



ХРИСТОС НАРОДИВСЯ!
CHRIST IS BORN!

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Self Reliance New York presents \$25,000 for Holodomor Memorial



During the presentation of a \$25,000 donation toward the Holodomor Memorial in Washington, (from left) are: Bohdan Sawycky, Selfreliance New York Federal Credit Union treasurer and chief financial officer; Stefan Kaczaraj, Selfreliance New York chairman of the board; Michael Sawkiw Jr., chairman of the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness 1932-1933; Roman Czajkowsky, vice-chairman of the committee; Bohdan Kurczak, Selfreliance New York president and chief executive officer.

WASHINGTON – Selfreliance New York Federal Credit Union donated \$25,000 to support the building of the Holodomor Memorial in Washington. The presentation of the donation took place on December 13, 2012, in New York.

For the past several years, the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-

Genocide Awareness 1932-1933 has worked diligently to raise awareness within American society about one of the least known tragedies in the world – the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine known as the Holodomor. The U.S. Holodomor

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Yanukovych cancels trip to Moscow as Customs Union membership looms

by Zenon Zawada

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – Ukraine came as close as ever this week to losing its independence as President Viktor Yanukovich was within hours of signing away Ukraine's Euro-integration future in Moscow, reported the Kommersant-Ukrayina newspaper, a Kyiv-based business daily published in the Russian language.

At midnight at December 18, he canceled a trip that was to take place the following afternoon to the Kremlin, where Russian President Vladimir Putin was waiting for him with a stack of documents that would have sealed Ukraine's membership in the Customs Union, a precursor to the Eurasian Union that is aimed at reviving the Russian empire.

European leaders have stated repeatedly that Ukraine can't join the European Union (EU), a political and economic supranational bloc, while being a Customs Union member. EU critics in Ukraine argue that EU membership is decades away at best, while Customs Union membership would offer immediate benefits.

"The 'Communist phantom' in the form of joining the Customs Union with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan until Tuesday [December 18] was as close as ever before," wrote the Ekonomichna Pravda news site, based in Kyiv. "Besides indirect indications, there were the direct ones: a series of

experts and people familiar with the situation spoke of uniting with Moscow as a nearly resolved matter."

The newspaper described a Kremlin arrangement that resembled a scam. The Russians arranged just 15 minutes of discussion between the two presidents before the scheduled signing, preventing any attempt by Mr. Yanukovich to negotiate only partial conformity to the Customs Union, which was his administration's stated goal. No advisors were invited to the 15-minute meeting.

Only afterwards did the Kremlin schedule talks between the two delegations, including leading ministers, a scenario that Kommersant described as "unprecedented for international meetings." In the days leading up to the trip, its status had been reduced from a "state visit," to "official" and then finally "working visit."

Only the Russian and Ukrainian Presidential Administrations were involved in the weeks-long preparation for the visit, without the input of their respective Foreign Affairs Ministries, Kommersant reported, citing information from an anonymous source within the Russian Presidential Administration.

This same source indicated it was the Kremlin that closed the door, though that hasn't been confirmed officially by either side. The cancellation was agreed upon by

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Chicago-Kyiv relationship enshrined in new street name

by Marta Kolomayets

CHICAGO – Energizing a 21-year relationship between the cities of Kyiv and Chicago, Oleksander Popov, the head of the Kyiv City State Administration, and Roberto Maldonado, alderman for the 26th ward, representing the Ukrainian Village in the Windy City, dedicated a two-block stretch of Chicago Avenue as Honorary Kyiv-Chicago Sister Cities Way on Monday morning, December 3.

Later that day, Mr. Popov met with Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel to sign a reaffirmation of the 1991 Chicago-Kyiv Sister Cities Agreement.

"I welcome Oleksander Popov to Chicago and am proud to renew our commitment as Sister Cities, allowing for further collaboration, economic growth and cultural partnership," said Mayor Emanuel, who noted that his family comes from Odesa and added that he plans to visit



The unveiling of the sign marking Kyiv-Chicago Sister Cities Way.

Ukraine in the future.

"Chicago's history as a city of immigrants has been made richer by the Ukrainian people, who have played a defining role in the economic, social and cultural fabric of Chicago," the mayor said.

According to the Mayor's Office, Mr. Popov's delegation included Anatoliy Tolstoukhov, advisor to Ukraine's Prime Minister Mykola Azarov; Olexander Motsyk, ambassador of Ukraine to the United States; Andriy Pravednyk, the new consul general of Ukraine in Chicago; and directors from various Kyiv City Administration departments and businessmen from private technology firms.

At the dedication ceremony at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, Mr. Popov remarked that this day was "truly a historic moment," for him and Ukraine's capital city. He noted that Kyiv would respond

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ANALYSIS

After meeting Clinton, Ukrainian activist says situation "is not hopeless"

RFE/RL

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton warned of efforts to roll back human rights in the former Soviet Union as she met with 11 activists from the region on December 7. RFE/RL correspondent Charles Recknagel spoke with one of the activists, Oleksandra Delemenchuk of the Kyiv-based Center for Civil Liberties, about her impressions of the meeting on the sidelines of the OSCE conference in Dublin, Ireland.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is reported to have said that governments in the former Soviet space are "becoming much more aggressive" in trying to stifle dissent and prevent the free expression and exchange of views. Did she give some examples of what this means?

She gave some examples during her speech and these were examples of different countries [including] Azerbaijan, Belarus and the Russian Federation. Recently in many countries of our region different laws have been adopted... targeting human rights NGOs and individual human rights defenders.

Some of them are targeting independent media. For example, many independent media [outlets] have been closed in Kazakhstan. In Belarus it is almost impossible to run human rights NGOs. In Belarus, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and other countries human rights defenders are in prison. So we have a variety of bad examples from our countries.

Secretary Clinton is also reported to have said there is an effort to eliminate both American and international assistance for human rights advocates. Did she mention some examples of this?

This example, first of all, is related to the Russian Federation, where recently a law on foreign agents, so-called foreign agents, has been passed which has made it almost impossible for human rights NGOs [that] receive funding from international institutions... [because] they are labeled as foreign agents and as spies.

And that is why, for example, the USAID office in the Russian Federation has been closed down and they received notification that they have to leave in a month and they had to withdraw.

Secretary Clinton also reportedly said that "we will have to come up with new ways to support you, since everything we have been doing in some places, most notably Russia, is being criminalized." Did the activists at the meeting exchange some ideas with her regarding how such support might be given?

Unfortunately our time was very short because the schedule of Secretary Clinton is very tight. She just stated this and that we should work together on this, the U.S.

Department of State and civil society. So, for now, we don't have concrete recipes.

At the same time, Secretary Clinton reportedly acknowledged that Washington has limited influence with some governments to change the worsening situation for human rights activists in the region. She apparently said "we have struck out so far" in Belarus, that Ukraine is "one of our biggest disappointments," and that from Turkmenistan "we get no response." This suggests a bleak assessment of the possibilities for improvements in the future. Do you agree with that assessment?

Almost. The only thing I can say is that I think the situation in Ukraine is not hopeless. There is space for improvement and I see a great role for the U.S. government and the governments of the European Union in balancing and improving the situation in Ukraine.

Finally, Secretary Clinton reportedly referred to Russian-led efforts to create greater regional integration, saying "there is a move to re-Sovietize the region." She apparently added, "It's not going to be called that. It's going to be called [a] Customs Union, it will be called Eurasian Union and all of that" but that "we know what the goal is and we are trying to figure out effective ways to slow it down or prevent it." What did you understand this remark to mean?

You know, we are very well aware, unfortunately, of these efforts, which are also related to my country, Ukraine, as well as to Kazakhstan and Russia. They are creating some kind of customs unions, free-trade zones, whatever they call it. But this trend is very strong as the Russian Federation tries to influence the social and political situation in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

So, such a danger exists. But I think that the only option to counteract it is to further Euro-Atlantic integration for our countries and also to promote people-to-people contacts and international networks of civil society activists and human-rights defenders.

What mood did you walk away with from the meeting?

It's hard to say but on the one hand I was very encouraged because Secretary Clinton was very attentive to us and she was saying very warm words and [gave a] high evaluation of our work. It was very touching in some moments when we were speaking about our colleagues and friends who were in prison or under some pressure in different countries of our region.

But on the other hand I should say that I was a bit sad because, as the secretary also said, we understand that we need to find new ways to be effective because in many countries it doesn't matter what we do, nobody listens. So, it's sad that we don't have alternatives for the moment, but nevertheless we need to carry on with our work.

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NEWSBRIEFS

Ukraine cold spell kills dozens

KYIV – Ukraine's Health Ministry said on December 18 that 37 people had died from the severe cold spell that hit the country this month. Most of the victims were homeless. The ministry said that 190 people have required treatment for hypothermia and frostbite, and more than 160 of them have been hospitalized. Authorities have set up some 1,500 centers around the country to provide food and shelter. The figures were announced after a heavy snowfall in some areas, with temperatures dropping to below minus-15 Celsius. Scores of people also died from cold in Ukraine last winter. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by the Associated Press, DPA and Reuters)

Nearly 400 towns without electricity

KYIV – Rescuers are trying to restore electricity in 371 towns and villages in 11 regions in Ukraine, the press service of the Ukrainian Emergency Situations Ministry reported on December 17. According to the ministry, the areas were left without electricity because of adverse weather conditions – strong winds and freezing precipitation. A total of 129 towns and villages were without electricity in the Kyiv region, 48 in the Ternopil region, 24 in the Rivne region, 46 in the Zhytomyr region, 23 in the Chernivtsi region, seven in the Volyn region, 15 in the Ivano-Frankivsk region, 45 in the Lviv region, seven in the Vinnytsia region, 23 in the Khmelnytsky region, and four in the Kirovohrad region. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich's visit to Russia postponed

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's working visit to Russia has been postponed, the presidential press service reported on December 18. "The subjects of a meeting between the presidents of Ukraine and Russia are current issues of Ukrainian-Russian cooperation, first and foremost, in the energy, economic and trade sectors, in particular, the drafting of a mutually acceptable mechanism for cooperation between Ukraine and the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Additional consultations at the expert level are

required for the successful implementation of these agreements. Therefore, the parties have agreed to postpone the visit," the press service reported. (Ukrinform)

Visit postponed due to unpreparedness

KYIV – A representative of the Party of Regions faction in Parliament, Leonid Kozhara, surmised on December 18 that the visit of the Ukrainian president to Moscow was postponed due to the unpreparedness of both parties. He told reporters, "I personally do not know the reason for the postponement of the president's visit. But I think the preparations continue. Probably, the two sides are not ready yet." He explained that Ukraine is ready to join certain documents of the Customs Union, but "now the only obstacle is that the Customs Union has no procedure for accession to individual documents. Perhaps, this procedure is being developed now." Answering journalists' questions, Mr. Kozhara noted that the lack of understanding in Ukraine's relations with the European Union may only be due to Ukraine's possible membership in the Customs Union, and participation in individual programs of the union does not conflict with the European integration course of Ukraine. He also stressed that it is important to Ukraine today that the Customs Union invite it to cooperate in certain industries. Sergei Tolstov, director of the Institute of Political Analysis and International Studies, expressed a similar opinion on the reason for the cancellation of the Moscow visit. "The whole course of non-public negotiations suggests that to date there is no readiness for compromise solutions mentioned by Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Mikhail Zurabov. Obviously, this is a more assertive stance of Russia and a less tractable position of Ukraine," Mr. Tolstov said. He added that the point at issue is Ukraine's pipeline system, namely that in exchange for cutting the price of gas, Russia is demanding great concessions in the creation of a gas transportation consortium, in particular, control over the gas transportation system (GTS). Mr. Tolstov said believes

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Editor: Matthew Dubas

e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3041
e-mail: admin@ukrweekly.com

Walter Honcharyk, advertising manager

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040
fax: (973) 644-9510
e-mail: adukr@optonline.net

Mariyka Pendzola, subscriptions

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3042
e-mail: subscription@ukrweekly.com

Correction

The article "Photo and archival exhibit of DP camps in Germany and Austria. The Philadelphia Story" (November 11) incorrectly reported that the well-known Plast song "Pry Vatri" was first performed at the Plast jamboree in Regensburg. In fact, it was performed at the jamboree in Mittenwald.

ON THE RECORD: Hanne Severinsen of PACE

by Zenon Zawada

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV – Hanne Severinsen, 68, has observed Ukrainian politics since 1995, serving as a rapporteur for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) when Ukraine joined the council that year. Since then, she has monitored Ukraine's fulfillment of its obligations and commitments to the council. The Council of Europe is an organization distinct from the European Union that doesn't make binding laws but promotes cooperation in human rights, democratic development and the rule of law. Among its most influential bodies is the European Court of Human Rights.

Ms. Severinsen, a native of Denmark, has been among the most outspoken defenders of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, calling for her release from prison and sanctions against those who imprisoned her, as revealed in this conversation that took place in Kyiv on November 24.

A politician who served 10 years pm the Copenhagen City Council, Ms. Severinsen struck a chord with the Ukrainian public when she returned a hug from Ms. Tymoshenko during her 2011 trial. Since her retirement in 2008, she has worked with the Danish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights and the European Media Platform, and is actively involved in the Ukrainian political scene and human rights movement.

In the conversation below, Ms. Severinsen reveals the delicate position in which European authorities find themselves regarding Ukraine. She tried to avoid any statement asserting that the European Union leadership ought to have condemned the October 28 parliamentary elections, as the Canadian government had done.

At the same time, she says she supports sanctions, though that's allegedly not with-



Zenon Zawada

Hanne Severinsen, a Ukraine rapporteur for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for 13 years, says sanctions are necessary against members of the Ukrainian government.

in the authority of the EU, as stated by Pawel Kowal, the head of the European Parliament delegation, during the October 29 post-election press conference organized by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Why was the European leadership's statement so weak in addressing Ukraine's parliamentary election, which didn't meet international democratic standards?

It was quite a strong statement. There will be a top-level meeting on December 10 between Ukraine and the European Union (EU).

But it wasn't a rejection of the results.

That's not the role of the international observers. We can note but we cannot annul. That is up to Ukraine's own courts.

But the Canadian government said the results don't meet democratic standards.

We can note that it did not meet standards. But we did not annul... The EU can't annul, nobody can annul. Only Ukraine can do that. But we have said in many statements, you can see the statements from Monday, October 29, where the OSCE and the Council of Europe...

But no government has been as strong as Canada to say the elections didn't meet democratic standards. And the EU hasn't either.

But more or less, that was what [EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine] Ashton said.

[Editor's note: On November 13 Ms. Ashton issued a joint statement with EU Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy Stefan Fule, citing "concern about the conduct of the post-electoral process, which was marred by irregularities, delays in the vote count and lack of transparency in the election commissions."]

But I guess the EU doesn't want to scare Ukraine into...

No, I think the EU wants to scare... But the problem is that we only have soft power, and Yanukovich doesn't believe in soft power.

I was at this press conference on October 29 and [OSCE/ODIHR Election Observing Mission Head] Audrey Glover talked about the lack of impunity that these politicians feel in Ukraine. But maybe it's because the EU also creates this atmosphere of lack of impunity too.

How?

You say the statements by the EU have been harsh. But to me, anything short of saying that the elections didn't meet democratic standards is not harsh. And there's a large perception that the EU is allowing this government to get away with a lot. The Free Trade Area [part of the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement] is going to be signed next year, as the first example, and [EU Representative to Ukraine] Jan Tombinski said this week the Association Agreement could be signed next year as well. These are not signs that...

It could be that some part of it could be

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Report finds Tymoshenko trial 'compromised'

by RFE/RL

A top U.S. law firm's analysis of the trial of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has found that her defense was "compromised to a degree that is troubling under Western standards of due process."

But it said her conviction was supported by the evidence presented during her trial.

Ukraine's government paid for the report by the firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. Its lead author is Gregory Craig, U.S. President Barack Obama's former White House counsel. The report, dated September 2012, was released on December 13.

The analysis says Ms. Tymoshenko was denied legal counsel at "critical stages" and her lawyers were prevented from calling key witnesses.

The Daily Telegraph newspaper quoted Mr. Craig as saying: "[Tymoshenko] was not allowed to present all the witnesses that we concluded were relevant and material. And prosecutorial evidence was presented during proceedings in court when she was not represented by counsel."

The report says that Ms. Tymoshenko's detention throughout her trial was "without adequate justification."

Such findings could help Ms. Tymoshenko's pending appeal before the European Court of Human Rights. In August, the court in Strasbourg, France, held an initial public hearing on the appeal and is still studying the case behind closed doors.

Politically motivated?

In an interview with The New York Times, Mr. Craig said others must judge if the decision to prosecute was politically motivated.

But the report's authors wrote, "We do not believe that Ms. Tymoshenko has provided specific evidence of political motivation that would be sufficient to overturn her [October 2011] conviction under American standards."

In response to a request for comment, the Washington office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom told RFE/RL to contact FTI Consulting, which they described as a public relations firm retained by the Justice Ministry of Ukraine.

FTI told RFE/RL in an e-mail that it is not representing the Justice Ministry, but is aiding the U.S. law firm. It said, "The firm's position is that the report speaks for itself."

A statement on the Justice Ministry's website describes the report as "independent" and says it is "grateful" to the firm.

Taras Kuzio, an expert on Ukraine and nonresident fellow at Johns Hopkins University's Center for Transatlantic Relations, said the report will not affect the West's reading of the Tymoshenko case.

"I think the report will be quickly forgotten and it will become irrelevant," Mr. Kuzio said. "Everywhere you travel in the Western world, throughout Europe [and] throughout North America, the overwhelming impression and conclusion reached by every government and interna-

tional organization and human rights organization is that Ms. Tymoshenko and [former Ukrainian Internal Affairs Minister] Yurii Lutsenko were both sentenced for political crimes."

Ms. Tymoshenko is serving a seven-year prison term in eastern Ukraine after being found guilty of abuse of office for brokering a disadvantageous gas deal with Russia in 2009.

The Daily Telegraph says the report's authors spent five hours interviewing her while gathering the information for their analysis.

Serhiy Vlasenko, a lawyer for Ms.

Tymoshenko, told The New York Times that the report was biased. He said the authors were paid by the Ukrainian government and they are not independent.

With reporting by Richard Solash in Washington, The New York Times and The Daily Telegraph.

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State Department on Skadden report

Ukrinform

KYIV – U.S. Department of State spokesman Victoria Nuland expressed concern over the report by the American firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, whose lawyers reported that they had not found political motives in the trial of Ukraine's former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

"By confining themselves to simply looking at the paper trial records and ignoring the larger political context in which the trial took place, our concern is that Skadden Arps lawyers were obvious-

ly not going to find political motivation if they weren't looking for it. The report also fails to consider the selective nature of the trials, those who were chosen for trials against Tymoshenko and her – and former members of her government," she said during a briefing on December 14.

Ms. Nuland also noted that the position of the U.S. administration regarding selective prosecution in Ukraine remains unchanged. According to the State Department spokesperson, the study by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom "was incomplete and doesn't give an accurate picture."

OBITUARIES



Bishop Michael Hrynchyshyn, CSsR.

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – Bishop Michael Hrynchyshyn, CSsR, died on November 12 at the age of 83, only months after being officially retired as apostolic exarch for Ukrainian Catholics of France, Benelux and Switzerland. He died at his home in Paris, where he was convalescing after surgery.

Bishop Michael Hrynchyshyn, 83, former exarch of Ukrainian Catholics in France, Benelux, Switzerland

He was born in Buchanan, Saskatchewan, on February 18, 1929. He entered the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists – CSsR) on July 27, 1945, and made his religious profession on August 28, 1946. He was ordained a priest by Archbishop Maxim Hermaniuk in Toronto on May 25, 1952.

His provincial superior then sent him to Rome for further studies. He received a baccalaureate degree (1953), a license degree (1954) and a doctorate in Oriental Church study (1955).

The Rev. Hrynchyshyn served in a number of Redemptorist parishes: Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Meadowvale, Ontario; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Newark, N.J. He was also rector of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute in Saskatoon in 1956-1957 and gave many missions and retreats in his pastoral years. He was elected provincial superior of the Yorkton Province of the Redemptorists 1972-1981.

On November 27, 1982, he was appointed to succeed Bishop Vladimir Malanchuk, CSsR, as apostolic exarch for the Ukrainian Catholics of France, Benelux and Switzerland, and was consecrated on January 30, 1983, at the Sobor of St. Sophia in Rome. Later he was appointed also to be apostolic administrator for the Ukrainian Catholics of Great Britain, until he was succeeded there by Bishop Michael Kuchmiak, CSsR, in 1989.

Bishop Hrynchyshyn was justly proud of several projects he undertook in his time as both priest and bishop. In 1978 he organized a 10-year period of preparation for the

Ukrainian Millennium of Christianity; he was named the secretary-general for the 1988 celebration of the Millennium of Ukrainian Christianity Jubilee in Rome. He also was chosen to be the secretary of the Ukrainian Catholic Synod until the Synod's return to Lviv, but remained on the permanent council for several more terms.

After Pope John Paul II in 1994 established a central committee for the Year 2000 Jubilee and named him to head the Commission for New Martyrs, Bishop Hrynchyshyn opened a "two-fold postulator's bureau" in Lviv. With tireless efforts on the bishop's part, the bureau prepared the documentation for the 27 martyrs who were proclaimed blessed by the pope on his visit to Ukraine in 2001.

The other bureau project, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky's cause for beatification, remained unfulfilled, but Bishop Hrynchyshyn never doubted that the day would come when the Servant of God Metropolitan Sheptytsky would be proclaimed a saint. This last endeavor was the bishop's life work, since he was named postulator of the metropolitan's cause for beatification in 1957, and it remained his passionate cause throughout his life.

Bishop Hrynchyshyn's resignation as apostolic exarch was accepted on July 21; the Very Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, the rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, was named as his successor.

Funeral prayers were offered in Paris on November 16. Final funeral services were held on November 23 at St. Joseph Ukrainian Catholic Church in Winnipeg.

Ivan Skalchuk, OUN member, community activist, 100

PHILADELPHIA – Dr. Ivan Skalchuk, a dedicated Ukrainian community activist, died peacefully on November 2 at the age of 100.

He was born on February 24, 1912, in Ukraine. In 1939 he witnessed the invasion of Warsaw by the Nazis and lived through the first Soviet occupation of western Ukraine (1939-1941). Before the war, young Ivan joined the underground Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists.

In 1944, like many other Ukrainians, he escaped to the West before the approaching Red Army. He ended up in a German forced labor camp in Telfs, Austria, until the war ended in 1945. Postwar attempts by the Western Allies to forcibly repatriate refugees back to the Soviet Union ended after successful widespread protests by the refugees, including Dr. Skalchuk.

He obtained his Ph.D. in political science from Leopold Franzens University of Innsbruck in 1947 while living in a displaced persons camp in Landeck, Austria, from 1945 until 1949. In 1947-1949 he worked as an interviewer and assistant to the eligibility director of the International Refugee Organization (IRO). Dr. Skalchuk immigrated to the U.S. in 1949 at the age of 37 and became a citizen in 1955.

He retired in 1977 after working for 15 years as a special assistant in the engineering department of the Philadelphia Gas Works. Prior to that he worked in various jobs, but for 10 years was a design draftsman at Sun Ship and other naval architect firms in the local area.

He was very active in the Ukrainian American community in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. In 1952 he co-founded the Philadelphia Ukrainian Self-Reliance Federal Credit Union, which presently has over 9,000 members with over \$260 million in assets. For this he was honored at the credit union's 50th anniversary banquet in 2002.

From 1972 to 1977, he ran the Ukrainian Bicentennial Committee of Philadelphia which during the bicentennial celebrations in Philadelphia in 1976 organized many Ukrainian dance group performances and art and other exhibits. Mayor Frank Rizzo awarded him a Liberty Bell Award and a Certificate of Official Recognition from Philadelphia '76 and the City of Philadelphia for his efforts. Thanks to Dr. Skalchuk's initiative, the book "Ukrainians of Pennsylvania" was published that same year.

From 1970 to 1976 he ran the local branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), and in 1976 he was a recipient of UCCA's highest honor, the



Dr. Ivan Skalchuk

Shevchenko Freedom Award. He served on the UCCA national executive board from 1972 to 1992.

For many years he headed or served on the executive committee of the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine in Philadelphia, which organized protests and demonstrations against Soviet Russian domination of Ukraine.

In 1968 and 1972 he headed the committees to welcome Patriarch Josyf Slipyj on his pastoral visits to the United States.

For the decade of 1970 to 1979 he was an elected supreme auditor and of the Ukrainian National Association. Dr. Ivan Skalchuk also served as the longtime secretary of UNA Branch 430.

In 1980 he was one of the co-founders of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in the suburbs of Philadelphia, which houses over 30 community, educational, scholarly and professional organizations and a Ukrainian library, nursery and School of Ukrainian Studies.

In 1979-1989 he was executive director of the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, which provides humanitarian aid to Ukrainian refugees worldwide. He initiated and established the UUARC Brazilian Agricultural Land Fund, which grants mortgages in Brazil to poor farmers of Ukrainian descent. He also served on the UUARC executive board for 24 years. In 2004, during the celebration of the UUARC's 60th anniversary, he was honored for many years of selfless service.

For many years Dr. Skalchuk participated in volunteer work at Manor College, founded and run by the sisters of St.

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Donna Grescoe, 84, violinist, child prodigy

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – Donna Grescoe, an internationally known child prodigy on the violin, passed away earlier this year. Her death was noted in a news release from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Ms. Grescoe was born in 1927 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where she became known as an exceptional musical artist. She started her spectacular career at the young age of 5. She continued playing and teaching the violin well after her retirement to Richmond, British Columbia, in 1988 and passed away on August 17 at the age of 84.

"On behalf of the Ukrainian Canadian community, I would like to offer our most sincere condolences to the family of Donna Grescoe," stated Ukrainian Canadian Congress National President Paul Grod.

"Donna Grescoe was a true Ukrainian Canadian success story. An accomplished musician who never forgot her Ukrainian roots."

According to The Canadian Encyclopedia, Ms. Grescoe studied with George Bornoff in Winnipeg and in 1938 at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago on a \$5,000 scholarship. Assisted by a trust fund established by Winnipeg citizens after her formal debut on October 1, 1946, at the Civic Auditorium, she studied in New York with Michel Piastro.

She made her New York debut February 3, 1947, at Town Hall and performed on January 30, 1948, at Carnegie Hall. Though based in New York, she toured Canada, accompanied by Leopold Mittman, and performed with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and other Canadian orchestras.

She also performed at the 1955 Canadian National Exhibition, on Ed Sullivan's TV show "Toast of the Town" (September 4, 1955) and on CBC TV's "Showtime" (1956). She gave her last solo performance in 1959 and returned in 1962 to Winnipeg.

She was a member 1974-1979 of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, then spent a year in Boston as the administrative assistant to Mr. Bornoff at his Foundation for the Advancement of String Education.

Afterward, she returned to Winnipeg, where she became a founding member of the Manitoba Conservatory of Music and Arts and taught there until 1988. In that year she moved to Vancouver, where she continued to teach privately.

A memorial service for Ms. Grescoe was held on August 25 at Edgewater Park Recreation Hall in Richmond.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Adoptive families once again gather at Soyuzivka

by Felix Khmelkovsky

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The area served by Consulate General of Ukraine in New York counts 1,450 children adopted from Ukraine. After entering the United States, all of them are on the consular register until the age of 18. New parents regularly inform the Consulate about the children's state and their living conditions. It is also true, however, that only one-fifth of the adoptive parents write about their new children. That is why meetings of American families that adopted children from

Ukraine have been held annually since 2003 at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka Heritage Center in Kerhonkson, N.Y.

This year's gathering was attended by families from the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts and North Carolina. They were met by the coordinator of the meeting, Bohdanna Puzyk, Ukraine Vice-Consuls in New York Olha Ivanchenko and Kostiantyn Vorona, UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich and Soyuzivka staff. The event, held on July 20-22, was sponsored by the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union.



Meeting coordinator Bohdanna Puzyk (left) and gerdan-maker Yustyna Marko.



Felix Khmelkovsky

Vice-Consul Olha Ivanchenko shows her children, Kateryna and Dmytro, the gift shirt from Soyuzivka.

The Veselka auditorium was the venue for master classes during which experienced instructors taught the children various kinds of folk crafts and dances. Children were often joined by the parents, who also were interested in learning traditional Ukrainian arts.

Gloria Horbaty taught the art of pysanka-making for the second year in a row, and Yustyna Marko taught the children how to make gerdany (beaded necklaces). Adrienne Fil from the Roma Pryma

Bohachevsky Dance Workshop led the children in folk dance. The kids embroidered with Teresa Carr, and Vice Consul Olha Ivanchenko brought a portrait of Taras Shevchenko that she embroidered herself and shared her embroidering experience.

Parents had an opportunity to choose a craft of their liking and then take a different one during a second session. A gift of Soyuzivka T-shirts was prepared for the

(Continued on page 12)

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Our “koliada”

It's that time of year when we heartily welcome into our homes the “koliadnyky,” or carolers, from various Ukrainian organizations. All of them, we are sure, are deserving of your support. Indeed, many of them depend heavily on the “koliada” as a fund-raiser for their worthwhile activities.

The koliada in our neck of the woods began early as homes were visited last weekend by about a dozen young men in Ukrainian embroidered shirts, who sang several sets (yes, sets) of Ukrainian Christmas carols, accompanied by a guitar. They were raising funds for the sea scouting camp their Plast fraternity, the Chornomortsi, runs each summer, as well as for a sick child in Ukraine. The carolers from our local branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, the Ukrainian American Youth Association, our parish and others will be making their rounds in several days. And the caroling will continue into the New Year according to the Julian calendar.

This age-old tradition of koliada, we know well, is sustained wherever there is a Ukrainian community, and we have no doubt it will continue as long as there are Ukrainian communities. After all, this is one of our most beloved customs and one that our children, teens and young people in particular perpetuate. (We refer readers to Orysia Paszczak Tracz's column on that very topic on page 8 of this issue.)

And the topic of community brings us to this newspaper.

The Ukrainian Weekly always was and always will be a newspaper for our community, a network to keep us all in touch and informed. It is open to all in our “hromada,” and that is why we encourage community members to use our paper to promote their activities, report on their successes, share their ideas and encourage others to get involved. Oftentimes, however, we find that our paper is used, but not supported. It is clear that many do not understand a very basic truth: subscribers are essential to a newspaper's health; you can't expect a newspaper to simply be there when you need it and yet not express support for that newspaper with your own subscription.

To our loyal subscribers we say thank you for your support in the past and we humbly ask that you continue that support via your own subscriptions, gift subscriptions (a special price on a year year's subscription is available through the end of the year) and donations to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund. We also ask that you spread the word about The Ukrainian Weekly so that we may continue to serve our Ukrainian community.

As we conclude 2012 with this double issue dated December 23-30 and published during the Christmas season, we leave our dear readers with a traditional Ukrainian “vinshuvannia,” or greeting – please consider this our “koliada” to you:

We greet you on Christmas and with the New Year,
We wish you good fortune and health all year,
May your hearts be filled with joy and song,
And may your holiday spirit last all year long.

Dec.
29
2011

Turning the pages back...

Last year, on December 29, 2011, representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) expressed concern about the statements of Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church that believers of the Ukrainian Orthodox

Church – Kyiv Patriarchate are “the main Orthodox brethren” of Ukrainian Greek-Catholics.

“We cannot remain indifferent to the statements of the new head of the UGCC that the believers of the Kyivan Patriarchate are ‘the main Orthodox brethren’ of Ukrainian Greek-Catholics,” said Metropolitan Ilarion (Alfeiev) of Voloholamsk, head of the Department of External Church Relations of the Russian Orthodox Church. “The close contacts and even concelebration of Archbishop Sviatoslav with representatives of that schismatic structure unrecognized by any Orthodox Church are, unfortunately, an indication of the ignorance of the official position of the Moscow Patriarchate and disrespect for the canonical rules of the Orthodox Church.”

The metropolitan added, “I am deeply convinced that we cannot reach real mutual understanding and reconciliation between our Churches without mutual respect, in particular, in the area of the canonical system.”

He also reported acts of proselytism of Greek-Catholic among the Orthodox on the territory of central and eastern Ukraine. “Such phenomena can only strengthen the existing problems in inter-Church relations, while we would like the rods about readiness for dialogue not to conflict with real actions,” he said.

After the election of Patriarch Sviatoslav, official contacts were established for the first time between the Greek-Catholics and Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate. “Subsequent statements by [Major] Archbishop Sviatoslav about his will to resolve the existing problems between the Moscow Patriarchate and the UGCC also inspired us with some optimism,” he said.

Patriarch Sviatoslav stated in August, following Patriarch Kirill's visit to Poland, that without dialogue between the UGCC and the Moscow Patriarchate, “it is impossible to stop the Russification of Ukraine and Ukrainophobia in Russia... And if we try somehow to settle the painful questions of the past as Christians, in the light of the Gospel, and to heal our memory only by means of reconciliation, then we can build something constructive.”

Source: “ROC concerned about Ukrainian Catholics relations with UOC-KP” (RISU), *The Ukrainian Weekly*, January 8, 2012.

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL

Heaven and earth on this day triumph



“Angel Herald” (ink, 2004) by Marta Anna Shramenko-Radazzo, as reproduced on a Christmas card issued by the Ukrainian National Association in 2008.

Pastoral letter of the Permanent Conference of the Ukrainian Orthodox Hierarchs Beyond the Borders of Ukraine on the approaching feast of Nativity of our Lord.

To the beloved clergy, monastics and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Churches beyond the borders of Ukraine and our Ukrainian Orthodox Brothers and Sisters in Ukraine:

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

We greet you, our beloved spiritual children, at the bright and joyful Holy Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Christ – the Savior of the world – is today manifested as the Christ-Child to all our earthly families. May the peace and harmony of these magical Nativity Holy Days fill each of our lives! Let us seek joy, solace and assistance in the Bethlehem cave where the “angels sing” and “glorify the newborn Christ-Child.”

From the depth of our hearts and souls we wish you all the warmth, peace and joy offered by the Christ-Child for – as we sing in our ancient Ukrainian Christmas Carols: “God is with us,” “A new Joy is dawning, it has come with no warning,” for “In Bethlehem this day there is news – the Most Pure Virgin has given birth to a Son.” In all the world where our Ukrainian Orthodox parishes exist – the United States of America, Canada, Europe, South America, Central America, Australia/New Zealand and in Ukraine itself – “Heaven and earth this day triumph, angels and mortals joyfully celebrate” for Christ is born!

May the Heavenly Bethlehem Star, which led the Three Kings to the Bethlehem cave, always lead you, dear brothers and sisters, along the path to God's Truth, to honorable life and work:

God eternal is born this day!
He came to us from heaven,
To save all mankind:
Bringing us comfort.

From the early decades of Christianity, this most ancient Ukrainian carol echoes throughout our native Ukraine. It informs us that the long-awaited Savior of the world – Jesus Christ, just as the Old Testament prophets heralded, “to save all mankind.” The prophet Daniel even predicted the exact time of the birth of the

Messiah-Savior. From the nativity of Jesus Christ, the calendar of history began anew.

The first to worship Christ in Bethlehem were the humble shepherds and then came the Three Kings who brought gifts to the Christ-Child: gold, symbolizing love and devotion; incense, symbolizing prayer; and myrrh, symbolizing patience. Let us bring to Almighty God during these magical Nativity days, the gold of devotion to God's Law, a censer filled with our piety and holiness of life and the myrrh of courageous patience and struggle for the triumph of God and our national treasures and values.

Truly, “a new joy has dawned” and “In Bethlehem this day there is news – the Most Pure Virgin has given birth to a Son,” “Heaven and earth this day triumph” for God has so loved mankind, that He became one of us. God warned the Three Kings of Herod's evil, and they returned to their nations by another way. Today God reminds us – His people – about the contemporary evil Herods, the creators of evil and sin, provides us with another path – the eternal path to our own true nation, to eternity.

Let us make a firm resolution this day, as did the Three Kings, to never set foot on the road that leads to an atheistic, spiritless life, void of God's Truth. May the light of the Bethlehem star always guide our life's journey.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

† **Yurij, Metropolitan**

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **Antony, Metropolitan**

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.,
Locum Tenens Ukrainian Orthodox Church
in Diaspora

† **Ioan, Archbishop**

Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora

† **Jeremiah, Archbishop**

Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of Brazil and
South America

† **Ilarion, Bishop**

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **Andriy, Bishop**

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **Daniel, Bishop**

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Term “Kozak” better understood

Dear Editor:

Re: “A note from the author” by Thomas M. Prymak, Ph.D. (November 18) that accompanied the article “1812: Napoleon and Ukraine.”

I read the erudite article about the terms “Kozak” and “Cossack.” Firstly, Ukrainian is a phonetic language and easy to understand by people who understand the vernacular. Ukraine is now independent from Russia. As you know, “Kiev” was officially changed by the Ukrainian government to “Kyiv.”

In my opinion, the word “Kozak” is better understood and appreciated by Ukrainians and other readers of The Ukrainian Weekly who appreciate the present Ukrainian heritage and respect the past heritage of Ukraine-Rus.’ In my opinion, the Russians can spell words or names any way they like – that’s their business.

I.I. Mayba, M.D.
Winnipeg, Manitoba

About terminology: ‘Kozak’ or ‘Cossack’

Dear Editor:

Re: Thomas M. Prymak’s “A note from the author” about the use of “Kozak” vs “Cossack” (November 18). If only it were so.

I would have no problem with “Cossack” if it were the term used exclusively for the Ukrainian Kozaky. But it is not. Look up “Cossacks” – the Russian ones are quite prominent. The “old and venerable history” of the English term “Cossacks” does not exclude all the other non-Ukrainian Cossacks, especially the ones in Russian history.

I remember a Finnish woman becoming quite agitated when I had mentioned something about Kozaky (the Ukrainian ones) during a coffee break. She automatically envisioned Russian Cossacks attacking the Finns. Other non-Ukrainian “Cossacks” have played many roles in history – certainly not benevolent ones.

By keeping the term “Kozaks” for the Ukrainian historical figures and eliminating the term “Cossacks” for the same, we will have accomplished another step in maintaining our distinct identity and history.

Orysia Tracz
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Add another DP camp to list

Dear Editor:

The letter from George Kotovych (December 9) has encouraged me to mention another DP camp that is missing from the article written by Tamara Stadnychenko (“Photo and archival exhibit of DP camps in Germany and Austria. The Philadelphia Story,” November 11).

The camp was located in the Danloup Kasernen in Rheine, Westphalen. Residents in this camp were primarily from Ukraine with a rather active community. There were two churches (Catholic and Orthodox), each having a choir, Plast, SUM as well as a primary school, a high school and various other activities.

Bohdan Slabyj
Brewer, Maine

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

Letters should be typed (double-spaced) and signed (anonymous letters are not published). Letters are accepted also via e-mail at staff@ukrweekly.com. The daytime phone number and complete mailing address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes. (A daytime phone number is essential in order for editors to contact letter-writers regarding clarifications or questions.)

Please note: The length of letters cannot exceed 500 words. Letters may be edited or abridged.

Quotable notes

‘I see a growing concern for the future of this organization [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and the values it has always championed. More than 20 years after the end of the Cold War, the work of creating a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace remains unfinished. ...

“For example, in Belarus, the government continues to systematically repress human rights, detain political prisoners, and intimidate journalists. In Ukraine, the elections in October were a step backwards for democracy, and we remain deeply concerned about the selective prosecution of opposition leaders. In Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, there are examples of the restrictions of the freedom of expression online and offline as well as the freedom of religion. In the Caucasus, we see constraints on judicial independence, attacks on journalists, and elections that are not always free and fair. ...”

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, speaking at the first plenary session of the OSCE Ministerial Council on December 6 in Dublin.



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PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Helping to provide the tools

A few years ago, I read that the Vernadsky National Library in Kyiv had received a unique donation: a big collection of post-World War II diaspora periodicals. The benefactor? None other than the Ukrainian branch of the former KGB!

So how is it that the KGB acquired these publications but no else could? Well, for most of the 20th century there were two Ukraines. The “real Ukraine” in the homeland was a grim genocidal and post-genocidal society where images of happy milkmaids and tractor drivers clashed with a world penetrated by informants and secret police. To use a term now happily obsolete, Ukraine was a Captive Nation.

To make sure it remained so, the ruling class – a.k.a. the Communist Party – indoctrinated the population, starting with pre-school children who were taught to worship Lenin and reject God. The color red was promoted at every turn. History, art, music, literature were produced according to formula. The Ukrainian language was slated for extinction, part of the master plan to merge peoples into a common Soviet nation where everyone spoke Russian.

Then there was the other Ukraine, scattered across four continents in the diaspora. There, families freely celebrated Christmas and Easter, displayed the trident, flew the blue-and-yellow flag, sang traditional songs, observed significant dates from Ukrainian history and denounced the USSR for the tyranny it was.

The diaspora mattered. First of all, it was well-organized. Those who came to the United States and Canada in the late 19th and early 20th centuries started fraternal organizations like the Ukrainian National Association, built churches, schools and national homes, published scores of newspapers and magazines. And they cared about Ukraine. They first alerted an incredulous world to the Holodomor and mass murder of artists, writers and intellectuals in the 1930s.

After World War II, they opened their homes and hearts to the Third Wave immigrants: like those who came before, the DPs from Polish-occupied Halychyna brought their organizations with them and remained fervent Ukrainians. They were also doers, stepping in to help run existing organizations and create new ones. And they published: newspapers, medical journals, magazines for leftists, rightists, Catholics, Orthodox, Protestants, Pagans, librarians, veterans, veterinarians, teachers, students, stamp collectors, scouts, sportsmen, you name it.

For the Soviet ruling class, all this energy dedicated to maintaining the Ukrainian national idea while also challenging its totalitarian antipode in the homeland was a mortal threat. Which is why the KGB subscribed to their publications.

For Captive Ukraine, Diaspora Ukraine was alluring but mysterious: citizens knew it was prosperous and free, but little else. To maintain the totalitarian mindset, the Soviets blocked information, restricted contacts, jammed foreign broadcasts and deployed an army of propagandists to distort Ukrainian history and blacken the diaspora image.

Heroes like Hetman Ivan Mazepa, the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen and Gen. Roman Shukhevych were portrayed as villains and traitors. Resistance to Soviet rule was “fascist.” A favorite such target was the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), which, ironically, was formed in 1942 to fight the Nazis. When those were driven out, the

UPA pivoted to fight the Red Army.

As for Soviet crimes – the Holodomor, the Great Terror, Taliban-style destruction of ancient churches and monuments, the Gulag – those were erased from history. So was Stalin’s 1939-1941 collaboration with the Nazis.

As we know, the independence message ultimately penetrated the Iron Curtain and became unstoppable. In 1991 Ukrainians turned out in their millions and with that the Soviet Union died and the Cold War came to an end.

And yet today, 21 years later, Ukraine struggles to assert itself as a prosperous, democratic, civil society. Ominously, re-Sovietization has become a serious threat. Here’s a major reason for that: to retain control over the economy, media and politics, and its privileges, the ruling class at independence jettisoned Marxist-Leninist ideology and the commissars became oligarchs.

Now, the two concepts of Ukraine still remain at odds. The country displays the trident and the national flag, and sings the anthem, but the battle for the language and interpretation of the past is still on. Independence leveled the playing field giving people space to explore their history and discover their identity, but with a generations-long head start, the distorted Soviet/Russo-centric version is still prevalent – a critical factor in the country’s current dysfunction.

Which brings us back to the diaspora. The diaspora is not Ukraine and never can be, but having helped bring about a free and independent state, it can provide tools to help Ukrainians shape their political/cultural/religious landscape. There are many ways. Here’s one.

A few years ago, the national universities of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and Ostroh Academy, the Stefanyk Library and the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv, the Journalism Institute in Zaporizhia and other institutions asked the Ukrainian Museum-Archives (UMA) in Cleveland, where I work as a volunteer, to send them books and back issues of diaspora publications – the same ones to which the KGB once had exclusive access. I was surprised: perusing a list of religious publications the UMA proposed sending to UCU, the head librarian there wrote: “Please send them. They are rare and unavailable in any library in Ukraine.” We’ve had similar reactions from others. As I’ve noted – this is after 21 years and yet there’s still close to zero access to diaspora publications.

Over the years the UMA, with help from the Omelan and Tetiana Antonovych Foundation, has shipped hundreds of boxes of books and periodicals to Ukraine, assembled decades ago by dedicated scholars who hoped to someday give their homeland materials to counter the false Soviet version of its past. They knew that only with a clear understanding of where they’ve been as a nation, could Ukrainians get a clear direction on their future.

For Ukraine, a couple tons of books and periodicals is a relative drop in the ocean. But the difference between zero and one is immense. You start from where you’re at, and you do what you can. Fortunately, there are others doing the same thing and good people in Ukraine who will put to good use whatever the diaspora shares.

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

NEWS ANALYSIS

Russia steps and slips into foreign policy limbo

by Pavel Bayev
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The notion of "re-Sovietization" has been on the lips of many Russia-watchers, and now U.S. State Secretary Hillary Clinton has spelled it out after a rather disappointing meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (Rossiiskaya Gazeta, December 7).

Russian foreign policy slipped into confusion during the weeks of President Vladimir Putin's reduced activity, but in the last few days the reinvigorated Mr. Putin has taken a series of determined steps to take it further into a limbo resembling self-isolation.

There is not that much new substance in these steps. Mr. Putin has just been accentuating his particular style of poignant criticism of Western hypocrisy and interventionism (Gazeta.ru, December 7). This readiness to challenge the United States-centric global order, often overstepping diplomatic niceties, earned him certain respect among peers when his grasp of domestic affairs was firm. Now that his leadership is diminished by issues far more serious than his back pain, this trademark arrogance looks less convincing.

Mr. Putin has started his comeback with a trip to Turkey seeking to reignite the personal chemistry with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and to add a nuclear project to the value of extensive economic ties. The visit was postponed from September, but the cordial atmosphere was spoiled because it coincided with a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) decision to deploy batteries of Patriot surface-to-air missiles on the Turkish-Syrian border; and Mr. Putin could not refrain from expressing disapproval of this "mistake" (Kommersant, December 4).

Mr. Erdogan was polite and political enough not to elucidate that Mr. Putin's reservations are of no significance whatsoever, but Mr. Lavrov received this message in no uncertain terms in Brussels, where he participated in the NATO-Russia ministerial lunch looking rather tattered, which his spokesman explained as a "minor sports injury" (Newsru.com, December 4). No rapprochement of views on missile defense was achieved, and the program for expanded NATO-Russia cooperation in 2013 looks far from promising (RIA Novosti, December 4).

From Istanbul, President Putin traveled to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, for the postponed Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) summit, which was traditionally low on substance of declared commitments to economic integration, but provided Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov with an opportunity to demonstrate the opulence of VIP-palaces built from Turkmenistan's gas revenues (Moskovsky Komsomolets, December 6). Mr. Putin used the occasion to lash out against the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which irritates many post-Soviet leaders with its critical reports on blatantly manipulated elec-

tions. Mr. Putin had a long chat with President Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine, instructing him to curtail this pesky monitoring as Ukraine assumes the OSCE chairmanship for 2013 (Newsru.com, December 6).

Meanwhile, Secretary Clinton expressed disappointment in Ukraine stepping backward from democracy and warned that the common goal of strengthening the OSCE "means empowering the institutions we already have to function free from interference, not curtailing them" (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, December 6).

Ukraine is indeed in deep economic trouble – S&P and Moody's slashed its credit ratings, and Transparency International moved it down to the level of Syria and Congo in the 2012 Corruption Perception Index (RBC.ru, December 7; Gazeta.ru, December 5).

Mr. Putin has shown no intention to aid Mr. Yanukovich, and the Russian president's extra-tough position in the dragging negotiations on gas prices and pipelines has added heavily to Ukraine's troubles. In desperation, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov rushed to sign a contract for constructing a terminal for importing LNG and even declared that occasion Ukraine's day of energy independence – before discovering that the deal was a fraud (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, November 30).

The embarrassment was so acute that Mr. Yanukovich disbanded the whole government. But that has not helped find a gas compromise with Russia that would not involve Ukraine joining the Customs Union at the expense of a free trade agreement with the European Union (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, December 7). A major blow to Ukraine's strength as a gas-transit country was delivered by Mr. Putin last week when he inaugurated the construction of the South Stream pipeline across the Black Sea, despite the strong reservations from the European Commission (Kommersant, December 8).

It is not energy geopolitics that determines Moscow's commitment to this hugely expensive project but elementary and vulgar greed. The construction is certain to enrich dozens of predatory bureaucrats. In the current Corruption Perception Index, Russia sits just above Ukraine, on the level with Iran and Honduras, and the well-grounded concerns about the export of dirty money are a major factor in Russia's growing international isolation (Novye Izvestia, December 6).

Mr. Putin's attempts to harvest political dividends from assuming the chairmanship of the G-20 in 2013 are undermined by the plain fact that Russia is by far the most corrupt country in this club (Kommersant, December 4). Accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) could have given a boost to economic interaction, but in fact it has entangled Russia into a series of trade disputes with the European Union and the United States, particularly due to the suddenly imposed ban on imports of meat

(Continued on page 9)



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Our "koliada" continues: the more things change...

When anyone mentions "koliada" among Ukrainians, we know what it means. It is not just a Christmas song, a carol about the birth of Jesus, that is played on the radio and sung in church, and maybe "revived" as a custom by people standing on a street corner or in a mall and singing in Dickensian-style outfits holding music sheets.

No, our Ukrainian koliada is so much more – the word means the winter song itself, the Christmas feast of the birth of Jesus as well as the pre-Christian feast of the celebration of the Winter Solstice, a gift to the church or a charitable organization at this time, and – best of all – going around homes and other places to sing the koliada.

For us, over many generations and places around the world, all this has been a continuous tradition that never needed to be revived or rediscovered. It has always been this way, from time immemorial to recent centuries in the villages in Ukraine (covertly during Soviet times), in the Siberian gulag, on the Canadian prairie farms and in cities, in downtown Manhattan, in the towns from Pennsylvania to North Dakota, in the displaced persons camps, in the prisoner-of-war camps of the two world wars, in the warm Australian Christmas, and throughout Europe, where the new economic diaspora works.

Long ago, in the rural areas of the Canadian prairies, koliadnyky traveled by horse-drawn sleigh from homestead to homestead. From the end of the 1890s to the mid-20th century, in the mostly Ukrainian parts of Winnipeg, koliadnyky just walked door-to-door. There was great technological progress in the late 20th century. Cellphones became a blessing when it came to groups staying in contact among each other, and between the carolers and the next home to be visited. And vans and SUVs carrying a whole group were a big improvement over a fleet of cars arriving at each home. Hosts can now book koliadnyky for a particular evening and time.

In a strange way, the two-calendar Ukrainian Christmas helps the koliadnyky – those celebrating the first Sviat-Vechir will go caroling on January 6, and vice versa.

Koliady concerts and festivals are now popular in major cities. This is a great way of promoting our culture and traditions in the mainstream. Whether it is one choir performing a whole concert, or many choirs joining together for a festival of koliady, these events are beautiful. They should be promoted to the general communities and in both Ukrainian and general prominent venues.

My sons – Boyan, Dobryan and Ruslan – have enjoyed going with the koliada for Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization

since they were kids. They still look forward to it. Among the things they enjoy is that the many groups arrange to arrive at a large family celebration for the last stop of the evening. This way, the party continues.

A few decades ago, my "kum" Slavko Nowytski and his daughter Olenka visited us from Minneapolis. As this child looked around our house, with the books and art and artifacts, she turned to her father and said, "Tatu, tak yak v nas vdoma" (Dad, just like at our house). I thought of this when my boys came up with an idea.

Years ago, when they were still in their teens, Dobryan and Ruslan told me about the tongue-in-cheek but well-meaning scoring system they devised for the "Ukrainian-ness" of a home observed during the koliada. This was based on the overall décor – the fine art, the folk art, the various Ukrainian touches.

It was a given that a Ukrainian home will have a few works by Jacques Hnizdovsky on the walls. But, extra points if the art is an oil painting rather than a woodcut, etching or linocut, or a piece of the artist's pottery. A Kurelek print is OK, but an original by William Kurelek is a home-run. A Leo Mol drawing or etching is very good, an oil much better, and a Mol sculpture is out of the park. An Edward Kozak original rates highly. The classical painting or print of an "Arkan" dance is good, too. Original icons count a lot, too.

Books are important – the multi-volume Kobzar (although a one-volume one is ok), the two-volume "Ukraine: A Concise Encyclopedia" (from a few decades ago, the one with the striped cover), the five-volume "Encyclopedia of Ukraine," Ukrainian fine art and folk art books, and others.

The bowl or arrangement of pysanky, rushnyky, embroidered tablecloths and centerpieces, woodcarvings, folk and fine art pottery, a "topirets" or two, and other such objects add to the score. A didukh counts a lot, especially a large one, and you get extra points if you have one of the multi-part plaited ones.

And even the foods served count – "pyrizhky" (how tender and flaky); not only "kubasa" (the Manitoba version of the word "kovbasa," accent on the first syllable), but from which butcher shop in the city!

This is humorous, but also shows the awareness, pride, respect and sensitivity of Ukrainian teenagers to tradition. Young Ukrainians in North America are proud of their heritage and continue practicing and developing traditions in their own way.

Orysia Tracz may be contacted at orysia.tracz@gmail.com.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

Ukrainian orphan treated for severe burns at Shriners Hospital in Boston

by Ulana Zynych

NEW YORK – Two articles that recently appeared in the Boston press told the heart-rending story of a young life waiting to be transformed by caring professionals at Shriners Hospital in Boston.

The main characters in this story are Drs. Gennadiy Fuzaylov and Daniel Driscoll. Of course, there are many volunteers from their non-profit organization, Doctors Collaborating to Help Children (started in 2010), and staff at Shriners Hospital, where these physicians practice and do their magic.

Dr. Fuzaylov is an anesthesiologist who received his medical degree from Samarkand State Medical Institute in Uzbekistan. His background enables him to understand the situation in Ukraine and other Eastern European countries. He came to the United States as a refugee to continue his medical training and at that time had to depend on the goodwill of others. He never forgot it. His motto, which I came across while researching the work of this physician, is: "If you can make a difference in the life of another person, it's something big." He certainly manages to live by that motto.

Dr. Driscoll is a plastic surgeon who earned his medical degree at Brown University and completed his internship and residency at Massachusetts General Hospital, serving as chief resident in plastic surgery. He completed a Burn Reconstruction Fellowship at Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston and remains there as an integral part of a team of physicians who travel to underdeveloped countries each year to provide care to burned children in need.

The Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) has provided aid to the pediatric Burn Care Unit in Lviv's Hospital No. 8. It successfully provided the unit with a number of needed items, such as an autoclave and a new surgical table, along with appropriate lighting equipment. At that time UNWLA worked directly with the director of the Burn Care Unit, Dr. Vasyl Savchyn – a caring, dedicated, and talented surgeon whose love for his patients is evident in all his actions.

Shortly thereafter the UNWLA was introduced to Dr. Fuzaylov, who had amassed a great deal of experience in dealing with burn centers throughout many developing countries, including Ukraine. The UNWLA executive board made the decision to partner with Drs. Fuzaylov and Driscoll and their organization.

The UNWLA contributed to funding the first East European Shriners Clinic, which was held in Lviv in September of 2011. The participating physicians from Shriners were able to perform much-needed surgery on selected pediatric patients and provide updated teaching related to surgical inter-

Ulana Zynych is first vice-president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.



Ihor Lakatosh with Dr. Gennadiy Fuzaylov.

ventions to burns patients. The clinic was very successful and was repeated this past September, again with great success. Drs. Fuzaylov and Driscoll, along with a group of volunteers from Doctors Collaborating to Help Children, participated.

At this clinic four more young burn victims, age 2-16, were identified to be brought to Shriners Hospital for treatment, and are now patients at the hospital.

Resulting from the cooperative effort between Doctors Collaborating to Help Children and the UNWLA, a modern well-equipped Learning/Telemedicine Center has been opened at Hospital No. 8 in Lviv. It has seating for 60 people and is being used for consultations with medical personnel from Boston's Shriners Hospital and physicians throughout Ukraine. The center proudly carries the name of the late Mary Beck, an UNWLA activist whose bequest provided much of its funding.

Another example of cooperation between the UNWLA and Dr. Fuzaylov resulted in a gift of approximately \$40,000 of sorely needed equipment to Hospital No. 8. An International Rotary Club's matching grant initiated by Dr. Fuzaylov was obtained, to which the UNWLA contributed \$6,000, allowing this grant to come to fruition.

The UNWLA enjoys a good relationship with Shriners Hospital. As soon as a child from Ukraine enters the hospital – and often even prior to that, during the planning stages – Dr. Fuzaylov notifies the UNWLA's president, Marianna Zajac, and the wheels of cooperation start rolling. It is worth mentioning that during this past summer five children from Ukraine were admitted to Shriners Hospital in Boston. Another patient, Nastya Ovchar, who was initially treated in 2005 (by a team including Dr. Fuzaylov) for severe burns she sustained while trying to save her younger sibling from a housefire, was back this summer for more surgery. She has been intermittently

undergoing the required treatments by Shriners physicians both in Ukraine and in Boston. The cost of her flight was covered by Aerosvit, while the expenses generated while she was an outpatient and undergoing rehabilitation were covered by money that was collected after her accident by the UNWLA and other donors, and is held for her in a bank account overseen by the UNWLA.

It was from Dr. Fuzaylov that the UNWLA learned about Ihor Lakatosh, a young boy from Ukraine, 8 or 9 years old, who has known his share of tragedy. During his short life he was neglected and abused, and about four years ago he sustained serious burns. His life story is sketchy. His mother, who had brought him to the hospital upon a neighbor's urging, abandoned him. He was sent to an orphanage. Based on his presenting signs, he was placed in an orphanage for children with cerebral palsy.

By the grace of God, the orphanage director contacted a Ukrainian burn physician, who contacted Dr. Fuzaylov and sent him a photo of the boy. With the help of Doctors Collaborating to Help Children, Ihor arrived at Shriners Hospital in Boston on August 10. He was unable to walk or bend his arms and weighed a mere 30 pounds. He was a severely malnourished and debilitated boy.

Much of this was the result of the severe burns that had covered over 30 percent of his body and were not treated properly. During the healing process, they formed scar tissue resulting in contractures. Ihor was also thought to be mentally impaired, but this does not seem to be the case at all. He never attended school, which likely added to his image as mentally challenged.

As Lindsey Anderson from the Associated Press wrote on September 4, Ihor has charmed the hospital staff and likes to play with them. He is a loving child who communicates with his caretakers and has let them know that he wants to become a

doctor. All this with the help of a translator, a teddy bear and loving care. With great mentors like Drs. Fuzaylov and Driscoll, anything is possible.

A quote from Dr. Fuzaylov, reported by Lisa Hughes of CBS Boston on September 7, says it so well: "Some kids, when they get neglected they become angry. His reaction to neglect is just the opposite. He's very social, he's very playful, he's very cooperative, he likes attention. He's a sweetheart. I sometimes could not understand him, but his eyes talk more than his words."

Ihor has already undergone several surgeries, one of which freed his left arm from his torso. He is thrilled that he can now use both of his arms. He will undergo many more surgeries, and his stay in the hospital, followed by extensive physical therapy, will be a long one. So far, his progress and prognosis are very positive.

In October the UNWLA learned that Ihor is beginning to ambulate and has been able to be transferred to a less acute setting. The plan is to send him home to Ukraine when he recovers, where he will be under the care of local physicians. It is interesting that several American families have already offered to adopt Ihor, but this is something that will have to wait.

Ms. Hughes reported Dr. Driscoll as saying: "You go through a dozen years of training or more, and you get the opportunity once in a while to really make a tremendous difference in a child's life. And this is one of those times."

Both Dr. Fuzaylov and Dr. Driscoll are filled with love for humanity. That is evident in their words and their deeds.

Besides thanking Shriners Hospital, which provides all this extensive care free of charge, the dedicated staff, and Drs. Fuzaylov and Driscoll, it is important to give credit to the Ukrainian community in Boston, which has also extended a helping hand. Members of the Boston branch of the UNWLA have been asked to lend some psychosocial support. The Rev. Dr. Yaroslav Nalysnyk, pastor of Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church in Boston, who visits patients like Ihor and their caretakers and offers his support while they are at Shriners, deserves a special thanks-you.

Since Ihor's case is very complicated and will most likely require a lengthy stay in Boston, Dr. Fuzaylov has asked the UNWLA to become involved by providing financial help, as well as lending emotional support. Usually the UNWLA utilizes money from its Social Welfare Fund, but due to the anticipated extensive treatment, the organization has responded by opening a fund that it is hoped will help to ensure a more normal life for this child. Some donations have already been made for which the UNWLA is grateful. Others interested in donating, may make checks out to UNWLA Social Welfare Fund, noting "aid for Ihor Lakatosh," and send them to: UNWLA Headquarters, UNWLA Social Welfare Fund, 203 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003.

Russia steps...

(Continued from page 8)

(Newsru.com, December 9). This ban appears to be part of Moscow's promised "asymmetric response" to the U.S. Senate's approval of the Magnitsky Act, which strikes at the heart of the corrupt bureaucratic machine and is hailed by the "white opposition" as a strong vote for Russia

(Novaya Gazeta, Polit.ru, December 8).

One friendly word Mr. Putin heard against the backdrop of quarrels in every international organization from the OSCE to the WTO, not to mention NATO, was from Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, who paid a short farewell visit to Russia. However, this meeting recalled the Chinese elite's understanding of the need to periodically change a country's leadership, thus illuminating Mr. Putin's plight. On the one

hand, few among the feuding Russian elites regret that Mr. Putin did not allow Mr. Medvedev to take a second presidential term. Illustratively, last week, Russian bloggers assigned to Mr. Medvedev's press-conference the hash-tag #жалкий (pathetic), which climbed to the top of Twitter's trending words (Besttoday.ru, December 8). Nevertheless, Mr. Medvedev's obvious irrelevance only proves that for Mr. Putin there is no way out even as he increasingly

becomes the focal point of mutually reinforcing discontents.

Russia may not be facing a fiscal cliff, but Mr. Putin is wandering toward a political one, and Russia has a poor track record of crashing downhill.

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CIUS honors outgoing director Zenon Kohut

EDMONTON – A farewell celebration honoring Dr. Zenon Kohut, the outgoing director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta, took place in Edmonton on October 2.

Dr. Kohut served as CIUS director for 18 years, leading the institute during a time of transition following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the rebirth of Ukraine as an independent state. He has numerous achievements to his credit, including the creation of the Kowalsky Program for the Study of Eastern Ukraine, the Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Center, and the Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine project. He was honored with a Ukrainian state award for his role as head of the Baturyn Archaeological Project.

About 100 guests gathered at the Faculty Club to greet Dr. Kohut; among them were provincial dignitaries, university officials and community members. Following an invocation by the Rev. Hryhorij Fil, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, Eugene Zwozdesky, spoke about governmental support of Ukrainian studies and culture in Alberta. He emphasized the role of CIUS as the leading scholarly and educational institution in this process, indicating a number of successful projects, such the bilingual school program.

Andrew Hladyshesky, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko, noted the crucial role of the community, whose dedication and generosity have made it possible to sustain and develop the institute's programs and projects.

Dr. Manoly Lupul, the founding director



Zenon Kohut is flanked by Eugene Zwozdesky and Genia Leskiw, both members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

of CIUS, shared his recollections about the formative years of CIUS in the context of the Canadian politics of multiculturalism and available community resources.

Other speakers greeting Dr. Kohut were George Pavlich, associate vice-president (research) at the university; Jars Balan, coordinator of the Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Center at CIUS; Iryna Fedoriw, representing the non-academic staff of CIUS; Lesley Cormack, dean of arts; and Peter Savaryn, former chancellor of the University of Alberta.

In his response, Dr. Kohut said that he

had been privileged to serve as director of CIUS for almost two decades, working to promote the development of Ukrainian studies in Canada, Ukraine and throughout the world. He noted that "the many achievements would not have been possible without the work of outstanding colleagues and staff, family, friends, donors and Ukrainian community members who have given me such outstanding support." Dr. Kohut will stay at the Institute to direct the Kowalsky Program for the Study of Eastern Ukraine.

Dr. Kohut then introduced the new CIUS

director, Volodymyr Kravchenko, and spoke about their long-standing collaboration, which began when Dr. Kravchenko became director of the Kowalsky Eastern Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the Vasyl N. Karazin National University of Kharkiv in 2000.

In a symbolic gesture, Dr. Kohut passed the ceremonial mace (bulava) to Dr. Kravchenko and wished him every success in his new endeavors.

The celebration also featured a launch of the English translation of Volume 6 of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's History of Ukraine-Rus', prepared by the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research at CIUS and published by CIUS Press. Dr. Frank Sysyn, director of the center, spoke about the translation project and highlighted topics presented in the new volume – economic, cultural, and national life in the Ukrainian lands from the 14th to the 17th centuries.

The preparation of Volume 6 was supported by a generous donation from Dr. Jeanette Bayduza, a medical doctor and alumna of the University of Alberta, and the late Dr. Peter Jacyk of Toronto, the founding benefactor of the Jacyk Center. Additional funding came from the estate of the late Edward Brodacky of London, England, and numerous individual donors.

The Edmonton event was graced with works for cello and piano performed by two young musicians, Julian Savaryn and Julia Hui. Letters of greetings were received from Linda Duncan, member of Parliament for Edmonton-Strathcona, and Sen. Raynell Andreychuk.

A similar celebration took place in Toronto (see The Ukrainian Weekly, December 2).

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Adoptive families...

(Continued from page 5)

children; each child had a chance to color a shirt with special durable paints.

Many parents and children were drawn to the Soyuzivka pool and the new playground. In the Main House library they were able to view the exhibit "Early Spring Flowers of Ukraine" by Kyiv photographer Volodymyr Klischevsky, which was arranged by the Embassy of Ukraine in the U.S., to the Consulate General of Ukraine in New York and the UNA.

Parents and children also had a chance to stroll the picturesque Soyuzivka grounds accompanied by a guide.

At a special meeting for parents, the speaker was Sully Ankerfelt, adoption and upbringing counselor from Gift Family Services, a company in Minnesota, that helps families who adopt children from both the U.S. and abroad.

Barbara and D. Lee Hayes from Lloyd Harbor, N.Y., whose son Jonathan is now a successful businessman, adopted two daughters: the younger Winter from China and the elder Summer from Mariupol. Now they are 7 and 12 years old, respectively.



Felix Khmelkovsky

Sulli Ankerfelt (left) with Suzy, Alex and Bill Kilber.

The Ukrainian girl, who used to be called Tanya, suffered from severe cerebral palsy, but American doctors restored her health.

Ms. Hayes recounted that her grandmother and grandfather were from Lviv, and her father Bill Gula, also known as "Bill Gale," together with his Polka band achieved great popularity in America in the 1940s and 1950's. He was also a teacher at a Ukrainian school.

Stacey and Ken Cockerham from Chalfont, Pa., have a son, Nicholas, and they adopted a sister for him. Diana from Donetsk dances, does gymnastics and is an A student at school. The parents are happy, and so is Nicholas.

Bill and Susan Kibler have a son, Alex, from Kharkiv. Communication with him is made a lot easier by the fact that Susan lived in Kyiv for 12 years and speaks Ukrainian. At Veselka the three Kiblers learned to make pysanky.

Lisa and Ken Reiss have three daughters: their own, Jacqueline, and Olha and Svitlana from Ukraine. Lisa's grandmother was of Ukrainian origin and that is obvious – Lisa raises the girls in the Ukrainian spirit and teaches them the true history of Ukraine. The whole family attends services at a local Ukrainian Catholic church.

In fact, this was true for most of the parents. They do not want to separate their new children from Ukraine. They come to Soyuzivka not only to have fun, but also to introduce their sons and daughters to the basics of Ukrainian culture. And to keep them in touch with their heritage.

The highlight of the family weekend was the Saturday dinner, which turned into a friendly and pleasant opportunity for communication among the guests and organizers of the event. On Sunday, all the participants gathered for a discussion, at which all the families received gifts from Ukraine.



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Lina Kostenko's poetry spotlighted at Chicago's UIMA

by Anna Bohoniuk-Golash

CHICAGO – The Chicago Ukrainian community recently enjoyed another in a series of literary events presented by the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA). The montage of Lina Kostenko's poetry presented at the UIMA on October 21 was a timely reminder that national language plays a critical role in defining a nation's identity. The event, called "A Nation Dies When its Language is Taken Away," was organized by Dr. Vira Bodnaruk, head of the literary committee of UIMA, and the Ukrainian Language Society Prosvita.

Ms. Kostenko is one of the leading voices among dissident writers known as 'Shestydesiatnyky' (Writers of the Sixties). In the 1960s Ms. Kostenko was already an established poet, having published three collections of poetry: "Earthly Rays" (1957), "Sails" (1958), and "Wanderings of the Heart" (1961). Her next collection, "At the Shores of the Eternal River," appeared in 1977 – not for lack of poetic activity but because Kostenko refused to "edit" her texts



During a program presenting the poetry of Lina Kostenko at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (from left) are: Mykyta Safronenko, Natalia Marchak, Rostyslav Hrynkiv, Mariana Ievstratenko, Ihor Khudyk, Vira Bodnaruk, Lida Kizyma, Ostap Busko, Vira Lesyk and Volodymyr Hrynkiv.



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She published several more books of poetry: "Uniqueness" (1980), "Garden of Unmelting Sculptures" (1987), and "Selected Works" (1989). She also wrote a popular book for children, "The Lilac King" (1987), which was translated into English by Jars Balan in 1990.

Ms. Kostenko is a recipient of two prestigious literary awards in Ukraine. In 1987 she received the Shevchenko Prize for the novel in verse "Marusia Churai" (1979). Her book of poetry "The Garden of Unmelting Sculptures" earned her the Antonovych Prize (1990).

Ms. Kostenko's poetry sublimates her personal experiences, but it is also permeated by literary motifs and quotations from other writers showing her great erudition. Another strong motif in her oeuvre is the issue of survival of the Ukrainian language. Despite the fact that in contemporary Ukraine Ukrainian is favored by the majority of the society, there is pressure on legislators to allow Russian to become an official language.

In her opening remarks Dr. Bodnaruk stressed the important role Ms. Kostenko's poetry plays for the continuity of the Ukrainian identity and language. She placed her next to Taras Shevchenko, Ivan Franko, Lesia Ukrainka and Vasyl Stus, whose poetry enriched the Ukrainian literary language. She expressed a regret that Ms. Kostenko has never been nominated for the Nobel Prize in literature.

Natalia Marchak and Rostyslav Hrynkiv were moderators of the program. The montage of Kostenko poems arranged by Natalia Marchak reflected the writer's artistic life. The program was based on Ms. Kostenko's books: her novel "Zapysky Ukrayinskoho Samashedshoho," the historical novel "Berestechko" and several poetry collections.

Selected poems were presented by a group of six performers. Mariana Ievstratenko recited the poem "Dolia," followed by Ms. Marchak, who presented "Kazochka pro triokh veletniv." Lida Kizyma recited "Tsavet tanem," Vira Lesyk – "Plemia toda," Volodymyr Hrynkiv – "Estafety." Ms. Marchak also recited the poem closing the program, "Bil Iedynoi Zbroi." The youngest performer, seventh grader Ostap Busko, confidently recited "Shchob Tak Strazhdat za Nioho."

Between the recitations the audience enjoyed recordings of Ms. Kostenko reading

(Continued on page 27)

Chicago-Kyiv...

(Continued from page 1)

reciprocally, naming a street in honor of the Sister City relationship in the near future.

He proposed that sometime in May 2013 the city of Kyiv would hold "Chicago Days" in Kyiv, hosting a delegation from the Windy City to further promote business and cultural ties.

"And even though thousands of kilometers separate Kyiv and Chicago, I feel at home, here in Chicago," he declared.

Mr. Popov had exceptionally warm words for the Ukrainian American community of Chicago, which numbers over 40,000 residents, saying that he is very grateful to these Chicagoans, who are real patriots, love Ukraine and have preserved the Ukrainian heritage and continue to promote Ukrainian culture.

"There is a lot we can learn from you," he said, noting that there is political will to build a more intense relationship.

"I truly believe that our success as individuals, as communities and as a country is measured by the extent to which we give and care for others. Sister Cities is just such a program which allows a people to people exchange," said Vera Eliashevsky, the chairwoman of the Kyiv Committee of

Chicago Sister Cities International, during a luncheon at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art that was held after the naming ceremony.

Marta Farion, who is currently an executive committee member of Chicago Sister Cities International and a past chair of the Kyiv Committee, served as the emcee for the luncheon, which hosted 60 community activists and members of the Kyiv delegation. She spoke of the many similarities between Chicago and Kyiv, underscoring that both are centers of famed cultural institutions and outstanding universities. Both, she continued, boast populations of 3 million-plus residents, and are located near significant bodies of water – Lake Michigan and the mighty Dnipro River. She also mentioned that both cities are leaders in business, agriculture and are currently developing strong IT business bases.

"What makes Chicago unique is our celebration of the diverse peoples and cultures that make our city every immigrant's home away from home. The Ukrainian people have called Chicago and the 26th Ward home since 1890 and have proudly joined us as a sister city since 1991," said Alderman Maldonado. He is one of two alderman serving Chicago's Ukrainian Village. Alderman Proco Joe Moreno from Chicago's 1st Ward could not attend the



Marta Kolomayets

After the unveiling of the Kyiv-Chicago Sister Cities Way sign (from left): Ukraine's Ambassador Olexsander Motsyk, Kyiv City State Administration Chair Olexsander Popov and Alderman Roberto Maldonado.

ceremony, but was represented by his staff.

The 21-year relationship between the two cities began on July 17, 1991, with the signing of a sister cities agreement by Mayor Richard M. Daley and Mayor Hryhoriy Malishevsky. Ukrainian American community leader Julian Kulas served as the first chair of the Kyiv-Chicago Sister Cities Committee.

Since that time, the committee has supported numerous programs, initiatives and exchanges, among them performances by the Kyiv Chamber Orchestra in Chicago's Grant Park and the Chicago Cultural Center, and appearances by Chicago's musicians Orbert Davis and Lynne Jordan at the "Chicago Jazz and Blues Festival" as part of Kyiv Days in 2000.

The committee has also been instrumental in promoting Sister School Exchanges with four schools in Kyiv, bringing Ukrainian medical and pharmaceutical professionals to see how hospitals, medical suppliers and manufacturing companies work in Chicago. It also sponsored a benefit to help battle breast cancer in Ukraine, raising funds for a mammography machine and the training of a radiologist on aspects of breast cancer prevention and treatment.

Perhaps the two most significant events focused on culture. The committee sponsored a major exhibition of early 20th century Ukrainian art, "Crossroads: Modernism

in Ukraine, 1910-1930," held in the summer of 2006. In April 2011, the Chicago Sister Cities commemorated the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear explosion with a guest lecture by Dr. Yuri Shcherbak and introductory remarks by CBS News anchor and award-winning journalist Bill Kurtis.

During their two-day visit to the Windy City, Mr. Popov and his delegation had the opportunity to visit the Ukrainian Village's churches and its cultural center, and to tour the Ukrainian National Museum and the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art. They presented gifts of art to these institutions and discussed cultural exchanges.

Mr. Popov was appointed by President Viktor Yanukovych and has served as the head of the Kyiv City State Administration since November 2010, replacing Mayor Leonid Chernovetsky, who was deprived of any official decision-making role and most power because of scandalous and corrupt behavior. The president named Mr. Popov to this post after Ukraine's Parliament amended the law "On the Capital of Ukraine – Hero City of Kyiv" on September 7, 2010, making it possible for the president to appoint the chairman of the city administration at his discretion.

Prior to his appointment as the head of the Kyiv City State Administration, Mr. Popov was the four-time mayor of Komsomolsk in the Poltava region.



Brooke Collins/City of Chicago

While visiting Chicago, (from left) Anatoliy Tolstoukhov, adviser to Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Olexsandr Motsyk, Kyiv City State Administration Chair Olexsander Popov, translator Svitlana Mefford and the first chair of the Kyiv-Chicago Sister Cities Committee, Julian Kulas, meet with Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Yanukovych cancels...

(Continued from page 1)

both sides, Russian presidential advisor Yuri Ushakov said, as quoted by Kommersant.

"Through Monday night, Kyiv continued to persuade us to review the current [natural] gas contract, not offering guarantees of joining the Customs Union," said the anonymous source. "We had already emphasized our position: if there won't be a legally guaranteed entry, then there can't be any talk of reviewing gas agreements."

As a concession, the Yanukovych administration offered to join the Eurasian Economic Community (EAEC) with the promise of extending integration with the Customs Union after liquidating all obstacles, including those in the Constitution of Ukraine, the source said.

Yet that wasn't enough to satisfy Moscow, which wants Ukraine's full membership immediately. The Russian government was already burned this way by Uzbekistan, which agreed to join the EAEC in 2005 only to suspend its membership in 2008.

Ukraine has resisted joining the EAEC ever since it was formed in 1996 to enable free trade and travel among the former

Soviet states. It was the precursor to the Moscow-led Customs Union, which was launched in 2010 before the creation of the Single Economic Space this year, which created a single customs and travel border for the Russian Federation, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

The Kommersant article indicated that it also could have been the Yanukovych administration that opted out of the deal at the last minute.

The Interfax news agency quoted an anonymous high-level Ukrainian source as saying the reason was "to find that formula of joining separate conditions of the Customs Union charter that won't contradict conditions in the initialized Association Agreement with the EU."

The Yanukovych administration has been trying for two years to agree to the Customs Union on limited, or partial terms, with this month's latest attempt failing yet again.

Besides the economic benefit for Ukrainian industries, the Yanukovych administration is seeking Customs Union integration with the main goal of attaining lower natural gas prices, which are critical to improve the profitability of most Ukrainian industries, ranging from metal-lurgy to agriculture.

These factories, farms and mines are still using Soviet-era machinery that is highly dependent on natural gas as fuel. Most oligarchs haven't made the necessary investments to modernize their industrial equipment.

Lower natural gas prices would also enable the Yanukovych administration to secure a desperately needed loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as early as late January.

Among the IMF's chief requirements for a loan tranche has been raising household prices for gas, which is obtained from domestic sources and sold to Ukrainian households at below-market prices.

The Ukrainian government has kept prices low but is exhausting the financial means to keep doing so, resorting to such economically volatile measures as printing money to pay the debts owed by Naftohaz Ukrainy, the state gas distribution company that hasn't been solvent for at least five years.

The Yanukovych administration doesn't want to join the Customs Union as a full member because many of Ukraine's oligarchs could fall victim to bigger Russian oligarchs and clans that will have levers in Moscow to conquer their assets, observers said.

The Russian government is well aware of the Ukrainian government's economic trouble, particularly its desperate need for lower natural gas prices, and is therefore making its move to take control of the nation's strategic assets.

In exchange for lower gas prices, Russia is demanding Customs Union membership and an influential stake in Ukraine's gas transit system, and it's got in its sights Ukraine's strategic nuclear, energy and transportation assets.

"Our Ukrainian colleagues thought that we are joking to some extent, but they understood that these aren't jokes," Mr. Putin told a Moscow press conference on December 20, as reported by UNIAN.

He was referring to Ukraine's need to deal with the Customs Union structures in resolving trade issues, not the Russian Presidential Administration. The Customs Unions organs are all based in Moscow.

He added that the Yanukovych administration made a "strategic fundamental mistake" in the negotiations by declining to rent out its gas transit system to Gazprom, Russia's state gas monopoly, for its development.

As of December 20, Mr. Yanukovych had yet to comment on the unsuccessful negotiations.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

that President Viktor Yanukovich is not ready to sign the documents offered by Moscow. "If Yanukovich was ready to sign the documents drafted in Moscow and meeting Russia's interests, he would have gone. The meeting can take place only when there are draft documents that would please Gazprom and Moscow and that the president of Ukraine would be ready to sign," he commented. (Ukrinform)

Expert: Customs Union means savings

KYIV – Ukraine's accession to the Customs Union will allow it to save at least \$9 billion a year from the abolition of fees, according to International Education Consulting Director Oleksander Dudchak. "Ukraine's annual savings from joining the Customs Union can be about \$9 billion, which is nearly equal to the sum of the country's commitments on the IMF loans in 2013. Of the total, up to \$3 billion a year will be saved from cancelling Russian export duties on oil, about \$490 million a

year from eliminating export duties on petroleum products, and more than \$4.6 billion a year from reducing Russian gas price to the level of domestic prices, at least until 2015," Mr. Dudchak said on December 18. According to the expert, abolition of the Russian protection measures in bilateral trade will increase Ukrainian exports to Russia by at least another \$670 million a year. One more advantage of Ukraine's accession to the Customs Union would also be a compensation of \$1.9 billion for possible World Trade Organization sanctions, "which has become extremely important now that Ukraine has finally decided to rise up and declare its rights," Mr. Dudchak said. (Ukrinform)

Opposition threatens extraordinary meeting

KYIV – The opposition has promised to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada if Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich signs the documents in Moscow on Ukraine's accession to the Customs Union. The leader of the Batkivshchyna faction in Parliament, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, announced this from the Parliament's rostrum on December 18. "We are demanding to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada with the agenda about the president's responsibility for the violation of Article 11 of the law of Ukraine on the principles of domestic and foreign policy if President Yanukovich today signs any act on Ukraine's accession to the Customs Union," Mr. Yatsenyuk said. He added that Ukraine's foreign policy course is aimed at European integration and therefore Ukraine's accession to the Customs Union is unacceptable. (Ukrinform)

Bethlehem Peace Light in Ukraine

KYIV – The Bethlehem Peace Light crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border during the night of December 17. Ukrainian Plast scouts have brought it to Ukraine for 12 years. They will distribute the light to churches, schools, orphanages, hospitals and state institutions. The international scout campaign to share the Bethlehem Peace Light began in Vienna, where a mass was held and the flame was officially passed to scouts of various countries. On December 16, in Krakow, celebratory events were held where members of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization received the light and carried it into Ukraine. A delegation of 30 Plast scouts from Lviv, Cherkasy and other cities in Ukraine attended the events in Krakow. This year's motto for the Bethlehem Peace Light project is "Do not be afraid to be good." (Ukrinform)

UCC on Ukraine's new envoy to Canada

OTTAWA – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) on December 14 welcomed the appointment of a new ambassador of Ukraine to Canada. "After 18 months without an ambassador to Canada, we welcome the appointment of Vadym Prystaiko as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Canada," stated UCC National President Paul Grod. "Given the significant relationship between our two countries and the serious ongoing issues in Ukraine, it is very important for Ukraine to have senior-level representation at its Embassy and Consulates in Canada. Our community knows Ambassador Prystaiko from his time at the Embassy of Ukraine in Canada (2002-2006), and we are confident that he will exercise his functions professionally and capably." Ambassador Prystaiko presented his credentials to Governor General David Johnston on December 13 at a ceremony in Rideau Hall. UCC President Grod attended the swearing in ceremony as a guest. "I would like to congratulate Ambassador Prystaiko on his appointment

and look forward to working with him to further develop productive relations between Ukraine and Canada and the Ukrainian Canadian community. We look forward to working with Ambassador Prystaiko in the best interest of all Ukrainians around the world," Mr. Grod stated. "We look forward to working with Ambassador Prystaiko in the interest of all Ukrainians to strengthen the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine, ensure its continued democratic development, deepen ties with the Ukrainian community in Canada, and support the development of Ukrainian culture and education both in Canada and in Ukraine," Mr. Grod underscored. (UCC)

Vice PM against Azarov's reappointment

KYIV – Acting First Vice Prime Minister Valeriy Khoroshkovsky resigned from Ukraine's interim government to protest Prime Minister Mykola Azarov's reappointment for a second term. Mr. Khoroshkovsky's office said on December 14 that he considered Mr. Azarov "incapable of carrying out economic reforms" or of defending Ukraine's course for European integration. A day earlier, Ukraine's newly elected Parliament approved Mr. Azarov as prime minister during a vote overshadowed by a violent brawl between government supporters and opposition lawmakers. President Viktor Yanukovich dismissed Mr. Azarov and the entire Cabinet of Ministers earlier this month, citing the election of many government members as lawmakers in the new Parliament. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Reuters, Interfax and ITAR-TASS)

Ruslana's 'Don't Keep Silent' campaign

KYIV – Singer Ruslana Lyzhychko on December 3 gave a press conference in handcuffs and under the supervision of two tough-looking men in camouflage and masks who led her by the hand. Journalist Zhanna Kuiava wrote on her Facebook page: "Thus the People's Artist of Ukraine presented the 'Don't Keep Silent' campaign against the lawlessness of the judicial system of Ukraine. Specifically, she despises the situation that has developed around the Pavlichenko family. According to her, the family is the victim of judicial tyranny. Additionally Ruslana presented the new video 'This is EU-phori-A!' which was filmed behind bars. It is not a calm sight, I will tell you that," writes the journalist. Ruslana explained her new project by stating: "To show the present-day Ukraine, it is necessary to show its prisons. Prison is the new symbol of Ukraine." Ruslana noted that the Pavlichenkos, father and son, were convicted of murder without any evidence. "This is a call for basic justice. People, don't keep silent, because tomorrow anybody can wind up in their shoes. I cannot be sure whether these people are right, but I'm positive that the judge who sentenced them is wrong," Ruslana stated. Ms. Kuiava also reported that the singer said she had already made the English version of this song, and that the protest video has been shown in Europe. A clip of Ruslana's video and press conference may be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=syGbUmsEI0M. (censor.net, UNIAN)

Deputies undecided on Rada committees

KYIV – Parliamentary factions on December 18 failed to agree on how to distribute the leadership and membership of Verkhovna Rada committees, Batkivshchyna National Deputy Andriy Pavlovsky said. "The opposition is not satisfied that the government does not want to give us the committees that perform super-

(Continued on page 17)

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 16)

visory functions. In all civilized countries the budgetary and regulatory committees are headed by the opposition. For who if not the opposition would control the authority?" the deputy said. Mr. Pavlovsky added, "I support the hard line: we must explicitly demand controlling functions for the opposition. If the authorities deny us, all the three opposition factions must renounce seats on committees." He noted that consultations among the parliamentary factions on the distribution of committees continue. (Ukrinform)

Herman comments on committees

KYIV – National Deputy Hanna Herman, a member of the Party of Regions faction in Parliament, said on December 18 that Verkhovna Rada committees working on the real economy should be headed by representatives of the parliamentary majority. "Today we cannot afford to risk economic stability. So I think it would be right if those committees that are relevant to the real sector [of the economy] were controlled by

a political party that has much experience in this. And the opposition should take care of spirituality, freedom of speech," Ms. Herman said. (Ukrinform)

Bill to criminalize non-personal vote

KYIV – The three opposition factions in the Verkhovna Rada will offer a bill criminalizing voting in Parliament with other national deputies' cards, Batkivshchyna leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk told a press conference in Kyiv. "We have also prepared a draft law on criminal responsibility for voting with other deputies' cards," Mr. Yatsenyuk said p.m. December 17. He said the initiative has been agreed upon by all the opposition factions of Parliament. He noted that the president signed into law the bill providing for personal voting, however, putting the Rada-3 system into operation requires the parliamentary chairman's instructions or a separate resolution of the Verkhovna Rada. According to Mr. Yatsenyuk, at the moment the opposition has to solve the individual voting problem by force. The Batkivshchyna leader said the issue would be raised during a meeting of the leaders of parliamentary factions with the newly elected Rada Chairman Volodymyr Rybak. (Ukrinform)

Ivan Skalchuk...

(Continued from page 4)

Basil, running their annual Ukrainian Folk Festivals and helping to establish the Ukrainian Heritage Studies Center there in 1977 to preserve, promote, and perpetuate Ukrainian culture and traditions. He received an award from Manor College in 1991.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, he was able to return for a visit to his homeland

and to participate as a delegate in the World Forum of Ukrainians held on the first anniversary of the country's independence.

Dr. Skalkchuk was the beloved husband of the late Eugenia (née Hodyk) for 40 years; dear father of Bozhena Maciocha (Edward) and Andrew "Yari"; and loving grandfather of Alex and the late Adrian Skalkchuk. He is also survived by his many relatives in the U.S., Australia and Ukraine.

Memorial donations may be sent to: UCCA Fund to Aid Ukraine, UCCA National Office, 203 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003.



Irena Burka

has been called to Heaven to be with God Almighty on December 13th, 2012, after having spent almost 92 years of a remarkable, inspiring life. Born on March 16, 1921 in Armavir, near Georgia, she and her family lived in various localities in Ukraine before settling in Dnipropetrovsk. As a child, she survived the Holodomor of 1932/33, the planned starvation/genocide that Stalin perpetrated against the Ukrainian people. Like many of her peers, she left her homeland during the Second World War to seek a better life, abandoning her family and all she knew. She literally walked West between the German and Russian fronts, surviving bombings and the horrors of war while evading capture. Irena married Thomas Burka and they first lived in a Displaced Persons camp before moving to Brazil after WWII. After 13 years in Brazil, the family of five then immigrated to Philadelphia in 1962, primarily to give her sons an opportunity for an even better life. She began working immediately upon arriving in the USA as a seamstress. Eventually she received a job offer because of her "Golden Diploma" and retired from Thomas Jefferson Hospital as an Endocrinology Laboratory Technician, serving there for over 15 years. Irena and Thomas enjoyed a wonderful retirement in Punta Gorda, Florida.

A loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, she will be missed by her three sons, Jurij, Eugene, Tomas, and her grandchildren, Yuri, Adrian, Tanya, Chelsea, Marina, Larissa, Katrina, Alexander, and her great-grandchildren Nicolas and Bianca, as well as her daughters-in-law, Maida, Lesia, Deborah and Paula. Irena also leaves behind dear family in Ukraine, Canada and Brazil. Irena was a member of St. Mary's Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Philadelphia. She was laid to eternal rest next to her husband at St. Andrew Cemetery in South Bound Brook, New Jersey on December 15, 2012.

Вічна пам'ять!



With deep sorrow we want to inform our family and friends that our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather,

Michael Danylyk

age 90, passed away on September 14, 2012, after a long illness.

Michael is survived by his wife of 69 years, Oksana; daughter Helen Filenko and husband Alex; grandson Taras Filenko and wife Allison; grandson Andrei Filenko; great-granddaughter Merrin Filenko; niece Katherine DeNiro and husband Louis DeNiro; nephew Bohdan Danylyk; nephew once removed, Vincent DeNiro and wife Lisa and children Matthew and Alexander.

Michael was born on May 26, 1922, in Lypia, Boykivshchyna, Ukraine. He immigrated to Houston, Texas, with his wife and daughter in 1949. He lived a very productive life here in Houston. Michael was one of the founders of Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic Church of Houston. His most cherished moments were spent singing in the Pokrova Church Choir, at cultural festivals and concerts. He was also instrumental in organizing and actively participating in the Ukrainian American Cultural Club of Houston. He selflessly dedicated his talents and energies to his church and Ukrainian community.

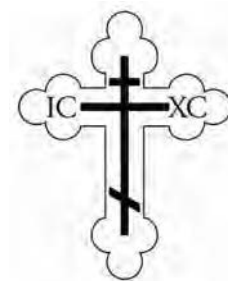
Michael's professional life was spent at the American National Insurance Company. He retired after 32 years of a successful career as one of the company's top salesmen. Many of his colleges expressed fond memories of their association with Michael.

The Parastas was held in the Chapel of Earthman's Funeral Home on September 18, 2012. On September 19, 2012, Holy Liturgy was held at Pokrova Ukrainian Catholic Church, 9102 Meadowshire, Houston, TX. Interment was at Earthman's Resthaven Cemetery, the final resting place of many fellow parishioners who preceded him in death.

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Кіра, Антонія, Соня
родина в Україні

Вічна Йому пам'ять!



Ukrainian sports update: basketball

by Ihor Stelmach

Terp Alex Len ready for sophomore season

Growing up in Antratsit in the eastern part of Ukraine, Alex (Oleksiy) Len preferred cartwheels over jump shots. He was an action-film junkie, taking gymnastics classes in hopes of emulating his idol, Jackie Chan. He definitely never chose basketball as a sport or potential career. Basketball however, chose him.

At the age of 10, a local high school basketball coach was visiting Len's gymnasium and observed the scrawny youngster towering over his classmates. The coach walked Alex over to a basketball court, put a basketball in his hands and asked him to shoot it.

"I remember I shot it and made it," the 7-foot-2 Maryland Terrapins center said in a late-September meeting with reporters – his first media experience since arriving in College Park 13 months prior. "The coach said, 'See, you were born to play basketball.'"

From that point on there was never any doubt Len was made for the hardwood. As a freshman last season he averaged six points and 5.4 rebounds in 22 games. He's a bit of a rare breed – a rangy big man who runs the floor like a guard. He can swat away an opponent's shot, sprint down the court and spot up for a three-pointer.

His skill level brought an absurdly high level of expectations. NBA draft experts had him tabbed as a future lottery pick before Len ever stepped foot on a Division I basketball court. Scouts and analysts gushed over his height, took note of his perfect shooting form and imagined his potential.

The conclusion was he would be an impact player for the Terps from day one – it was only a matter of time before he developed into a bona fide superstar.

Not so fast. What the experts didn't ever consider was that the young man living in a foreign country was lost. The Ukraine national team member struggled mightily to adapt to his new surroundings after enrolling in classes several days into the 2011 fall semester. He could not communicate with his coaches or teammates, since he didn't speak English.

When roommate John Anslander asked him basic questions, Len would have to visit translation websites on his laptop computer. When out at a restaurant, Alex would point at the menu and hope his servers figured out his food selection. When Maryland fans passed him on the street or campus all he could do was blush with embarrassment.

"I think the first three months were the hardest, because I didn't know any language," said Len, who only in late September of this year became comfortable enough with English to speak with local media. "I knew just a little bit, but it wasn't good enough to communicate."

It didn't help that Len became the subject of an NCAA eligibility inquiry right after signing with the Terrapins. The issue revolved around his professional background dating back to his time with club Dnipro. After using up all of his temporary eligibility in pre-season workouts, Len was not allowed to play with the team when

practices began in September 2011. While the NCAA investigated his ties to a European pro team, Len was left to sit and watch. The legal process led to a 10-game suspension. The ordeal was tough on Alex – all he wanted was to be out there practicing with the guys.

On December 28, 2011, Alex finally made his college debut in Maryland's 83-72 win over Albany. Fifty-four seconds into his first game, he slammed the first of his five dunks through the rim and earned his first standing ovation at the end of the first quarter. When he grabbed a seat on the bench in the game's closing moments, his 14 points, eight rebounds and three blocked shots resulted in chants of "We love Alex" from Terrapin fans.

"It was an unbelievable feeling," Len said. "Just to get on the court and see that huge crowd, it was amazing."

The feeling would last through only three more games as Len averaged 13.3 points and nine rebounds before struggling mightily in Atlantic Coast Conference play. During the team's last 18 games he scored double-digit points only twice and often rode the bench after getting into early foul trouble. The rail-thin center dropped easy passes, struggled to get post position on smaller defenders and oftentimes seemed pretty confused.

Still struggling with the English language, the young Ukrainian did not understand what play his point guard was calling out. When passed the ball in the low post, he didn't know if he should make a move, pass or shoot.

Len resolved to utilize last season's shortcomings as motivation to improve himself as a player and a person over the past summer, focusing on strenuous physical workouts and intensive English language lessons. The workouts were part of a new on-court persona change away from a finesse player and toward developing into a low-post presence. He added 30 pounds of muscle and expanded his resume of post moves, which will make him a force to be reckoned with down low.

Len has been gifted with impressive foot speed and has the ability to effortlessly elevate around the basket, making him an effective finisher. He has soft hands, an

excellent touch and is capable of scoring with either hand inside the paint. He shows a solid basketball IQ, moving the ball within the offensive flow, capable of nifty bounce passes to cutters driving toward the hoop. His shooting mechanics are gracefully natural and he can consistently hit the mid-range jumper.

Len needs to figure out how to effectively utilize his talent on a consistent basis. His bigger, stronger body should allow him to establish and hold deep post position. He has to develop the footwork, balance and coordination to get a good shot off in traffic. As he plays extended minutes in more games during his sophomore season he will gain more experience on the basketball court, something he lacks at this moment in his young career. Alex needs to cut down on his turnover rate and improve on his lowly 59 percent free-throw percentage from a year ago.

On the other end of the floor, Len's terrific size, length and mobility give him tremendous potential to be a defensive force. He has quick feet and good timing to step out and hedge screens on the perimeter; something most of his height centers can't do. He's a great rim protector – so tall and long he doesn't always have to leave his feet to block a shot. He has a knack for using his long wing span to alter and reject shots around the rim.

Positive proof of his summer improvement was evident on November 9 when Maryland faced defending national champion Kentucky in their season opener. Led by a career-best game from Len (23 points, 12 rebounds, four blocks), Maryland eliminated a 15-point deficit before falling, 72-69, in one of the team's most memorable debuts in years.

"I feel much more comfortable," Len said in a post-game interview. "I got a little bit stronger over the summer and I worked really hard to put on some weight and it helped me." Kentucky coach John Calipari said Len "was a beast. He's going to be really good." The former gymnast showed the college hoops world he was born to play basketball.

Ihor Stelmach may be reached at iman@sfgsports.com

Sitch men's soccer team advances to N.J. State Cup quarterfinals

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Chornomorska Sitch men's soccer team recorded two convincing victories to reach the quarterfinals in the New Jersey State Cup, where they are to play against league rival Jersey Shore Boca in a game scheduled to be played in April 2013, after the winter break.

On December 1 Sitch (known as the Union Ukrainians in the Super Division of the Garden State Soccer League) traveled to Summit, N.J., to play against a very hard tackling Jersey Junior squad. While the final score was 5-1 in favor of the Ukrainian side, the game was really a lot closer than the final score might indicate. Captain Marco Hordynsky started the scoring in the 10th minute with a beautiful long-range shot that went into the upper corner of the goal. In the 20th minute, Sitch was awarded a penalty kick when forward Taras O'Connell was brought down in the box. Sweeper Andrew Panas calmly stepped up and slotted his shot into the lower corner of the goal, increasing

the Sitch lead to 2-0 before halftime.

However, in the second half, the Jersey Junior team struck early and cut the Sitch lead to 2-1. The team had several opportunities to tie the score, but Sitch net minder Alex McDonald made several key saves to keep the lead. Shortly after one of the saves, defender Andrew Mandzy fed a nice pass to forward Anatoliy Sen, who caught the keeper off his line and blasted a long-range shot to make it 3-1.

With 15 minutes to go, the Jersey Junior goalie could not hold on to a beautifully taken free kick by Sen, and O'Connell pounced on the rebound to make it 4-1 for the Ukrainians. With Jersey Juniors now pushing forward with nothing to lose, the Sitch team probably scored its nicest combination-play goal of the evening as more than half the team touched the ball in a passing sequence before Sen rocketed a low shot from 20 yards out past a diving Jersey Junior keeper.

(Continued on page 27)



ПЛАСТ

Українська Скавтська Організація в США

З радісним празником
Різдва Христового

Крайова Пластова Старшина в Америці
вітає

Начального Пластуна, проводить Головної Пластової Ради і
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Екзекутивний Комітет УНСоюзу, видавництво
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"The Ukrainian Weekly" та адміністрація
"Союзівки"

складають найкращі побажання первоієрархам українських церков,
українським організаціям, членам УНСоюзу, управам відділів та
окружних комітетів, переплатникам і читачам видань УНСоюзу, та
українській громаді в діаспорі й Україні, з нагоди

Свят Різдва Христового
і Нового Року!



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Щасливого Нового Року

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Головному Урядові УНСоюзу,
працівникам та всім секретарям Відділів



щиро бажають



**СТЕФАН і СВЯТОСЛАВА
КАЧАРАЇ з родиною**



РАДІСНИХ СВЯТ РІЗДВА ХРИСТОВОГО
і
ЩАСЛИВОГО НОВОГО РОКУ

родині, приятелям і знайомим,
Головному Урядові УНСоюзу,
головам Округ і секретарям Відділів
та їхнім управам

щиро бажає

ХРИСТИНА Є. КОЗАК з родиною



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Святим Іорданом
і Новим Роком

вітають родину, приятелів і знайомих

ЗЕНОН, ДОЗЯ і ВІКА КРІСЛАТІ

та засилають

нашчиріші святочні побажання всій родині
на рідній Батьківщині та всім ближчим і дальшим друзям.

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СЛАВІТЕ ЙОГО!

Клівленд, Огайо

Cleveland, Ohio



Best Wishes
to Our Family and Friends
for a Healthy
and Happy Holiday Season!


Zirka and Myroslaw Smorodsky

Христос Рождається!



**Веселих Свят
РІЗДВА ХРИСТОВОГО
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ЩАСЛИВОГО НОВОГО РОКУ**
РОДИНІ, ПРИЯТЕЛЯМ І ЗНАЙОМИМ
бажають

**ОЛЕГ і д-р АРІЯДНА ГОЛИНСЬКІ
з донечками АЛЕКСОЮ і СОФІЙКОЮ
та синами ЮЛІЯНОМ і МАРКІЯНОМ**



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Щасливого Нового Року**
РОДИНІ, КОЛЕГАМ, ЗНАЙОМИМ І ПАЦІЄНТАМ
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Щасливого Нового Року**
родині, приятелям і знайомим
бажають

АННА і СТЕФАН МАКУХИ




**“Three Magi
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„Маленький Ісусик не спить не дрімає
Своїми рученятами весь світ обіймає
І Вашу хату і Вашу родину
І всю Україну—Христос ся Рождає!“

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всій рідні, пластовим друзям
та знайомим!**

Петро і Соня Бокало




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в Україні та у всьому світі.
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Божого благословення у праці на добро
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Начальному Пластунові, пластовим проводам, проводам
Пласт-Приятю, пластункам і пластунам
та всій українській Громаді

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РІЗДВА ХРИСТОВОГО
та
ЩАСЛИВОГО НОВОГО РОКУ!**

ДИРЕКЦІЯ




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З НОВИМ РОКОМ
ТА СВЯТИМ ЙОРДАНОМ!**
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Бажають своїм членам, жертводавцям,
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Web site: www.ukrainianmuseum.org



Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

would like to wish you a very

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

May this holiday season bring God's blessing upon all Ukrainians and may the New Year bring health, happiness and the fulfillment of all aspirations.

CHRIST IS BORN!

Ukrainian Congress Committee
of America
203 Second Avenue,
New York, NY 10002
www.ucca.org

GLORY TO CHRIST!

Ukrainian National
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311 Massachusetts Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Світовий Конгрес Українців



Ukrainian World Congress

The Ukrainian World Congress extends sincerest greetings to the hierarchs and clergy of Ukrainian Churches and to Ukrainians throughout the world with the Birth of Christ and the new year 2013!

Over two thousand years ago a new star shone in the sky over Bethlehem heralding the arrival of the Son of God on earth and the beginning of Christianity. The Holy Day of Christ's birth is one of the most important holidays for all Ukrainians which they observe with reverent solemnity.

Christmas, for all of us, is associated with the newly born Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary, as well as many Ukrainian cultural traditions, particularly the singing of Christmas carols. On this glorious day, we join in prayer to praise Jesus Christ and ask that he bestow His blessings upon us and our families, and a kinder fate for our spiritual homeland – Ukraine.

May the Christmas holidays bring peace, harmony and prosperity to every Ukrainian family while encouraging us to live life according to Christian values, deepening our sense of responsibility for the future of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, and uniting us in our work for the common good.

Christ is Born! Let us Praise Him!

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS

Eugene Czolij, President



*Warmest Wishes
for a Joyous Christmas
and a
Happy & Healthy New Year
to all our Members, their Families
and our Friends*

from the Board of Directors of the

Ukrainian Institute of America
2 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075
212-288-8660 • mail@ukrainianinstitute.org



Головна Управа „Самопоміч“ Об'єднання Українців в Америці

вітає

Відділи і все членство
з наступаючими Святами

і бажає

Веселих Свят
Різдва Христового
та

щасливого і повного успіхів
Нового Року

ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЄТЬСЯ!

*За дирекцію ОУА,
Олег Лопатинський, голова
Надія Савчук, секретар*





Наукове Товариство ім. Шевченка
в Америці

бажає


ВСІМ ЧЛЕНАМ НАШОЇ ГРОМАДИ

**РАДІСНИХ СВЯТ
РІЗДВА ХРИСТОВОГО**

**ДОБРОГО Й УСПІШНОГО
НОВОГО 2013 РОКУ**

ХРИСТОС РОДИВСЯ!

Запрошуємо Вас
на наші конференції й доповіді

**СТАНИЧНА СТАРШИНА
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В НЬЮ-ЙОРКУ**

бажає

УКРАЇНСЬКІЙ ГРОМАДІ, ПЛАСТОВІЙ ФУНДАЦІЇ,
СВОЇМ ЖЕРТВОДАВЦЯМ ТА УСІМ ПЛАСТУНАМ І
ПРИЯТЕЛЯМ ПЛАСТУ

**ВЕСЕЛИХ СВЯТ
ТА
ЩАСЛИВОГО НОВОГО 2013 РОКУ**




**КРАЙОВА УПРАВА
СПІЛКИ УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ МОЛОДІ В АМЕРИЦІ**

бажає

Ієрархам Українських Церков, Світовій Управі СУМ,
всім Управам Осередків та Булавам Відділів Юнацтва СУМ,
членам і прихильникам та Українському Народові
в Україні і в діаспорі

мирних і радісних свят

РІЗДВА ХРИСТОВОГО та ЩАСЛИВОГО НОВОГО РОКУ
ХРИСТОС РОЖДАЄТЬСЯ! СЛАВІМ ЙОГО!

За Крайову Управу СУМ:
Андрій Бігун, голова
Юрій Микитин 1-й заступник голови
Леся Гаргай, 2-й заступник голови
Мирон Приймак, секретар



УКРАЇНСЬКА СПОРТОВА ЦЕНТРАЛЯ АМЕРИКИ І КАНАДИ
**з нагоди Різдва Христового
та Нового 2013 Року**

бажає

членам і ланковим Управи УСЦАК та їхнім родинам,
проводам спортивних і молодечих організацій, нашим друзям-
спортовцям в Україні всім щирим прихильникам українського
організованого спорту в діаспорі

**ВЕСЕЛИХ СВЯТ ТА ЩАСЛИВОГО
І ЗДОРОВОГО НОВОГО РОКУ**

**ХРИСТОС
РОЖДАЄТЬСЯ!**

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The oldest and largest women's organization in the U.S.

*With the Holiday Season upon us, and as we look back on the
past year, we would like to greet and thank our members, donors
and all people of good will, who have helped shape our organiza-
tion. We value our relationship with you and look forward to
working together with you in the coming year.*


A special thanks to all who
supported and so generously donated to our educational
and charitable projects in 2012:

Women's Studies Endowment Fund at the Catholic University in Lviv
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*We wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with
Health, Peace and Prosperity!*
CHRIST IS BORN!

Please join us, so that together we may fulfill the mission of
UNWLA, in preserving and promulgating the true history of
Ukraine, as well as her culture and customs here in Amer-
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www.unwla.org






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Український народ у вільній Україні, Ієрархію і Духовенство
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всіх своїх членів, їхні родини та все
українське громадянство

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І НОВИМ РОКОМ**



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Ми бажаємо Вам радісного Різдва та щасливого Нового Року.

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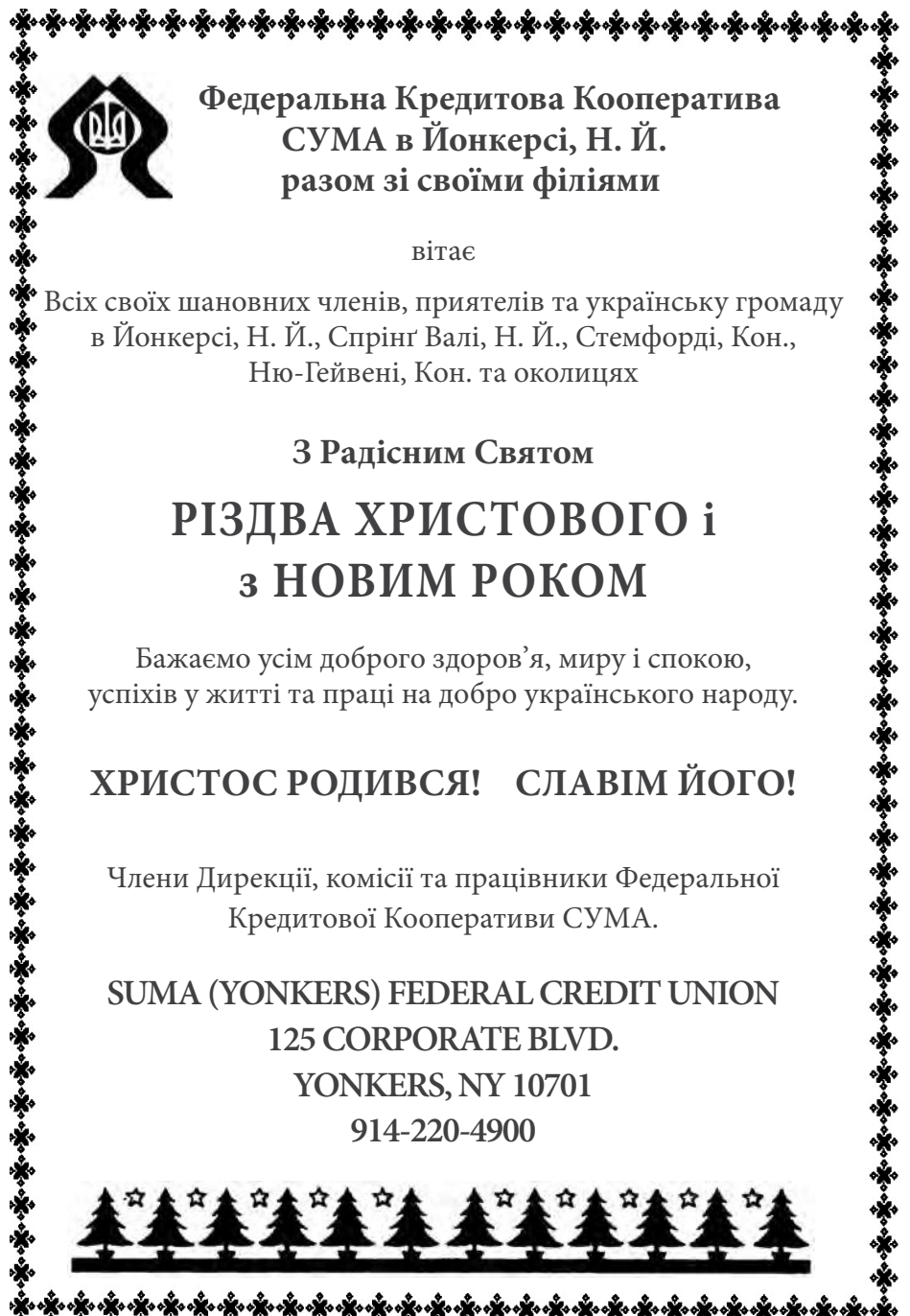

*We with our Clients
and their Families a
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*

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Нью-Гейвені, Кон. та околицях

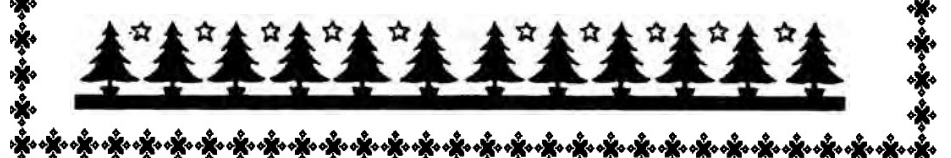
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з НОВИМ РОКОМ**

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New York City experiences "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians"



Ihor Slabicky

The Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia perform "Nova Radist Stala" during "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians" at The Ukrainian Museum in New York City on December 9. From left are: Ostap Kostyuk, Vasyl Tymchuk, Valeriy Zhmud, Mykola Ilyuk, Eva Salina Primack, Ivan Zelenchuk, Julian Kytasty and Mykola Zelenchuk.

by Ihor Slabicky

NEW YORK – On December 8 and 9 the usually staid galleries of The Ukrainian Museum in New York reverberated with the sounds of the trembita. The Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia arrived to present "Koliada and Music from the Carpathians."

The two performances, presented by Virlana Tkacz and the Yara Arts Group, were sold out. Despite additional seats being added at the last minute, a number of persons were turned away at the door.

The koliadnyky featured Ivan Zelenchuk as the "bereza," the lead singer. With him were Mykola Zelenchuk, the best trembita player in his village, master fiddler Mykola Ilyuk and tsymbaly player Vasyl Tymchuk. Rounding out the group was Ostap Kostyuk, playing the duda and various flutes. Joining them were Julian Kytasty on bandura, Valeriy Zhmud on violin and vocalist Eva Salina Primack.

The Koliada that they presented is a winter ritual in the Carpathian Mountains. Although it now is coincident with Christmas, it is much older in origin and symbolism. Koliada is considered to be the most important event of the year, with the belief that spring and the harvest will not come to the village unless the songs are sung in every household, to everything that breathes. These songs are incantations that carry with them the magical power of words in that "what is said, will be so."

With the audience seated in long rows running the length of the second floor gallery of the museum, one had the feeling of sitting at a long table. Projected scenes of snowy villages, provided by Volodymyr Klyuzko and Mikhail Shraga, reinforced this sensation of being at home in the Carpathians, looking out the window at the snowy village.

The room was darkened, and suddenly, one heard the distant sound of the trembita – the koliadnyky were here. Three times the trembita blew, each time closer and louder as the carolers came up the stairs and entered the gallery, outside the "house." Here, they performed "Plies – My Slavni Gazdy," a dance outside the house that announced them. Next, they inquired if the master of the household (hospodar) was in, singing "Tsy Doma, Doma, Pan Hospodar?"

Ostap Kostyuk followed with an instrumental melody on the duda, while the koliadnyky put aside their trembita. Next came

the "Trypotinnia," a lively dance in which they stamp their feet to shake off the snow, while singing that the master of the house will treat them finely and richly. To the master of the house they sang "V Nashoho Pana" in which they sing that God is walking amongst all the riches of the household. They ended this song with a "vinshuvannia" in which the koliadnyky extend wishes to the hospodar for health, wealth, and happiness in the coming year.

After a heartfelt "Thank you" from the hospodar, the koliadnyky walked over the other side of the room while Ostap Kostyuk played a lively Hutsul melody on his floyara. Stopping in front of Maria Shust, they sang "V Nedilu Rano" which praises the lady of the household, comparing her to the rising sun. One of the verses tells of the "gazdynia" carrying the golden keys to the house, making this a fitting song for Ms. Shust, who, as director of the museum, does indeed carry the keys to the museum.

The troista musicians then performed an enticing dance tune on the tylynka, tsymbaly and violin, accompanied by the drum and cymbal. The koliadnyky followed that with the spivanka "Teche Richka," a rhyming song about the fame of the Hutsuls.

With Mr. Kytasty on bandura, Eva Salina Primack sang "Prala Valechka." Ms. Primack took the lead and Mr. Kytasty added wonderfully rich supporting vocals on this koliada from the Sumy region.

The koliadnyky then did "Plies z Dzvinkamy," a dance with hand bells, for Ms. Primack. The song, for the young woman of the house, wished her wealth and a happy marriage.

Mr. Kytasty returned for a beautiful duet with Ms. Primack on "Shchoy u Dvori Sosonka Velyka Rosla," a perky koliada from the Sumy region. Accompanying them were Mr. Zelenchuk on percussion, Mr. Kostyuk on flute, and the ensemble on hand bells.

The ensemble picked up their drymby and sang "A Ya Drymbu Sobi Kuplyu" of a woman who insists on buying a drymba despite the possibility of having to go shoeless.

Mr. Zhmud entered and started into a blistering violin rendition of "Verkhovyno," with Mr. Ilyuk joining in on his violin. The animated Mr. Zhmud physically translated the speed of the song with his body language, while Mr. Ilyuk, standing almost

(Continued on page 26)

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A rising star in musical theater: Nadia Vynnytsky



Nadia Elena Vynnytsky

LITTLE FALLS, N.J. – Performing artist Nadia Elena Vynnytsky's star continues to ascend in the world of musical theater. She is currently performing in the first national Broadway tour of the show "Catch Me if You Can," in which she has a singing, dancing and acting ensemble role, and is an understudy for the lead female role. The show is scheduled for eight performances at The Academy of Music in Philadelphia on January 15-20, 2013.

A talented singer, dancer and actress who showed an early passion for the theater arts, 24-year-old Ms. Vynnytsky graduated in May 2010 from Montclair State University's theater and dance program,

earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with high honors in Music Theater.

She performed each year in the Theater and Dance Department's fall and spring musical theater productions. In her senior year she was chosen for the lead role of Violet Hilton in the department's premiere production of "Sideshow," a role for which she received glowing reviews.

After graduating, she was selected to play the role of Serena in the 2010-2011 Broadway national tour of the critically acclaimed musical "Legally Blonde." After the conclusion of this show, she appeared in the 2011-2012 U.S. Broadway national tour of "Shrek – The Musical," which concluded

with a six-week tour throughout Asia.

Ms. Vynnytsky's other credits include three years of regional summer theater with the Washington Valley Theater in North Conway, N.H., and the Surflight Theater in Long Beach Island, N.J. She has performed in over 15 professional theater productions. She has also appeared as a lead vocalist with the Philadelphia Jazz Orchestra in performances at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in

Washington and at several Philadelphia venues, and was on tour with the orchestra in Italy during the summer of 2010.

Originally from Hamilton Township, N.J., Ms. Vynnytsky attended the Svitlychka Cooperative Nursery School and the Ukrainian Heritage School, and was a member of Plast at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, Pa. She is currently a resident of Jersey City, N.J.

New York City...

(Continued from page 24)

stock still, kept up with him, note for note. The contrast in their playing styles was startling.

With the audience joining in, the ensemble sang "Dobryi Vechir Tobi, Pane Hospodariu, Raduysia!" The koliadnyky then performed "Iz Za Hory," a koliada to the young man of the household, directed, in this case, to Mr. Zhmud. Thanking them, Mr. Zhmud invited the trioist musicians to join him in "Fantazia Terpoliuka," a fiery instrumental featuring the two violinists and Mr. Tymchuk on tsymbaly.

Ms. Primack returned to tenderly sing the soulful "Oy Na Hori Buyniy Viter Viye," which was followed by a lively instrumental featuring the tsymbaly played by Vasyl Tymchuk. "Ishly Molodsti," a koliada to a young man, featured Mr. Kytasty on bandura and vocals, with the ensemble providing the backing vocals and music.

Closing out the festive music was a sprightly "Hutsulka," which allowed the

musicians to show off their instruments: Mr. Kostyuk on the open-ended flute, Mr. Tymchuk on the tsymbaly, Mr. Ilyuk on the violin, Mr. Zelenchuk on the drum and tsymbaly, and Mr. Kytasty on the bandura. Mr. Tymchuk bested them all by turning over his tsymbaly and playing the rhythm on the soundboard.

The koliadnyky completed their koliada with the "Kruhliak," a round dance wishing the bees strong hives. That was followed by the "Plies," a parting song that wishes much goodness to the household. Once "outside" the house, Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia again took up their trembity, thrice blowing them as they descended the stairs, the sound resonating throughout the museum. They returned to a standing ovation, and with the audience joining them, sang the traditional religious carol "Nova Radist Stala."

The Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia will be appearing on December 27-30 in the Yara Arts Group's new theater piece titled "Midwinter Night: A Celebration from the Carpathians" at the La Mama ETC on East Fourth Street in New York City. (For tickets call 212-475-7710 or visit lamama.org.)

Hanne Severinsen...

(Continued from page 3)

signed, but I'm sure that there will be a lot of countries that would not ratify...There could be part of it, for instance, some trade agreement. I'm trying to argue with those I know that we should also show those who are responsible for all this fraud, enrichment and abuse of power; there should be a list of those who are responsible and they should meet some sanctions. That could perhaps be a language that they can understand. I'm afraid that soft power is about to...

Expire?

But I also saw an article where it's stated

now it's time for us to show Ukraine some tough love, and that we really mean it.

Do you agree that the EU leadership is concerned about discouraging Ukraine and allowing it to come under the Eurasian influence?

Absolutely we are scared of that. It would be a big historic mistake. Historic mistake.

With long-term consequences?

Yes. Ukraine is part of Europe. For a Dane like me, the distance is exactly the same from Copenhagen to Paris as Copenhagen to Kyiv. It is Europe, and if we don't take this opportunity to strive to keep Ukraine as they want themselves... They want themselves to be in Europe, and they should also be helped to be in Europe!

Self Reliance...

(Continued from page 1)

Committee intends to continue this important work during 2013 in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor.

The U.S. Holodomor Committee's biggest and most important achievement to date was obtaining federal approval of land allocation in Washington, where a memorial to the victims of the Holodomor will be constructed. The final approval of the design was secured in September 2012.

Michael Sawkiw Jr., chairman of the U.S. Holodomor Committee, commented on the

donation: "Through the generosity of Ukrainian American institutions such as the Selfreliance New York Federal Credit Union, the U.S. Holodomor Committee will be able to continue working and striving towards the final dedication ceremony of the Ukrainian Holodomor Memorial in Washington."

He called upon others to follow suit, noting that fund-raising efforts are ongoing.

For further information about the Holodomor Memorial in Washington and other programs of the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor Genocide Awareness, readers may visit the committee's Facebook page.

Making contact with The Weekly

Readers/writers who send information to The Ukrainian Weekly are kindly asked to include a daytime phone number and a complete mailing address. Please note that a daytime phone number is essential in order for editors to contact correspondents regarding clarifications.



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OUT & ABOUT

December 27-30 New York	Performance, "Midwinter Night: Koliada, Vertep and Malanka," Yara Arts Group, La MaMa Theater, yara.arts.group@gmail.com or 212-475-7710	January 18 Philadelphia	Pub night, Ukrainian American Citizens' Association, 267-736-5336
December 31 Lehigh, PA	Black and White Ball, Ukrainian Homestead, 610-377-0412, 267-259-6780 or ukrainianhomestead@aol.com	January 19 Calgary, AB	Malanka dance, music by Zhyto and The Real Deal, Calgary Petroleum Club, 403-249-3157 or paulm4@telus.net
December 31 Toronto	New Year's Eve Gala, Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation Gallery, 416-766-6802 or kumf@bellnet.ca	January 19 Vegreville, AB	Malanka dance, with music by The Playboys, Vegreville School of Ukrainian Dancing, Vegreville Social Center, 780-603-2774
December 31 Perth Amboy, NJ	New Year's Eve Dance, with music by Anna-Maria Entertainment, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Ukrainian Catholic Church, 732-826-0767 or www.assumptioncatholicchurch.net	January 19 Montreal	Malanka dance, with music by Zapovid, co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Youth Association and Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Ukrainian Youth Home, 514-984-8821 or 514-865-9016
December 31 New York	Black and White Celebration, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660 or mail@ukrainianinstitute.org	January 19 Buffalo, NY	Malanka dance, with music by Burya, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Ukrainian Cultural Center Dnipro, 716-855-2223 or ukenikkie29@gmail.com
January 11 Scranton, PA	Malanka dance, with music by Fata Morgana, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church parish center, 570-489-1256 or ewasko.p@frontier.com	January 19 Kelowna, BC	Malanka celebration, Dolyna Ukrainian Cultural Society, Parkinson Recreation Center, 250-451-9363
January 12 San Francisco	Ukrainian Christmas concert, featuring the Kolyada Vocal Ensemble, International Center of the San Francisco Public Library, Koret Auditorium - San Francisco Main Library, 650-794-1005	January 19 Randolph, MA	Malanka dance, with music by Halychany, The Lantana, 508-245-1890 or BostonMalanka2013@gmail.com
January 12 Mississauga, ON	Malanka dance, with music by Zahrava and Hrim, Mississauga Branch of the Ukrainian Youth Association, Mississauga Convention Center, 416-554-6779 or www.cymmalanka.com	January 19 Carteret, NJ	Malanka dance, with music by Fata Morgana, St. Demetrius Banquet Center, 609-655-4468 or pprociuk@aol.com (advance only)
January 12 Hartford, CT	Malanka dance, with music by Na Zdorovya Band, Ukrainian National Home, 860-296-6955 or Hartford@cym.org	January 19 Warren, MI	Malanka dance, with music by Zahrava, sponsored by the Ukrainian Youth organizations of Metro Detroit - ODUM, Plast, SUM and Chernyk, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 586-558-8508 or facebook.com/DetroitMalanka
January 12 San Francisco	Malanka dance, St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church hall, 415-861-4066 or www.stmichaeluocsf.org		
January 12 Toronto	Malanka dance, with music by Zolota Bulava, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Atlantis Pavilion, 416-769-9998 or 647-505-2585		

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.

Sitch men's soccer...

(Continued from page 18)

"This was a very hard fought game," stated coach Bo Kucyna. "Alex [McDonald] came up with some huge saves for us when we needed him too, and our shooting boots were definitely on tonight as each of our goals were simply unstoppable by any goalie."

On November 13, Sitch defeated Vikings S.C. on a chilly Tuesday evening in Parsippany, N.J., as O'Connell netted two goals to lead Sitch's scoring parade. The other goal scorers for Sitch in this game were Sen, Panas (penalty kick), Salim Koudiri and Didi Loaiza, in a game that was never really in any doubt. Mykola Kucyna and Dan Lewycky picked up assists on two of the team's goals.

"We were in control of this game from

the get-go," stated coach Kucyna. "We had a very strong bench today as well, so we were able to keep constant pressure on their defense and goalie throughout the game." Sitch's defense put in its usual strong game, giving up the only goal with the game already well in hand for the home side.

The quarterfinal match is scheduled to be played on Sitch's home turf (field location to be announced) in April 2013. Readers may contact coach Kucyna at boksoc@optonline.net for more information about future games and/or the team in general.

Sitch men's team roster: Alex McDonald, Andrew Panas, Andrew Kudryk, Andrew Mandzy, Roman Tabachouk, Salim Kouidri, Mykola Kucyna, Marco Hordynsky, Stepan Kolodiy, Anatoliy Sen, Taras O'Connell, Dan Lewycky, Oles Postolan, Steve Arias, George Mikula, Gustavo Lopez, Didi Loaiza and Dimitry Tereschuk; Bo Kucyna - coach, Nick Hordynsky - manager.

Lina Kostenko's...

(Continued from page 14)

her own poems: "Muza," "Use Zminylosia" and "Fanerni Zhuravli." Between recitations of poetry Ihor Khudyk presented quotations from Ms. Kostenko's interviews. His voice came through the speakers as he stayed hidden behind a partition. This artistic device allowed the audience to focus on the spoken word without the distraction of the visual element.

Poetry recitations were accompanied by audio-visual media. The program began with a visual montage of artistic photography representing Ukrainian symbols and colors. At the end, the guests viewed a video clip of the song "Ne Spy Moia Ridna Zemle" performed by the band Mandry. Mykyta

Safronenko, with the help of Vladyslav Marchak, was in charge of arranging the audio-visual materials.

The event was very well organized and drew a large audience. The enthusiastic applause the performers and technical crew, consisting mostly of young men and women, received was well deserved. Refreshments were provided by Branch 101 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America named in honor of Lina Kostenko.

Ms. Bodnaruk expressed her gratitude to members of the UIMA, Ukrainian Language Society, and the branch of UNWLA for their help in organizing this event. A special thank you went to artist Lala Kuchma for creating the visual backdrop, to Luba Markevych for advertising, and to Bohdan Bodnaruk for the printed program.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Thursday-Sunday, December 27-30

NEW YORK: Yara's new theater piece with koliada, vertep and koza by Lemon Bucket Orkestra: "Midwinter Night: A Celebration of Traditional Songs, Music and Rituals from the Carpathians," will be presented Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. The venue: La MaMa Experimental Theater, 66 E. Fourth St. Admission: \$25; \$20 for seniors and students; \$10 for children. Tickets are available by calling 212-475-7710, or online at www.lamama.org.

Saturday, January 19, 2013

CARTERET, N.J.: St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a Malanka which will be held at the St. Demetrius Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave. Carteret, N.J. Entertainment provided by Fata Morgana. Tickets are \$60; the price includes admission, hot dinner buffet, open bar and a midnight champagne toast. The St.

Demetrius Center is located just blocks from Exit 12 of the N.J. Turnpike. There is a Holiday Inn right off the exit. Doors open at 6 p.m.; dinner will be served promptly at 7 p.m. For tickets and table reservations contact Peter Prociuk, 609-655-4468 or pprociuk@aol.com; or Halia Kaskiw, 908-322-6964. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Deadline for purchasing tickets is January 12.

WARREN, Mich.: The Ukrainian Youth Organizations of Metro Detroit - ODUM, Plast, SUM and Chernyk - cordially invite all to a traditional Malanka at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. Cocktails and dinner start at 7 p.m. Dancing starts at 9:30 p.m. featuring Zahrava from Toronto. Open bar and midnight champagne toast are included in the price of admission. Dinner and dance tickets: \$80 per person; dance only: \$45 for persons age 21 and older; \$25 for persons under 21. Tickets for the dance only will be sold at the door. Contact Larysa Hnatiuk, 586-558-8508, for dinner tickets. See www.facebook.com/detroitmalanka for more information.

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and Featuring
The Strauss Symphony of America
Mika Eichenholz, CONDUCTOR
Mónika Fischl, SOPRANO
Michael Heim, TENOR

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT

Strauss Waltzes, Operetta Excerpts, & Polkas



**Monday
Dec. 31 at 6pm**

State TheatreNJ.org

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