Holodomor: 75th anniversary year

Holodomor. During 2008 the word seemed to be everywhere as Ukrainians around the globe marked the solemn 75th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide, 1932-1933, that caused millions to be deliberately killed by the Soviet regime. The true figure of deaths due to the Holodomor will never be known due to the country’s engineered, with great success, by Soviet authorities and their collaborators. However, it has been estimated that at the height of the Famine-Genocide some 25,000 people died each day. It was premeditated murder on the grandest scale directed from Moscow by Joseph Stalin. Indeed, the only term that can properly define what happened on Ukrainian lands in those fateful years is genocide – a word coined only in the late 1940s and a crime codified in the “Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,” adopted by the United Nations in 1948. What the Ukrainians tried to do as part of its commemorations of the Holodomor anniversary was tell the story of the Famine, the Holodomor, for far too long remained ignorant or has been deceived about the facts.

The major events marking the Holodomor took place in November. On November 22, the Ukrainian delegation with President Viktor Yushchenko and First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko laying flowers at the Famine monument erected in 1993 on St. Peter’s Square and a memorial service consisted of the hierarchies of all of Ukraine’s major Christian denominations at the historic St. Sophia Cathedral. Other heads of state who spoke at the ceremonial gathering were Presidents Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia, Vojislav Kostunica of Serbia, Gudni Johannesson of Iceland, and Lech Kaczynski of Poland. Canada’s top representative at the Kyiv commemorations was Mr. Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney. In addition to the letter writers from around the world, readers were read at forum, among them messages from President George W. Bush and President-elect Barack Obama.

The day’s events concluded with the dedication of Kyiv’s new memorial to the Holodomor, called the “Candle of Memory.” Braving sub-freezing temperatures, snow, sleet and rain, hundreds of onlookers gathered at the future site of the National Holodomor Memorial Historical Complex for the monument’s unveiling. Once the new memorial was blessed, Ukraine’s leaders and citizens representing every region of Ukraine placed lit candles in memory of the Holodomor’s victims.

Commenting on the dedication ceremony, Ulana Mazurkivich of Philadelphia, a member of the International Holodomor Commemorative Coordinating Committee, said: “As snowflakes and then drops of sleet were coming down, it seemed as if the sky had opened up that day and began shedding tears – as if heaven was crying for its millions of victims.”

Also in late November, to coincide with the major commemorations in Kyiv, Ukraine’s diplomatic representatives, including the United States ambassador to Uzbekistan, held “Light a Candle” memorial ceremonies.

In London on November 22 the Ukrainian community of Great Britain marked the Holodomor anniversary with services at Westminster Central Hall and Westminster Abbey. In Canada, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the President of Freedom was presented posthumously to journalists Gareth Jones, a Welshman, and Malcolm Muggeridge, an Englishman, for their courageous reporting of the Famine of 1932-1933. The ceremonies were organized by the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain and the Embassy of Ukraine. Meanwhile, in Rome on November 23, Pope Benedict XVI prayed for the victims of the Holodomor during a noontime blessing and addressed the throng gathered on St. Peter’s Square in Ukraine. “I express the strong hope that no longer will any political order, in the name of an ideology, deny the rights of the human person and his freedom and dignity, and I assure my prayers for all the innocent victims of this tremendous tragedy,” the pontiff said.

From Constantinople came Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I’s November message on the Holodomor. “…there was no tragedy in human history when more representatives of a single nation were destroyed in one peaceful year than during the several years of war. And no matter what anyone says or if they try to belittle the evil, this is the clear sign of genocide.”

Speaking in Kyiv on November 18 at a press briefing held just a few days before the major commemorations, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Yuriy Kostenko reported that the parliaments of 14 counties had recognized the Holodomor as genocide. He listed Australia, Georgia, Estonia, Ecuador, Canada, Columbia, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, the United States and Hungary, as well as the Vatican.

It is a matter of some controversy, however, whether the United States has recognized the Famine as genocide. Although there are references to the Famine as genocide in several congressional resolutions, in fact there has not been any legislation which specifically stated that the United States recognizes the Holodomor as genocide. (On June 26, for example, Rep. Sandor Levin introduced a resolution “...remembering the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 and extending the deepest sympathies of the House of Representatives to the victims, survivors and families of this tragedy.” The resolution was passed on September 23.) Moreover, U.S. administrations continue to avoid the term “genocide.” In his November 13 message on the occasion of the Famine’s 75th anniversary President George W. Bush did, however, refer to it as “a crime against humanity.”

Mr. Kostenko also noted that many international organizations recognize the Holodomor as genocide of the Ukrainian people. Resolutions were passed by UNESCO and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In addition, he said the Holodomor “has been qualified as a crime against humanity in a very important document adopted in October of this year by the European Parliament.” Mr. Kostenko also underscored that “Canada established a certain precedent – it became the first country in the world to adopt a law establishing a Day of Memory of the Holodomor Victims in Ukraine.”

Significantly, Canada officially recognized the Holodomor in Ukraine as an act of genocide via a bill passed by the House of Commons on May 27 and by the Senate the next day. The bill received royal assent on May 29, thus making it law. The legislation, Private Member’s Bill C-459, was the initiative of Member of Parliament James Bezan (Selkirk-Interlake, Manitoba). It also established a “Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day” that is to be marked annually on the fourth Saturday in November, coinciding with the National Day of Remembrance observed in Ukraine in accordance with a presidential decree issued in 1998. The bill noted that “the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide of 1932-1933 known as the Holodomor was deliberately planned and executed by the Soviet regime under Joseph Stalin to systematically destroy the very existence of Ukraine as a viable independent nation. Ukraine, and subsequently caused the death of millions of Ukrainians in 1932 and 1933,” and points out that “information about the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide of 1932-1933 was suppressed, distorted or destroyed by Soviet authorities.”

Russia, meanwhile, continued to reject the historical truth about the Holodomor. In March, the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry condemned a statement by Russian envoy to the United Nations Valery Loshchinin in which he referred to it as a “crime against humanity.”

Ukraine has prevailed. Truth has overcome, and historical justice has prevailed. My people live. My people will live forever.”
2008: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Kyiv’s new memorial to the Holodomor, called the “Candle of Memory,” which was unveiled on November 22.

Ukraine (technically, Ukrainian territory), and of necessity were scaled down in scope. Although November was the month of the major Holodomor memorial events in Ukraine and elsewhere, the 75th anniversary commemorations actually began early in the year.

Some events — including the dedication of the site for the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide Memorial to be erected in Washington with funding by the Ukrainian government (December 2), and the presentation in Ukraine of the landmark report of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine (August 20 and November 28) — were the result of cooperation between the United States and Ukraine.

The National Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933 on October 6 announced that a site for the U.S. national memorial to the 10 million victims of the 1932-1933 Ukrainian Famine-Genocide had been approved. The memorial will be located in Washington at the intersection of North Capitol Street, Massachusetts Avenue and F Street, in the northwest quadrant of the District of Columbia, five blocks north of the U.S. Capitol. On October 13, 2006, President George W. Bush had signed into law the authorization for a Holodomor memorial in Washington. Over the next two years the national committee and the Embassy of Ukraine negotiated with the U.S. National Park Service and numerous other federal and local agencies to select a prominent site on public land on which to memorialize the Holodomor. Several public hearings before the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission examined the suitability of 24 potential sites throughout the city before the final site was approved.

The future site of the Ukrainian Genocide Memorial was dedicated on December 2 with First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko of Ukraine as the featured speaker. The blessing of the site was conducted by Metropolitan Constantine of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Archbishop Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, assisted by clergy. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor David Kramer noted in his remarks that the Famine was “the consequence of cruel calculation, the deliberate use of food as a tool of totalitarian oppression,” and stressed that this memorial should be used as symbol that this will never be allowed to happen again and that Ukraine can honor the victims’ memory by strengthening its democracy.

The Ukrainian translation of the four-volume report of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine was presented in Kyiv on August 20 and November 28. At the August event, the three-volume oral history project initiated by the Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey and then taken up by the Famine Commission was presented. In November the fourth volume of the commission’s report was presented at the U.S. ambassador’s residence.

The Ukrainian version of the four volumes was published by the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and printed by the Kyiv Mohyla Academy publishing house with funding from both the Ukrainian and American governments.

A companion booklet to the four volumes noted the key roles played by Ukrainian American community organizations and institutions, such as Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine and The Ukrainian Weekly, and individuals, including Ihor Olshanitsky and Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.), in securing the establishment of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine. The booklet republished Bohuha Olshanitsky’s article about the history of the commission, “The Ukraine Famine Commission: the commission that almost wasn’t,” which was originally published in The Weekly in 1993. Mr. Bradley was present at the November presentation of the report in Kyiv. He addressed the gathering, stating: “I have always believed that freedom is never again used as a weapon.” The conference coordinator was Dr. Ruth P. Griffith, who teaches a graduate course titled “Ukrainian Famine-Genocide” and is the granddaughter of a Holodomor victim and the daughter of a survivor, Mary Horbatiuk-Demsyn Piatnochka. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Taras Hunczak, Dr. Ella Libanova of the Institute for Demography and Social Studies at NASU; Prof. Stephen Mykhailo Serbyn, professor emeritus of the University of Quebec at Montreal; and Judge Bohdan Futey of the U.S. Federal Court of Claims.

Back in the United States, Kean University in Union, N.J., hosted an educational conference on the “Ukraine Famine-Genocide.” The conference was sponsored by the Kean University’s Institute National of Memory of the National Book of Memory of Victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933, organized into oblast volumes.

The conference attracted a standing-room-only audience of students, faculty and researchers. Titled “The Ukrainian Famine-Genocide: Consequences 1933 to the Present” was the title of the international conference held at Harvard University on November 17-18. The goal of the conference, according to its organizer, the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard, was to investigate the impact of the Holodomor in a framework examining its short-, mid- and long-term consequences, which continue to affect society and policies even today. Conference sessions also took a look at the dynamics of the Holodomor and its demographic impact. Speakers included scholars from Ukraine, Italy, the United States, Canada, France, Poland, the Netherlands, Austria and Russia, and the keynote address was delivered by Nicholas Werth, research director of the National Center for Scientific Research in Paris. Opening and concluding remarks were given by Andrea Graziosi, professor of history at the University of Naples “Federico II,” and Harvard’s Michael S. Flier, Oleksandr Potebny

“Nobody Wanted to Die, 1932-1933” by Mykola Chervotkin (1989) was among the works on display on October 24-26 at the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago.

Professor of Ukrainian Philology and director of HURI.

In conjunction with the conference, HURI hosted a premiere performance of selections from “Red Earth (Hungry);” a new opera by Ukrainian American composer Virko Balev, with a libretto by Ukrainian American writer Bohdan Boychuk. Balev held an “opera at the camp” on Swedenborg Chapel. The full opera is slated to premiere in Boston in the spring of 2010.

Also at Harvard, the film “The Living” (Zhyvi) by Serhiy Bukovsky had its New England premiere on December 3 at an evening co-sponsored by HURI and the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University. The screening was followed the next day by a public discussion of the film, its making and its reception by critics and the media in Kyiv.

Columbia University on December 2 was the venue for an international conference titled “Visualizing the Holodomor: The Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 on Film” that was organized by the university’s Ukrainian Studies Program. The program included the North American premiere of “The Living,” and brought together speakers who focused on film and filmmaking as a means of understanding the Holodomor and its consequences. Speakers included filmmaker Serhiy Bukovsky, film expert Dr. Yuri Shervuch, historian Dr. Roman Serbyn, Dr. Cripin Brooks, curator of the Visual History Archive at the Shosh Foundation Institute, as well as film student/filmmaker Natasha Mikhalky.


To mark the solemn anniversary the Shevchenko Society also made available to all researchers, historians and students its archive – “Collectivization Documents: Kamianskyi Region, Kryvychanskyi Region, Solomianskyi Region, Vasylivskyi Region of the Dnipropetrovsk District, 1928-1935 (Artificial Famine Documents).” This body of material was also placed on the society’s website, www.shevchenko.org.

Among other films in the news was “Holodomor: Ukraine’s Genocide of 1932-1933,” a feature-length documentary being produced by Bobby Leigh and Marta Tonkiw. Excerpts of the work in progress were shown at a number of community events as fund-raising for the venture continued. Mr. Leigh, a rock music producer, traveled to Ukraine in the spring to shoot the documentary and interview survivors in the Kyiv, Mykolayiv and Kharkiv oblasts. It had been hoped that the film would be ready to premiere in Ukraine; the movie’s website indicates that a 2009 release is now planned.

During 2008 our Ukrainian community reached out to the broader public more than ever and enjoyed some measure of success in disseminating the truth about the Holodomor. Community events commemorating the Holodomor were held, it seemed, in every Ukrainian community. Among the ones covered in stories published in The Ukrainian Weekly – events ranging from memorial services to commemorative concerts, exhibits and dramatic presentations – were those in: Chicago (September 12-13, November 15), Denver (October 10-12), Philadelphia (October 26), Whippany, N.J. (November 7-9), Detroit (September 9), Yonkers, N.Y. (November 9), Boston (November 15), New York (November 15), Winnipeg (November 16-22), Rochester, N.Y. (November 23), Houston (November 16), Clifton-Passaic, N.J. (December 7) and North Port, Fla.
Holodomor: Through the Eyes of Ukrainian Artists.

The exhibition of U.S. businessman Morgan Williams’ collection of 24 works was hosted at the Ukrainian National Museum on October 4-5, during the Remembrance Torch’s last stop in the United States.

Ukraine in 1932-1933. These represented the horrific real-world images of progress, prosperity and contentment.

Holodomor survivor. Called “As We Slept,” the exhibit was hosted a Holodomor exhibit on October 4-5, during the Remembrance Torch’s last stop in the U.S.

International politics

For the first weeks of Ms. Tymoshenko’s second term as prime minister, which began officially on December 18, 2007, it already became apparent that the Presidential Secretariat and the Cabinet of Ministers were bracing themselves for potential conflict, as reflecting in their personnel selections.

The Presidential Secretariat used the National Security and Defense Council as its counterweight to the Cabinet, appointing Party of Regions of Ukraine member Raisa Bohatyrtseva on December 24, 2007, as the council’s secretary. Ms. Bohatyrtseva’s appointment was intended to allow the Donetsk business clan, led by industrial king Rinat Akhmetov, to act as a formidable counterbalance to Ms. Tymoshenko’s influence, experts said. (The Party of Regions expelled Ms. Bohatyrtseva later in the year after she said on August 29 in Washington that party leader Viktor Yanukovych’s position on South Ossetia and Abkhazia is that of one individual and not the party view.)

Meanwhile as her counterpart to Foreign Affair Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko, Ms. Tymoshenko tapped Hryhori Nemtzyva as vice prime minister for Euro-integration. She simultaneously proposed replacing State Property Fund Chair Valentyna Senemadidlovna with her own ally, Andrii Portnov, who served as a lawyer for Ukrainian oligarch Viktor Medvedchuk. Indeed, Ms. Tymoshenko had already been establishing relations with Mr. Medvedchuk. As the president and prime minister prepared to compete with each other, it only remained to be seen who would strike the first blow.

As her first policy decisions, Ms. Tymoshenko wasted no time in extending her pursuit of what her critics allege is a populist agenda, controversially broadening the state deficit, initiating initiatives, mostly social payments, in order to secure the loyalty of voters. The day after Parliament elected her prime minister, which began officially on December 18, Ms. Tymoshenko announced an extraordinary dissolution of Parliament, which she described as a “national blow.”

Indeed, the program was immensely popular, particularly among elderly citizens desperate for any additional money, would trigger inflation, other economist insisted.

The presidential palace announced that not only the payments were unconstitutional but also that any cash distributions to Ukrainians for the millions in savings they lost during the Soviet Union’s collapse in 1991 and the subsequent hyperinflation. A January 9 Cabinet resolution ordered 6 billion hryvnia, or $1.2 billion (U.S.), to be distributed by Oshchakubank – the first tranche of $4 billion that was earmarked.

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the payments wouldn't significantly affect inflation.

To finance the compensation of lost bank deposits, Ms. Tymoshenko hoped to aggressively privatize many of Ukraine's largest state-owned assets, which were undervalued and lacked competitiveness. Among such assets were Ukrtelekom, the state telephone monopoly, and the Odessa Portside Plant, Ukraine's second-largest nitrogen fertilizer factory. She also proposed privatizing six "oblenergos," or regional energy distribution companies. Getting Mr. Portnov to assume the State Property Fund chairmanship would have furthered such a privatization drive, but throughout the year the Presidential Secretariat stood in obstruction, which critics alleged was to prevent financing of the prime minister's initiative. The Presidential Secretariat also attempted to replace the Oshchadbank chair with its own ally. Soon enough, the battle for Oshchadbank snowballed into the battle for the Ukrainian presidency.

Tensions between Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko were growing by the end of January when Dr. Taras Kuzio penned a column criticizing the Presidential Secretariat for obstructing Ms. Tymoshenko, particularly a planned visit to Moscow and her attempts to eliminate the RosUkrEnergo natural gas intermediary, widely suspected of massive corruption in the gas trade. On January 29 in Brussels, Ms. Tymoshenko presented her vice prime minister, Mr. Nemtzyia, before European Commission leaders, informing them that he was in charge of Ukraine's "consolidated work" on European integration. Her announcement, in which she essentially announced that she was taking a significant piece of foreign policy away from the president and the Foreign Affairs Ministry, became widely viewed as the re-ignition of conflict between the two Orange leaders.

The "cold war" became official on February 6, when Ms. Tymoshenko announced that the Cabinet decided to relieve Ms. Semeniuk-Samsonenko of her post as chair of the State Property Fund while a special group performed an official investigation to determine whether she had violated laws or the Constitution or had engaged in corruption. Within hours, Presidential Secretariat Chair Baloha said the Cabinet's decision was unconstitutional and geared toward financing the bank deposit compensation campaign, while Ms. Semeniuk-Samsonenko insisted she would remain in her job, labeling the attempt to dismiss her as a raid attack on the state organ. The next day, the president halted the Cabinet resolution with his own decree.

By mid-February the Presidential Secretariat was criticizing Ms. Tymoshenko's attempts to suppress the possible inflation caused by her compensation program, particularly restricting producers from increasing prices by more than 1 percent and proposing a stricter monetary policy to the National Bank of Ukraine.

Among the biggest battles between the Presidential Secretariat and the Cabinet was the over the government's contract with the oil and natural gas exploration firm Vanco Energy Co. to drill in the Black Sea shelf. The Cabinet of Ministers passed a resolution on May 21 rescinding the government's agreement with Vanco to drill in the shelf. Ms. Tymoshenko alleged that her predecessors in the Yanukovych government had surrendered too much in oil and gas rights to the drillers, also alleging the business venture was set up in an opaque, corrupt manner. Vanco Chief Executive Officer Gene Van Dyke expressed Ms. Tymoshenko's action against Vanco, including the Presidential Secretariat for blocking the President's decision, filing a lawsuit with the international arbitration courts in Stockholm.

The international community was surprised by Ms. Tymoshenko's action against Vanco, expecting the prime minister to fulfill promises of establishing stable and friendly business conditions. However, the prime minister insisted she was acting in Ukraine's best interests because the Vanco deal was corrupt, as the company later revealed that its partner in the joint venture was Dohob Fuel and Energy Co., owned by business kingpin Mr. Akinmetov, a close associate of former Prime Minister Yanukovych, whose government approved the deal. Along with the Presidential Secretariat, most international investors rallied to the defense of Vanco, including the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council led by American businessman Morgan Williams, voicing their concern about once again inhospitable investment and business conditions in Ukraine.

For the first time in her political career, Ms. Tymoshenko suffered some significant embarrassments in 2008. Most notably, she forced a mayoral election in Kyiv with its own ally. Soon enough, the battle for Oshchadbank snowballed into the battle for the Ukrainian presidency.

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Dobkin, who was suspecting of drug dealing among other criminal offenses, were suddenly纳什ed after Mr. Chernovetskyi’s handy victory. The domestic scandal of the summer didn’t involve Ms. Tymoshenko, but President Yushchenko’s conflict with David Zhvania, a Georgian immigrant to Ukraine who made his millions in dealing nuclear fuel rods, among other things, as part of his business enterprise, Brinkford, with Mykola Martynenko. Mr. Zhvania was among the top financiers of Mr. Yushchenko’s presidential campaign in 2004, and he earned enough of the future president’s trust to become selected as godfather to the president’s youngest son, Taras. Yet, Mr. Zhvania fell out of the president’s favor after he dismissed the entire government in 2005, in which Mr. Zhvania had served as emergency situations minister. Eventually, Mr. Zhvania, with Yurii Lutsenko, formed the People’s Self-Defense, which began to favor Ms. Tymoshenko’s policies in 2008 after getting into Parliament by merging with the pro-presidential Our Ukraine in the September 2007 election. In May the Procurator General began investigating how Mr. Zhvania had gained his Ukrainian citizenship in the 1990s, and began an effort to strip him of his citizenship and deport him. During this time, Mr. Zhvania went public to accuse President Yushchenko of persecuting him in a vengeance campaign. He also stormed the world in a sensational June 3 interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC), claiming the president wasn’t poisoned by Russian agents, but merely suffered food poisoning at that fateful dinner that resulted in an inflammation of the pancreas. His facial disfigurement, he alleged, only happened after President Yushchenko was receiving treatment at an Austrian hospital, where the pancreatic effects were removed. However, medications administered at the Austrian hospital lowered the president’s immunity, resulting in shingles and the inflammation of the trigeminal nerve, “from which the facial asymmetry emerged,” Mr. Zhvania said in an interview with the Russian-language tabloid newspaper, Kommomolskaya Pravda.

Whether or not Mr. Zhvania was lying, his claims drew a livid response from President Yushchenko, who in turn accused him of conspiring in the plot to poison him. The president specifically noted that it was Mr. Zhvania who organized the September 5 meeting at the home of Security Service of Ukraine Vice-Chair Volodymyr Satsiuk.

During the NATO-Ukraine Commission meeting on April 4, President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine listens as NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer speaks.

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko led her parliamentary faction in teaming up on September 2 with the Party of Regions of Ukraine led by Viktor Yanukovych (right) in passing legislation that observers said would reduce the Ukrainian presidency to a figurehead post.

Not only was the parliamentary coalition inactive, but the Tymoshenko Blok cast a historic vote with the Party of Regions and Communists on September 2 to strip the Ukrainian presidency of all its remaining authority over the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Defense Ministry and the Security Service of Ukraine. The possibility emerged that the Tymoshenko Blok would try to form a coalition government with the Party of Regions in the interest of national stability, and indeed negotiations occurred. But less than a month later, after failed negotiations with the Party of Regions, the Tymoshenko Blok re-united with the Our Ukraine faction to entirely rescind the legislation that decimated the president’s authority. But the damage was done, and President Yushchenko used it as a pretext to dissolve the government a month later.

If President Yushchenko had his way, 2008 would have featured the third parliamentary election in three years. But Ms. Tymoshenko often manages to get things her way,
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which was the case in her desperate and rambunctious campa-
ign to delay any parliamentary election past the New
Year, and prevent it from taking place at all. Tymoshenko
Bloc deputies stormed the Kyiv courts, wherever they
were hearing their appeals, and barged into the offices of judges,
threatening and bullying them. When judges ruled in their
favor to block the election, President Yushchenko respond-
ed by liquidating a court, dismissing its judges, and estab-
lishing new courts, which made rulings that favored the
Presidential Secretariat’s position.

In May, President Viktor Yushchenko block succe-
sed in creating enough chaos in the courts and
confusion in the media and among government officials
that the Constitutional Court would not be able to
organize the parliamentary election before the holiday sea-
son. Despite repeated claims that the election would indeed
occur, President Yushchenko eventually gave up after
repeated statements from CEC official Andrii Mahera that
the election couldn’t be organized in time.

On December 9, Volodymyr Lytvyn of the eponymous
Regions Bloc deputies stormed the Kyiv courts, whichever court
was opened exactly a week later. Ukraine was to have signed an
Association Agreement with the EU on February 15, 2009, referred to as a “Roadmap,” that foresees the
competition for cooperation in trade, development, of
alternative sources of energy, humanitarian aid, improved
weap-
onalization, aviation, nuclear energy and the implementa-
tion of joint high-tech programs.

In addition to his meetings with President Yushchenko,
Mr. Bush met one-on-one with Prime Minister Tymoshenko
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Russian-Ukrainian relations in 2008 consisted of much of the same — threats of cuts in natural gas supplies, threats
to end diplomatic relations, and the NATO Membership Action Plan, threats to keep the Black Sea Fleet
stationed in Crimea beyond 2017, criticism of the Ukrainian recognition of the Moldovan recognition of the
secession of Transnistria, and a lack of progress in border delineation along the Kerch Strait and Azov Sea.

The American delegation also included Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and White House National Security
Bolten, U.S. National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley,
Deputy White House Chief of Staff Joe Hagin, Assistant
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Ukraine and the U.S. signed a bilateral action plan for 2008-2009, referred to as a “Roadmap,” that foresees the
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use, aviation, nuclear energy and the implementa-
tion of joint high-tech programs.

In addition to his meetings with President Yushchenko,
Mr. Bush met one-on-one with Prime Minister Tymoshenko
in what was an unscheduled meeting. While Mr. Bush met with
Mr. Yanukovych, leader of the opposition, Secretary
Rice met with Ms. Tymoshenko.

Yushchenko said.

Russian-Ukrainian relations in 2008 consisted of much of the same — threats of cuts in natural gas supplies, threats
to end diplomatic relations, and the NATO Membership Action Plan, threats to keep the Black Sea Fleet
stationed in Crimea beyond 2017, criticism of the Ukrainian recognition of the Moldovan recognition of the
secession of Transnistria, and a lack of progress in border delineation along the Kerch Strait and Azov Sea.

The American delegation also included Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and White House National Security
Bolten, U.S. National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley,
Deputy White House Chief of Staff Joe Hagin, Assistant
Secretary of the Treasury, James Reid, and Assistant
Secretary of Commerce Raul F. Yanes. During the visit,
Ukraine and the U.S. signed a bilateral action plan for 2008-2009, referred to as a “Roadmap,” that foresees the
cooperation in trade, development, of alternative
sources of energy, humanitarian aid, improved
weapon
use, aviation, nuclear energy and the implementa-
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choices of the Ukrainian people. We offer this support bilaterally, following the highly successful visit by your president to London, and his agreement with our prime minister to deepen the wide-ranging partnership between the U.K. and Ukraine, from energy to Euro-2012. An important part of the joint statement by the president and the prime minister was agreement that together we would remember the Holodomor. I am glad that today I will have had the chance to pay my respects to the millions who died in this appalling man-made tragedy. Mr. Miliband also stated that Ukraine clearly "a European country"—should be accepted into the European Union once it fulfills the criteria for membership. As regards Ukraine’s membership in NATO, he said, “At Bucharest NATO said it would welcome you—if you want it. Now we should use the NATO-Ukraine Commission to chart the route to a choice about membership.”

The U.S. vice-president also arrived in Kyiv in the aftermath of the Russian-Georgian war as part of a four-nation tour that included Azerbaijan, Georgia and Italy. He met with both President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko on September 5, and stated publicly: “Ukraine’s support for Georgia, and especially your [President Yushchenko’s] dramatic visit to Tbilisi in the crisis’ first days, showed a courageous example for others,” adding that “The free world must follow this example decisively and patiently. Russia’s actions cast doubt on its dependability as an international partner not only for Georgia, but the whole region.” Mr. Cheney re-affirmed the U.S. government’s support for Ukraine’s Euro-Atlantic integration efforts, and stressed the importance of maintaining political stability in Ukraine. “The partners agreed in Bucharest that Ukraine will be a NATO member, and that statement remains valid today,” he said.

Other prominent visitors to Kyiv included the board of directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which held its 17th Annual Meeting and Business Forum in the Ukrainian capital on May 18-19, and a delegation of representatives of NATO member-states led by Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, who were in town on June 16-17 to assess the progress made by Ukraine since NATO’s April summit in Bucharest. The secretary general stated that he would do everything possible to enable Ukraine to receive a NATO Membership Action Plan in December and he vowed that Russia would not influence the decision. He told an Austrian newspaper that cooperation between Ukraine’s president and prime minister would play a decisive role in NATO’s decision in December.

Economic crisis

Ukraine’s economic woes, in the view of President Yushchenko, began immediately after the New Year through Ms. Tymoshenko’s program to return $4 billion in bank deposits lost during the Soviet collapse and subsequent hyperinflation. After repeated warnings about how the increased money supply would accelerate inflation, President Yushchenko declared on February 7 that prices rose 2.9 percent in January, or an annual inflation rate of 19.4 percent, noting “the situation, in my view, is very serious.” He blamed Ms. Tymoshenko’s compensation program, as well as rising energy prices, to which he said the Tymoshenko government offered no solution despite his requests for proposals.

By the end of the first quarter, it was clear the government was in no way going to succeed in meeting its inflation projection of about 10 percent for the year. Inflation became the biggest economic problem confronting Ukraine with, largely due to external forces, such as rising global commodity prices. Nonetheless, President Yushchenko was insisting at the end of July that it was Ms. Tymoshenko’s economic mismanagement and populist programs, not so much global tendencies, that were causing the accelerating inflation.

In the fall, with the global financial crisis hitting Ukraine hard, warning leaders each proposed their own anti-crisis measures and Ukrainian lawmakers attempted to pass legislation to deal with the economic implosion. On November 5 the IMF approved a $16.4 billion loan to the Ukrainian government—it’s biggest ever credit—to stabilize Ukraine’s shaken financial system and restore public confidence in the country’s banks. The first tranche of the loan was released when the Verkhovna Rada finally approved anti-crisis legislation that was signed by President Yushchenko on November 3.
2008: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The year 2008 was marked by a series of events that had a significant impact on Ukraine and the world. Among the most notable was the Holodomor commemoration, marking the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. In this context, there were two successful projects involving U.S.-Ukraine cooperation during 2008.

One was the publication of the Ukrainian translation of the multi-volume Oral History Project of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, established in the mid-1980s by the U.S. Congress. The other was the successful completion of the process of getting U.S. authorization for the construction of a monument commemorating the Holodomor and getting an appropriate site for it in the nation’s capital.

In 1986, the U.S. Congress appropriated $100,000 for the creation of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine. Its purpose was to conduct a study of the 1932-1933 Great Famine in Ukraine in order to expand the world’s knowledge of the famine and to provide the American public with a better understanding of the Soviet system by revealing the details of the Famine in Ukraine in order to expand the world’s knowledge of the famine and to provide the American public with a better understanding of the Soviet system by revealing the details of the Famine in Ukraine. The resolution was introduced at the end of January by Sens. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), among the co-sponsors of the resolution were the future Democratic president and vice-president of the United States, Sens. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and Joseph Biden (D-Del.), as well as their defeated Republican presidential rival, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and one of his leading backers, Joseph I. Lieberman (I-Conn.). A similar resolution, sponsored by Rep. Robert Wexler (D-Fla.), was passed by the House of Representatives on April 1.

It should also be noted that the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) held a hearing on NATO enlargement on March 4. The three speakers all supported a Membership Action Plan for Ukraine, albeit in varying degrees, with former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer emerging as the strongest proponent.

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The U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC), an association devoted to enhancing trade and investment relations between the two countries, reached its goal of having 100 member-companies and institutions by the end of 2008 when it accepted into its membership the world's leading developer and producer of computer operating systems and programs – the Microsoft Corp.

That announcement was made by USUBC President and CEO Morgan Williams during the organization’s annual meeting on December 17 at Washington’s Metropolitans Club. Founded in 1995, the USUBC is the largest Ukraine related business trade association outside of Ukraine. Its membership roll includes such leading companies as Boeing, Coca-Cola, General Dynamics, Halliburton, Kraft Foods, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Pratt & Whitney-Paton, Proctor and Gamble and 3M, as well as many smaller less-recognizable companies and such non-commercial institutions as the Kennan Institute, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and the Ukrainian-American Bar Association. It has also served as a forum for discussing pressing issues on the U.S.-Ukrainian bilateral agenda, as well as a host for visiting dignitaries from Ukraine, among them President Yushchenko and other key members of the Ukrainian government, such as Vice President Hryhorii Nemyria, who addressed an overflow crowd of USUBC members and guests on January 31.

Ukraine’s highest awards

Two prominent Americans received Ukraine’s highest awards for their significant contributions to strengthening and developing Ukraine-U.S. relations: Zhigirrez Brzinski, national security advisor to former President Jimmy Carter, and Steven Pifer, former ambassador to Ukraine. The awards were presented by Ambassador Shamsur during a special ceremony at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington November 8.

Brzinski, as a member and advisor of board of directors of the Center for Strategic and International Studies and co-chairman of the U.S.-European Union policy group on Ukrainian affairs, was awarded the Order of Yaroslav Mudryi, third degree.

Ambassador Pifer, now the chairman of the working group on political and economic reforms of the U.S.-EU joint committee on Ukrainian affairs, was presented the Order of Merit, second degree.

VOA broadcasts cut

One effective avenue of U.S.-Ukraine communication, albeit unidirectional, came to an end at exactly 30 minutes before 2008 gave way to 2009. It was 11:30 p.m. on New Year’s Eve in Kyiv and 4:30 in the afternoon in Washington at the Voice of America’s Studio 3 when Anya Dydyl-Petenko, the anchor of the VOAs’ Ukrainian evening news radio program, bid her listeners “Goodnight,” and Ihor Hulywuy, the producer, cued the studio engineer to clip her broadcast.

It was for the last time. There was no “Good evening” heard on VOA’s radio airwaves in Ukraine on January 1. The Voice of America ceased its three daily Ukrainian radio broadcasts, a move that represented a com- munication with Ukraine that began in 1949, Ukrainian tele- vision broadcasts to Ukraine, which joined the radio broad- casts in the Voice repertoire in 1993, will continue. VOA officials said, as will its reporting on the VOA Internet web- site (http://www.voanews.com/ukrainian/).

Canada’s Ukrainians in the headlines

It’s taken 20 years, but in 2008 the government of Canada finally settled the matter of redress for Canada’s national internment operation of 1914-1920. The issue seemed to have been resolved on November 25, 2005 when the Act to acknowledge that persons of Ukrainian origin were interned in Canada during World War I and to provide for recognition of internment and redress received royal assent. Although an agreement in principle providing for the funding of various educational and commemorative projects was signed between the Ukrainian community and the Liberal government, no resti- tution payments were made before the Liberal government fell.

On May 9, 2008, the problem of government redress for the internment was finally resolved. Jason Kenney, secretary of state for multiculturalism and Canadian identity, announced that the Canadian government will provide $10 million to the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko to establish an endowment fund to support initiatives related to World War I internment operations. The fund will be available to Ukrainian and other East European ethnic communities to undertake meaningful commemorative and educational activities.

The funding is being provided under the Community Historical Recognition Program, first announced by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in June 2006. The document establishing the endowment was signed by Dr. Lubomyr Laciuk (Ukrainian Canadian Cultural Federation), Andrew Hladyshevsyky (Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko) and Paul Grod (Ukrainian Canadian Congress).

The Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) continued its project to mark all internment sites across Canada. The last memorial was unveiled October 25 at the site of the Sault Ste. Marie Museum, a location in Ontario where individuals were processed before being sent to internment camps. The plaque is inscribed in English, French and Ukrainian.

Canada-Ukraine relations

Canada-Ukraine relations during the year developed on both official government levels and between the Ukrainian Canadian community and Ukraine. On January 5, the newly elected Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) President Paul Grod met with Arseniy Yatsenyuk, leader of Ukraine’s opposition and former prime minister for urging other leaders to support Ukraine’s bid for NATO. Ukraine’s bid for the NATO Alliance has moved forward steadily. Ukraine’s Prime Minister Yulia Timoshenko has prevailed in a three-day meeting in Bucharest with NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer to join the Alliance on June 29, 2008.

The UCC, under its new leadership, continued its work with the Canadian government to establish closer relations with Ukraine. The UCC has consistently presented its position to the government of Canada that bringing Ukraine into NATO would accelerate the country’s pace of democratic reform and economic development, while strengthening geopoliti- cal stability in the region. Member of Parliament Jay Smith, who chairs the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group, expressed similar praise for the prime minister’s sup- port of Ukraine.

The most important event of the year in Canada-Ukraine relations was the official state visit of Prime Minister Yushchenko. President Yushchenko arrived in Ottawa on May 25 to begin a three-day visit. He was welcomed to Canada by Governor General Michaëlle Jean.

At a meeting with Prime Minister Harper, President Yushchenko discussed further developing the economic and commercial ties between the two countries, Ukraine’s future in NATO and Canada’s firm support for Ukraine’s bid for a Membership Action Plan. They also agreed on cooperation in the U.N.-mandated mission in Afghanistan and signed a joint statement confirming their commitment to the active development of special partnership relations between Ukraine and Canada.

President Yushchenko addressed a joint session of the Canadian Parliament. During his well-received speech, the

Canada-Ukraine relations

At the annual meeting of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council on December 17 (from left) are: Iryna Teluk (USUBC), Dorothy Dwoskin (Microsoft, the USUBC’s 100th member) and Morgan Williams (USUBC President).
2008: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Mr. Yushchenko then flew to Toronto where his tight schedule for the one-day visit included a breakfast meeting with the Ukrainian community. About 600 persons greeted him and his wife, Kateryna. At the event Mr. Yushchenko awarded presidential honors to the following: The Order for Merit (third degree) was presented to Andriy Hladyshevsky (Winnipeg), Bohdan Medwidsky (Edmonton), Radomir Bilash (Edmonton), Ihor Bohdan (Calgary), Bohdan Onychuk (Toronto), Petro Potichnyi (Hamilton), Yaroslav Sokolyk (Toronto). The Order of Princess Olha was awarded to Ruslana Wrzesnewsky and Marsha Skrypuch, while the Medal for Work and Success was presented to Iva Mazurenko, Marianne Lenchak-Gross, Emilia Stelmakh, Julia Kerkhovetska and Petro Kuliy.

In Toronto, the president met with leaders of the UCC as well as representatives of several Ukrainian world organizations. UCC President Grod touched upon several issues relating to the future cooperation between the Ukrainian government and the UCC, including the need for regular consultation on joint initiatives, coordination and planning of events involving the Ukrainian Canadian community and visiting Ukrainian government officials, the awarding of Ukrainian national honors to Ukrainian Canadian community leaders, coordinating projects in the fields of education, culture, charity and social policy, as well as economic activity. He said that Ukrainian Canadians hoped for Ukrainian government support for the preservation of the Ukrainian language and culture in Canada, including support for internships, exchanges and summer youth programs. Mr. Grod went on to say that the outstanding of welcome for Mr. Yushchenko from ordinary Canadians was remarkable: “President Yushchenko has been an exceptional symbol of the new Ukraine.”

The Business Forum on Ukraine, organized by the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, was held during the president’s state visit, and, although Mr. Yushchenko did not take part in the forum, he was the keynote speaker at a luncheon organized by the Economic Club of Toronto, a nonpartisan organization that hosts policy announcements and important speeches by key policy-makers and business leaders. The audience of about 600 persons, which included forum participants, was also drawn from both the Ukrainian community and the business, industry and finance sectors.

The message of Mr. Yushchenko’s luncheon address was: “Invest in Ukraine.” The president outlined the Ukrainian government’s efforts to open up Ukraine’s economy. He pointed to Ukraine’s emerging agricultural sector, steady economic growth, accession to the WTO and economic stability as positive indicators for investment.

At the end of his day in Toronto, Mr. Yushchenko was still able to squeeze in a tour of the Royal Ontario Museum, where exhibit of Trypillian art was scheduled to open in June. After the official events in Ottawa, President Yushchenko flew to Winnipeg where he was welcomed by the premier of Manitoba, Gary Doer, who received him in a private audience to discuss issues of mutual benefit to Ukraine and Manitoba. There was a formal signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between Manitoba and the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast by Premier Doer and the chairman of the oblast administration, Viktor Bondar, underscoring the agricultural ties between the two provincial jurisdictions.

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At Stanley Barracks on May 9 in Toronto (from left) Andrew Griffith (Canadian Heritage), Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity Jason Kenney, Andrew Hladyshevsky and Paul Grod after signing the agreement on the establishment of a $10 million endowment fund to support commemorative and educational programs related to World War I internment operations.

President Viktor Yushchenko addresses the Holodomor memorial ceremonies in Ottawa on May 26.
Canada’s Riding and Dancing Kozaks ride toward the stage at Canada’s National Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin, Manitoba, in August.

November

The Business Forum on Ukraine was opened on the morning of May 28 by Volodymyr Ohyryk, foreign affairs minister of Ukraine, and David Emerson, Canadian minister of international trade. The 18-member delegation from Ukraine was headed by Volodymyr Bitij, vice-president of the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The audience of about 200 included Canadian business and government leaders and librarians interested in learning about opportunities in Ukraine. The forum featured three plenary sessions: information on Ukraine, Ukraine in the WTO, Euro-integration and Ukraine’s macroeconomic perspective; an exploration of investment and business opportunities in Ukraine; and business opportunities associated with the holding of the European soccer championships in 2012.

Natalia Boitsov, vice-minister of the economy, pointed out that Ukraine has a trade deficit and that the major part of its export trade is still confined to the traditional sectors of agriculture, metallurgy and minerals, while its imports comprise mostly high technology and machinery. Although Ukraine has science-technology potential, there is a lack of knowledge about it.

Although European integration is the No.1 strategic goal in Ukraine’s foreign policy, it is internal reforms — the adoption of European standards in Ukrainian economic life — that form the government’s domestic policy. Membership in the EU is a long-term goal, Ukraine is also pursuing several other integration initiatives. Foreign investment is growing at 20 percent per year but, it was noted, Canada is not among the top 10 investors.

It was also pointed out that Ukraine has a history of innovation and Canadian companies could tap into the expertise in Ukraine for subcontracting and for research and development.

Ukraine’s Ministry of Fuels and Energy has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Atomic Energy of Canada (AECL) to study CANDU nuclear technology.

Zden Potchynik, president of the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, presented some reasons energy companies should look to Ukraine for opportunities: underdeveloped gas and oil fields, good infrastructure, refineries, and ready access to the market.

In the final presentation on Euro-2012, which will take place in five Ukrainian cities — Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kyiv, Lviv and Odessa — Yevhen Chernovenko, head of the Euro-2012 agency, criticized the Ukrainian bureaucracy, which he claimed was not moving fast enough to get the projects started, but maintained that the Agency would speed things up and he outlined available business opportunities for the international event.

Intensive effort went into having the government designate the Holodomor as a genocide, and on June 19 the Canadian government announced the appointment of G. Daniel Cenov, who, on August 18, assumed the post of Canada’s ambassador to Ukraine.

Mr. Cenov succeeds Ambassador Abina Dunn, who became Canada’s envoy to Ukraine in August 2005. He is Canada’s sixth ambassador to Kyiv.

In Canadian political news, on November 14, Opposition Leader Stephane Dion named Member of Parliament Rory Zuzwensyk to the position of critic for citizenship, immigration and multiculturalism in the Liberal Shadow Cabinet. “I will work diligently on behalf of, and on the country of those new Canadians who have come from all over the globe wanting to become productive and fully participating members of the best country in the world, Canada,” said Mr. Zuzwensyk. Both his extensive committee work and, more importantly, the immigration work that he has done on behalf of his constituents in the riding of Etobicoke—Centre in Ontario have prepared him well for his new responsibilities.

Activists honored

In the past year, several persons associated with the Ukrainian community were honored for their services to Canada and the community. On July 1 businessman and philanthropist James Temerty was appointed to the Order of Canada by the Governor General for his “contributions to Canadian culture, education and research, and for his philanthropic and volunteer leadership with several local, national and international organizations.”

Mr. Temerty is the chairman and owner of Northpower Power Inc., the chairman of the Board of Trustees of Northland Power Fund, and chairman of the Board of Governors of the Royal Ontario Museum.

Mr. Temerty was born in 1941 in the Donbas region of Ukraine and, after moving to Canada, he elected to become entirely assimilated in Canada and settled in Quebec. After completing his studies at Concordia University, Mr. Temerty worked for IBM and then owned a Computertek franchise which he sold after six years, investing the money in a power project in Northern Ontario. It was incorporated in 1987 as Northland Power. Northland Power Inc. has power projects in Ontario, Quebec and Washington and owns windmill projects in Quebec and Germany. The company is considered a pioneer and an innovator in the clean energy sector.

Mr. Temerty is heavily involved in philanthropic work — local, national and international. He has chaired fund-raising efforts for Havergal College, Sunnybrook Hospital and the Psychiatric Research Foundation and has been a large contributor to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Last December, the ROM opened the Louise and James Temerty Dinosaur Galleries which house one of the museum’s best-known exhibits. At the beginning of this year the Temerty Family Foundation became a $1 million donor to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

It is rare to find a list of contributors to Ukrainian Canadian causes that do not have the Temerty name as a significant donor or a member, most often chair, of fund-raising activities. Most recently, a project was launched supported by Mr. Temerty: the Ukrainian Care Center nursing home, The Gryphon Trio, Pavlo Hunka’s recording of Ukraine was honored by the Union of Ukrainian Studies and others. Mr. Temerty provides significant support for democratizing initiatives in Ukraine — he headed fund-raising for the Ukrainian election observer project in Ukraine and is the chairman of the board of the Kyiv Mohyla Business School.

But Mr. Temerty’s No.1 interest at the present time is the Royal Ontario Museum. Mr. Temerty was presented with the Order of Canada in November. Mr. Temerty’s contribution to the ROM was the creation of an annual Paul Yuzyk Award, to be presented to an individual or organization that has “demonstrated excellence in promoting the multiculturalism.”

Sen. Yuzyk’s contribution to the Canadian policy of reconciliation is symbolized by his designation as “father of multiculturalism.”

Mr. Kenney pointed out that Canada’s model of pluralism and immigration is admired around the world and is due to Canada’s history of accommodating differences in culture, language and religion. This history was built by many great Canadians, he said, one of whom was Mr. Yuzyk — professor of history at the University of Manitoba, author of several books on Ukrainian history in Canada, senator and spokesman for the “third force” — Canadians who are neither British nor French.

Another significant Ukrainian philanthropist has been John Yaremko, the first Ukrainian Canadian elected to the Ontario Legislature and the first to be appointed to the Cabinet in Ontario. His tenure as a public servant lasted for 16 years. Today, 90-year-old Mr. Yaremko is a resident of the West Park Healthcare Center in Toronto. In March, a host of representatives of various organizations and institutions to which Mr. Yaremko has contributed, came to the Center to pay him tribute.

Mr. Yaremko and his late spouse, Myroslava (Mary), established the Yaremko Ukrainian Cultural Foundation in Winnipeg, Bellwoods Centres for Community Living in Toronto, and the Royal Ontario Museum.

More recently, with an endowment of $600,000, the John and Mary Yaremko Program on Multiculturalism and Human Rights was established at the Faculty of Law of the University of Toronto. In February the St. Volodymyr’s Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral was opened and the late Mr. Yaremko’s Georgian-style home was gifted to St. Volodymyr’s Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral to serve as a parish residence.

On April 3 Mr. Kenney presented an important pledge of $50,000 to the John Roberts Library Foundation of Ukraine to preserve and make broadly accessible retrospective library materials relating to Ukrainian history, literature and culture.

Documentary films

Two Ukrainian documentary films were in the news this year. Yuriy Luhovy’s film “Berezka Kartuzka,” made in 2007, premiered in Kyiv in May on the initiative of Larysa Kartuzka, editor of the Berezka newspaper. The film, supported by the Union of Film Directors of Ukraine, Berezka Kartuzka was a Polish concentration camp and the documentary tells the story of Ukrainians in Polish-occupied

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western Ukraine who were arrested without trial and impriso-
ned in the camp in the period 1934-1939. Many survivors 
later came to Canada and United States. The film is based 
on testimonies of some of the last survivors, historic docu-
ments, as well as the director’s travels to the site of the 
camp.
Mr. Luhovy is also working on an English-language ver-
sion of "Perebere Zerkoney". He announced that it will be ne-
rated by well-known Canadian filmmaker and writer Paul 
Almond. Proceeds from the screenings of the Ukrainian 
film, which continued to be shown in Canada and the U.S. 
through 2008, will go toward making the English-language 
version, using voice-over instead of subtitles.
Ukrainian University of the Arts. "Vohon i Zbroya: UPA za 
Zakerzonni" (Fire and Arms: The UPA in Zakarpattia), 
which premiered in Toronto on May 25, tells the story of 
the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) in the 
years 1941 to 1947 in the territories west of the 
Curzon Line that were inhabited by Ukrainians and, after 1947, incorpo-
rated into Communist Poland. The idea for this film was 
born in 2006 when the Canadian Association Zakerzonnia 
marked the 60th anniversary of Akcja Wisla. Mykola 
Zawierucha-Swystun headed the film committee and 
Myroslav Ivanyk became the film director.
Because of the post-war situation in Poland, the history 
of Ukrainians in Poland is replete with disinformation that 
has only recently been challenged. The UPA was demon-
ized, portrayed as murderers, bandits and Nazis and such 
propaganda was widely disseminated in Poland through 
schools, feature films and novels.
The UPA in Zakarpattia sprang from spontaneous units of 
self-defense and evolved into a military organization in 
several stages: self-defense of the population against the 
armed Polish underground in 1944-1945; bloody battles 
with the Germans, the forces of the NKVD and the 
Polish army in 1946-1947; armed resistance against the 
deportation of Ukrainians from Zakarpattia to the USSR and 
to the former German lands in western Poland.
The film shows and seeks to prove that the UPA in 
Zakerzonni was not a gang but consisted of armed units 
with a well-developed leadership structure; that it was 
not engaged in the slaughter of Poles but protected the 
Ukrainian population; that it was not an army installed 
by foreign powers, but an armed resistance movement 
that engaged all the lands of Zakerzonnia and all levels of 
society.

Other community news
Ukrainian bloc settlements and the Ukrainian areas of cit-
es are important components of the Ukrainian heritage in 
Canada, but they are disappearing. An all-day workshop 
by well-known Canadian filmmaker and writer Paul 
Almond. Proceeds from the screenings of the Ukrainian 
film, which continued to be shown in Canada and the U.S. 
through 2008, will go toward making the English-language 
version, using voice-over instead of subtitles.

At the unveiling ceremony on October 25 in Sault Ste.
Marie of a monument dedicated to the 1914-1920 intern-
ment of Ukrainian Canadians (from left) are: Olya Grod of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Veronoca Reficio, 
Lucy Konkin, Cathy Beaudette, the Rev. Yaroslav Lazoryk, Bob Plotcyna, Amelia Deplony, Antoin Logtenberg, 
Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and Dr. Irene Okita.

U.S. Ukrainians focused on elections
Ukrainians in the United States, just like other Americans, saw 2008 as an all-important presi-
dential election year. The campaign and the election itself 
will be remembered as one of the most hotly contested election 
years, when every United States citizen had a strong opin-
ion about the candidates running in the presidential elec-
tion. Ukrainians in the U.S. have given more than $22 million Americans, saw 2008 as an all-important presi-
dential election year. The campaign and the election itself 
will be remembered as one of the most hotly contested election 
years, when every United States citizen had a strong opin-
ion about the candidates running in the presidential elec-
tion. Ukrainians in the U.S. have given more than $22 million to the candidates in the presidential race to 
discuss issues of concern.

Among these issues were NATO enlargement, 
Russia’s treatment of its neighbors, the backsliding of 
democratic trends in Russia, energy security and Russia’s 
use of energy supplies for political leverage, the U.S. 
missile shield in Eastern Europe and the U.S. visa wa-
iver program.
On February 27 the CEEC met with Democratic presi-
dential candidate Sen. Hillary Clinton’s adviser former 
of State Secretary St. K, Sen. Tom Harkin, who spoke about 
the results of the first-round of U.S. Democrats. The 
speech was followed by a question-and-answer period 
with various guests.
On March 13 the CEEC discussed a range of policy 
issues with Republican presidential candidate Sen. John 
McCain’s advisors Stephen Biegun and Randy Scheu-
men, director of foreign policy and national security. 
Sen. McCain’s National Coalitions Director for the 
Europe, Ukraine, and Georgia, met with the major contenders in the presidential race to 
discuss issues of concern.

Other community news

Ukrainian Americans in the United States, just like other 
Americans, saw 2008 as an all-important presidential 
election year. The campaign and the election itself will be 

As the election drew nearer, Americans for 
Obama-Biden ‘08 and Ukraine Americans for 
McCain-Palin took out full-page paid advertisements in 
The Weekly to present their candidates.

The Central and East European Coalition also met 
during 2008 with President George W. Bush. At the 
meeting, the president thanked the ethnic community 
representatives for their support of the NATO enlargement 
process. The meeting and a briefing by administration officials at the White House preceded a 
ceremony at which President Bush signed Protocols of 
Accession to help bring Croatia and Albania a step clos-
er to NATO membership in 2009. The Ukrainian com-

In related news, State Sen. Andy Harris (Baltimore 
County), a Ukrainian American, defeated veteran U.S. 
Constituency (from left) are: Olya Grod of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Veronoca Reficio, 
Lucy Konkin, Cathy Beaudette, the Rev. Yaroslav Lazoryk, Bob Plotcyna, Amelia Deplony, Antoin Logtenberg, 
Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and Dr. Irene Okita.
By Stefan Kaczynski

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Delegates, UCCA officers and guests at the closing of the XX Congress of Ukrainians in America held on October 17-19 in Cleveland.

November general election by Democrat Frank Kratovil, state’s attorney in Queen Anne’s.

Picking up the election theme, Dr. Oleh Wolowyna, a demographer, underscored that in a democracy one of the most powerful tools a citizen has is his/her vote. “Although proportionally the number of Ukrainians in the United States is relatively small, there is ample evidence that a small, but well-organized group can have a significant influence on which candidate wins the election, especially at the state and local levels. One of the main objectives of the Ukrainian diaspora in a country should be that elected officials are favorably disposed to our ethnic community, to Ukraine, and to Ukrainian culture and history,” he wrote in a May 18 article.

Dr. Wolowyna noted that a very high proportion of Ukrainians in the United States are U.S. citizens. For the whole country the percentage is 85 percent. In several states 100 percent of all persons of Ukrainian ancestry are U.S. citizens, and only in six states is this percentage less than 70 percent.

“Active participation in the election process by our community leaders and by Ukrainian Americans active in politics, while taking into account our interests as Americans of Ukrainian ancestry, is not only a civic duty, but should be part of our obligations as citizens and Ukrainian American community members,” Dr. Wolowyna argued. “A favorable public statement by a high-level government official in support of a Ukrainian cause or a vote by the U.S. Congress regarding issues like the World Trade Organization or favorable treatment of Ukrainian imported goods, may have the equivalent effect of many modest financial or in-kind donations to a candidate’s cause. One thing does not exclude the other; both are needed.”

Georgia on our minds

On August 9 Ukrainians Americans joined members of the Georgian community in a demonstration near the US. Congress to protest the Russian invasion of Georgia. Representatives of the New York branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and other community members joined the over 500 Georgians to object to Russia’s escalating violence.

The following day, a protest rally was held in Washington, where approximately 100 participants, including several Ukrainians from the area, gathered at the Georgian Embassy for a march to the Russian Embassy.

In addition, the Georgian, Ukrainian, Polish and Lithuanian communities rallied on August 14 on Independence Mall in Philadelphia against Russian aggression and in support of the territorial sovereignty of Georgia. The evening demonstration, spearheaded by the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center and the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee, included over 100 demonstrators carrying national flags and placards to show their support for Georgia.

As a member of the GGCC, the UCCA worked closely with the Georgian Association in the United States. On August 13 the UCCA sent a list of recommendations to officials of the Bush administration and members of the U.S. Congress regarding the crisis in Georgia. While showing solidarity with the Georgians, the Ukrainian community also understood that if the international community was silent in response to Russia’s moves, Ukraine, specifically Crimea, could be the next target.

Conventions, congresses, anniversaries

Approximately 100 students participated in the conference of the Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations in America (known by its Ukrainian acronym as SUSTA) at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia on March 29. The agenda included discussion panels, videoconferencing with a professor and student from Ukraine, and the election of officers for 2009. In addition, the students got to preview the new SUSTA website, which will include new links to various affiliated clubs, resources of different Ukrainian organizations, postings of videos from the conference, a bulletin board that will inform students about scholarships, fellowships, internships and resume postings.

Bogdan Iagnachenko, a junior at the University of Pennsylvania, was elected as the new president of SUSTA. He noted that “SUSTA’s policy is evident by the number of participants doubling from last year’s conference.” Over 2,000 members belong to the SUSTA Facebook group. Mr. Iagnachenko continued, “and we would like to convert that passive interest into active participation by providing opportunities for everyone to get involved in either political, cultural, economic or artistic events at their school.”

Members of the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America (UNWLA) convened in Troy, Mich., on Friday, May 23, for its 80th convention. The convention, which continued through Monday, May 26, elected a new national board headed by Marianna Zajac of Youngstown, Ohio. The outgoing president, Iryna Kurovychy of New York, who had served in that post for nine years, was named an honorary president of the UNWLA.

During the American Women’s League of Ukraine (UAW) was held in Somerset, N.J., on September 26-27 to celebrate the 60th birthday of this organization and its continuous service to its members, the Ukrainian American community and the United States. The UAW National Ladies Auxiliary held its convention concurrently. The convention was opened by National Commander Anna Krawczuk.

During the convention, a large group of delegates and guests took advantage of a guided tour of St. Andrew’s Cemetery to view the location of the future UA National Monument. The memorial will honor the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian American men and women who have honorably served and continue to serve in all branches of the U.S. armed forces.

The highlight of the convention banquet was the recognition and greeting of all veterans present from the World War II era to Operation Iraqi Freedom, including those who served in the Ukrainian military. The culmination was the presentation of certificates “for service, dedication and honor in the cause of freedom” to all Korean War-era veterans. A special certificate of merit was presented to Brig. Gen. Leonid Kondratuk, together with a symbolic “bulava” (mace) from Ukraine. Past National Commander Dmytro Bodnarzuk was awarded a certificate for the book “Ukrainian American Veterans Project.”

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) on October 17-19 held its XX Congress of Ukrainians in America convention held on May 23-26, Larysa Darmochval (left) of the Ukrainian Women’s League of Ukraine and Marianna Zajac, the UNWLA’s newly elected president.

At the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America convention held on May 23-26, Larysa Darmochval (left) of the Ukrainian Women’s League of Ukraine and Marianna Zajac, the UNWLA’s newly elected president.
The Ukrainian Library provides a much-needed service, and even some materials for the visually impaired. 160 periodical titles, hundreds of audio and video cassettes, and even some materials for the visually impaired. 50th anniversary in 2008. It is a well-established, specialized for the Ukrainian community. Cultural Center near Detroit on November 14-16. The 25th national convention was held at the Ukrainian American Youth Association's (UAYA) 25th national convention was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center near Detroit on November 14-16. The convention was attended by 82 delegates from cities around the United States. A grand banquet was held on Saturday evening to celebrate both the triennial national convention and the 50th anniversary of the Detroit UAYA's Kyiv Estate resort. Founding members of Kyiv Estate were honored with awards for their many years of dedicated service. Andriy Bihun of the UAYA branch in Goshen N.Y., was elected national president to serve over the next three years.

The Ukrainian library in Philadelphia celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008. It is a well-established, specialized collection of some 22,000 volumes, with over 160 periodical titles, hundreds of audio and video cassettes, and even some materials for the visually impaired. In April 1992, the library became a statutory program of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center and has since been governed by a nine-member Library Board. The Ukrainian Library provides a much-needed service to the Ukrainian community in Philadelphia, especially to the Ukrainian Heritage School. It has served as a cultural center for the past by American businessmen interested in investments in Ukraine, by Peace Corps volunteers and by university students and scholars researching topics related to Ukraine.

The Ukrainian American Youth Association's (UAYA) 25th national convention was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center near Detroit on November 14-16. The convention was attended by 82 delegates from cities around the United States. A grand banquet was held on Saturday evening to celebrate both the triennial national convention and the 50th anniversary of the Detroit UAYA's Kyiv Estate resort. Founding members of Kyiv Estate were honored with awards for their many years of dedicated service. Andriy Bihun of the UAYA branch in Goshen N.Y., was elected national president to serve over the next three years.

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Students in Grades 3 to 5 at St. Josaphat School in Parma, Ohio, dazzled the audience with their Broadway-style number during the school's anniversary event in November 2007. The school was closed at the end of the 2007-2008 academic year.
imburse themselves in a unique cultural experience. In addition, the event was sponsored in part by Anheuser
Busch, and the trendy Village Voice published an article covering the event for the general New York City audi-
ence. Representatives from New York Time Out Magazine and BBC Ukraine attended as well.
Also in New York, the Ukrainian community of the city mobilized to call for the removal of a three-story
high portrait depicting Joseph Stalin on display on the southern façade of Cooper Union’s Foundation Building,
located at Third Avenue and Seventh Street, in the Ukrainian neighborhood of Manhattan’s East Village.
The banner, 40 feet wide and 52 feet high, was part of the exhibit “Stalin by Picasso, or Portrait of Woman with
Mustache” and was installed on October 26. On October 31, a Ukrainian delegation met with Cooper Union offi-
cials, after staging earlier protests through e-mails and telephone calls, to explain why the banners were offen-
sive and how it could be seen as an assault on Ukrainian community – especially as the 75th anniversary of the
Famine-Genocid perpetrated by Stalin was being com-
memorated. Although not very receptive at first, Cooper Union removed the banners soon after this meeting, cit-
ing violations of city permit regulations.
Ukrainians in North Dakota celebrated their unique homogeneous heritage at a Ukrainian Festival on July 18-20
sponsored by the Ukrainian Cultural Institute in
North Dakota Trade Commission; Iryna Balan, researcher; and Dr. Richard J. McCallum, president, DSU.
immigrant historian.
University of South Dakota and Dr. Myron B. Kuropas,
about the Holodomor. Panelists included Agnes Palanuk,
Ukrainian “zabava.” The first day’s program was devot-
eering violations of city permit regulations.
Ukrainians in North Dakota celebrated their unique homestead heritage at a Ukrainian Festival on July 18-20
sponsored by the Ukrainian Cultural Institute in
North Dakota Trade Commission; Iryna Balan, researcher; and Dr. Richard J. McCallum, president, DSU.
Ukrainian diaspora: expanding contacts
A s president of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), Askold Lozynskyj had his finger on the pulse of the Ukrainian diaspora for a decade. He has traveled the world extensively in an attempt to incor-
porate isolated Ukrainian diaspora communities into the UWC. During his two terms of office he reached out to
Ukrainians in 37 countries and has established a vibrant global network – including Ukrainian diaspora commu-
nities in the former Soviet republics – established monu-
ments, financed lawsuits and worked toward improving communication between diaspora countries.
As he took leave of his position, he considered the estab-
lishment of ties between Ukraine and the new communities of the former Soviet republics as the UWC’s greatest accom-
plishment. Nevertheless, according to him, there is still work to be done. “An area where we failed is that we have not gotten Ukraine to comprehend that they have certain obliga-
tions regarding the diaspora community,” he said in an inter-
view published on September 28. He believes there needs to be a shift in the motherland’s overall view of its diaspora.
Instead of trying to profit from its brethren living abroad, Ukraine should consider how it can come to their aid, he explained.
At its ninth congress on Kyiv on August 20-22, the UWC elected longtime Ukrainian community leader Eugene
Czolij, as its new president. A lawyer from Montreal who has headed the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the
Ukrainian Youth Association’s World Council, Mr. Czolij
described what he believes the work of the UWC is no longer only about assistance, but of “strategically planning the activity of the global Ukrainian diaspora.” He pledged to continue the development of partnerships among the world’s
Ukrainian communities.
Two hundred nine delegates participated in the congress; they represented 31 countries, including distant diaspora communities in Kazakhstan and Paraguay. Delegates were addressed by Ukraine’s President Viktor Yukshchenko, Prime
Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Foreign Affairs Minister
Volodymyr Ohryzko and the chair of the Ukrainians Abroad
Administration, Vasyl Boychoy.
It was the second time the Ukrainian World Congress held its conclave in Kyiv. Previous congresses convened in New York City and Toronto, but shifting the meeting, which is held every five years, to Kyiv enabled more representa-
tives from communities in the former Soviet republics to participate.
Among the UWC’s accomplishments in the last five years was $20 million in humanitarian aid – $18 million of
which was distributed in Ukraine – that was delivered by the UWC and its member-organizations. It is notable also that leaders of Fourth Wave organizations continued to play
increasingly active roles within the UWC and their local
countries.
The year 2008 proved to be an active year in many circles of
the Ukrainian diaspora. Approximately 1,800 members of Australia’s Plant Ukrainian Scouting Organization started
off the year by celebrating its golden jubilee, converging at
its Sokil campground in Melbourne. Concurrent with Plant’s
Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskyj speaks in August to a Ukrainian television reporter at a
press conference in Kyiv.

Guests at the President’s Luncheon at Dickinson State University on July 18 (from left): Victor Udin, liaison
with Ukrainian National Agricultural University in Kyiv; Dr. David Meier, chair, department of social sciences, DSU; Ronald Vosler, University of North Dakota; Oleksandr Aleksandrovich, Embassy of Ukraine; Dr. Richard Branum, dean, College of Arts and Sciences, DSU; Lesia Kurpas; Dr. Myron B. Kurpas; Larry White, North Dakota Trade Commission; Iryna Balan, researcher; and Dr. Richard J. McCallum, president, DSU.

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WAVE  MIGRATION  TO  THE  UNITED  STATES,  ITS  POTENTIAL  IMPACT  ON  THE  UKRAINIAN  DIASPORA  IN  THE  U.S.  IS  EXTRAORDINARY,  NOTED  DR.  OLEH  WOLOWYN  IN  HIS  ARTICLES  PUBLISHED  ON  SEPTEMBER  7  AND  14  IN  THE  WEEKLY.  AS  OF  2005,  THEY  CONSTITUTE  16  PERCENT  OF  ALL  PERSONS  OF  UKRAINIAN  ANCE-

try  in  the  U.S.  This  being  mainly  an  economically  moti-

vated  migration,  there  are  relatively  fewer  children  and

older  persons  among  the  migrants  and  a  high  proportion

in  working  force  ages.

One  of  the  main  characteristics  of  the  more  recent

migrants  is  family  reunion.  First,  one  or  two  family

members  migrate  and,  once  established,  they  start  bring-

ing  other  members  of  the  family.  Dr.  Wolowyna  explained.

The  percent  of  close-family  (children,  spouses,  and

parents)  migrants  increased  from  31  percent  for  an

earlier  migrants  in  2000  to  34  percent  for  the  more

recent  migrants  in  2005.

Higher  education  and  better  knowledge  of  English

among  migrants  arriving  between  2000  and  2005  seem  to

have  a  positive  implication  in  terms  of  their  labor  force

status.  For  persons  age  16  years  and  up  among  migrants

who  arrived  between  1995  and  1999,  only  53  percent

were  in  the  labor  force  according  to  2000  data,  while  the

respective  percent  in  2005,  for  migrants  arriving  between

2000  and  2005,  was  62  percent.  Thus,  it  seems  that  the

more  recent  migrants  were  better  able  to  find  employment

after  their  arrival  than  the  earlier  migrants.  However,  these

apparent  advantages  do  not  seem  to  be  reflected  in  better

occupations  for  the  more  recent  migrants.

A  high  proportion  of  immigrants  from  Ukraine  who

have  arrived  in  the  last  five  years  speak  Russian  at  home

and,  thus,  the  overall  percent  of  all  Ukrainians  in  the

United  States  speaking  Russian  continues  to  be  somewhat

larger  than  the  percent  speaking  Ukrainian  – 14.9  percent

and  13.7  percent,  respectively.  However,  it  is  fair  to

assume  that  the  great  majority  of  the  new  immigrants  are

more  fluent  in  Ukrainian  and  speak  Russian  at  home

because  it  is  easier  for  them,  Dr.  Wolowyna  pointed  out.

He  also  reported  that  the  process  of  geographical  dis-

persion  of  Ukrainians  in  the  United  States  continues.

Most  states  with  large  communities  composed  of  U.S.-

born  and  members  of  the  first  three  migration  waves

continue  losing  population  to  states  without  organized

Ukrainian  communities.  This  is  further  aggravated

by  the  tendency  of  new  immigrants  to  settle  in  states

that  have  no  Ukrainian  organizations.  In  many  cases,  persons  who  were  active  in  their  communities  of  origin

become  inactive,  because  there  are  no  Ukrainian  churches  and

organizations  at  their  new  destinations.

Dr. Wolowyna  concluded  his  articles  on  a  hopeful

note:  the  continuous  influx  of  immigrants  from  Ukraine

provides  the  potential  for  strengthening  and  rejuvenating

existing  organizations  or  creating  new  ones,  as  well  as

the  possibility  of  organizing  new  communities  in  states

with  originally  few  or  no  Ukrainians.
commemoration, the Ukrainian Australian community observed the 60th anniversary of its settlement in Australia, disproving the general contention of its first-wave immigrants who did not believe that the Ukrainian community would be able to survive one or two decades on the continent.

Later in the year Plast celebrated two more events at which its global community convened. On April 13 hundreds of Plast members gathered in Lviv for the homecoming of the remains of its first chief scout, Severyn Levytsky, who died in Buffalo, N.Y., in 1962. Following a moleben service at St. George Cathedral, the scouts marched to Lychakiv Cemetery, where Bishop Hlib Lnochyna presided over a panakhyda (memorial service) for Mr. Levytsky and his wife, Vira née Sterniuk, who was buried next to him. In a sermon to the gathered crowd, the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak encouraged those present to “take leadership roles in bringing their country and Church to the next level.”

A few months later, on June 22, Plast members gathered on Kyiv’s left bank to confer on Patriarch Lubomyr Husar Plast’s highest honor, the Golden Order of the Eternal Flame, which is bestowed for extraordinary contributions to community work or scholarship. Plast leaders from several countries, including Canada, the United States, Germany and Poland, attended the event.

Volodymyr Bazarko, the current world head of Plast, commented, “The significance of this award is the fact that Plast’s membership includes not only able leaders who run the organization itself, but Plast also boasts members in good standing who are active in the community and perform good deeds in Plast’s name and in the spirit of the organization, but outside of Plast.” Petro Stawnychy, leader of Plast in the United States, pointed out that Cardinal Husar was born in Ukraine, left his native land and spent many years abroad before returning, and yet throughout his life has considered himself first and foremost a Ukrainian. He continued, “It’s a lesson that we can all learn, those in the diaspora as well as those of us in Ukraine – that it’s not geographic boundaries that determine whether or not someone is Ukrainian, but rather the feeling in our hearts and souls, which is so important.”

The year also saw the Ukrainian president traveling abroad to meet with government officials and to speak on behalf of the Ukrainian diaspora as well as meet with Ukrainians living abroad.

On June 23 President Yushchenko traveled to Lisbon to meet with Portugal’s President Anibal Cavaco Silva and discuss trade-economic cooperation, as well as cooperation in the humanitarian and social spheres, and the prospects for Ukraine’s European and Euro-Atlantic integration. In his meeting with Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates Mr. Yushchenko discussed mutual recognition of diplomas of higher education establishments and the importance of an agreement on social protection for Ukrainian labor migrants. Mr. Socrates told the Ukrainian president that his country will work toward ensuring equal opportunities for Ukrainian citizens working in Portugal. During that visit, President Yushchenko also took part in a street-naming ceremony in the Portuguese capital, proclaiming “Ukraine Street” to honor the contribution Ukrainian citizens have made to the development of Lisbon.

A week later, on June 30, President Yushchenko traveled to Baku, Azerbaijan, for the unveiling of a monument to Taras Shevchenko. Mr. Yushchenko thanked Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev for erecting the monument and noted that Shevchenko’s words are relevant to every nation. Mr. Aliyev commented that the monument should be evidence of the close ties that his country is trying to develop with Ukraine. He also noted the significance of the fact that the Shevchenko monument is located on Liberty Avenue in Baku.

In a similar vein, on August 11 the Polish city of Olsztyn, acting on the initiative of the local Union of Ukrainians and the Ukrainian Embassy in Poland, named a street after Ukraine’s greatest poet, Taras Shevchenko.

Also busy this year was Ukraine’s foreign affairs minister, Mr. Ohryzhko, who traveled to Italy in July to officiate at the opening of Ukraine’s Consulate General in Naples, which he hopes will “not only represent Ukraine in the southern part of Italy, but will also become a hearth of Ukrainian diaspora life.” Officials at the opening ceremony
spoke of the issues facing the Ukrainian diaspora in Italy and stressed the need to ensure protection of the rights and interests of Ukrainian citizens residing in Italy. While there, Mr. Ohryzhko met with Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini, discussing issues of bilateral cooperation and of supporting Ukrainian citizens who live in Italy in terms of their educational-cultural needs. Mr. Frattini demonstrated an understanding of this issue and confirmed his readiness to work with the local Ukrainian community. The ministers signed a memorandum of mutual understanding.

Six months later, on December 16, another Ukrainian Consulate General opened, this time in Haifa, in order to provide services to Ukrainian immigrants who reside in the northern region of Israel. Haifa authorities say that in that city alone there are 40,000 Ukrainian citizens who have had the need to contact a Ukrainian consular institution.

Earlier in the year, Ukraine opened its representation in the Palestinian Authority. The first information and cultural center of Ukraine in the Middle East is slated to open in Tel-Aviv. Ukraine now has 34 Consulates General in 22 countries.

Also noteworthy in diaspora news was the Ukrainian Diaspora Congress in Kyiv on June 18 attended by representatives of 28 countries and all the regions of Ukraine. Initiated by the International Institute of Education, Culture and Diaspora Communications of the National University of the Lviv Polytechnic and the City Council, the congress addressed many issues. Among them were the diaspora’s role in promoting Ukrainian national interests within the international community, recognizing the Holodomor as genocide, adopting pro-Ukrainian bills and working toward Ukraine’s membership in the European Union and NATO.

On November 25 Ukraine’s Foreign Affairs Minister Ohryzhko met with the leaders of the Ukrainian World Congress and non-governmental organizations of Ukrainians living abroad in order to thank them for disseminating the historical facts about the Holodomor and remembering its victims throughout the world. The participants of the meeting in Kyiv discussed many urgent issues, among them: mechanisms of cooperation between Ukraine and its diaspora and protection of Ukraine’s national minorities abroad. President Yushchenko also met with UWC leaders that day, thanking them for their participation in 75th anniversary commemorations of the Holodomor and for their efforts around the globe to secure recognition of the Famine of 1932-1933 as genocide. Prime Minister Tymoshenko met with the group on November 24, also thanking the diaspora leaders for their great work in disseminating the truth about the Holodomor.

2008: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Religious life for Ukrainians in 2008 was marked with a new chapel, a newly consecrated bishop and a newly appointed bishop, two church centennials, a historic visit by the ecumenical patriarch to Ukraine and a youth mission trip to Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church marked two major milestones for its primate. Patriarch Lubomyr Husar: his 75th birthday and the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination on March 2, 2008. A liturgy of thanksgiving was served at the Church of St. Basil the Great in Kyiv.

Archbishop Ivan Jurkovic, apostolic nuncio to Ukraine, read a formal greeting from Pope Benedict XVI. The pontiff wished Cardinal Husar to continue his priestly journey, fully devoted to pastoral and apostolic service. “Your wisdom, prudence, fairness in judgment and openness to dialogue are highly recognized,” the greeting stated. During a jubilee concert at the Shevchenko National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet in Kyiv, President Viktor Yushchenko awarded Cardinal Husar the Order of Yaroslav the Wise, third degree.

Catholic bishops met with Pope Benedict XVI on April 16, at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. At the meeting, the pontiff gave special recognition to the presence of bishops from all the venerable Eastern Churches in communion with the Successor of Peter. He asked the Eastern bishops “to assure your communities of my deep affection and my continued prayer, both for them and for the land of origin. Your presence here is a reminder of the courageous witness to Christ of so many members of your communities, often amid suffering, in their respective homelands.” The pope’s message offered encouragement to the leaders of the Ukrainian Catholic Church to continue to evangelize energetically in America and in their efforts to assist in the renewal of the Church in Ukraine.

Pope Benedict XVI on May 2 appointed the Rev. Bryan Bayda, CSsR, pastor and superior of the Redemptorist Fathers at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, as bishop of the Eparchy of Saskatoon. The Rev. Bayda succeeded Bishop Michael Wischar, who resigned as bishop due to age.

Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky of the Ukrainian Catholic Church was recognized by the Jewish Community of Ukraine as a righteous gentile. Ukraine’s Chief Rabbi Moshe Reuvan Asman said on May 20, Risking his life during the German occupation of Lviv, Metropolitan Sheptytsky sheltered several hundred Jews, called on his flock to save the Jews and wrote numerous appeals to the German command, demanding a halt to attacks on the Jewish population of Halychyna. During a “Tree of Life” action outside of Kyiv’s central synagogue, a tree was planted as a token of gratitude and respect. The state of Israel, Rabbi Asman said, refuses to recognize Metropolitan Sheptytsky as a righteous gentile.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. on May 10 consecrated Archimandrite Daniel (Zelinsky) as bishop at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio. More than 500 people attended the ceremony, including Metropolitan-Archbishop Daniel Constantine, eparch of the Central Eparchy, Archbishop Anthony, eparch of the Eastern Eparchy, and five other Orthodox hierarchs from around the world, including 60 priests and deacons. A banquet was held following the ceremonies. Bishop Daniel was later appointed eparch of the Western Eparchy of the UOC-U.S.A.

A great part of churches today is the magnificent stained glass windows that bring one’s gaze toward heaven. Many of these windows are works of art in their own right, as noted in the 112-page book “Windows to Heaven – Stained Glass Windows at St. Demetrius Great Martyr Ukrainian Catholic Church by artist Yaroslava Surnach-Mills.” The book was launched on April 29 by Dr. Christine Turkewych and compiled by the Rev. Peter Shumelda. The church was built in 1970 and the first windows were installed in 1983, the second phase of installation occurred in 1998, and the final phase ended in 2006. A total of 250 pounds of hand-blown German full-antique glass was used.

St. Michael’s Golden-Domed Monastery celebrated its 900th anniversary at the National Opera House of Ukraine in Kyiv on July 10. President Yushchenko reminded the attendees of the celebration that the story of St. Michael’s personifies the history of Ukraine, that despite all obstacles, calamities and enemies, the church has been revived from the ruins to life.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I visited Kyiv on July 25-27 during the 1,020th anniversary of the Christianization of Kyivan Rus’ by Grand Prince Vladimir in 988. It was hoped that the arrival of the ecumenical patriarch would foster unification dialogue between Ukraine’s splintered Orthodox Churches. The majority of Ukraine’s Orthodox Churches are loyal to the Moscow Patriarchate and decisions on the future of the Ukrainian Orthodox

Our Churches: news in Ukraine, diaspora

Patriarch Lubomyr Husar on March 2 during a special Liturgy of Thanksgiving on the occasion of his 75th birthday and the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination.

Metropolitan Constantine presents the pastoral staff to newly consecrated Bishop Daniel on May 10.
Academia: books, conferences, scholars

Perhaps we should dub the year 2008 in the Ukrainian academic world the Year of Books, as there were quite a number of notable new works in fields ranging from art to science.

The Kule Center for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore in Edmonton, Alberta, on March 9 celebrated the launch of “Slavic Folklore” (Academia: books, conferences, scholars). The book begins with a discussion of the Slavic importance of the mouth, followed by definitions and examples of the various forms of folklore.

Serhiy Yekelchyk’s “Ukraine: Birth of a Modern Nation,” provides a timeline of Ukrainian history, from ancient civilizations to current times. The author explains how Ukraine’s complex past, its juxtaposition between the West and Russia, strong cultural regionalism and the legacy of the Soviet regime are all factors that have contributed to the current characteristics of the country. Dr. Yekelchyk is associate professor of history and Slavic studies at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, specializing in culture and identities in Russia and Eastern Europe, Stalinites, and 20th century Ukraine.

“Heroes and Villains: Creating National History in Contemporary Ukraine,” by David R. Marples was released in early 2008. Using a wide mixture of newspapers, journals, monographs and school textbooks from different regions of the country, the book examines the role of the changing paradigm – other scholars have used from 180 degrees – on several events discussed in the new narratives of the Stalin years published in Ukraine since the late Gorbatchev period until 2005. These events were pivotal to Ukrainian history in the 20th century, including the genocidal Famine of 1932-1933 and Ukrainian insurgency during the war years. Dr. Marples explains in the preface: “This book is primarily concerned with how Ukraine's complex past, its juxtaposition between the West and Russia, strong cultural regionalism and the legacy of the Soviet regime are all factors that have contributed to the current characteristics of the country. It is arguably one of the most important factors of a national history. Arguably, there are several national histories and several interpretations of the past, and it may not be possible to determine which particular version is in the ascendency. However, in Ukraine's case, the version in place – the Soviet narrative – has clearly been superseded and is obsolete.”

“Ukraine: An Illustrated History,” by Paul Robert Magocsi, features more than 300 historic photographs, line drawings, portraits, and reproductions of books and art work, as well as 46 maps, around which the text of the book is constructed. The opening chapters of the book cover Ukraine’s physical geography, followed by the historical narrative, starting with the “Greeks and Scythians” and concluding with the inauguration of President Viktor Yuschenko. Dr. Magocsi is a professor of history and political science at the University of Toronto, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Canadian Academies of Arts, Humanities and sciences.

A talk and reception on April 18 at Harvard University’s Center for Government and International Studies, co-sponsored by Harvard’s Early Slavists Seminar and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURO), marked the launch of Mykhailo S. Hrushevskyi Professor of Ukrainian History Serhi Plokhi’s book, “Ukraine and Russia: Representations of the Past.” The book is a collection of 16 essays, divided into four sections, which give an overview of the way Ukrainian-Russian historiography was developed, interpreted and used from the 17th century to the present. It discusses many questions fundamental to the formation of modern Russian and Ukrainian historical identity. The book was published by the University of Toronto Press at the beginning of April.

The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute (HUSI) kicked off its 38th season of special events on June 25, with a book launch ceremony for Prof. Timothy Snyder of Yale University and his latest work “The Red Prince: The Secret Lives of a Habsburg Archduke” (Basic Books, 2008). Snyder’s book is a biography of Wilhelm von Habsburg, cousin of the last Austro-Hungarian emperor, who adopted the cause of Ukraine and Ukrainians in the hopes of becoming king of Ukraine with Kyiv as his capital. Because he always wore a Ukrainian embroidered shirt, Wilhelm’s Ukrainization efforts became known as “Vishnyovyy,” which he eventually adopted as his legal name.

The ninth volume of Mykhailo Hrushevskyi’s “History of Folklore.”

The Ukrainian Catholic University raised more than $100,000 during its first fundraising banquet in Ukraine on October 11 at the Hyatt Regency in Kyiv. The event attracted more than 240 guests to the gala banquet held at the Coachman’s Lodge in Bellingham, Mass. The Woosocket parish was canonically established by Bishop Ortynsky. The festivities, a series of anniversary events in New England, concluded the centennial of Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church in Boston, the 90th anniversary of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Salem, Mass., the 100th anniversary of the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Church in Manchester, N.H., and the 100th anniversary of the Boston Deanery of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada enthroned and installed Bishop Ilarion as eparch of Edmonton and western Canada on October 26 at St. John Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Edmonton. The event attracted more than 500 people, including Metropolitan-ARCHBISHOP John, eparch of Winnipeg, Assembly of Princes and eastern Canada, and Bishop Andrij, eparch-elect of western Canada on October 26 at St. John Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Edmonton. The event attracted more than 500 people, including Metropolitan-ARCHBISHOP John, eparch of Winnipeg, Archbishop Yuri, eparch of Toronto and eastern Canada, and Bishop Andrij, eparch-elect of Saskatchewan and central Canada. Bishop Ilarion is the first Ukrainian hierarch in 300 years to have been ordained by the ecumenical patriarch, head of the worldwide Orthodox Church. Prior to his installation as eparch of Edmonton and western Canada, Bishop Ilarion served Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I in Portugal as “bishop for Ukrainian questions.” Following the conclusion of the divine liturgy, a banquet was held at St. John Cathedral’s Parish Community Center.

Church would be made jointly with the patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, the ecumenical patriarch said. During his visit to Ukraine, the ecumenical patriarch led a moleben at Pecherska Lavra and St. Michael’s Square, and divine liturgies at St. Sophia Cathedral and St. Michael’s Square.

The National Bank of Ukraine put into circulation a commemorative jubilee coin titled “In honor of the visit by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I to Ukraine.” The coin is 85-millimeters in diameter and made from .999 silver, with a face value of 50 hryvnia. St. Thomas Chapel, located at All Saints Camp in Emletmon, Pa., was consecrated on June 22 by Metropolitan-Archbishop Constantine, Archbishop Antony and Bishop Daniel, all representing the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. The erection of the chapel was made possible in large part by a $500,000 donation from the estate of Thomas Tychonia, a benefactor. The consecration events, which attracted over 500 people, included seminars on iconography and sacred music, and as well as a dinner.

The 2008 Mission Team of College Age Students of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., which included nine students, returned from Ukraine in August after visiting the children at the Pechachvo and Zhamanka orphanages, in the Kirovohrad and Zhytomyr oblasts, respectively. Organized by the Consistory of the UOC-U.S.A., and led by Bishop Daniel of the UOC-U.S.A., participants prayed with the children, joined in arts and crafts, assisted staff with their daily responsibilities and added fresh paint to these facilities. The team learned and shared information on health-care practices, including preventive care, diet, hygiene and medication. A third orphanage, Zaluchia, located in the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, was recently added to Bishop Daniel of the UOC-U.S.A., and Bishop Daniel, all representing the Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolitan-Archbishop Constantine, Archbishop Antony and Bishop Daniel, all representing the Ukrainian Orthodox

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of Ukraine-Rus’,” written in the late 1920s, covers the “Cossack Age,” encompassing years 1654-1657, with the special focus on the Pereiaslav Agreement of 1654. Unparalleled in breadth of research, Hrushevsky’s work brings to life a turbulent and politically decisive period in the life of the Ukrainian people. On the basis of the travel diary of Paul of Aleppo, a Syrian cleric, Hrushevsky gives an account of daily life in Ukraine at that time, with many details unavailable in other sources. The book is the latest volume of Hrushevsky’s monumental “History of Ukraine” being published in English translation by the Ukrainian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

At year’s end, it was announced that the Ukrainian Historical Association had released a new edition of Taras Hunczak’s valuable book “Syntom Petliura and the Jews: A Reappraisal.” This updated and substantially revised publication now contains an “Addendum” in which the author discusses recent studies on Ukrainian-Jewish relations; additional documents found in the archives; and a revised bibliography. The book was originally released in 1984 in the UHA series Ukrainian Jewish Studies.

Ukraine’s State Archives

Olha Ginzburg, a vocal denier of the Holodomor and ties to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), was appointed to the position. In her address, Ms. Ginzburg argued that the government should give the post to an appointee of the Our Ukraine – People’s Self-Defense bloc. On April 10 the news media in Kyiv reported that Ms. Ginzburg was fired by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, due to a decision by the coalition government that the post should be given to an appointee of the Our Ukraine – People’s Self-Defense bloc. In her place, the Cabinet of Ministers appointed Dr. Oleksander Udod.

Scholarly events, programs

More than 200 people attended an event on April 7 co-sponsored by the HURL, the Boston Map Society, Pokey Library and Harvard University’s map repository, to celebrate the completion of the Bohdan and Neolina Holovatska Krawciv Map Project. The project included the cataloguing of the collection of nearly 900 maps, books, research files and notebooks, in nine different languages, that comprise the Krawciv collection. The cataloguing of the collection of nearly 900 maps, books, research files and notebooks, in nine different languages, that comprise the Krawciv collection.

The seventh congress of the International Association of Ukrainian Studies (IAUS), held on June 24-29 at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU) in Kyiv, proved far less successful than in previous years, causing a wave of dissatisfaction among participants. The primary cause was disorganization and lower attendance. While the Association far less opportunity to accommodate participants than in previous years. It’s still unclear, Dr. Skrypnik said, if there will be another IAUS conference in the future.

The National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies was held in Philadelphia on November 20-23. Over 1,200 Slavic studies scholars attended the conference, participating in about 586 sessions and panels. The Shevchenko Scientific Society (USA) organized and sponsored sessions focusing on the Holodomor. Participants were Slavic scholars from Canada, Italy, Ukraine and the United States.
The arts and culture: Trypillia is tops

Trypillia made the top headlines in the world of culture and the arts during the 2008, which also saw much activity in music, art, literature, folk arts, film, theater and photography. We begin this overview with a look at museums.

MUSEUMS

The “Mysteries of the Trypillian Culture” exhibition in Toronto, which opened on November 29 at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). The landmark exhibit was organized by the ROM and the National Museum of the History of Ukraine in collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology and the Archaeological Museum of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Odesa Archaeological Museum, the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Vinnytsia Regional Museum and with the collaboration of the Institute of Archaeology in Ukraine. The exhibit recreates the mysterious and largely unknown culture of the Trypillians (5400-2700 BC) through artifacts, maps, two- and three-dimensional reconstructions and video presentations.

Ukraine’s First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, honorary patron of the exhibition, spoke on November 27 at the media preview and thanked the ROM for its vision and its commitment to the project. Also on the same night a formal gala helped to open the exhibit.

The idea for the exhibit at the ROM dates back to 2005 when newly inaugurated President Yushchenko suggested to Mr. Ternenty, a Ukrainian Canadian who is chairman of the museum’s board of governors, that he should organize a Trypillia exhibit at the ROM. The Royal Ontario Museum is a world renowned institution, with 45 galleries – the largest collection in Canada – and the fifth largest museum in North America. It is visited annually by between 750,000 and 1 million visitors.

“Ancient Ukraine: Mysteries of the Trypillian Culture” was planned as a touring exhibition and will remain at the ROM through March 22, 2009. The ROM is now seeking additional venues for the exhibition from spring 2009 through 2011.

The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA) in Chicago has been in the vanguard in presenting new forms of artistic expression since its founding in 1978. During the first 30 years of its existence the UIMA has presented many programs, including exhibitions, concerts, theatrical and literary events, discussions, film series; it has served as a magnet for new forms of expression. The UIMA has faced many challenges, as all non-profit organizations do. On March 1 a fund-raising event titled “Moving Forward Together” was convened in connection with the opening of the institute’s renovated space. The highly successful occasion attracted close to 200 supporters. The institute’s future plans include the continuation of quality innovative exhibits and events with the participation of both Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian artists and the public.

Among the artifacts on display at the Royal Ontario Museum’s exhibit of Trypillian culture are these “binoculars” (earthenware, 4500-4100 BC). The function of these bottomless objects is a mystery.
Songbook. Half of the $15,000 from the American Letters at its annual Ceremonial on May 21. Upon being stipend award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a group V opli Vidopliassova (VV). The event was presented by the Ukrainian Athletic Educational Association (UACEA) and featured the works of two Ukrainian composers: the Allegretto and Dance from “Hutsulian Tríptich” by Myroslav Skoryk, a leading contemporary composer in Ukraine, and “Dumka-Shumka” by the venerable Mykola Lysenko of a century earlier.

The Ukrainian singer/songwriter Taras Chubai performed on April 8 at the Union Theological Seminary in New York City. The concert was the first in a series titled “Svítro: Spovid. Light and Confession,” which is part of a larger and ongoing Contemporary Ukrainian Literature Series sponsored by the Harriman Institute at Columbia University and the Kennan Institute. Mr. Chubai’s second concert was held on April 10 at the Kennan Institute in Washington.

Over 300 people came to the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ) on April 11 to see and hear a performance by Oleh Skrypka, Ukraine’s legendary rock star and front man of the Ukrainian rock band Opli Vidopliassova (VV). The event was presented by the Ukrainian Athletic Educational Association (UACEA). Mr. Skrypka was in the area to perform in the Kyiv-based Ivan Franko Theater’s presentation of “Natalia Poltava” at the UACCNJ.

Vikko Bailey was one of four composers to receive a stipend award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters at its annual Ceremonial on May 21. Upon being nominated by a fellow member, Mr. Bailey submitted two compositions for review: his First Symphony “Sacred Monuments” and his “Emily Dickinson Songbook.” Half of the $15,000 from the American Academy of Arts and Letters award is earmarked for a recording, which Mr. Bailey plans to utilize in Kyiv this December to realize his “Klytemnestra” for mezzo-soprano and orchestra (text by Oksana Zabuzhko) with the National Symphony Orchestra.

The Music and Art Center of Greene County, located at the Grahzda in Jewett, N.Y., this year announced a summer program of five concerts of music, including the “Music at the Grahzda” Chamber Music Society (violinists Oleksander Abayev and Nazary Pylytay, violist Borys Deviatov, cellist Natalia Khoma and pianist Volodymyr Vyminysky). The Cheres folk ensemble, Mr. Pylytay appearing solo, and bass-baritone Taras Kulish and pianist Valentina Litsina.

Also during the summer, music lovers in the Midwest had an opportunity to hear young mezzo-soprano Tania Mandyz, who sang the lead role in “L’Etoile,” a comic opera by Emmanuel Chabrier, with the Ohio Light Opera. Ms. Mandyz spent the last three years in London, where she completed a master’s degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. One of the United Kingdom’s top conservatories. She received the 2007 Susan Longfield Prize and was a 2007 Britten-Pears Young Artist.

Myroslav Skoryk, Ukraine’s best known contemporary composer, was honored with a special concert in the Washington area celebrating his 70th birthday. Dubh of The Washington Group Cultural Fund’s 2008-2009 Music Series, the concert was held on November 9 at the historic Lyceum building in Alexandria, Va. The concert featured not only a selection of Mr. Skoryk’s well-known and cherished compositions, but the composer himself. He performed along with violinists Oleksander Abayev and Yuri Kharenko, violist Borys Deviatov, cellist Natalia Khoma and pianist Volodymyr Vyminysky.

The Shevchenko Scientific Society on November 1 hosted a lecture-concert presentation by Dr. Victor Markiw on the theme “Solo Piano Works of Myroslav Skoryk.” This lecture preceded a concert that took place later in the evening at the Ukrainian Institute of America, as part of the Music at the Institute series, honoring the composer on his 70th birthday. Dr. Victor Markiw, professor of music at the University of New Haven, is the author of a 167-page dissertation titled “Myroslav Skoryk: Life and Solo Piano Works.”

The Ukrainian Institute of America also hosted concerts by pianist Nadia Shpachenko and the Biava String Quartet (November 22) and students of the Mannes College of Music (October 29), as well as a concert in memory of Roman Sycura (September 21).

Popular Ukrainian singer Ruslana impressed audiences in Toronto (on November 13) and Montreal (on November 14) with an energetic program of song and dance numbers from her new album “Wild Energy.” As well as her past hits and Ukrainian folk songs. The audience was enthusiastic and joined in during the refrains of favorite songs. The concerts were coordinated through the joint efforts of Meest Corp. of Toronto and Yevshan Corp. of Montreal. Before her departure she visited the Montreal Ukrainian School, where the children greeted her with a short program of song and dance to her music. She took the time to chat with all of the children, encouraged them in their studies and interests, and joined them on stage to sing Ukrainian folk songs.

The Social Club at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany was packed with singers and accordionists on November 22 for the first-ever “Accordinfest.” A dozen accordionists ranging in age from their early teens to early retirement were joined by George Hrab of Tempo on the drums. The event was made possible with the cooperation of accordionists Stefan Tsurusenko, Michael Abayev, and other wonderful musicians, who all played at the event, and members of the Social Club Committee. The event also attracted accordionists Alex Jasinski, Alex Chudziol, Peter Chudziol, Walter Syzenenko, Jim Fedorko, Slavko Kosiv, Zenon Brozyna, Gregory Fat and Andrew Lazirko.

ART

The art of Jurij Solovij (1921-2007), one of the most forceful and singular of modern art among Ukrainian artists, was presented as a retrospective at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago on January 27-March 16. Much of his work, including his famous series of Ukrainian pop star Ruslana in concert in Montreal on November 14.
2008: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

paintings, drawings and sculptures titled “1,000 Heads,” was on display. Expressing existential themes such as
those of birth, suffering, transient, death and mother-
hood, his art is cathartic in its expression of the darker
dark and more horrific aspects of the immigrant experience
dominates his work.

The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art held a showing of
"Les Formes Vivantes," an exhibition of graphic work
by the renowned Ukrainian artist Alexander Archipenko,
who was born in Kyiv in 1887. Indeed it is often argued
that he was one of the greatest sculptors of the 20th cen-
tury. By exploring his career as a printmaker this exhibi-
tion served to highlight Archipenko’s innovations in the
twentieth century. A recent display were 15 of
Archipenko's 54 known prints.

"Futurism and After: David Burliuk, 1882-1967," a
large-scale exhibition with more than 100 works of art,
"Ambassador of the Dead" published a new novel "The
House of Widows" (Graywolf Press). The novel deals
with soldiers who are deserters, their fates and those
associated with facilitating those fates.

FOLK ARTS

Sixty pysanka specialists, lobbyists and collectors
from across North America gathered at the Ukrainian
Catholic National Shrine in Washington on March 8 for
the first Pysanka Symposium in the United States. Five
speakers shared stories, discussions, ideas and tech-
niques all to do with the living tradition of pysanka writ-
ing. The Pysanka Symposium also featured a three-part
exhibit on themes of tradition, passion and techniques.

The Ukrainian Museum in New York presented
its annual spring exhibition of pysanka and accompanied
the pysanka with "rushtynky" (embroidered ritual
cloths) from March 23 through August. Lubov Wołynetz
was the curator of the exhibition and of the
Folk Art Collection. The rushtynki on display were from
a splendid grouping of embroideries recently donated to
the museum’s Folk Art Collection by Myroslava
Stachiw.

The Yara Arts Group and the Ukrainian Institute
of America presented “Winter Sun: A Festival of New Arts
and Tradition” on December 19-21. The festival featured
traditional “koliada,” or winter song rituals, performed by
the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia and the Tafiychuk
family of musicians from the Carpathian Mountains.
There was also exhibition of art, installations and video,
as well as a reception featuring new interpretations of
ritual foods. At the beginning of 2008, on January 18-19,
the Yara Arts Group and the UIA presented “In A
Different Light: Ukrainian Poetry, Translations,
Interpretations and Revisions.”

FILM

Ukrainian arrived at the Cannes International Film
Festival, held on May 14-25, with its own pavilion at
the Village International lining the Riviera near the Palais
des Festivals. It was the first time the Ukrainian flag
flew over a pavilion at Cannes. The pavilion was
opened under the general sponsorship of Nemiroff vodka.
Ukrainian’s presentation at the 63rd international festival,
taken by Ukraine’s First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko,
was unveiled by Andrii Khalpakhchi, director of
the Ukrainian Film Foundation and art director of the
Kyiv Youth Film Festival Molodist.

Ukrainian filmmaker Oles Yanchuk, whose directorial
credits include “Famine-33” (about the Holodomor) and
"The Undefeated" (about the life of the legendary leader of
the Ukrainian Insurgent Army Roman Shukhevych) and
his latest feature-length film, “Vladyka Andrey.” The film, which had its Kyiv premier on August 23, is a
blazingly fast-paced biographical drama-tragedy of the
life of Vladyka Andrey, who was born in Kyiv in 1887. Indeed it is often argued
that he was one of the greatest sculptors of the 20th cen-
tury and arguably one of the most influential figures in
20th century Ukrainian history. Metropolitan
Sheptytsky’s personal as well as his ecclesiastical and political
often very tumultuous – life is portrayed
biographically throughout the movie. The movie, co-pro-
duced by Mr. Yanchuk and New Yorker Askold
Loszynskyj, was released in theaters nationwide in
Ukraine on September 13. The film was released to a
wide DVD by the end of the year and there were plans to dis-
tribute the Ukrainian-language film with subtitles
throughout Europe.

“A Kingdom Reborn – Treasures from Ukrainian Galicia,” developed and produced by Canada’s 1253
drugs ordered to the trip of Galicia, is the
history of Halychyna (Galicia) and its capital
city, Lviv, through rare footage of the region’s still little
explored architecture. The 57-minute film is available on a
multilingual DVD in NTSF format. On the
Full Release disc, there are two versions of the film
– one in English and the other in Ukrainian. It was pro-
duced and directed by Dani Stodilka; the script is by
Peter Beiger.

James Bond’s newest flame is Ukrainian beauty Olga
Kurylenko, an accomplished actress who plays Camille in
the new Bond movie “Quantum of Solace.” A native of
Berdyansk in southeastern Ukraine, it was revealed
that her first acting role occurred in a school play in Ukar
inian. She started modeling at age 16. Her selection as
the romantic interest in “Quantum of Solace” came after
the three auditions. The movie premiered on October 29
in London.

THERE

Kiev’s music market has been boosted by
the musical show “Natalka Poltavka” to the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ) on April 12-13. The North American pre-
miere of this new production of the beloved play by Ivan
Kotliarevsky (1789-1838) was presented by the Arts,
Culture and Education Committee of the UACCNJ, which is located in Whippany, N.J.

The Canadian Ukrainian Art Foundation was the
venue for the October 14-November 30 exhibition in Galicia," developed and produced by Canada’s 1253
from the history of the Trecento period of modernism in the early
decades of the 20th century.

The exhibi-

"Le Groupe," a print by Alexander Archipenko.
along with photographs of the artist and some of his per-
sonal belongings, provided an overview of the most
important periods in the life of the famed Futurist. The
exhibition opened on October-31 at the new building of
The Ukrainian Museum in Manhattan’s East Village.
The exhibition will be on view through March 1, 2009.
Internationally renowned as the father of Futurism in his
country, Archipenko was on view at Adair Margo Gallery in EL
Paso, Texas, on January 17-February 28. Featured was a
large-scale exhibition with more than 100 works of art,
"1,000 Heads," published by research
director Arkadii Khafizhets, director of the
Ukrainian Museum in New York.

The exhibition will be on view through March 1, 2009.
The Ukrainian Museum in Manhattan's East Village.

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2008: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

New beginnings, successes at the UNA

For the Ukrainian National Association, 2008 was a year of new beginnings and some notable successes.

In early February it was announced that UNA annuity sales in January had surpassed the $1 million mark. It was the largest monthly growth in sales in a decade, announced UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj, who congratulated UNA National Secretary Christine E. Kozak and the entire UNA staff on their hard work. UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich reported that the record sales of annuities in January followed a continued trend of sales growth that had begun in the second half of 2006. She also noted, for purposes of comparison, that annuity sales for the entire year in 2006 had totaled just under $1 million.

Annuities continued to sell well during the rest of the year, with Ms. Kozak reporting that, as of the end of the second quarter, they totaled over $6 million. By year’s end, the UNA was pleased to report that annuity sales in 2008 had topped $10 million.

In February the UNA celebrated its 114th anniversary, and The Ukrainian Weekly wished a “Mnohaya Liita” to our publisher in a February 24 editorial that reminded readers that this newspaper and Svoboda are the best known fraternal benefits offered to UNA members and the Ukrainian community at large. The editorial also pointed to many other UNA programs that benefit the community. “The UNA, as a membership-based organization, will continue to do good as long as it is supported by its members,” we wrote. “Therefore, the more dues-paying members it has, the more good this fraternal organization can do.”

Later in the year, Svoboda marked the 115th anniversary of its founding. It was on September 15, 1893, that the first issue of the newspaper rolled off the presses. Today it is the oldest continuously published Ukrainian newspaper in the world. In a Ukrainian-language statement on the occasion of the anniversary, the UNA Executive Committee noted that Svoboda, “not only reflected the history of organized Ukrainian community life on the North American continent, but also created this history, serving as the initiator of beneficial community-wide actions and maintaining constant spiritual and intellectual ties with Ukraine. Svoboda continues to fulfill its national patriotic mission today…spiritually and intellectually uniting all waves of Ukrainians in America and steering them toward assisting Ukraine in affirming and developing its independence and democracy.”

The Ukrainian Weekly celebrated its own milestone, its 75th anniversary, on October 6. In a special anniversary section of The Weekly, UNA President Kaczaraj, writing on behalf of the UNA Executive Committee, noted: “The Ukrainian Weekly has always been a powerful force in our community and among Americans. Through the decades, it has rallied our community behind Ukrainian national causes, such as the defense of human rights activists in the USSR, the ultimate goal of independence for Ukraine, the erection of a monument in Washington to Taras Shevchenko, the establishment of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine and the international recognition of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 as genocide. It can be said without exaggeration that The Ukrainian Weekly has played a crucial role in reporting developments in our ancestral homeland, whether that was back in the 1930s, when Ukraine was subjugated by foreign powers, or today, 17 years after Ukraine renewed its independence.”

In April the UNA Home Office announced the names of the top organizers for 2007. The top producers in terms of most annual premiums for life insurance collected in 2007 were: first place – Lubov Streletsky (UNA advisor, secretary of Branch 10), second place – Myron Pylypiak (UNA advisor, secretary of Branch 496), third place – Valentina Kaploun (secretary of Branch 269, Home Office employee) and fourth place – Nicholas Fil (advisor, chairman of the Albany District Committee, secretary of Branch 13). In terms of most annual and single-premiums collected for life insurance, the champions were: first place – Eugene Osciulsawski (UNA advisor, secretary of Branch 234, licensed agent), second place – Ms. Streletsky, third place – Ms. Kaploun, fourth place – Okana Trytjak (secretary of Branch 25, licensed agent, UNA national organizer).

The UNA’s General Assembly met at its annual meeting at Soyuzivka on September 12-14. Participants of the meeting were buoyed by news of the rebound in the UNA’s insurance business, thanks largely to over $6 million in annuity sales during the first half of 2008, plus an overall increase in the sales of life insurance policies during the past year.

President Kaczaraj began his report by underscoring “that the UNA is definitely moving in the right direction,” as the past year has been notable for improvements in the association’s operations, sales of annuities and investment income, as well as in the operations of Soyuzivka and the UNA’s two newspapers, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly. He said that the UNA’s sale of its headquarters building had increased its surplus by $4,627,000, that both newspapers had redesigned their websites and that Soyuzivka had held yet another successful Ukrainian Cultural Festival. Treasurer Lisovich added that “the financial position of the UNA has seen a marked improvement over this past year.”

Among the General Assembly’s resolutions, adopted on the recommendations of separate committees charged with examining various aspects of the UNA’s activity, were the following: to schedule a mandatory meeting of all Canadian branch secretaries in Toronto in order to determine a new direction for the UNA in Canada; to cross-promote the UNA with other Ukrainian organizations; to hold Ukrainian Cultural Courses for high school students during the summer at Soyuzivka; to contract a marketing consultant specifically for advertising in the UNA’s newspapers, both print and online, as well as for promoting subscriptions; and to continue to promote a strong cultural program at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center. The budget adopted for 2009 is based on a modest net profit for the year, with annuity sales continuing to act as the engine for growth. Annuities are projected to exceed $10 million and investment income is budgeted to increase to $4 million in 2009.

Shortly after that, with the volatility of financial markets in the headlines, the UNA Home Office released a statement telling members and the public that the UNA's...
2008: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Violinist Inessa Tymochko-Dekajlo, pop star Vitaliy Kozlovsky and the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Workshop perform at Soyuzyvka’s second annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival held July 16-13.

Investments remain sound. “We are happy to report that the UNA investment portfolio remains a healthy one – currently maintaining a yield of over 6 percent through the second quarter of 2008. In order to mitigate the risk, we subscribe to a policy of broad portfolio diversification. As of today, our investment in any single U.S. corporation is less than 2 percent. Our portfolio holds fixed income securities from 118 unique issuers; 96 percent of the portfolio is invested in Agency and Aaa to BBB investment-grade securities according to Standard and Poors designations. All these safeguards have been consciously developed over time – some from our own experience, others from the experience of others. …We are happy to report that, to date, our portfolio remains in a solid position,” wrote Treasurer Lisovich on behalf of the UNA Executive Committee.

In other news at the UNA, the Auditing Committee Slavko Tysiak (chairman), Vasyl Luchkiw and Wasyl Szkowronski – in June reported on its recently concluded review of the Ukrainian National Foundation (UNF), which distributed about $350,000 in donor funds during 2007. The audit found that donor funds are properly accounted for and management oversight is appropriate. The UNF was founded by the UNA to support charitable, religious, educational and scientific endeavors. The UNF was formally opened the academy with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting ceremony. At Soyuzivka, the Ukrainian National Association’s Ukrainian heritage center in Kerhonkson, N.Y., the biggest

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Skliarova and Tetiana Chorniy from Ukraine. The bands Hrim and Zahrava played during the evening dances, and the Dumka Chorus of New York presented a stand-alone concert of traditional folk songs. For the younger set, there was the Barabolya show presented by Mr. Cahute. Of course, there was a food court and a vendors’ marketplace, plus cultural exhibits. And, oh yes, there was the popular varenyky-eating championship and a new feature: the Guitar Hero playoff.

Nearly 5,000 guests arrived at Soyuzivka over the course of the four-day festival. Among them were Ukraine’s Ambassador to the U.S. Oleh Shamshur, Ukraine’s Consul General in New York Mykola Kyrychenko and Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.), who spoke of his Ukrainian roots to the TV crew from Ukraine’s Channel 1 that spent the entire long weekend at Soyuzivka to film a report on the festival, Soyuzivka and the Ukrainian American community.

The annual Miss Soyuzivka contest was held over the weekend of August 9-10. Diana Dekajlo of East Meadow, N.Y., was named Miss Soyuzivka 2009, and Zirca Godenciuc of New Haven, Conn., was selected as the runner-up. Miss Soyuzivka 2008 Alana Lenec gave her farewell speech to cheers and applause from the appreciative crowd.

In other news, a 2008 Soyuzivka calendar was released as a fundraiser. It was the second such calendar prepared jointly by the Brooklyn Ukrainian Group and the UNA to support the Soyuzivka Heritage Center. Among the key people involved in the project is UNA Advisor Maya Lew, whose sister Ruta came up with the idea of a fundraising calendar.

The 2008 Almanac of the Ukrainian National Association was released by the Svoboda Press in January and sent to all subscribers of Svoboda. The almanac was dedicated first and foremost to the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Kruty, where a contingent of several hundred young men led by Capt. Ahapii Honcharenko attempted to check the advance on Kyiv of a 4,000-strong Bolshevik unit led by Mikhail Muraviev. The book store’s closing came as the UNA and its publications moved into newly renovated offices in the space they occupy on the second floor at 2200 Route 10 in Parsippany, N.J., at the end of November. Thus, the UNA, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly will get a fresh start in 2009 in their new office space.
Sports in 2008 was marked by the Summer Olympic Games, the Summer Paralympic Games and the Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad. Other annual tournaments included soccer, tennis and swimming. Wladimir Klitschko picked up another belt (WBO) and Vitali came out of retirement and picked up his old WBC belt. Sportline this year was filled with a great variety of sports from all over the world. Ukraine is beginning to adopt American sports such as gaming and extreme sports. Poker was made an official sport in Ukraine in 2008. Ukrainians had solid performances in cycling, swimming, amateur and professional boxing, gymnastics, tennis and soccer. Some of the unexpected achievements in sports for Ukrainians included those in table tennis, rugby, motorsports and ballroom dancing.

Following is a chronological review of the top Ukrainian sports stories of 2008.

The second-annual International Ukrainian Football Tournament (IUFT) was held on January 13-19 in Adelaide, Australia. The tournament attracted teams from Ivano-Frankivsk (FSC Prykarpattia), Great Britain, Adelaide (USC Lions Adelaide), Melbourne-Victoria (USC Lions Victoria) and Sydney (Sydney Trident FC). FSC Prykarpattia, which was favored to win, won the tournament without a single loss. Sydney finished in second place and Great Britain won third. A team representing the United States and Canada was unable to participate due to commitments for the Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad, but Gene Chyzowych, USCAK’s soccer director, said that USCAK would definitely participate in the tournament of 2009, to be held in Nottingham, England.

The first time a Ukrainian team played former NHLers was when the New Jersey Devils Alumni faced off against the New York Kozaks in a benefit game at Richard J. Codey Arena on January 19. The event, which attracted over 650 attendees, raised over $22,800 that was shared by the Children of Chornobyl Relief and Development Fund and the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey. The event attracted performances by Olympic champion figure skater Viktor Pfen tenko, along with his daughter, Viktoria, and two other students. The idea for the event came from Myron and Christina Bytz, who are both active with the UACCNJ and the New Jersey Devils Alumni Association, after they read an article in The Weekly about the New York Kozaks’ win in the Chelsea Piers Sky Rink league in 2007. Three of the Devils Alumni were of Ukrainian descent, including Ken Daneyko, Bruce Driver and Rob Skrlac. The Kozaks’ club was founded in the 1980s by Ukrainian American hockey players from the Ukrainian neighborhood of New York’s East Village. Losing 13-4 to the Devils, the Kozaks admitted it was a humbling experience to play against such world-class athletes. After the game, an informal reception was held at the UACCNJ’s social club.

The Bondarenko sisters, Kateryna and Alona, won the women’s doubles event 2-6, 6-1, 6-4, at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, on January 25. This was their first Grand Slam title. The Bondarenko sisters followed in the footsteps of the Williams sisters, Venus and Serena.

Wladimir Klitschko (53-3, 44 KO) added Sultan Ibragimov’s (22-1-1, 17 KO) WBO belt to his collection of three titles with a unanimous decision win on February 23 at Madison Square Garden in New York. The fight was lackluster, due to Klitschko’s cautious, methodical jabbing, but garnered cheers when Klitschko unleashed his right hand in the fourth round. Klitschko dedicated the fight to the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation.

Wladimir Klitschko, the IBF, IBO and WBO heavyweight champion, defended his IBF title against Hasim Rahman on December 13 in Mannheim, Germany, with a seventh round TKO. Referee Tony Weeks stopped the bout 44 seconds into the seventh round after Klitschko landed a series of unanswered left hooks.

There is a Ukrainian in the NFL: Nick Kaczur, No. 77, starting right offensive tackle for the New England Patriots. Kaczur, 29, has played for the Pats since 2005, his rookie season, and filled in for Matt Light, left offensive tackle, after Light broke his leg. Kaczur was a four-time Mid-American Conference selection at the University of Toledo at left offensive tackle, and having to switch from left to right, when he joined the Pats, required some work on Kaczur’s part.

The Carpathian Ski Club (known by its Ukrainian acronym KLK) hosted its 54th annual ski races at Hunter Mountain, in New York on March 8. The event attracted 77 skiers.
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Girls’ under-18 group: gold medalist Olenka Olesnycky (center) flanked by silver medalist Marta Cherpak (left) and bronze medalist Anissa Boyko at the Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad.

Chornomorska Stitch soccer players, swimmers, and track and field athletes at the Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad held over the Fourth of July weekend.

All clubs’ swimming medalists at the Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad.

25 players of Ukrainian descent skate among the best in the NHL. Included in the recap performance list were Zenon Konopka, Nikolai Zherdev (Columbus/Rangers), Keith Tkachuk, Lee Stempniak, Jeff Woywitka (St. Louis), Glen Metropolit (Boston), Kyle Brodzak (Edmonton), Daniel Szczerbiak, guard-forward for the NBA’s Cleveland Cavaliers, was profiled in the April 13 issue. His NBA career began in 1999 with the Minnesota Timberwolves and the 2008-2009 season will pay him $9.3 million. Szczerbiak signed a six-year contract for $63 million, and in his final contract year will be the third highest paid Cavalier. Szczerbiak is known for his determination and powerful playing style, but during the time of the profile, he was in a shooting slump that, as his college record shows, is only a temporary setback that he can get himself out of. Having graduated from Miami University of Ohio, Szczerbiak still has fans in Cleveland.

Another NBA star, Oleksiy Pecherov, in his rookie year with the Washington Wizards at center and power forward, was profiled on the pages of Ukelodeon in April. Pecherov, not only a force on the court, shows his Ukrainian pride by attending festivals and taking time out to join local Plast activities. In an interview with a Ukelodeon reader, Dmytro Deychakiwsky, Pecherov explained what it’s like to play in the NBA, basketball in Ukraine and how he is adjusting to life in the United States.

The Yonkers Branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association hosted its fourth annual volleyball tournament on April 15, which attracted 17 teams and more than 115 players. In the men’s division, SIN Catering won first place, followed by Team A of Lys Sports Academy in second place and PK/Sammy in third. In the boys’ division, USA Yonkers won first, and second place went to Team A of Stitch Sports Club. In the girls’ division, USA Yonkers won first place, and Sitch won second place. A dinner was held at the Ukrainian Youth Center in Yonkers for all of the participants.

Tryzub Ukrainian American Sports Center hosted its seventh annual Ukrainian Nationals invitational soccer tournament on Memorial Day weekend, May 23-25. The tournament attracted over 160 teams, including one from Bermuda. The Ukrainian Nationals won three championships and reached the finals nine additional times.

In Mr. Stelmach’s recap of the 2007-2008 NHL season, 25 players of Ukrainian descent skate among the best in the NHL. Included in the recap performance list were Zenon Konopka, Nikolai Zherdev (Columbus/Rangers), Keith Tkachuk, Lee Stempniak, Jeff Woywitka (St. Louis), Glen Metropolit (Boston), Kyle Brodzak (Edmonton), Daniel Wynn (Phoenix), Matt Stajan, Alexei Ponikarovsky (Toronto), Jordan Tootoo (Nashville), Darek Sydor, Jonathan Filewich (Pittsburgh), Todd Fedoruk (Minnesota), Ryan Potulny (Tampa Bay), Darcy Hordichuk (Nashville), Ryan Potulny (Philadelphia), Johnny Boychuk (Colorado), and Joe Motko, Daren Haydar, Alexei Zhimik (Atlanta).

Ukraine’s and Poland’s chances of hosting the UEFA Euro Cup in 2012 were questionable when it was revealed that the government was getting bogged down trying to make the necessary improvements. Michel Platini, president of the Union of European Football Associations, during a visit to Ukraine on July 3, urged Ukraine to take steps to get on schedule. Both President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko assured Mr. Platini that Ukraine would be ready.

Our readers were informed on July 20 about the rise of the Ottawa Ukraine Royals, the first all-Ukrainian soccer team in Ottawa, founded in 2005. From the humble beginnings of joining the Ottawa Carleton League and starting at the bottom, the Ottawa Royals have progressed to the upper tiers and hope to someday play in the top division.

Andriy Shevchenko, the world-renowned Ukrainian soc-
The noteworthy: events and people

Noteworthy – that’s the category of all categories, or is it the category of no categories? In this section readers will find items that really defy categorization according to one’s notion of things. Here are the noteworthy events and people of 2008.

• Kyiv was among 88 international cities nominated to fill 22 spaces on an 11th edition of Monopoly called “Monopoly Here & Now: World Edition.” For five weeks in January in February, voters were invited to log onto the monopoly.com website and vote for their favorite city. The most enthusiastic Kyiv boosters was Dirk Lustig, general manager of TOY-TOY Accent Toys based in Kyiv, a toy distributor for several companies, including Hasbro. The Gorbachev native has lived and worked in Kyiv for the past 15 years, and personally promoted his adopted city through an e-mail campaign. The results were announced on August 20, and after 5.6 million votes were cast Kyiv secured a magenta-colored spot next to Toronto and Istanbul.

• On January 30 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit ruled that a U.S. immigration judge had the authority to deport John Demjanjuk. In December 2005 the 88-year-old Demjanjuk was ordered to be deported following a ruling that he had been a guard at the Sobibor and Flossenbogen Nazi concentration camps. His defense team appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, but on May 19 it turned down a request to hear his appeal. Demjanjuk may be deported to Ukraine, or to Germany or Poland if Ukraine refuses to accept him. By year’s end it appeared that Mr. Demjanjuk might stand trial in Germany, as Germany’s highest criminal court must decide whether he can be prosecuted for alleged crimes as a Nazi prison guard.

• Leonard Mazur, vice-chairman of Akrimax Pharmaceuticals, and Chairman Joseph Krivulka (an American of Hungarian descent) made headlines and were hailed as saviors in January when their prescription dermatological company acquired a facility in Rouses Point, N.Y., that was on the verge of closure. Wyeth Pharmaceuticals announced in 2005 their intentions to shut down the facility and move operations overseas by 2009, cutting hundreds of jobs in a village of 2,500. However, after two years of talks, Akrimax reached an agreement on January 11 to take over the Rouses Point plant, literally saving Clinton County’s single largest private employer.

• In January, President-elect Barack Obama won Ukraine in the Democrats Abroad primary, winning 62.5 percent of the vote, or 25 votes, from the 40 American Democrats in Ukraine who participated. A total of 164 countries took part in the Democrats Abroad vote, which sent 14 pledged delegates to the national convention.

• In March the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) reported a record 514 active members in the United States and Canada as of the end of 2007 – a positive trend that was part of six consecutive years of membership growth for the organization.

• The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) informed the National Organization of Scouts in Ukraine (NOSU) in March that Ukraine’s scouting groups could anticipate full membership shortly. NOSU was created in March 2007 and includes Ukrainian Scouting Organization, SPOK (Spilna Pionerskoi Orhanizatsii Kyieva, or Pioneer Movement Organization of Kyiv, a Russian-language civic youth organization) and Sich (a Ukrainian children’s association emphasizing Kozak traditions). According to WOSM regulations, Plant did not qualify as the sole scouting entity in Ukraine seeking international recognition; therefore, NOSU was created to form a single, national scouting organization. On July 1, the NOSU was formally admitted into the WOSM.

• On April 13 three Ukrainian political prisoners who successfully escaped from the notorious Blyskytsky prison on June 16, 1939, during the Polish occupation were honored at a ceremony at the site of the prison in Liviv, a sculpture titled “Freedom has No Price,” depicting three falcons breaking through iron bars and flying towards the heavens, was dedicated to the memory of the nationalist trio: Petro Bashuk, Volodya Haywas and Petro Kaniuka. The heroic escape became as the Polish authorities stepped up their repression of the intemates, and news of their successful defiance raised the morale of Ukrainians throughout western Ukraine.

• Melanie Verveer, co-founder and chairman of the board of Vital Voices Global Partnership, received Ukraine’s highest honor, the President’s Award on April 16 in recognition at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, Ambassador Oleh Shamshur, presenting the award on behalf of President Viktor Yushchenko, cited Ms. Verveer’s work in “promot-
Sikorsky was unveiled on May 14 on the grounds of the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. Then-mayoral candidate Vitali Klitschko and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani were among the dignitaries present at the ceremony in tribute to the designer of many of the world’s most significant aircraft, including the first prototype helicopters and multi-engine airplanes. Sikorsky studied at the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute in 1907-1911, and on the base of the statue are the words of gratitude the engineer had for the Institute: “I take my hat off to the alma mater that trained me to conquer the skies.”

• On May 24 Ukrainian pop singer Ani Lorak took second place at the 2008 Eurovision Song Contest, scoring 250 points to Russian Dima Bilan’s 272 points. She was considered a favorite and easily made it to the finals. President Viktor Yushchenko commended her talent and congratulated her on her success, saying her “sweet voice, unique charm and masterly performance” helped “strengthen the international image of our motherland.”

• Famed Beatle guitarist Paul McCartney performed at what was believed to be the largest free concert in Ukraine to date in front of hundreds of thousands on Kyiv’s Independence Square. Ukrainians in Lviv, Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk were also able to enjoy the concert via live feed to large screens in their respective cities. Despite a torrential downpour, McCartney and the Ukrainian crowd thoroughly enjoyed the two-hour performance, which was only the second concert Mr. McCartney or any of the Beatles had performed in a venue in the former Soviet bloc. In exchange for the free concert, paid for by wealthy Ukrainian businessman Viktor Pinchuk, 41 pieces of McCartney’s artwork were showcased in a free exhibit at the PinchukArtCentre in Kyiv. Though free to the public, the concert was a charity event to support the children’s department of Ukraine’s National Cancer Institute, and some $800,000 (U.S.) was raised through Ukraine’s business community and other benefactors.

• Lions Clubs in both Ukraine and Poland joined forces to help save and restore the numerous beautifully crafted stone lions that adorn Lviv’s parks and buildings. Some of the lions are over 750 years old, and many are in desperate need of repair. The Lions Club, an organization of volunteers dedicated to improving life in their communities, decided to take on the challenge. The first project, with $2,000 raised by the Polish Lions, was to restore a two-headed stone sculpture representing the unity of the Ukrainian and Polish people. News of the project was published in The Weekly on June 15.

• In its August 31 issue The Weekly reported the fascinating story of Paul Poberezny, one of the most famous and successful people in the world of aviation. Poberezny was trained as an engineer in the United States and decided to become a pilot. He went on to become the president of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), a group for airplane enthusiasts of all backgrounds. Two years after forming the EAA, he wrote an article for Mechanix Illustrated in 1955 on how to build a full-size functioning airplane for $700, after which EAA took off, so to speak. The group began conducting air shows where both amateur and professional aviators could come together to discuss and demonstrate their planes for the public. During these shows, the air traffic control towers would become the busiest in the world, regularly recording more traffic than both Chicago’s O’Hare and New York’s JFK airports combined. The exposition, called Airventure, grew so rapidly that Mr. Poberezny became compelled to purchase 900 acres of land on Lake Winnebago near Oshkosh, Wis., to accommodate the guests and airplanes from far and wide. In 2008 Airventure drew some 60,000 people and over 15,000 airplanes.

• The 2008 Nabur Prize in philately was won by artists Vasyl Vasylenko and Svitlana Bondar, for a set of 12 stamps released in 2007 depicting “Traditional Ukrainian Wedding Headdresses.” The nine ladies’ headpieces and three men’s decorated hats, festooned with a combination of flowers, ribbons, embroidery, and/or feathers, are of the kind worn by newlyweds in the western and central regions of Ukraine. The Heorhiy Nabur Prize, now won by Ms. Bondar three years running, is sponsored by the U.S.-based Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society (UPNNS) and is recognized as the premier philatelic art award in Ukraine. The winners were announced in the September 21 issue of The Weekly.

• The Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor honored Anna Macielinski as Ukrainian of the Year for 2008 at their 69th anniversary gala banquet on October 12. The honor is bestowed annually upon an individual who has been particularly active in and made special contributions to the Ukrainian community in North America. Ms. Macielinski recently retired after 34 years of work in the State of Michigan’s field of human services. Perhaps her most satisfying achievement was the founding of Angel House: Children’s Emergency Shelter and Assessment Center. Ms. Macielinski has also served as vice-president of the Detroit Regional Council of the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America (UNWLA), and in May was the chair of the UNWLA’s 28th national convention, where she was elected to the national executive board.

• Col. Michael Klimchik, a resident of Chatham, N.J., was installed as commanding officer of the Military Intelligence Group Europe (MIG-E), 7th Civil Support Command (CSC) during a ceremony on October 12 in
2008: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Our community mourns their passing

During 2008 we mourned the passing of many important members of our Ukrainian community. Among them were the following, listed in chronological order.

- Dr. Volodymyr Trembicky, 88, noted author, former professor of international economics and the history of Central and Eastern Europe, expert in national heraldic insignia and participant in the 1918 Ukrainian struggle for independence – New York, January 3.

- The Rev. Mitred Ivan Hryshyk, 95, priest ordained by Metropolitan Andrej Sheptytsky, pastor to Ukrainian Catholic faithful in Ukraine, Slovakia, Austria, France and Canada – Montreal, January 12.

- Mary Bayrak, 92, last known survivor of Canada’s internment of Ukrainian immigrants as enemy aliens during World War I – Edmonton, January 14.


- Dr. Lev Dobriansky, 89, longtime former president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), retired professor of economics at Georgetown University, former chairman of the Captive Nations Committee, U.S. ambassador to the Bahamas, and staunch anti-Communist activist – Springfield, Va., January 30.

- Dr. Bohdan Burchynsky, well-known community activist, a leader of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine and its first president – Fairlawn Park, N.J., February 5.


- Dr. Julian Pawlowski, 99, noted physician and active benefactor of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in Minneapolis, who spent most of his retirement years as a volunteer physician at various Plast summer camps – Abington, Pa., February 23.

- Natalia Zakyldska, 94, active member and youth counselor of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, director of the Plast cooperative Plai, initiator of the Aid to Ukraine Section of the Plast branch in Toronto – Toronto, February 23.

- Dr. Omelan Antonovych, 94, widely respected community philanthropist, supporter of literature, art and scholarship through the Antonovych Foundation, former president of the Ukrainian Association of Washington, veteran of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, survivor of both Polish and Nazi imprisonment – Livy, February 28.

- Dr. Alexander Pavlowsky, 55, specialist in Slavic studies who held positions at the Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies and the “Ukrainian One” program at the University of Manitoba, Ukrainian Canadian pop culture specialist – Toronto, March 29.

- Dr. Alexandra Pawlowsky, 55, specialist in Slavic studies who held positions at the Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies and the “Ukrainian One” program at the University of Manitoba, Ukrainian Canadian pop culture specialist – Toronto, March 29.

- Olga Paprowska, 89, longtime treasurer of the Ukrainian National Association Seniors, activist of Branch 73 of the Ukrainian National Women’s League of America – Newtown, Conn., May 1.

- Estelle Woloshyn, 87, longtime president of the Ukrainian National Association Branch 348, a UNA Fraternalist of the Year, president of the chair of the UNA’s Youngstown District, co-founder of the Ukrainian Heritage Foundation of North America – Akron, Ohio, May 2.


- Dr. Lev E. Dobriansky in 1971.


- Stefan W. Hawryszczuk.

• The Rev. Dr. Ivan Bilashchyn, 94, who held doctorates in theology, canon law and civil law, assistant to Bishop Ivan Buchko in Rome, dean at St. Basil’s Seminary, pastor in Berwick, Pa., for 31 years, and in Philadelphia for two decades – Berwick, Pa., June 12.

• Dr. Alexander Sokolyszyn, librarian, researcher and author, leading member of the Ukrainian Librarians Association, former columnist (“Eye on Books”) of The Ukrainian Weekly – New York, June 21.
2008: THE YEAR IN REVIEW


- Alexander Slobodyanik, 66, world-renowned master pianist with a career spanning five decades on six continents, founder and director of the Morris International Festival of the Arts – Morristown, N.J., August 10.

- Bishop Michael Kuchmiak, 85, veteran of the 1st Division of the Ukrainian National Army, former auxiliary bishop for Philadelphia, former apostolic exarch in Great Britain – Saskatchewan, August 26.


- Lev Bodnar, 87, member of the Organizaton of kanon, radio program host – Chicago, August 24.


- Ivaan Kotulsky, metal artist who worked primarily in Stainless Steel, illustrator of the iconic Scythian stag brooch for the Royal Ontario Museum’s exhibit of Scythian gold – Toronto, December 5.

- Halyna Levytska, 50, journalist for the newspaper Za Knygoю, writer, radio program host – Chicago, August 24.


- Dr. Daria Markus, 73, educator, researcher, co-author of the ongoing Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora project, founder of Club 500, which raised funds for the establishment of a Ukrainian Consulate in Chicago, first in-country director in Kyiv for the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) – Chicago, November 17.


- Yaroslava Surmanch Mills in her youth.


- Bishop Michael Kuchmiak, ChSr

Meanwhile, here at The Weekly...

W e at The Ukrainian Weekly had a roller coaster of a year as we had staff changes in Kyiv and a move of our offices to contend with at home in Parsippany, N.J.

In our first issue of 2008 we welcomed a new staffer: layout artist Donkirk Bushnell who officially joined the staff on January 1. (He had been working at The Weekly since October 1, 2007, during which time our publisher calls a three-month trial period.) Mr. Bushnell arrived with layout experience at two university newspapers, as well as experience in radio production and a B.S. in computer science. He and typesetter/layout person Awilda Rolon comprise our two-person production staff.

Also in January, on the 11th to be precise, Editor Zenon Zawada of our Kyiv Press Bureau left The Weekly’s staff to serve as chief editor of the Kyiv Post (a post he held between January and May). Ilya M. Labunka, who had free-lanced admirably for us in the past, filled in. Mr. Labunka (“Bub”) continues to file stories for The Weekly on a free-lance basis, for which we are always grateful.

Then, during the summer months, The Weekly’s Kyiv presence was bolstered by summer intern Drew Kolody LePelechuk, a senior majoring in journalism at Northeastern University in Boston, who had been an intern for us here in Parsippany during the summer of 2005. His first story from Kyiv was about Paul McCartney’s (free concert on the “maidan” – Independence Square. The concert was dubbed the “Paul McCartney Independence Concert.” Our Kyiv intern also wrote a five-part column about his experiences in Ukraine called “Notes from the Homeland.” Mr. LePelechuk served in Kyiv from late June through late August, and then returned to Boston to complete his final semester of studies. (Incidentally, he earned college credits for his Kyiv stint with The Weekly.)

Meanwhile, Mr. Zawada left the Kyiv Post and began writing some free-lance articles for our newspaper. He opted to return to The Weekly full-time in August. He needs to say that he is back, and our veteran Kyiv correspondent, who had joined our staff in February of 2005.

Back home in Parsippany, our staff of two (count ‘em) editors, Roma Hadzewycz and Matthew Dubas, carried on. We also had a summer intern. Tyrsa Korduba, a student at the University of Virginia who is majoring in Eastern European studies, worked on rewriting, copy-editing and proofreading, as well as some original reporting. She was also involved in contacts with readers and writers, and helped organize the joint library of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda that was set up in a new space in anticipation of the physical reorganization and move of our editorial, production and administrative offices.

Right after Thanksgiving we began work in our new offices, still located on the second floor of 2200 Route 10 in Parsippany, N.J., but completely remodeled. Our office staff have moved just down the hall and our space, thankful-ly, has been upgraded and renovated for the first time since we moved into this building in 1997.

* * *

There was some really great news for us in January 2008. The Shevchenko Scientific Society awarded a grant of $15,000 to The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda for their project to digitize the full complement of their issues released since their founding, respectively, in 1933 and 1893. It was an auspicious start to The Weekly’s 75th anniversary year and Svoboda’s 115th. The grant came from the George Kovoor Foundation, activity and grants, and the notification came in a letter signed by Dr. Orest Popovych, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, and Dr. Olexa Bilanick, chair of the society’s Scholarship and Grants Committee.

A front page story about this strong support of the newspapers’ archive project appeared in the January 20 issue. It was in the year in which we really great news became even better. Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union donated $50,000 for our digital archives project. The donation was presented at the newspapers’ editorial offices on April 15 by Bohdan Kurczak, president and chief executive officer, and Bohdan S. Sawycky, chief financial officer, to the managing editor of both papers, Mr. Hadzewycz. Mr. Kurczak noted: “This is a very important project and, because we are a Ukrainian American credit union, we want to see this project completed and documented from the 1890s. We see this as an opportunity to give back to the community.” Mr. Sawycky added: “The UNA can make these digital archives available to the gen-
During the year, The Ukrainian Weekly several times "spoke" to its readers about news at the papers, as well as its mission and goals. “Our (new and improved) website” was the title of our March 2 editorial, which noted that The Ukrainian Weekly online now had a new look. It also noted that, in keeping with our purpose, the full texts of The Weekly issues for the previous year were released to the public on the UNA’s anniversary date. In case you’re counting, the 2007 issues encompass 1,392 pages.

On July 13 our editorial titled “Check us out online” explained what The Weekly’s website has to offer and invited readers to visit and spend some time at www.ukrweekly.com. It also noted that, in keeping with tradition, the full texts of all Weekly issues for the years 1933-1969, and Volume II, 1970-1999 appear in three books published by the newspaper: “The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund, which this year brought in $19,153.80. Our sincere thanks to all of our benefactors. We really can’t do it without you.”

**Credits, disclaimers**

The articles in our “2008: The Year in Review” were prepared on the basis of materials published in The

Danylo Peleschuk, our summer intern at the Kyiv Press Bureau.

and galvanizing community action on issues of the day,” the editorial explained. “Here in Parsippany, N.J., our staff of two editors (we have a third editor in Kyiv), works with community activists’ submissions and suggestions in order to present better information for the benefit of all our readers. We field countless e-mail messages and phone calls in the course of preparing each week’s issue of this newspaper.

And that, Dear Readers, is what we do, day in and day out, in an effort to serve our community and keep true to our founding mission.

We do what we do thanks to our publisher, the Ukrainian National Association, our subscribers and our advertisers. We also benefit greatly from donations to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund, which this year brought in a total of $29,153.80. Our sincere thanks to all of our benefactors. We really can’t do it without you.”

Finally, as we begin 2009, we wish all our loyal subscribers a happy and healthy new year filled with good fortune and much success.

Tyrsa Korduba at The Ukrainian Weekly’s editorial offices in Parsippany, N.J.

Weekly and written by numerous authors. (If it wasn’t reported in The Weekly, you won’t see it in our year in review.) Our team for this issue was composed of: Roma Hadzewycz, Matthew Dubas, Zenon Zawada, Yaro Bilhun, Oksana Zakydalsky, Yarema Belej, Markian Hadzewycz, Deanna Yurchuk and Lesia Lebed.

Our annual “to be sure clause”: of necessity, our year-end cannot contain information about ALL the events that took place during the year. Thus, what appears herein is a matter of the editors’ choices given space constraints and judgment calls. So, yes, some events are sure to have been missed in this compilation. We direct our readers to our website, www.ukrweekly.com, where they can read all the archived issues of our newspaper for the years 1977-2008 and special issues, as well as (for the time being) the current year’s issues.

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