitment to work with the IMF when it negotiated a \$16.4 billion standby agreement. In December 2009, its fourth tranche of funding was delayed after the Party of Regions initiated populist legislation that increased social payments and undermined the budget parameters negotiated with the IMF.

7. Separatism, territorial integrity

The Party of Regions backed separatism within the Crimean and Ukrainian Parliaments (alongside the terrorist organization Hamas, as well as Nicaragua and Russia), while the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc supported Georgia's territorial integrity.

In the 2010 elections, the Party of Regions protested the appearance of 2,011 Georgian observers, whom it described in Russian-style tones as a pro-Tymoshenko paramilitary force seeking to emulate the democratic revolutions of 2000-2004 (Ukrayinska Pravda, January 18, 19).

These seven points show the deep-seated differences between the foreign and security policies of the two candidates in the February 7 runoff.

It should be noted that Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko both hail from the Orange Revolution camp and the only difference between them is that their approaches to the above issues reflect those commonly found between western and central Ukraine.

The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.

No surprises in first round of Ukraine's presidential electionby **Pavel Korduban***Eurasia Daily Monitor*

On January 17, the first round of the Ukrainian presidential election brought no surprises. As predicted by the pollsters, opposition leader Viktor Yanukovych beat Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and the two will face each other in the runoff scheduled for February 7.

Former National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Sergey Tigipko came in third and former Verkhovna Rada Chairman Arseniy Yatsenyuk fourth. The two will be courted by Mr. Yanukovych and Ms. Tymoshenko, competing over their supporters in the runoff.

Incumbent Viktor Yushchenko suffered a humiliating defeat, but he will be regarded as the president under whom Ukraine witnessed its first free and fair presidential election – a far cry from the highly controversial election won by Mr. Yushchenko in 2004. Ironically, Mr. Yushchenko came to power on a wave of popular protests against attempts to rig that election in favor of the front-runner in the current election, Mr. Yanukovych.

Mr. Yanukovych secured 35.3 percent of the vote ahead of Ms. Tymoshenko's 25 percent. The former central bank chairman and head of the Yanukovych election headquarters in 2004, Mr. Tigipko scored 13 percent, trailed by Mr.

Yatsenyuk with 7 percent and Mr. Yushchenko with 5.5 percent.

The figures reported by the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) are very close to those from five independent exit polls (Channel 5, January 17).

The Tymoshenko team claimed that only the results of one additional exit poll were accurate, which showed a 4 percent gap between Mr. Yanukovych and Ms. Tymoshenko. Ms. Tymoshenko's right-hand man Oleksander Turchynov alleged that Mr. Yanukovych's Party of Regions of Ukraine, whose sympathizers dominate the CEC, rigged the vote, taking 3 percent from Ms. Tymoshenko's real result and adding 3 percent to Mr. Yanukovych (UNIAN, January 18). However, Turchynov said that his party will not dispute the first-round results in court.

Turchynov's statement reflected the Ms. Tymoshenko team's disappointment with her result, as she had reportedly hoped the gap with Mr. Yanukovych would be narrower than the psychological barrier of 10 percent. As the gap is slightly wider, it may be hard for Ms. Tymoshenko to beat Mr. Yanukovych in the runoff.

Apart from Ms. Tymoshenko, all the other candidates accepted the official results and the exit polls. International observers, both from Russia and the West, also recognized that the election was free and fair, despite minor controversies that

did not influence the final outcome.

Another positive feature of the election was that Ukrainians rejected radical ideologies. Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko scored only 3.5 percent, the far-right leader Oleh Tiahnybok 1.4 percent and Uzhhorod Mayor Serhii Ratushniak, who expressed anti-Semitic views during his campaign, received only 0.1 percent.

Despite Mr. Yanukovych's seemingly comfortable victory, the final outcome remains difficult to predict as experts expect that more than half the supporters of second-tier candidates may vote for Ms. Tymoshenko in the runoff. Also, neither Mr. Tigipko nor Mr. Yatsenyuk will make life easier for the front-runners, as both said they would not back either Mr. Yanukovych or Ms. Tymoshenko in the runoff (Ukraina TV, January 17). This is despite the fact that both Mr. Yanukovych and Ms. Tymoshenko are hinting that second-tier candidates may expect rewards up to the post of prime minister in exchange for their support.

The Delo daily reported on January 19, citing its sources from the Tymoshenko team, that Ms. Tymoshenko was ready to offer Mr. Tigipko and his people the post of prime minister and up to 50 percent of ministerial positions. Whether this is true or not, the stakes are very high as the final outcome may depend entirely on the behavior of Mr. Tigipko's electorate.

It is easy to forecast that most of Mr. Yatsenyuk's and Mr. Yushchenko's "Orange" voters will back Ms. Tymoshenko in the runoff and that Symonenko's "red" electorate will side with Mr. Yanukovych.

Mr. Tigipko's electorate is harder to gauge. The first-round results and opinion polls showed that his voters are mostly educated urban dwellers from Mr. Yanukovych's traditional strongholds in the south and east of Ukraine. This could mean that many of Mr. Tigipko voters are former Mr. Yanukovych voters. However, their apparent disillusionment with Mr. Yanukovych does not necessarily imply that their choice in the runoff will be Ms. Tymoshenko, who is preferred in the predominantly rural areas in western and central Ukraine where Mr. Tigipko's performance was mediocre.

Another option for such voters will be to tick the "against both" box on the ballot papers, and pre-election opinions polls showed that as many as 20 percent of Ukrainians may choose this protest option in the runoff (Interfax-Ukraine, December 28, 29).

If Mr. Yanukovych wins the runoff, a snap parliamentary election is likely to coincide with regular local elections in late May. Mr. Yanukovych is keen to oust Ms. Tymoshenko from the government,

(Continued on page 5)

Memorial service at Kennedy Center honors Roman Terleckyj

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON – The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts honored Roman Terleckyj (1953-2009), a respected production and programming director at the center and the Washington National Opera for more than a quarter century, with a special concert of music and remembrances on January 25.

Mr. Terleckyj died from congestive heart failure at a hospital in Greensboro, Ga., on November 22, 2009. He was 55.

Some 400 of his friends and former colleagues came to the Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater that unseasonably warm and sunny winter afternoon to honor his artistry and express their admiration of him and what he accomplished in his life.

Lawrence Wilker, the former president of the Kennedy Center, the first to address the memorial event, recounted the breadth of Mr. Terleckyj's career, which also included the Michigan Opera Theater in Detroit, the Civic Opera of the Palm Beaches in Florida, the Santa Fe Opera in New Mexico, the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts in Virginia, Broadway, as well as his role in coordinating Gian Carlo Menotti's Spoleto music festivals in Italy, the United States and Australia.

"But despite his international work, Roman's heart and home was in Washington, D.C., where he had a significant impact" on the performing arts in the nation's capital, Mr. Wilker said.

Mr. Terleckyj came to the Washington National Opera in 1979, serving as production assistant and then production director until 1996, directing some 25 opera productions. The following year he joined the Kennedy Center, where he was vice-president of artistic programming until 2006, developing and coordinating thousands of productions.

"We celebrate Roman as a wonderful and kind human being," Mr. Wilker said. "Roman had a zest for life. He was a positive life force, whose energy and enthusiasm for everything in life energized everyone around him."

John Feinstein, a Washington journalist and son of Martin Feinstein, the former general manager of the

Washington National Opera and executive director of the Kennedy Center, recalled the working relationship between Mr. Terleckyj and his father, an avowed perfectionist.

"He saw something special in Roman. He knew Roman was special both as a director and as a person," he recalled. "And dad was very, very proud of everything that Roman accomplished."

Mr. Feinstein also read a note from David DiChiera, the general director for the Michigan Opera Theater and early mentor in Mr. Terleckyj's career. "With pride and pleasure I observed as he unfolded his myriad talents into an exciting and unique career."

Marta Istomin, former artistic director of the Kennedy Center and former president of the Manhattan School of Music, also spoke about Roman Terleckyj's talents, enthusiasm and the joy of life he shared with those who worked with him.

"He was brilliant, well-bred, hardworking, generous, charismatic, loving, funny ... and he loved life," she said, suggesting that much of this may have evolved from his early years in the Ukrainian American immigrant environment.

"His life was, indeed, fascinating and inspiring. His parents were Ukrainian refugees, who had fled from Germany to Britain, where Roman was born," she said. "When he was still an infant, the family moved to Detroit, where there was a large Ukrainian community, where his mother and sister still live, and where he is now buried. His first language and culture was Ukrainian, which pervaded the rest of his life, and career, and of which he was very proud."

Ms. Istomin noted that in a recent interview, Mr. Terleckyj credited his career and passion for the arts to an opera performance he was forced to attend "kicking and screaming" when he was a child. "It changed my life," he said, "opening my eyes to a world of imagination and magic that I never knew existed."

Among the operatic projects they worked on together at the Kennedy Center, Ms. Istomin said, was the Berlin Opera's presentation of two complete cycles of Richard Wagner's "Ring" and the Washington premiere of Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors."

In the last three years of his life Mr. Terleckyj took on a new challenge, creating the Oconee Performing Arts Society in central Georgia.

"He lived his professional life and personal life to the fullest and to the happiest, and earned the respect and admiration of those who came in contact with him," Ms. Istomin.

The three speakers on the memorial program



Roman Terleckyj makes a point, in a photo reproduced from the Kennedy Center's "In Memoriam" program.

referred to their departed friend and colleague using only his first name, Roman, and always in the Ukrainian pronunciation — with the accent on the second syllable.

Also paying their artistic respects to Mr. Terleckyj in the memorial program were soprano Harolyn Blackwell, who sang "Somewhere" from Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story"; Broadway and opera soloist Debbie Gravitte, who sang "Memory" from Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Cats"; soloist and Broadway actor J. Mark McVey who sang "The Impossible Dream" from "Man of La Mancha." In addition, the Washington Choral Arts Society sang "Simple Gifts" by Elder Joseph Brackett and Mozart's "Ave verum corpus"; pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet played Ravel's "Pavane pour une infante defunte" and Chopin's Nocturne Op. 9 No. 2 in E-flat major; and Sona Kharatian and Jared Nelson of The Washington Ballet performed "Cor Perdue" by Maria del Mar Bonet and Nacho Duato.

Present at the Kennedy Center memorial for Mr. Terleckyj were his mother, Ksenia Fedak, his sister and his companion of 19 years, Greg Barnard.

The memorial program began with a prelude: a recording of Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante accompanying a projected photo montage biography of Mr. Terleckyj's life, beginning with his early years in Detroit that included pictures of him playing the bandura.

A little over an hour later it ended with a postlude: an orchestral recording of the Ukrainian national anthem.

While working professionally in Washington, Mr. Terleckyj also took part in the Ukrainian American cultural life in the nation's capital, as Laryssa Courtney, who founded The Washington Group Cultural Fund, pointed out. As examples, she noted his participation in a panel discussion at a TWG Leadership Conference, in organizing a benefit concert at the British Embassy, and a Ukrainian American get-together with him and Ukrainian tenor Vladimir Grishko during the Kennedy Center's presentation of Rimsky Korsakov's "The Tsar's Bride."



Ukrainian tenor Vladimir Grishko (second from left) and Roman Terleckyj (second from right), then production director of the Washington National Opera, are welcomed by a group of Ukrainian Americans following a 1992 presentation of Rimsky Korsakov's "The Tsar's Bride" at the Kennedy Center in Washington. In the photo with them are some of the members of The Washington Group participating in the reception (from left): Eugenia Osgood, Laryssa Courtney and Hanja Cherniak.

No surprises...

(Continued from page 4)

as he admitted after the first round (Inter TV, January 17). Unlike before the constitutional reform of 2004-2006, Parliament (and not the president) will nominate the prime minister. Ms. Tymoshenko's opponents in the current Verkhovna Rada are in a minority, so Mr. Yanukovich will have to campaign for disbanding Parliament if he wants to remove Ms. Tymoshenko from the gov-

ernment.

If Ms. Tymoshenko wins the runoff, Ukraine's transition to its next government should be smoother and take less time, as she does not need to disband Parliament to ensure that the government is dominated by her supporters. She will only need to consolidate her existing coalition in the Verkhovna Rada.

The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.

The Weekly's collection of materials about the Famine

The Ukrainian Weekly's official website contains the largest collection of materials on the Internet dedicated to the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

Located at www.ukrweekly.com, the special section includes a chronology of the Famine years, eyewitness accounts, editorials, media reports, stories about observances of the Famine's 50th anniversary in 1983, scholarly articles, interviews with journalists who reported on the Famine, transcripts of testimony on the Famine commission bill ultimately passed by the U.S. Congress, texts of statements before the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, references and other documentation, as well as the full text of The Ukrainian Weekly's special issue on the Great Famine published on March 20, 1983. The section is completely searchable.

To subscribe to The Ukrainian Weekly,
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OBITUARIES

Jaroslav Kurowyckyj, community activist and New York businessman, 77

by Marta Danyluk

NEW YORK – Jaroslav Kurowyckyj, businessman and devoted community activist, passed away unexpectedly on the day when the rest of the world was heralding in the New Year. He was 77.

In New York, he left behind his beloved wife, Iryna, his son, Jaroslav Jr., with his wife, Ezya, and children, George and Dianna, as well as his brother Zenon, along with his family.

Mr. Kurowyckyj died on January 1 in Arizona, where he and his wife were spending Christmas with their daughter, Oksana, her husband, Orest Komarnyckyj, and daughters, Ksenia and Katia.

Towards the end of his stay in Arizona, Mr. Kurowyckyj abruptly became ill. His illness was a great shock to his family, friends, acquaintances, and the entire community in New York, where Mr. Kurowyckyj was an active and beloved member.

There is a belief that during the high holy days, the Lord calls to Himself only those who were good and virtuous, like Jaroslav Kurowyckyj. He was hard-working, with a pleasant demeanor and always ready to help others. He loved his family and always celebrated the achievements of his children and grandchildren. But, most of all, Mr. Kurowyckyj was a Ukrainian patriot.

Mr. Jaroslav Kurowyckyj was very proud of his roots – he was born in Horodenky, in the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast of Ukraine, on October 22, 1932. Due to the calamities of war, the Kurowyckyj family, like many others, had to flee their homeland. After World War II the family was fortunate to arrive in the United States and settle in New York City. There, Jaroslav attended school, joined Plast, and played sports.

He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served during the Korean War.

After his military service, he got married and worked with his father, a well-known butcher in New York City. Later, the younger Mr. Kurowyckyj became the owner of Kurowyck & Son Meat Market and went on to spread the reputation of his delicious meat products all over New York. Mr. Kurowyckyj never hesitated to donate his goods to various community organizations, whenever the need arose. Through his community activities and because of his outstanding products, Mr. Kurowyckyj became very well acquainted with representatives of Ukraine's Consulate General in New York, who often came to visit the store.

Mr. Kurowyckyj was a long-time president of the Ukrainian Sports Club in New York, a position he held until his dying day. One of his achievements was to ensure that telecasts of Ukrainian soccer and other sports, played in various countries around the world, could be seen at the club. His love for soccer started at an early age and manifested itself in 1965, when the Ukrainian team managed by Mr. Kurowyckyj won the United States Champion Cup.

Mr. Kurowyckyj was also a long-time member of New York City's Community Board 3. On this board he headed the committee and worked very hard to save the name of Taras Shevchenko Street, located in the heart of the Ukrainian area in the city.

The Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) held a very special place in Mr. Kurowyckyj's heart, because he recognized that this



Jaroslav Kurowyckyj

organization supported the Ukrainian community not only in the United States, but throughout the world. Besides its charitable and cultural work, the UNWLA often wrote about the atrocities and injustices inflicted upon the Ukrainian people, and countered misinformation about Ukraine appearing in the media. Mr. Kurowyckyj often took it upon himself to also comment on these issues.

When in 1992 Mrs. Kurowyckyj became the president of the National Council of Women in the United States – the first Ukrainian woman to do so in the 108 years of this organization's existence – and in 1999 was elected president of the UNWLA, Mr. Kurowyckyj tirelessly supported her efforts. He encouraged her frequent international and local travel as a representative of these organizations.

In addition, he provided assistance during the remodeling of the UNWLA's headquarters and didn't complain when the office moved into the Kurowyckyj apartment for several months, using their personal computer, telephone and other equipment to conduct business. Mr. Kurowyckyj ensured that everyone felt very welcome and withstood this upheaval in his household with patience and even humor. For his efforts, in May 2008 the 28th congress of the UNWLA honored Mr. Kurowyckyj with a certificate of appreciation for his great support of the organization.

The news of the untimely passing of Mr. Kurowyckyj was a great shock to the UNWLA family, the Ukrainian community in New York, and friends and acquaintances near and far. His loss affected many, as was evident by the number of people who came to pay their respects at the Peter Jarema Funeral Home on January 8 and the next day at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.

All funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Bernard Panczuk of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York. After the "panakhida," (requiem service), Father Panczuk read a letter of sympathy from Bishop Paul Chomnycky, the eparch of Stamford, Conn., and Bishop Emeritus Basil Losten. The Rev. George Bazylevsky of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church assisted during the burial service at the cemetery and vocals during the funeral were provided by Anna Bachynsky.

Paying their respects and expressing

(Continued on page 21)

Roman Kupchinsky, analyst, author, champion of the Ukrainian cause, 65

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Roman Kupchinsky, an ardent supporter of the Ukrainian cause, an analyst with the Jamestown Foundation, former head of the Ukrainian Service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) and former president of Prolog Research Corp., died in Arlington, Va., on January 19 after a battle with cancer. He was 65.

Mr. Kupchinsky was a prolific contributor of articles and analyses published by the Jamestown Foundation, a leading source of information about Eurasia, China and global terrorism. His articles appeared frequently in the foundation's Eurasia Daily Monitor and its other publications, as well as on the blog he created on the Jamestown Foundation's website. His byline was seen often in The Ukrainian Weekly, whether in reprints of his articles from other sources or in original materials prepared for the newspaper.

Before joining the Jamestown Foundation's team of experts and authors, Mr. Kupchinsky headed the Ukrainian Service at RFE/RL and was president of the Prolog Research Corp.

In an obituary posted on its website, RFE/RL wrote:

"Roman Kupchinsky was not someone easily overlooked. A great shaggy bear of a man, habitually disheveled in appearance, he attracted notice for his air of casual relaxation under all circumstances. His gruff, joke-laced approach was the same toward everybody, whether they were government ministers or young members of his own staff.

"But his Falstaffian exterior hid a sharp mind that was acute at analyzing the broader implications of seemingly unrelated events in Ukraine, Russia and across the East-West divide. Always close in spirit to his homeland, he made through his work a lasting contribution to Ukrainian independence.

"He wrote with particular authority on endemic corruption in Ukraine and in the former Soviet Union, and on Russian and East European energy issues."

The current director of RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, Irena Chalupa, confirmed Mr. Kupchinsky's impact on Ukraine. She recalled an investigation he carried out linking the head of the state gas trading company to a complicated web of corruption. "Two weeks after these stories came out, the head of the gas agency resigned," Ms. Chalupa was quoted as saying in RFE/RL's obituary about



The Ukrainian Weekly file photo

Roman Kupchinsky addressing a conference in 1985.

Mr. Kupchinsky. "And he even made reference to the 'winds of liberty' catching up with him."

President Viktor Yushchenko issued a statement saying he was "deeply saddened" by Mr. Kupchinsky's passing. "A wonderful person has left us, a prominent journalist, a true Ukrainian patriot, who devoted his life to the service of his native land. He did an awful lot for the development of independent Ukrainian journalism, tirelessly worked for the rebirth of Ukrainian statehood, the consolidation of democracy and freedom of speech," he said.

Roman George Kupchinsky was born on November 1, 1944, in Vienna, Austria. In 1949 his family arrived in the United States, at first settling in Brooklyn. (His mother, Maria Savchak, was a branch secretary of the Ukrainian National Association and president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.)

Mr. Kupchinsky was a member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and its Chornomortsi fraternity. He majored in political science, and studied history and journalism at Long Island University.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war, doing two tours of duty, serving as a rifle platoon leader and attaining the rank of lieutenant. He was awarded the Purple Heart, the Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, the Bronze Star Medal with V Device and one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Infantryman Campaign Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. His "Vietnamskyi Schodennyk" (Vietnam Dairy) was published in the 1971 Almanac of the Ukrainian National Association. (The almanac may be viewed on the website of Svoboda, <http://svoboda-news.com/>; click on the menu item "Almanakhy" on the left and then on the 1971 cover to read its contents.)

In the 1970s he was a co-founder and leading member of the Committee for the Defense of Soviet Political Prisoners and was involved in many campaigns in defense of Ukrainian and other national and human rights activists. He lectured on human rights issues at many universities, conferences and press clubs, and authored countless articles on the topic. He was active in Amnesty International and worked with organizations such as Freedom House, the Ukrainian National



Svoboda file photo

Roman Kupchinsky in Vietnam in 1968.

(Continued on page 20)



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Branch 175 elects new board and convention delegate



WARREN, Mich. – During their annual meeting held on January 17, members of Ukrainian National Association Branch 175 elected a new board. Pictured above are the attendees of the meeting: (seated, from left) Roman Lazarchuk, Dr. Alexander Serafyn (president), Lesia Lawrin (secretary/treasurer), Josef Postolowskyj; (standing) Jaroslaw Baziuk, Dmytro Koszylowsky (Auditing Committee member), Anna Koszylowsky, Zenia Serafyn, Olena Papiz (Auditing Committee chair), Maria Baziuk, Lesia Florchuk (vice-president). Not pictured is Luba Fedorko, member of the Auditing Committee. At a separate meeting, following the annual meeting, Zenia Serafyn was elected as the convention delegate for Branch 175 and Dr. Serafyn was elected as alternate.

– Dr. Alexander Serafyn

Woonsocket welcomes St. Nicholas



WOONSOCKET, R.I. – Ukrainian National Association Branch 241 in Woonsocket, R.I., hosted its annual St. Nicholas/Christmas party for the children of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church. Msgr. Roman Golemba and Janet Bardell, branch secretary, greeted the youngsters. Lydia Tkach and Marika Hull programmed the event with poems and songs. The parents prepared a delicious lunch, and John Tkach provided musical entertainment. Of course, the highlight of the event was when St. Nicholas presented gifts to the eager children.

– Janet Bardell

Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- to provide quality financial services and products to its members.

As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community.

In memoriam: Yaroslava Zorych, longtime UNA activist in Canada

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association recently learned about the passing of longtime UNA activist and former secretary of UNA Branch 432 Yaroslava Zorych.

For many years Mrs. Zorych also served as the UNA's chief agent in Canada. Her husband, Bohdan, who passed away in 1984, had been director of the UNA Canadian Office, the UNA's chief agent for Canada and the UNA's supreme vice-president for Canada in 1966-1982. He was named an honorary member of the UNA Supreme (today General) Assembly in 1982.

Mrs. Zorych, who was born on February 17, 1917, died on November 2, 2009, in Toronto. She was known as the founder and director of Ukrainian studies courses at St. Nicholas School in Toronto, and as a dedicated activist of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO).

Mrs. Zorych was the editor of the magazines Zhinochyi Svit (Woman's World), published by the Ukrainian Women's Organization of Canada, and Ukrainka v Sviti (Ukrainian Woman in the World), published by the WFUWO.

She was an active member and honorary member of the Ukrainian Women's Association, vice-president of the Oleh Olzhych Foundation, and vice-president and honorary member of the WFUWO.

She was honored by President Viktor



Yaroslava Zorych

Yushchenko of Ukraine on August 18, 2009, with the Order for Merit, III class.

The funeral liturgy was offered on November 6 at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church; interment was at Park Lawn Cemetery.

Surviving are Mrs. Zorych's daughters Chrystyna Holman, with her husband, Alan; and Halyna Kvitka Kondracki, with her husband, Michael; as well as five granddaughters, Kvitka, Larissa, Zoja, Larysa and Rayisa.

Memorial donations may be made to the Olzych Foundation Canada or the Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund.

UNA Executive Committee



Anna Chopek

September 18, 1912 – January 17, 2010

The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association regrets to announce to the members of the General Assembly, to members of Branch 307 and to the UNA membership at large that Anna Chopek, auditor of UNA Branch 307 in 1961 - 1978, Boston District chairperson, UNA supreme advisor in 1954 - 1978, as well as honorary member of the UNA General Assembly since 1978, president of the UNA Seniors in 1996 - 2004, passed away on January 17, 2010, at the age of 97.

The Executive Committee and the entire UNA membership wish to express their deepest sympathy to the Chopek and Sydoriak family. Ms. Chopek was an invaluable long-time supporter of the UNA, participating in 13 UNA conventions, extremely active in various committees and proceedings of the UNA. Her loyalty and true dedication to the Ukrainian National Association will not be forgotten.

Вічна її пам'ять!



THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

There is a choice

If you believe President Viktor Yushchenko, then there's little difference between the political agenda offered by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich, the two candidates left vying for the presidential title. But most Ukrainians lost faith in Mr. Yushchenko, as demonstrated by his anemic 5 percent result in the January 17 first round. The president's indifference reveals that his concern for Ukraine's integration with the European Union (EU) goes only as far as it serves his political ends, Ms. Tymoshenko be damned.

Recognizing that an irrational president has made his conflict with the prime minister a personal matter, Ukraine's panic-stricken intelligentsia, patriots, aspiring middle class, villagers and diaspora have embarked on a mass mobilization effort to convince voters to brave freezing temperatures, come out to the polls and cast their ballots for the lesser of two evils in the February 7 runoff.

Ms. Tymoshenko has put integration with NATO on the back burner. Yet this flexibility is a significant contrast to Mr. Yanukovich's firm, unwavering opposition. The prime minister has demonstrated that she is open to pursuing NATO integration should public opinion ever rebound from the massive damage done by the infighting of the last five years.

Ms. Tymoshenko has demonstrated she's not afraid to challenge Ukraine's oligarchs when the national interest is at stake. While Mr. Yanukovich allowed for the RosUkrEnergo money-laundering scam to thrive, with the active involvement of Party of Regions deputies, Ms. Tymoshenko fought tooth and nail to eliminate it, which she did finally when reaching the January 2009 natural gas deal with the Russian government.

While Mr. Yanukovich proposed two weeks ago that Ukraine help Russia build natural gas pipelines bypassing Ukraine, Ms. Tymoshenko has offered proposals to improve transparency in Ukraine's current transit system and enhance its energy independence. Selling Ukraine's natural gas transit system isn't an option for Ms. Tymoshenko, while Mr. Yanukovich has entertained the notion of forming an international gas consortium.

Ms. Tymoshenko consults with offensive figures in Ukrainian politics, such as Viktor Medvedchuk, the Soviet lawyer and Presidential Administration chair under former President Leonid Kuchma. Yet they don't pose the same threat that the Donbas oligarchy does, with its goal of dominating the Ukrainian economy by any means necessary. As president, Mr. Yanukovich would directly answer to Donbas industrial kingpin Rinat Akhmetov and his goals of expanding his business empire.

Ms. Tymoshenko has a shady past, as do most of Ukraine's wealthy. Yet Mr. Yanukovich continues to break the law brazenly, with the theft of the Mezhyhiria state resort being the glaring example.

Ms. Tymoshenko made some severe missteps as prime minister. Giggling at cracks made by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin denigrating President Yushchenko, at two separate meetings, was utterly disgusting. Yet those incidents are exceptions. She otherwise is a savvy, intelligent sparkplug in whom her European counterparts have confidence.

Ukrainians won't find themselves cringing when listening to Ms. Tymoshenko deliver a speech or meeting with European leaders. The same can't be said of Mr. Yanukovich, who has become notorious for his verbal gaffes and ignorance of European history, culture and geography.

It is a choice between the lesser of two evils in the presidential runoff. Ms. Tymoshenko's no angel in Ukraine's vicious political jungle, but she certainly is the better choice on February 7.

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Turning the pages back...

Two years ago, on February 5, 2008, President Viktor Yushchenko attended the formal signing ceremony of Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland. The formal acceptance into the organization took

place after Ukraine's Parliament ratified the accession and a mandatory 30-day waiting period.

At the time of the ceremony, Mr. Yushchenko was scheduled to deliver his state of the state address to Parliament, but postponed it due to the ongoing disruption of parliamentary activities by the Party of Regions blockade over its opposition to Ukraine's integration into NATO.

Ukraine's WTO process began in November 1993, and since then the Working Party on the Accession of Ukraine into the WTO held 17 formal meetings to steer Ukraine toward its acceptance. Final negotiations concluded on January 25, 2008, after the General Council approved the Working Party's 240-page report, the market access schedules regarding goods and services, the General Council Decision and the Protocol of Accession.

The report described Ukraine's legal and institutional infrastructure for trade, along with commitments it had made in many areas covered by the report. Market schedules on goods included an 890-page list of tariffs, quotas and ceilings on agricultural subsidies, while the 40-page document on services spelled out limitations on foreign ownership among other details.

"This is a historic day for Ukraine and a defining moment for the WTO itself, as the organization is set to move closer to becoming a truly global organization," said Mario Matus, ambassador of Chile to Ukraine, who served as the latest chairman of the Working Party. "The road has been long and often daunting. For an economy as important as Ukraine's, the negotiations were complex, detailed and time consuming," Mr. Matus said.

Ukraine's membership in the WTO, Mr. Yushchenko noted, would improve production in the agricultural sector, in particular by increasing exports. Data provided by economic experts indicated that these exports would now have the chance to grow by as much as 44

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ELECTION NOTEBOOK

BY ZENON ZAWADA

KYIV PRESS BUREAU



Yushchenko scorns Tymoshenko

One might think that President Viktor Yushchenko, having been handily defeated in the first round, would finally set aside his contempt for Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and give Ukraine a chance at Euro-Atlantic integration.

Yet the president has confirmed in recent weeks that Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic course takes a back seat to defeating his hated rival.

First he refused to endorse Ms. Tymoshenko in the runoff scheduled for February 7, declaring he will vote, "Don't support anyone."

Then came his decision to nominate a Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc bureaucrat, Oleksander Osadchuk, to replace a Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc ally, Anatolii Pysarenko, on the Central Election Commission, giving the Party of Regions an 8-to-4 advantage.

Any doubt about the president's antagonism towards Ms. Tymoshenko was confirmed when his brother, Petro Yushchenko, joined the January 28 parliamentary vote to dismiss Yuriy Lutsenko as internal affairs minister.

Mr. Lutsenko's role as Ukraine's police chief is critical to Ms. Tymoshenko being able to fend off a potential election onslaught on government organs by the Party of Regions of Ukraine.

In her reaction on January 23, even before this week's events, Ms. Tymoshenko accused the president of selling out Ukraine. "When I stood next to him in 2004, he said that Yanukovich is a bandit who should sit in jail," she said. "Now he believes that we're the same. Then why didn't Yanukovich stand alongside him and why didn't he fight with him for the right of Ukraine to build its life?"

Pro-Russian leader Viktor Yanukovich doesn't want to debate his contender for the presidential post, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, ignoring the flood of demands by Ukraine's pundits, observers and reporters.

Party of Regions of Ukraine spokeswoman Hanna Herman revealed why that's the case on the January 21 episode of the "Ya Tak Dumayu" (That's What I Think) political talk show, hosted by Anna Bezulyk on Channel 5.

"Politicians are divided between those who talk a lot, and those who talk little but do a lot," Ms. Herman explained. "Yanukovich belongs to those who do a lot. He doesn't like talking, he doesn't know how to talk well, and the country doesn't need this now."

Therefore, Mr. Yanukovich will likely avoid the February 1 debate set by the Central Election Commission (CEC).

The Russian Federation government dispatched Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Mikhail Zurabov to ensure that President Viktor Yushchenko doesn't remain president, said Volodymyr Fesenko, an expert at the Kyiv-based Penta Center for Applied Political Science.

"What are they afraid of?" Mr. Fesenko said at a January 25 press conference in Kyiv. "That Viktor Yushchenko will remain

as president of Ukraine for several more months in case the crisis continues and there's not a victor declared in the presidential elections."

Ambassador Zurabov was dispatched to Kyiv to fulfill the direct will of the Kremlin, not even the Russian Federation Foreign Affairs Ministry, he added.

Upon his arrival on January 25, Mr. Zurabov greeted reporters in the Ukrainian language, "It's a great honor and responsibility for me to represent the president of Russia and the people of the Russian Federation in Ukraine. The leadership of the Russian Federation is convinced that Russian-Ukrainian relations have significant potential for development."

Meanwhile, political pundit Kostiantyn Matviyenko of the Hardarika Strategic Political Consulting Corp. maintained his conviction that President Yushchenko would remain president beyond the elections.

"If the difference is more than 6 percent in the second round, then Yushchenko will give the bulava to Viktor Fedorovich and will legitimize the selection of Ukraine's next president," he said at a January 22 political roundtable discussion hosted by the Kyiv bureau of the RIA Novosti Russian news wire.

"But if a situation emerges in the courts and [there's] uncertainty in selecting the president – and Tymoshenko's more interested in that having finished in second place – in that situation of uncertainty, not establishing the election's results, then Yushchenko will certainly remain as president," he added.

Ukraine's Constitution doesn't state whether the incumbent would remain as the president or as acting president, but he will remain until the next president is inaugurated, Mr. Matviyenko said. "That likelihood remains," he said.

International election observers will play a decisive role in the second-round presidential vote scheduled for February 7, said Volodymyr Lytvyn, the chair of Ukraine's Parliament.

It's a given that the declared runner-up will protest the result, he said.

"If they say that everything was more or less regular, then any yelling – and you know well that the runner-up will never accept it – won't have any meaning," Mr. Lytvyn said in an interview with the Channel 5 television network, which was broadcast on January 27.

Court appeals won't help in that case either, he said.

"Everything will be decided by what international observers say," Mr. Lytvyn said. "If they say that it happened without substantial violations, or that there were violations but they didn't substantially influence people expressing their will, then the result will be obvious."

The largest observing missions will be organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO).

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) said it will have 50 election observers in the second round, about the same number as in the first round.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Donated health kits at work in Ukraine Survival tips not appreciated

Dear Editor:

Anatoliy Kozak, secretary general of Caritas Ukraine, recently informed us that specially prepared medication and vitamin kits are being distributed across Ukraine. The \$40,000 raised by the Archeparchy of Philadelphia is funding the distribution of 1,775 kits to those in greatest need – the elderly and abandoned street children.

Health specialists in Ukraine have confirmed the beginning of a second wave of A/H1N1 flu in Ukraine. Only two of the 25 regions in Ukraine are not affected to date.

These health kits composed of medications and vitamins will thus be timely and will help those in the greatest need. God bless generously all those who have assisted.

Donations are continuing to be accepted and will be forwarded to Caritas Ukraine by the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia.

Metropolitan Stefan Soroka
Philadelphia

A thank-you from veterans

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Ukrainian American Veterans, I want to thank you and your staff for the excellent coverage that you have given to the UAV not only this past year but over the many years. We rely on The Weekly to tell the Ukrainian American public about our programs and events.

I also want to commend you on the great articles that The Weekly publishes every week.

Thanks for what you do in support of our veterans and our military personnel.

Leonid Kondratiuk
Belmont, Mass.

The letter-writer is UAV national commander.

Dear Editor:

I am writing in response to the article titled “Survival tips for election observers in Ukraine,” written by Zenon Zawada (January 3).

I am a Ukrainian American, born in the United States, and have traveled to Ukraine twice – once in September 2006 and then in October 2008. If I had not had a chance yet to travel to Ukraine, after reading this article, I would never go. From my experience, this article highlights and exaggerates the potential pitfalls of a trip to Ukraine.

It is always important whenever traveling domestically or abroad to be careful and be prepared for anything. However, the way the article is written it portrays the circumstances as unique to Ukraine. For the record, I never experienced on either trip any black-outs, heating failures, unavailable items or subway muggings.

Of particular concern are tips No. 4 and 5: “don’t smile too much” and “don’t expect politeness.” Though not everyone in any country is always smiling and polite, from my experiences the vast majority were. We experienced wonderful hospitality with family, beautiful Ukrainian and American hotels, and delicious meals at restaurants with great service. We felt at home with the people of Ukraine.

Though the article gave good advice in many instances, it left me wondering, could I possibly be the only traveler who had such a positive experience? Yes, Ukraine has been under Russia’s thumb for far too many years and the economy is still poor, but at least, judging by those with whom I spoke and from what I could see, things are improving, foreign investment is increasing (there’s a beautiful Hyatt in Kyiv) and the people have hope for a better tomorrow.

I write this letter as I hope people will not be scared off from visiting Ukraine by the article published in your newspaper. In visiting Ukraine, it is wise to take precautions, as you would traveling anywhere. However, I would advise people to go and enjoy. It was a very positive experience for me!

Orysia Duplak Buchan
Liverpool, N.Y.

IN THE PRESS: On TV in Ukraine

“TV Refugees from Moscow,” by Clifford J. Levy, The New York Times, January 24:

“... Mr. [Savik] Shuster is a refugee from Vladimir V. Putin’s Russia. As the television news has been whitewashed there, some big-mouthed journalists like Mr. Shuster have decamped for neighboring Ukraine, where the political and media climate is far more lively and diverse and just plain interesting. (Can you imagine the steely Mr. Putin chasing after a journalist, demanding to be interviewed?)

“The split between the two countries has become increasingly evident since the Orange Revolution of 2004 put Ukraine on a path toward a more European-style government, in contrast to the autocratic regimes in much of the rest of the former Soviet Union.

“Mr. Shuster left Moscow after his program, ‘Freedom of Speech,’ was canceled. His supposed sins: he asked tart questions that cast doubt on the

authorities and sought guests who had displeased them. He did, in other words, what journalists tend to do.

“‘Television there now is like in Soviet times,’ he said. ‘I see more and more conformism. You are not allowed to invite people who have different positions and can debate those positions. So today in Russia, you can’t do a real talk show.’

“Another newcomer in Kiev [sic], Yevgeny Kiselyov, who was a pioneering television journalist in Moscow in the 1990s, said self-censorship was pervasive in Russia. ‘There are all kinds of don’ts,’ he said. ‘All kinds of black lists that are never on paper. But every producer, every editor knows them by heart.’

“With competing hit political talk shows, these two immigrants have unexpectedly become media kingmakers in the Ukrainian presidential election, which is heading to a February 7 runoff. ...”

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Ordinary people – remarkable lives

A few years ago in this space, I described how my father bluffed his way across the Iron Curtain in 1946 to bring my mother and older brother to the West. I had pieced the story together from various sources, but expressed regret that I hadn’t asked my parents more about their lives when they were still living. Borrowing from the title of Tom Brokaw’s book about World War II Americans, I called my parents and their contemporaries “The Greatest Generation” and suggested that someone should record their stories.

Well someone has. Her name is Marta Mudri, a young attorney and dynamo in Cleveland’s Ukrainian community, who launched an oral history project at the Ukrainian Museum-Archives (UMA) about two years ago. Working with UMA Curator Aniza Kraus and others, Ms. Mudri has put together a fascinating exhibit at the UMA featuring photographs, letters, ID cards, diaries and posters with bilingual selections. And just as I saw my own parents as unremarkable and ordinary, that’s how I used to see the people whose stories Ms. Mudri recorded. I discovered from their own words that the factory workers and housewives, now old and widowed, have had lives worthy of a Hollywood epic.

The exhibit selects a dozen interviews from nearly 50 so far, tracking 12 years from the start of World War II to 1950, starting with Stefania Balahutrak who remembers the Soviets occupying Lviv in September 1939. Half a year later, they began seizing people. Ms. Balahutrak recalls: “Absolutely nobody knew where he would end up tomorrow... It shook us to the core to find out that they had arrested our smallest classmate and friend, Marijka Nakonechna... later we learned that she held up courageously during the interrogation. Marijka died in exile.” She was 16 years old.

Dmytro Holowackyj, now 91, was drafted into the Red Army in 1940 and was put to work on a building project: “We were digging trenches for the foundation, and we found – this is within two shovelfuls of earth – human bones... We knew that they were Polish because we found Polish eagles, [uniform] buttons, spoons and forks from military mess kits; we knew that those were Polish prisoners.”

In June 1941, the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union. Holodomor survivor Ivan Petrovich Ponomarenko, now 86, was also put to work: He says: “When the war started, all of us – half of Kyiv – all of us that could be mobilized... they took us all to build defenses against the tanks.”

Anna Ciszewycz had a different fate. The German economy, which lost millions of workers to the military, needed replacements, so Anna was forced to serve as an Ostarbeiter (Eastern worker), essentially a slave identified by a blue and white “OST” patch. She relates: “They took me, they took the Pylypiak girl ... they collected the [village] girls and we went to Germany on a train that usually carried cattle.” This was in 1942. Anna was 14 ½ years old. She worked on a farm for three and a half years and never saw her parents again.

Vasyl Mudrak was arrested by the Gestapo for political activism in the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and was brutally interrogated: “‘Do you belong to Bandera’s organization?’ I denied it...their faces became angry. The one that was sitting behind the desk got up, picked up a rubber hose about a meter long, the other one moved my chair to knock me over, one held me and the other started hitting me. He beat me mercilessly ...” Mr. Mudrak also ended up in Germany, in concentration camps at Majdanek, Buchenwald and

Mittelbau-Dora.

Olha Demjanchuk was a little girl in 1944 when the front came right to her doorstep. “We were under German occupation... when we went to bed, the Germans were in power... The next morning, there are already tanks with red stars approaching,” she remembers. Her father was the Village Council clerk and therefore in mortal danger. A benevolent Red Army soldier urged them to get out while they could and then looked away. Ms. Demjanjuk says: “We fled in the direction of the Germans ... we made it, maybe, halfway, when behind us our house set ablaze... because the Germans saw that the Bolsheviks had headquartered there, they threw a grenade and the house went up in flames. And we kept walking into the unknown...”

Stefania Tys Fur lived through years of fear and danger: “From 1941 onwards, we were constantly moving from city to city, always moving further west and onwards to the Slovak Republic, to Austria, to Germany, all the way to Berlin.” Separated from her husband, Ivan, another OUN member, she ended up back east in Poland with two little girls and an infant son. She recalls: “We were wet, hungry and slept wherever we were able... my tiny son got a terrible cold and died after only four months of life. I buried him on Palm Sunday in a little wooden coffin – just some boards nailed together.” Miraculously, Stefania made it to the American Zone in Germany and after two and a half years apart, the family was reunited.

Eva Olijar and Ivan were apart for 10 years. In 1946, she was arrested because of her work with the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), while her husband, also with UPA, was forced west and eventually came to America. After an amnesty in Poland in 1956, Eva was released and with the help of the Red Cross, reunited with her husband.

Anna Mazur-Sorochak, from yet another UPA family, was exiled to Siberia in 1947. She notes: “...we lived in a barrack, three or four families to every room ...I worked in the mines, where they dig coal... ‘That’s it, they said: Forget about Ukraine, forget about where you were born. You will be here forever.’ ” Decades later, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, family in America arranged for her to come to Cleveland.

The exhibit ends with interviews with Irene Dubas and Nadia Deychakiwsky. Ms. Dubas – a tremendous athlete – describes the sports scene in the DP camps and tells a fascinating story of how her husband had to explain to a visiting Eleanor Roosevelt why nobody wanted to return to Soviet Ukraine. Ms. Deychakiwsky describes community life in the camps, the trip to America and her father’s successful effort to get her a scholarship to Newton College in Massachusetts. Finally, Ms. Mudri taps into the diary of her late grandfather, Andriy Steciak, who describes the trip across the ocean, the first days in America and the terrible job he and his wife, Anna, had on a farm in Maryland before moving to Cleveland.

Ms. Mudri’s Oral History Project records invaluable memoirs of people who not only endured but ultimately prevailed. The exhibit is richly illustrated with vintage photographs of the interviewees, as well as wonderfully sensitive portraits by Adam Misztal of how they look now. This year, Ms. Mudri and her co-volunteers are already planning a similar exhibit focusing on the memoirs of Clevelanders who grew up in the Ukrainian community in the 1930s, ‘40s and ‘50s. Can’t wait to see it.

Andrew Fedynsky’s e-mail address is fedynsky@sbcglobal.net.

COMMENTARY

Loss and redemption of the patriotic agenda

by Oksana Bashuk-Hepburn

President Victor Yushchenko's humiliation at the polls was no surprise. It is unfortunate, therefore, that neither the patriots in Ukraine nor the diaspora influenced him to make changes before it was too late. Although he elevated national symbols and issues – recognition of the Holodomor, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), the pre-eminence of the Ukrainian language – by themselves they were insufficient to lead a country. Worse, his personal discreditation dragged Ukraine's patriotic agenda down too.

Mr. Yushchenko's popularity sank some four ago after he defaulted on promises of the Orange Revolution – no criminals went to jail; there was little improvement in the well-being for the people. His popularity plunged over 50 percent yet none pressed him on the obvious: his political capital was draining through his fingers. Patriots who knew better – Levko Lukianenko, Borys Tarasyuk – left him; those with buried heads in the sand failed to convince him to return to Orange Revolution values. Or quit. Despite his abysmal ratings, there were no calls for leadership review and no insistence that he refrain from running. Was smart politics misplaced by irrational loyalty to the “provid” (leadership)? What did the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalist, among others, have in mind, when calling (in mid-December) for patriotic candidates to step down and support the losing president?

Whatever the rationale was, it was too little too late. The alarm concerning Mr. Yushchenko's leadership went off months after he started protecting “the liubi druzi,” his cronies, in the first of many gas fiascos and the electorate sensed betrayal. Yet his backers at home and abroad failed to prevent the political catastrophe that was looming.

Was it lack of political know-how in the president's circle? Was the once strong Our Ukraine influenced by well-intended but amateur politics of diaspora organizations whose mandate is not to govern a country but support Ukrainian patriotic symbols? Did the drowning president grab on to this agenda and for that gain their fierce, albeit misplaced, loyalty? Or is there a darker plan?

For Mr. Yushchenko is not the only one defeated. By going down he dragged down with him the patriotic agenda. Now the oligarchs and others who care little for national symbols smirk: only 5 percent of the country wants an official Ukrainian language, or recognition of the Holodomor, the OUN and the UPA.

Although freedom-loving ideals formed the world view of the patriotic diaspora, hopefully so did democratic values and political processes in the countries where diaspora members reside. In Canada, as in most established democracies, political parties or leaders who lose the people's support are not tolerated. Consider Richard Nixon in the United States, or Canada's John Diefenbaker, John Turner or Stephen Dion – all had to step down because they lost the people's confidence. The people are greater than a leader. And there is no mercy. Why was this basic democratic tenet bypassed in Ukraine?

January's election was a wake-up call for patriotic leadership around the world. Using national symbols as the last straw for self-preservation does not work. Politics is not a concert where children do their best to honor fallen heroes, endless meetings on minutiae or photo ops backed with little political consequence. The diaspora needs to admit that its expertise in governing is limited and that it is incapable of advising Ukraine on how to rule. Reigning in oligarchs' greed, creating jobs and eliminating corruption are beyond the capacity of volunteers in any of the diaspora structures. And, there is a time

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FOR THE RECORD

Borys Wrzesnewskyj speaks on Canada-Ukraine relations

Following are excerpts from Canadian Member of Parliament Borys Wrzesnewskyj's address on “Canada and Ukraine's Search for Security” delivered at the conference “Ukraine's Quest for Mature Nation Statehood Roundtable X: Compelling Bilateral Ties/U.S.-Ukraine and Canada-Ukraine.” The conference was held in Washington on October 21-22, 2009.

...In December of 1991 the world witnessed two major historical events in Europe: the signing of the Maastricht Treaty giving birth to the modern European Union, and the overwhelming plebiscite vote for independence in Ukraine ensuring the demise of the Soviet Union. That particular month marked what initially appeared to be a final victory of a democratic, free market, collaborative vision over a totalitarian, Communist and imperialist vision for the future of Europe.

With the collapse of the Soviet empire and the threat it posed, many openly questioned the need for NATO and especially NATO's further expansion; others sought to give NATO purpose by arguing in favor of a role for NATO in far from Europe theaters such as Afghanistan.

Both of these lines of argumentation about NATO's future have now been discredited. One argues that with no Warsaw Pact, NATO is no longer needed for European security and peace; the other that since NATO's expanding defensive shield within Europe is not required, NATO's new role should be as an offensive army in distant lands that may pose threats to our member-countries. Both of these arguments are based upon the assumption that the Russian Federation, the successor state of the Soviet Union, is now a nascent democracy and is neither a threat to European peace nor to world stability.

Today, it is evident that the assumption of the birth of a nascent democracy upon Kremlin foundations in a benevolent Russia was naïve. Even former General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev has raised the alarm. In March 2009 he stated that Russia is becoming a one-party dictatorship, underscoring that the United Russia Party of Vladimir Putin is “a party of bureaucrats” and “the worst version” of the Soviet Communist Party,” noting that the “electoral system has been utterly maimed” and lamenting the multiple murders of prominent critics.

However, it is the Kremlin's foreign conduct and the repeated use of armed force and war as an instrument of foreign policy that most clearly illustrates the threats to peace and security faced by Europe. After 50 years of peace in Europe, the Kremlin has spawned a sequential series of regional European civil wars and wars: the military conflict in the Moldovan region of the Transnistria conducted by Russia's 14th Army Division; and, the multiple wars in the Caucasus, including the recent invasion by Russian armed forces of Georgia beyond Georgia's breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Most worrisome is that these armed conflicts have had an escalating nature.

Mr. Putin's public expressions of neo-imperialistic intent have recently been formalized by the Russian Parliament, the Duma, into law. This past summer the Duma passed legislation that authorizes Russian military interventions in foreign countries when Russian citizens' rights

are deemed under threat. This has been coupled with widespread granting of Russian citizenship and passports to Georgian citizens in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and most ominously in Crimea, Ukraine.

Unfortunately, as Ukraine, a fragile nascent democracy, has turned to NATO for its protective shield, European capitals are being intimidated and their energy security undermined by Russian natural gas shut-offs and blackmail...

It is time to return to the formative and visionary debates surrounding NATO's birth as expressed by Canadian Prime Ministers Louis St. Laurent and Lester B. Pearson: NATO as a shield behind which nascent democracies can be nurtured and economic collaboration flourish, rendering regional threats untenable militarily and economically irrational.

At the present time, Ukraine seeks the protection of NATO's expanding shield knowing that the economic and political benefits of European Union membership will surely follow NATO security membership. These were the reasons that former Warsaw Pact countries, the Baltic republics, and the newly independent states in southeastern Europe, joined NATO. They were proven correct. Today it is NATO's expanding shield that is the organization's *raison d'être*, providing regional security and geopolitically stability.

NATO's expansion to embrace Ukraine will limit the Kremlin's opportunities to follow its historical instincts to rebuild empire. With no opportunity to rebuild empire, Russia may reverse herself from traveling down the path of neo-dictatorship and neo-imperialism, and may eventually come to see her future within a North Atlantic Alliance of democratic free enterprise countries as well.

It is within this context that Canada supports geographic NATO expansion and Ukraine's NATO ascension. Canada's position on NATO expansion has been consistent since it initially said “yes” to the union in the 1940s; Canada said “yes” to expansion to include Germany in the 1950s and “yes” to the countries of Central Europe and the Baltic States in the 1990s; and, since 2008, Canada has said “yes” to Ukraine.

Moreover, Ukraine is not peripheral to Canada's interests. In fact, Canada has a formal “special relationship” with Ukraine. There is unanimity among Canada's political parties in support of Ukraine's democratic processes, market reforms and Ukraine's joining Canada in our NATO family. Just this past September Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding to begin the process that will culminate in a free trade agreement with Ukraine.

Several other examples will help to illustrate Canada and Ukraine's “special relationship.” Since 2005, one of the largest and most dynamic parliamentary associations in Canada's Parliament has been the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group, whose membership includes parliamentarians from all political parties.

In a January 2009 statement on ratification of NATO accession protocols for Albania and Croatia, Canada's foreign affairs minister underscored that the ratification of these protocols “sends a clear message that will inspire other NATO aspirant countries to continue on the path

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Special TWG conference to focus on Ukraine's presidential election

WASHINGTON – The Washington Group (TWG), an association of Ukrainian American professionals centered in the Washington area, is conducting a special TWG Leadership Conference, “Ukrainian Presidency – Post-Election Review,” on February 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, SW Washington, DC 20024.

Taking place just six days after the second round of voting in Ukraine on February 7, the conference will present a set of interactive panel discussions on key topics related to the 2010 presidential election, including: (a) conduct/results of the election, (b) possible directions/actions of new leadership – domestic affairs, (c) possible directions/actions of new leadership – foreign affairs, and (d) possible new directions/actions of the international community.

The conference will feature active participation of experts from the Washington area, including: Ambassador Oleh Shamshur, Embassy of Ukraine; Ambassador William Green Miller, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; Ambassador Steven Pifer, Brookings Institution; Judge Bohdan Futey, U.S. Court of Federal Claims;

Lawrence Silverman, U.S. Department of State; Orest Deychakiwsky, U.S. Helsinki Commission; Nadia Diuk, National Endowment for Democracy; David Kramer, German Marshall Fund; Damon Wilson, Atlantic Council; Samuel Charap, Center for American Progress; James Greene, former NATO representative in Ukraine; Nadia McConnell, U.S.-Ukraine Foundation; and Michael Sawkiw, Ukrainian National Information Service, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

Several additional experts, including a representative from U.S.-Ukraine Business Council are expected to participate.

The registration fee is: \$30, or \$10 for students. Since space is limited, please register as soon as possible via e-mail to: apid-lusky@speakeasy.net with a copy to MyBihuny@aol.com. Please include name, affiliation, phone, e-mail address and an indication of full or student payment option.

In this effort, TWG is cooperating with the Ukrainian School (Ridna Shkola) of Washington, which is hosting a debutante ball in the same hotel that same evening (see www.ukieschool.org).

Ukrainian-Jewish Encounter Initiative meets in Toronto

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – An independent initiative, whose goal is to deepen understanding of Ukrainian-Jewish relations, held its first public session on January 10, at the University of Toronto's Munk Center for International Studies.

The Ukrainian-Jewish Encounter Initiative (UJEI) was conceived in 2008 as a collaborative project and this was the third of its meetings, the first two having been limited to scholars. The first meeting was held in Salzburg in June 2009, and the second at Ditchley Park, England, in mid-December 2009.

The UJEI initiative consists of three main components. The first is the development of a Shared Historical Narrative with the engagement of expert historians. Its aim is also to have an impact on broader populations through the creation of modern teaching methods. The second component is a traveling event of exhibits, multi-media products, lecture and seminars, films and theatrical performances. The third includes advocacy for the protection and consecration of mass graves and the honoring of righteous Ukrainians who hid or saved Jews during World War II.

The first two meetings covered a Shared Historical Narrative series – topics in the history of Ukrainian-Jewish relations from the 16th century to World War I and the interwar period. The topic of the Toronto symposium was "Imagining 'the Other' in Jewish and Ukrainian Literatures." The pre-

sentations were given by well-known scholars and teachers of both Ukrainian and Jewish literature from several universities. Paul Robert Magocsi of the University of Toronto chaired the symposium.

Myroslav Shkandrij of the University of Manitoba and author of the book "Jews in Ukrainian Literature," characterized the Ukrainian-Jewish encounter in literature as one of two solitudes or two monologues, reduced to three or four flashpoints. He described "the other" in this context as that of several recurring images of Jews which began to appear in Ukrainian literature in the mid-19th century: the wandering Jew, the sinner (Marko Proklatyi), the leaseholder who holds keys to the church, the tavern keeper and finally, the Chekist. Although these were all negative images, Prof. Shkandrij pointed out that the period 1880 to 1917 was one of an alliance of the two intelligentsias and the growth of the Jewish voice in Ukrainian literature and he called this period "philosemitic."

Leonid Livak, associate professor of Slavic languages and literatures at the University of Toronto, spoke on Nikolai Gogol's Jews as portrayed in "Taras Bulba" and said that, although Jews were very critical of Gogol's portrayal of Jews, he believed that his portrayal of Moisei Shilo was ambivalent, similar to the portrayal of Shylock.

Taras Koznarsky and Maxim Tarnawsky, both from the Department of Slavic Languages at Toronto, spoke about images of Jews. Prof. Koznarsky described the rep-



Raya Shadursky

Participants of the Toronto session of the Ukrainian-Jewish Encounter Initiative.

resentations as portrayed in accounts of Russian travellers in early 19th century Ukraine. Prof. Tarnawsky focused on the images of Jewish conspiracy and the evils of capitalism in the works of Ivan Nechui-Levytsky and Ivan Franko, pointing out that both dealt with collective portraits of Jews rather than individual stereotypes, which showed that the Jews were recognized as a nationality.

In examining "The Search for the Other in Modern Hebrew Literature," Sharon Green, who teaches modern Hebrew litera-

ture at Toronto concluded that there were not many Ukrainian characters in Hebrew literature. She explained that the reason was the fact that, from the mid-19th century and the rise of Zionism, Jewish writers were writing about the national renewal of Jews, and were more interested in renewing from within. Surprisingly, as noted by another panellist, Ukraine was also hard to find in Yiddish literature and for example, the noted writer Sholom Aleichem does not mention

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New developments at UCU highlighted in Philadelphia and Chicago

by Matthew Matuszak

CHICAGO – Two events on consecutive days during a November weekend last year underscored the commitment of many in the Ukrainian American community to ensuring the continued success of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU).

Outside Philadelphia, on November 7, 2009, at the Spirituality Center of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Fox Chase, approximately 80 people attended a reception and informational presentation sponsored by the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation (UCEF), the Philadelphia Friends of UCU Committee and the St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics, U.S.A.

The following afternoon, on November 8, 2009, in Chicago, close to 200 guests attended the sixth annual banquet in support of UCU held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center and sponsored by the UCEF and Chicago Friends of UCU Committee.

Both events included presenters from UCU who spoke about the university's recent achievements, and at both events guests were invited to view a display of historic photos of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky and Patriarch Josyf Slipyj drawn from the archives of individual donors and institutions. The exhibit was organized by members of the New York Friends of UCU Committee to commemorate the 65th anniversary and the 25th anniversary, respectively, of the passing of two remarkable leaders of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and founders of the university, Metropolitan Andrey and Patriarch Josyf.

As noted by Taras Lewycky, chair of the Philadelphia Friends of UCU Committee, this year's luncheon at Fox Chase was an informational event, a highlight of which was a thoughtful and reflective presentation by Prof. Leonid Rudnytsky, chair of the St. Sophia Religious Association, about the lives and the legacies of Metropolitan Andrey and Patriarch Josyf.

The keynote speaker in Philadelphia and Chicago was Dr. Taras Dobko, senior vice-rector of UCU. Dr. Dobko noted that

Ukraine is at a critical juncture one that is "extremely important in determining the future direction of our country," in particular, the upcoming presidential campaign in the midst of a deep financial and economic crisis.

"Many of my colleagues and I hope to live and work honorably in a normal Ukraine – a sovereign, free, democratic, European and Christian Ukraine," Dr. Dobko emphasized. "For me, this is one of the very important reasons why I have worked at the university for 11 years. My experience at and with UCU is, for me, the most convincing witness that a new, normal Ukraine such as this is not merely wishful thinking, but, step by step, is becoming reality."

"UCU is working to lay the foundation of a successful future," he continued. "... UCU's most important contribution to the creation of a new Ukraine is the education of young people who will be prepared to take responsibility, not only for themselves, but also for the world around them ... We at UCU are called to be full-fledged creators of a Ukraine of the 21st century."

Another speaker from the university was Andriy Kurochka, who graduated from UCU in 2000 and is now project manager in the university's Development Department. Mr. Kurochka offered his own personal perspective of how the education at UCU formed and changed his life. Now, as a young father, he even more deeply understands the critical importance of a university environment such as the one offered by UCU and has chosen to commit his professional life to its further development.

In Chicago, several members of the local community spoke as well. Bishop-Emeritus of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Chicago Innocent Lotocky amused guests with several anecdotes, after which he presented a donation of \$10,000. On behalf of the parish of Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Rev. Oleh Kryvokulsky presented a \$5,000 donation

(Continued on page 22)



Dr. Taras Dobko speaks about UCU at the Spirituality Center of the Sisters of St. Basil in Fox Chase, Pa.



Daniel R. Szymanski Jr. (right) enjoys a light moment with Bishop-Emeritus Innocent Lotocky during a Chicago event on behalf of the Ukrainian Catholic University.

BOOK NOTES: The media and freedom in post-Communist world

"Media, Democracy and Freedom: The Post-Communist Experience" by Marta Dyczok and Oxana Gaman-Golutvina (eds.) Bern: Peter Lang AG, 2009. Softcover, 246 pp.

One of the key areas of any successful country's civil society is the media. Without access to a free and independent media, the people are not only unable to truly make informed decisions about their future, but unable to provide feedback to influence their government, thereby making it harder for freedom and democracy to take root. The post-Communist world in Eastern Europe has faced its share of triumphs and tragedies in regard to the role of the media, and this is the subject of the 11 essays in "Media, Democracy and Freedom: The Post-Communist Experience" edited by scholars Marta Dyczok and Oxana Gaman-Golutvina.

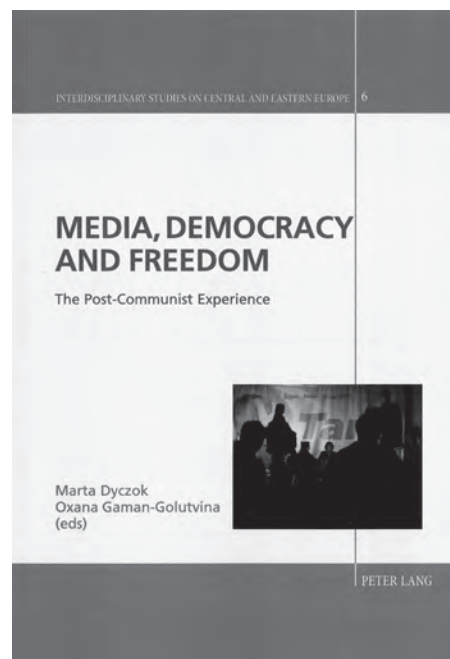
The essays in this book come from a series of conference lectures at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. Prof. Nicolas Hayoz, director of the Interdisciplinary Institute of Central and Eastern Europe, brought together an international group of scholars to explore different perspectives on how issues of

media, freedom and democracy are central to the larger changes occurring in the post-Communist world, and the complex relations between the media, society and the state in the region. In their essays, the scholars scrutinize changes in the public sphere as well as the media itself, its role, format, agenda and quality in the context of changing values and shifting power relationships.

The essays look closely at several former Communist states, such as Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Belarus, Albania and Latvia, analyzing what has worked and what has gone wrong in each case.

In Part 1 of the book the authors tackle the larger theoretical discussions, taking a look at the contradiction between freedom and development in Russia, the transformation of journalism in Belarus, and media accountability in Latvia.

This section begins with an essay by Dr. Dyczok titled "Do the Media Matter? Focus on Ukraine." The author notes that "Ukraine's media system underwent tremendous changes in the 20 years from glasnost to the aftermath of the Orange Revolution," and takes a look at the impact these changes had on power shifts in the country, most notably in 1991,



when Ukraine declared independence, and in 2004, at the time of the Orange Revolution. Dr. Dyczok argues that "the role of the media has in fact been ambiguous in the larger political, economic, social and national changes under way."

In Part 2 the essays take on a sociolog-

ical perspective, looking at how Russia and Belarus see themselves compared to the West.

Finally, Part 3 focuses on the empirically based case studies: the rise and fall of the independent Russian media, Georgia's media after the Rose Revolution, and other examples.

Dr. Dyczok is associate professor of history and political science at the University of Western Ontario. She is also a fellow of the Center for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto whose research is on media, post-communism, Ukraine and migration. Dr. Dyczok lived in Ukraine in 1991-1996, and at the time worked as a journalist and university lecturer. She is currently working on her third book, titled "Media and the Struggle for Power in Ukraine."

Prof. Gaman-Golutvina is professor of political science at Moscow Institute of Foreign Relations and the Higher School of Economics, and vice-president of the Russian Association of Political Science. She is the author of over 150 publications, including "Russian Political Elites: Stages of Historical Evolution."

— Markian Hadzewycz

"Freedom..."

(Continued from page 1)

occurred in countries that had registered positive trends in previous years, including Bahrain, Jordan, Kenya and Kyrgyzstan.

"The news for 2009 is cause for real concern," said Arch Puddington, Freedom House director of research. "The decline is global, affects countries with military and economic power, affects countries that had previously shown signs of reform potential, and is accompanied by enhanced persecution of political dissidents and independent journalists. To make matters worse, the most powerful authoritarian regimes have become more repressive, more influential in the international arena, and more uncompromising."

Published annually since 1972, "Freedom in the World" examines the ability of individuals to exercise their political and civil rights in 194 countries and 14 territories around the world. The survey analyzes developments that occurred in 2009 and assigns each country a freedom status – Free, Partly Free or Not Free – based on a scoring of performance on key indicators.

In this year's findings, five countries moved into Not Free status, and the number of electoral democracies declined to the lowest level since 1995. Sixteen countries made notable gains, with two countries improving their overall freedom status. The most significant improvements in 2009 occurred in Asia.

The Middle East remained the most repressive region in the world, and some countries that had previously moved forward slipped back from partly free into the not free category. Africa suffered the most significant declines, and four countries experienced coups.

This year's findings reflect the growing pressures on journalists and new media, restrictions on freedom of association, and repression aimed at civic activists engaged in promoting political reform and respect for human rights.

Ukraine remains the only free state in the non-Baltic former Soviet Union.

"In 2009, we saw a disturbing erosion of some of the most fundamental freedoms – freedom of expression and association – and an increase in attacks on frontline activists in these areas," said Jennifer Windsor, executive director of Freedom House. "From the brutal repression on the streets of Iran, to the sweeping detention of Charter 08 members in China and murders of journalists and human rights activists in Russia, we have seen a worldwide crackdown against individuals asserting their universally accepted rights over the last five years."

The report's key global findings include the following.

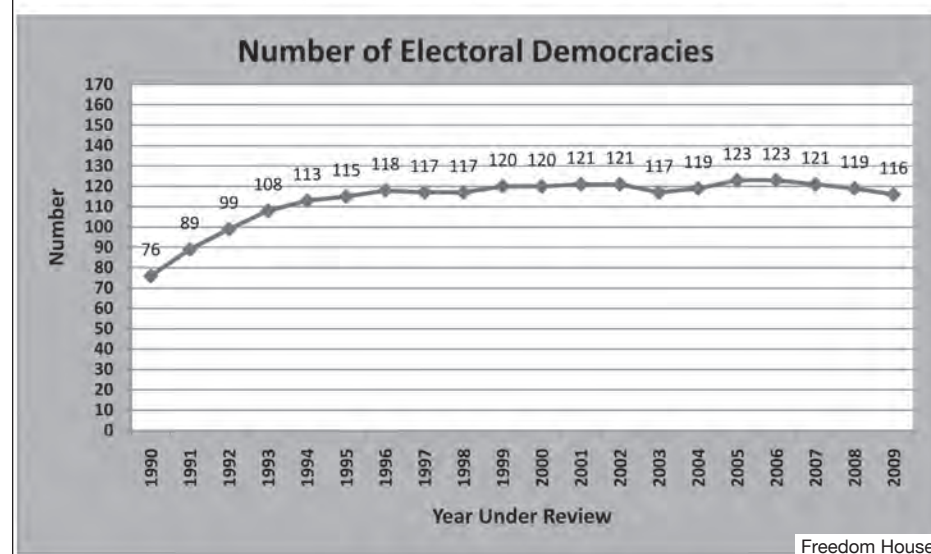
- Free: The number of countries designated by "Freedom in the World" as free in 2009 stands at 89, representing 46 percent of the world's 194 countries and 46 percent of the world population.

- Partly free: The number of partly free countries declined to 58, or 30 percent of all countries assessed by the survey, comprising 20 percent of the world's total population.

- Not free: The number of countries deemed to be not free increased to 47, or 24 percent of the total number of countries. Over 2.3 billion people live in societies where fundamental political rights and civil liberties are not respected. China accounts for half of this number.

- Electoral democracies: The number of electoral democracies dropped by three and stands at 116. Developments in four countries – Honduras, Madagascar, Mozambique and Niger – disqualified them from the electoral democracy list, while conditions in the

Freedom in the World: Electoral Democracies, 1999–2009



Maldives improved enough for it to be added.

- Worst of the worst: Of the 47 countries ranked not free, nine countries and one territory received the survey's lowest possible rating for both political rights and civil liberties: Burma, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Tibet, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Eritrea was downgraded to this level in the past year.

Key regional findings include the following.

- Sub-Saharan Africa: Declines were seen in Botswana and Lesotho, with the latter declining from free to partly free. In addition, declines were noted in Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Guinea, Madagascar, and Niger, and in two of the region's most repressive regimes, Eritrea and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Improvements were noted in Malawi, Burundi, Togo and Zimbabwe.

- Asia: Successful democratic elections were held in India, Indonesia, and Japan. Improvements were also noted in Bangladesh, the Maldives and Mongolia. Declines were documented in Afghanistan after a deeply flawed presidential poll, and in the Philippines after the massacre of civilians and members of the press and the subsequent declaration of martial law.

- Former Soviet Union/Central and Eastern Europe: Improvements were seen throughout the Balkans, with Kosovo moving from not free to partly free after its recent elections and Montenegro moving up to the free category. By contrast, virtually all

of the countries in the non-Baltic former Soviet Union continued to pursue a repressive course, including Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, which was downgraded from partly free to not free.

- Middle East and North Africa: Repression in Iran led to score declines, and other countries in the region suffered a number of setbacks. Jordan, Bahrain and Yemen were all downgraded from partly free to not free. Declines were also noted in Morocco and the Palestinian Territories. Lebanon and Iraq registered improvements.

- Americas: Latin America experienced significant setbacks in 2009, particularly in Central America. Honduras lost its status as an electoral democracy due to a coup, and Guatemala, Nicaragua and Venezuela also registered declines.

- Western Europe and North America: A notable challenge faced by the Obama administration in the United States has been balancing security concerns with the promised rollback of controversial antiterrorism policies dating to the Bush administration. Western Europe has struggled to deal with the influx of immigrants from Muslim countries and the rise of anti-immigration policies, which contributed to declines in Switzerland and Malta.

Freedom House is an independent watchdog organization that supports democratic change, monitors the status of freedom around the world, and advocates for democracy and human rights. The full text of "Freedom in the World 2010" may be viewed at www.freedomhouse.org.

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Canadian Bandurist Capella completes a most ambitious season

by Michael Wawryshyn

TORONTO – The Canadian Bandurist Capella has just completed the most ambitious and productive season in its eight-year history with its December 13, 2009, performance titled “Concert of Cossack Songs.”

This unique musical event was co-sponsored with the League of Ukrainian Canadians and was dedicated to the 300th anniversary of the death of Ivan Mazepa and the 350th anniversary of the Battle of Konotop where the Kozak-led forces of Hetman Ivan Vyhovsky defeated the army of the tsar of Muscovy.

The audience of some 450 applauded roundly and showed their appreciation with several standing ovations interspersed throughout the performance.

The capella was formed in June 2001 and is composed of some 15 bandurists and 35 choristers. Members of the ensemble hail primarily from the Toronto region, but there are also a number from Hamilton and St. Catharines, Ontario. Their ages range from 13 to 84. Also of interest is the fact that, since its inception, the capella has had some 10 father-and-son duos within its ranks.

Since 2001, the capella has given more than 80 performances throughout North America. Its array of songs is broad and includes epic Kozak, humorous, comic, religious, carols and schedrivky, traditional folk and classical songs.

The capella’s artistic team consists of Dr. Victor Mishalow, Andriy Dmytrovych and Yuri Petlura. Collectively they apply their individual talents and specialization, which contributes significantly to the overall progress and development of the capella and its performances.

In keeping with the capella’s name, the new banduras used by the ensemble’s mem-



The Canadian Bandurist Capella with Patriarchate Filaret, primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate.

bers now are exclusively built in Canada, in Whitby, Ontario, by the renowned Canadian-born artisan Vasyl (Bill) Vetzal, who hails from the Dauphin region of central Manitoba. The bandura is now not only a “Ukrainian” instrument, but a “Canadian” one as well. The capella, through Dr. Mishalow, helped design and fund the prototyping of these unique fiberglass instruments. There is now much interest from Ukraine for these instruments.

During its eight years of existence, the capella has produced two compact disc recordings. The latest one, “Play Kobzar” features the internationally renowned bass baritone Pavlo Hunka, who embellishes the CD singing four solos with the ensemble. Early in 2010, it will be recording its third disc, titled “Word of Taras.” (Slovo Tarasa). Its first CD, named simply “Canadian Bandurist Capella” is a compilation of 14 songs.

Besides the most recent concert, the capella had the honor of performing at the St. Andrew’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church Cultural Center in Bloomingdale, Ill., (a suburb of Chicago) on October 24, 2009. The capella’s performance was an integral part of this parish’s celebration of the visitation of the primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, Patriarch Filaret of Kyiv and

all of Rus’-Ukraine.

“Slovo Tarasa” was the themed concert presented by the capella on three consecutive weekends starting on March 22, 2009, in Oshawa, St. Catharines and Toronto, Ontario. This moving production consisted of 18 poems of Taras Shevchenko put to music by a wide variety of composers. During the performance, the narration of Yuri Kelebay and Petro Hrynyshyn united musical gems based on the poet’s words into a moving and powerful message that still has meaning for Ukrainians today.

“Slovo Tarasa” was first arranged by Danylo Piekha for the Kyiv National Capella in 1939 and performed in the same year in Kyiv. It was not until the late 1950s that it was again performed by the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus from Detroit. This was the capella that originated in Ukraine and settled in the United States in the late 1940s.

The Canadian Bandurist Capella also found time in its busy schedule to perform at several other Canadian Ukrainian events in 2009. In October the capella had the honor to appear at the 20th anniversary consecration of Archbishop Yuri, the Ukrainian Orthodox bishop of the Eastern Canadian Eparchy, a staunch supporter of the ensemble.

An appearance at the 75th anniversary of

the Ukrainian National Youth Federation, the youth branch of the Ukrainian National Federation (UNF), one of the capella’s major benefactors, was another notable performance, as was the one at the traditional Kupalo celebrations at the summer resort of the UNF, Camp Sokil.

Finally, the capella’s bandura players, who are some of the most talented in North America, appeared at the opening of the “Mysteries of Ancient Ukraine: The Remarkable Trypilian Culture” exhibit at the Royal Ontario Museum and later at the Toronto Ukrainian Festival in September 2009, where they delighted thousands of attendees of the annual street festival with their enchanting bandura music.

Early indications are that the 2010 season will be equally productive for the Canadian Bandurist Capella, as they are currently working on their new themed project “Kozatska Slava.”

The capella is always seeking young interested talent to help diversify, enhance and enrich its current membership. For further information about the Capella, including how to obtain copies of their CDs and auditions, readers may visit the website at www.banduristy.com, e-mail banduristy@canada.com or contact Stepan Dacko, 4433 Sedgfield Road, Mississauga, ON, L5M 3B6, Canada.

“Kozak” or “Cossack”

Although The Ukrainian Weekly consistently uses the term “Kozak,” based on the Ukrainian transliteration of the word, many employ the widely used term “Cossack.” Thus, the title of the program referred to above uses “Cossack.”

Christmas Carol Concert presented in Glendale, Calif.

by Alexander Rivney

GLENDALE, Calif. – The multinational community of southern California was regaled by the Christmas Carol Concert performed at the prestigious Alex Theater in Glendale, Calif., on December 13, 2009. Under the banner “Tis the Season,” this choral and symphonic concert, which was presented under the auspices of the Ukrainian Culture Center of Los Angeles, was held in celebration of God’s gifts to mankind.

Thanks to the dynamic leadership of conductor Gregory Hallick-Holutiak, the concert was a unique blending of the talents of the Kobzar Ukrainian National Choir of Los Angeles, St. Casimir’s Lithuanian Church Choir of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra, and the Bell Choir of the United Church of Christ of Claremont, Calif.

Greeted by the magical sounds of the choir of bells upon entering the lobby, audience members knew they were in for a very special evening. Once inside the magnificent theatre, they were welcomed by master of ceremonies Luba Poniatyszyn Keske with the promise of a memorable and inspirational program.

The Los Angeles Doctors’ Symphony Orchestra opened the program with the powerful Overture by Wagner, “Der



The Kobzar Choir of Los Angeles performs during the Christmas Carol Concert at the Alex Theater in Glendale, Calif.

Meistersingers Von Nurnberg,” under the baton of Dr. Ivan Schulman. The orchestra was followed by the unique a cappella choral style of St. Casimir’s Lithuanian Church Choir under the masterful hand of

their conductor, Victor Ralys. As the Lithuanian choir exited the stage to thunderous applause, the audience was presented another treat. Stage actor George Wyhinny related a heartwarming

Christmas story titled “Shoes and Wood.” The up-and-coming young actor’s superb presentation of this tale of selflessness

(Continued on page 21)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Speaking at a briefing in Chernihiv on January 25, he said that "middle-aged politicians who have no factions appeared in Ukraine, but this cannot be the reason for holding early elections." In his opinion, amendments to election laws, the specification of powers between the branches of power and the failure to create a parliamentary coalition could serve as grounds for early elections of national deputies. Mr. Tomenko said that it would be necessary to change the staff of the Parliament in future, because only 50 to 60 people are currently involved in law-making activities. (Ukrinform)

Holodomor sentence goes into effect

KYIV – The decision of the Kyiv

Court of Appeals that found former leaders of the USSR and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic guilty of organizing the 1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine, became effective on January 21. The decision went into effect after it was not contested in the Supreme Court for seven days, the press service of the Security Service of Ukraine (known by its Ukrainian-based acronym as SBU) said. The Kyiv Court of Appeal, in a ruling on January 13, accused Joseph Stalin and other leaders of the former USSR and Soviet Ukraine of organizing a mass famine in Ukraine that the court qualified as genocide, the SBU said in a press release. The court charged Stalin, Viacheslav Molotov, Lazar Kaganovich, Stanislav Kosior, Pavel Postyshev, Vlas Chubar and Mendel Khatayevich with genocide, but, due to their deaths, quashed proceedings against them launched by the SBU in

May 2009. (Interfax-Ukraine)

Six injured in train explosion

KYIV – An explosion occurred on Chernivtsi-Kyiv passenger train No. 628 during its scheduled stop at the Luzhany station late on January 24, the Transport and Communications Ministry's press service reported. Six people – two conductors and four passengers – were injured in the explosion, the press service said. There were 35 passengers in the rail car when the explosion occurred. According to the press service of the Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry, the blast occurred in the conductor's compartment. It was later determined by railway authorities that the explosion was the fault of a conductor. According to Deputy Director Mykola Snitko of the State Administration of Railway Transport (Ukrzaliznytsia), a conductor took along a gas cylinder without permission and placed it in the compartment for his own use. After the train left the Chernivtsi station, he noticed a condensate leak and pungent odor, and made an attempt to remove the cylinder from the carriage. However, the gas cylinder exploded before he could do so. (Ukrinform)

Brazil establishes Ukrainian day

KYIV – Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has signed a law establishing August 24, the day of Ukraine's independence, as a national day of the Ukrainian community in Brazil, it was reported on January 25. According to Ukraine's Consulate in Curitiba, there are about 500,000 ethnic Ukrainians in Brazil who have made a significant contribution to the development of Brazilian culture, agriculture and other sectors. The Ukrainian Catholic Church of Brazil and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church of South America, public organizations of ethnic Ukrainians, Ukrainian schools, as well as Ukrainian-language mass media and folkloric ensembles are active in Brazil. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovych on Nord Stream project

KYIV – Presidential candidate and Party of Regions leader Viktor Yanukovych said he is planning to initiate talks on Ukraine's participation in a consortium involved in the construction of the Nord Stream gas pipeline. Speaking on Chernivtsi regional television and radio on January 19, he said, "I will put forward proposals now so that Ukraine joins the consortium that currently builds Nord Stream. We'll submit such a bid." He added that if the bid is accepted, then Ukraine's participation in the consortium would help bring additional revenues to the country's state budget. He also said that such investments would always be in Ukraine's favor. Mr. Yanukovych noted that Ukraine should set out such a policy so that Europe is sure that the country will transport oil and gas to Europe on time and so that Russia knows that Ukraine will meet its commitments as a transit country. The Nord Stream consortium is designed to decrease Russia's dependence on Ukraine in gas transit. The 1,200-kilometer gas pipeline is to be built through the Baltic Sea from Russia to Germany. (Ukrinform)

Olympic broadcasts in 22 languages

TORONTO – Building on its commitment to provide diverse coverage of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games, Canada's Olympic Broadcast Media Consortium announced it will deliver the Games in a record 22 languages reflective of Canada's vibrant cultural mosaic. Consortium broadcast partners Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN), Asian Television Network (ATN) and OMNI Television will air a combined total of 421 hours of multilingual cover-

age throughout the 17 days of the Games. Among the 22 languages listed is Ukrainian, which will be used on OMNI Television, Canada's broadcast leader in multilingual/multicultural programming. OMNI will deliver 100 hours of Games coverage in a total of seven languages across five stations, for an average of six hours per day. Ninety-five hours will air in prime time. The Games will be televised in Ukrainian on OMNI.1. "OMNI is proud to honor the Olympic spirit of inclusion by making coverage of the Games available to linguistically diverse communities throughout Canada," said Madeline Ziniak, national vice-president of the OMNI Television stations. "By delivering the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games to viewers in their language of comfort, we are showcasing Canada to Canadians – and celebrating our diversity to the world." (Canada's Olympic Broadcast Media Consortium)

Delta to resume flights to Kyiv

KYIV – U.S.-based Delta Air Lines will renew flights on the New York-Kyiv route in May. The carrier's press service reported on January 15 that the flights will be carried out five times a week. Delta Air Lines suspended regular flights on the Kyiv-New York route in September 2009 for the winter period of 2009-2010 due to low demand. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine fourth in space launches

KYIV – Ukraine shares fourth place with China in terms of the number of space launches in 2009, the National Space Agency of Ukraine reported on January 22. Ukrainian-designed carriers were launched six times, all of them successfully. The following launches took place in 2009: January 30 – Cyclone-3 launched from Russia's Plesetsk space center; February 26 – Zenit-3SLB launched from Russia's Baikonur; April 20 – Zenit-3SL launched from a floating platform; June 22 – Zenit-3SLB launched from Baikonur; July 29 – Dnipro carrier rocket launched from Baikonur; November 30 – Zenit-3SLB was launched from Baikonur. (Ukrinform)

Poroshenko on European integration

KYIV – Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Petro Poroshenko said he is sure European integration will remain a priority of Ukraine's foreign policy, irrespective of the presidential race winner. He made those remarks at a January 27 meeting with representatives of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Poroshenko also said Ukraine would show progress in concluding an Association Agreement with the European Union, explaining that the text of this instrument is actually agreed upon and the only thing to do is address two crucial issues, including a free trade agreement and visa matters. "I am sure we can complete the work on this issue in 2010," the minister stressed. Ukraine and the EU had intended to end negotiations on the Association Agreement by the end of 2009. (Ukrinform)

A third of Ukrainians use the Internet

KYIV – Over 15.3 million Ukrainians – a third of the country's population – have used the Internet as of January 1, according to the State Communications Administration of Ukraine. Ukraine recorded 2.1 million broadband Internet subscribers (11.5 percent of the number of Ukrainian families) and over 3.4 million cable television subscribers (18.7 percent) as of January 1. The average Ukrainian family spent around 990 hrv on communications services per year (or 83 hrv per month), including 50 percent on mobile communications, 25 percent on fixed-line phone communications, 10 percent on Internet services, and less than 3 percent on mail services. (Ukrinform)

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CAMPAIGN WATCH

Over 90% plan to vote in runoff

KYIV – A total of 90.5 percent of respondents surveyed by the Gorshenin Institute of Management Issues expressed a desire to participate in the presidential runoff vote, it was reported on January 25. Over 78 percent have already decided on their choice, and 4.5 percent were undecided. Nearly 90 percent of voters surveyed said they believe that no violations were recorded in the first round of Ukraine’s presidential election on January 17. Around 7 percent of respondents said that there had been violations in the election. Some 71 percent of those surveyed said they trusted election returns, while nearly 19 percent had a different point of view. The Gorshenin Institute surveyed 1,000 respondents from all regional Ukrainian centers. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovych and defeated candidates

KYIV – Presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovych, who defeated his main rival, Yulia Tymoshenko, by 10 percent of the votes in the first round of the elections, said in Kharkiv on January 20 that he did not ask any other candidates for political support. Nevertheless, Mr. Yanukovych confirmed that he has already met with the most leaders of political forces, having suggested incorporation of their ideas into the Party of Regions program in order to take into account every voter’s wishes. Mr. Yanukovych expressed special respect to Sergey Tigipko, who was third in the first round, saying, “his program almost does not differ from ours; his voters think like we do and will vote for us.” (Ukrinform)

Tigipko in the spotlight

KYIV – The third-place finisher in the first round of Ukraine’s presidential election, Sergey Tigipko, says he won’t endorse either candidate, but there’s intense competition to get him to change his mind. Mr. Tigipko headed Viktor Yanukovych’s campaign during the infamous presidential election in 2004, when their victory – in voting widely believed to have been rigged – prompted thousands onto the streets. Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, the Orange Revolution’s heroine, is hoping Mr. Tigipko will join her side this time. The mathematics are simple: Ms. Tymoshenko won 25 percent of the vote in the first round of the presidential election on January 17. That’s 10 percent behind Mr. Yanukovych, a gap she

needs to make up to have any chance of winning the presidency in the second round. Backing from Mr. Tigipko – who came from nowhere to place third with 13 percent – is Ms. Tymoshenko’s surest bet to convince undecided Ukrainians to vote for her. Ms. Tymoshenko first began wooing him at her campaign headquarters in Kyiv’s Hyatt Hotel on election night. But in an interview with RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service on January 21, Mr. Tigipko said he hadn’t accepted her offer of the prime minister’s seat, along with half the Cabinet’s other posts. But he said talks were continuing, and left the window open for changing his mind. “I don’t know yet. I’m going to listen and I’m going to think about it,” he said. Ms. Tymoshenko pressed Mr. Tigipko on January 26 to accept her offer; she said that she wanted his answer before the February 7 runoff vote. Ms. Tymoshenko said her election program was similar to that of Mr. Tigipko, especially in the area of the economy – both speak of modernization and a stronger social safety net. Mr. Tigipko said in an interview with Reuters on January 25 that he was ready to serve either Mr. Yanukovych or Ms. Tymoshenko as prime minister as long as he had their backing for “unpopular measures” to revive the struggling economy. (RFE/RL)

Yatsenyuk will not support anyone

KYIV – Arseniy Yatsenyuk, leader of the Front for Change party, who came in fourth place in the January 17 presidential race with 6.96 percent of the vote, will not support anyone in the runoff. At a news briefing on January 20 he thanked people who voted for him saying, “There will be local and early parliamentary elections, and the Ukrainians wishing a new quality of life will be able to vote once again. This is just the beginning.” On February 7 Mr. Yatsenyuk said he would come to the polls to say, “Do not support any of the candidates.” (Ukrinform)

Expert: Tymoshenko has better chance

KYIV – The task of winning greater popularity among the electorate is much more difficult for Viktor Yanukovych than for Yulia Tymoshenko, said Vitaliy Bala, director of the Situation Modeling Agency, according to news reports of January 20. In his opinion, neither Sergey

Tigipko nor Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who took third and fourth places, respectively, in the first round of the presidential election, will be able to guarantee the support of his voters to either of the front-runners. Yet, “for Tymoshenko the gap of 10 percent is in a large measure a problem of low turnout, and the price of victory is effective work with the supporters of Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Viktor Yushchenko, Oleh Tiahnybok and in a lesser measure Sergey Tigipko. For Viktor Yanukovych the task of increasing his electoral value is much more difficult,” Mr. Bala said. (Ukrinform)

Chornovil supports Tymoshenko

LVIV – Taras Chornovil, a former insider of Viktor Yanukovych, has called on Ukrainians to vote for Yulia Tymoshenko, For-UA reported on January 23. “In case of a Yanukovych win, the present chaos and stand-off between the president and the prime minister will continue in Ukraine – only in a much more deteriorated condition. If the current confrontation between the president and the prime minister is like a cold war, what will happen will look like a hot war, and with much more chaos,” the national deputy said. The second reason he opts for Ms. Tymoshenko as president, Mr. Chornovil continued, is her respect for democratic values. “She makes a large effort to be liked in the environments and countries where democracy is highly valued,” Mr. Chornovil argued. The third reason Mr. Chornovil is in favor of Ms. Tymoshenko is that she is an extremely active and energetic person. Ms. Tymoshenko is a prime mover and will do her best to succeed in her projects, the maverick lawmaker said. By contrast, Mr.

Chornovil continued, the malleable Mr. Yanukovych will transfer power to some éminence grise who will rule in his name. (ZIK – Zakhidna Informatsiyna Korporatsiya)

Patriots support Tymoshenko

KYIV – A group of prominent Ukrainian activists and patriots has issued an appeal to Ukrainian voters to support Yulia Tymoshenko in the second round of Ukraine’s presidential election on February 7. The January 25 appeal was signed by, among others, Bohdan Horyn, Ivan Dzyuba, Ivan Drach, Levko Lukianenko, Dmytro Pavlychko, Yuri Mushketyk, Yuri Shcherbak, Myroslav Popovych and Ihor Yukhnovskiy. The statement points out: “Ukraine finds itself in a dramatic situation, when the election of the president has been transformed into a referendum about the fate of the Ukrainian state and its civilizational orientation.” The signatories state that Ms. Tymoshenko is better able to protect the national interests of Ukraine, to strengthen civil society and to guarantee the democratic development of Ukraine. “Those who believe we have no choice, that on February 7 it is not necessary to take part in the voting, are actually making a choice benefitting Viktor Yanukovych,” the statement notes, going on to describe Mr. Yanukovych as “a politician directed from the outside who wants to return to the past, to recreate Ukraine as a satellite of a renewed Muscovite empire.” Mr. Pavlychko commented that a victory at the polls by Viktor Yanukovych would mean losing all that was achieved in the sphere of national identity and democracy since the declaration of Ukraine’s independence in 1991. (UNIAN)



It is with deep sorrow that we share with family and friends that on Wednesday, December 30, 2009, by the will of the Lord, passed into eternity at the age of 83 our beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and father-in-law



Michael Pendzola

Born November 19, 1926 in the village of Kropyvnyk, Dolynskiy r-n, Ivano-Frankivsk oblast.

Michael took an active role in the community life in New York City. He was a long time member of the ODFFU branch in New York City. For over 40 years he took an active role in rebuilding the Sumivska Oselia in Ellenville NY until his stroke in 2000. He lived with his granddaughter in Kyiv, Ukraine until his untimely death.

Requiem Services were held Saturday, January 2, 2010 at Svyatoho Mykolaia Chudotvortsia at Askoldova Mohyla, followed by interment at Pivnichny Cemetery in Kyiv, Ukraine.

In profound sorrow:

- Daughter - Catherine Pendzola
- Granddaughter - Christina Pendzola-Vitovych with husband Oleh
- Great-Granddaughter - Xenia Vitovych
- Adopted Daughter - Anna Pignataro with family
- Brother - Yaroslav Pendzola with family
- Daughter-in-law - Maria Jakowiw-Pendzola
- Other family members and relatives in Ukraine

Eternal memory!

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of the deceased to: Ukrainian American Youth Assn-Oselia Building Fund, 8853 Route 209 Ellenville, NY 12428



The Board of Directors
of the Ukrainian Institute of America
extends its deepest sympathy
to the family of

MARK ZAININGER

who entered into eternal rest
on Saturday, January 16, 2010, at age 46.

May he rest in peace and may God grant comfort to
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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Parish honors Myron Kuropas

BENSENVILLE, Ill. – Dr. Myron B. Kuropas was honored on November 15, 2009, by the pastor and parishioners of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church for his years of service to the Ukrainian community.

The award came following a presentation by Dr. Kuropas outlining the history of the Ukrainian American community.

Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bensenville, Ill., was established last summer by former members of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church who wished to remain affiliated with the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States (UOC of the U.S.A.) whose administrative center and national headquarters are located in South Bound Brook, N.J.

The new parish enjoys the support of a substantial number of new immigrants. During his remarks to his parishioners, the Rev. Bohdan Kalynyuk, pastor, emphasized the importance of their having an appreciation for contributions of

previous Ukrainian immigrations to the United States.

Following an introduction by Halyna Hrushetsky, program chair, Dr. Kuropas thanked the Rev. Kalynyuk for his remarks and proceeded to outline the process by which immigrants who had identified themselves as Rusyns became Ukrainians in the United States. He focused on how Svoboda, the Ukrainian-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association, was involved in the transformation process.

Of special interest to parishioners was the fact that the first Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox parish, founded in Chicago in 1924, was also named Holy Trinity. A question and answer session followed the presentation by Dr. Kuropas.

For those interested in learning more about Holy Trinity Church, information can be found on the church website, <http://holytrinityuoc.com>.



The Rev. Bohdan Kalynyuk, pastor of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Church, presents an award to Dr. Myron B. Kuropas.

Minneapolis celebrates Hutsulschyna

by Svitlana Uniat

MINNEAPOLIS – The students of St. Constantine's School of Ukrainian Studies in Minneapolis had long awaited the traditional arrival of St. Nicholas, and on December 13, 2009, their patience was rewarded.

To provide a fitting welcome for him, the students prepared a stage play titled "Images from Hutsulschyna" or "St. Nicholas is coming." The play was written by Ms. Uniat, and staged by the teachers of the school – Svitlana Uniat, Taras Rafa, the Rev. Roman Voronchak, Volodymyra Kramarczuk, Helen Tataryn, school director Dmytro Tataryn, and choir director Yuri Ivan. Katia Medvetski, Volodymyr Medvetski, Andrew Mak and George Ripeckyj created beautiful sets for the play.

The play was a feast for the eye as well as the ear, as all the participants wore traditional, colorful Hutsul folk costumes and sang many "kolomyiky." The audience was magically transported to a colorful mountain village, where the children and grownups joyfully greeted the arrival of winter.

The play began with Ms. Uniat and a group of Hutsul boys inviting all the schoolchildren to their village to greet St. Nicholas. The school choir, under the baton of Mr. Ivan, sang about the snow, winter and all the fun they were about to have, and a duo (Lesia Uniat and Nazar Voronchak) regaled the children with a humorous song about St. Nicholas.

The lead storyteller, Taras Tataryn, talked about Hutsul traditions as domesticated animals (played by Olesia Starazhynsky, Colton Mak, Mariana Cournoyer, Paul Potepenko and Kiefer Miskiw) woke up from a sound sleep, ready to greet St. Nicholas. Dudaryky (pipers) Taras Hutsal and Danylo Ripeckyj joined Hutsul girls Lesia Uniat, Sophia Medvetski, Natalka Mak, Natalka Medvetski, Julia Cournoyer and Anya Nesteruk in greeting the audience with song and dance.

Particularly moving was the rendition of the song "Verkhvyno Moia" (My Highland Home) by Olesia Voronchak, Halia Voronchak, Alexa Tataryn and Sophia Hutsal, their colorful costumes adding a striking visual dimension to the performance. Music was provided by Taras Rafa



The children of the Minneapolis area community who performed a program in honor of St. Nicholas.

on guitar and Olesia Voronchak on violin.

As is traditional the "chortyk" (little devil) appeared on the stage with a huge sack of sticks to give to naughty children. He too contributed songs and danced to the delight of children young and old. Having little interest in receiving sticks

instead of toys, the children eventually chased the chortyk out of the village. Then, to the sound of children singing and bells ringing, St. Nicholas finally arrived to deliver the anticipated gifts.

Translated by Zenon Stepchuk

2010 welcomed at Scranton Malanka

SCRANTON – The music of the Fata Morgana band and a feast of Ukrainian specialties were among the highlights of the sixth annual Malanka held here on Friday, January 15.

The Ukrainian cuisine was provided by the Rev. Paul Wolensky, pastor of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and his cooks, the Rev. Nestor Kowal and his assistants from St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and St. Vladimir's "Pyrohy Society." The event was sponsored by the combined Ukrainian organizations of Northeast Pennsylvania.

The traditional Ukrainian New Year's dinner-dance at St. Vladimir's Parish Center in Scranton began with chairs Michael Trusz and Kathleen Izak welcoming guests, and was still going strong six hours later when the Revs. Wolensky and Kowal offered an invocation and midnight toast.

Dancing to Oleksa Kereksha, Bohdan Mykaylyshyn and Ihor Shablovsky of Fata Morgana preceded the midnight

champagne toast for the event planned by members of the Ukrainian Heritage Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Scranton, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church of Scranton and the North Anthracite Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics (LUC).

Assisting in making sure the Malanka was as successful as the previous five were Vera Krewsun, Jean and David Pedley, Mark Izak, Melissa Izak, Sandra Bertha, Helenmarie Olecki and Shirley Nidoh.

Paul Ewasko, president of the Ukrainian Heritage Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, reported that the event had received rave reviews and he already had several e-mails inquiring about Malanka 2011.

The information above is based on a story by Terry Bonifanti carried on January 17 by The Scranton Times-Tribune.



Revelers at the 2010 Malanka held in Scranton, Pa.

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As runoff nears...

(Continued from page 1)

The Finance Ministry changed the plant's statutes to enable the personnel change on January 18. Since then, PRU national deputies kept a 24-hour guard of the plant alongside security guards. They fought a January 22 attempt to install Mr. Khomko, who returned with a vengeance three days later.

"The police coordinated the attackers' actions," said PRU National Deputy Vladyslav Lukianov, as reported by the Ukrayina Moloda newspaper.

"People were beaten with metal rods and batons, two security guards were struck in the head, another had his leg broken, many were wounded and blood flowed into the courtyard," he said.

Both political forces spun the conflict to their political advantage, casting themselves as the victims of lawlessness and aggression.

The Party of Regions accused First Vice Prime Minister Oleksander Turchynov of organizing the raid in order to print an additional 1.5 million ballots to falsify for the second round.

Mr. Turchynov responded that it was the PRU destroying evidence of falsification committed at the polygraphic plant when it was under its deputies' control during the first round.

PRU National Deputy Mykola Azarov, the right-hand man to Mr. Yanukovych, called for Parliament to dismiss Mr. Lutsenko, asking the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) and Procurator General's Office to arrest and prosecute those government officials who ordered what he deemed the illegal raid.

In turn, Mr. Lutsenko said it was the PRU that provoked the raid. When the new director arrived at the plant with a police escort on January 22, 20 private soldiers accompanied by several PRU deputies thwarted them.

"When the director accompanied by the plant security – I stress not the police, but the plant security service – attempted to enter his office, smoke bombs were used against them," Mr. Lutsenko said.

"The challenge of an emergency situation emerged. What were the police supposed to do in this situation? The police arrived and arrested everyone involved in the conflict, including 16 of the deputies' so-called guards and two employees of the plant security service," he commented.

Mr. Lutsenko's dismissal was supported by votes from the Communist Party of Ukraine, the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc and the Single Center group of the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense faction loyal to Viktor Baloha, the former chair of the Presidential Secretariat who has aligned himself with the Party of Regions.

"Lytvyn is obviously angling to see who he can sell his 20 votes to, depending on who will win the elections," said Dr. Taras Kuzio, research fellow of the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Toronto. "If he sells out Tymoshenko, he will follow the fate of [Socialist Party Chair] Oleksander Moroz as they both have the same central Ukrainian voter base, which is largely Orange."

Causing the most stir was Petro Yushchenko's vote to oust Mr. Lutsenko, confirming simmering suspicions that his brother, President Yushchenko, has aligned himself with the Party of Regions to undermine Ms. Tymoshenko in her presidential bid.

On January 26, the president nominated a Lytvyn Bloc bureaucrat, Oleksander Osadchuk, to the Central Election Commission (CEC) to replace a Tymoshenko Bloc ally, Anatolii Pysarenko, who was dismissed by Parliament because he exceeded the retirement age.

By most estimates, the CEC now consists of eight commissioners loyal to the Party of Regions, and only four allied with the Tymoshenko Bloc.

President Yushchenko dispatched Internal Affairs Ministry troops on January 25 to guard the Ukrayina polygraphic plant as it began printing election ballots that day.

The National Security and Defense Council ruled the same day that SBU officers will control the preparation of ballots and Internal Affairs Ministry officers will oversee the storage and delivery of election ballots.

"A conflict unfolded that was reminiscent of criminal shootouts and raids," said President Yushchenko. "The aggressive actions showed the inability of both political forces – the Tymoshenko Bloc and the Party of Regions – to tolerantly, carefully prepare for the second round within the framework of the law."

Two days after the ballot factory raid, PRU National Deputies Valerii Bondyk, Yurii Myroshnichenko and Elbrus Tedeyev burst into the office of Kyiv Administrative Appellate Chief Judge Anatolii Denysov and allegedly broke into his computers' database.

The PRU deputies said they based their raid on suspicions the appellate court was lobbying Ms. Tymoshenko's interests.

They were trying to find out the basis and order of election complaints and whether the law on automatic distribution of cases among judges was being applied, Mr. Myroshnichenko said, adding that several of its rulings related to the elections have been doubtful.

The Kyiv Administrative Court is the single court designated to review all appeals related to the elections before the CEC reaches its final rulings. Complaints about its rulings will be heard by the Kyiv Administrative Appellate Court, which is led by Judge Denysov.

Judge Denysov told reporters he wouldn't come to work if PRU deputies were present.

As evidence that the PRU's concerns are misguided, his court issued a ruling that the Tymoshenko campaign violated election rules by using the Cabinet press center to campaign during a January 20 press conference held there.

Meanwhile, Ukrayina Polygraphic Plant Director Valentyn Muzyka said on January 27 he's been followed on his way to and from work by a black jeep and requested the SBU to provide security.

Accusations between the candidates grew more intense, as Ms. Tymoshenko claimed the Party of Regions falsified the first round in four oblasts. Protocols were falsified in a minimum of one-third of the regions, she said, adding that she didn't wish to waste time appealing the fraud.

"We could have gone to the courts and proved it in each of them," she said in an interview published on January 26 in Ukrayinska Pravda. "But that would have been lost time that could have been devoted to not allowing it in the second round. We know where it was and how it was done. We know that no one besides us ourselves will help and we will cease such unacceptable cases of falsification."

Yushchenko...

(Continued from page 1)

Speaking for his family, Mr. Bandera said he was impressed with the president's decision to issue his decree after the first round of the presidential elections rather than during the campaign.

"We're particularly grateful to Viktor Yushchenko that he didn't take this step before the elections," he told The Weekly. "Had he done it during the campaign, it would have looked like a cheap ploy to get votes. But he did it not as a politician running for office, but as a head of state."

In his presentation, President Yushchenko stated that the award was for Bandera's "unbroken spirit in defending national ideas, showing heroism and self-sacrifice in the struggle for an independent Ukrainian state."

When the 39-year-old Mr. Bandera emerged on stage to accept the award he engaged in a brief conversation with the president.

"The president thanked our family for giving Ukraine such a leader as Stepan Bandera," his grandson said of the conversation. "And from my end, I thanked him that Ukraine has such a president as Viktor Yushchenko."

Observers said President Yushchenko is aiming towards building a post-presidential career as the leader of a national-democratic political force.

"In forming a right-wing political bloc with the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists and other political forces, for which Bandera is a certain flag and slogan, it's as if he's trying to give a bribe so that they view him as the undoubted leader of the right-wing camp," commented Kost Bondarenko, director of the Gorshenin Institute of Problem Management in Kyiv.

He penned a vicious column smearing Bandera in his institute's *Levyi Bereg* (Left Bank) publication.

President Yushchenko dismissed claims it was a political gambit, pointing out that "you won't make any gains with Bandera."

That conclusion was proven by the fierce international criticism of President Yushchenko's decision. Leaders in Russia and Poland, which occupied Ukrainian lands throughout the 20th century and oppressed the Ukrainian people, continue smearing Bandera as a Nazi collaborator and fascist.

Such accusations are made despite the fact that Bandera was imprisoned at the Sachsenhausen Nazi concentration camp between 1941 and 1944, and two of his brothers died there.

Bandera strikes such a nerve among governments because of his willingness to engage in violent acts to defend the Ukrainian people.

Loss and redemption...

(Continued from page 10)

and place to push for national symbols. Applauding Mr. Yushchenko's commitment to these symbols while Ukraine was being plundered was not one of those times.

The lesson is this: leadership has consequences for better or for worse. Mr. Yushchenko paid for his mistakes. If Ukrainian patriotic movements at home and abroad are to go forward, those responsible for their part in the president's debacle must also pay.

Hope springs eternal. The patriotic leader of Ukraine can yet salvage lost ground.

For starters, they should meet with both presidential contenders. That's what politicians around the globe do. Tell Yulia Tymoshenko and Viktor Yanukovych that instructions will be given to support the one who will put criminals in jail and

He organized the assassination of Soviet Consul in Lviv Oleksiy Maylov and several other key government officials, and gave the order to declare Ukrainian independence in Lviv on June 30, 1941, after the Nazis occupied Ukraine. The Nazi Germans arrested and deported him several days later.

"The decree to award Bandera the Hero of Ukraine order is an event that's so offensive by its virtue that it can't not stir a single negative reaction, above all in Ukraine," stated the Russian Federation's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Indeed Luhansk Oblast Council Chair Valerii Holenko appealed to a local district court to rule the president's decree illegal and overturn it.

Some critics announced campaigns to revoke the award on the grounds that Bandera was never a citizen of Ukraine. He was a citizen of Poland, where the award was also roundly criticized.

"Stepan Bandera, whom many Poles and Ukrainians consider a fascist and criminal, was officially recognized by President Yushchenko as a national Hero of Ukraine," said Leszek Miller, a former Polish prime minister and socialist leader. "Viktor Yushchenko knew that he's given the honor to a person who was sentenced to death in pre-war Poland for his participation in the murder of Polish Internal Affairs Minister Bronislaw Pieracki, a person who actively cooperated with the Nazis and [was] the creator of an ideology and military units which fought against Poles and the Polish state."

President Yushchenko indeed was aware of the international shockwaves such a step would create, Mr. Bandera told The Weekly, having learned from a Presidential Secretariat official that Mr. Yushchenko intentionally refrained from giving the award during the Bandera centennial commemoration on January 1, 2009.

"He said Gazprom lowered the pressure in the pipe by 25 percent," he said. "In that sense, the timing was good. Had he done it then, Ukraine might be paying \$800 per 1,000 cubic meters."

The Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia called the award a "provocation that helps rehabilitate Nazi crimes and insults the memory of its victims."

Don't blame Bandera's opponents, advised Yurii Shukhevych, the grandson of Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) Commander-in-Chief Roman Shukhevych. He accepted the Hero of Ukraine order on behalf of his grandfather in 2007. "It's their misfortune because they don't know Ukrainian history," Mr. Shukhevych told the 1+1 television network. "It's the misfortune of many, many Ukrainians because they learned our history from those writings that were written far beyond Ukraine's boundaries."

champion the patriotic agenda. Let the world hear their answers publicly.

As candidates court votes the advantage at this moment is with the patriots of Ukraine. Grab it. Redeem yourselves and in so doing redeem the patriotic agenda.

And be mindful of the next moves from Mr. Yushchenko. If he is the democrat he claims to be, he will withdraw graciously from the political scene to do other important work like, perhaps, lead international organizations aiming to expose the horrors of communism.

If he is being manipulated by anti-Ukraine interests, as may have been the case since the Orange Revolution, national symbols notwithstanding, he will be worked to undermine Ukraine's free elections. His most recent irresponsible comments to support neither candidate in the presidential runoff are shocking. Such disdain for the political process must be condemned by democrats around the world, and above all by patriots at home and abroad.

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SPORTSLINE

Soccer

• Andriy Yarmolenko, a striker for Dynamo Kyiv, was listed in Italy's Guerin Sportivo magazine as 92nd among the world's top 100 players under age 23.

• Shakhtar Donetsk signed Brazilian midfielders Alex Teixeira and Douglas Costa each to five-year, 6 million euro contracts on December 21 and January 11, respectively. Teixeira is a former player for Vasco de Gama and Costa played for Brazilian club Gremio.

• Andriy Shevchenko, 33, was added to the Top Division Goal Scorers (over 200) by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics on January 4. Shevchenko is ranked in 311th place out of 313. During his 15 years of play, he has scored 200 goals in 402 matches played in Italy (AC Milan), England (Chelsea) and Ukraine (Dynamo Kyiv). Pele tops the list with 541 goals in 560 matches played from 1957 to 1977.

• Alina Gorobets was named the Best Woman Player in the World in the Umbro Futsal Awards for 2009, as reported by futsalplanet.com on January 10. Gorobets plays for Belichanka-93 futsal (indoor soccer) club and was described as "extremely fast" and is renowned as being the best goal scorer of all time for Belichanka-93. In international tournaments such as the Tolna Cup 2008 in Hungary she was named the best striker of the tournament.

• Andriy Pyatov and Dmytro Chygrynskiy were named among the CIS's top five soccer players of 2009, as determined by a poll by Sport-Express newspaper. Pyatov was ranked in third place with 56 points and Chygrynskiy ranked in fourth place with 46 points. In the top 10, Andriy Shevchenko was ranked in seventh place, Artem Mlievsky was in ninth place and Andriy Voronin was in 10th place.

• Valery Lobanovsky, a legendary coach for Dynamo Kyiv, was ranked 28th among the All-Time World Coach Ranking (1996-2009) by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics. The 28th spot is shared by Glenn Hoddle (England), Jose Antonia Camacho (Spain) and Jozef Chovanec (Czech Republic). Other Ukrainians ranked included Dynamo's current coach Valery Gazzaev (85th place) and Oleh Blokhin (95th).

• Andriy Shevchenko and Oleh Blokhin were named as tournament ambassadors for the UEFA Euro-2012 tournament on January 25. Zbigniew Boniek and Andrzej Szarmach were nominated as Polish ambassadors for the tournament.

Boxing

• Serhiy Dzinziruk (36-0, 22 KO) announced his move to the United States as a free agent in hopes of signing with an American promoter. Dzinziruk is the WBO light-middleweight champion. "I met the president of the WBO [World Boxing Organization] and agreed to fight the owner of the interim WBO light-middleweight title, Alfredo Angulo," Dzinziruk told Fightnews.com. "The fight will take place in March 2010 in America. It'll be a good fight."

• Wladimir Klitschko (53-3, 47 KO) will defend his IBO, IBF and WBO heavyweight titles against U.S. challenger Eddie Chambers (35-1, 18 KO) on March

20 at the Esprit Arena in Dusseldorf, Germany. The stadium has a capacity of 51,000. In the tale of the tape, Klitschko stands 6-foot-6-inches and 245 pounds, and Chambers is 6-foot-1-inch and weighed in at 208 pounds in his previous fight against Alexander Dimitrenko on July 4, 2009.

Tennis

• Alona Bondarenko won the Moorilla Hobart International women's tournament in Hobart, Australia, held at the Domain Tennis Center on January 8-16. In the final, Bondarenko defeated Shahar Pe'er of Israel (6-2, 6-4). In the semifinals, Bondarenko defeated No.1 seed Anabel Medina Garrigues of Spain (4-6, 6-3, 6-4). This tournament is held as a lead up to the Australian Open, the first Grand Slam tournament of the year, and is sponsored by Moorilla Wines.

• Alona Bondarenko made it to the fourth round of the Australian Open held in Melbourne Park on January 18-31, but was defeated by Jie Zheng of China (5-7, 4-6), and Kateryna Bondaenko was eliminated after a second round loss to Elena Baltacha of Great Britain (2-6, 5-7). The Bondarenko sisters were eliminated in the first round of women's doubles after a loss to Gisela Dulko of Argentina and Flavia Pennetta of Italy (4-6, 6-2, 3-6). In men's singles, Illya Marchneko was defeated in the second round against Nikolay Davydenko of Russia (3-6, 3-6, 0-6).

Chess

Vasyl Ivanchuk has jumped four spots in the World Chess Federation (FIDE) rankings to eighth place among the world's active players. Kateryna Lahno improved 12 positions to rank in ninth place among the top 100 female players as ranked in January 2010.

Olympics

• Olympic record-holder Serhiy Bubka, a member of Ukraine's National Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), has been appointed to the IOC coordination commission that will oversee the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. The commission includes representatives of all subjects of the Olympic movement, national Olympic committees, international federations and the commission of athletes. The commission is responsible for monitoring the preparation process of the Games and fostering cooperation with the competition's organizing committee. Previously, Bubka was on the IOC coordination commission for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. Bubka is currently the head of the commission in preparation of the first Youth Olympic Games that will be held in August in Singapore.

• Fifty-one athletes are set to represent Ukraine at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia. Ukraine's athletes will compete in biathlon, figure skating, cross-country skiing, ski jump, Nordic combined skiing, luge, freestyle skiing and alpine skiing.

Handball

Ukraine's handball squad won the International Handball Cup in Riga, Latvia, on December 30, 2009. Other teams that competed included Belarus and Belgium.

Fencing

• Olha Kharlan was named Ukraine's Athlete of the Year for 2009 by the

National Olympic Committee of Ukraine (NOCU) on December 25. In July 2009 she and her teammates won the European Fencing Championships in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. She also won the individual event at the competition. In October 2009 she won the Antalya World Fencing Championships in Turkey and the silver medal in the women's saber individual event. Her coach, Artem Skorokhod, was named Coach of the Year by the NOCU.

• Yana Shemyakina won the gold medal at the 2010 Qatar Fencing Grand Prix – Epee, held on January 22-25. She defeated Yevgenia Stroganova of Russia (15-5) in the quarterfinals; Italy's Bianca Del Caretto (15-12) in the semifinal; and Emese Szasz of Hungary (15-8) in the final.

Hockey

• Terry Sawchuk's 40-year-old shutout record of 103 games was surpassed by fellow goaltender Martin Brodeur of the New Jersey Devils on December 21, 2009, in a game against the Pittsburgh Penguins. The 37-year-old Brodeur also set the record for regular-season appearances by a goaltender. The shutout record came during his 1,032nd game over 16 seasons, all with New Jersey. "This record was held for so long, when you do break records and see how long they lasted, it's cool," Brodeur said. "Tying it was amazing and surpassing him, was a great honor for me to be in that position."

• Ukraine's women's indoor hockey team won the EuroHockey Indoor Nations Championship in Duisburg, Germany, on January 15-17. Along the way, the team defeated the Netherlands in the semifinal and defeated Spain 6-5 in the final match. Ukraine's team captain, Maryna Vynohradova, was named the best player of the tournament.

Basketball

Kyryl Natyazhko, a native of Dnipropetrovsk, was profiled in the November 15, 2009, issue of the Arizona Daily Star. A freshman at the University of Arizona, the 6-foot-10-inch Ukrainian is a cousin of Kyrylo Fesenko, who plays for the Utah Jazz as a backup center. Natyazhko arrived in Florida in 2007,

having completed his high school education at the IMG Academy in Bradenton, where he was recruited by the University of Arizona.

Swimming

Darya Stepanyuk finished in third place in the women's 100-meter freestyle at the Salnikov Cup international swimming tournament in St. Petersburg, Russia, on December 19-20. Andriy Govorov won silver in the men's 50-meter butterfly stroke.

Biathlon

• Oksana Khvostenko and Andriy Deryzemlya won second place at the 2009 Biathlon Christmas Race in Germany on December 27. The Ukrainian pair missed six targets and finished 13.7 seconds behind the leaders. Last year the Ukrainian team won first place in the race.

• Serhiy Sednev won the gold medal in the 20-kilometer individual race at the e. on Ruhrgas International Biathlon Union World Cup in Antholz, Italy, on January 18-24. Ukraine finished in eighth place.

General sports

Ukraine's athletes won the most medals at international competitions in 2009 with 224 medals at world and European competitions. In the medal count, Ukraine won 36 gold, 52 silver and 64 bronze medals. Another 151 medals were won by Ukrainians in non-Olympic events, according to the Family, Youth and Sports Ministry. In the 30 European competitions of Olympic events, Ukrainian athletes won 18 gold medals.

Marial arts

Yuriy Pavlenko, Ukraine's minister for family, youth and sports, met with George Thoktaridis, president of the World Pan-Amateur Kickboxing Association (WPKA) on January 21 in Kyiv. The parties discussed the planning of the WKPA World Championship on May 1-9, 2011. Thktaridis said he was confident that Ukraine would host the tournament at a high level.

—compiled by Matthew Dubas

To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, etc. – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- Persons who submit any materials must provide a complete mailing address and daytime phone number where they may be reached if any additional information is required.
- News stories should be sent in not later than 10 days after the occurrence of a given event.
- All materials must be typed and double-spaced.
- Photographs (originals only, no photocopies or computer printouts) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
- Unsolicited materials submitted for publication will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.

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High School Civil Liberties Award recipient is announced by UCCLF

CALCARY, Alberta – The Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Foundation (UCCLF) announced on January 18 that Adrian Warchola, a grade 12 student from Edmonton, is the recipient of this year's UCCLF High School Civil Liberties Award.

The 2009 award – the second annual – is given to a high school student who submitted the highest-quality research essay based on a Holodomor theme, an initiative undertaken by the UCCLF in recognition of the 75th anniversary of Ukraine's Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

Adrian's essay was among numerous submissions which were judged by the award selection committee, which included Prof. Ludmilla Voitkovska of the

languages and linguistics department at the University of Saskatchewan. Adrian's essay is deemed to have been superior in research, organization and presentation.

As the winner of the competition, Adrian was awarded \$500 along with a copy of "Holodomor: Reflections on the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine," edited by Lubomyr Luciuk. Other participants in the writing competition will be awarded a copy of "Into Auschwitz, For Ukraine" by Stefan Petelycky.

The UCCLF's annual Civil Liberties Opinion-Editorial Award, is given to a student whose Holodomor-based opinion editorial appears in a major Canadian newspaper according to the rules as prescribed each year by the UCCLF.

Ukrainian-Jewish...

(Continued from page 11)

Ukraine once, although he was born in a village near Pereyaslav.

Yohann Petrovsky-Shtern teaches Jewish Studies at Northwestern University and is a prolific writer on Jewish-Ukrainian and Jewish-Russian themes (his latest book is "The Anti-Imperial Choice: the Making of the Ukrainian Jew," published by Yale University Press in 2009). Prof. Petrovsky-Shtern spoke on the image of "the other" in post-1991 Ukrainian literature where he saw three trends in the image: as a key to self-identification which makes one change; as similar but different; and analyzing Oleksander Irvanets' Rivno/Rovno, as changing in meaning depending on the context.

During the discussions, several people made the point that the imaginary Jew, the one who appears in literature, and the empirical Jew, the one who appears in history, were two different concepts and one could not use one to disprove the other.

The next meeting of the UJEI will deal with cross-cultural influences and mutual stereotypes that have become embedded in the respective cultures. It is scheduled for Israel in June.

James Temerty, businessman and philanthropist, has been a supporter of the UJEI since its founding. The co-directors of the UJEI are Alti Rodal and Adrian Karatnycky.

Ms. Rodal is a historian, writer and advisor to the government of Canada. She has served on government policy commissions, in federal and provincial governments and agencies. She has also been a member of the executive committees of the Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada.

Mr. Karatnycky is senior fellow at the Atlantic Council of the U.S., founder and president of the Orange Circle, former president of Freedom House and co-editor of the annual "Nations in Transit" study of reform in the post-Communist world. He is a frequent contributor to many periodicals, such as Foreign Affairs, The Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times, and author of three books on Soviet and post-Soviet themes.

Roman Kupchinsky...

(Continued from page 6)

Association and the Committee to Protect Journalists.

From 1978 to 1988 he was president of Prolog Research Corp. a Ukrainian research company that published the Ukrainian-language journal Suchasnist, which played a significant role in highlighting Ukraine's struggle for independence and the Ukrainian human rights movement. Prolog also released hundreds of books and pamphlets in the Ukrainian language, as well as the English-language Digest of the Soviet Ukrainian Press, Soviet Nationalities Survey and Business in Ukraine.

From 1990 to 2002, Mr. Kupchinsky headed the Ukrainian Service at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and in 2002-2008 was a senior analyst at RFE/RL.

Mr. Kupchinsky is the author of numerous articles on Ukrainian affairs, Russian energy and international politics. He edited RFE/RL's "Organized Crime and Corruption Watch," as well as two collections of samizdat/samvydav articles, "The Nationality Problem in the USSR" and "Pogrom in Ukraine," about Soviet repressions of Ukrainian activists.

An excerpt from his unpublished mem-

oirs appeared in The Ukrainian Weekly on November 22, 2009, under the headline "Ukrainian independence and Soviet Ukraine's KGB (a memoir)," and "A personal memoir: 1968, the watershed year" appeared in The Weekly on July 27, 2008.

Among the Ukrainian organizations in which he was active was the Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons of New York and New Jersey, of which he was a founding member.

Surviving are Mr. Kupchinsky's son, Markian; his brother, Michael Savchak, with his wife, Anneliese Kniffin; and relatives of his late wife, Oksana Skubiak.

Mr. Kupchinsky will be buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on February 12. A "parastas" (memorial service) will be offered on February 11 at 7:30 p.m. and mourners may visit at 6-9 p.m. at the Arlington Funeral Home, 3901 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203-1697.

The family has indicated that donations in memory of Mr. Kupchinsky may be sent to: Our Life magazine of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, The Ukrainian Museum in New York, The Ukrainian Weekly or the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund.

European Union's...

(Continued from page 3)

terms with Mr. Putin and also live up to her promise of implementing EU-backed energy-sector reforms, specifically to bring in a Western company to run the country's transit system.

Functional ties between Kyiv and Moscow and increased transparency in Ukraine's energy sector is exactly the combination needed to avoid future gas crises. The energy opacity and uneven power relationship that would characterize a Yanukovich presidency is probably more likely to produce more of the political and business wrangling within Ukraine that formed the context of the last three gas cutoffs. And in the midst of another such crisis, Mr. Yanukovich would be a lot less likely to heed Brussels' warnings.

Therefore, a Tymoshenko victory on February 7 is most likely to ensure EU energy security this winter and in winters to come. But that stems from the fact that a Tymoshenko presidency will not necessarily be a pro-Western affair. That spells

trouble for the EU's long-term energy security, which can only be achieved with comprehensive political and economic reforms in Ukraine – the kind realized only during an EU accession process.

With the opportunity of the Orange Revolution passed, any future Ukrainian president will have to see clear incentives from EU member-states to make the concerted effort necessary to join the club. Unfortunately, such incentives are not likely to be forthcoming any time soon.

Alexandros Petersen is a senior fellow with the Eurasia Center at the Atlantic Council in Washington, D.C. The views expressed in this commentary are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of RFE/RL.

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Borys Wrzesnewskyj...

(Continued from page 10)

of integration and reform," while our defense minister stressed that the "addition of new members strengthens Euro-Atlantic security."

In early April 2009 Canada's prime minister expressed our country's strong support for Ukraine joining NATO stating that Ukraine "is on a path to a better future for its people, and I call upon our NATO partners to agree that we should keep Ukraine moving forward toward full membership in the alliance." He went on to state that: "The Ukrainian people naturally yearn for greater freedom, democracy and prosperity. Canada will do everything in its power to help Ukraine realize these aspirations, including backing its bid for NATO membership."

...Along with public statements of political intent, Canada has provided concrete opportunities to make Ukraine's eventual accession to full NATO membership a reality.

Since 1993, Canada has provided linguistic, staff/professional development and peace support operations training to members of Ukraine's armed forces through the auspices of the Military Training Assistance Program (MTAP).

Along with the Lithuanian and Polish militaries, Ukraine's military has participated in the international peacekeeping exercise Maple Arch with Canada's

Training Assistance Team deployed to assist these three countries to prepare their militaries for rotation in peacekeeping contingents that are involved in operations under the auspices of NATO.

And in April of 2008, the defense ministries of Ukraine and Canada signed a bilateral cooperation plan. This plan anticipates the holding of military and political consultations, the development of a system of logistics support and outsourcing in the Ukrainian Armed Forces, and the participation of the two countries' soldiers in joint exercises and field training.

Colleagues, in the 20th century two world wars had their origins in European regional conflicts. During World War II Ukraine lost over 12 million of her people; a price in human lives higher than any other country on the planet.

Today, one of Europe's most dangerous geopolitical fault lines runs through Ukraine and coincides with an increasing neo-imperialist appetite at the Kremlin. The only way we can successfully erase this geopolitical fault line is to embrace Ukraine's entry into NATO and subsequently into the European Union. Currently only four post-Soviet republics can be considered nascent democracies: the three Baltic states and Ukraine. The security and democratic futures of the three Baltic states have been secured with NATO and EU membership. Ukraine cannot and should not be left out in the cold...

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Christmas...

(Continued from page 13)

and the true meaning of Christmas left many in the audience teary-eyed and with a warm glow in their hearts.

Following Mr. Wyhinny's performance, the 65 members of the Kobzar Choir, resplendent in their Ukrainian embroidery, made their entrance onto the stage. As Maestro Hallick-Holutiak lowered his baton, the orchestra and choir filled the theater with the sounds of traditional Ukrainian Christmas carols, starting with the oldest and most beloved carol, "God Eternal" (Boh Predvichnyi). Kobzar's renditions of the Ukrainian carols were enhanced by the symphonic accompaniments written by Mr. Hallick-Holutiak specifically for this performance.

One piece in particular that enthralled the audience was "What Is This Wonder" (Scho to Za Predyvo) performed by young operatic lyric soprano Christina Linton. Her voice soared throughout the theatre and had the audience spellbound. As the choir joined Ms. Linton in the final verse, the beauty of the soloist's lyrical power carried above the combined orchestra and choir in the uppermost ranges – something special and truly wonderful. Kobzar and Ms. Linton were rewarded with several standing ovations for their beautiful contribution to the program.

Following a short intermission, the orchestra and combined choirs began the second half under the baton of Dr. Schulman. "See the Conquering Hero Comes" by Handel, and "Carol of the Bells," arranged by Mr. Hallick-Holutiak for orchestra alone, were soundly applauded and thrilled the audience.

Next came a special solo addition to the program. Gloria Kaye, a Canadian recording artist as well as a television and

radio personality of renown, graced the stage with two Christmas carols masterfully arranged by Richard Bellis. Ms. Kaye's stage presence and captivating voice kept the audience hushed until the end of her performance, when overwhelming applause overtook the auditorium.

Ms. Kaye, who is of Ukrainian descent, is a veteran performer with an extensive career that includes performances for people from all walks of life – from rodeo riders to royalty. She has recorded theme songs for various motion pictures, and her voice can be heard in various Disney Theme Park attractions.

The final segment of the program was a combined effort of all performers involved. Maestro Hallick-Holutiak conducted both choirs and the orchestra, which performed six Christmas carols representing Ukraine, Lithuania, France, England and Germany – all again creatively arranged for orchestra and choir by the conductor.

When all was over, the audience responded with a prolonged standing ovation and shouts of "More, more, more!" The 200-plus performers readily answered with three encore pieces; one in Lithuanian (a cappella), one in Ukrainian (with orchestra and bell choir added) and the grand finale, Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

Without reservation, one can say that this performance put all in attendance in the Christmas spirit. The program was fulfilling, rewarding, magnificent and done on a very professional level.

Mr. Hallick-Holutiak, who conceived and directed this combined program, related: "Everyone had fun and everyone of the performers should be thanked for their time, energy and dedication to this program. Without everyone's complete cooperation, we would not have been able to do what we did. So, I simply say thank you, one and all."

Expressions of respects, memories and condolences continued the next day after the burial. Mrs. Komarnyckyj, Mr. Kurowyckyj's daughter, expressed her thanks for everyone's sympathy and kind words about her father. Grandchildren Ksenia and George talked about how much they will miss their beloved grandfather. Dr. Komarnyckyj, son-in-law, described a father-in-law with whom he was able to discuss many subjects and share opinions. Lesia Lebed and Markian Duma, Mr. Kurowyckyj's niece and nephew, provided fond memories of their uncle as they were growing up.

Kind words were also spoken by Olya Hnateyko, past president of the Ukrainian Museum's board of trustees; Katrusia Wolowodiuk, from the Plast sorority Verkhovnyky; Melasia Mako, a good friend of granddaughter Dianna; and the Rev. Bazylevsky, who reminisced about growing up in Plast with Mr. Kurowyckyj.

Memorial donations may be sent to the UNWLA magazine Our Life or The Ukrainian Museum of New York.

Translated by Lesia Lebed

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 8)

percent. Every sector of Ukraine's commerce and trade would have the opportunity to adapt itself to WTO regulations during the course of a five-year transition period following full membership approval, Mr. Yushchenko said. This would allow the Ukrainian consumer to buy higher-quality goods and services at lower market prices.

Following Ukraine's WTO membership, talks would begin on the creation of a free-

trade zone with the European Union, which Mr. Yushchenko noted, could take up to one year to finalize.

In the steps toward formal membership in the WTO, the Verkhovna Rada modified 11 existing laws and regulations on trade in accordance with WTO protocol. Ukraine became the WTO's 152nd member-country.

Source: "World Trade Organization approves membership long sought by Ukraine," by Illya M. Labunka, The Ukrainian Weekly, February 10, 2008.

Kinofest NYC 2010 preparing premiere at The Ukrainian Museum

NEW YORK – Preparations are under way for Kinofest NYC's inaugural film festival in cooperation with The Ukrainian Museum. This premier event – dedicated to promoting independent Ukrainian and post-Soviet film and creating a forum for discussing emerging film talent – will take place at the museum on February 25-28.

Festival Director Andrew Kotliar and Program Director Damian Kolodiy have announced that the festival program is nearly complete.

Opening night at Kinofest NYC will feature guest presenter Jonas Mekas, filmmaker and founding director of New York's Anthology Film Archives, one of the world's largest and most important repositories of avant-garde films.

Mr. Mekas will lead the screening of "Reminiscences of a Journey to Lithuania," which describes his 1971 return to his native Lithuania, from which he fled during World War II. His film will resonate particularly with viewers who have also had the experience of returning to their East European homelands after years of forced exile. Following the screening of his feature-length documentary film, Mr. Mekas will be available for a Q&A session during Kinofest NYC's opening night reception.

Friday evening's program will be led by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk, founder of the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University. Dr. Shevchuk will present Kyiv-based filmmaker Victoria Melnykova's recently completed documentary "Fourth Wave," which focuses on the latest wave of Ukrainian immigration to the West. Ms. Melnykova's film tells the story of a talented Ukrainian who immigrates to Western Europe to fulfill his professional dream – a dream unattainable in modern-day Ukraine. In addition to offering commentary on Ms. Melnykova's film, Dr. Shevchuk will provide an update on other film projects in Ukraine.

Over the weekend of February 27-28, the festival will include double screening sessions daily. The early Saturday evening program will feature guest presenter Bohdana Smyrnova, a local filmmaker who has trained at film schools in Kyiv and New York City. Ms. Smyrnova will present a young Ukrainian filmmakers program, which will provide viewers a glimpse of animations and film shorts created by filmmakers based in Ukraine.

The later Saturday session will be a presentation of the film "Power Trip," a feature documentary about independent Georgia's struggle for energy independence. The film highlights the dilemma faced by many energy-poor former Soviet republics that increasingly find themselves dependent on energy supplied by their eastern neighbor. The film's director, Paul Devlin, will introduce

his film and lead a Q&A session afterwards.

On Sunday the double screening will feature several film shorts and two documentaries, including the 2006 film "A Lesson in Belorussian," created by Polish filmmaker Mirosław Dembinski. Dr. Alexander Motyl of Rutgers University will be the guest presenter for the closing night screening session, which will feature the newly completed films "Pictograph" and "I Am a Monument to Myself," which take new approaches to understanding life in Ukraine. Prior to the final 5 p.m. screening on Sunday, the festival will wrap up with a closing reception.

Festival organizers are very pleased with the response Kinofest NYC has already received in the local community. "It's been an exciting time these past months, building relationships with filmmakers and film enthusiasts here in the U.S. and overseas," said Mr. Kotliar. "In addition, The Ukrainian Museum has been very supportive of Kinofest NYC by providing material and administrative support, making the organization of the festival a very positive experience for everyone involved. The museum understands the value of film as a modern expression of creativity and the power the storytelling medium can have in defining trends in art and popular culture."

Mr. Kolodiy will be in Ukraine just prior to the festival and plans to meet with emerging Ukrainian film directors to discuss ways they can become involved with Kinofest NYC. "A number of filmmakers have approached us with a keen interest in getting involved, and we're beginning to have some interesting dialogue about long-term cooperation between Kyiv and New York City," said Mr. Kolodiy. "Kinofest NYC has also initiated conversations with local film festivals in Ukraine, and we are exploring ways of connecting these Ukrainian festivals with the film community here in New York. There is definite awareness on both sides that something unique is beginning to come together. We're trying to figure out what would work best and have maximum impact for building the community."

Tickets to Kinofest NYC 2010 will be available for purchase at The Ukrainian Museum starting Monday, February 1. Single tickets are \$10; a festival pass (good for the entire festival) is \$30.

The museum is located in the East Village at 222 E. Sixth St., between Second and Third Avenues. For more information about Kinofest NYC, readers may visit www.kinofestNYC.com or www.ukrainianmuseum.org.

The Ukrainian Museum's film program is funded in part by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.



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A look at Russian...

(Continued from page 2)

Kazakhstan Customs Union, which would delay Ukraine's free trade agreement with the European Union and its association agreement with the EU;

- stonewalling any preparations for withdrawal of Russia's Black Sea Fleet from the Crimea, so as to render the 2017 withdrawal deadline inoperative long before its technical lapse, and necessitate its extension by Ukraine;

- committing Ukraine officially (and notwithstanding the Russian fleet's presence) to neutrality or permanent nonalignment, which would foreclose the country's option to join NATO in the future; and

- encouraging a double-vector discourse on Ukraine's external orientation, which would confuse Western partners and Ukrainians themselves about the country's intentions and prospects.

Russian business interests generally seem to await the final outcome of Ukraine's presidential election before bidding for Ukrainian industrial property. In one major case, however, they have jump-started the acquisition process before Ukraine can recover from crisis. In the second week of January, a consortium of Russia's state-owned Vneshekonombank, whose chairman of the board is Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, and the Metalloinvest steel holding of Kremlin-friendly Alisher Usmanov announced a preliminary \$2 billion deal to acquire some 50 percent ownership in the Industrial Union of Donbass, a major Ukrainian steel producer, with plants also in Hungary and Poland (Interfax-Ukraine, January 6, 8, 15).

Presidential candidate and Party of Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich seems not only alarmed, but also utterly confused about Russia bypassing Ukraine's gas transit system through the Nord

Stream and South Stream projects. In two campaign appearances, Mr. Yanukovich has called for Ukraine to invest in Nord Stream and South Stream, but at the same time bring Gazprom into Ukraine's transit system in the hopes of ensuring larger gas transit volumes through Ukraine (Interfax-Ukraine, Inter TV, January 15, 19).

Some Russian representatives are testing Ukrainian reactions to more ambitious goals than those officially announced. Thus the Collective Security Treaty Organization's secretary-general, Nikolai Bordyuzha, has declared that Ukraine would be welcome to join the CSTO or participate in at least some of the organization's activities (Interfax-Ukraine, January 18).

Ultimately, Moscow would hope to reach a point at which it could, together with Ukraine, define what Ukrainian interests are in the Russia-Ukraine relationship. According to Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov, when dispatching Ambassador Mikhail Zurabov to Kyiv, Russian policy must ensure that Ukraine's new president "understands not to make our relationship hostage to somebody's ambitions... that have nothing in common with the Ukrainian people's interests, or those of the Russian people" (Interfax, January 19).

Russia is still very far from achieving that kind of influence over Ukraine's political system and decisions. However, Moscow's intermediate objectives, as displayed during Ukraine's presidential election campaign, could, if attained increase Russian political influence gradually to a significant level in Ukraine.

The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.

Russia reflects...

(Continued from page 2)

ulace and even in the disregard of Russian or, for that matter, Western opinions.

Yet the risk of breakdown in the "winner-takes-it-all" democratic process in the second round of the election is alarmingly high from Moscow's perspective. The stakes for Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Yanukovich are in fact greater than they were in 2004, because defeat would mean not only plunging into political oblivion but also painful material losses for interest groups backing the loser (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, January 15).

Irregularities are certain to be widespread, however, legal instruments are practically unavailable for addressing them since the High Administrative Court is split into feuding factions (www.lenta.ru, January 15). Enthusiastic crowds would hardly assemble to insist upon their choice, but there is much anger within the divided society and this protest can be mobilized particularly if some money is smartly distributed. As the two main antagonists start to marshal their forces towards the decisive battle, tensions will inevitably escalate – and instead of gracefully accepting defeat, the loser might resort to desperate measures. The term "maidan" might acquire a new, uglier meaning than the cheerful street-party that goes on for weeks defying the weather.

Deep economic decline

What makes such alarmist predictions more credible is the depth of economic decline in Ukraine, which is one of the worst cases in the global track record of the still evolving crisis. GDP is expected to contract by 15 percent in 2009, and the political paralysis of the government has prevented the approval of any coherent anti-crisis policy, and consequently the country has no state budget for 2010 (RIA Novosti-Ukraine, January 14).

Every monthly payment for gas imported from Russia requires another increase in foreign debt, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had to stop its emergency aid amounting to \$11 billion, because it was diverted to political aims (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, January 12).

Candidates try to outdo one another in promising economic miracles, but a new leader will have to tackle a disaster of catastrophic proportions, while having a weak mandate and facing an unforgiving opposition.

The Russian leadership is inclined to observe this deepening recession with barely hidden satisfaction, maintaining that the chaos is a direct consequence and final proof of the failure of the hated Orange Revolution. Mr. Putin has made some calculated "goodwill" gestures, like forgiving Ms. Tymoshenko the penalty for importing too little gas, but the main target was to make sure that Yushchenko's electoral support would remain in single digits (Novaya Gazeta, January 15).

In comparison, Russia's own economic problems look rather manageable, while Moscow is not taking into serious consideration the risk of Ukraine's sovereign default, which might affect the feeble recovery in the Russian economy and trigger the much feared "second wave" of the crisis.

Ukraine, nevertheless, has a chance to overcome the economic downturn and gain new political momentum from the election leaving behind "Orange" illusions and acrimonious squabbles. If it settles on a recovery track, this example of functioning democracy will inevitably strengthen discontent in Russia against the self-serving political bureaucracy that has established monopoly on power, but is unable to deliver the basic service of governance.

Ukrainian media may be spreading too much slander, though it grants space for every opinion; the political competition has not checked the spread of corruption – but it creates a healthy situation when no group controls the outcome and the winner is not known until the last vote is counted. Messrs. Medvedev and Putin dismiss these lessons as unsuitable for Russian "stability," but their odd duumvirate performs satisfactorily only in public relations, while the inflexible and deeply corrupt bureaucratic machine sabotages the task of modernization.

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New developments...

(Continued from page 11)

for UCU. Julian Kulas from the Heritage Foundation presented a donation of \$25,000, and Oresta Fedyniak on behalf of the Selfreliance Foundation of Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union presented a gift of \$25,000, as well. Dr. Andrew Lewicky, presenting on behalf of the board of directors of the International Tetiana and Omelian Antonovych Foundation, donated \$20,000 for the university. More than \$100,000 was donated for the university during the Chicago event.

Daniel R. Szymanski, Jr., president of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, thanked all those present for their continuing support of the university, as well as those who helped organize and carry out the event.

To contribute to UCU, readers may contact UCEF at 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; phone 773-235-8462, e-mail at ucef@ucef.org or visit www.ucef.org. In Canada, the phone number of the UCEF is 416-239-2495. Further information about UCU is available at www.ucu.edu.ua



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**ANNUAL MEETING
UNA BRANCH 277
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2010
HARTFORD, CT**

The annual meeting of UNA Branch 277, St. John the Baptist Society, will be held at 2 P.M. at the Ukrainian National Home, 961 Wethersfield Ave, Hartford, CT. Delegates to the 37th UNA Convention will be selected at the meeting. For further information call M. Kuzio, 860-633-1172 or M. Kolinsky, 860-563-4072.

**ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTIONS
UNA BRANCH 172
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2010**

The annual meeting of UNA Branch 172, Ivan Franko Society, will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2010, at 12:30 p.m. at UNA's Home Office, 2200 Route 10 West, Parsippany, NJ, 07054. Main topics: Election of new Branch officers, selection of a delegate to the 37th UNA Convention, briefing on new UNA products, and the upcoming UNA Convention. For further information or directions to Parsippany please call Stephan Welhasch at (908) 656-1254.

OUT AND ABOUT

February 5 New York	Book presentation by Serhii Plokyh, "Yalta: The Price of Peace," Columbia University, 212-854-4697	February 13 Washington	Debutante Ball, The Washington Group and the Washington School of Ukrainian Studies, L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, zabavadc@gmail.com or 800-635-5056
February 6 Miami	"Lvivskyj Vechir," music, poetry, dinner and zabava, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish hall, 954-536-2231 or 305-798-0190	February 13 Washington	Conference, "Ukrainian Presidency - Post-Election Review," The Washington Group, L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, MyBihuny@aol.com
February 6 New York	Lecture by Volodymyr Mezentsev, "The Residence of Hetman Ivan Mazepa in Baturyn in Light of New Investigations," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130	February 13 Pearl River, NY	Debutante Ball, "Chervona Kaylna," Hilton Hotel, 718-291-4166
February 6 Parsippany, NJ	Debutante Ball, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Sheraton Hotel, 212-473-3084	February 13 Colebrook, CT	Winterfest ice skating, Bobrivka, 860-883-1391 or 203-932-4376 or www.bobriwka.org
February 6 Carnegie, PA	Concert, "The Bayan Player," Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, and the Carpathian Music Ensemble of the University of Pittsburgh, Andrew Carnegie Music Hall, 412-527-5359	February 13 Warren, MI	Debutante Ball, Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America - Detroit Branch, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 734-717-0695
February 6 Philadelphia	Debutante Ball, Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America - Philadelphia Chapter, Hyatt Hotel at the Bellvue, 215-893-1234 or 215-635-7134	February 13 Marina Del Rey, CA	Debutante Ball and Silent Auction, featuring music by Zakhid, California Association to Aid Ukraine, Marriott Hotel, 800-228-9290
February 6 Baltimore, MD	Pub night, featuring live music, Dnipro Ukrainian Sports Club, 410-967-0501 or ukisteve@aol.com	February 13 Pittsburgh, PA	Winter Dance, featuring music by Chervona Kalyna and Ostap Stakhiv Ensemble, Ukrainian Community of Western Pennsylvania, Best Western Parkway Center Inn, 412-481-1865 or www.ucowpa.org
February 7 Toronto	Concert, "Natalka Poltavka," Vocal School of Larissa Stilmachenko, St. Volodymyr Cathedral, 416-766-6478	February 14 Venice, FL	Dinner and dance, featuring music by Melodia, Ukrainian National Women's League of America - Branch 56, Plantation Country Club, 941-445-5746
February 11 New York	Presentation by Volodymyr Mezentsev, "Archeological and Historical Research of Baturyn, the Capital of the Ukrainian State," Columbia University, 212-854-4697	February 16 New York	Literary evening with Taras Prokhasko, "FM Galicia," Columbia University, 212-854-4697
February 12 New York	Concert, "Night Songs from a Neighboring Village," Bandura Downtown, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or 212-571-1555 ext. 35	<p><i>Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.</i></p>	

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 31

NEW YORK: Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 64 presents a program titled "Call to Arms!" featuring Lavrentia Turkewicz, who will perform traditional Ukrainian warrior carols to the accompaniment of the bandura. Donation: \$10. Proceeds from the concert will be donated to the UNWLA New York Regional Council's fund. The program will take place at 2 p.m. at the UNWLA Art Gallery, 203 Second Ave., fourth floor, New York, NY 10003. In the gallery, the "Christmas Exhibit" will be on view through Saturday, February 13. For more information call 212-260-4490, log on to <http://www.unwla.org> or <http://www.vtkachenko.com/ukrartlitclub>, or e-mail ukrartlitclub@yahoo.com.

Friday, February 5

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University will host a presentation by Dr. Serhii Plokhly of his new book, "Yalta: The Price of Peace" (Viking, 2010). Dr. Plokhly is the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard University and the author of several award-winning books on modern Russian and Ukrainian history. The lecture will be held at 7 p.m. in Room 1219, International Affairs Building, 420 West 118th St. The

event is free and open to the public. For additional information call 212-854-4697.

Saturday, February 6

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Volodymyr Mezentsev (University of Toronto) on the subject "The Residence of Hetman Ivan Mazepa in Baturyn in Light of New Investigations." The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Avenue (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Friday, February 12

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Museum, Center for Traditional Music and Dance, and New York Bandura Ensemble/Bandura Downtown present "Night Songs from a Neighboring Village," an evening of East European Jewish and Ukrainian music and song, presented comparatively by Yiddish singer/klezmer multi-instrumentalist Michael Alpert and Ukrainian-American singer/bandurist Julian Kytasty. The concert takes place at 7 p.m. at The Ukrainian Museum, 222 E. Sixth St. (between Second and Third avenues). Tickets: \$15; senior/member discounts available. For further information call 212-571-1555, ext. 35.

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.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**; longer submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

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

The Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF)
and
The Ukrainian American Cultural Center of NJ (UACCNJ)
Present a hockey fundraising event

New Jersey Devils Alumni



The NY Ukrainian Kozaks



VS

With Special Guests and Surprises

Date: Saturday February 27, 2010
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Richard J. Codey Arena
(formerly South Mountain Arena)
560 Northfield Avenue
West Orange, NJ 07052

Highlights

- Meet 'n Greet with all players (Gold Sponsors only)
- Silent Auction - Autographed memorabilia
- NJ Devils Mascot appearance
- Commemorative pucks available for purchase
- Pre game open skate (with ticket purchase)

Proceeds to benefit CCRDF, UACCNJ and Eugene Kinasevich Hockey Scholarship Fund

Ticket Prices

Gold Sponsor - \$50 center ice assigned seat (w/meet 'n greet)
Silver Sponsor - \$25 assigned seat
Bronze sponsor - \$20 General Admission

NOTE:

Gold and Silver seating is limited.
Please call (973) 867 8855 for availability.
For info and online ticket orders: www.hockeyfundraiser.org
Convenient payment via PayPal
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Send this form and check made payable to:
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Seating Selection	Quantity	Cost (each)	Total
Gold Sponsor (center ice assigned seats includes meet 'n greet)		\$50.00	
Silver Sponsor (assigned seating)		\$25.00	
Bronze Sponsor (general admission)		\$20.00	
Grand total			

Reservations with payment must be received by February 23, 2010
All tickets nonrefundable

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