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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Newspaper publisher is arrested in Lviv

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – State Tax Administration officials arrested Markian Ivaschyshyn, co-founder of the oppositionist newspaper Lviv Hazeta, on December 30, 2003, on three charges of failing to declare income.

Mr. Ivaschyshyn's friends and colleagues said the charges were part of a continued, wider effort by state authorities to intimidate and curtail activities of the political opposition as the election year begins.

The newspaper publisher, who was released immediately after being charged, was a leading figure in the student hunger strikes of 1990 in Kyiv. Since then he had been an entrepreneur, an art and music promoter, and a civil protest leader in Lviv. Mr. Ivaschyshyn said the charges were groundless, simply an effort to intimidate him and restrain the anti-government stance of his newspaper.

"They are politically motivated," Mr. Ivaschyshyn told The Weekly. "Authorities want to pressure me into submission by bringing these charges against me."

Lviv Hazeta Editor-in-Chief Yuriy Nazaruk was more specific as to why his publisher has come under attack. In quotes in the few Ukrainian mass media outlets that ran the story, Mr. Nazaruk stated that he believed the law enforcement action against Mr. Ivaschyshyn came as a result of articles printed in Lviv Hazeta that negatively portrayed Lviv Oblast Tax Administration director Serhii Medvedchuk and his more famous older brother, Viktor, President Leonid Kuchma's chief of staff.

The charges against Mr. Ivaschyshyn came several months after his partner and financial backer, Lviv businessman Yaroslav Ruschyshyn, owner of one of Ukraine's largest clothing manufacturers, charged that the local tax police were harassing his businesses too.

Mr. Ivaschyshyn said the offices of his newspaper and the entertainment club and art center he also runs, called Dzyga, had received unscheduled visits by tax authorities since June. At that time the authorities accused him of doctoring his books by claiming to take ads for entertainment events at his club that were never held. However, the tax inspectors failed to file formal charges at the time.

Mr. Ivaschyshyn said such charges did not violate the Ukrainian tax code in any case. He said the tax police had specifically questioned him about an entertainment event that was to occur in August 2002, just days after the Sknyliv air show disaster. "After the Sknyliv disaster we pulled the show even though we had advertised it," explained the Lviv Hazeta publisher. "This is one of the bases for the charges."

State Tax Administration officials in Lviv Oblast were not available for comment as The Weekly was going to press. Most government offices remained closed throughout the country as New Year's and Christmas observations continued.

Mr. Ivaschyshyn asserted his absolute innocence and said he would not compromise in the battle he now faces to clear his name of the allegations leveled against him. He said he also would not cave to pressure to curtail his outspoken criticism of both local and state leaders. He explained that when he founded the newspaper in the 1990s as an oppositionist news source, he accepted that he would have to deal with the consequences.

"As we have successfully done before, we will use lawyers and go through the courts to resolve the problems, but we are ready to go the political route as well, with meetings and demonstrations," said Mr. Ivaschyshyn.

Ukraine's minister of the economy resigns

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Minister of the Economy and European Integration Valerii Khoroshkovskiy, the political boy wonder who became a national deputy at 29 and a Cabinet minister at 33, resigned his post on January 3, citing his inability to work in the current government.

Mr. Khoroshkovskiy blamed First Vice Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, who also holds the post of finance minister, with shackling his ability to work successfully by forcing all the government ministries to concentrate their efforts on fulfilling budget requirements rather than on the development of longer term strategies and goals.

"The post of minister of finance in the new government structure has become the dominant one," explained Mr. Khoroshkovskiy in an open letter announcing his departure. He added that the current situation in the Cabinet of Ministers had not allowed the Ministry of the Economy to "properly execute its policies regarding the development of free markets and the need to increase the competitive level of the domestic economy."

Mr. Khoroshkovskiy had waged a political battle over the last year with Mr. Azarov on how to develop the Ukrainian economy. While Mr. Khoroshkovskiy, a Western-oriented businessman who has interests in Mercks Furniture and UkrSocBank, wanted to develop European markets, Mr. Azarov, a remnant of the Soviet era and ex-director of Ukraine's State Tax Administration, believed strong economic ties with Russia were in Ukraine's best interest.

Mr. Azarov played a key role in the development of the Single Economic Space, the agreement proposed by Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma and Russia's President Vladimir Putin, along with the state leaders of Kazakhstan and Belarus, to organize their countries into a common market.

The extent of the disagreement between the two government officials came to a head during parliamentary floor hearings on the SES, during which Mr. Khoroshkovskiy openly criticized his elder colleague for inaccurately portraying the benefits that economic union



Valerii Khoroshkovskiy

Yaro Bihun

with the three countries would bring Ukraine. Mr. Khoroshkovskiy also was one of three ministers who voted against the government resolution authorizing President Kuchma to sign the document that began the country's march into the SES.

Ironically, Mr. Khoroshkovskiy came to the Ministry of the Economy from a position as first deputy chief of staff of the presidential administration. Many political pundits believe his downfall was his failure to support the SES plan after Mr. Kuchma made it clear he wanted government authorization to sign a SES agreement in some form in Yalta during an annual summit of leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which Ukraine hosted in October.

While Mr. Azarov did not respond to Mr. Khoroshkovskiy's explanations for his departure, Prime

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Cardinal Lubomyr Husar visits Washington

by Serhiy Zhykharev

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – Traveling the world to minister to his flock as an emissary of peace, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, considered Patriarch of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, visited Washington, on December 10, 2003.

The Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), which is the Washington office of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), arranged meetings with NCSJ (formerly known as the National Council on Soviet Jewry) and Mykhailo Reznik, Ukraine's newest appointed ambassador to the United States.

Participating in an hour-long meeting at NCSJ were Mark Levin, NCSJ executive director; Shai Franklin, NCSJ director of governmental relations; Lesley Weiss, NCSJ director of community services and cultural affairs; Bishop Walter Paska (emeritus); and Michael Sawkiw Jr., UCCA president.

At the NCSJ Cardinal Husar elaborated on the degrees of cooperation that exist among various major religions in Ukraine. A special council was formed by officials of the Ukrainian Catholic, Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim faiths to represent their interests before the Ukrainian government, as well as to discuss issues regarding restitution of former religious properties.

"We want to understand each other," stated Cardinal

Husar, "and through our council, not only do we respond to various needs, but we bring forth mutual trust within our respective communities."

Mr. Levin briefed Cardinal Husar on the role of NCSJ, especially during Soviet times, as well as their work and projects in Ukraine and other newly independent states following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. "Our goal is to educate people about tolerance," explained Mr. Levin, referring to anti-Semitism throughout the world. Cardinal Husar spoke of anti-Semitism in Ukraine in relation to historical episodes versus modern society and how the Soviet government had antagonized various groups to cause disunity and fear. Patriarch Husar and the NCSJ agreed to remain in contact, especially concerning the restitution of religious property in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Catholic primate also met with Ukraine's new ambassador to the United States, Mykhailo Reznik. During the meeting, the Church leader spoke of the need to present a more balanced and positive picture in the Western media regarding reform efforts in Ukraine.

Ambassador Reznik reflected upon Ukraine's positive contributions to global security: peacekeeping forces in Iraq; a nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) battalion deployed in Kuwait during the Iraqi war; assistance in the fight against international terrorism, etc.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Ukraine faces radical changes in its constitutional system

Editor's note: The analysis below was written before the Verkhovna Rada on December 24, 2003, passed in its first reading one of three bills on amending the Constitution of Ukraine. A total of 276 deputies voted in favor of a bill co-authored by Communist leader Petro Symonenko and Viktor Medvedchuk, presidential chief of staff, which would make 2004 the last year that popular and direct presidential elections are held in Ukraine, instead giving this prerogative to the Parliament. The following analysis provides pertinent background that is crucial for an understanding of the issues and forces at work.

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

The Verkhovna Rada is scheduled on December 23 to consider three political-reform bills that were drafted to introduce crucial amendments to the Ukrainian Constitution of 1996.

According to a majority of Ukrainian observers, one bill, registered in the Parliament under No. 3027-1 and authored by an ad hoc parliamentary commission (which included opposition activists Oleksander Moroz and Anatolii Matvienko), stands no chance of being approved.

The real parliamentary debate is expected to focus on bills No. 4105 (prepared by the presidential administration headed by Viktor Medvedchuk and preliminarily approved by Communist leader Petro Symonenko, and therefore referred to as the Medvedchuk-Symonenko draft) and No. 4180 (prepared by a group of pro-presidential lawmakers, the so-called Havrysh draft).

The Medvedchuk-Symonenko and Havrysh bills propose that the president be elected by Parliament instead of by direct ballot, but they differ in their suggested dates of implementation of such a move. The Medvedchuk-Symonenko bill wants the president to be elected via universal ballot in October 2004 and serve until the new president is elected by the Verkhovna Rada in 2006, within a month after the inauguration of a newly elected legislature. Since the regular parliamentary election is expected by the end of March 2006, such an "interim president" would serve for some 18 months.

The Havrysh bill proposes that the Parliament elect the president already in October 2004, the current Verkhovna Rada's term is extended by one year, and the new president is elected again by lawmakers in 2007.

The Medvedchuk-Symonenko bill was reportedly supported by the signatures of 292 lawmakers (300 votes are necessary to change the Ukrainian Constitution).

Ukraine's Constitutional Court recently ruled that both bills conform with Articles 157 and 158 of the Constitution of Ukraine, which set a number of general restrictions on constitutional amendments.

The procedure for amending the Constitution by the Verkhovna Rada requires two steps. First, the amendments need to be approved "in the first reading" by a simple majority (at least 226 votes). Second, they must be approved by a two-thirds majority (at least 300 votes) at the legislature's next regular session. Thus, if

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the Verkhovna Rada wants to apply new rules to the October 2004 presidential election, it must endorse either the Medvedchuk-Symonenko bill or the Havrysh bill (or both of them, or a mix of the two) by at least 226 votes on December 23, before its winter-holiday recess.

The mustering of 226 votes for the Medvedchuk-Symonenko draft by the pro-presidential parliamentary majority seems to be an easy task, since the Communist Party is essentially in favor of strengthening the parliamentary prerogatives at the expense of presidential ones. The Communists are offering their support to the constitutional reform in exchange for the introduction of a fully proportional, party-list system of parliamentary elections.

What else may change in Ukraine's political system apart from the way of electing the country's president if the Medvedchuk-Symonenko bill is adopted in its current form?

The president's right to propose the entire Cabinet of Ministers will be limited to four officials: prime minister, defense minister, foreign affairs minister, and head of the Security Service. The prime minister will propose all other Cabinet members, as well as the heads of state committees. The prime minister will also nominate all regional governors. The Parliament will be given the right not only to approve Cabinet members and other high-ranking officials, but also to dismiss them.

The president will receive the right to dissolve the Parliament if it fails to form a pro-government coalition within 30 days, form a Cabinet within 60 days, elect a president within three months, or convene for more than 30 days during the ongoing session.

A people's deputy may be stripped of his/her parliamentary mandate if he/she fails to participate in plenary sitting for more than 60 days, quits the caucus of the party that placed him/her on the ballot, or fails to suspend his/her salaried activity outside the Parliament.

There is little doubt that the constitutional reform was primarily devised by the presidential administration either to prevent Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko – the country's most popular, Western-oriented politician – from becoming the president in 2004 or to limit his possible presidential term to a year and a half.

The presidential administration is seemingly aware that none of the potential candidates from the "party of power" – be it Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, presidential administration chief Viktor Medvedchuk, or National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Serhii Tyhypko, for instance – is able to beat Yushchenko in a nationwide presidential ballot.

On the other hand, President Leonid Kuchma and his aides turned out to be masters of backstage maneuvering when after the 2002 parliamentary election, which was won by Our Ukraine, they managed not only to form a fairly viable pro-government coalition without the Communists, but also to reduce the role of Mr. Yushchenko's bloc in the Verkhovna Rada to that of political extras. Apparently, the presidential entourage expects that it will be able to retain its current leverage in the country

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Regional Center for Social Adaptation strives to give former inmates hope

by Iona Lewyckyj

LVIV – The hardships of her life were carved into the creases of her face. A homemade tattoo of an eagle, scrawled crookedly on her shoulder, spoke to the rawness of her life in prison. But the words she rasped between drags of a cigarette told a different story, a story of hope: "Before I came here I had nothing, no one. This is my family now, this is my new life."

Halya is one of 40 residents at the Shelter for Social Adaptation in the town of Brody in the Lviv oblast. Founded in 1991 by Ihor Hnat, executive director of the Regional Center for Social Adaptation (RCSA), the mission of the shelter is twofold: to provide housing, counseling, and a viable alternative to life on the streets to former prison inmates, particularly young people without family support; and the reduction of recidivism in Ukrainian prisons through job skills training and social programming.

In the past 12 years, RCSA has been part of the story of hope for Halya and over 700 other former convicts.

RCSA's shelter, situated on a former Soviet military base, is the only program in Ukraine that works with former prison

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inmates. The majority of the residents are people whose only method of survival during Ukraine's difficult economic transition was through petty crime. Many of them served disproportionately harsh terms in Ukrainian prisons, which are continually cited by international monitoring groups for human rights violations. Afterwards, they are released onto the streets, usually with no family support and nowhere to turn. Consequently, one in every three people convicted of a crime in Ukraine returns to prison for other crimes.

By contrast, RCSA has only a 5 percent rate of recidivism. Its model of success is simple: as long as residents agree to work during their stay and follow the three rules of no drinking, no drug use and no stealing, they are free to remain at the shelter until they are ready to re-enter society.

The residents can alternate working in the shelter's bakery, kitchen and gardens to produce their own food, as well as working on neighboring farms in exchange for goods and services. They can train to become certified welders or auto mechanics in RCSA's job-training programs. They live peacefully in a community of men and women in which everyone works, everyone shares what they have and everyone supports each other's struggles to change their lives.

This combination of hard work to satisfy daily needs, living with others in a setting of mutual trust and respect, and being trained with tangible, marketable

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A social worker at the Regional Center for Social Adaptation helps a resident fill out legal forms.

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Ukrainian veterans in the United States: Census data profile

by Dr. Oleh Wolowyna

The Ukrainian American community has a long tradition of service in the U.S. armed forces. The Ukrainian American Veterans organizations in many cities honor those who sacrificed their lives and their health for the freedom enjoyed in this country, and foster the tradition of service. The 2000 census provides information that allows us to document more precisely the military service of Ukrainian Americans both in war and in peacetime. It provides a precise picture of the size, geographical distribution and characteristics of Ukrainian American veterans, both active and non-active.

There are currently more than 90,000 Ukrainian American veterans in the United States; about three thousand are currently active and almost 15,000 are in training for the reserves or in the National Guard

Census data provide information on three subgroups related to military service: a) persons who served in any of the branches of the armed forces, but who are not currently active (we will call them veterans); b) persons who are currently active in the military (we will call them active); c) persons who did not serve in the military but are currently training for Reserves or are in the National Guard. The numbers to be presented are for the following population: persons of Ukrainian ancestry and 18 years of age or older.

There are currently more than 90,000 Ukrainian American veterans in the United States; about three thousand are currently active and almost 15,000 are in training for the reserves or in the National Guard (Table 1). Consistent with the national trend, the participation of females in the armed forces has increased significantly in recent years. Among veterans, only 5 percent are females, while more than 10 percent of active military are females; among those currently training for reserves or in the National Guard, almost 40 percent are females.

Of the 90,000 veterans, 40,000 (45 percent) are 65 years or older, and 37,000 (40 percent) are between 45 and 64 years old. Among the currently active, close to 60 percent are 25-44 years old and 38 percent are 18 to 24 years old. Most of the National Guard members without military service are in the 45-64 year age group (45 percent), followed by the 25-44 year age group with 27 percent and the 65 years or older age group with 23 percent.

The largest contingent of veterans is Vietnam War veterans, with 27,544 (27.5 percent) of the total; they are followed closely by World War II veterans with 26,846 (27.0 percent) and the Korean War veterans number 12,586 (12.6 percent). The veterans of these three wars

make up two thirds (67 percent) of all veterans.

It is interesting to compare these numbers with the total U.S. veteran group. The percentage for Ukrainian Korean War veterans is very similar to the total U.S. percentage. The percentage for Vietnam War veterans is somewhat higher for Ukrainians than for the total U.S. (27.5 percent and 25.9 percent, respectively). The difference for World War II veterans, on the other hand, is quite large: 26.8 percent for Ukrainian Americans and only 17.6 percent for the total U.S. group.

The drastic change in the language spoken at home situation among persons of Ukrainian ancestry in 2000, documented in this writer's previous article (The Ukrainian Weekly, October 12, 2003) is also reflected in all three military service subgroups. This is due to a significant involvement in military service of the "Fourth Wave" of immigrants from Ukraine. As expected, the proportion of persons speaking Ukrainian is quite small in all three subgroups, and the differences among the three subgroups are due to the age structure of each subgroup (Table 2).

The active service subgroup is the youngest one and has only 4 percent speaking Ukrainian. Among veterans almost 9 percent speak Ukrainian and the National Guard subgroup has the highest percentage with 11.4 percent. It should be noted that the average percent speaking Ukrainian for all three subgroups, nine percent, is lower than the respective percentage for the total Ukrainian American population, which is 12.7 percent.

As expected, for veterans the percent speaking Russian is significantly lower than the percent speaking Ukrainian (3.2 percent and 8.7 percent, respectively); most Russian speakers are recent immigrants. A surprising finding is that the percent speaking Russian is somewhat higher than the percent speaking Ukrainian among the active service subgroup: 5.2 percent and 4.2 percent, respectively. Also among the training in Reserve and the National Guard subgroup the percent of Russian speakers is quite high (10.7 percent), and close to the percent of Ukrainian speakers, 11.4 percent. The relatively high percentages of Russian speakers among these last two subgroups is due to a significant participation in the military forces by the Fourth Wave immigrants.

Almost 5,000 of the recent immigrants from Ukraine (1987-2000) belong to the three military-related subgroups. About 200 are in active service, three thousand

are veterans and about 1,600 are in training or in the National Guard.

An important characteristic is the number of disabled veterans. The percent of disabled Ukrainian veterans is very similar to the percentage for the U.S. total: 28.3 percent and 29.1 percent, respectively. This means that of the 90,000 Ukrainian veterans, 25.6 thousand are disabled. The proportion of disabled increases, naturally, with age. For the 65 years and more age group the percent disabled is 39 percent (almost 16,000 out of 40,000). "Disabled" is defined by several types of disability: physical, mental, sensory, self-care, ability to go out and ability to work. The percentages presented above apply to persons with one or more of these disabilities. A critical disability is not being able to work for veterans under the age of 65 years. Out of 50,000 veterans in this age group, 6,000 (12 percent) are not able to work.

The distribution of veterans by Metropolitan Area presented in Table 3 allows our veterans' organizations to compare the total number of veterans of Ukrainian ancestry with the number of members registered in their organizations. The largest concentration of veterans is found in the New York-New Jersey Metropolitan Area (MA), 13,700, with about 10 percent of them speaking Ukrainian. This is followed by Philadelphia with 6,000, Chicago with 3,700, Los Angeles with 3,500,

Pittsburgh with 3,300, Detroit with 3,200, D.C.-Baltimore with 2,800, Cleveland with 2,600, etc.

Seattle with 1,000 veterans, has the highest percent with Ukrainian speakers (25 percent) – these are mostly immigrants of the Fourth Wave. The next highest percent of Ukrainian speakers, 17 percent, is found in Chicago, followed by Syracuse, N.Y., with 13 percent.

The percent of veterans among persons of Ukrainian ancestry is slightly lower compared to the total U.S. population: 11.2 percent and 12.5 percent, respectively. However, the proportion of veterans in the three major wars – World War II, Korea and Vietnam – is higher among Ukrainian veterans compared to all U.S. veterans, and in the case of World War II the percentage for Ukrainian veterans is significantly higher. Ukrainians also have a significant number of persons in active military duty and members of the National Guard.

An interesting finding is that the recent immigrants from Ukraine have made a significant contribution to the U.S. armed forces.

Cities with large Ukrainian communities have sizeable numbers of veterans, but many of them do not belong to Ukrainian veterans' organizations and only a small percent of them speak Ukrainian. The challenge is to find these veterans and to motivate them to join the Ukrainian American Veterans association.

TABLE 1: Persons of Ukrainian ancestry aged 18 or more, by type of military service and age group

Military Service	Total	Age Group				% Females
		18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	
Yes, not active	90,397	756	12,887	36,551	40,203	5.1
Yes, active	2,996	1,137	1,723	136	0	10.4
No, training for reserves or in the National Guard	14,904	774	3,995	6,771	3,364	38.9
Total	108,297	2,667	18,605	43,458	43,567	9.9

Source: 2000 U.S. Census, 5% sample.

TABLE 2: Number of persons by type of military service and language spoken at home*

Military Service	Total	Language Spoken at Home				
		Other	Ukrainian		Russian	
			Numbers	Percent	Numbers	Percent
Yes, not active	90,397	79,661	7,846	8.7	2,890	3.2
Yes, active	2,996	2,712	127	4.2	157	5.2
No, training for reserved or in the National Guard	14,904	11,605	1,701	11.4	1,598	10.7
TOTAL	108,297	93,978	9,674	8.9	4,645	4.3

* Persons of Ukrainian ancestry 18 years or older.

Source: 2000 U.S. Census, 5% sample.

TABLE 3: Number of veterans by metropolitan areas and age groups*

Metropolitan Area	TOTAL	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Speak Ukrainian	
						Number	% of total
New York - New Jersey	13,669	36	1,032	5,091	7,510	1,404	10.3
Philadelphia, PA	5,937	33	846	2,473	2,585	692	11.7
Chicago, IL	3,657	0	488	1,463	1,706	623	17.0
Los Angeles, CA	3,584	0	426	1,275	1,883	172	4.8
Pittsburgh, PA	3,296	0	202	1,413	1,681	149	4.5
Detroit, MI	3,210	0	546	1,109	1,555	304	9.5
DC-Baltimore	2,819	21	383	1,195	1,220	292	10.4
Cleveland, OH	2,559	0	360	923	1,276	180	7.0
Scranton, PA	1,602	0	249	749	604	39	2.4
S. Francisco-Oakland, CA	1,511	58	191	789	473	167	11.1
W. Palm Beach-Boca Raton, FL	1,450	0	92	265	1,093	12	0.8
Tampa-S. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	1,351	0	215	306	830	155	11.5
Allentown-Bethlehem, PA	1,289	0	130	548	611	64	5.0
Boston, MA	1,272	0	43	367	862	56	4.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL	1,264	0	175	599	490	163	12.9
Syracuse, NY	1,197	0	247	339	611	192	16.0
Seattle, WA	1,020	106	356	320	238	258	25.3

* Persons of Ukrainian ancestry 18 years or older.

Source: 2000 U.S. Census, 5% sample.

ANALYSIS: Ukraine's ambivalence toward tragic events of 1932-1933

by David Marples

The commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the man-made Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 has ended in Ukraine and around the world. The events mark a new peak in international recognition of the tragic events of this period, one of the worst crimes of the bloody 20th century. It is fitting, therefore, to assess the impact of the commemoration on Ukraine, its politics and society.

It is worthwhile to recall that the famine remained a state secret in the USSR until it was acknowledged in a speech by the then leader of the Communist Party of Ukraine, Ukrainian party, Volodymyr Scherbytsky, in December 1987. The Ukrainian scholar Stanislav Kulchitsky has revealed that the reason for the sudden revelation was that the United States Commission on the Ukraine Famine, directed by Dr. James E. Mace, was about to release findings predicated on dozens of oral interviews among Famine victims in the United States.

On February 12, the Verkhovna Rada held the first ever official hearings in Ukraine on the famine, officially known as the "Holodomor" (literally, death by forced starvation). A declaration was issued on May 15, 2003, which declared the events to be "a genocide of the Ukrainian nation," with a death toll of somewhere between 7 million and 10 million people, or about a quarter of the population of the Soviet Ukrainian republic.

Given the scale of the catastrophe, it is remarkable, if not disturbing, that only 226 deputies (out of 450) voted in favor of this declaration – the barest of majorities. They were spearheaded by Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine block (103 deputies) and the Socialist Party (20 deputies) under Oleksander Moroz.

Several parliamentary factions did not vote: the Communists (59 deputies) Labor Ukraine (42 deputies), People's Choice (14 deputies), and European Choice (22 deputies). Two relatively large factions were split on the issue, Regions of Ukraine (65 deputies) and the Social Democratic Party United headed by former president Leonid Kravchuk (36 deputies), as well as the small National Democratic Party. The liberal Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (19 deputies) was absent from the vote.

Ukraine's next task was to put forward a joint declaration at the United Nations in New York in November 2003, co-signed by 30 nations, including Russia, Canada, and the United States, plus the European Union, and introduced by Valeriy Kuchinsky, ambassador and permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations. Earlier, Russia – perceived by some sources as the direct offshoot of the Soviet Union – had refused to take responsibility for imposing the Famine. Accordingly, the document introduced by Ukraine was general enough to incorporate "the memory of millions of Russians, Kazakhs and representatives of other nationalities who died of starvation" and omitted the word "genocide." A casual reader could thus have interpreted the document as a condemnation of Stalinism in general.

Typical of the mixed response in Ukraine to the commemoration was a

Dr. David Marples is a professor of history, department of history and classics, at the University of Alberta. This article was originally published in the Edmonton Journal on December 8, 2003.

response to articles by Dr. Mace, the former director of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, who is now a professor of political science at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. In his articles published in the newspaper, Dr. Mace has stated several times why he considers the 1932-1933 Famine to be an act of genocide committed by the Stalinist regime.

Writing in the journal *Komunist* (19 November), Prof. Ivan Hruschenko declared that following the 1991 "counter-revolutionary coup d'état," Dr. Mace (described as a "cowboy professor") had come to Ukraine and gathered together a group of "corrupt academicians" to launch an anti-Communist campaign about a "genocide" in Ukraine. The Famine, stated Prof. Hruschenko, was caused by bad weather and defects in the process of collectivizing peasant farms and occurred in various areas of the USSR, not just in Ukraine. Dr. Mace was denounced as "a false friend of Ukraine" and advised to "go home!"

The bitterness of tone, following the mixed reception of the Ukrainian Parliament to the Famine-Genocide discussion last spring, illustrates a political divide in Ukraine that appears to have widened over the years of independence. Though the Communists predictably adopted a quasi-Stalinist position on the matter of the Famine-Genocide, other Leftist factions seem at best ambivalent. Some view the Holodomor as the domain of "nationalists," long derided as the enemy during the Soviet era. Areas with large Russian populations (Luhansk, Donetsk, and Crimea) may see the issue as divisive.

In an article co-authored with Serhii Makhun, Dr. Mace claimed that the "inaction by the state" on the issue is evidence that its knowledge of Ukraine remains on the level of a "Soviet fourth grade textbook."

And, although President Leonid Kuchma has supported the initiatives on commemoration, several deputies in the opposition Our Ukraine faction maintain that his backing has been at best lukewarm and in part a means to save a flagging career. Notably, he failed to appear to give a scheduled speech to the half-empty Parliament prior to the mid-May vote.

On the positive side, awareness of the scale of the tragedy has been disseminated in Ukraine by a plethora of books, conference proceedings and newspaper articles. However, these writings have not yet overcome the straitjacket of Soviet ideology that remains deeply ingrained in some areas of Ukraine – even at the highest levels of government.

COMMENTARY: Commemorating the Ukrainian Genocide and S. Res. 202

by Sen. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Seventy years ago a genocide of then-unprecedented proportions was carried out by Joseph Stalin's henchmen in Ukraine. Through a man-made Famine in 1932-1933, brought on by forced collectivization and grain seizures, and by accompanying murders and other violent repressive measures, between 5 and 10 million innocent Ukrainians perished.

In a further horrible twist, the world has largely remained ignorant of these events because the Soviet regime engaged in a successful cover-up, aided by a few cooperative foreign correspondents like Walter Duranty of *The New York Times*, whose 1932 Pulitzer Prize for reporting from the Soviet Union is being retroactively challenged.

Thus, it is particularly timely that a bipartisan resolution solemnly remembering and honoring the millions of victims of the genocidal Ukrainian famine has been co-sponsored by 27 members – more than one-quarter of the U.S. Senate. The resolution forthrightly states: "The man-made Ukraine Famine of 1932-1933 was an act of genocide as defined by the United Nations Genocide Convention." The Bush administration is opposing passage of this resolution.

Inquiries have elicited an explanation

Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D-Del.) is the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Some good news about Ukraine

Dear Editor:

Yesterday, on the first day of 2004, I heard two nice things being said about Ukraine and Ukrainians on television. Now, that does not happen very often, so I found it rather remarkable.

Both stories were about the earthquake in Iran and about the various countries that are helping out over there. The first mention was on PBS, on the *Jim Lehrer Newshour*. As an American doctor described the medical assistance in Iran, the footage showed a tiny little girl being born in a field hospital (actually two infant girls were being born right after the quake) – in the first and only hospital in the ruined Iranian city. It was in a Ukrainian field hospital.

Later in the program, it was also men-

tioned that the administration disagrees with the use of the term "genocide" to describe the Stalinist policies in Ukraine. Yet the U.N. Convention, which the United States Senate has ratified, defines genocide as meaning "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part..." The catalogue of Soviet behavior in Ukraine in 1932-1933 included all three of these terrible crimes.

The Senate resolution (S. Res. 202) is not an anti-Russian piece of legislation. It carefully avoids any accusations of collective guilt for the genocide and casts no aspersions on the current Russian government. Nonetheless, the press secretary of the Russian Embassy in Washington publicly declared Moscow's opposition in a September radio interview.

The Bush administration has been restrained in its comments on Russian President Vladimir's Putin's suppression of independent television stations, arrests of business tycoons who dare support opposition parties and violations of human rights in Chechnya.

It would be a tragic dishonoring of millions of victims if a misplaced desire not to offend Moscow were to continue to block passage of the Senate resolution on the genocidal Ukrainian famine of 1932-1933.

tioned that the Ukrainian rescue team was the first one to arrive at the earthquake site in Iran and that the Ukrainians were the first ones to set up shop and start helping people out. The BBC News also mentioned that the Ukrainians were the first ones to reach the place of the disaster and that they "saved many lives."

From Kyiv I heard the following news.

A plane with a crack team of rescue workers left Kyiv (Boryspil) for Kerman, Iran, on December 27, at 5 p.m., right after the earthquake. The first aircraft to fly out was a Yak-42 of the Lviv Avialines. On board were four rescue-workers and a search unit with trained search dogs.

The next day a Ukrainian mobile hospital was sent to Iran, with about 100 doctors, nurses and support personnel, as well as medical gear and supplies. ("Tsentralnyi Avariino-Riatuvalnyi Zahin"). This unit can service over 300 wounded and traumatized people in 24 hours, and can operate independently without support for 30 days. The mobile hospital arrived on an Il-76 aircraft belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces.

As you can see, this was not by any means "token" assistance. This was a real professional rescue mission, which was trained first in Chernobyl and later took part in rescue operations in Bosnia and Kosovo, during the Turkish earthquakes, in Iraq and Kuwait, and many other missions.

As a Ukrainian, I am very proud that my mother country can bring help and succor to unfortunate people around the world in their hours of need. Maybe Ukraine is not capable of toppling statues of fallen dictators and occupying foreign lands, but Ukraine is capable of saving lives and bringing tiny little girls to this world. And that is what counts, isn't it?

Glory to our land. Good fortune, happiness and success in 2004.

Lubomyr S. Onyshkevych
Lawrenceville, N.J.

Quotable notes

If anything, history may judge that a far bigger blot on the Times's reputation than Mr. [Jayson] Blair is Walter Duranty, who won a 1932 Pulitzer Prize as a foreign correspondent in the Soviet Union. His willful shilling for Stalin went uncorrected for years. (He is also a blot on the history of the Pulitzer Board itself, which, in keeping with journalism's new haste to rectify even its old ins, is now weighing a belated revocation of Duranty's prize.) By all accounts, Duranty, like Mr. [Stephen] Glass [of *The New Republic*] and Mr. Blair, was an ambitious self-promoter infatuated with the limelight. But his capital journalistic crime, hiding the truth about a Ukraine famine that killed millions, offers a much darker picture of where this corruption can lead than the relative misdemeanors of his successors."

– Frank Rich, writing in the Arts and Leisure section of *The New York Times* on Sunday, November 2, in an article titled "So Much For 'The Front Page.'" The article commented on movies and television shows about the news media, which depict the media in an unfavorable light (in contrast to films of the past such as "The Front Page" and "All the President's Men"), including a new movie titled "Shattered Glass," about the fictionalized stories filed by Stephen Glass of *The New Republic*.

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Ukraine's foreign affairs: crisis management

Crisis management continued to dominate Ukraine's foreign policy in 2003. While relations with the West, particularly with Washington, warmed considerably, a slight chill descended on the normally cozy bond between Moscow and Kyiv.

Ukrainian leaders showed an ever-stronger inclination to clear the political hubris and begin building a concrete path towards Europe, especially after Russia attempted a diplomatically incorrect takeover of a small, Ukrainian-owned island located in the Kerch Strait.

Nonetheless, Ukrainian state leaders continued an unclear and confusing multilateral foreign policy, which included a decision to move into an economic union with Russia and two other former Soviet republics.

The year began with the continuation of a banking crisis from 2002 for which Ukraine could only blame itself. After finding itself unable to pass a comprehensive anti-money laundering law, which representatives from Western financial institutions had demanded for months, the country found itself blackballed by the Financial Actions Task Force (FATF), a Western banking oversight organization. Even though Ukraine's Parliament finally passed a law that met most of the demands put forward by the West, it was too late and Ukraine's commercial banks were blacklisted, which meant that limitations were placed on the type of transactions they could undertake at the international level.

On January 16, the Ukrainian legislature made a second belated attempt to assuage FATF and avoid implementation of a stringent regime of compliance by Western countries when it passed additional anti-money laundering measures. By that time, however, Germany had announced that it would begin strict monitoring of international financial transactions involving Ukrainian banks that exceeded \$16,000. Four days later Great Britain announced it was also implementing compliance procedures.

On February 6 the Verkhovna Rada passed additional measures that finally met international standards. In return, Ukraine received good news on February 12 when German Ambassador Dietmar Steudemann announced in Kyiv that the recommendations and sanctions that had been enacted by FATF would be lifted within two days, after a decision to do so was agreed upon by FATF members during a summit in Paris. "Ukraine has successfully implemented FATF requirements and will have restrictions that were imposed against it removed," explained Mr. Steudemann. He added that Ukraine would remain on a watch list of countries for at least another six months, during which its banking transactions would continue to be scrutinized.

President Kuchma had told reporters on February 6 not to look at the FATF sanctions as a slight against Ukraine because, as far as he was concerned, Ukraine's lawmakers had been given plenty of time to pass the required legislation before the matter became a crisis.

Also just after the New Year, the Council of Europe, a European body of lawmakers that deals with human rights and democracy issues, reproached Ukrainian state leaders for issuing directives, known as "temnyky," to broadcast outlets on how to address political views. The reprimand came in recommendations published by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe after hearings at PACE headquarters in Strasbourg, France, which were dedicated to the freedom of expression in European mass media.

At mid-year, Ukraine's human rights and free speech record failed to withstand more international scrutiny when the U.S. State Department, in its annual "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices," noted for Ukraine that, "the government's human rights record remained poor and in some cases worsened." It also noted, however, that, "there were also some improvements in some areas."

In mid-year several more European reports condemned Ukraine's policies on human rights and democracy. First the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) representative on freedom in the media expressed dismay over a decision by Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada to give the country's security services the right to arrest journalist's who leak classified information, while also outlawing protection of journalists' sources. "It is ominous that your country, where the media situation has been steadily deteriorat-

ing for the past five years, should decide at this point to approve a highly restrictive law," explained the OSCE's Freimut Duve in a letter to Minister of Foreign Affairs Anatolii Zlenko dated July 15.

At about the same time, Freedom House, a human rights watchdog group, downgraded Ukraine's press status from "partly free," where the country's rating had lingered for several years, to "not free." The report explained that the decision to lower the standing in its evaluation came as a result of "state censorship of television broadcasts, continued harassment and disruption of independent media, and the failure of the authorities to adequately investigate attacks against journalists."

Ukraine was sucked into two international border incidents in 2003, one of which nearly cost Ukraine friendly relations with its strategic partner to the north. Some political experts claim that the two border crises were interconnected, with the second a result of a lackadaisical approach by Ukraine in resolving the first one.

Moldova and Ukraine tangled diplomatically after Moldovan border guards on July 17 broke padlocks on gates and entered a Ukrainian hydroelectric plant, where they set up a makeshift border post. Afterwards they refused to allow workers of the facility to enter on the grounds that they did not have the proper documentation to cross Moldovan territory. The energy-producing facility is situated on the Dnister River at the Moldovan-Ukrainian border.

The hydroelectric facility's management complained to Kyiv and warned that a danger existed to the dam because water levels could not be monitored properly. The director of Moldova's Department of Border Troops, Dmytro Osoian, responded to allegations that his troops had seized Ukrainian territory by affirming that the post was erected on Moldovan lands. "The border post was established on Moldovan territory in strict accordance with the Moldovan-Ukrainian treaty on delimitation and demarcation of the border," said Mr. Osoian. He explained that the treaty stated that where bridges and dams spanned bodies of water, the border should be situated at the central point of these structures.

Ukraine acknowledged that Mr. Osoian had a point when Minister of Foreign Affairs Zlenko said on July 26 that Ukraine respected Moldova's right to set up border posts along its border but that the manner in which it was done should have been done "within legal frameworks, including those on cross border cooperation."

Some political pundits said the feeble way in which Ukraine allowed Moldova to forcibly intrude onto the territory of the Ukrainian hydroelectric station and the ease with which it caved in to Moldovan assertions of territorial right led to a second crisis with another neighbor just over two months later.

On August 29, Russia, one of Ukraine's proclaimed strategic partners, began building what Russian officials

later identified as a dam in the Kerch Strait, ostensibly to control shore erosion that was destroying property on its Taman Peninsula. The rather lengthy dam eventually extended five kilometers into the strait, from the peninsula, part of the Krasnodar Krai, to within 100 meters of the tiny Ukrainian-owned island of Tuzla. Construction was halted only after Ukraine sent armed border guards to protect its territory and the presidents of the two countries stepped in to calm a crisis that was heading out of control. (See sidebar on the Tuzla crisis.)

While causing a distinct chill in Ukraine-Russia relations, the Tuzla crisis also brought to the fore the need to finally resolve the stalemate in the delimitation of the Azov Sea and the Kerch Strait. Russia had left negotiations at an impasse by refusing to back down from demands that the two bodies of water remain commonly held, while Ukraine wanted borders established along recognized international norms.

The Azov Sea and the Kerch Strait remained the only part of the Russian-Ukrainian border that remained undelimited. Earlier in the year, on January 28, the two sides had finally agreed – after five years of discussions – on the delimitation of their 1,300 mile border. The presidents of the two countries, Russia's Vladimir Putin and Ukraine's Leonid Kuchma, signed the document during a visit by Mr. Putin to Kyiv on January 27-29.

In the first days of the New Year, Kyiv also heard more criticisms from the United States southern neighbor in the wake of the Kolchuha scandal after the Financial Times published a story on January 9 in which a "high-ranking" Washington government official alleged that Ukraine had continued to scoff at United Nations-imposed sanctions against Iraq and had again sold military equipment to Saddam Hussein – this time military pontoon bridges and other field engineering equipment. The charges came just several months after the Bush administration had accused Kyiv of selling Kolchuha aircraft detection systems to Iraq. Those accusations, while never proven, resulted in a decided chill descending on relations between the U.S. and Ukraine.

While Iraq's Ambassador to Ukraine Mozher al-Douri on January 19 rejected suggestions that Ukraine had sold military equipment of any sort to his country, Washington officials said they would continue to keep Ukraine at arm's length, maintaining relations only through diplomatic channels.

The "deep freeze" that had descended on U.S.-Ukraine relations quickly thawed, after a three-month "policy evaluation" was completed. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Steven Pifer, also a former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, said in Washington on February 13 that the U.S. would not allow the Kolchuha impasse to continue to damage relations between the two countries. He said the Bush administration had decided, "to, basically, disagree," with Kyiv on whether Ukraine sold Iraq any Kolchuhas.



Russian President Vladimir Putin (foreground) and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma at a joint press conference during the CIS summit held in Kyiv in January.

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Two weeks later, on February 27, Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Kostyantyn Gryshchenko admitted that the bilateral relationship with Washington appeared to be turning the corner. "Recently, I believe, we have been concentrating more on the positive side of things to be done," explained the ambassador.

As relations changed, so did some of the players. On September 2 President Kuchma announced that he had replaced Foreign Minister Zlenko, who was required to retire at 65, an age he had reached in the summer, with Mr. Gryshchenko.

The U.S. rotated its top diplomat to Ukraine as well, when popular Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual left in mid-July to be replaced by John Herbst, a career diplomat who had served previously as U.S. ambassador to Uzbekistan. Mr. Herbst arrived in Kyiv in September.

With an announcement made by Mr. Pifer on February 13, Washington did not hide the fact that it was extending Kyiv a diplomatic morsel with the hope of bringing it into the coalition it was building in preparation for a military invasion of Iraq, which was the major global crisis of the year. "We also look to and hope Ukraine will make the right statements in how it talks about Iraq, and that means making the point that the onus, the burden, is on Saddam Hussein to disarm in an open and verifiable way," explained Mr. Pifer.

In the end Ukraine did not become a partner with the U.S. in the international coalition that overthrew Saddam Hussein. However, after much political debate, it became part of the international stabilization force developed to rebuild the country after the short war ended.

Kyiv witnessed several minor anti-U.S. demonstrations, held outside the U.S. embassy, during which Communist Party supporters, anarchists and anti-globalists expressed their disdain for President George W.

Bush and the U.S. military intervention in Iraq.

On March 5, Lt. Gen. Viktor Lytvak told journalists in Kyiv that a battalion he commanded, which specialized in neutralizing the effects of nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) contamination, could be ready for deployment to Kuwait for "peacekeeping and humanitarian work" should war in Iraq break out. Ukraine had agreed to consider sending a support battalion in a non-combat role back in February. As the first bombs fell on Iraq on March 20, the Verkhovna Rada approved the deployment of the NBC battalion, but only after heated and sharp debate.

The decision by President Leonid Kuchma to offer the 19th Special Battalion of Ukraine's Armed Forces for services in the Persian Gulf region passed by a comfortable margin of 258 to 121 votes. Voting in support of the action were most pro-presidential factions, as well as a majority of lawmakers from the normally anti-Kuchma Our Ukraine faction. Communist and Socialist faction members expressed their opposition, questioning why Ukrainian military personnel were being sent to the region to face death.

On April 2 the Communist faction in the Verkhovna Rada introduced a draft measure ordering the return of the 19th Special Battalion from Kuwait in response to a speech by President Bush on March 26. In the speech President Bush listed Ukraine as one of the countries comprising the anti-Iraq coalition, in direct contradiction to claims that Ukrainian politicians and diplomats had repeated for weeks that the country's involvement was limited to humanitarian and peacekeeping work.

A poll taken in March showed that the leftist leaning political organizations were more in step with the nation's stand on the matter of invading Iraq than state leaders. A study conducted by Nelson, Taylor, Sofrez-Ukraine, a Ukrainian polling firm, showed that an astonishing 82 percent of Ukrainians held the view that

"military operations in Iraq are not acceptable under any circumstances."

Ukraine's first casualty of the war was not a military person, as it turned out, but a journalist. Taras Protsyuk, a respected television cameraman employed by the Reuters News Agency in its Kyiv Bureau, was assigned to Baghdad to cover the war. He was filming U.S. military movements from the Reuters Baghdad offices in the Palestine Hotel when a tank fired a round at him in the mistaken belief that he was a sniper tracking them with a rifle scope.

While the reporter's death stirred more negative feelings for the Iraq War among Ukrainians, a report issued by the U.S. government found the U.S. soldiers involved in the incident blameless and called the matter an unfortunate and tragic accident.

Ukraine became more centrally involved in the Iraq matter after the war officially ended when an Iraq stabilization conference, held in London in the spring, which Ukraine was invited to attend as an observer, extended an invitation to Kyiv to send troops as peacekeepers to work in the territory under Polish control. Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council Secretary Yevhen Marchuk, who would replace Gen. Volodymyr Shkidchenko as minister of defense, refrained from expressing support for such a move and explained that Ukraine's decision would depend on how NATO proceeded. He also noted that it was questionable whether the Verkhovna Rada would approve such a decision considering the rancorous debate that occurred before approval was given to send the NBC force to Kuwait.

Mr. Marchuk's NDSC gave its recommendation to President Kuchma in favor of sending a stabilization force of some 1,800 soldiers to Iraq on May 27, after the United Nations passed a resolution in support of such a peacekeeping force for the embattled country. "This resolution gives legitimacy to the coalition forces and safeguards the stability and security of Iraq, as well as identifies the U.N. role in the post-war rebuilding of the country," said President Kuchma, who took part in the NSDC proceedings.

A week later, the Verkhovna Rada voted to approve the involvement of Ukrainian troops in such a force by a vote of 273-103. Most criticism came from the Communist, Socialist and Tymoshenko factions, who called the international team the U.S. was assembling "an occupying force."

On August 7, the first 69 of the Ukrainian peacekeepers left for Iraq, after listening to recently appointed Minister of Defense Marchuk give words of encouragement and receiving the blessing of a Ukrainian Orthodox priest.

Ukraine's involvement with the Arab world and the Mideast in 2003 was not limited to the Iraqi crisis. At the very beginning of the year, President Kuchma toured several Persian Gulf countries to develop economic ties and promote business investment. In a quick, four-day jaunt through the region on January 18-22, Mr. Kuchma stopped in the regional capitals of Riyadh, Beirut, Kuwait City, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain. While the Mideast tour was a major success, with the Ukrainian president signing trade agreements in several of the capitals, it also gave Mr. Kuchma a chance to present his view on the then developing U.S.-Iraq crisis. He said that he believed war could be averted only by U.N. involvement in peaceful resolution of the problems and that the Security Council needs to approve a second resolution before any invasion should take place.

Ukraine's most determined and comprehensive efforts in foreign affairs were, as always, in its relations with Russia, with whom it announced that it would join in developing a common market in the region, and with the European Union, which finally recognized in 2003 that Ukraine should have a chance at membership within the organization.

One of the more unexpected developments of 2003 was the appointment of President Kuchma as head of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the organization that came into existence after the Soviet Union disintegrated, whose 12 member-countries are all former Soviet republics. Mr. Kuchma became the first CIS chairman who was not also the leader of the Russian Federation. Even though the CIS members had stipulated a rotating chairmanship when the organization was founded, only Russian leaders had led the group, something that had to change, explained Russian President Putin in nominating the Ukrainian president during the CIS summit held in Kyiv on January 29. Mr. Putin also mentioned that President Kuchma had made interesting comments about the future development of the CIS during its previous summit, which was held in Chishinau,

From Russia with 'love': quotable statements

Plenty of quotable statements seemed to appear in 2003. Here we choose to highlight some of the more ridiculous and/or pernicious, coming to us from Russia and Russians.

We started off the year by reporting that Nina Khrushcheva, Nikita's granddaughter and a college lecturer in the New York area, expressed a, shall we say, most biased view of Ukraine in an article about Russia that she wrote for a newspaper article in early 2003. That article, which was picked up by various sites in cyberspace, noted:

"... some other countries sloughing off the skin of communism are only too ready to adopt a new history – even one based on fancy and invention – to suit current needs.

"Ukraine provides an example of this. Does Ukraine have a history? Well, the place certainly does, but is the place a country? Ukraine means, literally, 'on the edge.' It is more a frontier than a region, let alone a country. So it is well suited to an invented history – and who better to supply it than a Ukrainian diaspora eager to boost the land of their forefathers? It may be no accident that independent Ukraine's first history textbook was written in Toronto, not Kiev [sic]."

In August, Russia's Ambassador to Ukraine, Viktor Chernomyrdin, said that Moscow doesn't intend to apologize for the Stalin-era famine that killed millions of people in Ukraine and that was denied by Soviet officials for decades. While Mr. Chernomyrdin acknowledged that Russia had assumed the Soviet Union's obligations as successor to the collapsed regime, he denied that its responsibilities included apologizing for the Famine-Genocide that occurred during the regime of Joseph Stalin.

"We're not going to apologize ... there is nobody to apologize to," the envoy said on August 6. He added that Russia deserved praise for taking on Soviet-era debts and other obligations but would not "bear the cross" of the famine, Interfax reported.

Referring to the fact that Joseph Stalin was a Georgian, Mr. Chernomyrdin also said: "Why not ask Georgia to apologize?"

None other than Russian President Vladimir Putin chimed in with his own notorious and eminently

quotable statement in September. He was apparently quite angered by a statement by Steven Pifer, deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs, who criticized the "deplorable violations of human rights" by Russian armed forces in Chechnya and said that this has a negative impact on U.S.-Russia relations. Mr. Pifer, it should be noted, was the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine in 1998-2000.

Asked about Mr. Pifer's comments during a meeting with a small group of American journalists at his dacha September 20, less than a week before his scheduled Washington visit and meeting with President George W. Bush, Mr. Putin said he would not care to comment on mid-level State Department officials. "I'll let Colin [Powell] deal with him," he said, according to The Washington Post's Moscow correspondent Peter Baker, who was at the dacha meeting.

"But we have a proverb in Russia," Mr. Putin added, "in every family there will be somebody who is ugly or retarded." According to The Washington Post, President Putin then started complaining about "double standards," and "went off on a rant" about U.S. human rights abuses in Afghanistan, Iraq and Guantanamo Bay. He also criticized U.S. officials' meeting with Chechen representatives, which, he said, was comparable to meeting with representatives of al Qaeda.

To conclude the year, there was a tripleheader (from the Ukrainska Pravda website of December 8, as cited by RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report) coming from Russian parties at the time of the Russian parliamentary elections:

- "My position regarding Ukraine is simple – we need to reunite. We are a divided nation." – Sergei Glazev, a leader of Russia's Motherland National-Patriotic Union election bloc.

- "The position regarding your country [Ukraine] should be the same as I have regarding my wife, who is from Ukraine. There should be a natural reunion of two sisters – each of them should try winning the place of the first beauty but avoid getting incomprehensible lovers." – Dmitrii Rogozin, a leader of Russia's Motherland National-Patriotic Union election bloc.

- "We are not only neighbors – we are a single nation. There have never been any borders between us. We are a single civilization. The world has not begun to speak Ukrainian, but it has already started to speak Russian." – Vladimir Zhirinovskii, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia.

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Moldova, and should have the ability to implement his ideas.

In the end, as it turned out the changes that Mr. Kuchma had mentioned became an initiative to have the three largest economies of the CIS – Russia, Ukraine and Kazakstan – plus Belarus, which was already tied to the Russian economy to some extent, form a common market called the Single Economic Space (SES). The leaders of the four countries met in Moscow on February 23 and announced they had developed a blueprint for economic integration. The plan was based on the free-trade-zone initiative that Mr. Kuchma had been pushing for the CIS since the Chishinau CIS summit. Although only the four countries were to initially make up the SES, the four leaders did not exclude the possibility that any of the other former Soviet republics could join later.

While Mr. Kuchma maintained that for Ukraine the most important element was to develop a free-trade zone for the region – he went so far as to state that Ukraine would most likely opt out of any other forms of economic integration – Russia made it clear almost immediately that it saw a customs union and a single currency as the core components of the common market and a free-trade zone as merely the first step in the process of economic integration.

As the details of the intended agreement became known, Ukrainian officials had to deflect charges that the Kuchma administration had begun a process of political reunion with Moscow. Mr. Kuchma's advisor, Anatolii Orel, attempted political spin control by stating during a press conference that the document signed by the four presidents was merely a proclamation and that Ukraine's European direction remain unchanged. "There is nothing political here, and it has no language that calls for a supra-state or organization. The words are about how to enter Europe: either barefoot and naked, or with economic respect," explained Mr. Orel.

In an attempt to convince increasingly wary Ukrainian officials that the SES agreement was in their best interest, Russia's Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said during a meeting of representatives of Ukraine's and Russia's foreign ministries in Kyiv that economic union would help the Ukrainian economy grow. "The realization of this very important project would not only quicken the economic development of our countries, but would also strikingly improve our international standing," explained Mr. Ivanov.

Some Ukrainian political leaders were not so sure, however. Former Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, now a lawmaker and the head of the National Rukh Party, said it was nonsense to believe that Ukraine could move politically and economically towards the European Union, an intention it had officially expressed, while simultaneously becoming part of a Eurasian single economic space with certain members of the CIS.

However, the current foreign affairs minister, Anatolii Zlenko, did not agree. He said that Ukraine could not afford to ignore Russia in order to continue economic development even as it moved westward into Europe. "I believe there is no alternative to Ukraine's perspectives regarding membership in the European Union. However, we have no choice but to strengthen our friendly, neighborly relations with Russia," Mr. Zlenko argued.

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers initially rejected the proposed agreement, after three ministers voiced concerns over the document's constitutionality. The government's decision to send the SES proposal to the Constitutional Court for review put in doubt whether a signing ceremony would take place between the leaders of the four countries involved on September 18-19 in Yalta as had been planned.

Foreign Affairs Minister Gryshchenko, Minister of Justice Oleksander Lavrynovych and Minister of Economy and European Integration Valerii Khoroshkovskyyi stated during a fiery two-hour session that they saw several contradictions with Ukraine's Constitution including a passage that did not allow any supranational body to impose its rule over the country.

Indeed, the document called for a supranational body to establish customs and currency policy with the votes of the four countries divided in proportion to their economic largesse. This, in effect would give Russia at least 70 percent of the voting power and limit Ukraine to some 20 percent.

On September 17, with the three ministers absent, the Cabinet of Ministers pushed through an endorsement of the SES agreement, adding a stipulation that the document the Ukrainian president was to sign could not



Efrem Lukatsky

Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko pays his respects at the funeral of journalist Taras Protsyuk, who was killed in Baghdad in April.

expound any ideas or goals that contravened Ukrainian legislation or its Constitution. That same day the Verkhovna Rada passed a similar resolution in support of the SES.

However, newly arrived U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst, in his first official comments, noted that by entering into such an agreement Ukraine could make its path into the World Trade Organization and Euro-integration much more complicated.

Two days later, on September 19, President Kuchma, who continued to maintain Ukraine would only go as far as a free-trade zone, signed the historic SES framework agreement with the three other state leaders in Yalta during an annual meeting of the CIS heads of state and government.

Responding to widespread criticism that the accord was the first step to the return of Russian imperialism over the region, Russian President Putin called it idle chatter. "This is nonsense. They do not understand what they are talking about," Mr. Putin said. "That was a very complicated page in our history. The page is turned. The train is gone."

Ukraine, in fact, did keep its sights on Europe, and the European Union, in turn, promised Ukraine it would eventually receive membership in the international organization once it met all the requirements. During a trip to Kyiv on February 7, EU Secretary General Javier Solana gave guarantees during discussions with President Kuchma that an artificial border would not arise after Poland entered the EU in 2004 and underscored that the EU would maintain a close political dialogue with the country. The proclamation came as the U.S. continued to isolate Ukraine, a policy that would change in the next months.

Earlier that week President Kuchma had indicated that his efforts to break the icy relationship with Washington, which had begun after the Kolchuha affair, had proved fruitless thus far. Mr. Kuchma also said that with regard to EU membership, Ukraine had decided that it would move toward Europe with practical, concrete steps coordinated with Brussels. Mr. Solana said that for Ukraine the most important item was to continue with political and administrative reform, emphasizing that the country would have to make changes to allow for a free and unfettered mass media to operate.

Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Minister Zlenko warned that with the new visa requirements imposed on Ukrainians who wanted to travel to Poland, as a result of Poland's entry into the EU, there was a risk that a new political "curtain" could descend upon Europe.

Part of the new relationship that Europe proposed was to accord Ukraine certain privileges by giving it "friendly neighbor" status as part of its "Wider Europe" program. The program was to give countries ranging from Eastern Europe to northern Africa a special trading relationship with the members of the EU. Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych came out in support

of the EU program on March 18, stating that the designation could give Ukraine a better foothold for its products in the EU market.

Speaking in Brussels during the sixth annual EU-Ukraine cooperation conference, Mr. Yanukovych said he believed a free trade zone to include Ukraine and the EU could become a reality with some effort. His words differed markedly from remarks made by President Kuchma earlier in the year after EU officials had first announced the Wider Europe program. Then Mr. Kuchma had said he saw few benefits for Ukraine.

Mr. Kuchma continued to vent exasperation with EU policy toward Ukraine on the eve of the EU-Ukraine summit in Yalta, in what some political experts believed was an attempt to put pressure on the EU to begin negotiations on a concrete timetable for Ukrainian membership. On September 30 Mr. Kuchma said he was frustrated by Brussels' unwillingness to move the country along a distinct path to EU membership. "How long can Ukraine sit on the sidelines? We have grown quite weary of this," he stated.

The Ukrainian president blamed the EU for the paralysis in relations and noted that it had failed to act on repeated requests by Ukraine for associate membership. He also said he didn't understand why the EU was unwilling to guarantee the country membership should it fulfill the requirements.

Perhaps this time the EU leadership heard the president's words. One result of the EU-Ukraine summit that began the week after Mr. Kuchma's remarks was a verbal guarantee that Ukraine would eventually become part of the EU. "Without any doubt Ukraine is a European country. We did not discuss a date, but (membership) is on the agenda," Mr. Prodi said on October 7 in Yalta.

The EU president enumerated the stages to Ukraine's membership in the EU: intensification of relations and trade; acceptance into the WTO, recognition of Ukraine as a free market economy by the EU, the development of a free trade zone, and associate membership followed by full membership.

Mr. Prodi also asserted that the closer economic relationship Ukraine was planning with Russia and two other CIS countries was "not an obstacle to the development of relations between the EU and Ukraine."

A week after the successful meeting, Ukraine made an effort to obtain reimbursement for the revenue it would lose in lost trade with Poland, the Czech Republic, the Baltic states and the other neighboring countries that would enter the EU in 2004. With membership, the trade agreement the countries had with Ukraine – including a free trade zone with the Baltic States – would be voided as the countries took on the rules and regulations of the EU. First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Oleksander Chalyi said that Ukraine could lose as much as 10 percent of its trade revenue, inasmuch as these countries were among its closest

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EU Commission President Romano Prodi (right) with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and EU Foreign Policy Chief Javier Solana at a press-conference after the Ukraine-European Union meeting in Yalta in October.

trading partners. He said that the EU-Ukraine treaty on friendship and cooperation stipulated recompensation to Ukraine in the first year of EU enlargement and that Ukraine would seek relief on that basis.

Mr. Chalyi explained that he wanted the EU to offer Ukraine simplified visa regimes for students, businesspeople and professionals in the humanities, and the relaxation of some tariffs and quotas as compensation for the country's trade losses. EU Commissioner Chris Patten replied to Mr. Chalyi's demands during a visit to Kyiv on November 10. He told reporters that the EU would not offer any sort of compensation. He said loss of trade or negative trade balances were not areas in which the EU and Ukraine had compensation agreements.

Ukraine also made progress with NATO, another European structure Kyiv desired to join, when the Atlantic Alliance agreed to an action plan with the country on January 22. The purpose of the plan was to clearly identify Ukraine's strategic objectives and priorities in pursuit of full integration into the Euro-Atlantic security structure. The plan laid out jointly agreed-upon principles and objectives in five sections: political and economic issues; security, defense and military issues; information, protection and security; legal issues and mechanisms of implementation.

Meanwhile, a nationwide poll conducted in December by the Social Monitoring Center and the Ukrainian Social Studies Institute found that confidence in NATO among Ukrainians had dropped significantly since the previous summer. Only 28 percent of them said they trusted the North Atlantic Alliance, down 11 percent from last August. Likewise, 44 percent said they did not consider NATO a trustworthy organization, down from 34 percent.

In October outgoing NATO Secretary-General George Robertson paid a last visit to Kyiv in his position to once again underscore that Ukraine needed to pursue democratic and market reforms to their conclusion, including the establishment of a free press, as well as to meet the defense and military requirements in order to assure itself membership in NATO. He noted that relations between Ukraine and NATO had grown considerably warmer since the icy days of the Prague summit last November, just after the Kolchuha scandal hit its peak.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yanukovich made his first visit to Poland, a NATO country and one of Ukraine's strategic partners, on January 8 to confirm that Poland would retain a flexible visa policy toward Ukraine as it entered the other major European structure, the EU, in 2004. Polish Prime Minister Leszek Miller told his Ukrainian counterpart that "visas will be cheap, multi-entry and affordable," and that certain categories of individuals, including businessmen and young people, should be allowed to enter Poland without visas."

The two prime ministers also continued talks on Warsaw's cooperation in extending Ukraine's Odesa-Brody pipeline through Polish territory to the Baltic Sea. The Polish side, however, continued to demand that a consortium of Polish investors finance the project, which would also require that a major oil company express an interest in utilizing the pipeline once it was completed.

On February 13, Ukrainian President Kuchma and Polish President Alexander Kwasniewski met in the Ukrainian village of Huta, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, where Mr. Kuchma has a presidential retreat, and agreed on a cost-free visa regime, which had already been discussed with EU leaders. Mr. Kuchma called the agreement, "Mr. Kwasniewski's personal achievement."

However, the policy would remain in force only until Poland acceded to the Schengen Accord, an agreement among most of the EU members that allows open, unfettered travel among the member states. Mr. Kwasniewski acknowledged that was a problem. Yet he remained optimistic that the problem, which the two countries would encounter sometime in 2005, could be worked out.

The two state leaders also seemed to resolve another point of friction between the two countries by deciding that in the 60th anniversary commemorations of the bloody conflict between the Poles and Ukrainians in the Volyn region in 1943 all the victims of the tragic events would be remembered equally. (See section on the Ukrainian diaspora for the reaction of Poland's Ukrainians.)

The decision resolved what had been turning into a bitter matter between the two countries. Poles wanted Ukraine to admit guilt and apologize for what they said was the murder of thousands of Poles living in Volyn by members of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army. In turn, Ukrainians accused the Polish Armija Krajowa of taking part in massacres of Ukrainians in the region as the German Nazi forces retreated before a Soviet onslaught.

On July 11, days before the commemoration, the Parliaments of the two countries almost simultaneously passed identical resolutions commemorating the events in Volyn in 1943, after the document was painfully pieced together by an inter-parliamentary committee representing both countries.

Pope John Paul II sent a letter to the Ukrainian and Polish communities in Ukraine through Papal Nuncio to Ukraine Mykola Eterovic in which he praised them for their ability to put the matter behind them.

President Kuchma and President Kwasniewski traveled to the area on July 12 to mark the events. In the village of Pavlivka, Volyn Oblast, where some of the worst atrocities occurred, both leaders called for mutual forgiveness and reconciliation as they attended prayer services, laid wreaths to the victims and unveiled a commemorative monument.

"We cannot change this history, nor can we question it. We cannot silence it, nor excuse it. Instead we need to find the courage to accept the truth; to call a crime a crime, inasmuch as only with respect to the truth can we build the future," read a statement issued by the two presidents.

Two weeks later, on July 31, Poles and Ukrainians agreed on a different and no less important matter when Prime Minister Leszek Miller of Poland and Ukraine's Prime Minister Yanukovich signed documents in which they agreed to continue the Odesa-Brody pipeline to Plock, a Polish city near the Baltic Sea. Developers and the governments of both countries hoped the pipeline would be the final link of an oil transport corridor that would take oil from the Caspian Sea through Russia, Ukraine and Poland via pipeline and eventually to

Central and Western Europe through the Baltic Sea.

The project took on a new impetus after an analysis by a major international accounting firm, issued at the end of the spring, showed that the pipeline could be economically viable. Helping as well was support from the EU. Perhaps the last needed push came when U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual noted at the beginning of July that such an oil pipeline would not only help Ukraine but would be a positive development for the global demand for diversified oil sources.

But not everything was as tidy as it seemed, because Russia increasingly was calling for using Odesa-Brody in reverse mode. On July 17-20, while on a visit to the Crimea, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov told journalists that Russia would not sign an oil transit agreement with Ukraine to move 79.5 million tons of crude to Western markets on an annual basis through 2018, as it had planned to do. Mr. Kasyanov suggested that it would be more practical to move Russian oil through the Prydniprovya pipeline to Brody and then onto Odesa, where it would be shipped to Europe via the Black Sea and the Dardanelles.

The project had been first proposed by the Tyumen Nafta Kompania (TNK) of Russia as part of a joint project with British Petroleum. Initially, Ukrainian energy officials, including Energy Minister Serhii Yermilov, maintained that the pipeline would be used as originally intended, to move oil to European markets through Poland. However, UkrTransNafta, the government entity responsible for oil transport across Ukraine voted by a 4-3 margin to recommend that TNK get the right to fill the Odesa-Brody with lower-grade Russian crude and obtain a three-year option to pump it in reverse fashion.

UkrTransNafta President Oleksander Todiichuk criticized the decision made by his supervisory council and stated that pressure was brought to bear upon the group by TNK and Russia. Mr. Todiichuk rejected assertions made by TNK that the pipeline was corroding as it lay empty and noted that it was filled with a special substance to preserve it. He also pointed out that, after the three-year duration of the contract, Ukraine could be left with no oil to pump because the transportation routes for moving Caspian oil to Europe will have been worked out. He also cast doubts on TNK's ability to guarantee that 9 million tons of oil would flow through the Odesa-Brody line. He surmised that this was a ploy by Russia to reserve the Odesa-Brody line for itself and keep Ukraine out of the lucrative Caspian market.

The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers approved the plan on November 26, but Foreign Minister Gryshchenko stated that the agreement was an intergovernmental document and that a separate agreement would be needed to determine whose oil would flow through it and in what direction.

On December 5, after a visit from Russian czar Anatolii Chubais, the chairman of Russia's state-owned Unified Energy Systems, President Kuchma dismissed Vice Prime Minister of Energy Viktor Haiduk and Energy Minister Yermilov. Although the official reason given by Prime Minister Yanukovich for the firings was that the two energy officials had failed to resolve many problems that existed in the energy sector, political pundits believed the moves were a result of the Chubais visit and were more than likely due to reservations by the two government officials regarding cooperation with Russia in the field of energy.

Just before the announcement of his dismissal, Mr. Haiduk told a press conference that a joint venture of the oil giant Chevron and the government of Kazakstan had expressed interest in moving oil westward, but the proposal had not been acted upon.

A tiny island in the news: the dispute over Tuzla

The events surrounding Tuzla Island beginning in September had to change the way Ukraine, and especially the presidential administration of Leonid Kuchma viewed the politics of Russia.

While the political leaders, including the presidents of both countries, had always publicly enjoyed a cozy political relationship, suddenly a small lightly inhabited island in the Kerch Strait, which is the waterway that separates the two countries, became a central point of intense friction in a political dispute in which neither side was ready to give an inch and which easily could have led to conflict had Russia not backed down.

It was one of the first times, as well, that Ukraine showed that it meant it when it told its big northerly

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neighbor, "no!"

The Tuzla crisis began near the end of September, when trucks carrying sand, stone and mortar began to reinforce the northern shore of Russia's Taman Peninsula and build a dike-like extension into the Kerch Strait.

When the Moscow press discovered a very silent but intense construction operation going on at the tip of the Taman Peninsula, which included scores of heavy, earth-moving equipment and hundreds of workers, the reaction from Kyiv was surprise, especially because the building of the dike – what the Russian and Ukrainian press referred to as a dam – was heading directly for the Ukrainian territory of Tuzla, a 7-kilometer-long stretch of land located about 5.5 kilometers from where the Russian project had begun.

The situation worsened after Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry sent three diplomatic notes to Moscow, none of which was answered. Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry maintained an official line which had that the construction project was not supported by Moscow, but initiated as a result of an oversight by officials in Russia's Krasnodar region, to which the Taman Peninsula is attached.

After receiving an unconvincing explanation about Russia's intentions from Russia's ambassador to Ukraine, Viktor Chernomyrdin, Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry dispatched Assistant Foreign Minister Oleksander Motsyk to find out what was going on. He returned empty-handed on October 3 to Kyiv, where he told journalists that evidence suggested that the construction of the dam was an attempt by Moscow to obtain a strategic advantage in stalled negotiations on how to divide the Kerch Strait.

The Ukrainian diplomat explained that the waters off Tuzla were considered Ukrainian territory, and Russia had no right to penetrate a 1-kilometer zone around the island, which was situated 5.5 kilometers (about 3 miles) northwest of the Taman Peninsula. Mr. Motsyk also noted that a Russian-Ukrainian accord from 1994 declared that if any construction or development took place in the Kerch region the other side was to receive advance notification – an agreement that Moscow seemed to have violated with its action.

The island, considered part of Russia before being turned over to the Ukrainian SSR in the early 1950s, had little economic, commercial or social significance. The concern was that if the land mass was connected to the Russian-owned Taman Peninsula, which juts into the Kerch Strait, Russia could assert that it had simply reattached what was a historic piece of Russian property. If successful it could have received strategic advantage in its ongoing negotiations over where and even whether there should be a line of delineation between Russia and Ukraine in the Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait that connects it to the Black Sea. Russia would like to see both bodies of water jointly owned by the two countries, which would allow Russia control over access to them. It would also give Russia access to the Ukrainian side, where fish are more abundant and oil might be as well.

The Russian effort to connect Tuzla with the Taman Peninsula, if completed, effectively would have recreated what had existed in nature until 1925, when a series of violent storms swept away a sand and stone spit that had kept the island and the peninsula joined.

President Leonid Kuchma tried to downplay the severity of the situation during comments on October 6 from Yalta, where he was preparing for a summit with leaders of the European Union. When asked by journalists whether he believed the incident could lead to a border conflict, Mr. Kuchma responded, "I do not accept such a statement. I will never believe that is possible."

Nonetheless, the Ukrainian president voiced his displeasure with Russia's behavior, describing his reaction to the unexpected construction as "negative." He added: "You know, it is somewhat funny, I look at the map of Russia, but it turns out they still want more."

When Ukraine indicated that it reserved the right to use all action it deemed appropriate, including turning to the United Nations Security Council, Moscow's Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov finally met with his counterpart Kostyantyn Gryshchenko and assured Ukrainian diplomats that there was no intention to violate Ukrainian territory.

Ukraine sent border troops into the Kerch Strait on October 10 after Russia continued construction of the dike, to reinforce normal border patrols with additional troops. Mykola Lytvyn, director of Ukraine's State Border Services, visited the island on October 13, and

announced that a detachment of an unspecified number of border guards had arrived the previous Friday in response to the Russian actions. Mr. Lytvyn said the troops had full authority, short of the use of firepower, to enforce the border. The border guards were equipped with spotlights, radar, engineering equipment and communications systems to make certain that the Russian construction effort does not violate Ukrainian territory and to keep Kyiv officials abreast of the latest developments.

On October 15, Novyi Kanal, a prominent Ukrainian television network, reported that Russia's minister of foreign affairs had said that the current dispute would quickly be resolved if Ukraine would agree not to delimit the Sea of Azov, as Russia and its neighbors have already agreed to do in the Caspian Sea, ostensibly because Tuzla Island would then be jointly owned.

That same day Ukraine's Minister of Defense Yevhen Marchuk offered that a better idea would be for Ukraine and Russia to address the United Nations Security Council to present both sides of the disagreement and then allow that body to decide the best solution. Mr. Marchuk, who is a former general in the Soviet KGB and an ex-prime minister of Ukraine, acknowledged that Ukraine would take that step only if Russia should violate the Ukrainian border.

After a hearing on October 15, the Verkhovna Rada approved a resolution, with 250 lawmakers in support, demanding that Russia halt construction of the dam. It called on Russia's upper house of Parliament, the Federation Council, "to intervene to halt any unilateral actions that contradict the principles of good neighborly relations and the strategic partnership between the two states." The Ukrainian Parliament declared that should Moscow refuse to comply with Ukrainian demands it reserved the right "to initiate all measures provided by international legal norms to guarantee the sovereignty of the state," including turning to the United Nations Security Council and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Parliament also noted that the barrier being constructed was of itself an ecological hazard, as it would change the currents in the strait with unforeseen consequences likely.

The diplomatic tussle escalated to full-blown crisis beginning on October 20 when Moscow questioned Ukraine's sovereignty over the tiny island and demanded proof of its right to it. The same day, Kyiv supplanted a border guard detachment that had been carrying out border defense exercises since October 10 with 14 gunboats and aircraft to patrol the area around the Ukrainian-Russian border, which is found 150 meters southeast of the shore of Tuzla.

Two days later, with construction moving to within 200 meters of Tuzla Island, Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma curtailed a state visit to Latin America to return to Kyiv to keep rein over an increasingly vitriolic dialogue between the diplomats of the two states. Upon arrival, Mr. Kuchma immediately flew to the island to meet with Ukrainian officials monitoring the construction of the dike, which the Ukrainian and Russian press refer to as a dam.

As the Ukrainian president returned from Brazil, Ukrainian border troops moved pontoon boats into place to block any attempt to extend the dike into Ukrainian territory. Meanwhile Ukraine's armed forces conducted unexpected military training exercises at Chauda, located 70 kilometers (50 miles) south of Tuzla at the southern tip of the Kerch Peninsula. The one-day training, which Ukrainian military officials said was planned in advance, included live-fire exercises and the use of MiG 29 and SU-27 jet aircraft.

With authorities on both sides of the confrontation increasingly warning that the situation could escalate out of control, Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich called for calm and the use of diplomacy to defuse the situation. "We cannot allow this to turn into armed conflict," warned Mr. Yanukovich on October 21. "We must resolve this at the negotiating table."

On October 22 the prime minister's office announced that Mr. Yanukovich had canceled a trip to Estonia and would fly instead to Moscow on October 24 to meet with his Russian counterpart, Mikhail Kasyanov, to address the Tuzla issue. The agreement to meet came only after Mr. Yanukovich made a personal phone call to Mr. Kasyanov's office. Earlier in the day Russian officials said the Tuzla matter would be discussed only at a previously scheduled meeting of foreign ministers set for October 30.

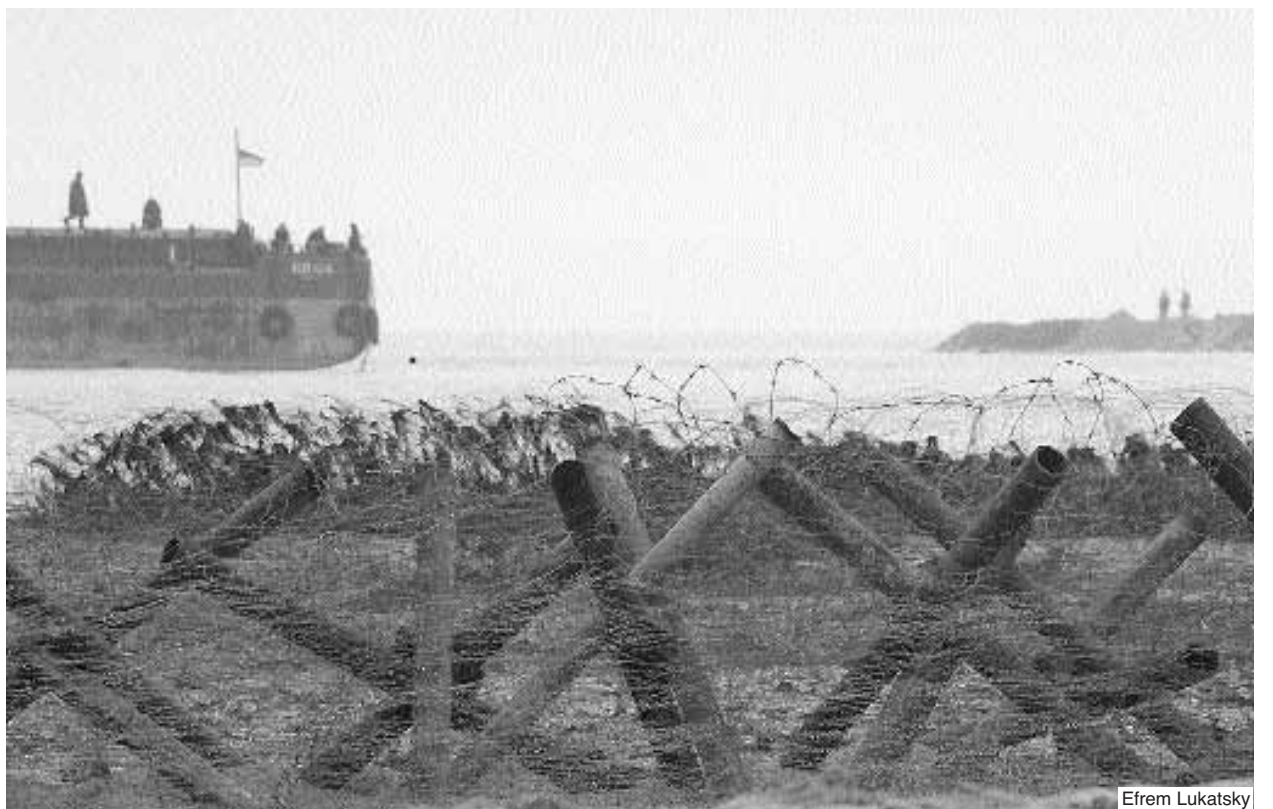
Russian President Vladimir Putin, who until that point had remained uncharacteristically quiet as the crisis evolved, ordered Krasnodar Krai officials to halt construction of the dike on October 22. The Ukrainian press reported that construction was suspended for an hour near midnight, but resumed early in the morning of October 23. Ukrainian government television stated on October 23 that Presidents Putin and Kuchma had held their first telephone conversation on the matter that day, but did not give details.

Later on October 23 Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada, in an uncharacteristic show of unity, passed a resolution condemning the Russian actions as "an unfriendly act that will force Ukraine to revise its current relations with the Russian Federation," with 369 of the 450 members of the Parliament supporting the declaration.

At a press briefing on October 21 Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Markian Lubkivskyi stated that Ukraine categorically could not accept the possibility that Russia might link the dike to the island. "I would like to emphasize that Ukraine will not allow for this in any circumstance," explained Mr. Lubkivskyi, adding that Tuzla "is Ukrainian, just as Lviv is part of Ukraine, or Kyiv."

Meanwhile the chief of staff to Russia's president set a confrontational and dangerous tone in an off the cuff statement he later called a joke, which he made to a Ukrainian delegation of journalists on October 21. "If need be we will do all that is possible and impossible to maintain our position. If need be we can drop a bomb there," said Aleksander Voloshin, according to various press accounts.

While underscoring its "deep concern" over the Russian demand for documentation of Ukraine's right to



Ukrainian border guards on a barge flying Ukraine's flag (left) and people on a Russian dike (right) are seen from the tiny Ukrainian island of Tuzla in the Azov Sea in October.

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Tuzla, Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry responded by enumerating a series of treaties and documents, beginning with a 1954 agreement that included Tuzla as part of the Crimean Peninsula territory that was moved from the Russian SFSR to the Ukrainian SSR under the Soviet Union through to the 1997 agreement of friendship, cooperation and partnership between the now-independent states of Ukraine and the Russian Federation, which the Russian State Duma ratified in 1998. It noted that all official cartographic drawings and maps showed Tuzla Island as part of Ukrainian territory.

Russian lawmakers, members of the Russian Parliament's upper house, who were in Kyiv for an inter-parliamentary conference on October 21-22, for the most part also disagreed with Ukraine's official diplomatic stance. "The construction of the dam is taking place on Russian territory, so it is strange to hear that we need to prove the reason why we are doing it," explained Serhii Mironov, the head of the Federation Council. Mr. Mironov explained that the point of the project was to develop an "exclusively hydro-technical construction," to prevent the further erosion of the Taman Peninsula coastline, which has already caused agricultural damage.

NATO Secretary-General George Robertson, who was on a farewell visit to Kyiv on October 20, said after a meeting with Mr. Kuchma that NATO did not expect to get involved in the Tuzla dispute and that the Ukrainian president had not asked for NATO assistance. He said that at this point the issue remained for Kyiv and Russia to resolve. U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst agreed with that assessment in a separate statement he made after a conference of the Ukraine-NATO Civic League. Responding to a question on whether the United States was ready to support Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, as it had agreed to do when Ukraine gave up its nuclear arsenal in 1994, Mr. Herbst stated: "The United States supports the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. The U.S. is also friendly with both Russia and Ukraine, and hopes that they will be able to work out this problem."

On October 27 President Kuchma signaled that Ukraine could turn onto a more direct path towards Europe. Noting his displeasure with the re-emergence of Russian imperialistic ambition, he said, "The recent events will force us to reconsider our foreign policy once again." Mr. Kuchma added that Ukraine would abandon the Single Economic Space agreement should the Russian dike ever cross the Ukrainian border.

One positive result of the crisis some said was that negotiations to delimit the Kerch Strait and the Sea of Azov would restart with more vigorous energy. And that did in fact happen.

However, just to be sure that the island was not encroached upon again, Ukraine announced on December 8 that it would dig a channel in the Kerch Strait between Tuzla and the Taman Peninsula. Ukraine's Minister of Transportation Heorhii Kirpa made the announcement and said the project was developed to save the island from erosion caused by the Russian dike, which had caused a major change of currents in the area. Mr. Kirpa also said that the channel would open a second shipping lane for shallow-hulled ships and relieve some of the congestion in the strait as well.

On the homefront: census, finances, cultural issues

Just prior to the New Year in 2003, Ukraine published the official census figures from the nationwide count that had been taken the previous year. It put the official population of Ukraine at 48,416,000 as of December 5, 2001.

The urban population was identified as numbering 32,538,000, or 66 percent of the total number of Ukrainians, while rural inhabitants numbered 15,878,000 or 33 percent.

Ukraine's 48.5 million inhabitants witnessed more growth in 2003 as the economy continued its upward trend, which began in 2000 with a 9 percent rise in GDP, followed by a 6 percent increase in 2001 and 4 percent in 2002. By the second month of 2003 it was evident that the economy would continue to expand in 2003 while inflation remained in check. Growth for January and February stood at 7.2 percent. At mid-year it had risen to 7.5 percent. GDP growth remained steady at 7 percent for the rest of 2003, exceeding the 6 percent growth the government had predicted at the beginning

of the previous December.

Inflation, meanwhile, had grown only by some 6.5 percent by the end of the year, well within government expectations.

On February 19 Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich presented his economic plan for the next two years calling for a reduction of the income tax rate and a new tax code to be in place by mid-year.

Mykola Azarov, first vice prime minister in the Yanukovich Cabinet, proposed a reduction in the corporate profit tax to 20 percent, reduction of the value-added tax (VAT) to 15 percent and a decrease in the number of tax breaks available to businesses. He also called for 12 to 15 percent real growth in wages for Ukrainian workers.

While a new tax code never did make it out of the Verkhovna Rada, where it has been stuck for some two years now, the lawmakers managed to approve a reduced 13 percent flat tax rate on wage earnings. Previously, some workers paid up to 40 percent of their pay to the government. President Leonid Kuchma welcomed the new tax rate and noted that it would bring that portion of the population that hides its earnings to avoid taxes out of the shadows. "People will no longer hide their wages through compensation under the table," Mr. Kuchma commented.

While workers who didn't report their earnings continued to be a problem, another type of worker, the one who left Ukraine to work abroad became an issue of "state importance," Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada Ombudsman Nina Karpachova noted during a report to the Parliament on April 2. She called workers who went abroad, "The most discriminated against and least protected category of Ukrainian citizen."

Ms. Karpachova estimated that between 2 million and 7 million Ukrainians worked in foreign lands as a result of poverty and unemployment in Ukraine. Officially, most of those Ukrainians found jobs in Greece, Cyprus, Liberia and Great Britain. Unofficially, however, the evidence pointed to more Ukrainian workers in Russia, Poland, Italy, the Czech Republic, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and the United States. The Ukrainian ombudswoman said that collectively the workers earned some \$400 million per month.

Ms. Karpachova also noted that government statistics showed that 27 percent of Ukrainians lived below the poverty line, with the Zakarpattia Oblast the most affected - 47 percent of residents of the region were considered to live in poverty - followed by Crimea and the Khmelnytsky, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Volyn and Luhansk Oblasts.

While Ukraine's skilled labor force continued to move out of the country, Prime Minister Yanukovich on June 6 announced a program to draw foreign investment into Ukraine. He stated that the goal was to attract at least \$1 billion in foreign investment annually beginning in 2003.

"The formation of favorable conditions for investment is a cornerstone of government policy," explained the Ukrainian prime minister at an annual gathering of the Ukrainian Investment Council, an organization of Ukrainian and foreign businesspersons chaired by President Kuchma.

While Mr. Yanukovich did not specifically explain how he was going to suddenly make Ukraine a hotbed of investment, he noted that foreign investment had increased since 2002 by \$797 million. He also stated that foreign investment into Ukraine was diversified, coming from 114 different countries, led by the United States, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Russia and Germany.

On July 21, during his farewell speech to graduates of U.S. exchange programs, outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual said that Ukraine's glaring weakness in drawing foreign capital had to be rectified. He blamed the lack of transparency and predictability in the court system and the instability of legislation for the lack of interest among foreign investors in the Ukrainian market. Mr. Pascual noted that in 12 years Ukraine had managed to attract a paltry \$5.3 billion, with U.S. investors leading the way at \$900 million.

In another show of the strengthened financial position of Ukraine's economy, National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Serhii Tyhypko announced on August 29 that the NBU would repay its outstanding \$1.84 billion debt to the International Monetary Fund by the end of the year. He said that in doing so the NBU would save Ukraine \$40 million in interest payments. The NBU chairman also stated that because the Ukrainian central bank had some \$7 billion in its foreign currency reserves it could afford the move.

The plan did not receive a rousing ovation from the Cabinet of Ministers, however. Many officials, including Prime Minister Yanukovich, said that no such action would take place until the ramifications were evident.

First Vice Prime Minister Azarov suggested that such a large outlay of money could have "possible consequences for the country's financial system."

Ukraine's 2003 budget also came under question when Communist faction leader Petro Symonenko and an unlikely partner, Nestor Shufrych from the Social Democratic Party-United faction of billionaire Viktor Medvedchuk, accused the chairman of the parliamentary Budget Committee, Our Ukraine faction member Petro Poroshenko, with changing line items of the approved 2003 Ukrainian budget and misappropriating some 47 million hrv (about \$9 million). Mr. Shufrych suggested that the finances were moved into expenditures for Mr. Poroshenko's constituency in the Vinnytsia Oblast.

Mr. Poroshenko denied mishandling the budget and said he would resign if the Verkhovna Rada rejected the budget because of alleged malfeasance on his part. He blamed the differences between what had been in the draft budget at the time it was approved and what was officially published after parliamentary approval on stenographic errors that occurred and were not noted between the second and third readings of the budget. If a successful vote to reject the approved budget had occurred, both the government and the country would have been paralyzed, with the closing of schools, hospitals and state militia posts.

The 2004 budget, which the Verkhovna Rada passed on November 27, also did not get approved without an uproar. National deputies from the opposition wanted to reject the draft bill because it temporarily reduced a new minimum wage that was to have gone into effect. They noted that already on December 1, 2003, the minimum wage should have risen to 237 hrv. However, the government had delayed that wage increase until November 2004. First Vice Prime Minister Azarov told the legislative body as it debated the budget that a hike in the minimum wage was financially inappropriate if the government was also to absorb the reduction of income taxes to 13 percent.

As the morning session began on budget day, opposition forces had tussled with pro-presidential lawmakers at the speaker's dais, where supporters of the president had placed themselves to avoid the possibility that the opposition might attempt to disrupt another parliamentary session, a tactic they had used often in the second half of the year when the pro-presidential faction ramrodded through legislation.

And while they complained about the unfair way in which the minimum wage was reduced, the opposition also expressed its dissatisfaction with the manner in which the government received almost all that it had asked for in terms of budget requests and how little input was accepted from the Budget Committee headed by Mr. Poroshenko, a leading member of the Our Ukraine opposition.

The chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, Volodymyr Lytvyn, who guided the budget to approval in only two readings, admitted that the budget process this year was somewhat unorthodox. "We passed the budget a bit unexpectedly. This year the budget procedure was not fully open and transparent," admitted Mr. Lytvyn, explaining that indeed the endorsements on the budget came quickly because the pro-presidential forces in the Parliament and the government had agreed beforehand on how the country's basic financial document would look.

Although scandal has been far from a novelty in Ukraine, the detention of former Minister of Agriculture Leonid Kozachenko on charges that he had manipulated the wheat market for his own financial benefit was particularly resonant because it involved the bread and flour market, central staples in the Ukrainian diet.

Mr. Kozachenko was arrested on March 24 on charges of corruption and tax evasion and held until October, when he was freed in advance of the beginning of his trial and after the latter charges had been dropped. Originally the Procurator General's Office charged the former agricultural minister with taking bribes for the illegal sale of grain to foreign buyers at reduced prices and for failing to declare 584,940 hrv in income as the director general of the firm Ukr AgroBusiness.

The case was one of 90 similar investigations that the Procurator General's Office had begun after it became apparent that even with the record grain harvest that reached 40 million tons the previous year, Ukraine was facing a grain shortage. Many government officials and grain traders had sold their stores to foreign buyers at sharply reduced prices in order to pocket a profit for themselves. In order to cover-up their black market business, many raion and oblast officials had inflated the amount of grain they had harvested. The largest discrepancies were found in the fertile, breadbasket oblasts of the southern region, including Zaporizhia and Dnipropetrovsk, as well as Crimea.

On July 23, during a special Cabinet of Ministers meet-

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ing dedicated to the grain crisis, Prime Minister Yanukovich asked for the dismissal of three oblast governors, from Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava and Chernivtsi. He also noted that officials in the oblasts of Zaporizhia, Ivano-Frankivsk and the Crimea misled government authorities.

Adding to the grain crisis, on June 14 Prime Minister Yanukovich announced that a late spring drought and an early spring frost would make the 2003 autumn harvest among the worst in years. "This is the worst weather we have had for crop growth in the last 10 years," observed Mr. Yanukovich.

A State Committee on Statistics report confirmed that some 65 percent of planted fields in the eastern, central and southern oblasts was destroyed by bad weather in the spring. Meanwhile, Minister of Agriculture Serhii Ryzhuk said that he expected a harvest of only 25 million to 27 million tons of grain this year. As a result Ukraine was forced to buy 2.5 million tons of supplemental grain stores from Russia, Kazakhstan and Canada. Even so, by the end of the year bread prices in many regions of Ukraine had more than doubled.

While the agricultural sphere of Ukrainian life was continuing to work out kinks, cultural life in Ukraine also had problems to overcome in 2003.

Although President Kuchma had declared 2003 the Year of Culture in Ukraine, that didn't stop a Kyiv Court from ordering a youth library closed over protests by the libraries management, which claimed that the head of a city raion wanted ownership of the building to further his own commercial interests.

"We are aware from those who are close to our library that the head of the raion state leadership already has a beauty shop and a restaurant around here," explained Halyna Soroka, director of the Kyiv Oblast Youth Library.

Other critics of the court's ruling, which ordered the library to abandon the premises because it had not paid rent in a timely manner and failed to renew its lease, stated a belief that the city takeover of an oblast controlled building was simply another stage in the political fight of Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko with the oblast of Kyiv to have the latter turnover all government buildings to city hall.

However, National Deputy Les Taniuk, chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Culture and Spiritual Matters, said the ruling was politically in line with the politics of the current state leadership. "I look at this as the norm for this government and this leadership, which also in this year of culture reduced the budget for culture," commented Mr. Taniuk during an interview with *The Weekly* on July 14.

He explained that a slew of unresolved cultural matters needed state attention, including funding for the restoration of the Kozak military center at Khortytsia, the misappropriation of government financing of church parishes and the closing of the Les Kurbas Center in Kyiv.

Many in Ukraine also saw political cynicism and irony in the fact that the president had decided to declare a year of Ukrainian culture in the country the same year he proclaimed the year of Russia in Ukraine.

Another tragedy, which many blamed on government negligence, was a fire in a Kamianets-Podilsky warehouse on April 10 that destroyed 70 percent of the historical archives of the Podilia Gubernia from the 18th and 19th centuries.

The fire was directly blamed on an unauthorized printing operation in the 16th century Franciscan cathedral, located in the city's old section, whose upper floors were used as a warehouse for historic government archives. Many of the documents that did not burn received extensive water damage.

While Mayor Oleksander Mazurchak blamed the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate for conducting an unlicensed printing operation and failing to maintain safety standards, he also noted that a lack of proper fire fighting equipment delayed the arrival of a ladder truck for two hours because one had to travel from the city of Khmelnytsky.

Mayor Mazurchak said that the city had repeatedly requested 1.2 million hrv from the state budget to remodel the archive areas of the building and to properly preserve the millions of sheaths of paper stored there, but hadn't received a kopyyka in five years.

Not all was bad news in the cultural sphere in 2003, however.

A new publishing house, Ranok Publishing, printing mostly in the Ukrainian language, gave itself a name in 2003 when it introduced a series of books on prominent Ukrainian writers and poets silenced and banned in Ukraine during 70 years of Soviet rule. The set, titled "Program in Literature," included the works of Panteleimon Kulish, Mykola Khvylovyi, Vasyl Stefanyk



A view of the turmoil in the Verkhovna Rada as the 2004 budget was passed in later November.

and Ivan Nechui-Levytsky, among others.

The publishing house, whose books are priced affordably for the average Ukrainian consumer, also published an anthology of the New York School, a group of Ukrainian American émigré poets and writers who achieved prominence in the 1950s-1960s. Ranok envisioned the printing of a total of 55 to 60 books before its Program in Literature series was completed.

Another auspicious moment for Ukrainian culture was the presentation of an icon of the 17th century spiritual and cultural leader Metropolitan Petro Mohyla to the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy on January 14. The icon was prepared by the monks of the Romanian Orthodox Church in honor of Mohyla's canonization by that Church on October 13, 2002, in his home town of Iasi in present day Romania.

The 70th anniversary of the Great Famine gave rise to a project to develop a proper memorial complex to the victims of Stalin's genocide. On February 12 Ukrainian lawmakers heeded an idea first proposed by the Ukrainian diaspora in North America. National Deputy Levko Lukianenko, who also headed the Association of Famine Researchers, put forward the idea during a parliamentary hearing on the Great Famine, which was supported by Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Dmytro Tabachnyk. Mr. Lukianenko proposed that the complex include a museum, a library and a research center, as well as a memorial statue and that it be constructed in the city center.

While the Parliament resolution that was passed the next day called for a site on a central thoroughfare of Kyiv, city officials decided on a different spot, a location on the Dnipro River that was not easily accessible and which was found directly below the hill where the famed figure of "Rodina Mat" stood with her drawn sword.

The location the city chose plus a poorly organized competition to determine the memorial center's design raised the ire of concerned Ukrainians both in the homeland and abroad, who severely criticized the way the project had been developed. That, in turn, led to a decision to search further for a site and to re-organize the design competition to broaden the number and variety of submissions.

Another project that got off to a poor start was a decision to build a Jewish community center on the territory of Babyn Yar, where tens of thousands of Jews, Ukrainians and Roma were murdered by German Nazis in 1941.

The project, which was to construct a multi-million-dollar complex, like those found in many U.S. cities, to include a theater and recreational facilities, was put on hold after dissension arose among the leaders of the Jewish community in Kyiv regarding the appropriateness of establishing this type of center in a place as sacred as Babyn Yar.

Representatives of the wider Ukrainian community also protested that if this was to be a memorial complex it

should also have input from representatives of all ethnic groups whose victims died in Babyn Yar.

Caught in the middle was the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which has coordinated and funded the construction of 170 Jewish Centers throughout the world. The center that was planned for Babyn Yar was to include a museum, a memorial and a research center, in addition to the community center. The issue at the center of the storm was whether the site that was selected was part of the killing fields or outside of them.

Josef Zissels, a former Soviet dissident and now a civic activist and Jewish community leader, maintained that no one knew for sure where the mass murders took place, and therefore it would be better not to put a community center anywhere near the site.

Chief Rabbi of Ukraine Dov Bleich, who led the drive to build at the chosen site, said the site had been fully researched, excavated and aerial photos taken to ensure it was not part of Babyn Yar.

While the JDC maintained that a different site could be chosen for a community center, Rabbi Bleich explained that the money was funded for the project through two foundations to the JDC with the stipulation that construction would take place on the chosen site. At the end of the year, the project remained on hold.

Commemorations took place in Kyiv in February 2003 in honor of the birth of a person who did more than most to stifle Ukrainian culture and the development of national identity.

In January Vice Prime Minister Tabachnyk signed a government resolution to honor Volodymyr Shcherbytsky on the 85th anniversary of his birth. Mr. Shcherbytsky, who some say committed suicide in 1990 after it became clear the Soviet Union would fall apart, was the longest serving leader of the Communist Party of Ukraine.

Mr. Shcherbytsky, who replaced Petro Shelest in 1972 after the latter was accused of national deviationism for espousing the development of Ukrainian culture, led a return to mass arrests of Ukrainian dissidents and the Russification of the republic. He remained at the helm of the CPU until he was replaced in 1989, the last hard-line republic leader to survive in power from the era of Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev, who had died in 1982.

Eighty-fifth anniversary commemorations included the commissioning of an official article on the life and deeds of Mr. Shcherbytsky for release to the mass media by the government of independent Ukraine and the writing of memoirs by colleagues and associates. On his birthday, February 14, a press conference was held in the Ukrainian Home and flowers placed at his gravest by a government delegation. That evening a concert was held in his honor at the National Philharmonic. Plans also called for the renaming of a Kyiv street and the erection of monuments and plaques in Dnipropetrovsk, where he began his career, Dniprodzerzhynsk, where he was born, and Kyiv, the seat of his power.

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Domestic politics marked by controversy, conflict

Domestic politics, as ever, remained a boiling cauldron of controversy and conflict, and became more so as the 2004 election year approached.

On January 23 National Deputy Yuri Kostenko announced that the Ukrainian National Rukh Party that he chairs had dropped the "Rukh" designation and would now go by the designation Ukrainian National Party. He said the move was made in anticipation of enlargement and unification as the national democratic forces prepared for the 2004 presidential elections.

The name change came after the collapse of unification talks with Mr. Kostenko's party and the Ukrainian National Rukh Party chaired by Hennadii Udovenko. Mr. Kostenko said the decision to change the party's name was made from a realization that the two parties would probably never unite and that it was absurd for both of them to carry the same name.

On May 4 Mr. Udovenko voluntarily stepped down as head of the original National Rukh Party after its 13th congress nearly unanimously elected Borys Tarasyuk the new chairman. Mr. Tarasyuk, a former minister of foreign affairs, received 808 votes from the 838 delegates, 10 voted against the Tarasyuk nomination and 16 abstained.

In his victory speech Mr. Tarasyuk called for the unification of all national democratic forces into a single political organization, which would support a single candidate in the 2004 presidential elections.

"Our goal is to take the reigns of power to build an independent, democratic, prosperous, law-abiding European-type country," said Mr. Tarasyuk.

The congress also approved a resolution calling on National Deputy Viktor Yushchenko, the leader of the Our Ukraine political bloc to which the National Rukh of Ukraine Party belonged, to run for the presidency in 2004.

On September 8 the National Rukh of Ukraine celebrated 14 years since its inception, first as a civic organization and later as a political party. The commemoration was held before the gravesite of Rukh co-founder and longtime leader Vyacheslav Chornovil, who died under mysterious circumstances in a car accident in 1999.

While the changes that took place within the two Rukhs were not all that controversial, the political moves made by the pro-presidential forces in preparation for the 2004 elections certainly were.

President Leonid Kuchma told a national television audience on March 5 that he was ready to move forward on a plan initially proposed by him the previous Independence Day, to turn Ukraine in a parliamentary-presidential political system. He explained that within a few months he would introduce a series of bills into the Parliament to begin the process of Constitutional changes required. "We need to go to a system that is like those found in Europe, a parliamentary/presidential system," Mr. Kuchma argued.

Many of the changes the president proposed the previous August 24 were originally part of a national referendum held in April 2000 that was widely considered rigged. The changes, which had lain dormant in the Parliament since then, would have reduced the number of national deputies from 450 to 300 and created an upper parliamentary chamber. They would also have removed the criminal immunity that lawmakers enjoyed. The president would have had the right to dismiss the Parliament should it not pass a budget or form a working majority within a stipulated period of time.

In addition the president called for codifying in the Constitution a requirement that lawmakers must form a majority coalition, then elect a prime minister and the government.

"Everybody would finally understand who is responsible for what," explained Mr. Kuchma of his proposed Constitutional changes.

During his state of the nation speech on April 15, given before a session of the Verkhovna Rada, Mr. Kuchma further expounded on his vision of political reform in which the Parliament would become the dominant political force in Ukraine. He suggested a political round table take place to further discuss his ideas and expressed hope that all the political elements of society could agree on the reforms that were needed.

The day before the four leaders of the opposition to President Kuchma had issued a statement criticizing the political reform initiatives as nothing more than an attempt to promote an authoritarian state leadership.

Opposition leaders said that central to their concerns

was to prevent the president from achieving his goals for both a bicameral Parliament and the holding of parliamentary and presidential elections in a single year.

While not disagreeing with the need for political reforms, the four leaders – Yulia Tymoshenko of the Tymoshenko Bloc, Petro Symonenko of the Communist faction, Oleksander Moroz of the Socialist faction and Mr. Yushchenko of the Our Ukraine Bloc – said their objectives were diametrically opposed to the results sought by Mr. Kuchma.

Mr. Yushchenko was a bit more accommodating in comments he made after the state of the nation speech, saying that the president should wait out a process of public debate to determine what type of reforms the people wanted. "The issue of political reforms always tends to exasperate me, especially this idea of 'let's get it done quickly,'" explained Mr. Yushchenko.

As it became obvious that opposition to his bicameral legislature initiative was particularly strong, Mr. Kuchma decided to change certain aspects of the political reforms he was seeking. In a national address on June 19, Mr. Kuchma publicly rejected his initial idea to transform the current Verkhovna Rada into a two-chamber Parliament, to reduce the number of national deputies and to have his political reforms approved by the people via a national referendum.

The Ukrainian president also changed his proposal to the formation of the government, stating that the president could appoint the prime minister from a list of four candidates nominated by the Verkhovna Rada majority. He said the president could also retain the power to appoint the foreign minister and the law enforcement chiefs.

In addition, Mr. Kuchma defended his plan to have parliamentary and presidential elections held simultaneously. Opposition members had immediately noted that this part of his proposal was a flagrant attempt to have presidential elections pushed back from 2004 to 2006 to bring them into line with the vote for Parliament, which would give the president two additional years in office. He said his draft legislation would soon be sent to the Parliament.

Try as the president did, he failed to convince a majority of lawmakers that the revisions he proposed were for the benefit of the country – even after he categorically stated that he would not run for another term in office. On July 10, the same day he made that statement, the Verkhovna Rada failed to gather the 226 votes needed to give initial approval to the president's draft legislation and to be able to send it to the Constitutional Court for review.

Concurrently the united opposition in the Parliament announced that it had developed a parallel piece of legislation that was similar to the president's initiative for the most part, with a major difference being that it fixed in law that elections to Parliament and the presidential chair must continue to be held in different years.

President Kuchma stated that if there was no movement on the political reform issue before the Parliament's summer issue, it would not be possible to approve the needed Constitutional changes, which meant that the sys-

tem would remain unchanged for the foreseeable future. In the end both pieces of legislation went to the Constitutional Court without parliamentary approval.

Lacking support for the political reforms he envisioned, President Kuchma announced on July 15 that he was preparing to withdraw his political reform bill, while stating he was not prepared to support the opposition's plan. However, the president made it clear the issue of political reform was still alive. He said he merely had withdrawn his own initiative to avoid political "deadlock."

During the parliamentary recess, Mr. Kuchma continued to work on political reform. After a series of meetings with opposition leaders from the left, Mr. Kuchma announced on August 26 that he was ready to support changes that would have the president elected by the Parliament.

The announcement came two days after an Independence Day speech in which Mr. Kuchma stated that he was close to agreement on a comprehensive political reform package that was engineered in cooperation with a cross-section of lawmakers, including some opposition factions.

"For me the main point is to reach agreement on the fundamental issue upon which the reforms were initiated, that is, on the principle that the government would be formed by a coalition of parliamentary factions and groups of lawmakers," explained Mr. Kuchma.

On August 21 National Deputy Moroz, leader of the Socialist faction, said that he had met with the president during much of August and had come to an agreement on a political reform initiative in which parliamentary and presidential elections would not be held simultaneously and the president would not have authority to appoint the power posts in the government, specifically the minister of internal affairs, the head of the Security Service of Ukraine, the chief of the tax administration and the procurator general.

While Mr. Moroz said he was still fighting not to have the president elected by the Parliament, his ally in the opposition, Mr. Symonenko of the Communist faction, said that specific issue was a basis for him now supporting the president's political reform initiative as it stood at the moment.

Meanwhile Mr. Yushchenko of Our Ukraine said he could not support either of the two initiatives put forth by President Kuchma.

One political pundit, Ihor Kohut of the Laboratory for Legislative Initiative, said during a press conference on September 9 that he believed the latest political reform proposal had little chance of being approved by the Parliament. He explained that it was in all likelihood another effort to discredit Mr. Yushchenko, the most popular politician in Ukraine, as well as Ms. Tymoshenko, leader of the eponymous political faction in the Verkhovna Rada, by presenting them as opposed to what looked on the surface to be Constitutional reforms that brought Ukraine a European form of government.

The draft legislation went to the Verkhovna Rada officially on September 5. After 254 national deputies signed



Special task troops guard Viktor Yushchenko as he makes his way through a crowd of opponents in Donetsk in October when Our Ukraine attempted to hold a congress in the city.

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a petition supporting the proposed political reform legislation, it went to the Constitutional Court for review on September 9.

Just over two months later, on November 12, the Constitutional Court ruled that the political reforms Mr. Kuchma was pushing were constitutionally acceptable. With 11 of the 18 judges in agreement and only five dissenting, the court stated that a president elected by the legislative branch did not deny the people the right to choose their state leader.

"A change in the process of the formation of state organs is not a violation of the rights of citizens," explained Judge Pavlo Yevhrafov, who read the decision. The court underscored, however, that any constitutional changes could only become effective in 2006.

National Deputy Yuriy Kliuchkovskiy, a member of the Our Ukraine faction, said he found it hard to fathom on what basis the judges ruled since Article 71 of the Constitution of Ukraine specifically stated that the president must be directly elected by the people. He said the stipulation fell into a separate group of articles identified as "indivisible," which required a more complex amendment process.

During the time the bill was in review, 60 more lawmakers had signed on in support, bringing the total number of lawmakers ostensibly ready to approve the constitutional amendments to 293, seven short of the two-thirds majority needed to approve changes to the Constitution.

Then, on December 30, Ukraine's Constitutional Court ruled that President Kuchma can run for a third term in office even though the country's Constitution limits a state leader to two terms. The members of Ukraine's highest constitutional authority decided that Mr. Kuchma, who was first elected in 1994, has the exclusive right to an additional term because he was elected prior to approval of the Constitution in 1996.

The decision in part read: "One must understand that the provision applies only to people who are elected to the post of president of Ukraine after the 1996 Constitution came into force."

After reading the decision, Justice Vasyl Nimchenko explained that the court ruled only after extensive consultation with legal scholars at the country's leading law schools. He said that with the enactment of the Constitution in 1996 President Kuchma became an acting president fulfilling his authority as state leader under the terms of the old Constitution. Therefore the time period between 1996-1999 cannot be considered a full term in office under the new Constitution. The Constitutional Court grounded their reasoning in Part 3 Article 103 of the 1996 Constitution, which states that the new Basic Law could not be applied retroactively.

National Deputy Ihor Ostash, a member of the Our Ukraine political bloc whose leader, Viktor Yushchenko, is a likely presidential candidate, called the court's decision proof that the 18 judges were merely the president's stooges.

"This is more proof of the level of democracy [in the court] and the level of democracy in Ukraine in general," said Mr. Ostash according to Interfax-Ukraine.

The lawmaker added that Mr. Kuchma and the pro-presidential forces could be satisfied that the court had recently decided in their favor on three important issues – the election of a president by the Parliament already in 2004; the matter of criminal immunity of the president and the difficult standard for impeachment; and now his right to another term in office.

The October 31, 2004, presidential elections, around which the political reforms were centered, slowly became the main focus of political life in Ukraine as 2003 came to a close.

In November, the first of a series of polls asking Ukrainians their presidential preferences showed that Mr. Yushchenko of Our Ukraine held a comfortable lead among the candidates at around 21 to 23 percent voter support, followed by Communist leader Symonenko at about 12 to 15 percent. However, they also showed that Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich was becoming an ever more popular candidate, climbing steadily in the polls since he came to office from almost nothing to 9 percent voter support currently.

In anticipation of the election campaign season, a group of eight Ukrainian civic organizations announced on October 31 that they would join together to monitor the various campaigns and the vote itself to assure a deliberate decision by voters, free of undue political pressure and falsification.

Representatives of the European Union, NATO and the U.S. had repeatedly stated that the manner in which the presidential elections were held would influence the pace of Ukraine's movement into Euro-Atlantic structures.

At the end of October, Our Ukraine's leader, National Deputy Yushchenko told the press that he had received numerous death threats and had requested state security protection, while also noting that some 40 leading members of his coalition were under law enforcement investigation.

Ironically, exactly a year before the presidential vote, in a harbinger of things to come, perhaps, Our Ukraine members and supporters were harassed and harangued in Donetsk on October 31 and not allowed to hold a scheduled congress.

Afterwards, many questioned why city officials could not control crowds of inebriated students who blocked the paths of busses and barred the delegates and guests – including 12 high-ranking foreign diplomats stationed in Kyiv – from entering the convention hall.

There remained questions also about who ordered and paid for advertising on huge billboards that depicted Mr. Yushchenko in Nazi regalia. In the end, the demonstrators successfully prevented the congress from going forward and forced Our Ukraine supporters to hold an impromptu rally before their hotel.

President Kuchma responded to complaints from Our Ukraine by stating that Mr. Yushchenko and his delegates should have known what to expect when entering into politically hostile territory, especially after criticizing Russia, which many Donetsk residents still held dear, for the events surrounding Tuzla island (see sidebar).

More disconcerting, similar events occurred again on November 9, this time in Mr. Yushchenko's hometown of Sumy, after Our Ukraine and members of other democratic opposition political groups traveled there for a forum of democratic forces.

Attendees said they were subjected to harassment and intimidation tactics, while law enforcement officials stood idly by. In their most serious charge, the representatives of Our Ukraine, the Tymoshenko Bloc and the Socialist Party said individuals looted fireworks into a crowd that had gathered to hear Mr. Yushchenko speak.

"We are troubled by the use of firecrackers, which we had not experienced previously in any city," explained National Deputy Mykola Tomenko, a leading member of the Our Ukraine faction. "It is scary to think that next time something more serious could explode."

The members of the democratic opposition said that individuals also had pelted buses with rocks and sliced 81 tires. They accused state militia of passively watching as much of the vandalism occurred. Law enforcement officials said they had arrested 24 people.

In response to the demonstrations in Donetsk and Sumy, the Our Ukraine faction blocked the work of the Parliament in the days following both events while calling for official investigation into who was behind the provocation.

On November 13 President Kuchma turned to the Constitutional Court to clarify the conditions necessary in the Constitution before the country's chief executive could dismiss the legislative body. Most political pundits saw the move as a warning to the Verkhovna Rada to get its house in order and get moving with political reforms.

The anti-Kuchma forces across the country were much more sedate in 2003 than they had been in earlier years, although the leaders from that side of the parliamentary bench remained as active as ever.

The largest demonstration held by the anti-Kuchma forces in 2003 occurred on March 9, when up to 20,000 marched in Kyiv on the birthday of Ukraine's National Bard Taras Shevchenko and the second anniversary of a bloody encounter between anti-Kuchma demonstrators and law enforcement officers.

It was a unified opposition that marched that day, with leaders of the four opposition factions of the Parliament leading the demonstrators. Mr. Yushchenko, who had not firmly committed until the last minute did show in the end, although he kept his distance from the Communist leadership that he marched with. During the march, demonstrators again expressed their dissatisfaction with the authoritarian rule of President Kuchma and alleged criminal acts they associated with his heavy hand.

Another 2,000 people jammed Independence Square on September 16, the third anniversary of the disappearance of journalist Heorhii Gongadze. The murder of the young journalist had spurred the creation of the anti-Kuchma opposition amid accusations and revelations heard on recordings allegedly made in the president's office that the president and his associates in the state leadership had organized Gongadze's disappearance and ultimately his death. The decapitated body of the founder of one of Ukraine's first Internet newspapers was found buried in a shallow grave outside the town of Tarascha the first week of November 2000.

The 2,000 people who gathered in Independence Square on the third anniversary since the journalist's death heard National Deputy Hryhorii Omelchenko, the head of the parliamentary ad hoc committee on the disappearance of Gongadze, announce that he had sent documents along with supporting evidence to the Procurator General's Office requesting that it formally open a criminal case against President Kuchma.

Much of the new evidence that seemed to shed a fresh light on the grisly murder of the Internet journalist came from a diary-like set of letters that the Institute of Mass Information, a Ukrainian civic organization, received from Ihor Honcharov, a former special forces official in the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Mr. Honcharov, who had been arrested on charges of corruption last year, was found dead while in pre-trial detention on August 1. Two days earlier, on July 30, he had been hospitalized for what some witnesses said were injuries received from a brutal beating. His remains were quickly cremated by prison officials before an autopsy had taken place.

The documents that Mr. Honcharov had sent to the Institute of Mass Information expressly stated that they should be opened only after his death. When institute officials unsealed the package they found a series of 13 diary-like letters explaining how the elite force that Mr. Honcharov had led a couple of years back, called the "Werewolves," had engaged in kidnapping for ransom and murder for hire, including the death of Gongadze.

On October 24 the Procurator General's office announced that it had arrested Oleksii Pukhach, a high-ranking official in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in connection with the disappearance and death of Gongadze. At the time of the announcement, Deputy Procurator General Viktor Shokin said he was not yet ready to explain how the suspect was involved with the Gongadze affair.

Five days later, however, Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun and his staff were dismissed by President Kuchma hours after a presidential anti-corruption committee announced that it had found that Ukraine's chief law enforcement official "had committed serious violations of legislation and dishonorable deeds," including charges that he had personally taken over cases that involved large sums of money and then had dragged them out or closed them and that he had spent too much time on self promotion and too little on solving crimes.

At the beginning of the year, a poll developed by the Ukrainian Institute of Social Research and the Social Monitoring Center had revealed that a culture of corruption had settled upon Ukraine.

The report, released on January 15, noted that 78 of the respondents to the survey believed that all or most all government officials had accepted bribes. More than 80 percent stated that corruption was prevalent within the judicial branch of government and 71 percent agreed that most government officials were tied to rackets or the mafia.

Perhaps the most telling statistic was that nearly a quarter of those surveyed – 23 percent – were inclined to accept bribery and corruption as a normal part of everyday life, while 44 percent said they had paid bribes or made gifts of one form or another to government workers in the last year.

Our Churches: activity in Ukraine and beyond

The year 2003 also saw much activity within the Ukrainian religious realm. The appointment of new eparchs, a synod, the deaths of several prominent religious figures and attempts at the unification of divided Churches were among some of the more notable developments The Weekly reported.

On February 3-6 the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) held a meeting of the Permanent Synod of Bishops. The UGCC hierarchs gathered in Rome to discuss the problems of the beatification of Ukrainian confessors of the faith, as well as the religious situation in Ukraine.

On the morning of February 3, Pope John Paul welcomed members of the Permanent Synod of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, in particular their major archbishop, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, and told them that their meeting in Rome "is a happy occasion to reaffirm your communion with the Successor of Peter."

On February 5, Cardinal Husar, and members of the Synod met with Cardinal José Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and

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Archbishop Edward Nowak, secretary of the congregation. Special attention during their meeting was focused on the beatification of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, which has entered its final stage. In addition, the Ukrainian hierarchs presented a list of new martyrs of the UGCC whose beatification processes would start shortly. All necessary documents for the beatification of Cardinal and Patriarch Josyf Slipyj were also submitted to the congregation's officers.

Following the synod, Cardinal Husar made a pastoral visit to Canada on the invitation of Archbishop Michael Bzdel, metropolitan of Canada, and Bishop Cornelius Pasichny, eparch of Eastern Canada, on February 6-24. The 19-day trip included the cities of Winnipeg, Ottawa, Hamilton, Toronto and Montreal.

In metro Toronto, an area with myriad Ukrainian institutions and many churches, Cardinal Husar's trip included parish visits and celebrations at the churches of St. Nicholas, St. Demetrius and the Holy Dormition Church.

The Toronto visit included a grand banquet in Mississauga, attended by about 1,200 people, where the Church leader was welcomed by the mayor. Cardinal Husar left Toronto on February 24 for Great Britain, where two days later he marked his 70th birthday.

During his trip to Canada Cardinal Husar also described the changes in the life of his Church. The cardinal said that the realization of a self-sufficient, patriarchal Church is no longer hampered by past problems. Today, the Church is ready to move toward the realization of a patriarchal Church "because, we have all the necessary elements: our own homeland – the Ukrainian state – and our own ecclesiastic territory with more than 4.5 million faithful," Cardinal Husar said during an interview at the Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Ottawa.

"What is more, the said territory is now covered with a network of our [Ukrainian Catholic] structures, that is, eparchies, monasteries, seminaries, parishes. In short, we have all the elements in place that the Eastern canon law and ecclesiastic tradition require. We also have 1.5 million faithful engaged in the living, well-organized Church outside Ukraine. So, in terms of structure, there are no problems in creating a patriarchate," he said.

The cardinal then went on to speak about ecumenism. Although, there are no formal ecumenical relations between the UGCC and the Orthodox Churches in Ukraine, personal relations between hierarchs of these Churches are friendly. However, he also observed that the beautiful stories from the Soviet past about Christians of different denominations helping each other, now that freedom is guaranteed, are being obliterated in some sectors of society by the return of prejudice.

He talked, with considerable enthusiasm, about the ecumenical role of the UGCC within the sphere of the 21 Eastern Catholic Churches, on one hand, and within the global Catholic Church, on the other. As Cardinal Husar explained, within the global Catholic Church, the UGCC's role is unique. "Since Ukraine is geographically placed between two worlds, two great cultures, it is our task to explain the East to the West, and the West to the East, that is, to bridge these two worlds by explaining Byzantine culture to the Latin culture and vice versa."

The Weekly also reported that in response to the challenges and needs of Ukrainian Catholics and Ukrainian Orthodox in the 21st Century, the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic Churches in North America – metropolitans, archbishops and bishops – were hosted by Metropolitan Constantine and Archbishops Antony and Vsevolod at a "Fraternal Encounter" on July 11 at St. Andrew the First-called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Center in South Bound Brook, N.J.

The hierarchs had for some time been discussing the possibility and necessity of such a meeting as a means by which they could come to know one another on more than simply a social level. Such an encounter with open discussion of ecclesiastical and community issues was meant to be beneficial for the faithful in the long term.

Participating in the one-day session were: Metropolitan Constantine, Central Eparchy, the prime hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.; Metropolitan Stefan Soroka, Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia; Archbishop Jurij, Eastern Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada; Archbishop Antony, Eastern Eparchy, UOC; Bishop Basil Losten, Stamford Eparchy, UCC; Archbishop Vsevolod, Western Eparchy, UOC; Bishop Robert Moskal, St. Josaphat Eparchy, Parma, Ohio, UOC; Bishop Severian Yakymyshyn, Eparchy of New Westminster, British Columbia, Yukon and Northwest Territories, Canada, UCC; Cornelius Pasichny, bishop emeritus of Toronto and Eastern Canada, UCC; and Bishop Robert Seminak, St.

Nicholas Eparchy Chicago, UCC.

Reflected upon at great length at this first fraternal encounter of the Catholic and Orthodox hierarchs were issues common to both Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholics, whose parish communities and eparchies took root, grew and developed in North America as far back as the late 1800s. Addressed in broad terms were relationships with Ukrainian communities and organizations in North America and Ukraine; the challenges presented by the ongoing process of secularization in society; and the Church's role as the principal teacher and repository of faith and morality, and as the promoter and guardian of the sanctity of life.

There was a solid agreement that in spite of the fact that there do exist some theological and dogmatic issues that divide the two Churches, there is the real possibility that the relationship between the two Churches on all levels can improve. The hierarchs agreed that such fraternal encounters should continue and set the date for the next one in early 2004.

The Metropolia Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. in South Bound Brook/Somerset, N.J., on June 8 held a commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the death of Patriarch Mstyslav, the long-time prime hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and Diaspora. Several hundred people took part in the prayerful commemoration, which began with divine liturgy in St. Andrew Memorial Church. Metropolitan Constantine and Archbishops Antony and Vsevolod concelebrated the liturgy, assisted by clergy.

In the patriarch's crypt in Holy Resurrection Mausoleum beneath St. Andrew Church the hierarchs, 35 clergy and the faithful gathered in the late afternoon to offer prayer for the repose of Patriarch Mstyslav's soul. Participating in these prayers were the patriarch's son, Yaroslav, with his wife, Sophia, from Edmonton; and daughter Tamara from Toronto, with her children and grandchildren.

Archbishop Vsevolod spoke prior to the panakhyda (requiem service) remembering Patriarch Mstyslav as the eldest among all the patriarchs of the Orthodox world and a Church leader who linked the 19th and 20th centuries. The patriarch was the nephew of Symon Petliura and it was from this family line that he inherited his civic and political commitment, which, in conjunction with the spiritual commitment he inherited from his monastic relatives, made him the unique leader he was. Following the memorial service, over 200 people remained for a memorial dinner in the Ukrainian Cultural Center. Metropolitan Constantine spoke about Metropolitan Mstyslav, who worked closely with Metropolitan John, his predecessor as prime hierarch of the Church. The evening concluded with the screening of a videotape of the patriarch's first arrival in Ukraine to the capital of Kyiv, well after midnight, his reception by thousands of people at the airport and surrounding St. Sophia Cathedral in the city, and his first visit to St. Sophia Cathedral in 49 years.

In a move towards unity, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) called upon the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC) to overcome the crisis inside the Church and unite in a national Orthodox Church in Ukraine in a statement released on March 20. The press service of the UOC-KP released the statement, titled "We Will Love in Deed and Truth, But not Through Words and Tongue."

"With deep sorrow did the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate learn that over the last several months the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church has suffered events that aggravated the division in the Ukrainian Orthodoxy. Metropolitan Mefodii [Kudriakov], spiritual head of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, and Archbishop Ihor [Isichenko of Kharkiv and Poltava], responsible for managing affairs of the Patriarchate of the UAOC, released documents that caused another split in the UAOC," the statement read.

"The agreement on concrete measures towards unification signed by the UOC-KP and the UAOC at the Constantinople Patriarchate, working meetings on this matter both in the Constantinople Patriarchate and in Ukraine, and the approval of concluding documents gave many Orthodox believers in Ukraine hope that the division between the two Orthodox jurisdictions with similar standpoints concerning patriotism and the autocephaly of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church would be overcome.

"Unfortunately, since that time little has been done towards unification. The Kyiv Patriarchate has repeatedly called to resume the process which had already been begun, but received no response. After the UAOC hierarchs with whom an agreement had been reached lost their unity, the current situation was aggravated even more.

"Therefore, the Kyiv Patriarchate of the Ukrainian

Orthodox Church fulfills its obligation to encourage the hierarchs and faithful of the UAOC to unite in a national Ukrainian Orthodox Church. This unification corresponds to the message and the spirit of the documents which were signed by plenipotentiary representatives of the UAOC in the Constantinople Patriarchate in the presence of His Beatitude Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople. This unification will meet the demands of Ukrainian Orthodoxy and mean the fulfillment of the covenant of love given by Jesus Christ."

The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church held the 18th Session of the Synod of Bishops of the Kyiv and Halych Metropolitanate in Lviv on March 18-19. Among the participants were 12 Ukrainian hierarchs, the members of the synod, and Archbishop Ivan Martyniak, metropolitan of Przemyśl (Peremyshl) and Warsaw, Poland.

Participants of the session discussed various organizational problems of the metropolitanate's hierarchical bodies and the synod, as well as a number of pastoral issues. They also considered possible ways for proper commemoration of the Year of the Family, proclaimed by the head of the UGCC in early January 2003. They gave corresponding instructions concerning "The Procedure of Preparation for Marriage" and other Church documents and religious practices. In addition, all priests of the metropolitanate were advised to emphasize the importance of joint prayer in families.

Observances of the 70th anniversary of the Soviet-imposed Famine-Genocide in Ukraine in 1932-1933, the publication of a pastoral letter on economic reforms in Ukraine, and commemorations of the 700th anniversary of the establishment of the Kyiv and Halych Metropolitanate and of the 750th anniversary of the coronation of King Danylo of Halych were also discussed during the session.

The Weekly also reported that thousands of people were forming queues outside of St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Kyiv beginning on May 3 to get a glimpse of the Shroud of Turin, what is perceived to be the likeness of Jesus Christ found on a copy of an ancient cloth. The relic, a Vatican-sanctioned replica of the Shroud of Turin, arrived in Kyiv from Lviv during Holy Week according to the Gregorian calendar. Since September 2002, it had been on display at St. George Cathedral of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin.

The copy, one of eight that exist in the world, bears the imprint of a human figure, which Christian believers say is the likeness of Jesus Christ. The original shroud, found in the Italian city of Turin and displayed very rarely, is said to be the cloth that the biblical figure Joseph of Aramithea gave for the burial of Jesus after He was crucified. The copy that toured Ukraine, which is considered the best replication of the original, is permanently found in Miensk, Belarus.

Later in the year, the pope announced the appointment of Msgr. Richard Seminack, pastor of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carnegie, Pa., as the new eparch of the St. Nicholas Eparchy in Chicago. The appointment, made on May 25, affirmed the nomination made to the holy father by the Synod of Ukrainian Catholic Bishops. The bishop-elect succeeded Bishop Michael Wiwchar, CSsR, who was appointed in November 2000 as the bishop for the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy in Saskatoon. Bishop Wiwchar had served as administrator of the Chicago Eparchy from November 2000 until the appointment by the pope. Bishop Seminack, 61, studied at St. Basil's Seminar College in Stamford, Conn., at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary and The Catholic University of America in Washington, where he received a master's of divinity degree.

The year 2003 also saw the ordination of the Rev. Stephen V. Chmilar, 58, as the Ukrainian Catholic Church's eparch of Toronto and Eastern Canada on July 23 at the Church of the Holy Dormition in Mississauga, Ontario. Cardinal Husar, recognized within the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UCC) as its patriarch, traveled from his chancery in Lviv via Rome to lead the ceremony.

Bishop-elect Chmilar succeeded Bishop Cornelius J. Pasichny OSBM, who retired earlier in the year at the age of 75, after heading the eparchy since 1998. Having received nominations from the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II announced on May 3 that the Rev. Chmilar had been named as the next eparch of Toronto. A reception at the Mississauga Convention Center after the service was attended by over 800 clergy, faithful and well-wishers.

Pope John Paul II also approved on July 28 the creation of the exarchate of southern Ukrainian Odesa and Crimea by dividing the territory of Kyiv and Vyshhorod exar-

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chate. The pope also approved the appointment of Father Vasyl Ivasiuk of the Sokal eparchy as exarch of Odesa and Crimea that same day.

On November 23, the pope sent Cardinal Husar and Roman Catholic Cardinal Marian Jaworski a statement on the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Famine Genocide of 1932-1933.

"Millions of people suffered a terrible death through the pernicious activities of an ideology that throughout the 20th century became the cause of suffering and grief in many parts of the world. On this occasion, I wish to participate spiritually in the memorial ceremonies that will be held in honor of the countless victims of the Great Famine that occurred in Ukraine during the reign of the Communist regime. I speak of the terrible plan carried out with cold calculation by those in power in that era," the pope's statement read. "The experience of this tragedy should today guide the feelings and activities of the Ukrainian people on the road to concord and cooperation."

The Weekly also reported that Bishop Isidore Borecky, the former Ukrainian Catholic eparch of Toronto and Eastern Canada, died on July 23, at Toronto's Western Hospital, after 65 years in the priesthood and 55 years as a bishop. An estimated 1,200 mourners paid their last respects on July 23-26 to a man hailed as a builder, a patron and an active supporter of the Ukrainian Catholic Patriarchate. Cardinal Lubomyr Husar was on hand to officiate at Bishop Borecky's funeral at Mississauga's Church of the Holy Dormition, and delivered the funeral oration. The newly ordained eparch of Toronto and Eastern Canada, Bishop Chmilar, read a message from the Vatican.

A bishop's parastas was offered on July 24 at St. Nicholas Church, and on July 25 at the eparchy's cathedral, St. Josaphat's, both in Toronto. An estimated 650 clergy and laity participated.

It was also reported in 2003 that a shrine dedicated to Nicholas Charnetsky was consecrated in Lviv. During the divine liturgy that Pope John Paul II celebrated in Lviv on June 27, 2001, 27 Ukrainian Catholics – referred to as "Blessed Venerable Martyr Nicholas Charnetsky and his Companions" were beatified as martyrs and confessors of the faith.

On July 11, 2002, a memorial cross had been consecrated on one of the scenic hills in the city of Lviv, marking the future site of the Shrine of Blessed Venerable Martyr Nicholas Charnetsky. On July 4, 2002, the relics of the martyr Nicholas Charnetsky were solemnly transferred from the Lychakiv Cemetery to the Church of St. Josaphat, which is under the pastoral care of the Redemptorist Fathers of the Lviv Province. A procession of many thousands of faithful passed through the streets of the ancient royal city.

During the first week that the holy relics were on display at the Church of St. Josaphat, nearly 150,000 faithful arrived from all parts of Ukraine to offer their personal prayers at the reliquary of the Blessed Nicholas, known also as "St. Nicholas the Miracle Worker." Since the deposition of the relics of Blessed Venerable Martyr Nicholas Charnetsky, the Church of St. Josaphat had become a popular pilgrimage site for thousands of faithful from all of Ukraine. From morning to late evening, people came to pray at the reliquary of the Blessed Nicholas in the hope of recovering their spiritual strength and physical health.

The Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Rome celebrated its 40th anniversary on December 6-7. Professors, senators and students of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv traveled to the Eternal City for the festivities. They were joined by representatives of the St. Sophia Association, which is now the owner and caretaker of the university's premises in Rome. Professors from various Roman universities, Ukrainians presently working in Italy and other interested parties also took part. Cardinal Husar presented special awards to Bishop Ivan Choma and the Rev. Dr. Muzyczka, who had been close co-workers with Patriarch Josyf Slipyj in the creation of the UCU in Rome.

A religious event held in Uman, Ukraine, a sleepy county seat of 88,000 two hours' drive south of the Kyiv metropolis, also made headlines in 2003. More than 14,000 Hasidic Jews, the overwhelming majority from Israel and around 90 percent of them members of the Bratslav branch of Hasidism, gathered on September 26-28 to celebrate the Jewish New Year, or Rosh Hashanah.

They came to celebrate the beginning of the Jewish year 5764, explained Dov Nathan Kramer, the director of the International Charitable Fund of Rebbe Nachmann, considered the central organization of the Bratslav Hasidic movement, which does not acknowledge a leader other than the founder of the movement.



Roman Woronowycz

The leaders of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate, respectively, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar and Patriarch Filaret, at Famine commemorations in Kyiv in August.

The gathering, one of the strongest established religious traditions in Ukraine, has occurred every year since 1812, except for the 70 years of Soviet rule when the celebration was banned. For the most part it involves much prayer at the burial site of the group's founder, Rebbe Nachmann, in compliance with instructions that he set out for his followers before his death. But it also includes an upbeat atmosphere, light-hearted communal meals in a huge cafeteria, ritual cleansings and the ancient Jewish tradition of bringing in the New Year to the sound of a Ram's Horn.

The Orthodox Jews who gather in Uman belong to the branch of Hasidic Jewry that identifies itself as Bratslav Hasidism. Rebbe Nachmann, who developed the movement, was a recognized Jewish mystic and holy man born in 1772, who lived in Bratslav, Ukraine (hence the name), located not far from Uman.

The Hasidic Jews of the Bratslav movement have gathered in Uman for Rosh Hashanah every year since Rebbe Nachmann instructed them to do so. Celebrations on a large scale did not occur only when Uman was considered a closed city during the Soviet era and authorities forbade non-residents to enter. However, even then, the daring and the most faithful would find a way to Rebbe Nachmann's grave, which was hidden in the garden of a local Jew who acted as the caretaker. Since Ukraine's independence was re-established in 1991, the pilgrimage tradition has resumed and taken on a grand scale. Today around 15,000 of the world's 20,000 Bratslav Hassid, as well as followers of other Hasidic movements, travel annually to Uman for the Jewish New Year.

The Weekly also reported that the Armenian Cathedral of the Dormition of the Mother of God in Lviv was reconsecrated on May 18. After 50 years in government possession, the historic cathedral was recently returned to the local Armenian community in the largest and most important city in western Ukraine.

Leonid Kravchuk, Ukraine's first president, Charles Aznavour, a French singer of Armenian descent, and other representatives of Armenia and the Armenian diaspora from around the globe were present at the ceremony. The ceremonial opening of the church began with a procession of about 1,000 people through Lviv's historic city center.

An icon of the 17th century spiritual and cultural leader Metropolitan Petro Mohyla, prepared by monks of the Romanian Orthodox Church in honor of his canonization in Romania, was presented to the Annunciation Church of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy on January 14.

The Romanian Orthodox Church had canonized Metropolitan Mohyla a saint on October 13, 2002, during a ceremony in his hometown of Iasi, present-day Romania, assigning December 22 as the date of his commemoration. In 1997 a synod of the Romanian Church had recognized the canonization of Mohyla by the Ukrainian Orthodox. The metropolitan was canonized by both the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (1996) and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate.

Representatives of the Ukrainian Embassy in Romania presented a stylized likeness of the legendary metropolitan

of Kyiv, Halychyna and all of Rus' to the Annunciation Church of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. Today known as the Church of St. Petro Mohyla, the church honors Metropolitan Mohyla, who founded the Kyiv academy that bears his name in 1631. Monks of the monastery in Iasi created the fresco.

Metropolitan Mohyla, who had been appointed the archimandrite of the Kyivan Cave Monastery in 1627, in 1631 established the Kyivan Cave Monastery School. In 1632 the Kyivan Cave Monastery School merged with the Kyiv Epiphany Brotherhood School to create a college. With time it became the Kyiv Mohyla Academy – eventually the largest educational and scholarly center in Eastern Europe.

Ukraine's National Committee on Religious Matters at a press conference on February 4 released official information on the development of religious institutions in Ukraine in 2002 and presented statistics on religious organizations in Ukraine as of January 1, 2003.

According to the report, Ukraine is currently home to 28,567 religious organizations, including 27,480 religious communities that profess 54 different religions. More than 1,000 religious communities of the total number are unregistered.

During 2002 the number of religious organizations increased by 5.7 percent, constituting 1,423 organizations, 726 (52.4 percent) of which are Orthodox communities. Among these Orthodox communities, 525 (72.3 percent) belong to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP). The total number of UOC-MP communities in Ukraine is 10,040.

The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church ranks second with its 3,334 communities. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate has 3,196 communities; the Baptist Church – 2,272; the Pentecostal Church of Evangelical Faith – 1,366; the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church – 1,110; the Seventh-Day Adventist Church – 928; the Roman Catholic Church – 847; and the Charismatic Church – 790.

There are also 262 Jewish communities and 462 Muslim communities in Ukraine, 320 of which are in Crimea. New religious organizations in Ukraine constitute 4.5 percent of the total number.

The number of religious buildings in Ukraine has increased by 478 and currently constitutes 19,112. Most religious communities, however, are not fully provided with church buildings. The Subcarpathian Reformed Church is the only religious organization whose needs in church buildings are completely satisfied, according to the report. Today, 2,232 religious buildings are being built in Ukraine, among which 439 are funded by the state.

The Weekly also reported that a multi-faceted missionary movement had achieved successes in Ukraine and had brought to the country several non-denominational and U.S.-based religions not previously known there, among them strong evangelical and charismatic movements including Embassy of the Kingdom of God and a Presbyterian church.

A study by the Religious Information Service of Ukraine showed that about 50 percent of Ukrainians claim member-

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ship in one of the three Orthodox Churches that exist in Ukraine today and about 6 percent to 8 percent say they belong to the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, with fewer than 2 percent claiming Roman Catholic Church affiliation. The study stated that there were probably no more than 700,000 to 800,000 Protestant believers in Ukraine.

However, another survey, this one conducted by the Association for Spiritual Renewal in Moscow, disputed the figures for the number of Protestant believers and noted a 33 percent increase in membership and a doubling in median attendance in what they termed "Evangelical Christian-Baptist Churches."

In Ukraine, these Churches consist of the traditional Protestant religious confessions, such as the Baptists, who have been in Ukraine since the mid-19th century; the Lutherans, who have been here since at least the 16th century; and the Seventh Day Adventists, who appeared in the 1880s. But they also include an influx of missionary movements from Africa and the United States, bearing witness to the particular beliefs of the Presbyterian Church, the Church of the Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), Jehovah's Witnesses and other religions further on the fringe, including home-grown religious sects such as the White Brotherhood, which achieved notoriety in Kyiv in 1992-1993.

Ukraine has also seen the explosion of charismatic religions, such as the Pentecostals, who believe in communion with God through hypnotic trances and speaking in tongues. For example, the Embassy of the Kingdom of God has become among the most popular of the Pentecostal Churches. Its founder, Pastor Sunday Adelaja, a 36-year-old Nigerian from a religious Christian family who studied journalism in Miensk, Belarus, came to Kyiv after the Soviet Union fell. In 1993 he began a bible-reading group. Pastor Sunday claims that his Church has more than a million believers scattered across Ukraine in more than 200 communities. In Kyiv alone he claims more than 20 churches and 20,000 members. The Church funds a rehabilitation center for detoxification and counseling for alcoholics and drug addicts, and a center for women and homeless children. There is also a soup kitchen that feeds 1,500 to 2,000 people daily.

In other news related to our Churches, All Saints Camp of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. celebrated its patron's feast day and the 25th anniversary of the camp's spiritual ministry among youth on Sunday, July 22. Several buses and hundreds of people arrived in Emlenton, Pa., the site of the camp, to share in the mutual celebration and memories that formed and continue to form generations of faithful of the UOC.

Metropolitan Constantine, Archbishop Antony and clergy from the western Pennsylvania, Penn-Ohio and New York deaneries of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. celebrated divine liturgy. In his remarks, Metropolitan Constantine, the ruling hierarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., journeyed back 25 years to when he blessed the camp property and reflected upon the importance of the spiritual, social and national achievements of the campers and their counselors over these 25 years.

The Detroit Ukrainian Catholic Deanery, at the invitation of the Very Rev. Dean Basil Salkowski, OSBM, pastor of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, on June 1 hosted a special banquet in honor of the first official visit of the primate of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Cardinal Husar, at St. Josaphat Church Center in Warren, Mich.

The banquet was also a fund-raiser for the new informational center and Cathedral of the Holy Resurrection of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church being built in Kyiv, Ukraine. With a capacity audience of parishioners and faithful attending, the event was opened by master of ceremonies Vasyl Kolodchin, world head of the Ukrainian Patriarchal Society, who greeted the gathering. A total of \$200,000 was raised – a gift to Ukraine's Holy Resurrection Sobor project from the Detroit area Ukrainian Catholic faithful.

Not to be outdone, the New York community raised nearly \$500,000 – \$250,000 of the total came from the Selfreliance New York Federal Credit Union. The contribution was presented during Cardinal Husar's visit to New York City, where a reception and dinner took place on December 14. The Ukrainian Catholic primate's trip also encompassed other parishes that belong to the Stamford Eparchy, including Yonkers, N.Y., Hartford, Conn., and Albany, N.Y., which raised \$100,000, \$60,000 and \$40,000, respectively, for the patriarchal cathedral and residence in Kyiv.

Other large donors to this project were the parishes of the Philadelphia Archeparchy (\$300,000) and the community of Parma, Ohio (nearly \$200,000). In addition, the Roman Catholic Church in the United States donated \$325,000.

Diaspora developments: news from East to West

Our diaspora continued to be active in 2003 on various fronts: political, humanitarian, cultural, social, etc.

As the year began, the relationship of the diaspora with Ukraine was in the forefront when the rights of Ukrainians abroad were discussed by the Verkhovna Rada. The result was that initial versions of two bills that would give ethnic Ukrainians who do not have Ukrainian citizenship special status and allow them simplified entry procedures into Ukraine were passed on January 17.

The bills, which would give diaspora Ukrainians official status and their own identification cards, were nearly identical except for almost negligible differences in the interpretation of the word "foreign-based Ukrainians" – the term used in both documents to identify the group that falls under the bills' provisions. The biggest difference between the two proposals is that one was developed by the opposition forces of Our Ukraine, while the other bill was prepared and presented jointly by representatives from both sides of the aisle in the Verkhovna Rada, which gives it a better chance of being passed.

Both proposed laws would allow those who can show a link to their ancestral homeland and who apply for the special status the ability to enter and live in Ukraine for up to 120 days annually without a visa. It also would allow qualified foreigners to live in the country for up to three years without requiring an invitation from either a Ukrainian individual or an organization. In addition, students who qualify would be able to study at a Ukrainian institution of higher learning without a formal invitation.

In both draft laws the definition of a "foreign-based Ukrainian" is a person "of Ukrainian nationality or of Ukrainian ethnic background with cultural and language awareness, who has the desire to obtain the status of a foreign Ukrainian, who is at least 16 years of age and is not currently a Ukrainian citizen." The Our Ukraine bill would extend that status to any person who can show that one of his parents is an ethnic Ukrainian. It also specifies that a child adopted by a person or persons who qualify as diaspora Ukrainians can obtain the status.

On April 18 the rights of diaspora Ukrainians were the topic of an April 18 roundtable discussion in Kyiv that was called to discuss the proposals before the Verkhovna Rada, and it was reported that the bill would soon come up for further debate. National Deputy Ihor Ostash cautioned that Ukrainians living in the United States or Canada should not expect to receive visa-free entry into Ukraine even if the Parliament passed a law giving diaspora Ukrainians the distinctive status of "Ukrainians from abroad." A more realistic goal in the post-9/11 era, he explained, would be a special document for speedy entry. He did say, however, that there were discussions to determine whether a special visa could be extended on a concurrent basis to those persons receiving the special designation of "Ukrainians from abroad."

Mr. Ostash emphasized that the draft law is first and foremost a political document: "It is evidence that there are at least 12 million and up to 20 million of us living abroad, and if these people work for Ukraine it will benefit the country." He noted also that the legislation was intended to stimulate a desire and smooth the way for the repatriation of Ukrainians. "Let's not forget that it also includes the development of a program of return of Ukrainians to Ukraine," he explained.

The idea for a law on diaspora status, to codify special legal rights and privileges for Ukrainians who were forced to emigrate for political or economic reasons, originated at the second World Forum of Ukrainians in 1997. The intention from the beginning has been to preserve and strengthen the national identity of the Ukrainian diaspora and recognize its special ties to Ukraine by developing a list of special benefits that would help maintain Ukrainian communities abroad and draw them closer to Ukraine.

Another issue that still needs resolution is how to treat Ukrainians living in regions that border Ukraine today, which ethno-historically are considered Ukrainian, such as parts of Slobozhanshchyna in the north, Kuban in the southeast, Bukovyna in the southwest and the city of Peremyshl in the west. And then there was the matter of other ethnic groups that resided

in Ukraine. National Deputy Refat Chubarov made a plea for the Tatar people of Crimea to be included in the bill and asked that the authors add verbiage to extend the special status being offered to ethnic Ukrainians "to those who consider Ukraine the homeland of their ethnic origin."

National Deputy Ostash said in April that he believed the Verkhovna Rada could pass the legislation in this session. (Last year a similar bill proposed by National Deputy Zhovtiak failed by five votes.) By year's end, however, no such bill had been passed. Nonetheless, Ukraine's new ambassador to the United States, Mykhailo Reznik, sounded a hopeful note in his first meeting with the Ukrainian American community, when he mentioned that the law remains a priority for Ukraine.

Occasionally during 2003 Ukraine showed its interest in the diaspora. A positive note was sounded on February 27 when Lidia Krushelnytsky and Rostyslaw Wasylenko were honored during a special ceremony at Ukraine's Consulate General in New York at which they received medals presented by the government of Ukraine in recognition of their contributions to the arts. Ms. Krushelnytsky, who is best known in the diaspora community as director since 1966 of her New York-based drama studio, was named a merited activist of the arts of Ukraine, while Mr. Wasylenko, a stage actor, director and pedagogue, who has been active in Ukraine, Germany, Australia, Canada and the United States, was named merited artist of Ukraine. Both designations were bestowed in accordance with a decree issued by President Leonid Kuchma on November 15, 2002.

At the same time, the diaspora continued to show its interest in Ukraine. On March 3 the Ukrainian World Congress released an appeal to member-organizations noting that "The UWC feels that the Ukrainian diaspora, and its national central coordinating representative organizations, in particular, can and should play a pivotal role in fostering better Ukraine-West relations."

"Despite ongoing Russian intimidation," the statement continued, "Ukraine continues to manifest its desire to integrate politically and economically into European and trans-Atlantic alliances and structures. Even with current U.S.A.-Russia collusion, much can be done in the West since U.S. policy has become very unpopular in segments of the global village. We urge our member-organizations to work towards a just and enlightened treatment of Ukraine by the international community, as we also urge them to work towards the establishment of Ukraine as a truly democratic and prosperous state of the Ukrainian people."

The catalyst for the statement was the UWC's feeling that "For almost one and one-half years, we have been witnessing a puzzling reversal in relations between the United States of America as the leader of the Western world and Ukraine. In particular, this perceptible change has occurred since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and the commencement of the U.S. war against terrorism." The UWC pointed out that "Unfortunately, Ukraine has been singled out as one of the most corrupt and abusive countries in the world."

Ukrainian representatives made themselves heard during 2003 at the United Nations. The 47th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) took place on March 3-14 at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The Commission on the Status of Women was established as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council on June 21, 1946, to prepare recommendations and reports to the council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields.

Participating in select parts of the CSW and NGO side events were Maria Szkambara, president of the WFUWO; Luba Silecky, president of the Women's Association for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine; and several WFUWO representatives: Iryna Kurowycky, (president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America); as well as Hanya Krill, Nadia Shmigel, Daria Dykyj, Olha Stawnychy, Marta Kichurowska-Kebalo, Slava Rubel and Ulana Kekish-Solodenko. The WFUWO was joined by Olha Kobets, president of the Olena Teliha Society in Kyiv and vice-president of the National League of Women of Ukraine. Ms. Kobets came to the CSW session on the recommendation of WFUWO and the invitation of the U.N. Division for the Advancement of Women. NGO representatives of WFUWO held a working session on March 4 in order to exchange views and to plan their work for the future.

On May 11, The Weekly reported that the Ukrainian

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World Congress had formally become a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which has offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna. The UWC established a separate United Nations Committee, chaired by Borys Potapenko of Warren, Mich., and has designated representatives to the U.N. New York office consisting of UWC President Askold S. Lozynskyj, Secretary General Victor Pedenko and Marta Kokolskyj in New Jersey as the lead representative. In addition to Messrs. Potapenko, Lozynskyj and Pedenko and Ms. Kokolskyj, the UWC's U.N. Committee includes Andriy J. Semotiuk in Los Angeles and the chairs of the World Social Services Council, Olga Danylak; World Coordinating Educational Council, Nadia Luciwi; and Human and Civil Rights Committee, Jurij Darewych. The committee held its first meeting on Saturday, April 6.

The UWC delegation to the United Nations visited the U.N. headquarters in New York City on September 19 to receive its accreditation as a non-governmental organization. The UWC's U.N. delegation includes Messrs. Lozynskyj and Pedenko, respectively, president and chief administrative officer of the UWC and ex officio members of the delegation of the UWC/UN Committee, Mr. Potapenko, chair; Ms. Kokolskyj, permanent delegate; and Ihor Dlaboha and Andrew Lastowecky, alternate delegates; as well as Motria Chaban, UWC delegate to the United Nations office in Vienna.

In addition to receiving its accreditation, the delegates met with representatives of Ukraine's Mission to the U.N., including its permanent representative, Valeriy Kuchinsky, to discuss issues of mutual concern and to develop lines of communication for the long term. The UWC delegates also held their first formal meeting to consider specific areas of activity at the United Nations, in particular through ECOSOC and the International Organization for Migration, and such issues as migrant workers, trafficking of women, AIDS and assistance to orphanages.

HIV/AIDS was the focus of the Ukraine-related activity of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America. In the spirit of U.S.-Ukraine programs for information exchange and to foster professional interaction on the ongoing challenges of HIV/AIDS, a series of presentations was prepared on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS, and these presentations were reproduced on a multi-media CD that was widely distributed. This public health effort was undertaken by authors-presenters from various private and public institutions in the United States, including many members of the UMANA. The purpose of the program was to share information on specific patient-related clinical issues, as well as public health efforts.

UMANA members also participated in a two-day community event organized and sponsored by the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Philadelphia on May 2-4. The event aimed to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, to promote prevention and to provide community support to children in Ukraine with HIV infection. The program included lectures and discussions, exhibits, a press conference, and a charity banquet and ball. Billed as the first AIDS in Ukraine Awareness Weekend the event featured the reigning Miss Universe, Ukrainian-born Justine Pasek, as the celebrity guest.

It became all too clear in 2003 that the Ukrainian diaspora now includes millions of Ukrainians who have traveled beyond Ukraine to work. According to RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report, Ukrainian ombudswoman Nina Karpachova on April 2 reported to the Verkhovna Rada that the problem of illegal migration of Ukrainians in search of work and earnings has become of "state importance." She stressed that Ukrainians abroad belong to "the most-discriminated-against and least-protected category" of citizens.

Ms. Karpachova noted that, according to various estimates, between 2 million and 7 million Ukrainians were working abroad, as a result of poverty and unemployment in Ukraine. She said she believed that no fewer than 5 million Ukrainians – or one in five employable citizens – may work seasonally abroad, and almost all of them illegally.

Ms. Karpachova also told lawmakers that, since most Ukrainians work abroad illegally and avoid contacts with Ukrainian consular missions, the Ukrainian state has only limited possibilities to help its citizens protect their civil and human rights. According to Ms. Karpachova, Ukrainians abroad are often forced to work 10 to 18 hours per day and are poorly paid or even not paid at all.

In other diaspora news, the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations reported in early April that Ukraine would soon open an Embassy in Canberra and that Chargé d'Affaires Oleksander Mischenko was to arrive from Ukraine on April 9 to make the necessary arrangements for the opening of the Embassy. The AFUO noted that it welcomed this major step by Ukraine in increasing its presence in Australia and that it was looking forward to promoting enhanced relations between Australia and Ukraine. Australian Ukrainians also established a Diplomatic Fund to assist Ukraine in establishing the Embassy. Stefan Romaniw, chairman of the AFUO said, "The Ukrainian community in Australia is a model community. It has integrated well, it has promoted Australian-Ukrainian relations. It now takes pride in the fact that Ukraine's diplomatic presence in Australia will be on par with other major nations."

At the same time the AFUO issued a statement calling on Australia "to take a major step in increasing diplomatic relations with Ukraine." Mr. Romaniw noted that "Since the fall of the former Soviet Union, no new posts have been created in the Eastern European region. The old Moscow address remains. In one sense the region has moved on, while Australia has remained stagnant." Furthermore, Mr. Romaniw explained, "Australia still has only an honorary consul in Ukraine, while Ukraine has in the 10-year period opened a Consulate General with a full staff. It has now taken the next natural progressive step and is opening an embassy."

The flag of Ukraine was raised as part of the Australian celebrations of Ukraine's 12th anniversary of independence in the international flag display dedicated to the United Nations that encompasses the flags of all countries that maintain a diplomatic presence in the national capital. Ukraine's Chargé d'Affaires Mischenko and AFUO Chairman Romaniw had the honor of raising the flag in the presence of community leaders, including Church hierarchs, representatives of Ukrainian community groups in Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory, as well as New Zealand.

In his address, Mr. Mischenko emphasized the importance Ukraine has placed on Australian relations and indicated that he is committed to increasing bilateral relations. Mr. Romaniw, in turn, said that the ceremony signified the efforts of the Ukrainian community in Australia in the past 50 years to see Ukraine's flag and Ukraine itself among the nations of the world.

This event underscored Ukraine's presence in Australia, as this was the first official commemoration to be held in Canberra. An exhibition of Ukrainian costumes and artifacts on loan from the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church was presented in Australia's Museum in Canberra as part of the celebrations of Ukraine's Independence Day. The Embassy's new premises are in the heart of Canberra, on the top floor of a major office building in the capital. The premises and offices were furnished and most of the new technology and phone systems were in place thanks to funding by community organizations and Ukrainian

community groups, including the cooperatives Dnister and Karpaty.

The Embassy of Ukraine in Australia established the Embassy Advisory Group. Co-chaired by Messrs. Mischenko and Romaniw, it will include Church and community leaders; and will look at issues of closer cooperation between the diplomatic and community sectors, set agendas for increased bilateral relations and examine ways of promoting Ukraine to the broader Australian public.

Ukrainians in Russia's Far East, where their predecessors were resettled some 120 years ago, tried during 2003 to maintain their community life, despite the fact that Ukraine does not provide either sufficient financial or moral support. News about the lives of Russia's Ukrainians was reported by The Weekly's stringer in Moscow, Maryna Makhnonos.

"Their community life is far from an appropriate level," said Andrii Popok, head of the department of Ukrainian Diaspora Affairs within Ukraine's State Committee on Migration, during an April 12 roundtable with some 50 heads of Ukrainian regional communities in Russia, including representatives from communities in Kursk, St. Petersburg, Yakutia, Magadan, Perm, Murmansk and Bashkortostan, as well as Moscow. The event was held to commemorate the anniversary of the forced resettlement of Ukrainians to the Far East region they dubbed "Zelenyi Klyn," which was ordered by Russian Tsar Aleksandr II in 1883.

Mr. Popok said that his department is too small to respond immediately to all the needs of the 20 million or so Ukrainians scattered across the world. Also, the government has dispersed responsibility for coordination with the diaspora among various institutions instead of establishing a centralized system to make actions effective. As a result, individual communities are often left to their own devices when it comes to resolving local problems.

For example, local authorities in Vladivostok in the Far East have banned a Ukrainian Sunday school so as "not to accentuate national issues," according to Mr. Popok. In other cases, local Ukrainians have no access to information about contemporary life in Ukraine, getting news only from U.S. radio outlets retransmitted in Russia. Many Ukrainian community centers continue to have problems finding stable facilities; some have been moved around for years. Other communities suffer from a cynical, Ukrainiophobic media.

Some 800,000 Ukrainians currently live in the Far East, and, while a resurrection of their cultural heritage is taking place, it continues to be weak. Ukrainians make up the second largest ethnic group in Russia after the Tatars. Russia's State Statistics Committee estimates that some 4.3 million ethnic Ukrainians live in Russia. However, unofficial estimates put their number at closer to 5.6 million.

From the capital of Russia, in fact, from the very heart of Moscow on the Arbat, came news during 2003 of the Ukrainian Cultural Center that publicizes Ukrainian culture, science and history. The center is located in a historic 200-year-old building, in front of



Volodymyr Honchar

A view of the ceremonial opening of the eighth Ukrainian World Congress held in Kyiv in August.

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which flies the Ukrainian flag. A Ukrainian bookstore operated in the building before it became the Ukrainian Cultural Center in 1993.

The center's activities, which range from scientific, historical and agricultural conferences to evenings of poetry, folk concerts and international art exhibitions, is one of the most active institutions of this kind. About 13,000 people annually attend events organized at the center – all of them offered for free with the goal of sharing the Ukrainian spirit with Russians and uniting local Ukrainians. The center also provides facilities for regional Ukrainian community organizations, visitors with their achievements at concerts, conferences and exhibitions, as well as hosting meetings of the Ukrainian Cinema club. In addition the center invites foreign missions to present their national arts exhibitions on its premises. It survives mostly on revenues from rent, while Ukraine's Ministry of Culture sends scarce funds.

Ukrainians in Poland encountered their own unique problems in 2003, as there was much talk, and concern, surrounding commemorations of the 60th anniversary of the so-called 1943 events in Volyn, during which the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) is accused of destroying Polish settlements and murdering from 30,000 to 60,000 Poles.

As Dr. Taras Kuzio wrote in his analysis of the situation, the friendly relations since independence between Poland and Ukraine were coming under increasing stress, with the commemoration plans bringing to the fore issues that had not been adequately dealt with by either Poland or Ukraine.

While visiting Toronto, Petro Tyma, secretary of the Organization of Ukrainians in Poland (OUP), explained the political context of the commemorations and outlined their consequences both for Ukraine and Ukrainians in Poland. Ukrainians in Poland not only believe that the consequences of the commemorations will weigh heavily on their community, but that they will have a long term impact on the image of Ukraine in Europe. "Few Ukrainians outside Poland understand how important for Poles, for their image of Ukrainians and Ukraine today, have been the events which took place during the war and immediate post-war period on the territories in which both Poles and Ukrainians lived. These events, which are passed on from generation to generation, have, apart from historical memory, a political context (or even several political contexts)," Mr. Tyma told our Toronto correspondent Oksana Zakydalsky, whose article about the Volyn events appeared in June.

For Poles, the question of victims of Volyn is an important one, both for the elite and the general consciousness, Mr. Tyma said. During the years of Communist Poland, there was censorship of, not only the crimes of the Soviet or Polish Communists, but also the Ukrainian-Polish conflict on territories that after 1944 became part of the USSR. Yet one could always condemn Ukrainian bourgeois nationalists or the Ukrainian resistance which had been active in Zakerzonnia (ethnic Ukrainian lands that are part of Poland); there was no censorship on portraying the bestiality of Ukrainians in countless films and books. After the elimination of censorship in Poland in 1989, previously repressed memories flooded the market – stories of 500,000 victims of Ukrainian terror and a Polish genocide began to circulate.

Volyn was the region where both Ukrainian and Polish partisans (the Armia Krajowa, or AK) were very active. The behavior of the Polish underground towards the Ukrainian population was provocative and insulting. Both sides pursued policies that were mutually exclusive and fought over the same territory. By 1942 the AK was anticipating a war with Ukrainians over territory and the sizeable Polish partisan presence in Volyn could not but remind Ukrainians of Polish territorial claims. Although there are scholarly publications in Poland that deal more objectively with Polish-Ukrainian relations, they come out in small editions and do not get to the general public, whereas popular literature, with its negative images of Ukrainians, is widely circulated. That is the literature that is used by parliamentarians and recommended in schools, Mr. Tyma related.

Among Ukrainians in Poland there was concern about how Ukraine would react to Polish pressure to force an "apology" and make the Ukrainian president acknowledge Ukrainian responsibility for the killings in Volyn. There is a serious imbalance in the preparedness and understanding of the importance of this supposedly two-way question. On the Ukrainian side there is no official policy with respect to events of World War II,



Andrew Nynka

President Leonid Kuchma meets with the leaders of the UWC, UACC and UCCA in New York in September.

and the Soviet version of the war is still widely accepted, according to Mr. Tyma.

In May The Ukrainian Weekly had published a statement from the Ukrainian World Congress that was released in reaction to a joint statement by Ukraine's and Poland's presidents on mutual cooperation, good neighborliness and the historical record. The UWC said the joint statement was "not even-handed in its evaluation of the historical record and harmful to current and future Ukrainian-Polish relations. Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma acquiesced in rewriting Ukrainian-Polish history for the sake of political expediency. Poland's President Aleksander Kwasniewski seemingly took advantage of his counterpart's current weakened international position."

UWC President Lozynskyj and Secretary General Pedenko wrote: "Normally, apologies are helpful in healing old wounds and cathartic for inveterate guilt. The subject of wartime excesses in Volyn in 1943-1944 by Ukrainian partisans against Polish civilians is unique in terms of Ukrainian guilt against the Poles. Still, even this tragedy requires more than Polish eyewitness memoirs. It must be assessed by scholars within a wartime milieu and with recognition of its reciprocal character – consider the excesses of Polish partisans and Polish Nazi and Soviet collaborators against Ukrainian civilians."

They continued: "Unfortunately, Ukrainian-Polish relations are replete with tragedies involving Polish guilt against Ukrainians. In all instances Poland was the invader and Ukraine the victim. Even Volyn represents Ukrainian land forcibly occupied and settled by Poles pursuant to government policy. This does not justify the killing of civilians, and Ukrainians should apologize for their transgressions. Still Ukraine's apology should be preceded by a litany of apologies from the Polish side dealing with events as far back as the 14th century and culminating with the forcible dislocation of Ukrainians in Poland in 1947 from their ancestral lands (Akcja Wisla) and the discriminatory policies of Poland towards its own Ukrainian community after the dislocation – and as recently as the 1980s."

Ultimately, the presidents of Poland and Ukraine called for mutual forgiveness and reconciliation. "We cannot change this history, nor can we question it. We cannot silence it, nor excuse it. Instead we need to find the courage to accept the truth, to call a crime a crime inasmuch as only with respect for the truth can we build the future," they said in a joint statement issued on July 12. The Parliaments of the two countries a day earlier had passed identical resolutions commemorating the events in Volyn; the resolutions were drawn up by an inter-parliamentary committee representing the Sejm and the Verkhovna Rada. (See section on Ukraine's foreign relations.)

From Hungary, there was news last year of a Ukrainian magazine named Hromada. A publication of the Ukrainian Cultural Society of Hungary (UCSH), the bilingual, Ukrainian Hungarian magazine, which is subsidized by the Hungarian government, has been coming out every two months since its inception in 1991, and is

sent out to 5,000 UCSH members. The 36-page glossy publication includes historical and cultural material deftly combined with contemporary issues. As a chronicle of the life of the Ukrainian community in Hungary, and of the UCSH specifically, the publication is instrumental also in delineating the society's goals and documenting its activity. The magazine's editor and the president of the Society of Ukrainian Culture in Hungary is Jaroslava Hartianyi.

From the magazine's content, it is clear that the UCSH has close ties with similar societies in Croatia and in Slovakia, as well as in other European countries. The society also has close contacts with Ukraine, as attested to by frequent visits to the region by prominent individuals and by numerous guest artists, choirs and ensembles.

Under the banner "Where Ukrainians Live, There Lives Ukraine," the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) held its eighth quinquennial conclave on August 18-21 in Kyiv. It was the first time the event was held in Ukraine and it brought together 247 delegates and nearly 400 guests, including participants representing 109 organizations and 24 countries. The Teacher's Building, once the seat of the Central Rada, was the site of the deliberations after the venue was changed from the Ukrainian Home, which is controlled by the presidential administration, due to ongoing renovations and despite the fact that the UWC had a signed agreement with the Ukrainian Home and had paid half of the contracted sum for use of the facility. (The deposit was ultimately returned to the UWC.)

Leading Ukrainian political and cultural leaders attended the gala opening on August 18, including National Deputies Viktor Yushchenko, Borys Tarasyuk and Ivan Drach, singer and National Deputy Oksana Bilozir, Ukrainian World Coordinating Council President Mykhailo Horyn and political activist Ivan Hel. The Ukrainian government was represented by Vice Prime Minister of Humanitarian Affairs Dmytro Tabachnyk. President Kuchma, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn received invitations but did not find the time to attend.

Throughout the course of the convention, various artistic and cultural exhibits were on view, including those prepared by the World Scholarly Council, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies and the Conference of Ukrainian Youth Organizations. The World Educational Coordinating Council displayed paintings by children in an exhibit called "The Famine-Genocide in Ukraine 1932-1933 Through the Eyes of a Child."

Summary reports were presented by the national and regional subdivisions of the UWC: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Transdnier, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uzbekistan and the Ukrainian European Congress.

The convention also featured a series of roundtable

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discussions: "Ukrainian communities in the Eastern Diaspora – Integral Components of the UWC, Current Status and Perspectives"; "Emigration from Ukraine"; "Status, Role and Future of the Ukrainian Language Outside Ukraine"; and "Participation and Role of Youth in the Life of the Ukrainian Communities Outside Ukraine."

The Ukrainian World Congress re-elected Mr. Lozynskyj, who ran unopposed, as its president. Also re-elected was General Secretary Pedenko. Maria Shkambara, previously first vice-president, assumed the post of second vice-president, while Eugene Cholij filled her former slot. Olga Danylak, was elected to the post of treasurer and Bohdan Fedorak, voted in as member-at-large, filled out the rest of the Executive Board.

"When I say that this congress is a turning point, I will not be exaggerating," explained Mr. Lozynskyj. "I call it a turning point because whereas we had one delegate from the Eastern diaspora at the Toronto convention [in 1998], this time there are more than 100." The UWC serves as the highest umbrella organization for Ukrainians living in the diaspora. It consists of more than 100 organizations in 25 countries, whose combined memberships, the UWC says, total close to 20 million people.

On August 20 more than 1,000 delegates, guests and Kyivans dedicated an evening to commemorating the victims of the Great Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. They took part in a solemn procession along historic Volodymyrska Street from the Teacher's Building past St. Sophia Sobor and the Golden Gates to St. Michael's Golden-Domed Sobor, at the foot of which stands a small monument to the victims – the only such memorial in Kyiv. There, under a steady drizzle, the leader of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Archbishop Major and Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, and Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate officiated at a panakhya (requiem service).

The following day the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, in conjunction with the UWC conclave, held a roundtable on the 70th anniversary of the tragic event. Natalia Zarudna, deputy state secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, informed those in attendance that the Ukrainian delegation at the U.N. was preparing to table a resolution in the General Assembly to have the Great Famine officially recognized as genocide. Cardinal Husar noted that recognition of the Famine for what it was would only work if true repentance "within the heart" took place. Ivan Pliusch, a former chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, noted that in Ukraine too many are still not cognizant of what happened in Ukraine's eastern and southern regions in 1932-1933, for which the current regime should hold blame.

Speaking at a press conference at the close of the conclave, Mr. Lozynskyj emphasized that while he and two other members of the executive body had been re-elected to second terms, the organization as a whole was undergoing "cardinal" changes. "We want the UWC to become a truly global organization," explained Mr. Lozynskyj. "We are trying to establish ties in Azerbaijan and in Vietnam. We want to be everywhere where Ukrainians live."

After the election of its leadership, the UWC passed a deluge of resolutions, ranging from a demand to recall Russia's Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin to a call by the delegates to have the United Nations recognize the Great Famine of 1932-1933 as genocide against the Ukrainian nation.

The highlight of the four-day conclave was the appearance of Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko, who received a standing ovation. The future presidential candidate directed a slashing rhetoric at those who hold the reigns of power in Ukraine today. "This regime killed the Ukrainian idea, so as to announce afterwards that it had not developed," said Mr. Yushchenko.

Several months after the eighth Ukrainian World Congress, The Ukrainian Weekly interviewed Mr. Lozynskyj. The New York-based attorney commented on controversial statements he had made regarding Mr. Yushchenko and the regime of President Kuchma, including the issues of building a democracy and fighting corruption. He also spoke about the focal points of the UWC conclave. "One is that we focused on the elections in the year 2004 in Ukraine. The people who are citizens of Ukraine have the right to vote. In the past there have been serious abuses in this regard by the presidential administration in particular, and by the powers that be in Ukraine, because most of those people don't necessarily vote for the powers that be. The [election] law says that, provided they are in a foreign coun-

try on a legal basis, they still have a right to vote. The legal basis refers only to legality as far as Ukraine is concerned – meaning, if you have a valid Ukrainian passport, irrespective of whether you've overstayed your visa in the United States, for example, you still have the right to vote in Ukraine. But in the past they [the powers that be] would not allow them the right to vote."

"Another aspect is the status of Ukrainians living in foreign countries," Mr. Lozynskyj continued, "This is particularly true of these burgeoning communities in Spain, Portugal and Italy – where in Italy there is no agreement thus far between Ukraine and that country regarding status. Italy has passed a law, but they're very slow in actually implementing the law." He added that there are more than 7 million citizens of Ukraine who currently reside or work outside of Ukraine.

Queried about what is the top priority for the UWC, the president said, "What we need to do now is we need to implement what we call the world Ukrainian community. Basically, what the UWC did in the first five years was open the doors to the communities in the Eastern diaspora and the new arrivals. It's meaningless if all we're going to do is just say that we have Ukrainians in Kazakstan and Uzbekistan. We need to establish a network of mutual assistance, mutual communication, different programs where people will travel back and forth, where people will be in constant communication. If they are in any way either offended or if any of their rights are violated, they have to feel secure that the communities outside of that country, the Ukrainian communities, will do something to support them. We'll put pressure on international organizations, or even on their own governments."

Regarding the UWC's membership as an NGO in the U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Mr. Lozynskyj said: "During the observances of the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, we were able to use our position at ECOSOC to distribute a statement on the 70th anniversary of the Famine. We issued a much stronger statement [than the statement issued by Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations], but it wasn't signed by 26 countries. It was signed merely by the UWC and the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations. The UWC statement was circulated among 190 or so governments, the missions at the U.N., and some major non-governmental organizations. Were we not members of ECOSOC we would not have been able to do that. Now, particular attention is going to be paid to workers and migration issues dealing with Ukraine – workers' rights and migrant workers' rights in particular. And that's important for our communities; in particular in central Europe, Italy, Sweden and Portugal. Women's trafficking is also a very important issue."

In September, one month after he declined to meet with representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora who were in Kyiv at the eighth Ukrainian World Congress, President Kuchma met privately in New York with three

representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora. It was not clear why President Kuchma, who was in New York City for the opening of the 58th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, requested the meeting with the UWC president; Ihor Gawdiak, president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council; and Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

There was speculation, however, that President Kuchma would try to use the September 24 meeting for political purposes: to show Ukrainians that he is actively involved in and cares about relations with the Ukrainian diaspora. Officials from the presidential administration were not available to answer questions about why President Kuchma requested the meeting in New York City, why he chose the time he did for the meeting or what was discussed. When asked the same questions, officials at Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the United Nations – who helped coordinate President Kuchma's trip to the United States – simply said the meeting in New York had been "convenient" for the Ukrainian president. They did not respond when asked if it had been inconvenient for the Ukrainian president to meet with members of the diaspora in Kyiv a month earlier.

Messrs. Lozynskyj, Gawdiak and Sawkiw said during a press conference later that same day that they presented the Ukrainian president with an open letter. Foremost among their concerns, they said, was Ukraine's recent entry into a common economic market with Russia, Kazakstan and Belarus. According to the three diaspora leaders, President Kuchma said during the meeting that the agreement, signed in Yalta on September 18, would not interfere with Ukraine's goal of joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union or the World Trade Organization, and that the agreement would actually entice Europe to pull Ukraine toward Euro-Atlantic structures.

Participants of the meeting also discussed the matter of a United Nations resolution marking the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine and declaring it a genocide. However, the UWC president noted, Russia is strongly opposed to such a resolution, "and that means the United States also will not support a Famine resolution." Mr. Lozynskyj said he expected the United States to side with Russia and oppose a Ukrainian Famine resolution in the United Nations in exchange for Russia's support in the U.N. of the U.S. war on terror. "Without the Russian and American votes in the United Nations Ukraine will not see a resolution regarding the Famine," Mr. Lozynskyj said. (See section on the 70th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide.)

Mr. Lozynskyj said the three leaders also raised issues involving the murder of journalists, politicians and other figures associated with the political opposition in Ukraine, language issues in the country, the role of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate in Ukraine, and the status of efforts to obtain official recognition of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and

Ukraine's women arrive on international scene

The International Council of Women, the umbrella organization for National Councils of Women throughout the world, held its 30th General Assembly in Perth, Australia, on August 31 to September 9. The delegation of Ukraine consisted of six women: the president of the National Council of Ukraine, Iryna Holubieva; Minister of Family and Youth, Valentina Dovzhenko; the president of Soyuz Ukrainok of Ukraine and a national deputy in the Verkhovna Rada, Lilia Hryhorovych; and three others who came as observers. Also present were Ukrainian women from the diaspora.

One of the requirements for membership in NCWs (and by extension, in the ICW) is that member-organizations be citizens of independent nations. Thus, in 1925, at the quinquennial ICW meeting held in Washington, a question was raised about the status of Ukraine's NCW and its affiliated organizations. Ukraine's position was precarious. Its status as a nation that had been absorbed into the USSR meant that Ukraine's NCW did not meet the qualifications for membership and was not in compliance with ICW by-laws.

Ukrainian American women, who attended the

meeting as members of NCW/US, were devastated. They later resolved that, since women from Ukraine could no longer represent themselves in the ICW, they would have to be represented by Ukrainian women from the diaspora. It was this resolve that led to the creation of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. Decades later, when Ukraine proclaimed its independence and its inviolate right to sovereignty, Ukrainian women's organizations were officially recognized by the ICW, and the National Council of Women of Ukraine was reborn.

During the 30th General Assembly's session in 2004 devoted to deciding the venue of the next ICW General Assembly, the minister of family and youth of Ukraine, in the name of NCW/Ukraine and the Ukrainian government, issued a formal invitation to the ICW Executive Committee and proposed that the 2006 ICW General Assembly be held in Kyiv. The invitation was enthusiastically accepted.

Iryna Kurowyckyj, the president of the UNWLA, who attended the conclave as a delegate from the NCW/U.S., noted that this was a significant moment: a mission begun so long ago had been accomplished. Ukrainian women, long oppressed and long dependent on representation by the UNWLA at such international events, were finally representing themselves. Ukraine's National Council of Women, chosen to host the 2006 ICW General Assembly, had truly arrived.

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the Ukrainian Insurgent Army.

President Kuchma often brought up Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko, Mr. Gawdiak said. At one point during the meeting, the UACC leader noted, the president said that if the situation at present in Ukraine is deemed bad, people should wait and see what it might be like if Mr. Yushchenko takes over as the country's next president.

The diaspora representatives also said Mr. Kuchma repeatedly turned to his relations with the Ukrainian diaspora, often asking: "Why doesn't the diaspora understand me? Why don't they support me?" Future cooperation between the Ukrainian president and representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora were not talked about in specifics, Mr. Sawkiw said. Both sides agreed on future cooperation but left the matter open-ended.

As regards youth activity in the diaspora and in Ukraine, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization held its 15th triennial world conference in Ukraine on October 29-November 2, during which it re-elected Lubomyr Romankiw as *nachalnyi plastun* (chief scout) and Yaroslava Rubel as the head of the Supreme Plast Bulava (command). The world conference, known among Ukrainian scouts as a KUPO (an acronym for Conference of Ukrainian Plast Organizations), decided to increase cooperation among all the country organizations by developing an Internet web portal and in stimulating an exchange of educational and instructional materials among them.

During its second world conference ever in Ukraine, the KUPO continued to put the accent on developing and strengthening the Ukrainian country organization, which was revived there during the collapse of communism at the end of the 1980s and has now begun to develop strong roots. The 150 delegates and guests from four continents decided to put Plast-Ukraine on a path towards financial independence to bring it into line with Plast's policy in each of its eight other country organizations. Plast-Ukraine has grown in membership from zero to some 10,000 in the 15 years since it was reintroduced in Ukraine after a half-century absence. The organization has 120 separate local organizations in 22 of Ukraine's 25 oblasts, plus another 13 city organizations in the Crimean Autonomous Republic. It is now actively working to develop membership in the country's eastern, most Russified oblasts.

During its meeting in Kyiv, the KUPO decided that Plast would represent Ukrainian scouting at the World Bureau of Scouting. In support of such a move, Mr. Yurchyshyn noted that most of the other scouting organizations in the country were not against Plast as their representative at the world body and that the State Committee of Family and Youth acknowledged that Plast was the largest scouting organization in the country with the most extensive history and tradition.

U.S.-Ukraine relations: new ambassadors named

Following a two-year downhill slide in the U.S.-Ukrainian relationship, which gave rise to a general feeling by the end of 2002 that things were coming to a head, the relationship was stabilized somewhat in 2003.

The turnaround came as some of the irritants – like Kyiv's weak anti-money-laundering efforts – were improved; others – like Washington's allegations that Ukraine sold anti-aircraft radar to Iraq – were muted; and Kyiv agreed to send a battalion of its troops to join the U.S.-led coalition forces in Iraq.

Not all bilateral irritants were defused last year, however, and some new ones surfaced, as did a rise in anxiety about the way the 2004 presidential election would be run in Ukraine.

The year also saw a changing of the guard at the U.S. and Ukrainian embassies in the two capitals.

The first hint of a potential turnaround in relations came in late January, during a meeting of the U.S.-Ukraine Committee on Economic Cooperation. The head of the Ukrainian delegation, Minister of the Economy Valerii Khoroshkovskiy, told journalists that he sensed that the United States was interested in improving the relationship. "As I see it," he added, "we made progress in this direction."

The two sides worked on some of the issues that had contributed to the worsening of bilateral ties, among them Ukraine's economic reforms, unresolved trade and investment disputes, including U.S. poultry exports,

protection of intellectual property rights and money-laundering sanctions.

Mr. Khoroshkovskiy said that the American side indicated it would support Ukraine in getting the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to lift its recommendation that countries use economic sanctions against Ukraine for being lax in dealing with international money laundering and that it would also support Ukraine's efforts to gain membership in the World Trade Organization.

The visit came at the conclusion of the Bush administration's review of its policy toward Ukraine, the results of which were not all favorable. While the delegation was still in Washington, an "administration official" leaked to the press that the administration was shifting \$34 million of aid promised for Ukrainian government projects that year to non-government programs fostering political and economic reform in Ukraine. According to the report, this was being done in response to President Leonid Kuchma's alleged approval of the sale of Ukraine's Kolchuha air defense system to Iraq.

A few days later, in the administration's 2004 budget request to Congress, Ukraine was among the countries to suffer massive cutbacks in its assistance package. The proposed aid to Ukraine was slated to be reduced from \$155 million to \$94 million for Fiscal Year 2004, which included drastic cuts in Ukrainian-language broadcasts by the Voice of America and Radio Liberty.

Less than two weeks later, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Steven Pifer told a policy institute in Washington that after a three-month review of U.S. relations with Ukraine, the administration decided "to, basically, disagree" with Kyiv on whether Ukraine sold a Kolchuha air defense system to Iraq, as was alleged, or not.

Mr. Pifer, who earlier had served as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, said that Washington would not allow the Kolchuha issue to put U.S.-Ukrainian relations into a "deep freeze."

As Washington was releasing the findings of its policy review toward Ukraine in early February, President Kuchma's government was agreeing to a U.S. request to send its nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) cleanup battalion to Iraq. The Verkhovna Rada gave its go-ahead on sending the 1,800-man force in early June, and the troops left for Iraq in August.

Mr. Pifer said that among the review's conclusions was that Ukraine "still matters" to the United States – that the U.S. wanted Ukraine to succeed as a stable, democratic country, with a strong market economy and increasing links with Europe and trans-Atlantic institutions. To that end, Washington was determined to stay engaged with Ukraine, and, he added, "We're also going to engage more actively with the broad political spectrum" in Ukraine.

A week earlier, when former Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, who is widely recognized to be the leading opposition contender in the next presidential election, visited Washington, seeking U.S. support for strengthening democracy in Ukraine and keeping Washington engaged in his country, he had meetings with Vice-President Richard Cheney and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage.

The Washington-based International Republican Institute, which assisted in setting up Mr. Yushchenko's visit, and another American non-governmental organization involved in democracy-building efforts in Ukraine, the National Democratic Institute, ran into difficulties in getting their activities registered in Ukraine last year. It became a bilateral issue for a few months before the government of Ukraine resolved it. Commenting on the resolution in a press interview in mid-December, Mr. Pifer said Washington was "encouraged and pleased" by this turn of events.

The year 2003 also saw two high-level economic missions from Ukraine visit Washington – one, headed by Vice Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mykola Azarov, in April, and the other, by National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Serhii Tyhypko, in July. Meanwhile, U.S. General Richard Myers, chairman of the U.S. Army Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited Kyiv in June to discuss U.S.-Ukraine military relations.

Democratic reforms in Ukraine and how the present government goes about preparing for the 2004 presidential election have been matters of serious concern in the United States.

According to the findings of the U.S. State Department's annual human rights report, Ukrainian officials "did not take steps to curb the widespread and open abuse of authority, including the use of government positions and facilities, to the unfair advantage of certain parties" in 2002.

On more than one occasion, U.S. officials have spoken out about the need to guarantee a "level playing field" in



The U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, John Herbst

the coming presidential election.

Speaking at a conference on civil society in Ukraine in April, Undersecretary of State Paul Dobriansky indicated that this will require a commitment "at the most senior levels" and concrete steps to adopt the laws, develop the practices and create the institutions of a truly democratic state.

A "façade of institutions or going through the motions" will not suffice, she said, adding that Ukraine has to immerse into a "culture of democracy."

To that end, Ms. Dobriansky said, the U.S. government has decided "to place a special emphasis on promoting the forces of democratic change in Ukraine," particularly focusing on the preparations for the 2004 presidential election, "to ensure that the playing field is level and that the election is free and fair."

One result of this has been a move in Ukraine to make such foreign meddling in election processes illegal.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Miller also voiced concern about the 2004 presidential election, which, he stressed, "is a very critically important election for democratic governance in the former Soviet Union."

"It could be a disaster," he said at the Kennan Institute in March, "but it seems to me that the path of building towards a democratic society is the more likely one, and we should do everything we can as friends of Ukraine – and certainly as governments – to assist in assuring that the election will be as open, transparent, free and fair as possible."



Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S., Mykhailo Reznik

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He said he expects the oligarch-based "party of power" will try to undercut Mr. Yushchenko's popularity and viability as the leading candidate, but he expressed doubt it will work and suggested that it is in the interest of the West to be concerned and vigilant about how this plays out.

Later in the year the Verkhovna Rada passed, at least in the first reading, a proposed constitutional change, by which the president of Ukraine would be elected by the deputies in the Verkhovna Rada and not by popular vote. Reviewing the proposal, Ukraine's Constitutional Court ruled that this change would be constitutional.

During 2003, both governments replaced their ambassadors. After three years in Kyiv, Ambassador Carlos Pascual returned to Washington to become the State Department's coordinator for Assistance to Europe and Eurasia. He was replaced in September by John Herbst, the former ambassador to Uzbekistan.

One of the new U.S. envoy's first appearances in the Ukrainian capital was at Taras Shevchenko State University, where he spoke at the Conference on Freedom of Speech/Human Rights in Ukraine held on September 18-19.

He stated: "During 12 years of independence from the Soviet Union, Ukraine has come a long way. But make no mistake; there is a long way to go. This coming year offers real opportunity for Ukrainians to bring greater democracy to Ukraine. Americans stand ready to support Ukrainians to help realize goals of freedom. Now, I am here to listen, to form impressions, and in the coming years, to work with Ukrainians toward improved fundamental freedoms and human rights in Ukraine. I will work with you to support the goals Ukraine has articulated for itself: a future of independence and democracy in Ukraine. I look forward to working with you to make Ukraine a better place for all."

At about the same time, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, who had served in Washington for almost four years, returned to Kyiv to replace Anatolii Zlenko as minister of foreign affairs. His position in Washington was filled by Mykhailo Reznik, who was Ukraine's ambassador to China and Mongolia. In 1994-1997, Mr. Reznik headed the Ukrainian Embassy's trade mission in Washington.

At year's end, Ambassador Reznik traveled to New York City, where he met with Ukrainian American community leaders and activists during a reception at the Ukrainian Institute of America on December 21. Speaking before a full house, Mr. Reznik painted a picture of Ukraine as an integral part of Europe and a strong economic partner.

He also said Ukraine has plenty to offer the United States, which granted it the status of a strategic partner in 1996, but added that Kyiv has a lot to do in this sphere, especially as relations with the United States in recent years have undergone a change, and not for the better.

Ambassador Reznik said he had already met with President George W. Bush and other administration officials and that he sensed "a signal that they were awaiting us." President Bush, he noted, offered "positive expressions about our future relations." The envoy added that President Bush said "our relations are at a turning point." He agreed with that characterization of the U.S.-Ukraine relationship and commented that Ukraine must do everything possible to ensure that we are heard and to restore trust.

Turning to his relations with the diaspora, or more specifically Ukrainian Americans, Ambassador Reznik said: "I need your help, I need your advice." Noting that the next day, December 22, was the Day of the Diplomat, he added, "you, too, are diplomats" who represent Ukraine in humanitarian, cultural and other spheres.

Despite the move to cut back U.S. assistance to Ukraine, at least in one area it was increasing. After the U.S. Congress in February authorized the Open World exchange program to expand beyond Russia to other countries of the former Soviet Union, a group of 12 women activists from non-governmental organizations in Ukraine spent 10 days on a training program in Washington in December. Nine more groups are scheduled to take part in similar programs in other U.S. cities.

And as the year came to a close, a former prime minister of Ukraine, Pavlo Lazarenko, remained under arrest in California, where he is awaiting trial for laundering \$114 million in the United States and other crimes. He was arrested in 1999 and has been held in a detention facility until last June, when he was released into a strict house detention regime after posting \$86 million bail. His trial was to have started in August 2003, but was postponed until February 2004 to allow his lawyers time to complete their depositions of government officials and other witnesses in Ukraine.

Ukrainians in the U.S.: promoting many causes

Ukrainians in the United States were active again this past year – organizing conferences, working to save schools, building museums, celebrating centennials and, in general, promoting various Ukrainian causes.

On April 15 St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic School in Newark, N.J., announced it would remain open for the 2003-2004 school year, and beyond.

The decision to keep the school open and continue its 63-year tradition of educating Ukrainian American youth was made at a special session of the Parish Council on the evening of April 14. In January, the Parish Council had challenged the newly created Committee for the Development of St. John's School to raise \$250,000 by April 15 or else the school would close at the end of the 2002-2003 academic year. The committee subsequently raised over \$180,000 in two and one half months. The donations were broad-based and reflected support both from within the parish and throughout the Ukrainian American community.

News of the requirement to raise \$250,000 to ensure the school's future was made public on Sunday, January 26, via the church bulletin distributed during liturgies that day; parents of St. John's schoolchildren were notified three days earlier. The Rev. Lukie and the Parish Council then granted the parents' committee time to come up with the money.

The prospect of closing the school brought together a team of concerned parents, friends and alumni who formed the Committee for the Development of St. John's School. The committee examined both the commitment and desires of the Ukrainian American community in northern New Jersey, and the financial and enrollment needs of the school to determine a viable plan for the school's continued development. That same day, the group elected to its executive committee Myron Martynetz (chairman), Rostyslaw Robak, Bohdan Duchnycz, Volodymyr Stashchyshyn, Volodymyr Kovbasniuk, Lesia Frazier and Kristina Rak-Brown.

The Parish Council was presented with a strategic plan for the continued growth of the school, which was to include active alumni programs, concerts to publicize the school, open houses, recruitment via the Internet and a program for the continued enhancement of St. John's curriculum.

Prior to the Parish Council meeting, the development committee and the Rev. Bohdan Lukie, pastor, met for over two hours with Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka to receive his guidance. Metropolitan Soroka stressed that all concerned should look at the matter realistically and free of emotional attachment. The metropolitan advised that the good of the school and the families enrolling their children must be at the forefront of any decision and that a realistic budget, based on a worst-case scenario must be in place.

It was the Parish Council, as an advisory body, that had voted on January 20 to close the school "unless \$250,000 can miraculously be raised before March 1 to cover next year's deficit and to help with future years," as the Rev. Lukie put it. The reason for the deadline, the pastor explained, was to give teachers and parents enough time to make alternate plans. The Parish Council's advice notwithstanding, the Rev. Lukie explained that it is the pastor who has the authority to decide the fate of the school, while the ultimate authority rests with the metropolitan-archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the U.S.

The Committee for the Development of St. John's School agreed to take over the administration and operation of the school on a pro-tem basis, until such time as a fiduciary board could be created. By-laws and a constitution were to be drafted and approved by the parish, the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy and the Newark Diocese of the Catholic Church, which oversees schools in the area. Fund-raising, the search for new sources of funds, and the improvement of the curriculum also were to be pursued by the development committee in its efforts to ensure the school's future.

In an effort to save yet another valuable Ukrainian educational institution, the year 2003 also saw the Ukrainian community centered around St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City form a charitable foundation to lend support to both St. George School and St. George Academy. On May 15 the New York Secretary of State accepted for filing the certificate of incorporation of a not-for-profit charitable cor-

poration named St. George Ukrainian Catholic Schools Foundation, Ltd.

The list of incorporators included: Bishop Basil Losten of the Stamford Eparchy; the Rev. Philip Sandrick, pastor of St. George Church; Oksana Bodnar, chair of the St. George Parents' Association; as well as the principals of the two schools, Sister Chrysostom Lukiw and Peter P. Shyshka.

In addition to addressing everyday financial needs, renovating school facilities, developing a pre-school program and registering new students, the foundation formed a special Endowment Fund which would ensure not only the scholastic improvement of the two schools but also their long-term survival. The foundation announced that it sought to garner a databank of alumni in order to establish an Alumni Association. The legal work for the foundation was performed pro bono by Askold S. Lozynskyj, who is also in charge of its Endowment Fund.

The fund announced a goal of raising \$3 million which through investments would provide for the improvement as well as the long-term functioning of both St. George School and St. George Academy. On November 6 the Self Reliance (N.Y.) Federal Credit Union announced a donation of \$500,000 to the St. George Ukrainian Catholic Schools Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) entity. Myroslaw Shmigel, chairman of the board of directors at the credit union, characterized the contribution as an investment in the Ukrainian community: "We've grown up here; we spend so much of our time in this neighborhood. This money is an investment in our Ukrainian community."

In addition to the credit union's contribution, Mr. Lozynskyj, a member of the board of directors of the foundation and the president of the Ukrainian World Congress, told The Weekly that he personally made a donation of \$100,000 to the foundation.

On December 4, the Newark Branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization presented a check of \$100,000 toward the Ukrainian Cultural Center that is to be built in northern New Jersey, in affiliation with St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church of Whippany, N.J. Groundbreaking is scheduled for the spring of 2004.

The funds were allocated out of the Plast branch's own building fund to demonstrate local Plast members' commitment to the project, which is being constructed as part of a larger complex that will also include a new church as well as a rectory and belltower. Plast Newark – which encompasses a large membership in Morris County, N.J. – plans to hold the vast majority of its activities in the center's facilities.

The check was presented at a special gathering by members of the Plast Newark executive board ("stanychna starshyna") and council ("stanychna rada") to the pastor of St. John's, the Very Rev. Archpriest Roman Mirchuk, and Orest Kucyna and Ihor Lodziuk, parish trustees and members of the Building Committee.

Also receiving a strong financial contribution in 2003 was the Ukrainian Institute of America. The National Park Service announced on November 10, that the UIA had been awarded a matching grant of \$270,000 for preservation work of the institute's landmark Fletcher Sinclair Mansion. The award came as the Ukrainian Institute had been continuing work on the 19th century mansion in the French Gothic style located on the corner of Fifth Avenue and 79th Street on New York's Upper East Side, located on New York's fabled Museum Mile, where hundreds of thousands of people pass by the institute every year.

The matching grant award, the first of its kind according to UIA president Walter Nazarewicz, allowed the Institute to embark on a new phase of restoration, including electrical, plumbing and structural work to the 106-year-old building. Beyer, Blinder, Belle, a leading architectural firm in New York City, had studied and identified the necessary work required to preserve the building's grandeur and functionality. The National Park Service grant was awarded within the framework of the Department of Interior's Federal Save America's Treasure initiative to preserve significant historic American properties and collections.

On October 11-12, more than 1,400 New Yorkers, out-of-towners and tourists from abroad experienced the national historic landmark UIA building as part of a New York City-wide open house tour hailed as the "largest celebration of architecture and design in city history." The French-Gothic-style, turn-of-the-century mansion was one of over 70 sites – from City Hall to a cutting-edge art gallery made out of shipping containers – the public was invited to explore by Open House New

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York, a private, not-for-profit organization.

The open house event was inspired by the success of similar weekends in London, Toronto and other international cities. The institute was also featured on a guide and map highlighting all participating sites designed by renowned graphic designer and illustrator Seymour Chwast.

Mr. Nazarewicz called the Open House event a great success. "Our mission is to present the rich Ukrainian culture and the great accomplishments of the Ukrainian diaspora to the non-Ukrainian public," Mr. Nazarewicz said. "We drew people of diverse nationalities and we were able to tell them what we do and what we have accomplished with the Institute. They were astonished to hear that only private contributions are being used to support our building."

On August 14 New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey's office issued a news release which said that the governor had appointed Ukrainian American Camille Huk of Rutherford to the Ethnic Advisory Council, which was reactivated under his administration.

"As a member of the Ethnic Advisory Council, Ms. Huk will bring the same caliber of leadership that she has shown in her professional life. Her efforts as a representative of the Ukrainian community will be an asset to the council and to all ethnic groups throughout the State of New Jersey," said Gov. McGreevey.

Ms. Huk was the national secretary for the National Council of Women of the United States, an organization with over 25,000 members and the past chair of the New Jersey campaign to endow Ukrainian studies chairs at Harvard University. She served as national public relations officer of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America. She has also worked with foreign students from 63 countries.

The 45-member Ethnic Advisory Council was established within the Department of State. The council makes recommendations to the governor regarding issues related to ethnic studies and programs offered in public schools, colleges and the state universities. In addition, the council is responsible for increasing the participation of ethnic organizations in governmental affairs; providing community and social services; promoting ethnic and cultural events; developing policies affecting ethnic neighborhoods; and increasing knowledge and public awareness of ethnic history and culture. Members are appointed for two-year terms.

The year 2003 also marked the 50th anniversary of the Educational Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. On October 25, a gala celebration was held at the Ramada Inn in East Hanover, N.J., to honor the teachers who worked for many years in this institution. In addition, a jubilee book was published on the occasion to highlight the histories of the many schools that belong to the Educational Council. The council has coordinated programs, supplied textbooks, set curriculum guidelines and trained teachers for the last 50 years – since 1953. The network of Ukrainian Saturday schools stretches from Boston to Kent, Wash. After attending classes from kindergarten through grade 12 and passing a comprehensive exam, students are honored at a festive banquet. Over 30,000 young Ukrainians have studied at these schools, and over 7,000 have graduated.

On September 8, the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) met with presidential hopeful Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) to discuss issues related to U.S. foreign policy. CEEC member-organizations discussed U.S.-Russian relations, NATO and the Euro-Atlantic relationship, foreign aid and U.S. public diplomacy, including the status of Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty broadcasting to the region.

The Ukrainian National Association's Second Vice-President Eugene Iwanciw outlined Russia's political and economic pressure on its neighbors, citing Moscow's attempts on the life of Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze and attempts to purchase the key national assets of Ukraine, Georgia and Lithuania as examples. He suggested that Russia's foreign policy flows from its domestic one, which includes denial of political and human rights for minorities, the genocidal war against Chechnya, elimination of freedom of the press, and persecution of religious groups other than the Russian Orthodox Church.

Sen. Lieberman thanked the CEEC for taking the time to brief him on issues of concern and expressed his hope that the meeting would be the beginning of an ongoing foreign policy discussion with the group.

The Weekly also reported on the meetings of the



Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union presents a check in the amount of \$500,000 to the St. George Ukrainian Catholic Schools Foundation in New York City in November.

executive board of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

The main topic on the agenda of its January 25 was commemorations of the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide. A broad spectrum of ideas was discussed of how to appropriately observe the upcoming anniversary, including what has become a tradition, the annual commemoration of the Famine-Genocide at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. A critical aspect of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide, UCCA president, Michael Sawkiw Jr., agreed, was education. The UCCA executive board proposed the following: to educate Ukrainian children at an early age by devoting one entire history lesson on the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide within the system of Saturday Ukrainian schools.

Secondly, since U.S. educational issues are decided on the local level, either by the state or city administration/school boards, the UCCA said it would begin examining which high school curriculums teach their students about the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide. Most states require 10th grade students to undergo a week of studies titled "Genocide Around the World."

Finally, the topic that generated the most discussion was the building of a monument in Washington to the victims of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide. The UCCA executive board mandated that a separate building committee, encompassing all Ukrainian American organizations, be organized to coordinate all matters associated with the construction of the Famine memorial. Additionally, it was agreed that the UCCA Presidium should meet with Ukrainian Church leaders in the United States to obtain support for the building of such a monument in Washington.

That the unity of the Ukrainian American community is a grave concern to the UCCA executive board, also was stressed at the meeting. Following the 18th Congress of Ukrainians in America, the UCCA had formed a Commission on Unity to begin talks with the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council. Though unsuccessful in its initial attempts, the commission was to be reactivated for the purpose of speaking directly with various unaffiliated organizations with the goal of unifying the multitude of Ukrainian American organizations under one central umbrella representation.

The UCCA executive board next met on March 15. Speaking on behalf of the UCCA's Civic Education Commission, Roksolana Lozynskyj emphasized the need to provide the people of Ukraine with as much information as possible regarding the presidential elections, their procedures and the candidates. The UCCA was to research various grant opportunities from public and private foundations, and to appeal to the Ukrainian American community for support.

The UCCA's Council on Aid to Ukrainians (CAU) presented a unique opportunity to produce and distribute "History of Ukraine," in CD format to all of Ukraine's schools, universities and public libraries. The manufacturer of the CD agreed to update the "History of Ukraine" with a section dedicated to the Ukrainian diaspora in the United States.

Preparations were discussed for the 19th Congress of Ukrainians in America, the quadrennial convention of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. The greater Philadelphia area was chosen as the next site of the Congress of Ukrainians in America and will have as its theme "Unite, Brothers of Mine" – a reference to unity within the Ukrainian community and in commemoration of the 190th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko and the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the Shevchenko monument in Washington. A special committee for the upcoming Congress was formed with Ihor Kuznir, head of the Philadelphia UCCA branch, as coordinator.

On December 8 the UCCA released a statement regarding the fact that the Ukrainian National Association was restoring its relationship with the UCCA.

In its statement the UCCA said it "warmly welcomes the initiative of the Ukrainian National Association to restore its membership in the UCCA, thus strengthening our central umbrella representative organization. Unification of the Ukrainian American community is one of the principal tasks of the UCCA. Only through unity and mutual cooperation will we be able to continue implementing the dreams of our forefathers and maintain a strong vibrant community."

"We warmly welcome the UNA's decision to reunite with the UCCA and hope that other Ukrainian organizations will follow its lead. This uniting step in the Ukrainian community will serve as an example for Ukraine in the crucial presidential pre-election campaign period. Thus, this American step towards unity proves most significant when Ukraine stands at the crossroads: to continue building a true democracy or slip back into an authoritarian system. Having common goals, including the unification of our community organizations, will make our work much more effective and allow us to achieve better results for the greater good of the Ukrainian American community."

On Election Day, Tuesday, November 4, Mr. Sawkiw and UCCA Vice-President Orest Baranyk visited the office of Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), the National Security Council and the U.S. Department of State. The meetings reflected the concerns of the community in the wake of the Tuzla incident, but also addressed other matters of importance in U.S.-Ukraine relations.

In a meeting with Rep. Levin, co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus (CUC), the discussion quickly centered on the status of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide memorial, as well as other aspects in which the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus may be helpful in observing this solemn tragedy in Ukraine's history.

Concerning the situation in Tuzla, Ukraine, the UCCA delegation informed Rep. Levin of House Concurrent Resolution 315 introduced by CUC co-chair Curt Weldon (R-Pa.), which called upon the U.S. government to assure Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Rep. Levin suggested that the CUC write a letter of protest to Yuri Ushakov, Russia's ambassador to the United States.

At the National Security Council, Walter

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Andrusyszyn, Director of the Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova desk, greeted the UCCA delegation. During the lively exchange of ideas, the two sides discussed the upcoming Ukrainian presidential elections, the Jackson-Vanik amendment, Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization, as well as the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. A meeting at the U.S. Department of State with Mark Taplin, director of the Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova Desk, continued the themes touched upon in the U.S. Congress and at the NSC. Additionally, the UCCA delegation appealed to the U.S. government for increased funding geared towards "fostering a fairer election process based on the principles of democratic values and openness to the Ukrainian society."

In addition to its other activities, the UCCA also developed a questionnaire in January that they hoped would help identify the needs and desires of new immigrants, the younger generation and non-active Ukrainian Americans. The document would assist the UCCA and other organizations in developing future programs and activities that would serve the interests of the greater Ukrainian American community.

The Weekly also reported on a summit of Ukrainian organizations held on March 29. The summit, which focused on demographic data in the Ukrainian American diaspora, warned that many Ukrainian organizations could be ignoring hundreds of thousands of self-declared Ukrainians living in the United States.

According to U.S. Census data collected in the year 2000, 893,000 people self-identified themselves, at least to some degree, as Ukrainians. Of that number, Dr. Oleh Wolowyna, president of Informed Decisions Inc., said that it is estimated that only 116,000 speak Ukrainian at home. Some 777,000 self-declared Ukrainians, or roughly 87 percent of the total, threaten to be pushed away from participating in organizations which could badly use their help.

Speaking after the conference, which was held at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort, many of the participants related a sense of astonishment regarding Dr. Wolowyna's presentation. Several said they were completely unaware of the trend and said that they doubted Ukrainian organizations were addressing the situation.

The U.S. Census is regarded by experts as the most reliable source of data on the Ukrainian community because of its ability to take a large, representative sample of the population in the United States. Dr. Wolowyna said that, although the census has its limitations, ignoring the data collected could mean ignoring important trends that have been developing among Ukrainian Americans. Data from the 1990 Census showed that the population of Ukrainians who do not speak the language tend to be well-educated, young, successful and in powerful and influential positions in their communities. Another significant trend, Dr. Wolowyna said, is that much of the most recent immigration – composed of roughly 150,000 Ukrainians – is settling in non-traditional areas in states like Washington and Oregon, where Ukrainian communities are not as active or organized. "We must be conscious of this fact – the dispersion phenomenon," said Dr. Wolowyna, who himself lives in North Carolina.

Dr. Wolowyna's presentation was followed by an open discussion on the role of the Ukrainian American media. The session was meant to discuss challenges for the media and its future in a "brainstorming" format – a loose discussion organizers said was intended to "challenge assumptions and find new solutions."

In early December The Ukrainian Weekly also published a report written by Dr. Wolowyna in which he examined what the most recent Census data mean for the Ukrainian diaspora. Dr. Wolowyna wrote that 12.7 percent of all persons who declared Ukrainian as their first or second ancestry (one can record one or two ancestries in the census), speak Ukrainian while 13.4 percent speak Russian. In other words, in the year 2000, among all Ukrainians in the United States the percent speaking Russian was higher than the percent speaking Ukrainian.

For the U.S.-born, the percent of Ukrainian speakers decreased from 6.6 percent in 1990 to 4.6 percent in 2000, while the percent of Russian speakers increased from 0.3 percent in 1990 to 0.7 percent in 2000. In 2000, more than half of persons who came to the U.S. before 1950 spoke Ukrainian, while only 4 percent spoke Russian. For the next migration period, 1950-1986, the percentage of Ukrainian speakers dropped to 32 percent, while the percent of Russian speakers jumped to almost 26 percent. Although the number of

Ukrainian speakers increased from 88,000 in 1990 to 114,000 in 2000, the number of Russian speakers increased from 15,000 to 120,000, respectively. That is, among all persons of Ukrainian ancestry in the United States in the year 2000, the number of Russian speakers was slightly higher than the number of Ukrainian.

The total number of persons of Ukrainian ancestry was 893,055 in 2000. The number of all immigrants was 253,400, and 56 percent of them arrived between 1991 and 2000. In absolute numbers there were 142,000 immigrants between 1991-2000, and 31,600 arrived between 1987 and 1990.

These numbers are consistent with immigration statistics from Ukraine's Derzhkomstat (State Committee on Statistics) and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). According to Derzhkomstat, between 1992 and 2000 about 111,000 migrated from Ukraine to the U.S. and, according to INS statistics, during the same period the number of immigrants born in Ukraine and were admitted to the United States was about 146,000.

It is important to note that, according to Derzhkomstat statistics and the Jewish Demographic Yearbooks published in the United States, about 40 percent of all migrants from Ukraine during 1992-2000 were Jewish. Also a very high proportion of migrants from Ukraine during 1987-1991 were Jewish. Thus, it is safe to assume that, of the 173,600 1987-2000 immigrants registered by the census, close to half are Jewish.

The Fourth Wave added to the community 55,000 persons who speak Ukrainian at home. This is thought to be an underestimate of all Ukrainian speakers, as it is believed that many of the persons who speak Russian at home speak perfect Ukrainian.

On January 25, the executive of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council held an extended meeting in New York City. UACC President Ihor Gawdiak reported on his participation in meetings with U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual and Undersecretary of State Steven Pifer. These meetings were attended by representatives of Ukrainian civic organizations, and the two officials briefed them on the state of U.S.-Ukraine relations.

The executive also turned its attention to three issues: the work and immediate plans of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council (UWCC), the eighth conclave of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) and the UACC convention, which was to be held at the Ukrainian National Association estate Soyuzivka on November 15-16, but was later cancelled due to commemorations of the 70th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide. A new date was not announced.

The president of the UACC National Council, Ms. Dyhdalo, presented her proposal for an endeavor that would involve the collaborative efforts of UACC and the Pedagogical Institute of the Munich-based Ukrainian Free University. The institute conducts a

yearly program for instructors of Ukrainian subjects, aiming to improve the professional level of such teachers in Ukraine. The project, which was approved by the UACC executive, is to provide a financial aid boost for the program, which would be established and disbursed by the UACC.

Michigan's Ukrainian American community completed a Ukrainian Heritage Room in Manoogian Hall at Wayne State University (WSU). Although it contains artwork celebrating Ukrainian history and culture, the room would serve as a functioning classroom. On May 4, more than 300 people converged on the WSU campus to take part in the dedication and reception ceremonies. An overwhelming number of guests packed Room 297 to capacity.

Along with the other nationality rooms at Wayne State University, the Ukrainian Heritage Room exemplifies the character of Detroit, by melding together culture, beauty and learning, while preserving and honoring the Ukrainian ethnic identity. The original Ukrainian Room was dedicated in 1976. The distinguished Ukrainian artist Edward Kozak and his sons, George and Jerome, created a beautiful bas-relief map, as well as other ornamental wall decorations. Jerome Kozak restored the map to its original splendor.

Noted Ukrainian artist and iconographer Volodymyr Mayorchak, formerly from Lviv, was commissioned to complete the project. He created a full wall mural depicting the history of Ukraine, Hutsul-style wooden benches and carvings, and a showcase for art objects. A chalkboard was framed in the same style of wood-carving. The entrance door features dramatic wood-carving incorporating a prominent tryzub (trident) and a relief of St. George battling a serpent.

The Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort hosted the "The World of the 21st Century Woman" conference on April 4-6. Women traveled from Detroit, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut to attend the conference. Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 95, the conference organizer, set a goal of bringing together women of the Ukrainian community – no matter what their profession, what their first language, what their organizational beliefs – in an informal setting to share their thoughts and ideas, their common daily issues, and, most importantly, to network.

Sunday's sessions opened up a good discussion on the transition of the UNWLA into the 21st century and also on the exciting new health initiative to bring preventive health care information and education to the women of Ukraine. As a result, the conference surpassed even the organizers' hopes in seeding good exchanges and exciting plans for the future and was seen as a resounding success.

The official kickoff of the women's conference was held Saturday morning. Iryna Kurowyckyj, UNWLA president, was invited to the microphone to deliver the



The ribbon-cutting ceremony as the Ukrainian Heritage Room at Wayne State University is dedicated in May.

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A scene from the September unveiling of the monument marking the centennial of the Ukrainian community in the Rochester area.

introductory remarks in which she spoke of the bigger picture of the women's movement.

The weekend of May 2-4 in Philadelphia saw the first AIDS in Ukraine Awareness Weekend. The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC) hosted the three-day event, which included a gala charity banquet and ball in Philadelphia, featuring the reigning Ukrainian-born Miss Universe as the celebrity guest. Justine Pasek spoke about the threat of an incurable infection threatening Ukraine. Proceeds from the events were to benefit orphans with AIDS in Ukraine and AIDS awareness and educational programs targeted at high-risk groups, youths, orphans and street kids.

The weekend began with a special English-language radio program aired on WNWR 1540 AM at 7:30 p.m. detailing the events for the following two days and discussing the topic of HIV/AIDS and its escalation and impact on Ukraine, as well as the serious consequences of inaction in the fight against the deadly disease.

A national open forum/conference on the topic of the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in Ukraine took place that Saturday morning under the co-sponsorship of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center and the Ukrainian Medical Association of Pennsylvania. The conference brought together a panel of medical experts from across the country and social service groups involved in humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. A black-tie benefit banquet and ball in honor of Miss Universe were held that evening in the banquet hall of the UECC. Among the honored guests was Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Panamanian Consul Georgia Athanopulos.

On Sunday, May 4, a press conference and luncheon were held at the new Independence Visitor Center across from the Liberty Bell at Sixth and Market streets, in the historic district of Philadelphia with Miss Universe participating. The press conference was moderated by Dr. Andriy Chuma. A Philadelphia city official, Mjemi Traylor, presented a replica of the Liberty Bell to Miss Universe. Dr. Serhiy Korsunsky of the Ukrainian Embassy gave an overview of the concern of the Ukrainian government for the welfare of the population and the near-epidemic rate of HIV/AIDS, especially among the youth.

Hundreds of Ukrainian Americans, friends and dignitaries dedicated a park on September 20 as part of their celebration of the centennial of the Ukrainian community in Rochester, N.Y., which today is home to over 20,000 Ukrainian Americans. The monument, designed by Ukrainian sculptor Oleh Lesiuk, is symbolic of Ukrainians in the diaspora in America. The central feature of the monument is a set of three bronze cranes, pointing straight up to the sky, as two polished black granite wings with waves carved upon them cascade toward the cranes. The wings are engraved with symbols of the trident and the American flag, and are

accompanied by a text written both in Ukrainian and English.

Upon the initiative of the Centennial Celebration Committee of Rochester, the Irondequoit Town Council, led by Town Supervisor David W. Schantz, had ratified a resolution to acknowledge the creation of a park on the grounds of Irondequoit Town Hall. A section of the park was designated for use by the Centennial Celebration Committee as a Ukrainian Centennial Park where the Ukrainian monument was erected.

Two thousand engraved bricks arrayed around the foundation of the monument were meant to mark the footprints left by Ukrainians of the Rochester community during the past 100 years. Four granite benches will sit along the periphery of the brick promenade. At the base of the monument, the Centennial Celebration Committee buried a time capsule that will be opened 100 years from the date of dedication.

The Chicago-based Heritage Foundation of First Security Federal Savings Bank announced in 2003 several important grants to Ukrainian organizations. The organization made a grant of \$10,000 to the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago for the construction of a storage facility for its highly regarded permanent collection of modern art. It also gave \$10,000 to the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation, which supports, develops and sustains the work of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and other Ukrainian institutions of higher learning that promote excellence in education and the establishment of an open society based on democratic principles. Another \$10,000 grant went to the Chicago-Kyiv Sister Cities Program for a fund-raiser held in May to increase awareness in Ukraine about breast cancer detection and treatment and provide much-needed mammography equipment.

In 2003 the Heritage Foundation announced its plans to donate \$420,000 to organizations that meet its giving criteria. "Our mission is to preserve our Ukrainian ethnic identity, spiritual values and community viability," explained Julian Kulas, president of the bank and of the foundation. "Our donations have focused on religious, educational, youth, cultural and community institutions."

In 2001 the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., in coordination with the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF), had adopted two orphanages in Ukraine. In 2003 a nine-member Orphanage Mission Team traveled from the United States to Ukraine for two weeks in order to work and play with orphans, assist the orphanage staff in their daily responsibilities and observe the state and needs of the homes for handicapped orphaned children.

The two orphanages, one in Znamianka, Kirovohrad Oblast, and another in Zaluchia, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, were selected because the homes were in particularly deplorable condition, housing children with physical and mental birth defects. The mission journey was

organized by the Consistory Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, whose director is Natalie Kapeluck, with the assistance of the Office of Missions and Christian Charity, directed by Father Deacon Dr. Ihor Mahlay.

In Znamianka, where 90 children live, the Mission Team provided the children with basic physical therapy, playing with, cuddling and hugging as many of the children as possible. Several members of the team assisted in basic repairs at the facility. Others painted a mural in one of the classrooms. In Zaluchia, the Mission Team did it all again, at the orphanage that is home to 130 children. As in Znamianka, the vast majority of the children were born with physical and mental birth defects, such as Down syndrome or cerebral palsy.

Members and friends of The Ukrainian Museum gathered for the museum's 26th annual meeting where Olha Hnateyko, president of the board of trustees of the museum, announced that "This is the last time we will have an annual meeting in these premises." The meeting was held on June 1, at the museum's current location on Second Avenue in New York City.

Mrs. Hnateyko let those present know that construction of the new museum on East Sixth Street would soon be completed, and that in 2004, the annual meeting would be held in the new museum building, which was expected to be completed by the fall of 2003. Museum members also elected the executive board of the board of trustees, with Mrs. Hnateyko as president.

The year 2003 also saw more activity from the Ukrainian American Veterans organization which, in June 2002, became an official partner of the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress in Washington. The organization's main goal is to collect oral histories from World War II veterans. Official dedication of the World War II monument in Washington is currently scheduled for May 2004. The National World War II Memorial, located on the National Mall, is scheduled to be dedicated on Memorial Day, May 29, 2004, in Washington. It will honor all military veterans of the war and the citizens on the home front as well. It will also include the Registry of Remembrances, an electronic display of names.

The UAV announced that their Registration Project has over 600 registrants, with 401 fully documented (with copies of DD214) registrations. The UAV developed a separate data base where the names of Ukrainian American servicemen and women are taken from published records. Thus far there are over 300 names that appeared in the 1943-1944 Honor Roll journals of Ukrainian Catholic parishes in New York City, Newark, N.J., and Akron, Ohio.

The Veterans Oral History Project at the Library of Congress in Washington was established in order to record oral testimonies and experiences of World War II veterans. The Ukrainian American Veterans organization was accepted in 2002 as one of 700 official partners nationwide and has participated in this national project by collecting oral histories and sending them to the Library of Congress.

In May, a decision was made to include Korean War Veterans in this oral history project. The announcement was made in July 2003 at the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended the Korean War.

The 28th annual Verkhovyna Ukrainian Festival – which bills itself as the largest such event in the United States – took place in Glen Spey, N.Y., at the Verkhovyna Mountain View Resort over the weekend of July 11-13. The festivities featured performances by artists from the United States, Canada and Ukraine on the resort's outdoor stage – ranging from pop singers to opera stars, and Ukrainian folk dance troupes to bandurists; a variety of goods sold by vendors from throughout North America, a carnival for children, dancing to the music of four bands, plus plenty of food to please all palates. Some 5,000 to 6,000 people of all ages attended the 2003 festival, whose proceeds benefited the Ukrainian American Cultural Foundation that operates the Verkhovyna resort.

In Hollywood, Calif., the Hollywood Trident Foundation announced a scholarship program to the Los Angeles Film School for an eight-week intensive course in film-making. The application process began on October 22 and extended to December 1, with the final decision expected in mid December. Applicants were to have a working knowledge of English, both spoken and written, and were to be ready to devote a full eight weeks to the course. The scholarship was made available by a generous donation by the LA Film School.

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Ukrainians and Ukraine in the news in Canada

Census 2001 numbers released by Statistics Canada showed that Canadians of Ukrainian origin numbered 1,071,060 (744,860 of them claiming multiple origin) out of a total national population of 29,639,035 – a slight increase from the 1,054,300 reported 10 years earlier, but a spike of sorts from the 1,026,470 in 1996. However, as a percentage of the Canadian population, Ukrainians fell from 3.91 percent in 1991 to 3.61 in 2001.

In 2001 nationwide, Ukrainian Canadians were the ninth most populous group in Canada even higher in Manitoba where they placed fifth, but were as low as the 22nd position in Quebec. Edmonton, Winnipeg and Toronto – each with a population of over 100,000 Ukrainian Canadians – remained the major urban centers for Ukrainians in Canada.

In terms of language, fewer Canadians claimed Ukrainian as their mother tongue: 148,090 in 2001 (nearly half age 65 and older), down from 187,015 in 1991 and far lower than the 285,115 in 1981. Yet the use of Ukrainian as a home language increased from 31,990 in 1991 and 49,985 in 1996, to 67,665 in 2001 (14,325 using it exclusively). The surge was partly attributed to emigration from Ukraine, and perhaps the result of a change in the census question between 1996, when it only asked respondents to identify a language “spoken most often at home,” and 2001, when it added “or on a regular basis.”

According to the Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society, 23,435 Ukrainians immigrated to Canada between 1991 and 2001, most of them in Ontario (15,875), where the vast majority of them (13,835) settled in Toronto. These relatively new arrivals constituted 45.4 percent of the total Ukrainian immigrant population.

On March 18, the Canadian government announced a five-year agricultural reform project in Ukraine through the Canadian International Development Agency. CIDA would contribute \$6 million (about \$4.5 million U.S.) to establish the Facility for Agricultural Reform and Modernization, Canada’s largest agri-development project in Ukraine to date. Three western provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta) kicked in a further \$3 million.

Two months later, former Ukrainian prime minister Viktor Yushchenko, leader of the Our Ukraine political coalition, visited Canada at the invitation of the East West Institute of Canada, a think-tank that promotes change in societies in transition whose current director is Derek Fraser, former Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine. Accompanied by his wife and two daughters, Mr. Yushchenko spent his May 10-17 visit talking about Ukraine’s political situation and promoting Our Ukraine as a reform-minded, forward-looking and democratic movement.

During stops in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal, he met with Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham and a delegation led by Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) President Eugene Czolij; gave a lecture at the University of Ottawa on Ukraine’s foreign relations; and addressed an Empire Club luncheon in Toronto, where he talked about Ukraine being at the crossroads of democracy or totalitarianism, highlighting Ukraine’s underground economy and crushing poverty, and criticizing President Leonid Kuchma’s administration.

Mr. Yushchenko was also guest of honor at a UCC banquet in Toronto, attended by over 1,000 people, including Ontario Premier Ernie Eves (who guests discovered claims Ukrainian heritage) and two federal ministers, Sheila Copps, minister of Canadian heritage, and Jean Augustine, secretary of state for multiculturalism. Mr. Eves’ Ukrainian roots were tested during the evening: Mr. Yushchenko’s 30-minute-plus, Ukrainian-language speech, delivered far into the evening, came with no English translation.

However, the former Ukrainian PM did score points for rearranging his travel plans to arrive in Canada a day earlier than scheduled to attend a May 10 Toronto gala presented by the Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund and its largest project, Help Us Help The Children.

The evening event, which featured a dance program and drew more than 500 people including Toronto businessman Eugene Melnyk (who purchased the National Hockey League Ottawa Senators team this year), featured a surprise guest: one of the orphans under Help Us

Help the children’s care since 1997 who now volunteers for the group in Ukraine. Twenty-year-old law student Milya Mashkovtseva came to Canada especially for the gala, and was one of those who addressed the gathering.

The evening’s keynote speaking duties, however, belonged to Canadian investigative journalist Victor Malarek, who previewed “The Natashas,” his latest book on the global sex trade involving women – many of them from Ukraine – which was released later in the year.

During the summer of 2003, yet another memorial to World War I-era Ukrainian-Canadian internment was dedicated. The “Behind Canadian Barbed Wire” statue, created by Ontario sculptor John Boxtel depicting three internees, was unveiled on August 2 in Dauphin, during the Manitoba town’s annual National Ukrainian Festival.

At the ceremony, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association’s (UCCLA) research director, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, said that the minister of Canadian heritage Ms. Copps, had been working on a long-awaited reconciliation statement from the federal government to the Ukrainian Canadian community – a task now out of her hands since she was removed from the Cabinet by Paul Martin when he became Canada’s 21st prime minister in December.

In October, Canadian Heritage announced that it had given Spirit Lake Corp. \$200,000 (about \$150,000 U.S.) in federal government funding to develop an interpretive center at the site of a first world war internment camp near the community of Amos in north-central Quebec. It was news to the UCCLA, which had worked with the corporation to place a trilingual marker at the site in 1999 and later a statue, the “Interned Madonna,” in 2001.

Dr. Luciuk said the UCCLA was “deeply troubled by the suggestion that the site might be used for artistic or recreational purposes,” in light of its history as a “concentration camp where innocent people were incarcerated under very trying conditions and forced to do heavy labor.” Though the federal department made no mention of having such plans, Dr. Luciuk said the site was “not suitable for development as anything other than a commemorative museum facility,” adding that plans were afoot to protect a cemetery where the remains of Ukrainian Canadian internees have been buried.

Nonetheless, there was progress on the issue of redress. In a December 11 letter to outgoing Minister Copps, Dr. Luciuk wrote: “On behalf of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, thanks for your keen interest in working with representatives of our community toward securing official recognition and some form of commemorative reconciliation for the wrongs done to Ukrainians and other Europeans during Canada’s first national internment operations of 1914-1920. Regrettably, given the press of time and your other commitments, no final settlement was reached on the educational initiatives that we have discussed over the past year.”

He noted that the UCCLA recognizes “the undeniable impetus you imparted to our deliberations with senior members of Parks Canada, Heritage Canada and other officials,” adding that, “on the basis of those discussions we intend to continue our work with your successor and other members of Cabinet to ensure that this matter is resolved in a timely and honorable manner.” Dr. Luciuk also said the UCCLA was calling upon Prime Minister Martin to designate a minister from within his new Cabinet to continue with the reconciliation talks, “building upon the solid bases for settlement that Minister Copps prepared.”

As 2004 approached, Ms. Copps, the now-former heritage minister, said she hoped that a royal proclamation, issued in Ottawa on December 10, which recognizes the British government’s mid-18th-century expulsion of 11,000 Acadians (French-speaking Maritimers) and known as the Great Upheaval, would serve as a “template” for the Canadian government in acknowledging other historic injustices, such as the early 20th-century internment of about 6,000 Ukrainian Canadians.

At about the same time, Member of Parliament Inky Mark, Conservative member of Parliament for the riding of Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette in Manitoba, called on Canada’s new prime minister to “stand up and acknowledge the past wrongs done by the Canadian government to Ukrainian and Chinese Canadians.” He stated that “Ukrainian Canadians and other Canadians of Eastern European descent were imprisoned in internment camps during the first world war for no other reason than their heritage. Similarly, Chinese Canadians were separated from their families and subjected to the Head Tax and Exclusion Act of 1923.”

Mr. Mark emphasized: “It is time that the Liberal government and its new leader deal with these issues. Two million Canadians have waited too many years for the recognition that they deserve. I lobbied the previous prime minister on this issue, and I will continue to lobby the new prime minister until he stands up and agrees to right these historic wrongs.”

Meanwhile, the August issue of Travel + Leisure published an article titled “Keeping the Faith” that looked at churches built by Ukrainian immigrants on the Canadian Prairies, which are now considered “treasures of rural North American architecture.”

Just a short time afterwards, one of those churches became a part of Manitoba’s living history. On September 6, the Ukrainian Heritage Church officially opened its doors on the grounds of Fort la Reine Museum in Portage la Prairie. Formerly St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church and located in the Manitoba hamlet of Arbakka, the onion-domed church was donated to the non-profit organization, Ukrainian Connection, which dismantled it and transported it 250 kilometers (about 155 miles) to Portage, where it was restored to its former glory.

Back in August, North America’s largest Ukrainian festival was held in Toronto. Highlights of the seventh annual Bloor West Village Ukrainian Festival, held on



The building and dome of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Arbakka, Manitoba, are transported on flatbed trucks to Fort La Reine Museum in Portage La Prairie, some 200 miles away.

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Yulia Tymoshenko speaks in Toronto in December.

August 22-23, included the Kyiv-based musical group, Vopli Vidopliassova, whose performance attracted some 250,000 spectators, and a spotlight on a multiple-city twinning involving Toronto paired with Kyiv, Chicago with Kyiv and, naturally, Toronto with Chicago.

Weeks later, Winnipeg's Rusalka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble marked its 40th anniversary with two concerts on September 12-13 at the Centennial Concert Hall. A special luncheon was also held to honor founder Peter Hladun and former presidents of the board of directors: Benjamin Hewak, retired chief justice of the Court of Queen's Bench, and Oleh Romaniw, past president of the UCC.

Also in Winnipeg, one of the city's school divisions announced that it would offer Ukrainian language and culture courses at the high school level next September. Seven Oaks School Division agreed to institute the specialized programming for Grade 9 and 10 students at Garden City Collegiate in September 2004. Expectations are that enrollment for the Ukrainian program will be up to 100 students.

In reporting the new development, the Canadian Broadcasting Company quoted Lesia Szwaluk, provincial council president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, as saying there has been a gap in Ukrainian education. Right now, students can only learn the language in elementary school, then in university. "From Grade 9 to Grade 12, you don't have a Ukrainian language course," she noted, "so basically if you don't have the support systems at home or in the community – if you don't belong to a Ukrainian organization or some other supports – then you basically can lose over those number of years the ability to use the language."

Meanwhile, in Edmonton, Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA) announced that on March 5 the acquisition of the Lodge Hotel and the Brighton Block on Jasper Avenue was finalized as a new home for the museum. The Lodge Hotel, formerly the Pendennis Hotel, was first opened in 1904; the Lodge Hotel's sister, the Brighton Block, began construction seven years later in 1911-1912, and is one of Edmonton's most illustrious pre-World War I commercial buildings. Both the Lodge Hotel and the Brighton Block have been designated as Municipal Historic Resources and both are also under consideration for designation as Provincial Historic Resources.

Khrystyna Kohut, president of the UCAMA board of directors, exclaimed, "I couldn't be more pleased with the prominent location of these buildings for our new home. I very much look forward to contributing to the revitalization of the Jasper East Block." Founded by Hryhory and Stefania Yopyk, the UCAMA first opened its doors to the public in 1974 in a former bakery. Since then its museum, along with its archival and library holdings have far outstripped the capacity of its original home.

For the past two years UCAMA had been undergoing a major planning exercise to locate a new home of sufficient size to not only properly house its existing collections but to allow for future growth. The UCAMA is actively seeking partners, such as other Ukrainian Canadian museums and archives, in the development of

the new museum. Support is being sought from municipal, provincial and federal levels of government, and a major fund-raising campaign will be launched for the renovation of the UCAMA's new home.

"Between Hitler and Stalin – Ukraine in World II – the Untold Story," a 60-minute documentary produced and directed by Slavko Nowytski (known for his documentary on the Great Famine of 1932-1933 titled "Harvest of Despair") for the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center and narrated by Academy Award-winning actor Jack Palance, premiered in Toronto on September 28. (For more information see section on the arts.)

In October, Mr. Czolij, the UCC president, sent a letter to Foreign Affairs Minister Graham expressing the congress's condemnation of "Russia's blatant disregard of Ukraine's borders" regarding the issue of Russia's attempt to connect its mainland to the Ukrainian island of Tuzla. The Canadian government later issued a statement calling for a negotiated settlement of the dispute.

In early December, the UCC's Mr. Czolij sent letters to Canada's provincial and territorial education ministers, asking them to develop a curriculum about the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, in accordance with a resolution adopted unanimously on June 20 by the Canadian Senate.

Introduced as a motion by Saskatchewan Conservative Sen. Raynell Andreychuk, the resolution also calls on the Canadian government to recognize the Great Famine and to designate the fourth Saturday in November "of every year throughout Canada as a day of remembrance of the more than seven million Ukrainians who fell victim" to it.

A Canadian journalist, Eric Margolis, was honored in 2003 for focusing attention on the Famine-Genocide. The contributing foreign editor of the Toronto Sun newspapers and a syndicated foreign affairs columnist whose articles appear in some of the leading newspapers of the world, Mr. Margolis was honored for his contribution to the field of international journalism, in particular for his articles about Ukraine's Famine and the demise of the Soviet Union. The testimonial came at the Statesmen Dinner held on November 30 in Toronto, which was attended by a delegation from Ukraine headed by Yulia Tymoshenko (see below).

Earlier in the year the UCCLA, spearheading an action that involved Ukrainian organizations worldwide, launched an international campaign to persuade The New York Times publisher Arthur Sulzberger Jr. to return the 1932 Pulitzer Prize awarded to the newspaper's Moscow correspondent, Walter Duranty.

Calling Duranty "Stalin's apologist" who covered up the Soviet-engineered Great Famine, Dr. Luciuk said the prize should be revoked to ensure it "is not denigrated by being associated with the name of a self-serving apologist for mass murder," and that The Times should "do the right thing" so that it "is not befouled by any continuing association with Walter Duranty or a prize that he did not merit, given his betrayal of the most fundamental principles of journalism."

Though The Times and the Pulitzer Prize Board agreed Duranty's foreign reporting fell short of today's rigorous journalistic standards, the board issued a statement in late November noting that it decided not to revoke the prize since it was specifically awarded for 13 articles in 1931 entered for Pulitzer consideration, and "not for the author's body of work or for the author's character."

Speaking on behalf of the UCCLA, Dr. Luciuk said that, "For the Pulitzer Prize Committee to render this tartuffish decision and announce it on the eve of the fourth Saturday in November, a day officially set aside in Ukraine for national mourning, is base." He added, "All who hold a Pulitzer Prize should think about whether what was once the most prestigious distinction in journalism still is." (For more on the campaign revocation of Duranty's Pulitzer, see section on the Famine-Genocide.)

As the year wound down, Yulia Tymoshenko, one of Ukraine's most vocal opposition leaders, paid her first visit to Canada from November 28 to December 4 at the invitation of the Canadian Friends of Ukraine. Ms. Tymoshenko, who heads an eponymous bloc in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada and served as the country's vice prime minister, arrived with fellow National Deputies Borys Tarasyuk, Stepan Khmara and Serhii Holovaty, Ukraine's former justice minister.

Prof. Jurij Darewych of the Canadian Friends of Ukraine explained the aims of the visit: "Among the goals of the CFU are the strengthening of ties between Canada and Ukraine and this includes closer contacts

between Ukrainian and Canadian parliamentarians. The current visit is the most recent of invitations that our organization has hosted for Ukrainian parliamentarians." Ms. Tymoshenko had three public appearances, and the Ukrainian delegation also met with Foreign Affairs Minister Graham. The delegation also attended the November 30 Statesmen Dinner.

But what got the most attention was Ms. Tymoshenko's endorsement of Mr. Yushchenko as the man with the best chance of defeating President Leonid Kuchma in the 2004 presidential election, which she made in Toronto before members of the Ukrainian Canadian community on December 3 and in Ottawa the day before during an address presented by the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa.

Roy Romanow's achievements were in the spotlight when the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Toronto presented the former Saskatchewan premier and chairman of the Royal Commission on Medicare – whose first language growing up in Saskatoon was Ukrainian – with its fifth Presidents' Award at a November 5 banquet. Mr. Romanow was a member of the group dubbed by the media as the "Tuque and Uke Show," which resolved the impasse over the repatriation of the Canadian Constitution from Great Britain. (The "Tuque and Uke Show" group comprised of Mr. Romanow, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Justice Roy McMurtry.)

Dr. Manoly Lupul, founder of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta and noted promoter of multiculturalism and Ukrainian-language studies, was named on August 5 to the Order of Canada, the country's highest civilian honor for lifetime achievement.

In October Canada Post Corp. released a stamp featuring the Victoria Cross and recalling the Canadians, including Ukrainian Canadian Filip Konowal, who were awarded the highest military medal in the British Empire.

Meanwhile, the 51-year-old Ukrainian-language service of Radio Canada International, which marks its 60th anniversary in 2004, hoped things would go its way as a new year dawned. Though it reaches an estimated audience of 2 million Ukrainian listeners, the news program faced either being cut in half to 15 minutes, or being dropped entirely. A decision was expected in mid-January.

Academia boasts strides in Ukrainian studies

Relations between the diaspora and the homeland were the focus of the first Petro Jacyk Memorial Symposium, which took place on March 20-21 at Harvard University and brought together sociologists from Canada, the United States and Ukraine to discuss the current state of the Ukrainian diaspora in North America and its relations with independent Ukraine.

Dubbed "Diaspora and Homeland in the Transnational Age: the Case of Ukraine," the symposium was the first biennial symposium organized by the HURI. In 2001 HURI's Executive Committee, wishing to honor the late philanthropist Petro Jacyk of Toronto, a longtime friend and generous supporter of Ukrainian studies, amended the terms of the Petro Jacyk Distinguished Fellowship, charging all future recipients of the fellowship with conceiving and organizing a symposium during their research tenure at the institute.

Dr. Wsewolod Isajiw, HURI's 2002-2003 Petro Jacyk Distinguished Fellow, noted that, while the history of Ukrainian immigration to North America, in particular to Canada, has been quite well documented and relatively better studied, the sociology of Ukrainian immigration had remained largely outside the scope of researchers. The symposium sought to remedy that situation and offered some very interesting findings that are certain to draw the attention of scholars, politicians, community leaders and the society at large.

The keynote presentation by Prof. Mary Waters, chair of the department of sociology at Harvard, titled "Transnationalism and Diasporas," laid out a general theoretical framework for the analysis of the Ukrainian diaspora community in the era of digital revolution. The four symposium sessions discussed, in turn: "The View of the Diaspora from Ukraine," "Diaspora and the New Wave of Immigration from Ukraine," "Diaspora and Ukraine: Transnational Influence" and the concluding roundtable "Transnationalism and Diaspora: What's Next?"

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Diaspora communities pass through stages of development and decline, noted Wsevolod Isajiw in his paper dedicated to cycles of growth and decay of the diaspora. Some 110,000 new immigrants to the United States and 20,000 to Canada in the period between 1991 and 2001 provided the much-needed "new blood" for the aging and increasingly assimilated diaspora. At the same time, the new immigrants exposed the diaspora's weakness and lack of preparedness for new challenges.

Oleh Wolowyna, president of Informed Decisions Inc. (U.S.), and Victor Satzewich, professor and chair of the department of sociology at MacMaster University (Canada) each reported the results of their separate studies of new Ukrainian immigrants coming to their respective countries. Dr. Wolowyna focused on levels and characteristics of the recent migration from Ukraine to the United States, while Prof. Satzewich discussed some typical patterns of the immigrant adaptation in Canada.

According to Dr. Wolowyna if one added to the 56,000 ethnic legal Ukrainian migrants the ethnic Ukrainian temporary visa-holders who stayed over, the total number of the Fourth Wave can be estimated to vary between 100,000 and 120,000. Since 1996, immigrants' median age has fallen from 40 years old to 25.5 years. The largest category of migrants are refugees, followed by the "green card lottery" winners.

Prof. Satzewich's study of the recent Ukrainian immigrants to Canada revealed some specifically Canadian peculiarities of the Fourth Wave: nine out of 10 came to Canada as independent immigrants selected on the basis of their educational and professional qualifications, language fluency and other merits. The proportion of asylum-seekers was much smaller, even though Canada, with its liberal refugee protection system, is by far the most preferred destination for asylum seekers from Ukraine.

The April 9 launch of the Archives of the Ukrainian Canadian Experience at the University of Manitoba marked a project that will benefit the Ukrainian Canadian community. The new archives will assist in the preservation of the memory and heritage of Ukrainian Canadians who played a vital and active role in helping to shape the fabric of Canada.

Carolynne Presser, director of libraries for the University of Manitoba, who outlined the project's mandate "to gather papers, documents, photographs and other archival information on Ukrainian life in Canada from [those who] share our belief in supporting the teaching and research programs at the University by depositing their precious materials in the archives."

The featured presentation at the launch was by Orysia Tracz, Collections Management of the University of Manitoba Libraries, who is an expert in Ukrainian folk culture and tradition. Her topic was titled "Pysanka: More than Just an Egg; Symbolism of the Ukrainian Easter Egg." She first showed Slawko Nowytski's classic film "Pysanka" and then discussed the long historical tradition of the pysanka and the significance of its varied motifs. The topic of the pysanka was especially appropriate to open the new archives, the speaker noted, since the pysanka represents a beginning, and this indeed is the beginning of a new venture.

The University of Alberta's collection of Ukrainian folklore – the only one in North America and the biggest in the world outside of Ukraine – was named after its founder, Dr. Bohdan Medwidsky. A professor emeritus of Ukrainian studies with the University of Alberta, Faculty of Arts, Dr. Medwidsky, started the archive in 1977 when he realized there was a dearth of such material in Canada. It now contains 35,000 items in a wide variety of media. The core of the collection consists of student research projects, including photographs and taped interviews with people in Alberta's Ukrainian community.

"Once I decided to do folklore, I had to do what other folklorists were doing in North America and send students out to do field work," explained Dr. Medwidsky. "They learned not only from books but from what the folk have to say."

The archive was renamed the Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archive at a ceremony on March 27. Dean of Arts Daniel Woolf and Member of the Legislative Assembly Gene Zwodzesky were on hand to celebrate Dr. Medwidsky's contribution to the university "both as a professor and as one of the university's significant donors," said Dr. Andriy Nahachewsky, director of the Ukrainian Folklore Center. Aside from his generous personal contributions, Dr. Medwidsky has also been the most successful fund-raiser in the arts faculty, responsible for establishing endowments approach-



Members of the Cambridge University Ukrainian Society mark the inauguration of the renowned university's Annual Lecture Series in Ukrainian Studies in February.

ing a market value of \$4 million.

The Ukrainian Canadian Program (UCP) of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, or more precisely its co-directors, Jars Balan and Andriy Makuch, have used numerous opportunities to address audiences about different aspects of the Ukrainian experience in Canada. For example, they addressed the Canadian Association of Slavists (CAS), the American Academic Association of Slavic Studies, Canadian Ethnic Studies Association Conference, as well as a scholarly conference in Iceland.

At the CAS congress convened at Dalhousie University in Halifax in the last week of May, Mr. Makuch spoke about the breakaway Danylo Lobay faction of the Ukrainian Labor Farmer Temple Association during the 1930s as part of a Ukrainian Canadian panel chaired by Mr. Balan, with Myron Momryk of the National Archives acting as discussant. Other papers were given by Dr. Serhii Cipko, who examined the "Return to the Homeland Campaign" promoted in the diaspora by the USSR in the 1950s, and by doctoral student Aya Fujiwara, who described Ukrainian-Japanese relations in the Opal-Egremont area of Kalyna Country in Alberta.

At the same time Mr. Balan gave a presentation to members of the Association for Canadian Theater Research on the theatrical legacy of Myroslaw Irchan, a left-wing Ukrainian author and activist who spent six and a half years in Canada before returning to Soviet Ukraine, where he was subsequently arrested, sent to the gulag and ultimately shot. Taking advantage of invitations that he received from Ukrainian community groups, Mr. Balan has also spoken in the past months at very different public functions at opposite ends of the country.

In April it was reported on the front page of this newspaper that the Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union had donated \$250,000 to the Ukrainian Studies Fund's Columbia University Project. The major donation set the cornerstone for the establishment of a new \$1 million endowed fund projected to support Columbia University's new Center for Ukrainian Studies. The fund was the first of several to be established at Columbia and, once endowed, it will support the teaching of primarily new courses in Ukrainian history and other traditional disciplines of Ukrainian Studies. These courses will be offered as part of the center's new inter-disciplinary curriculum.

Self Reliance's monumental gift is the largest, single donation received by the Ukrainian Studies Fund for the goal to date. "We hope that the center of Ukrainian Studies at Columbia will provide many opportunities for our youth, enabling them access to the study of Ukraine's history and related socio-political disciplines at the highest academic level. This center will become a beacon of knowledge about Ukraine in America," said Dr. Bohdan Kekish, president and CEO of the Self

Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, during a gift conveyance ceremony attended by representatives of Columbia University and the Ukrainian Studies Fund.

Columbia University is eager to incorporate Ukrainian studies as an integral component of its academic infrastructure. This is especially a goal of the current president of the International Association of Ukrainian Studies, Dr. Mark von Hagen, who is professor of history at Columbia.

Moreover, the university's administration demonstrated its willingness to appoint a lecturer in Ukrainian history already for the 2003-2004 academic year, provided that the Ukrainian Studies Fund raises \$1 million for the new endowment fund.

By October, it was reported that the goal of establishing a permanent program of inter-disciplinary Ukrainian studies at Columbia University took a major step forward as officials at the Ukrainian Studies Fund (USF) announced that funding for the project had reached \$750,000. The sum will support a spring 2004 course on 20th century Ukrainian history that will be taught by Dr. von Hagen and Dr. Frank Sysyn of the University of Toronto.

In addition, faculty at the university and officials at the USF hope to raise a total of \$5 million in order to endow a larger program of Ukrainian studies at the Ivy League school. Such a vision, Dr. von Hagen said, would include funding a visiting professor of history every other year, establishing a position in Ukrainian language teaching, and endowing a permanent chair that might move between the history and Slavic language departments. Additional funding could support a position at the school that would be responsible for archiving, processing and expanding the university library's Ukrainian materials. As well there is the potential of supporting visiting scholars from American and foreign schools who would use the university's Ucrainica collection for research purposes, and a system of scholarships and stipends for undergraduate and graduate students whose work would involve Ukrainian studies.

The endowment also received \$25,000 each from the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh), the Heritage Foundation of First Security Federal Savings Bank of Chicago and an anonymous donor.

A series of seven distinguished lectures titled "Ukraine: Emerging Nation" kicked off a program-building effort in Ukrainian Studies at Stanford University during the spring of 2003. Sponsored by the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, the series featured political scientists, historians and public figures speaking on various aspects of Ukraine's current development.

The series schedule included Prof. Michael McFaul (February 10) of Stanford University, joined by Prof. Olexiy Haran (February 24) of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and Adrian Karatnycky (June 2) of Freedom House in addressing Ukraine's domestic and

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Prof. Mark von Hagen of Columbia University

international political situation. Prof. Laada Bilaniuk (April 21) of the University of Washington, an anthropologist, addressed the politics of language, while historian Dr. Frank Sysyn (March 10) director of the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta, sketched the background to modern Ukrainian nationalism in examining the ideology of Bohdan Khmelnytsky. Ukraine's ambassador to Canada Yuri Shcherbak (April 7) addressed international issues, and George Chopivsky (May 19), CEO of Ukrainian Development Corp. and an entrepreneur active in Ukraine, spoke on the current business climate.

Stanford University has significant resources already in Ukrainian studies. The Hoover Institution Archive has valuable archives and is expanding its collection through cooperative agreements with archives in Ukraine. Stanford's Green Library has an excellent collection of monographs and current journals in Ukrainian history, literature and current events.

The California university has been teaching undergraduates and training graduate students in East European and Russian studies since the 1920s, and has a significant commitment to international studies.

The goals of the program-building effort are to establish endowed teaching positions in Ukrainian studies, to fund fellowships for Ph.D. students in disciplines including history, political science and anthropology, and to enhance the teaching of Ukrainian subjects through visiting professors. The teaching of the Ukrainian language also is targeted.

In July the first chairholder was appointed to the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Dominique Arel holds the teaching position as associate professor in the department of political science, and a research appointment for five years, after which he may renew his chair position. Dr. Arel, who received his Ph.D. in political science in 1993 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, specializes in contemporary Ukrainian studies.

According to the University of Ottawa Bulletin, the Chair of Ukrainian Studies was formally established on February 3, 1993, and launched on November 17, 1995, with Ramon J. Hnatyshyn, former Governor General of Canada, as honorary patron.

The newly appointed chair of Ukrainian Studies gave his inaugural lecture, at the University of Ottawa on October 8. In his hourlong lecture titled "Ukraine: A Return to Europe?," Dr. Arel discussed Ukraine's "quest" for Europe, more than 10 years after the fall of communism. Stating that this quest has turned into a difficult, if not painful, endeavor, the professor focused on several sober observations, among them that "those craving for 'Europe' have often felt that their desire to join is not entirely welcome. In particular, he noted that "the almost mythical idea of Europe clashes with the reality of a protectionist Europe, where deeds don't always follow rhetoric." He also provided two additional observations, namely, that the pull towards a European identity has often been accompanied by an affirmation, or reaffirmations of a Ukrainian identity

and, second, that the practical application of so called "European" standards in Ukraine have often been perceived to be uneven.

In introducing the chair of Ukrainian studies at the University of Ottawa, Dr. Arel emphasized that it is the first research unit in Ukrainian studies, in North America and anywhere outside of Ukraine, to be oriented toward social sciences. As such, "we are not trying to replicate the excellent work done by more senior institutions. We are exploring a new path," he stated. In what he described as "understanding through comparison."

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Arel spoke to the Ukrainian community in Ukrainian. He then thanked the members of the chair's advisory Executive Committee and expressed warm words of appreciation to Dr. Theofil Kis, Dr. Irena Makaryk, Irena Bell, Dr. Natalie Mychajlyszyn and to his wife and daughter for their support. Dr. Arel also expressed words of profound gratitude to his mentor, the late professor Bohdan Bociurkiw, who introduced him to Ukrainian studies.

"The Making of Modern Ukraine: the European Dimension" was the title of a lecture delivered by Prof. Roman Szporluk, the Mykhailo Hrushevsky Professor of Ukrainian History at Harvard University and director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, of Harvard on February 28 at Cambridge University. Prof. Szporluk's appearance launched the first ever Annual Lecture Series in Ukrainian Studies at Cambridge University. Organized by the Cambridge Committee for Russian and East-European Studies (CREES), with the support of the Cambridge University Ukrainian Society and the sponsorship by the Stasiuk Program for Contemporary Ukraine at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta, the series pursued the ambitious goal of boosting academic interest in Ukrainian studies and making them a permanent presence in the curriculum of Cambridge University.

In the spring of 2001, a group of Ukrainian students at Cambridge University, a.k.a. the Cambridge University Ukrainian Society (CUUS), had come up with the idea of organizing a Ukrainian lecture. An invitation was sent to David Marples, professor of history at the University of Alberta, to deliver a lecture to the CUUS. Dr. Marples' lecture, "Ukrainian Politics and the Future of the Kuchma Regime," took place in July 2001. Dr. Marples recalled: "Talking to a group of Ukrainian students after my lecture, I asked about the state of Ukrainian studies at Cambridge. They told me it was non-existent and that the Center for Russian and East European Studies focused only on Russia. After further talks with Alex Orlov, who is from Kyiv, we hit on the idea of an annual lecture on Ukraine which I could fund from the Stasiuk Program that I direct at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies."

The idea of the Ukrainian annual lecture series found support from Dr. Simon Franklin, chairman of the Committee for Russian and East European Studies, and a recognized expert on Kyivan Rus' history and culture. Subsequently, a lecture organizing committee was formed. The final plan boiled down to two main stipulations: first, the Annual Lecture in Ukrainian Studies Series would have a grace period of five years and its continuation would be contingent on its success; second, the speaker should be a renowned academic to give the initiative a good start.

Said Mr. Orlov, "It is quite appropriate that the first speaker of the series is Prof. Szporluk, director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. The two universities are very interconnected in their history. John Harvard, the first benefactor of Harvard University, was a student at Cambridge University. And although Cambridge (U.K.) and Cambridge (Mass.) are miles apart, it is wonderful to have a Ukrainian link between them. Hopefully, some day, Cambridge University will have its own Institute of Ukrainian Studies of such stature and influence as the one in Cambridge, Mass."

Meanwhile, in Ukraine, the history program of the Humanities Faculty of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv received state accreditation on July 22. That was the topic of a press conference held at the UCU on November 12, with the participation of the rector, the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, and the staff of the faculty.

According to Ihor Pidkova, head of UCU's accreditation department, the accreditation process lasted two years and the UCU can now start joint educational projects with other universities. UCU students will have the opportunity to take courses offered by similar departments in other institutions. One example of such coop-

eration is an individualized humanities studies program arranged between UCU and Ivan Franko National University in Lviv.

"UCU is an institution in which humanities studies, based on the Christian viewpoint, can seriously, creatively and critically develop," said Father Gudziak. "We have our own unique laboratory for integrating Ukrainian society into the world, and so, undoubtedly, we deserve the recognition and support of our government."

However, Father Gudziak noted that "The problem of the accreditation of the UCU's theology program is yet to be resolved. For now, while officials in Kyiv are preparing to approve it, we are trying not to waste time and are training specialists whose diplomas are recognized worldwide. We hope, and exert every effort, to be able to admit students in 2004 for an accredited program at the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology," said Father Gudziak.

At the March 12 parliamentary hearings devoted to "The functioning of the Ukrainian language in Ukraine," which took place in Kyiv at the Verkhovna Rada, one of the invited speakers was the president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) in America, Dr. Larissa Zaleska Onyshkevych. Addressing an audience of the parliamentarians, as well as guests from all corners of Ukraine, Dr. Onyshkevych pointed out that in 1933, as the Soviet regime perpetrated the Famine-Genocide of the Ukrainian people, it simultaneously launched a program of Russification of the Ukrainian language, designed to lead to its eventual elimination, or linguicide.

Dr. Onyshkevych informed her audience that Ukrainians who emigrated to North America did so in order to preserve their identity – indeed often to save their lives – but have remained part of the Ukrainian people. The Ukrainian language, said Dr. Onyshkevych, represents that invisible thread binding Ukraine with the diaspora, and it must not be broken. She urged the lawmakers to create the best possible conditions for the functioning of the Ukrainian language in all areas of life in Ukraine – particularly in the news media and in publications. "Only when a country and its language present the same face, will that country be strong and respected," concluded Dr. Onyshkevych.

The hearings were opened with an address by Volodymyr Lytvyn, the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada. Other major speeches were delivered by scholar Ivan Dzyuba and by Les Taniuk, chairman of the committee that organized the hearing. There were short presentations by 20 other national deputies and scholars.

Dr. Onyshkevych was invited to speak at these hearings on the state of the Ukrainian language in Ukraine because NTSh has been in the forefront of efforts on behalf of the Ukrainian language for some time, holding conferences and seminars, publishing scholarly works, providing scholarships and grants. For example on June 14 in New York, NTSh presented an up-to-date analysis of the latest developments on the language front in Ukraine, as presented by one of the foremost authorities on the subject.

Dr. Pavlo Hrytsenko, director of the Division of Dialectology at the Institute of Ukrainian Language of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NANU), director of the Ukrainian Commission for the pan-Slavic Linguistic Atlas at the International Committee of Slavists, a member of the Ukrainian Orthography Commission at NANU, and a professor at the University of Lublin in Poland, delivered a lecture titled "The European Charter for Languages, or Who and What Threatens the Ukrainian Language Today." Prof. Hrytsenko noted both positive and negative recent developments that affect the status of the Ukrainian language.

In other news, the 23rd annual scholarly conference honoring Taras Shevchenko, which was hosted by the Shevchenko Scientific Society at its New York City headquarters on March 8, presented a distinct international flavor. While the introductory and concluding remarks belonged to its American hosts, the five scholarly lectures were apportioned between four guest speakers from Ukraine and one from Canada. Co-hosting the event were the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. (UVAN), the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) and the Harriman Institute of Columbia University. The program was chaired by Dr. Myroslava Znayenko, chairperson of the NTSh International Liaison Committee and president of the American Association of Ukrainian Studies.

The 22nd annual Conference on Ukrainian Subjects was held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on June 16-21. Organized by the Ukrainian

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Research Program under the chairmanship of Dmytro Shtohryn and held within the framework of the Summer Research Laboratory on Russian and East European Countries, the main theme of the 2003 conference was "Ukraine Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow." Speakers tackled a wide range of questions dealing with development of Ukrainian historiography, culture, economics, politics and church activities in Ukraine and the diaspora. About 50 papers were given in Ukrainian or English.

Columbia University's Harriman Institute and the School of International and Public Affairs presented former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Anatolii Zlenko with the Distinguished Statesman Award on September 25. Mr. Zlenko was chosen for the award "because of his achievements in Ukrainian-U.S. relations in particular, but in general for his role in helping steer Ukraine through a very difficult set of years," said Dr. von Hagen, professor of history at Columbia University. The award was presented to Mr. Zlenko by Lisa Anderson, dean of the university's School of International and Public Affairs. "Mr. Zlenko has made an enormous difference in his country and in relations between his country and the rest of the world," said Dr. Anderson.

In accepting the award, presented at Columbia University's prestigious Kellogg Center, Mr. Zlenko said that a statesman is someone who "submits his life to fulfill the aspirations of his fellow human beings." He added, "I will continue to serve my country as a diplomat."

Historian Robert Conquest, senior research fellow and scholar-curator of the Russian and CIS Collection at the Hoover Institution, was honored at Stanford University for his pioneering research on the Ukrainian Famine. The Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREEES) at Stanford held a symposium, "Famine in Ukraine: 70 Years After – A Symposium Honoring Robert Conquest for his Contribution to the Study of the Famine" on November 13. The symposium (see separate section on observances of the 70th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide) was co-sponsored by the Hoover Institution at Stanford.

A reception was held afterwards. In her remarks honoring Dr. Conquest, Prof. Kollmann stated: "In 'Harvest of Sorrow,' Prof. Conquest showed that the Famine that swept across Ukraine and Ukrainian ethnographic territories in the Kuban was a deliberate policy intended to accomplish what the campaign of collectivization in Ukraine had started – that is, the systematic elimination of social classes and national groups who posed a threat to Soviet power. In Ukraine, the target was peasants who rejected communistic collectivization of agriculture and who were regarded as the bedrock supporters of Ukrainian national culture. Conquest has put the Famine on the map as one of the most damning episodes in the tragic history of Soviet power."

On the information front, the English translation of Volume 8 of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's 10-volume

"History of Ukraine-Rus'" was presented at the Shevchenko Scientific Society headquarters on February 1. Hrushevsky's monumental opus, published between the years 1898 and 1937, is considered to be the most authoritative and comprehensive account of Ukraine's history. It is being translated into English by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS). The presentation was incorporated in a lecture by Dr. Frank Sysyn, a historian from the University of Alberta, who is the editor-in-chief of the CIUS translation project.

Hrushevsky's Volume 8, titled "The Cossack Age 1626-1650," covers the period of Kozak uprisings against Poland, which culminated in the successful Khmelnytsky revolution of 1648 – a key event in Ukraine's history. It is the third volume to be translated into English in the CIUS project, the first two being Volumes 1 and 7. Next in line for publication in this series are translations of Volumes 9, 2 and 6.

A team of specialists working on the Internet Encyclopedia of Ukraine (IEU) project at the Toronto Office of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, is preparing the most comprehensive web-based resource in English on Ukraine and Ukrainians. This immense repository of knowledge, based on the contributions of hundreds of leading specialists from around the world, is designed to present Ukraine and its people, history and culture to the world.

Initially, the IEU will be based on the material published in the five-volume Encyclopedia of Ukraine (University of Toronto Press, 1984-1993). However, the original EU database has been and will continue to be considerably expanded and updated so that the IEU will represent a new and previously unavailable learning and information resource. Thousands of maps, photographs, illustrations, tables and other graphic or audio materials will accompany the text to make the IEU site more interesting and attractive to viewers.

Since the launch of the project in 2001, the IEU team headed by Roman Senkus (managing editor) and Dr. Marko R. Stech (project manager) has successfully completed a number of important stages of its work. Dr. Stech was responsible for developing the general concept of the IEU Internet site and for supervising the programming of this site by Jaroslaw Kiebalo. The programming stage has been successfully completed. The IEU site is fully operational and accessible at: www.encyclopediaofukraine.com.

In the meantime, a process of writing new IEU entries is also under way. Under Mr. Senkus's supervision, Andriy Makuch, the IEU senior manuscript editor, began editing new entries – particularly those dealing with post-Soviet Ukraine. Entries are being written, edited and updated daily. But the rate at which information can be added to the site will depend greatly on the availability of financial resources to engage additional qualified editorial and web personnel to work on the project.

The Famine-Genocide's solemn 70th anniversary

This year marked the 70th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. Ukrainians showed their solidarity by attesting to the world that they will never forget the deaths of the 7 million to 10 million who perished at the hands of the Stalin regime in the Famine-Genocide. The Ukrainian community worldwide gathered together this fall to remember and honor victims at numerous commemorative events, conferences, exhibits, and services.

Observations of the 70th anniversary of the artificially created Famine occurred in Kyiv on November 22. Thousands of people gathered for a peaceful rally and commemorative march to Mykhailivskiy Square. Official celebrations were simple, consisting of a wreath-laying ceremony by government leaders at the Great Famine Memorial that stands before St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral and a requiem concert attended by hundreds of school-aged children – but nearly no government officials.

The most extensive and most widely attended memorial event occurred after the wreath-laying ceremony after government leaders had left. Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, and Patriarch Filaret, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church led the crowd in a prayer ceremony in honor of the victims.

Then, National Deputy Viktor Yushchenko, chairman of the Our Ukraine bloc, which organized the memorial service, told the gathering of his grandfather, who succumbed to starvation in 1933. Following Mr. Yushchenko's speech and the prayer service, famine survivors and other individuals were given the opportunity to speak.

The ceremony, which proceeded under the slogan "Light a Candle," continued and came to its climax when Myroslav Skoryk's "Requiem" began to play. Mr. Yushchenko led a group of his fellow politicians to the commemorative monument, at the foot of which the group placed votive candles in colorful candle holders. Mr. Yushchenko said that he hoped the practice would become an annual event.

In the afternoon, the Ministry of Culture and Art held a requiem concert performed by the Ukrainian Pop Symphony and the Pochaina Chorus of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy at the Shevchenko Opera Theater, where Prime Minister Yanukovych and other government leaders had been expected. Instead, the hall was filled for the most part with school-age children who had been given free tickets and ordered to attend as part of a school assignment.

The 70th anniversary commemorations began the previous evening with the opening of an exhibition of 70 years of artwork and posters on the subject of the Great Famine featuring more than 100 objects. The exhibit included paintings and murals, with works by Edward Kozak and Mykhailo Dmytrenko, two well-known artists from the Ukrainian diaspora.

United States Ambassador John Herbst joined Canadian Ambassador Andrew Robinson at the opening. Mr. Robinson also attended the memorial service on Mykhailivskiy Square the next day.

The Ukrainian community in Victoria, Australia, participated in a tree-planting ceremony at Point Cook Coastal Reserve where hundreds of trees were planted to commemorate the millions who died in the Famine-Genocide. The ceremony was preceded by a church service conducted by Catholic and Orthodox clergy and words of condolence from speakers from Monash University, the Association of Ukrainians in Victoria, and the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations.

Hundreds of children, their parents and elderly members worked together planting the trees in somber silence. The event was intended to become an annual tradition at Point Cook Coastal Reserve, according to the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations.

An international conference at Columbia University featuring speakers from the United States, Ukraine and the United Kingdom marked the beginning of Famine Remembrance Week in New York City on November 10. It focused on three main topics: "the politics of acknowledgement" of the Famine, new archival evidence that has emerged since the fall of the Soviet Union, and the Famine in people's memory and the arts.

Opening remarks were delivered by Prof. Mark von Hagen. Panelists included: Ambassador Valeriy Kuchinsky, Ukraine's permanent representative to the United Nations; National Deputy Hennadii Udovenko; Dr. James Mace, who served as staff director of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine and is currently professor at the National



Dr. Robert Conquest is flanked by Oksana Komar-Sullivan (left) and Dr. Mary Dakin of the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at Stanford University, where he was honored in November for his pioneering research on the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine.

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Lit candles placed in Mykhailivskiy Square around Kyiv's monument to the Great Famine of 1932-1933 during observances in November of the genocide's 70th anniversary.

University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy; Dr. Margaret Siriol Colley, niece of the Welsh journalist Gareth Jones; Kazakstan's ambassador to the United Nations, Yerzhan. Kazykhanov; three scholars from Ukraine, Dr. Volodymyr S. Lozitskyi, Volodymyr P. Danylenko and Yuri Shapoval; and Dr. Leonard Leshuk, from Washington.

The conference was sponsored by the Ukrainian Studies Program and the Harriman Institute at Columbia University, Ukraine's Mission to the United Nations, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and the Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S.A.

The exhibition "Holodomor: The Great Man-Made Famine in Ukraine 1932-1933" was displayed on November 10-19 at the United Nations. The exhibit was organized by the Ukrainian Museum at the request of Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the U.N. More than 300 people attended the opening.

Shashi Tharoor, under-secretary-general for public information, opened the exhibit by saying that the word "Holodomor" has now become a part of the language of the United Nations.

Through photographs, documents and publications the exhibit examined the political and social climate of Ukraine in the decade preceding the Famine-Genocide and the events that led to the genocide. It also addressed the aftermath of this tragedy, the meager attention of the world press to the Famine and the cover-up and the consistent denial of the Soviets as to its existence. The efforts of the Ukrainian community to expose the truth about the Famine were also acknowledged in the display.

The panels discussed the collectivization of individually owned lands, the forced seizure of grains, foods and personal possessions. It showed the purges of Ukraine's intelligentsia and clergy through mass arrests, deportations to Arctic labor camps and executions, as well as the deliberate destruction of centuries-old churches and cultural institutions.

Also, a panel was dedicated to discussing the perfidy of Walter Duranty, Moscow correspondent of The New York Times, who wrote articles denying the Famine in Ukraine in 1933.

Mr. Kuchinsky, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, commented on the importance of the exhibit and the subsequent support and acknowledgement it has gained from the United Nations: "We are convinced that exposing violations of human rights, preserving historical records and restoring the dignity of victims by recognizing their suffering, will help the international community avoid similar catastrophes in the future." Also in attendance were representatives of the Ukrainian government.

Askold Lozynskyj, president of the Ukrainian World Congress participated by paraphrasing a moving excerpt from Vasyl Barka's "The Yellow Prince," a groundbreaking literary work about the Famine.

The award-winning documentary film "Harvest of Despair," directed by Slavko Nowytski and produced by

Mr. Nowytski and Yuriy Luhovy, was screened at the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium on Wednesday as part of "Famine Remembrance Week" in New York. Dr. Mace, former staff director of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, introduced the film, which premiered in Toronto in 1984 and employs rare archival footage to depict the man-made famine that ravaged Ukraine.

A memorial concert was held on Friday evening in the Poseidon area of the U.N. Visitor's lobby, centering on a presentation of Ukrainian sacred music by the Ukrainian Chorus Dumka and concluding with a poignant rendering of Lysenko's solemn prayer "Vladyko, Neba i Zemli."

Famine remembrance week concluded with thousands gathering in the streets of New York City on Saturday, November 15, in honor of the 7 million to 10 million victims of the Famine-Genocide. Over 2,000 people began the 50 block "March of Remembrance" to St. Patrick's Cathedral, where a memorial service was offered for the 12th consecutive year in memory of the Famine's victims. Ukrainians of all ages, representing various waves of emigration from Ukraine as well as those born in the United States, participated in the observations. Some distributed flyers, while others held signs, informing the pedestrians of the man-made Famine. Ukrainian flags, draped with black ribbons, waved wildly in the wind. Most of the marchers were dressed in traditional Ukrainian embroidered blouses and shirts.

Marchers made a brief stop at Bryant Park, where a representative of the Office of Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York, Commissioner Brian G. Andersson of the Department of Records and Information Services, read the mayor's proclamation designating November 10-15 as "Famine Remembrance Week" in the city.

The march culminated at St. Patrick's Cathedral, where others filed in, packing the church to its 2,400-person capacity. Bishop Basil Losten of the Stamford Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church opened the solemn commemoration by welcoming everyone. Bishop Losten, Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and retired Ukrainian Catholic Bishop Michael Kuchmiak of England, took turns reciting the requiem service, while the Dumka Chorus sang the responses.

Afterward, various speakers addressed the somber audience. Michael Sawkiw, president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, introduced each speaker. Special guests included members of both the Ukrainian and U.S. governments such as: Ukraine's U.N. Ambassador Kuchinsky, Ukraine's Consul General in New York Serhiy Pohoreltzev, National Deputy Hennadii Udovenko, Ukraine's Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Yelchenko, Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Negroponte.

A proclamation from the office of New York Gov. George Pataki, read by Orysia Woloszyn Dmytrenko, declared November 15 as "Ukrainian Famine Remembrance Day in the Empire State" in memory of "one of the most painful chapters in the history of Ukraine."

Archbishop Antony ended the requiem service on a solemn yet powerful note, underscoring that "If we permit ourselves the luxury of letting history be history, then we are doomed. If we force the memory of those millions who died out of our minds because it makes us – or perhaps someone else – uncomfortable, then we fail them." He left the following words in everyone's hearts and minds: "Let us never forget. Let us never forget. Let us never forget."

In Philadelphia, the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception hosted a beautiful solemn concert and panahyda (memorial service) to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine. Close to 2,000 attended the commemoration. Students from Ukrainian Saturday school, members of the First Ukrainian Evangelical and Baptist Choir, the Ukrainian Composers Ensemble and the Ukrainian male choir Prometheus performed an array of readings, songs and hymns. The memorial prayer service was celebrated by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the U.S.A., Archbishop Stephen Sulyk, Bishops Michael Kuchmiak and Walter Paska, and many Catholic and Orthodox clergy. Flag-bearers from the youth organizations Plast and SUM formed an honor guard.

In Chicago, the Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation organized a weekend's worth of programs to both remember those who perished during the Holodomor and to educate the public about the tragic events of 1932-1933. The commemorative events consisted of several programs. Approximately 300 Ukrainian Saturday school children gathered to listen to a lecture and screening of "Harvest of Despair." Following the screening, students were taken to the Ukrainian National Museum to view a new and permanent exhibit documenting the Famine-Genocide. The following day, an estimated 1,000 people congregated at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church for an ecumenical memorial service. A solemn procession made its way from the church to the Famine monument at the base of St. Andrew's cemetery, where approximately 40 Famine survivors were seated. The memorial services proceeded with a luncheon and drama presentation.

More than 600 people attended a three-day commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide on November 7-9 in Denver.

The commemoration began with the screening of the documentary "Harvest of Despair" at Regis University. The next day the venue changed to the University of Denver, where a workshop on the use of foods as a political weapon was held for secondary school history teachers. Later that evening a panel discussion was opened on campus to the general public. The third day, the commemoration culminated with a solemn high mass at the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Ghost in downtown Denver. In addition, a traveling exhibit of Ukrainian breads, books on the Famine, and Ukrainian embroidery and art was featured at each event.

The Denver chapter of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America raised \$1,200 in donations and special events earlier in the year to finance the three-day commemoration. The events were planned by the Colorado Committee to Commemorate the Ukrainian Famine.

Experts were invited to come to Denver to discuss the Ukrainian Famine and to provide teachers with various information and materials. Panelists, speakers and special guests included Dr. Myron Kuropas (who prepared a curriculum guide especially for the event), Carol Helstosky, Cheryl Madden, Prof. Dan Clayton and Denver City Auditor Dennis Gallagher.

On the last day of the commemoration there was a service celebrated by the Rev. Petro Bohdanowycz, James Doran and Januarius Izzo. There were seven co-celebrants and servers at the altar – a symbolic reference to the 7 million to 10 million victims of the famine.

The Colorado Committee to Commemorate the Ukrainian Famine organized a food collection at the church entrance, the proceeds of which were delivered to the church's ministry to Denver's homeless.

Scores of other Ukrainian communities held their own commemorations of the solemn anniversary.

Also, an exhibit of books on the Ukrainian Famine was on display at Koebel Public Library, the main library of the Arapaho Library system in suburban Denver throughout the month of November.

Scholars from the U.S., Canada and Ukraine convened at the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) building on April 6 in order to mark the 70th anniversary of the "Holodomor" – the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide – with two roundtable discussions, offering analysis of this Ukrainian tragedy from several perspectives. The first roundtable dealt with archival materials pertaining to the Famine of 1932-1933, while the second examined the

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treatment of this subject in art and literature.

The program was opened by NTSh President Dr. Larissa Onyshkevych, who transferred the proceedings to Dr. Yaroslav Pelensky, director of the Institute of European Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and president of the Lypynsky Institute of European Research, who chaired the roundtables, introducing the speakers and their topics.

Dr. Taras Hunczak, professor of history at Rutgers University focused on the manner in which the Famine in Soviet Ukraine had galvanized and united those Ukrainians who lived in western Ukraine, beyond the reach of Soviet rulers, and thus were able to act on behalf of their starving brethren.

The next lecture by Dr. Stanislav Kulchytsky of the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine was titled, "Materials on the 'Holodomor' in the Archives of Ukraine and the USSR." Dr. Roman Serbyn, professor emeritus of history at the University of Quebec concluded the session by presenting information about the documents on the Famine he had researched at the International Red Cross in Geneva. The second roundtable began with a lecture by Dr. Daria Darewych, a professor at York University, and the president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in Canada, titled "The Theme of 'Holodomor' in Art." Dr. Darewych discussed the issue of underrepresentation of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in the fine arts.

The lecture, "The 'Holodomor' as Presented in Drama," was then concluded by Dr. Onyshkevych.

Dr. Pelensky opined that studies of Ukraine's Famine-Genocide have only now begun in earnest and that they are facing three formidable problems: the existence of a literature of denial of the "Holodomor," reflecting an attitude that is prevalent in Russia and also among some scholars in the West; the lack of assignment of responsibility for these crimes; the fear of eyewitness survivors of the Famine, many of whom have been reluctant to tell their stories, even in the diaspora.

The Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at Stanford held a symposium, "Famine in Ukraine: 70 Years After – A Symposium Honoring Robert Conquest for his Contribution to the Study of the Famine." It was co-sponsored by the Hoover Institution at Stanford and included lectures by Amir Weiner, associate professor of history at Stanford University, and by Volodymyr S. Lozyskyi, director of the Central State Archives of Public Organizations of Ukraine. A reception followed the presentations where Nancy Kollmann, CREES director and professor of history honored Dr. Conquest for his 17 publications on Soviet history, politics and international affairs, including the classic "The Great Terror" (1968) and the acclaimed "Harvest of Sorrow" (1986). (See section on Scholarship.)

The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) held a symposium titled "The Ukrainian Terror-Famine of 1932-1933: Revisiting the Issues and the Scholarship 20 Years after the HURI Famine project." Scholars from the United States, Italy, the Netherlands and France presented their latest research into the causes, extent and lasting impact of what the special commission on the Ukraine Famine, in its 1988 report to the U.S. Congress, called an "act of genocide and terror."

Organized by HURI Associate Director Dr. Lubomyr Hajda, the symposium pursued a twofold purpose announced by its subtitle: to discuss some of the new findings in Famine studies effected over the last 20 years since the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute launched its Famine studies project in 1982, and to map the course of future research.

Recognized specialists in East European history such as Terry Martin, John L. Loeb and Andrea Graziosi along with a younger generation of international academicians participated in the symposium.

The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies co-sponsored a series of lectures by three Ukrainian scholars, Drs. Yuri Shapoval, Hennadii Boriak and Olexiy Haran at several scholarly and community events throughout Canada. Dr. Shapoval is affiliated with the Institute of Political and Ethnonational Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv. Dr. Boriak is director general of the State Committee of Archives of Ukraine. Dr. Haran is with the political science department and School for Policy Analysis at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

The first series of lectures took place at the University of Toronto co-sponsored by CIUS (Toronto Office) and Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine at the Center for Russian and East European Studies. The second event took place at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex in Edmonton and was co-sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Edmonton Branch. The final session

was held in the Cathedral of St. Mary the Protectress in Winnipeg and was co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Illarion Center for Ukrainian Orthodox Studies.

A workshop on the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide for high school teachers was organized this year and held at Rider University in New Jersey. The program was sponsored by the Julius and Dorothy Koppleman Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center at the University. The keynote lecture was given by Dr. Taras Hunczak, professor of history and political science at Rutgers University. Participants of the workshop received a curriculum guide prepared by Dr. Myron Kuropas, an educator and historian, which was funded by the Ukrainian National Association.

New Jersey is one of the many states mandating "Holocaust and genocide" education on the elementary and high school levels. To date, this curriculum included numerous 19th and 20th century genocides but not the Famine-Genocide, which numerically was one of the largest. At the end of the program, Dr. Harvey Kornberg, who is also president of the Association of New Jersey Holocaust Organizations, pledged to introduce a resolution mandating the Holodomor as one of the genocides to be covered in the core curriculum. This pledge was met with a rousing ovation by the 100-plus students and citizens in attendance.

Resolutions, declarations

Important strides were made this year in gaining international acknowledgment and spreading public awareness about the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 through various resolutions and declarations encouraged by Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora. Efforts to build memorial complexes and commemorative monuments also made progress.

Various members of Ukraine's Parliament called on the Ukrainian government in February to build an extensive memorial complex in the center of Kyiv to the millions of victims of the Famine. The lawmakers also demanded that the government turn to the United Nations to officially acknowledge the Ukrainian Famine as genocide. The comments came at a public hearing held in the Verkhovna Rada as part of commemorations of the 70th anniversary of the Great Famine.

Another public hearing was held in Kyiv nine months later to review the status of a project to develop a memorial center dedicated to the Great Famine. The consensus was to discard the proposals, including the chosen site, and to start from scratch.

The national government and the city of Kyiv had developed a site in Navodnytskyi Park, located on the right bank of the Dnipro River below the highest of Kyiv's seven hills – which coincidentally (or not) lies beneath the long controversial Soviet-era monument to "the Motherland" – a stormy debate arose about whether the dedicated plot of land is a suitable site for the memorial. The plan outlined a complex that would

encompass a research center, a conference center, a historical museum and a proper monument to honor the victims, as well as the tens of thousands of others repressed and displaced by the Soviet regime.

Participants expressed their dissatisfaction by responding in sum that the site didn't reflect the largesse of the tragedy and nor did the designs express the depth of the feeling or the soul of the tragedy. Speakers also commented that the site choice revealed how the government looked upon the event.

The campaign to build a memorial in Washington, dedicated to the victims of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 received a boost when letters written to Rep. Sander Levin, in support of such a project, were presented at a hearing before the National Capital Memorial Commission of the National Park Service. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and Rep. Levin's office had received nearly 30 letters from various Ukrainian institutions and organizations. As a result of the extensive support expressed, the commission seemed to be responsive. The bill called for the monument to be unveiled in 2008, in time for the 75th anniversary of the Famine.

Representatives of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches sent a letter to U.N. Secretary General Koffi Anan, requesting that the United Nations acknowledge the Great Famine in Ukraine of 1932-1933 as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation. The letter stated: "The Churches of Ukraine raise up their prayers for the millions of innocent victims of this crime against humanity and want the memory to become an eternal warning for all nations throughout the world, to work together in their desire to preserve creation and value every single individual and prevent the dehumanization of humanity."

An attempt was made two weeks later by Vice Prime Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk to involve the Verkhovna Rada in this request during the first parliamentary hearing dedicated to the subject. He called on Ukraine's Parliament on May 14 to turn to the United Nations to have the Great Famine of 1932-1933 recognized internationally as genocide. At the special parliamentary session the Verkhovna Rada turnout was very poor. The few lawmakers who cared enough to attend the session listened to Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, National Deputy Hennadii Udovenko and Vice Prime Minister Tabachnyk and Roman Krutsyk, the head of the Kyiv branch of the Memorial Society, explain the reasons behind the Man-Made Famine of 1932-1933 and the importance of international acknowledgment. Mr. Tabachnyk also reported on archival progress in Ukraine of the collection of historical documents, the compilation of an oral history project and construction of a comprehensive website dealing with the Famine of 1932-1933. In addition, Mr. Tabachnyk confirmed that plans for an extensive memorial complex were under development in Kyiv.

The next day, Ukraine's Parliament passed a resolution declaring the Great Famine of 1932-1933 "an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation." The resolution was for-



Chicago-area Ukrainians gathered in September in front of the monument to the victims of the Famine-Genocide on the grounds of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bloomingdale, Ill.

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mulated as an address to the Ukrainian people in conjunction with the 70th anniversary of the artificially created famine. According to Mr. Udovenko, this document marked the first time that Ukraine discussed openly and condemned the politics of genocide.

In June, Ukraine declassified more than 1,000 files documenting the famine. In response to Ukraine's acknowledgment of the Famine, Russia's Ambassador to Ukraine, Viktor Chernomyrdin, said that Moscow did not have intentions of apologizing for the Stalin-era famine. Although Mr. Chernomyrdin acknowledged that Russia had assumed the Soviet Union's obligations as successor to the collapsed regime, he denied that those responsibilities included apologizing for the Famine-Genocide that occurred during the regime of Joseph Stalin.

In the United States, resolutions commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide were introduced in both the Senate and the House of Representatives in July. The Senate version (S. Res. 202) was introduced by Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.), co-chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Senate Resolution 202, that unequivocally calls the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine a genocide has been signed by 27 co-sponsors representing 17 states.

The Embassy of Russia in the United States voiced its opposition to the resolution by contacting officials at the U.S. Department of State and in Congress in an effort to block the passage of S.R. 202.

The version before the House of Representatives (H. Con. Res. 254) was introduced by Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich), co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, and was referred to the House Committee on International Relations. It, too, affirmed the severity of the Famine. It attributed Joseph Stalin's motives to more than just a desire for collectivization and cited the report of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine which concluded it was genocide.

The third resolution introduced this year related to the 70th anniversary of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 was Resolution 356. It was introduced by Henry Hyde (R-Ill), with Christopher Smith (R-N.J.) and Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) as original co-sponsors.

The U.S. House of Representatives adopted the resolution "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the man-made famine that occurred in Ukraine in 1932-1933" by a vote of 382-0. In sum, the resolution acknowledged that many Western observers with first hand knowledge, such as New York Times correspondent Walter Duranty, deliberately falsified their reports to cover up evidence of the Famine, and those that actually did report the truth were penalized. It also stated that it wasn't until the collapse of the Soviet regime in 1991 that archives were made accessible documenting the premeditated nature of Stalin's Famine-Genocide.

The document confirmed that, to this day, the Famine remains insufficiently known in the United States and in the world. And finally, the resolution upholds that the millions of victims of this man-made famine should be remembered and honored and that the Verkhovna Rada should be encouraged to give official recognition and spread international awareness of this mass murder against the Ukrainian people, in order to re-establish Ukraine's national identity for the advancement of democracy.

The Australian Senate passed a similar motion condemning Stalin's action in bringing about an act of genocide by creating the Famine in Ukraine in 1932-1933, calling it one of the most heinous acts of genocide in history. The Senate motion also resolved "to seek to ensure that current and future generations are made aware of the monstrous evil that led to the Famine." Sen. Bill Heffernan, worked with Federal Minister Rod Kemp to move the formal motion. The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations worked in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine in Australia to seek support for the motion as well.

The Senate of Canada unanimously recognized the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 and called for the fourth Saturday in November to be designated as a day of remembrance for the victims. The motion, which was originally moved by Sen. Raynell Andreychuk, also called for all Canadians, particularly historians, educators and parliamentarians, to include the true facts of the tragedy in the records of Canada and in future educational material.

The board of presidents of the Canadian Ethnocultural Council adopted a resolution supporting the latter resolution of the Senate of Canada.

A joint declaration was signed by the U.N. delegation of 30 states and the European Union marking the 70th anniversary of the Famine, describing it as "a national tragedy for the Ukrainian people" that "took 7 to 10 millions of innocent lives," but stops short of calling it a geno-

cide. This was the first time, however, that the United Nations publicly condemned the Soviet totalitarian regime for the murder of millions of innocent victims. The document also underscored the importance of international public awareness and education concerning the Famine.

The head of the Association of Famine Researchers in Ukraine, Levko Lukianenko commented on the topic of public awareness of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide. He said that 70 years later the world has finally begun to understand the magnitude of the man-made disaster that destroyed up to 10 million Ukrainians. However, Mr. Lukianenko expressed his frustration that the Ukrainian nation remains badly informed of the Great Famine. He emphasized that the Ukrainian government hadn't offered any support for public awareness programs until five years ago. While institutions of higher learning had begun to gather a sufficient amount of documents and information, elementary and middle schools continued to have far too little available for their students.

Patriarch Filaret Denysenko, head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church said he was satisfied with the progress of public awareness world-wide and in Ukraine, and was particularly pleased with the array of commemorative events that had taken place.

An academic and memorial expedition "In the Footsteps of the Famine of 1933" initiated by the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, visited three southern regions: Kherson, Mykolaiv and Odesa, where large numbers of people died as a result of the Famine. The purpose of the expedition was to study archival data, to gather testimonies from witnesses of the Famine, to visit places where victims were buried, and to celebrate memorial services that involved various religious confessions. The participants met with students to talk about the events of the Famine and to encourage the younger generation to learn more about this genocide.

During the past year a new compilation of materials about Famine-Genocide edited by Dr. Wsevolod W. Isajiw was published. Titled "Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, 1932-1933: Western Archives, Testimonies and New Research," it presented an analysis of documents about the Famine found in Western and Russian archives including witness testimonies.

Also, an entire edition of Canadian American Slavic Studies, "Holodomor: The Ukrainian Genocide, 1932-1933," published by Charles Schlacks Jr., including eight articles, was dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide this past year.

Finally, an erroneous design for a postage stamp commemorating Ukraine's Great Famine of 1932 and 1933 was withdrawn as a result of concerted pressure from Ukrainian diaspora groups in the United States and Canada, led by the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society (UPNS). Marka Ukrainy, Ukrposhta's printing house, canceled plans in late September to issue the stamp because it not only erroneously showed victims of an earlier famine in 1921, but also depicted victims who were Russian, not Ukrainian.

The stamp's introduction was originally planned to coincide with the Famine-Genocide commemoration. Postal officials had to scramble during October and

early November to redesign and print a new stamp in time to meet a November 21, 2003, release date. Marka Ukrainy issued the series, which featured a traditional Ukrainian cross with the image of a starving child's face imprinted on its center. The dates 1932-1933 in red type and a few shafts of wheat are found on the left, and the word "Ukraina" is emblazoned on the right side.

Walter Duranty

In addition to organizing commemorative events for the 70th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, Ukrainians came together to launch a campaign seeking the revocation of the Pulitzer Prize awarded in 1932 to Walter Duranty of The New York Times.

Duranty was not only an infamous denier of the Famine-Genocide, but he also actively denigrated others who tried to report on the Communist crime against humanity. Duranty got the Pulitzer "for his series of dispatches on Russia, especially the working out of the Five-Year-Plan." It was that Five-Year-Plan for the Soviet economy that led to the genocidal famine that killed 7 million to 10 million in Ukraine. Later, Duranty denied there was a famine – although he told British diplomats that 10 million had died due to famine.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) began a nationwide and international letter-writing campaign urging the Pulitzer Prize Board to revoke Duranty's Pulitzer. The action began in early February to coincide with Pulitzer board meetings, when members are in frequent contact with each other to discuss current prize candidates. UCCA also sent copies of the award-winning film "Harvest of Despair" to each member of the Pulitzer board and the publishers of The New York Times.

The Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the Ukrainian World Congress initiated a postcard project led by Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk appealing to the Pulitzer Prize Committee and to the publishers of The New York Times. The cards were printed and distributed throughout the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, Western Europe and Ukraine.

The Pulitzer Prize Board responded, after receiving thousands of letters and e-mails, by agreeing to conduct a review of the award given to Duranty.

The New York Times commissioned Dr. Mark von Hagen, a noted Columbia University professor of history to write an independent assessment of Duranty's reporting on the Soviet Union after the newspaper received a letter from the Pulitzer Board. Dr. von Hagen concluded in his report that the 1931 dispatches of Pulitzer Prize winner Walter Duranty showed "a serious lack of balance," and that Mr. Duranty's reporting from the Soviet Union could be characterized as "cynical in tone and apologist in purpose and effect in terms of justifying what the Stalinist regime was up to." As for Duranty's Pulitzer, he stated that "it should never have been awarded in the first place."

Four respected academics and experts on the Great Famine who reside in Ukraine – Dr. James Mace of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy; Dr. Yurii Shapoval of the Institute of Political and Ethno-National Research; Dr. Stanislav Kulchytskyi, assistant



One of the postcards produced by the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the Ukrainian World Congress, with the support of other Ukrainian organizations, which was addressed to the publisher of The New York Times, urging him to return Walter Duranty's Pulitzer Prize.

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Welsh journalist Gareth Jones, who reported the truth about the Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

director of the Institute of History of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences; and Arkadii Sydoruk, member of the board of directors of the Association of Famine Researchers – were of the opinion that Mr. Duranty had helped to cover up and perhaps deepen the effects of the Great Famine by failing to report on its existence.

The Illinois branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America organized a noontime demonstration in front of The New York Times office in downtown Chicago on November 18. The purpose of the gathering was to demand that The New York Times disown the Pulitzer Prize unjustly awarded to Walter Duranty and to encourage The Times' publisher to print an expose of Duranty's duplicity in promoting Stalin's agenda on the front pages of The Times, as well as The Times' complicity with Stalin.

More than 50 people participated and carried signs with messages such as: "New York Times Collaborated with Stalin," "New York Times Guilty of Covering Up Murder of 10,000,000 Ukrainians," and "New York Times: Lies Fit to Print." Leaflets detailing the charges against The New York Times were distributed to passers-by. Also, president of the UCCA's Illinois branch, Orest Baranyk, prepared a letter to The Times' publisher which he read to the demonstrators and observers and later passed on to a representative for delivery to The Times office.

That same day, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Toronto Branch organized a demonstration outside the office of The Globe and Mail, which distributes The New York Times, to demand that the newspaper return Walter Duranty's Prize. About 110 community activists participated in the action. Younger and older community members, newly arrived Ukrainian Canadians and those born in Canada, all gathered together and chanted slogans, including "New York Times: Do the Right Thing!"

After six months of "study and deliberation," Dr. von Hagen's report and an appeal from the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, the Pulitzer board still decided not to posthumously revoke Duranty's award. In explaining the decision, the board said "there was not clear and convincing evidence of deliberate deception, the relevant standard in this case."

Gareth Jones

As a protest against the lies that Duranty disseminated, and as an attempt to finally bestow the honor upon Gareth Jones that he deserves, his niece, Dr. Margaret Siroli Colley, and his great-nephew, Nigel Linsan Colley, wrote a letter to The Pulitzer Prize Committee to get Mr. Duranty's 1932 Pulitzer Prize revoked. In addition to revoking Duranty's Pulitzer Prize, Dr. Colley proposed that the prize be awarded posthumously to Jones, for his courage to report truthfully about the people's starvation in Ukraine. The Colleys also wrote to the publisher of The New York Times, Arthur Sulzberger Jr., requesting that he return Duranty's Prize in the name of Gareth Jones, and all those who sadly perished in the Holodomor of 1932-1933. Neither the

Pulitzer Board nor The Times responded to the letters.

Dr. Colley participated in an international conference on the Famine-Genocide at Columbia University this fall as well. The theme of her presentation was the life of her uncle as described in her book titled "Gareth Jones: A Manchukuo Incident." She commented that it was "fitting that here at Columbia University, the home of excellence for American journalism, Gareth's ghost has come back to haunt those who stopped at nothing to silence his conscience."

Jones did not collapse under censorship. Meanwhile, journalists like Duranty gave the Famine the polite name of "food shortage" and referred to death by starvation as "widespread mortality from diseases due to malnutrition" (as Jones noted in his letter to the editor of The New York Times). He went against the grain and wrote several articles depicting the atrocities he saw in the Soviet Union, focusing on Ukraine.

An article disseminated by United Press International and written by Martin Sieff – titled "Gareth Jones: Hero of Ukraine" – commended Jones' efforts and discussed his fate following his truthful accounts of the Famine. The article cited information about the Pulitzer Prize Board's review of Duranty's Prize that was first reported by Andrew Nynka of The Weekly.

Culture and the arts: architecture to theater

Yet another round of cultural activity and events has come to a close, with Ukrainians in all facets of culture and the arts capturing public interest and acclaim on both the national and international level and in communities throughout the United States and Canada.

Our year-end review spotlights new as well as emerging artists and continues its coverage of work by established artists and prominent cultural figures who in their respective professional fields continue to make significant contributions to Ukrainian culture.

In the forefront of cultural activities were the following.

Architecture

The year 2003 marked the 40th anniversary of creative work in the field of architectural design and theory of internationally recognized Ukrainian Canadian architect Radoslav Zuk, professor of architecture at McGill University in Montreal and honorary professor of the Kyiv Technical University of Building and Architecture, and co-recipient of a Governor General's Medal for Architecture, the highest architectural honor in Canada. An overview of the work and significance of Prof. Zuk's work appeared in the December 28 issue of The Weekly in an article titled "Tradition and Modernity: Architecture of the Ukrainian Diaspora and Radoslav Zuk," penned by the Toronto-based architect Walter Daschko. The article appeared on the occasion of the exhibit of Prof. Zuk's work, titled "Radoslav Zuk – 'Tradition and Modernity' – Photographs and Drawings," which was on view November 9-23 at the Canadian Ukrainian Art Foundation Gallery in Toronto. As part of the exhibit opening, Prof. Zuk delivered a lecture on the topic "Architecture, Environment and Culture."

Restitution of cultural treasures

An agreement was finally reached in the protracted negotiations between Ukrainian and Russian specialists, regarding the restitution of an additional seven frescoes, retained at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, that comprise the plundered art treasures of the landmark St. Michael's of the Golden Domes Cathedral in Kyiv. A meeting of the joint commission of Ukrainian and Russian specialists was held at the Hermitage on October 1-3, with an additional meeting to have been convened in December to finalize the agreement. The Ukrainian members of the joint commission were Serhiy Kot, Olena Serdiuk and Valentyna Vrubelvska. The research was overseen by Dr. Kot, chairman of the Research Center for the Return and Restitution of Cultural Treasures, and by Prof. Yuriy Koreniuk of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts. St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Society, a member of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., based in Rutherford, N.J., apart from keeping the diaspora community informed as to the matter of restitution, was instrumental in enabling the Ukrainian commission to continue its work by initiating a fund-raising campaign in the Ukrainian American community to raise the requisite additional funds.

Art

A large collection of the works of Vasyl Krychevsky (1873-1952), the renowned Ukrainian artist, architect and designer, was returned to Ukraine half a century after the artist left his homeland at the end of World War II, thanks to the artist's descendants in Caracas, Venezuela – daughter, Halyna Krychevska Linde, and granddaughter, Oksana Linde Ochoa. Comprising the collection are more than 300 oil paintings, watercolors, architectural sketches, book cover designs and theatrical and movie set designs that have been donated by the artist's family to five museums and cultural institutions in Ukraine – the National Museum of Art and the Lavra Book and Cinema museums in Kyiv, the Shevchenko Memorial Museum in Kaniv, the Zemstvo building in Poltava and the Kharkiv Museum of Art. Prior to their return to Ukraine, selected works from the Krychevsky collection were presented in a special exhibition at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington on April 30. Present at the opening were Ms. Linde Ochoa of Caracas and the sponsors of the project, Natalia and Michael Bleyzer of Houston. The return project and the mounting of exhibits in Washington and subsequently, in Ukraine, were sponsored by the investment firm SigmaBleyzer. Also instrumental in the project was E. Morgan Williams, editor of the ArtUkraine Information Service.

An exhibition of paintings and drawings by Kazimir Malevich, titled "Kazimir Malevich: Suprematism" was on view in New York at the Guggenheim Museum on May 13-September 7. The exhibition brought together approximately 120 paintings, drawings and objects drawn from major public and private collections from around the world. The curator for the exhibit and editor of the exhibit catalogue, was Matthew Drutt. A review of the exhibit by Dr. Oleh S. Ilnytskyj, professor in the department of modern languages and cultural studies at the University of Alberta, and author of "Ukrainian Futurism, 1914-1930: An Historical and Critical Study," appeared in the August 31 issue of The Weekly. Referring to the question of nationality and cultural attribution of Malevich (1878-1935), which is variously referenced in the exhibit Dr. Ilnytskyj bemoaned the fact that, "more than a decade after the collapse of the Soviet Union, there is still so little sophistication on questions that relate to the cultural heritage of the Russian Empire. Even as facts betray how woefully inadequate and crude the national term 'Russian' is for much of the culture production of the empire, art historians continue to use it without any caveat."

The Ukrainian Institute of America in New York, headed by Walter Nazarewicz, president, provided an opportunity for the public to "visit" Kyiv and see the Ukrainian capital city's rebirth via a multi-media exhibit titled "Renaissance of Kyiv." The photo exhibit showed views of historic Kyiv – sights such as the squares of St. Sophia and St. Michael, the city's ancient churches and the places where noted personages lived – along with the new Kyiv, including the newly restored main train station, the new Independence Square, as well as revitalized cultural institutions, such as the Philharmonic Hall and the National Museum of Fine Arts. A video presented Kyiv 10 years ago, Kyiv under construction and Kyiv today, reflecting the myriad changes that have occurred.

The "Renaissance of Kyiv" exhibition, assembled by Ulana Baczynskyj, Zwen Goy and Roman Goy, was on view at the institute through the end of March. It had opened back on December 10, 2002, when it was officially inaugurated by Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko.

A host of art exhibits filled the galleries of the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York throughout the year, with Walter Hoydysh, UIA vice-president, director of programs. Among the art exhibits were the following: sculptor Gennady Parfeniuk, "The Sphere: Its Metamorphosis and Synthesis with Architecture," (March 21-April 5); the etchings of Oleh Denysenko, "Art Chemistry," (April 24-June 30); Marko Shuhan, abstract vernacular paintings, "33/6 Paint," (May 2-June 9); recent paintings of Anton S. Kandinsky, great-grandson of Vassily Kandinsky, the abstract painter and theorist generally regarded as the originator of abstract art (May 15-October 29); Lubomyr Kuzma, retrospective exhibit, (June 13-November 29); William Michael Dubetz, "25 years of Photographs, Collages, Assemblages" (October 2-11); Yuriy Savchenko, "Between Abstract and Expressive Impressionism," (October 16-November 30); Sergei Belik, "Still Life of Sergei Belik," (October 30-January 9, 2004); Olexander Klymenko, "The Joy of Being," (November 30-January 9, 2004); and, "Reflections and Permutations," an exhibition of new works by Ilona Sochynsky of New Jersey (December 5-January 2004).

Peter Doroshenko, director of the Institute of Visual Arts at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee since

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Radoslav Zuk, professor of architecture at McGill University in Montreal and honorary professor of the Kyiv Technical University of Building and Architecture.

1995, left his position in December to succeed Jan Hoet as director of the Stedelijk Museum voot Actueie Kunst in Ghent, Belgium. Known as SMAK, the municipal museum of contemporary art is considered to be one of the world's foremost showcases for contemporary art.

A symposium titled "East of Art: Transformations in Eastern Europe," sponsored by the Museum of Modern Art's international program and the department of education, and held in conjunction with the museum's recent publication, "Primary Documents: A Sourcebook for Eastern and Central European Art Since the 1950s," took place at the MOMA on March 11. The exhibit and publication, which incorporated materials from the majority of post-Communist European countries, were intended to provide, according to co-editors Laura Hoptman and Tomas Pospiszyl, a much-needed context for English-speaking readers to comprehend and appreciate the art of the period in question, which evolved under specific historical and political conditions. The editors, however, omitted Ukraine from consideration.

A retrospective exhibit of the works of Lubomyr Kuzma of Tannersville, N.Y., on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the artist's birth last May, was held at the Ukrainian Institute of America on June 13-November 29 and during the summer at the Ukrainian Cultural Center at the Grazhda in Jewett, N.Y. A native of the Lviv region, Mr. Kuzma was the founder and teacher of an art school in New York (1956-1984) and head of the Association of Ukrainian Artists in America (1964-1973).

The works of Bohdan Soroka, the distinguished artist from Ukraine who heads the department of graphic design at the Lviv Academy of Art, were exhibited in New York in a solo exhibition at the Self Reliance building in an exhibit sponsored by the Verkhovynky Plast Sorority and Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 64.

An exhibit by Chicago artist Lialia Kuchma, titled "Tapestries," opened at the Chicago Cultural Center on November 22 as part of three new exhibitions at the prestigious Michigan Avenue Galleries. The exhibit, organized by the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, is on view through January 25, 2004.

Sculptor Christina Shmigel's installation "The Logic of Attachment" – forged and fabricated steel, steel pipe and plumbing fixtures – was on view at the Saint Louis Art Museum as part of a series of exhibitions featuring the work of contemporary artists. Titled "Currents 87: Christina Shmigel," the exhibit was on view December 6, 2002-February 16, 2003.

A leading ceramic artist and painter in Ukraine, Natalia Lalueque, who emigrated from Kyiv to Toronto in the fall, presented a new terra cotta sculpture series, alongside works by Canadian ceramicist Wendy Allgate, at the Distillery Gallery New on September 25.

Artist Inka Essenhigh, a graduate of New York's School of Visual Arts whose work has been reviewed in leading art publications and the general print media since 1998, had her new work shown in tandem at 303 Gallery in Manhattan

and at the Victoria Miro Gallery in London. The sculpture of another young artist and School of Visual Arts graduate, Tamara Zahaikovich, whose work has been reviewed in New York and Boston publications, was exhibited in March at the Armory Art Fair in Manhattan and her "Pearl Onion" exhibit was shown at the Bellwether Gallery in Brooklyn. Freelance painter and photographer, Taya Hayuk, who recently left San Francisco for New York, had her work "Prototype" exhibited in a group show presented by the migrant gallery Transientnyc in lower Manhattan in April.

New York commercial artist Mark Yurkiw, acclaimed for his advertising design, was engaged in work on various high-profile projects, among them: the Statue of Liberty icon designed for the "New York Cares" coat donation campaign; a fiberglass Easter egg in the shape of the Capitol, which, after having been displayed at the nation's top museums, was to have been auctioned off to raise funds for children's cancer research.

Contemporary Ukrainian culture was showcased in the Bavarian city of Regensburg, Germany, on September 27-November 9, offering six art exhibitions, numerous performances, literary readings, film presentations and lectures, which were held in various institutions of the city with the participation of well-known artists and scholars from Ukraine. The cultural program was made possible with the support of the Bavarian Ministry for Science, Research and Art, and a host of other organizations, including the Ukrainian Free University.

Dance

The American Ballet Theater's spring season at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York featured performances by four dancers born in Ukraine: Irina Dvorovenko, Maxim Belotserkovsky, and Olga Dvorovenko, all Kyivites, and Vladimir Malakhov, a native of Kryvyi Rih. Mr. Malakhov, principal artist of ABT and principal guest artist of the Vienna State Opera, appeared with premier ballet dancers José Manuel Carreno, Angel Corella and Thean Steifel in the PBS performance documentary "Dance in America: Born to Be Wild: The Leading Men of American Ballet Theater" on February 4.

The Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, under the direction of Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, and the acclaimed Cheres Ukrainian Folk Ensemble, under the direction of Andriy Milavsky, captivated audiences with a stunning program of folk dances and spirited music from the Carpathian Mountain regions in the Music and Dance Festival concert held at New York's Town Hall on January 31. Later in the season, the Syzokryli troupe played a leading role in the annual concert of the European Folk Festival at the Fashion Institute of Technology. Cheres won acclaim during a springtime tour of the Midwest that included 30 concerts in Illinois and Wisconsin and a performance in Davenport, Iowa.

The Hromovytsia Ukrainian dance ensemble of Chicago, under the direction of Roxana Dykyj-Pylpaczak, realized its dream to dance in Ukraine this summer, embarking in July on a 17-day tour, with performances in Kyiv, Lviv, Ternopil, Kalush, Kolomyia and Uzhhorod.

Another top dance ensemble that has been representing Canada nationally and internationally, the Rusalka Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Winnipeg, presented their 40th anniversary concert at the Centennial Concert Hall on September 12. The ensemble was founded in 1962 by Peter Hladun of St. Catharines, Ontario.

Dancer/choreographer Natalie M. Kapeluck – resident choreographer at Pittsburgh's Southwest Ballet and in her seventh season as a dancer with the Mary Miller Dance Company, and director of the Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble – appeared with members of the newly formed Slava Modern Dance Company, of which she is founder and choreographer, in a premiere performance at the prestigious Cleveland Public Theater on March 15.

Film and television

The long-awaited documentary film, "Between Hitler and Stalin – Ukraine in World War II – The Untold Story," produced and directed by Slavko Nowytski for the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center and narrated by Jack Palance, premiered in Toronto on September 28. The one-hour documentary portrays the titanic struggle between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union that took place on Ukraine's territory which was laid waste by both war machines. The film documents Ukraine's contribution to the war against totalitarianism and the price Ukraine paid for its independence. The documentary had its U.S. premiere in Washington on November 10. A Ukrainian-language version of the film is to be ready by spring. Comments on the documentary by Mr. Nowytski appear in the November 9 issue of The Weekly.

The Harvard Film Archive (HFA) acquired a private collection of Ukrainian films in summer that makes Harvard a premier center for scholars of Ukrainian cinematography, as well as experts interested in Soviet and various East European cinemas, history and culture. The collection comprises 11 full-length feature films made between the mid-1930s and the early 1980s, and Soviet propaganda films, documentaries and shorts. The collection was donated to the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute by Walter Hayduk of Montreal; a donation agreement between HURI and HFA was negotiated in June.

Sony Classics released Lisa Cholodenko's second feature film, "Laurel Canyon," starring Frances McDorm and Christian Bale. The film opened in New York and Los Angeles in February/March.

Among the latest films of Hollywood filmmaker and producer Paul Maslak of Berkley, Calif., were the suspense thriller "The Right Temptation," the police thriller "Primary Suspect," the black comedy "Kiss Toledo Goodbye" and the martial arts action movie "Red Sun Rising."

For the third time in the past 10 years, game show host Alex Trebek of the popular "Jeopardy" show was named Outstanding Game Show Host. The award was presented during the Daytime Emmy Awards presentation at New York's Radio City Music Hall in May.

Music

Ukrainian American violinist Oleh Krysa, professor at the Eastman School of Music and former prominent student of David Oistrakh at the Moscow Conservatory, was among the featured performers in the "Masterpieces of the Russian Underground" concert series presented by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center at Alice Tully Hall on January 24-February 2. Among composers featured in the program was the Ukrainian Valentin Silvestrov whose compositions, String Quartet No. 1 and "The Messenger" for Solo Piano, were performed in the series titled "Song of Innocence and Experience: Serialism and Post-modern Style." The concert series was curated and directed by pianist Vladimir Feltsman. Featured performers in the concert series were Mr. Feltsman, piano; Gary Hoffman, cello; Ani Kavafian, violin, Mr. Krysa, violin; Paul Neubauer, viola; and David Shifrin, artistic director, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, clarinet.

Soprano Maria Guleghina, who debuted at the Metropolitan Opera in New York 12 years ago, appeared in the title role of the Washington Opera Company's production of Verdi's "Aida" in seven performances, between February 22 and March 11. The Odesa-born diva captivated sold-out audiences and garnered critical acclaim, with Washington music critics smitten with her performance. The Washington Post music critic Tim Page concluded his accolade by stating that, "For all of her Ukrainian heritage, Guleghina has Verdi in her veins." Although not her first appearance with the Washington Opera, with which she has previously gone on tour, this was Ms. Guleghina's official Washington debut.

Alexander Slobodyanik appeared with the Pittsburgh Symphony in the American premiere of contemporary composer Alexander Tchaikovsky's Concerto for Two



Producer-director Slavko Nowytski

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Pianos, with Mariss Jansons conducting, and pianist Yefim Bronfman in a concert titled "Triple Tchaikovsky" on February 22.

A memorial concert held in honor of composer Antin Rudnytsky (1902-1975) and his wife, Ukrainian opera singer Maria Sokil (1902-2002), was held in New York at the Ukrainian Institute of America on March 30. Later in the year, the honorees' son, concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky, member of the piano faculty of the Dana School of Music of Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio, traveled to Ukraine in October to play with the symphony orchestra of the city of Zaporizhia. Upon his return to the United States, Mr. Rudnytsky informed of the plans under way in the city of Zaporizhia, Dnipropetrovsk and the town of Orikhiv (Zaporizhia Oblast) to honor the memory of his mother, Maria Sokil, who came from the Zaporizhia region. A competition for young singers and scholarships will be established in the opera singer's name.

The Lubka Kolessa Piano Scholarship Fund was established by the faculty of music at McGill University in Montreal to commemorate the legendary concert pianist (1902-1997) and a McGill faculty of music professor from 1960 through 1971. Initiated by former students and friends of Ms. Kolessa, the scholarship is to be awarded annually to an outstanding piano student enrolled in the faculty of music.

The faculty of music at McGill University presented the Luba and Ireneus Zuk Piano Duo in a concert of works for two pianos in Pollack Concert Hall on October 28. Included in the concert program were the world premiere of Yevhen Stankovych's "Ancient Dances of Verkhovyna" (2002), as well as performances of the Sonata for Two Pianos (1970) by Ukrainian Canadian composer George Fiala. A review of the concert by Thomas Davidson appeared in the November 16 issue of *The Weekly*.

Winners of the fifth International Competition for Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz held in Kyiv – Tsimur Shcharbakou (Belarus), Rachel Ching (China), and Oleksandr Chugay (Ukraine) – appeared in concert at New York's Merkin Concert Hall in October. The event was part of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Horowitz, who was born and studied in Kyiv.

Volodymyr Koshuba, a world-traveled leading concert organist from Ukraine, on his eighth U.S. tour since 1994, embarked on a short, two-week tour with five performances in two states in October-November: in Madison and Beloit, Wis., and in Rochester, Alexandria and Albert Lea, Minn. On this tour Mr. Koshuba shared the spotlight with his 12-year-old daughter, Viktoriya, a gold-medal winner in recent international piano competitions in Turin and Paris.

The Ukrainian Institute of America's "Music at the Institute" series, under the artistic direction of Mykola Suk, presented the following concerts for the year 2003: "Reconstructing Mozart," with Yuri Kharenko, violin, Jeffrey Solow, cello, Mykola Suk, piano (January 25); Vienna Piano Trio, (Austria), (February 22); "Natalia Khoma and Friends," with Ms. Khoma, cello, Mr. Kharenko, violin, Daniel Panner, viola, Jerome Rose, piano; and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano (April 12); "Mykola Suk and Friends," with Naoko Tanaka and Calvin Wiersma, violins, Ah Ling Neu and Kirsten Johnson, violas, Gregory Hesselink, cello, and Mr. Suk, piano, (October 25); Leipzig String Quartet, Germany, (November 15); and, Jerome Lowenthal, piano, and the Avalon String Quartet (December 6).

The Washington Group Cultural Fund, under the direction of Laryssa Courtney, and with the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine, presented the following concerts at the Lyceum, in Alexandria, Va.: Leontovych String Quartet, featuring Oleh Krysa, first violin, Borys Deviatov, viola; Vladimir Panteleyev, violoncello, and Jassen Todorov, violin, with Tatiana Tchekina, piano (March 9); Stefan Szkafarowsky, bass (April 6); Lydia Artymiw, piano (May 18); winners of the 5th International Competition for Young Pianists in Memory of Vladimir Horowitz – Rachel Ching, Oleksandr Chugay and Tsimur Shcharbakou (October 5); Natalia Khoma and Suren Bagratuni, cellos, and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano (November 16).

The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago presented the following concerts, as part of its 12th season: Valentina Lysytsa and Alexei Kuznetsoff, piano duo, (March 9); Lydia Artymiw, piano (May 4). Somyia Soroka, violin, and Arthur Greene, piano (October 19); and Alex Slobodyanik, piano (December 7).

The Music and Art Center of Greene County embarked on its 21st season under the direction of its new music director, pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky, presenting the following concerts as part of the "Music at the Grazhda" series: concert pianist Alexander Slobodyanik in the opening concert of the season (July 5); Laryssa Krupa, piano, and Adrian Bryttan, violin (July 19); stage and cinema

actor and director Gregory Hlady of Montreal in a one-man theatrical presentation (July 26); lyric soprano Halyna Wolanska, (August 2); acclaimed recitalist and soloist with orchestras Neal Larrabee, (August 16); recitalists and international laureates cellist Natalia Khoma and Mr. Vynnytsky (August 23); special guest artist, composer Myroslav Skoryk, in a presentation based on his opera "Moisei" (Moses), with baritone Oleh Chmyr in the title role (August 30); and the Forte String Quartet – Mikhail Kuchuk and Oleksander Abayev, violin, Roumi Petrova, viola, Kalin Ivanov, cello – with Yuri Kharenko, violin, Ms. Khoma, cello, and Mr. Vynnytsky, piano (August 31).

Baritone Oleh Chmyr appeared with the New Jersey State Opera in Leoncavallo's one-act opera "Pagliacci" in the role of Silvio at the New Jersey Performing Art Center in February.

Lyric soprano Halyna Wolanska and bass-baritone Taras Kulish, both of Montreal, presented a recital of opera arias and duets, including operatic Ukrainian repertoire, as well as German lieder and French melody, on April 19 at the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall of Concordia University. In the fall, Mr. Kulish appeared with the Manitoba Opera in Winnipeg in the role of Leporello in "Don Giovanni," a role in which he continues to have great success and garners critical acclaim.

Four Ukrainian singers – baritone Vassily Gerello, tenors Vladimir Grishko and Viktor Lutsiuk, bass-baritone Mikhail Kit – principals in the Kirov Opera of St. Petersburg, appeared in title or principal roles in five of the six works staged by the Kirov at the Metropolitan Opera in July. Presented were Verdi's "Macbeth," Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin," Rymsky-Korsakov's "The Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh" and the North American premiere of Prokofiev's Soviet-period opera "Semyon Kotko" (1940), which is set in Ukraine. A symposium on "Semyon Kotko," with Prof. Simon Morrison of Princeton University as moderator, was held at Lincoln Center on July 9.

New York City Opera diva Oksana Krovvytska returned to the NYCO stage after a two-year absence to sing the role of Liu in Puccini's "Turandot," a role she performed to great acclaim during nine consecutive years with the company. The first-night performance was held October 28.

Prominent Ukrainian composer Myroslav Skoryk and baritone Oleh Chmyr presented a program featuring arias from Maestro Skoryk's opera "Moisei" (Moses), which had its premiere in Lviv in 2001, with their first appearance at the "Music at the Grazhda" summer concert series in Jewett, N.Y. (August 30); followed by performances at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington (September 8); the Swedenborg Chapel in Cambridge, Mass. (September 13); and St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J. (September 20).

A musical tribute to Ukrainian composer Mykola Lysenko (1842-1912) on the 160th anniversary of his birth, featured the Dumka Chorus of New York, under the direction of Vasyl Hrechynsky, with soprano Oksana Krovvytska, tenor Mykhail Kraven, cellist Natalia Khoma, tenor Roman Tsybala, baritone Oleh Chmyr, and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky in a concert held at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York on October 26.

Works by five contemporary Ukrainian composers in the genre of avante-garde music were featured at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago in mid-September. The program of works included Virko Baley's "Emily Dickinson Songbook"; Roman Yakub's "The Middle of the Void (C.A.G.E.)"; Alexander Shchetynsky's "Way to Meditation"; Sergey Pilyutikov's, "Together with Light Air" and Boguslaw Schaeffer's "Project for Bassoon and Tape." The composers were selected by William Jason Raynovich, artistic director of the MAVERICK Ensemble, a performance group resident at the institute.

Composer Virko Baley's monumental chamber work "Treny" (Laments) for Two Violoncellos and Soprano (1996-1999) had its West Coast premiere on November 12 at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, in the Leo S. Bing Theater. Featured performers at the concert were cellists Natalia Khoma and Andrew Smith, and soprano Christine Seitz.

New York-based musician/singer Julian Kytasty, whose life revolves around the propagation of bandura art and Ukrainian music, performed at the historic Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo in March; at the citywide People's Poetry Gathering in New York in April; and during a four-day tour of Texas in September that took him to Houston and the Dallas/Forth Worth area. He presented recitals that were received most enthusiastically by the American and Ukrainian community audience.

The Detroit-based Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, composed of talented artists from across North America, has a



Vasyl Krychevsky's 1918 design of Ukraine's national emblem, the trident.

long and proud history of representing Ukrainian bandura and choral music on the international stage since its founding in 1918. In June, under the artistic direction of its conductor Oleh Mahlay, the chorus celebrated its 85th anniversary, presenting concerts in Toronto and Windsor, Ontario, as well as Detroit and Cleveland, before departing for its historic tour of Europe. Performance stops on the tour included Manchester and London, England; Paris, Strasbourg and St. Avold, France; Munich, Germany; and Vienna, Austria.

A music library has been established on the Internet to honor the memory and perpetuate the musical legacy of Hryhory Kytasty (1907-1984), renowned composer and conductor of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, on the centenary of Maestro Kytasty's birth. Founded by Andriy Kytasty, Maestro Kytasty's son, the mission of the California-based Kytasty Foundation is to provide an educational resource of Ukrainian culture. A special section features the entire collection of works by Maestro Kytasty.

The "Paris to Kyiv" project, initiated by Alexis Kochan in 1996, which toured North America with different musicians through the years and is particularly popular with CBC radio audiences in Canada, performed its first three-country European concert tour in May, starting with Belgrade's Ring-Ring Festival Serbia, and followed by concerts in Kyiv, Lviv and Chernihiv, Ukraine, where the group played to fantastic receptions and standing-room only crowds. The tour finished in Poland, with appearances in Warsaw, Wroclaw and Krakow. The tour marked the first time that the group played in Ukraine, presenting traditional Ukrainian music – in a new way.

Oksana Bilozir, Ukraine's pop singer/diva and deputy to Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada, made her debut concert North American tour, with an appearance at the Millennium Theater in Brooklyn in February. On February 10 Ms. Bilozir addressed the Ukrainian community in an open format community meeting in her role as national deputy to Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada from the Our Ukraine political bloc at the Ramada Hotel in East Hanover, N.J.

The punk rock band Gogol Bordello and lead singer Eugene Hutz toured 20 cities during their North American tour in March, followed by a European fall tour that included a stop in Kyiv. Gogol Bordello was also featured in a new W.W. Norton publication titled "Crossing the BLVD," a cross-media project that documents and portrays the lives, images, sounds and stories of new immigrants and refugees who have lived in the borough of Queens, the most ethnically diverse locality in the U.S.

Braty Blyuzu – Myroslav and Oleh Levytsky, Andriy Melnyk, Stefan Kuziv and Andriy Vintsersky, and solo singer Marianna Vynnytsky appeared in their first major concert in New York City on November 9 at the Ukrainian National Home, offering a wide spectrum and mix of popular music drawing from the extensive Braty repertoire, including the group's latest compositions, as well as songs with lyrics by Ms. Vynnytsky.

Justin Time Records released another John Stetch CD, titled "Standards," which Mr. Stetch introduced with a series of concerts, including appearances at the Jazz Standard in Greenwich Village, the Ukrainian Institute of America and WNYC's "Soundcheck" show.

The Ukrainian Museum and Archives (UMA) in Cleveland initiated a project to conserve its entire collection of 20th century Ukrainian recordings – produced both in Ukraine and in the diaspora, by transferring its vinyl records collection to compact discs. The project is overseen and funded by the Stecyk Family, with Dr.

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Orest Stecyk as the project recording manager.

New music publications of the retro music of Bohdan Wesolowsky (1915-1971), popular in the Lviv of the 1930s and subsequently in the diaspora of the 1960s, and which is experiencing a revival today, came out in a two-volume publication in Lviv, with Oleksander Zelynsky, as editor. The two books, titled "Pryide Sche Chas" ("The Time Will Come") and "Ya Znov Tobii" (Again For You), along with a forthcoming third volume, will contain all the known work of the composer in recent years. A special concert dedicated to the music of Bohdan Wesolowsky was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Chicago on June 8.

Literature

Lydia Palij – poet and literary activist, organizer of writers from Ukraine for the annual International Festival of Authors, spokesman for Ukrainian dissidents in the Canadian branch of PEN International, active member of several Canadian literary associations, and widely published essayist and poet – was awarded a Golden Jubilee Medal. Created to mark Queen Elizabeth's golden jubilee as queen of Canada, the medal was awarded to "Canadian citizens who have made outstanding and exemplary contributions to the community or to Canada as a whole." Ms. Palisj was nominated for the award by the Festival of Authors organization.

A literary evening of Yuriy Tarnawsky, the well-known poet, prosaist, playwright and translator, was presented by the Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York on January 25. Selections from recent works included the Polish edition of the author's early work in a translation by Tadeusz Karabowicz, titled "Oto Jak Zdrowiej," as well as Mr. Tarnawsky's English translation of poetry by the Ukrainian poet Volodymyr Tsybulko from the collection "Angels in a Pyramid" and the short story "Lenin's Brain," a humorous phantasy from Mr. Tarnawsky's collection "Short Tails."

Irene Zabytko, critically acclaimed author of the novel, "The Sky Unwashed," was on tour with her second book, "When Luba Leaves Home," a collection of short stories based on her Ukrainian Chicago neighborhood. Ms. Zabytko, whose work was awarded the PEN syndicated Fiction Award and has been broadcast on NPR's "The Sound of Writing," was a featured panelist at the Chicago Tribune 19th Annual Printer's Row Book Fair held June 7-8. Apart from discussing her book and its origins, The Tribune also interviewed Ms. Zabytko for an upcoming feature about immigrant and ethnic literature in America.

Photography

A U.S.-Ukraine photography exhibit titled "Halves," held simultaneously in Cincinnati and Kharkiv, was presented by Guennadi Maslov, who moved from Kharkiv to Cincinnati 10 years ago. The exhibit was billed as "an almost impossible combination of post-Soviet Ukraine and American Midwest ... as part of a never-ending quest to illustrate the fragile dualities of human nature." The "Halves" exhibit opened at the Kharkiv Arts Museum on August 22 and returned to the U.S. where it opened at the Carnegie Center in Covington, Ky., on September 5.

The photography exhibit titled "Ukrainians-Ukrainians" by Ihor Haidai, was on view in October at the Center for Contemporary Art at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. Consisting of 120 photographs, the exhibit was an attempt to create a collective portrait of Ukrainians.

Theater

The Yara Arts Group, under the direction of Virlana Tkacz, presented a music-theater piece titled "Swan," based on an eponymous poem by contemporary Ukrainian poet Oleh Lysheha, at La Mama Theater in New York in June. The poem, which is contained in the "Selected Poems of Oleh Lysheha" (Harvard University, 1999), and appears in a translation by the poet James Brasfield, won the PEN Translation Prize last year. The production featured composer/cellist Paul Brantley and blues vocalist Meredith Wright; with set, light and costumes by Watoku Ueno, and video by Andrea Odezynska. The cast included Yara artists Andrew Colteaux and Soomi Kim. The show, performed in English, once again reflected Yara's commitment to cross-cultural understanding by presenting an original piece created by multicultural artists that is based on masterpieces of art, literature and music focusing on cultures that are little-known in the West.

The Yurii Drohobych Drama Theater of Lviv Oblast, a group of professional actors touring the United States and Canada this fall, presented "Tears of the Virgin Mary," a powerful performance that reveals the horrors of Ukraine's Terror-Genocide of the 1930s. The New York performance was held October 25 at St. George Ukrainian Catholic School.

New books of 2003: notable publications

Books, too, were in the news during 2003. Below are some of the more notable releases during the past year. (See also the section on arts under the heading of literature.)

- "Beheaded – The Killing of a Journalist" by J.V. Koshiw was launched on January 22 at www.artemia-press.co.uk. While deputy editor of Kyiv Post, an English-language newspaper published in Ukraine, Mr. Koshiw authored more than 70 articles on politics. The book tells the story of why journalist Heorhii Gongadze was kidnapped and examines the evidence that President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine was responsible for his death. Mr. Koshiw spent eight months in Ukraine investigating the Gongadze case, from the time he disappeared in September 2000. "Beheaded" is Mr. Koshiw's third book.

- In April, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press published a new and important book on Ukraine's historical relations with its most powerful neighbor, Russia. The book, "Culture, Nation and Identity: The Ukrainian-Russian Encounter, 1600-1945," is based on a series of four sessions on the Russian-Ukrainian encounter held alternately at Columbia University and Cologne University from June 1994 to September 1995, which had their origin both in the world of great political events and the realm of scholarly discussions.

The editors of "Culture, Nation and Identity," representing the Seminar for East European History at Cologne University, the Harriman Institute at Columbia University and the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta, invited 70 specialists to examine the Russian-Ukrainian encounter, from the 17th century to the present. This work is a selection of 16 articles developed from presentations on the Ukrainian-Russian encounter from the early modern period to World War II.

- Thanks to the support from the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) and its affiliate at Kharkiv National University, the Kowalsky Eastern Ukrainian Institute (KEUI), the first Ukrainian-language edition of George Y. Shevelov's fundamental monograph "A Historical Phonology of the Ukrainian Language" was published in late 2002 in Kharkiv. "Historical Phonology" was translated into Ukrainian by the Kharkiv linguists Andrii Danylenko and Serhii Vakulenko. The book was published by the Kharkiv-based publisher Akta under the title "Istorychna Fonolohiia Ukrainskoyi Movy."

Dr. Shevelov (1908-2002) was a prominent Ukrainian linguist whose monumental work, "A Historical Phonology of the Ukrainian Language," was published in 1979 with the support of the CIUS. Its appearance prompted the scholarly world to revisit not only the historical phonetics of the Ukrainian language but also the history of the language itself. This work remains the only phonology of any Slavic language.

- On May 20, the Great Hall of the House of Artists in Kyiv saw the book launch of an expanded edition of George Grabowicz's book "Do Istorii Ukrainskoi Literatury" (Towards a History of Ukrainian Literature), recently printed in Ukrainian by Krytyka Press. Compared to the first edition, the new one is a considerably larger collection of Dr. Grabowicz's essays, articles and two self-contained monographs, published over the last 30 years and covering a period of 400 years, starting with the 16th century religious polemicist Ivan Vyshensky and ending with the last century.

Dr. Grabowicz is the Dmytro Cyzevskiy Professor of Ukrainian Literature at Harvard and former director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. He is well-known in Ukraine not only as an influential literary critic but primarily as the founder and editor-in-chief of the journal Krytyka. Prof. Grabowicz has also established a highly successful and respected publishing enterprise under the same name.

- "It is a travel diary, a photo album, a handbook for learning modern Ukrainian and slang terms, an attempt to connect two worlds, and an exploration of thoughts and ideas about modern Ukrainian culture and life of Ukrainians." That's how Maria Kachmar, author of "Semestr u Lvovi" (Semester in Lviv), describes the creative non-fiction piece. Ms. Kachmar is a fourth-year education student at the University of Alberta, who last year studied at the Lviv National University. The book describes her adventures there as a young Ukrainian Canadian who goes to the unknown land of her ancestors to make up her own mind about modern Ukraine.

Ms. Kachmar's sister, Larissa, assisted her in the visualization and design of the book. In a radio interview with Maria Kachmar, Orest Soltykyevych pointed out that even if you do not speak Ukrainian, "the book is worth buying just for the pictures." Ms. Kachmar hoped to translate her book into English and even publish it in Ukraine.

- "U.S. Intelligence Perceptions of Soviet Power 1921-1946" by Leonard Leshuk was published in January of 2003, claiming to be the first comprehensive study of U.S. intelligence regarding the strength of the Soviet Union in the period from 1921 to 1946. Using previously classified U.S. intelligence files, Dr. Leshuk attempts to determine what the U.S. intelligence perceptions were, on what information they were based and what connection they had to U.S. policy. A major focus of the book is to determine how and why the United States underestimated the strength of the Soviet Union.

Dr. Leshuk is a researcher and independent intelligence analyst in Washington. He spent several years helping the Afghan resistance in the war with the Soviet Union, and more recently has examined first-hand much of the Soviet-era industrial infrastructure remaining in the successor states of the USSR. The book also contains revelations about the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

- "Lesia's Dream," a novel for young adults by Laura Langston, poignantly details the struggles of a Ukrainian family adjusting to their adopted country of Canada during World War I. Fifteen-year-old Lesia and her family are from Shuparka, in the Halychyna region of Ukraine, which was under the rule of Austrians just before World War I. Lesia and her brother, Ivan, save and borrow enough money to get their whole family to Canada, however this strange land looks nothing like the country they fled.

"Lesia's Dream" highlights a little-known Canadian historical fact about the internment of Ukrainians and other Eastern Europeans during World War I. Filled with intricate details of Ukrainian customs and traditions, "Lesia's Dream" is a gripping story about a family's survival.

- In August 2003 the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press released a 232-page collection of 11 essays by Serhii Plokyh and Frank Sysyn titled "Religion and Nation in Modern Ukraine." Drs. Plokyh and Sysyn wrote their studies on the topic during the years 1983-1999. The book is indispensable for anyone interested in the history of Ukraine or in the church-state-nation relationship in 20th century Eastern Europe.

Among the topics the authors discuss are the formation of modern Ukrainian religious culture; the impact of the traditions of the Kyiv Metropolitanate on the Ukrainian Orthodox Autocephalous movement; the foundation of the Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church in Canada in relation to the formation of national identity in Ukraine and in the Ukrainian diaspora; the role of the international factor in the Soviet liquidation of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in 1946; the rebirth of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church in the USSR (1989-1991); the role of the Moscow Patriarchate in independent Ukraine in the early 1990s; the struggle for a Ukrainian Catholic Patriarchate in Ukraine in the early 1990s; and the Church-state relationship in contemporary Ukraine.

- "The Natashas: the New Global Sex Trade" is the title of Victor Malarek's fourth book, which pursues the story of the most recent wave of trafficking – the buying and selling of flesh for the worldwide sex industry. Mr. Malarek estimates that of the 1 million young women sold worldwide for sex every year, one-quarter come from Eastern Europe, including about 100,000 from Ukraine alone.

One of the most appalling aspects of this trade is the targeting of orphans throughout Eastern Europe. Girls must leave orphanages when they graduate, usually at the age of 16 or 17 and, having no money for living expenses or any education or training to get a job, they easily fall prey to bogus job offers in other countries. In the past three decades there have been four waves of trafficking, with the latest from Eastern and Central Europe, dubbed the fourth wave whose "speed and proportion is staggering," Mr. Malarek writes. In its 2003 trafficking report, the U.S. State Department estimates that approximately 800,000 to 900,000 persons are trafficked across international borders worldwide and 25 percent of this trade is traffic from Eastern and Central Europe. Ten years ago it was non-existent. "The Natashas" is an investigation to find out how it happened and why it continues to thrive.

One of Canada's foremost investigative journalists, Mr. Malarek has written for The Globe and Mail, has been the host of CBC's investigative documentary program "the fifth estate" and is now an investigative journalist on CTV's current-affairs show "W-5." The book was launched in October in both Ottawa and Toronto.

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The world of sports: boxing's the top story

The year 2003 saw Ukrainian athletes competing on a variety of levels in a variety of different sports. There were historic bids to cross the Atlantic Ocean by rowboat and news of a Ukrainian Canadian buying a National Hockey League team in Canada. The year saw diaspora Ukrainians in North America competing in tournaments and professional athletes setting world records. There was even news of a Ukrainian strong man from Lviv who might soon become the strongest man in the world.

In the world of boxing, South African Corrie Sanders knocked out Ukrainian Volodymyr Klitschko to take the World Boxing Organization title during a boxing match in Hannover, Germany, on March 8. The loss was Klitschko's second in his professional career and gave him a record of 40 wins and two losses.

Sanders, 37, stunned Klitschko, 27, with repeated punches throughout the short fight, knocking him to the mat twice in the first round and twice in the second round. The final blow came 27 seconds into the second round and shocked much of the boxing world as Klitschko was widely expected to win.

On June 21 Lennox Lewis defeated Ukrainian Vitalii Klitschko to retain the World Boxing Council title after a ringside doctor stopped their fight prior to the start of the seventh round. While Lewis, 37, won the fight, it was Klitschko, 31, who surprised boxing experts and captured many of the 15,939 hearts at the Staples Center in Los Angeles with his performance. Klitschko, a 4-1 underdog going into the fight, left a strong impression on analysts and commentators working the fight. Several, including boxing great and former heavyweight champion George Foreman and HBO's Larry Merchant, called Klitschko the real winner in the fight and said that questions regarding Klitschko's heart were erased with the Ukrainian's performance.

Klitschko fought from the third round on with blood pouring over the left side of his face from five different cuts. Dr. Pearlman Hicks said in a telephone interview with The New York Times that 60 stitches were required to repair four cuts on Klitschko's face and one cut in his mouth.

Ringside doctor Paul Wallace ordered referee Lou Moret to stop the fight in between the sixth and seventh rounds prompting a strong reaction from Klitschko, who was winning, 58-56, on all three of the ringside judges' scorecards when the fight was stopped. Lewis, the reigning WBC champion, won the fight after six rounds by technical knockout. "Right now I feel like I am the people's champion," Klitschko said immediately after the bout, according to Reuters.

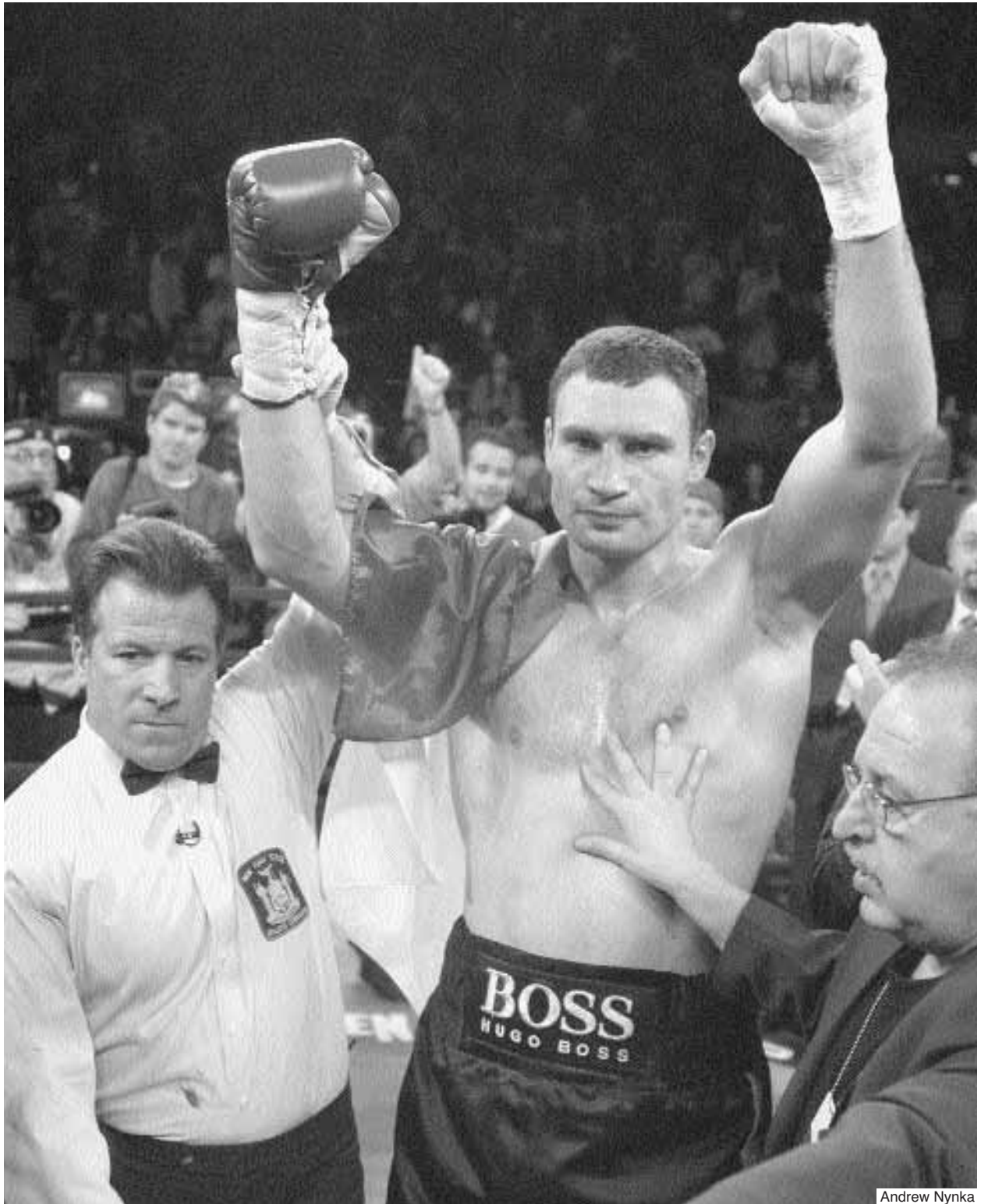
Then, on December 6, Vitalii Klitschko used only two rounds to knock out Canadian Kirk Johnson in front of 10,823 screaming fans at Madison Square Garden. Johnson, from North Preston, Nova Scotia, had lost only once previously and was a top contender going into the bout with Klitschko, but the Ukrainian never let him get into the fight. Johnson appeared tentative and hardly landed a punch as Klitschko pursued him relentlessly around the ring. Johnson's only previous defeat came at the hands of John Ruiz during a World Boxing Association title fight. Klitschko (33-2-0, 32 knockouts) had not fought since his June 21 bout, but he appeared well-prepared for the fight with Johnson. The win made Klitschko the official No. 1 heavyweight challenger for the WBC belt, and it also appeared to prove that his performance against Lewis was no fluke. There had been some speculation that a rematch between Lewis and Klitschko could net the aging 38-year-old British boxer nearly \$20 million, although the Lewis camp continued to hint that Lewis might retire prior to a rematch.

Klitschko, who landed 55 punches to Johnson's nine, had much of the crowd's support behind him.

Klitschko was originally scheduled to fight Lewis on December 6, but the Briton backed out of the fight and the WBC decided to have an official elimination contest instead. Lewis said he wasn't ready to fight again in 2003 and needed time to think about whether he would ever fight again. Klitschko needed an opponent for the December 6 fight and he took what many regarded as a tough one in the once-beaten Johnson.

If Lewis does choose to retire in 2004, Klitschko could potentially fight Corrie Sanders, who beat Vitalii's younger brother Volodymyr earlier in 2003, for the vacant title.

In May The Weekly reported that billionaire Ukrainian



Andrew Nynka

Vitalii Klitschko is proclaimed the winner in his December bout against Kirk Johnson.

Eugene N. Melnyk, the 44-year-old Toronto-born chairman and chief executive officer of the pharmaceutical giant Biovail Corp., received Ontario Superior Court approval to purchase the National Hockey League's Ottawa Senators. The Senators won their first Presidents' Trophy this year for finishing the regular season with the best overall record and made the Eastern Conference final against the New Jersey Devils – the closest the Senators have ever come to winning the Stanley Cup.

The \$100 million (about \$75 million U.S.) deal to purchase the nearly bankrupt 11-year-old NHL franchise, through Mr. Melnyk's company Capital Sports & Entertainment Inc., was to have closed by May 30. But the offer hinged on finalizing a transaction to buy the Corel Center, the team's home arena that defaulted on payments and was placed into receivership in May. On June 10, that deal, too, was finalized, though its details were not released.

Mr. Melnyk had offered \$27.5 million to purchase the Corel Center – built for more than \$220 million in 1996 – from Covanta Energy Corp., an insolvent New Jersey-based company that is owed \$210 million for financing construction of the arena. The NHL's board of governors unanimously approved the purchase of the Ottawa Senators and the Corel Center by Mr. Melnyk on June 17.

On May 3, 29-year-old Vasyl Vyrastiuk of Lviv set a world record by moving five street cars weighing 101.5 tons each a distance of 17.9 meters (about 60 feet). The effort was duly recorded and is scheduled to become part of the next edition of the Guinness Book of World Records. Mr. Vyrastiuk, who works as a filling station guard, has also set records in carrying two bags weighing 171 kilograms each (376 pounds each) and in pushing a line of 10 automobiles. He is regarded as the undisputed strongman of Ukraine and perhaps the world. He has won and successfully defended virtually every major strong-

man championship in Ukraine and within the region of the former Soviet Union.

On September 29 Vyrastiuk took a bronze medal in a World's Strongest Man Contest held in Zambia. The Weekly reported that the Ivano-Frankivsk native found that his natural gift lay in his ability to move train cars and tractor-trailers several hundred yards, usually several at a time, often weighing in excess of 60 tons. He found he was also pretty good at lifting suitcases filled with 120 kilograms (approximately 265 pounds) of concrete a piece, one in each hand, and carrying them 70 meters faster than anybody else in the world. In Zambia he did it in 24 seconds, a new world record. He also realized that he had an unusual ability to push a horse cart filled with a ton of salt 20 meters faster than anybody, to say nothing of carrying logs or lifting concrete spheres two meters or so in diameter onto a platform.

After winning the Ukrainian championship in 2000 and repeating the next two years, Vyrastiuk made his first mark on the world stage with his win in Zambia, where the Ukrainian federation competed for the first time as well. Even so, only Mariusz Pudzianovskii of Poland, who retained his title as the world's strongest man and Zhendrunos Zavytskas of Lithuania, who repeated in the second spot, bested the Ukrainian novice.

He called his experience in Zambia an important step in his quest to reach the top spot in a sport that is quickly gaining a worldwide audience. "It is my dream to be called the strongest man in the world, if God wills it," said Vyrastiuk. "After Zambia I know my strengths and understand what I need to work on."

The Weekly also reported that, following a two-year hiatus, Olympic gold medalist and world figure skating champion Oksana Baiul was planning a comeback into the realm of professional figure skating. Speaking with a Ukrainian Weekly correspondent by phone from

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Strongman Vasyl Vyrastiuk sets a new world record in May by moving five street cars, weighing 101.5 tons each, a distance of 17.9 meters (about 60 feet).

Richmond, Va., Ms. Baiul sounded excited yet poised about the prospect of going out on the ice and thrilling fans again. "I'm working my butt off, I want to be as good as I can," she said, "and I've got my coach from 1994 – Valentin Nikolayev – supervising my training."

Ms. Baiul made a preliminary re-start in show business in April, when she shared the ice with Olympic champions Brian Boitano and Ekaterina Gordeeva and a large cast of champion figure skaters at the Mother's Day celebration sponsored by Hallmark Cards in Colorado. A portion of the live performance was televised on the CBS Network on May 3.

On July 6 at the World Open Chess Tournament in Philadelphia Nazir Firman, a young Ukrainian from Lviv, tied nine other grandmasters for first place in the tournament. Firman competed in the top group of 238 contenders, among them 40 grandmasters, which made Firman's achievement even more remarkable as he was the only non-grandmaster among the winners (he is an international master).

Firman is the champion of Ukraine in the under-20 category, and he was a member of the Lviv team at the 2003 European team championship.

Ukraine won a gold and a bronze medal at the 2003 Freestyle Wrestling World Championships in New York on September 12-14, and qualified six out of a possible 11 wrestlers for the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece. Ukraine's Iryna Merleni (née Melnyk) won her third consecutive World Championship in the women's 48-kilogram (105.5 pound) division and will defend her title as the best in the world at the 2004 Summer Olympics.

Merleni so dominated the competition in the opening round – earning 26 points in her first three matches while giving none up – that she also earned the title of top female wrestler for the 2003 World Championships.

In addition to Merleni, Ukraine's Liudmila Golovchenko qualified for the 2004 Olympics with a fourth-place finish in the women's 63-kilogram (138.75 pound) division. Both women will be part of history as women's wrestling will make its Olympic debut next year.

Ukraine's Vadym Tasoyev also earned a spot at the 2004 Summer Games with his eighth-place finish in the men's 96-kilogram (211.25-pound) division.

The Weekly also reported on November 9 that a former Ukrainian scientist had revealed portions of a secret Soviet research project that tested the effects of banned performance-enhancing steroids on athletes. The research report for that project seemed to support long-held suspicions that Soviet success in Olympic competition was based largely on state-sanctioned use of steroids.

Dr. Michael Kalinski, a former chair of the department of sport biochemistry at the State University of Physical Education and Sport in Kyiv, said the 39-page research report was "a clear recommendation-type document and it clearly recommended steroid use by athletes of different specializations," Dr. Kalinski told The Ukrainian Weekly during a series of telephone and e-mail interviews.

According to Dr. Kalinski, the document "Anabolic Steroids and Sport Capacity" presented data from secret studies performed at a premier Soviet sport research laboratory in 1971-1972 on the performance-enhancing effects of anabolic-androgenic steroids. The Soviet research document "contains a series of scientific reports providing the times and dosages for the administration of anabolic-androgenic steroids to human subjects (athletes) and data from and descriptions of experiments conducted at the ... State Central Institute of Physical Culture in Moscow," Dr. Kalinski wrote in an analysis that was shared with The Weekly.

During a press conference on June 20 at the Ukrainian Consulate in New York City Ukrainian Teodor Rezvoy

announced his daring bid to become just the third person in the world to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean and back. Mr. Rezvoy, 35, of Odesa, Ukraine, completed the first leg of the journey, having rowed from Spain to the Barbados in just over 67 days, according to information compiled by the Ocean Rowing Society. That journey, which took place from October to December 2001 and covered a distance of 2,934 miles, made him the first man from the former Soviet Union to row across an ocean.

However, after only eight days at sea, Mr. Rezvoy's journey from New York to France ended abruptly on July 10. His \$100,000 hi-tech rowboat, Ukraine, was temporarily lost, left drifting somewhere in the Atlantic, while Mr. Rezvoy was on land in the United States. Mr. Rezvoy, who planned to row 3,354 miles from New York City to Brest, France, over the course of approximately 80 days, had been battling bad weather, rough seas and westward winds that pushed him off course and behind schedule.

The General Consulate of Ukraine in New York City said Mr. Rezvoy also began to feel ill, and that there was some problem with his liver. Mr. Rezvoy continued to row for several days as rough seas repeatedly capsized his 2,000-pound boat. The consulate said Mr. Rezvoy did not send out the maritime distress signal SOS but that, after a U.S. Navy frigate appeared on his horizon, Mr. Rezvoy ended his quest for France on July 11 when he signaled for help.

The Navy found that Mr. Rezvoy was no threat and released the Ukrainian sailor, but damaged his boat when they attempted, but failed, to hoist the rowboat onto the deck of the USS Doyle for a closer inspection. Without a boat to row, the U.S. Navy deposited Mr. Rezvoy in Salem, Mass., later that same day.

Mr. Rezvoy had hoped to become only the third person ever to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean and back. He is planning a second attempt to reach Europe. At the moment he is hoping to depart New York City for France on June 6, 2004.

In March Tatyana Pozdnyakova, a 47-year-old Ukrainian, became the oldest woman to win a big-city marathon, finishing the race in Los Angeles in 2 hours, 29 minutes and 40 seconds. Liudmila Kortchaguina of Russia took second place with a time of 2:30:18, and Zivile Balciunaite of Lithuania took third place with a time of 2:33:22. With her win Pozdnyakova received \$28,000 plus a 2003 Honda Accord EX V-6.

On November 4 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization named Serhiy Bubka of Ukraine a UNESCO Champion for Sport during a ceremony at the organizations headquarters in Paris.

According to the UNESCO website, the award recognized "Bubka's role in the promotion of peace and tolerance through sport and the Olympic spirit, his humanitarian activities in favor of young people, his action to enable disadvantaged children to benefit from physical education and his dedication to the organization's ideas."

The Weekly also learned in 2003 that Jordin Tootoo, who became the first player of Inuit descent to play in a National Hockey League game when his Nashville Predators' took on the Anaheim Mighty Ducks on October 9, is part Ukrainian. According to the Canadian Press, Tootoo's father, Barney, is of Inuk heritage, while his mother, Rose, is Ukrainian. The Canadian news wire reported that the five-foot-nine, 20-year-old hails from Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, a town located just south of the Arctic Circle with a population of some 2,500.

On July 11, after 1,283 regular season games and another 175 in the playoffs with the New Jersey Devils, National Hockey League stalwart Ken Daneyko announced his retirement. Daneyko accepted a position with his team in community relations. The Weekly reported that the primary focus of his new position would be to campaign for a new arena to be built in Newark, N.J.

Only three players in NHL history have played more games all with one team than Daneyko. Alex Delvecchio is the all-time leader with 1,549 games, all as a Detroit Red Wing. He is followed by Stan Mikita (1,394 with the Chicago Blackhawks) and Steve Yzerman (1,375+ with Detroit). Daneyko debuted with the New Jersey Devils on October 5, 1983. National Hockey League franchises in Hartford, Quebec, Winnipeg and Minnesota (North Stars) came and went during Daneyko's NHL career. He has played during the terms of four U.S. presidents (Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush) while being able to call some 220 fellow Devils his teammates. He has played for all 11 of New Jersey's head coaches.

"It has been very special to me," Daneyko said. "Sometimes I sit at home and think how it has gone by so quickly that I can't believe it. I've given my heart and soul to this team and I think they appreciate it, which is why I'm still here."

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In diaspora sports, the Carpathian Ski Club (known by the Ukrainian-based acronym KLK) hosted its annual ski and snowboard races on Saturday, March 8, in Windham, N.Y., at Ski Windham. Close to 70 skiers and a handful of snowboarders competed in the 2003 races, which were notable for the participation of a growing number of young racers who arrived with their parents and siblings in tow.

The races were officially opened with the presentation of the American and Ukrainian flags held aloft by skiers as they took a symbolic run down the official NASTAR course. (NASTAR, the acronym for the National Standard Race, is the largest public recreational grass roots ski program in the world.) Each skier then got two runs down the course, with his or her best time counting in the official scoring.

That evening, an awards banquet attended by approximately 130 people – athletes of all ages, plus their families and friends – was held at nearby Hunter Mountain. Among those in attendance were VIP guests from the Embassy of Ukraine who traveled to upstate New York from Washington especially for the KLK races. Yurii Panasiuk, deputy trade representative, and Commander Serhiy O. Hyshtymult, naval attaché, were introduced to banquet participants and were invited to help present trophies and medals. Another special guest was a representative of KLK in Lviv, Marta Dubyk, who briefly addressed the gathering, extending greetings from KLK activists in Ukraine.

Trophies were awarded for first place in each age group; while second- and third-place finishers received medals. Special traveling trophies, which are passed on from year to year to each successive winner (no repeat winners are allowed), were presented for the fastest time posted among men and women competitors. KLK leader Erko Palydowycz, Orest Fedash and Zenon Stakhiv conducted the evening's program, assisted by Vera Popel and Christine Klufas.

On March 23 at Tryzubivka, in Horsham, Pa., the Ukrainian Nationals soccer club beat perennial rival, Vereinigte Erzgebirge (V/E), 3-2 to capture the Eastern Pennsylvania U.S. Amateur Soccer Association Open Cup. The game was won on a free kick, 18 yards from goal. Earlier in the game, V/E came back from a 2-0 deficit to tie the score 2-2.

During the winter 2003 season, the top men's amateur soccer teams of the Delaware Valley competed in an expanded indoor tournament in which the Ukrainian Nationals handily captured first place in their division with 19 total points (6 wins, 1 tie and 1 loss) and a goalscored advantage of 40 vs. 24.

On July 27 the club soccer team Newark (N.J.) Chornomorska Sitch won the 2003 East Coast Cup soccer tournament held at the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) resort in Ellenville, N.Y. The tournament was sponsored by the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK). The tournament included special guests Manchester (England) "Dynamo," a team of British Ukrainians touring the United States to raise awareness for the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) land mine charity (www.magclearmines.org). Team Manager Slavko Mykosovski scheduled his team's trip to coincide with the U.S. tour of the English professional club soccer team, Manchester United.

The East Coast Cup tournament was formally opened on Saturday morning with comments from Tournament Director Mark Howansky, SUM resort Manager Peter Kosciolk, and Myron Stebelsky, president of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada. Opening ceremonies then concluded with the playing of the American, British, and Ukrainian national anthems.

Yonkers Krylati played Newark Sitch in the championship match. After playing two scoreless halves and two scoreless overtime periods, the teams headed to penalty shots. The regular five-round shoot-out ended in a 4-4 tie. The last eligible shooters (the team goalies) shot and broke the deadlock. Sitch goalie Marcel Simon guessed correctly with his dive and stopped Bohdan Protas' shot. Then despite the extreme pressure, Simon swapped positions with Protas and proceeded to coolly sink his shot, giving Newark Sitch the tournament victory.

The Sunday afternoon awards ceremony was presided over by SUM National Board President Bohdan Harhaj and SUM National Board Sports Myron Pryjmak. Besides awarding trophies to the top three team finishers they also had the honor of presenting trophies to Alex Demianczuk of Manchester Dynamo for tournament's most valuable player, Christian Pardo of Newark Sitch for top goal scorer, and Vasyi Solomyn of Long Island Vatra for best goalie.

The Manchester (England) "Dynamo" club team, officially known as Dynamo FC, played a number of matches against local U.S. opposition soccer teams dur-

ing their 2003 tour of the United States. Organizers of the supporters' trip hoped to raise awareness, not only for the landmine charity, but also for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Manchester Dynamo also took on a New Jersey team of Italians, Santa Croce SC, on Tuesday, July 29, as well as Philadelphia Tryzub on Saturday, August 2, in Horsham, Pa.

The Manchester United supporters team was made up of both semi-professionals and amateurs, who have been actively involved in fund-raising events and raising money for a children's hospital charity. The team gained recognition for its good endeavors and set an example as ambassadors of British-Ukrainian sporting heritage in the United Kingdom.

Over 50 swimmers participated in the 47th annual USCAK swimming championships held on Labor Day weekend at the Ukrainian National Association's Soyuzivka resort in Kerhonkson, N.Y. Chornomorska Sitch recaptured the championship title with 178 points, while SUM scored 156 points. Tryzub followed with 53, and Plast had 5 points. Three new records were broken.

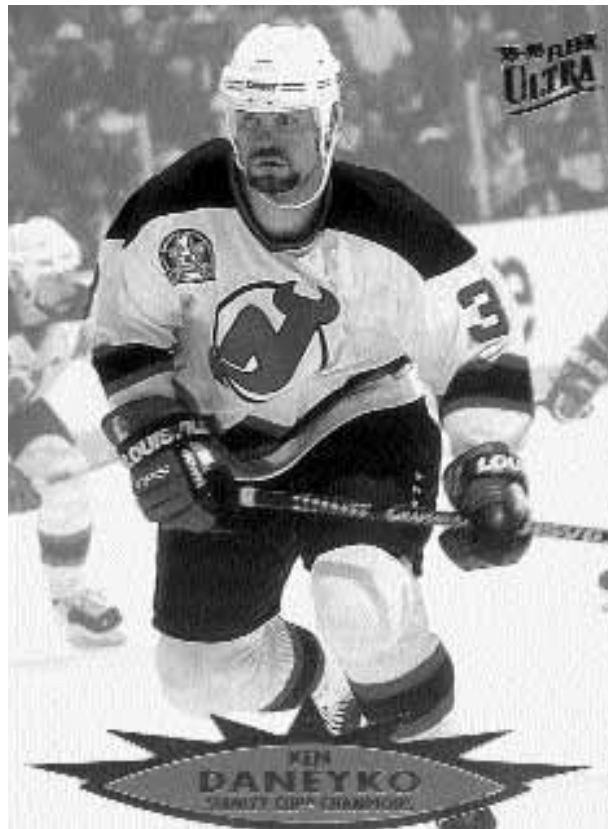
After the races, medals, trophies and ribbons donated by the UNA were distributed to the winners. Christine Kozak, UNA national secretary, congratulated the swimmers and welcomed them to return next year.

Also at Soyuzivka over the Labor Day weekend, the traditional USCAK national tennis tournament was held. Dr. George Charuk of Chicago won the men's final and 14-year-old Maryana Milchutske won the women's final. During the opening ceremonies on Saturday UNA treasurer, Roma Lisovich, officially opened the tennis event. Brief addresses were also delivered by Myron Stebelsky, USCAK's president, Roman Rakoczy, honorary member, and George Popel representing the host club, the Carpathian Ski Club (KLK). George Sawchak, tennis tournament director, assisted by Mr. Popel, and George Hrabec, conducted the tournament.

As in previous years, John Hynansky, entrepreneur, philanthropist and owner of the Winner Group from Wilmington, Del., sponsored the financial stipends for the men's, women's and junior groups in the amount of \$3,500. Since the tournament's inception in 1956, the UNA has also sponsored the tournament by providing the trophy awards.

In addition, special awards were presented to the winners of various groups: Bohdan Rak Trophy, Dr. Wolodymyr Huk Trophy, Jaroslaw Rubel Trophy, Constantyn Ben Trophy, and the Dr. Petro Charuk Trophy.

In November a soccer team representing USCAK traveled to Stockport, England, to compete in the 2003 Peter Madytsch Memorial Five-a-Side Tournament. "USCAK Select" joined 14 other teams in the competition and was represented by players from three clubs: Levko Holubec (Lviv Ukrainian American Sports Club, Ohio), Mark Howansky and Lena Howansky (Krylati) and Roman Holowinsky, Hryts Serheev and Andriy Panas (Chornomorska Sitch, New Jersey).



Ken Daneyko of the New Jersey Devils on a 1995 hockey card issued the year the team won its first Stanley Cup.

At the UNA: Soyuzivka is the focus of activity

Soyuzivka was the focus of activity at the Ukrainian National Association during 2003. The new year got off to an interesting start, as it was out with the old and in with the new at the UNA's year-round resort in the Shawangunk Mountains of upstate New York.

The UNA Executive Committee announced in the January 19 issue of The Weekly that Nestor Paslawsky, of Ramsey, N.J., was "joining the UNA to spearhead our Soyuzivka Project Renaissance," and had been appointed as director of hospitality services. "After 15 years of continuous service, John Flis, general manager of Soyuzivka will be leaving to pursue other endeavors," the executives noted.

The following were announced as members of what was referred to as "the new management team at Soyuzivka": Olesia Guran – reservations and front desk manager, who came on board in the summer from Florida and the Best Western Hotel; Daria Nyzankiwsky – operations manager, in charge of maintenance and housekeeping, a former Soyuzivka employee, who returned from the Nevele Resort; Andriy Sonevytsky – executive chef, who will also serve as banquet manager; and longtime Soyuzivka employee Sonia Semanyshyn, who assumed a new position as manager of accounting and back-office operations.

In March a special feature in The Weekly headlined "Soyuzivka's new management staff optimistic about resort's renaissance" focused on the new team's ideas and their total of over 36 years of combined experience working in major American resorts and hotels.

Mr. Paslawsky was quoted as saying of the resort that "We have so much here that we're not utilizing," and went on to state that one of his goals was to clear and mark wilderness trails on the grounds, with the goal of eventually connecting these to the Minnewaska State Park trail network.

Furthermore, the new manager said, "We need to increase activities, service and cleanliness. The idea is to come in and make noticeable changes, to show them [guests] honest changes and energize everyone for the next phase." Mr. Paslawsky described many of these changes as incremental, building slowly from one to the next while at the same time reinvigorating not only the resort, but its clientele. "We're going to build on small successes," he emphasized.

The first of several work weekends at Soyuzivka was on April 12-13, which was dubbed "Trailblazing Weekend." Two score plus volunteers arrived at the resort to help. Some came armed – with rakes, machetes, weed-whackers, chainsaws, pickaxes and shovels – while others were allowed to "pick their weapon," related Mr. Paslawsky. Their task was to clear wilderness trails on the resort's property, with a view toward making them accessible for hikers, mountain bikers and others to enjoy Soyuzivka's natural beauty – and especially the mountaintop view from the resort's waterfall. At the end of the day, the volunteers had succeeded in clearing a 4-foot-wide trail to Soyuzivka's waterfall, and, as Mr. Paslawsky observed, it was a glorious success as the trailblazers took "a victory photo" at the top of the mountain.

"Lest readers think this trail was blazed in a day," we wrote in our front-page story, "it must be noted that two Soyuzivka stalwarts, Serge Nalywaiko and Andrew Olync, had spent weeks prior to the day mapping out the trail using GPS."

Among the 40-45 volunteers was UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich, who commented: "A big thank-you is due to everyone who joined us. The weather welcomed everyone with warm, sunny skies, and fun was had by all. Not only was a trail blazed, but the Hutsul at the resort's gatehouse was renovated and painted, and the youngsters helped out by planting flowers all around Soyuzivka." By the time summer arrived, another trail was cleared and marked, and a connecting trail between the routes to the waterfalls and the cliffs was added.

The Weekly contained a special UNA pullout dedicated to Soyuzivka Project Renaissance in its May 4 issue, which also happened to be the issue in which we ran our annual supplement titled "A Ukrainian Summer." The pullout contained the details about the Soyuzivka Renaissance Fund and marked the kick-off of the campaign to raise funds for the development of Soyuzivka and increase revenue at the resort. An updat-

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ed version of that pullout appeared in the May 25 issue. And, it should be noted, similar pullouts also appeared in Svoboda.

These special advertising sections contained a reference to a definite deadline for the project to revitalize Soyuzivka: September 30, 2003. By that date, Soyuzivka needed to demonstrate a financial turnaround. As September 30 was soon after the close of the summer season, it was bookings during the summer, as well as advance bookings for the subsequent fall, winter and spring months, that were critical to secure the future of the resort.

In the months that followed, Soyuzivka was spruced up all around, inside and out. The Main House's exterior was repainted and its dining room was gutted and subjected to a complete makeover, with guests commenting most favorably on the end product. Karpaty, Chernivtsi, Odesa and Lviv also were refurbished and/or upgraded. A roller rink was built next to the volleyball court; and a tiki bar was placed between the volleyball court and the pool. The latter in particular was a popular addition, as evidenced by the use it got during its first season.

UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj reported in June that bookings were up and underscored that a significant increase in reservations would signal the community's support of Soyuzivka and help the resort continue its renovation campaign. The UNA CEO stressed that improving Soyuzivka will require a collective effort, saying, "The emphasis has to be on each member of the Ukrainian community. All of the people need to participate."

He reiterated a quote from a letter by the UNA Executive Committee to UNA members and friends: "Soyuzivka remains of prominent importance to our community, and is a symbol of the contribution Ukrainian Americans and the UNA have made to our American society. We should be proud of this accomplishment and be in a position to proudly share it with others outside our community who want to learn about our culture and enjoy the unique ambiance it provides."

Other innovations related to Soyuzivka included the Summer Heritage Concert Series at the resort, the "Soyuzivka Datebook" published each week on the last page of The Weekly, a redesigned Soyuzivka website (www.soyuzivka.com) and the Soyuzivka Internet Newsletter, which travels through cyberspace to the resort's e-mail list.

Even with all the innovations and the ongoing renovations, the resort's popular camps and sports competitions took place in 2003 as usual. And, a new Miss Soyuzivka was crowned on August 16. She is Diana Shmerykowsky of New York. Meanwhile, The Ukrainian Weekly published special pages titled "Soyuzivka Photo Album" in an effort to inform readers

about all the goings-on at the resort.

By year's end, judging by the reports delivered at the annual meeting of the General Assembly, as well as the November report of the UNA Auditing Committee, Soyuzivka was doing much better financially in 2003 as compared to 2002. According to the auditors, Soyuzivka's deficit for the first nine months of 2003 was \$227,000, as compared with \$480,000 for 2002. The decrease, they noted, was due mainly to donations to the resort's renaissance, which totaled \$174,000, as well as to an increase in bookings during the summer season.

Beyond Soyuzivka, there was other significant activity at the Ukrainian National Association during 2003. At the beginning of the year the Svoboda Press released the annual UNA Almanac, this year dedicated primarily to the 110th anniversary of Svoboda, the Ukrainian-language newspaper of the UNA, which began publication as a biweekly on September 15, 1893. The Ukrainian-language volume – the 93rd almanac published by Svoboda Press – also contained a special section devoted to the 70th anniversary of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, as well as sections titled "History – Our Teacher," "Names, Dates," "The World After September 11," "Fathoming the Unfathomable," "Traditions of Other Nations," and "Meditations." An introductory article by UNA President Kaczaraj, titled "We Have Earned These Great Jubilees," referred to the 110th anniversaries of Svoboda in 2003 and the UNA in 2004.

In March the annual special section on the UNA's scholarship recipients for the current academic year (2002-2003) was printed in The Weekly and Svoboda. For 2003-2004, the UNA distributed \$23,550 in scholarships, including \$5,500 in special scholarships funded by private individuals and bequests that are awarded to outstanding students in particular fields. More on the latest batch of scholars – all 123 of them – in early 2004, when our newspaper publishes the next special section.

The UNA Auditing Committee – Dr. Zenon Holubec, chairman, Yaroslav Zaviysky, vice-chairman, and Dr. Alexander Serafyn, secretary – conducted two audits during the course of the year, as is customary. The first was in May and reviewed UNA operations for all of 2002, and the second came in November, on the eve of the annual meeting of the UNA General Assembly, and examined operations during the first nine months of 2003. The November audit noted an increase in the UNA's reserves (surplus) of \$1,289,000.

In June, the UNA hosted its traditional Father's Day celebration at Soyuzivka. Some 300 people attended the 19th annual event, which featured a luncheon and a concert.

Another annual UNA endeavor is Christmas cards. This year's series of 12 cards featured works by artists

from the United States, Ukraine, Canada and Switzerland, who allowed their works to be used as part of this fund-raiser designated for the renaissance of Soyuzivka through the Ukrainian National Foundation.

News at the UNA included an innovative gift-giving project set up in conjunction with the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America. Via the new program, purchasers of UNA insurance policies can support the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, perhaps the most unique educational institution in independent Ukraine, which also happens to be the oldest university in all of Eastern Europe. "It's a natural fit," exclaimed Ihor Wyslotsky, president of the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation of America. "The Kyiv Mohyla Foundation was seeking a broader appeal to the Ukrainian community and to raise awareness of the NUKMA and its mission beyond the borders of Ukraine, while the UNA," he continued, "more than any other Ukrainian organization in North America, is engaged in Ukraine."

The concept behind the program is simple: a buyer of a UNA insurance policy can designate the NUKMA as his/her beneficiary via the Kyiv Mohyla Foundation. And, the program is attractive to members: for someone interested in providing significant support to an extraordinary institution – in leaving a legacy – the costs are low, but there is a substantial benefit to that institution in the long-term.

The UNA also did its part to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, as it published an updated and revised curriculum guide for high school teachers that was prepared by Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, a historian and educator who happens to be an honorary member of the UNA General Assembly. The curriculum guide has already been utilized at two teachers' workshops: the first held in October in New Jersey at Rider University, more specifically its Julius and Dorothy Koppelman Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center, and the other in November in Colorado at the University of Denver.

Copies of the curriculum guide will soon be made available to schools and the public. Look for details in upcoming issues of The Ukrainian Weekly.

In other developments at the UNA, President Kaczaraj, who attended the eighth Ukrainian World Congress, held in Kyiv in August, was elected to its board of directors.

Speaking of the UNA's involvement in community umbrella groups, the UNA General Assembly voted in November to rejoin the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, which the UNA, along with many other Ukrainian organizations had quit in 1980 after irregularities at the UCCA's ill-fated 13th congress. In a statement headlined "Let the healing begin," the UNA Executive Committee informed its members and the



Victor Cymbal

Volunteers during a Trailblazing Weekend in April at Soyuzivka.

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Members of the Ukrainian National Association's General Assembly during their annual meeting in November.

community at large that at the annual UNA General Assembly meeting, held November 21-23 at Soyuzivka, the General Assembly members came to a historic decision in passing the following resolution.

"The Ukrainian National Association Inc. recognizes the pressing need of our Ukrainian American community to stand strong and united. Only from a position of strength and cooperation can we, as a community have a powerful, united voice in the public arena. ... The UNA, as a co-founder of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, at its annual General Assembly meeting which was held at Soyuzivka votes to restore their decades-long relationship with the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) on the same basis and status as had been established during its original membership. It is our sincere hope that this step will serve as an incentive for others to seek common ground on which to build mutual cooperation for the good of our community. For let us remember, only with unity comes strength."

At the same time, however, the UNA president underscored: "This action in no way impacts our present memberships and relations with any other community organization."

A precursor of the General Assembly's vote came in April when the Chicago District Committee of the UNA voted to join the UCCA.

As regards UNA organizing activity, UNA National Secretary Christine Kozak, took a pro-active role in revitalizing the UNA. The focus of the initiative, she explained, is to capitalize on UNA participation in locally sponsored events, which provide a forum for UNA executive officers to meet the community and introduce the UNA to the widest of audiences. The promotional effort put forth by the UNA Home Office for its branches included an organizing plan for 2003, the launch of a new product line, issuance of new flyers and brochures to promote the UNA and its products, a newsletter for branch secretaries, a referral program for secretaries and UNA members, articles about life insurance and annuities in the UNA's newspapers, plus suggestions for effective fraternal activities.

During the course of 2003, the UNA's Executive Committee held three meetings. The June 27 meeting reviewed the UNA's first quarter results and resolved to add a new annuity product to the UNA's line of offerings. Toward that end, it was noted that the UNA would begin the procedure of applying for the Coverdell Education Savings Account, or the Education IRA, which allows for an annual deposit of up to \$2,000 per individual and permits tax-free withdrawals made for any educational purpose from elementary school through college.

At their next meeting, held on September 26, UNA execs looked at UNA operations at the mid-year point. The UNA Executive Committee held its last meeting of 2003 on November 20, on the eve of the General Assembly's annual meeting, at the UNA Corporate Headquarters.

At both the Executive Committee and General Assembly progress was reported on two fronts: the UNA's surplus increased by \$1,289,000 for the nine months ending September 30, 2003, a 22 percent

increase over the balance of \$5,835,000 as of December 31, 2002, for a total surplus of \$7,124,000 as of September 30, 2003; and Soyuzivka's operating deficit of \$721,000 was decreased in 2003 due to the combined efforts of restructuring, implementation of management and operating changes, and a donor drive. The deficit for the nine months ending September 30, 2003, was \$227,000 – less than half the amount recorded during the same period in 2002.

The 2003 General Assembly meeting was held under the banner of "Focus Teamwork: Planning for the Future" and concentrated on setting a strategy for the future growth and development of the UNA. Participants of the three-day meeting – the UNA's executive officers, advisors, auditors and honorary members of the General Assembly – heard and discussed reports on the UNA's business operations and fraternal activities for the past year. This was the first opportunity the board of advisors had to come together to assess the company's performance after this, the first fully completed year of operation by the new administration elected in May 2002. In a departure from UNA tradition, the editors-in-chief of the UNA's two newspapers, *Svoboda* and *The Ukrainian Weekly*, were not invited to attend the annual meeting, though they did submit written reports.

During the General Assembly session, the board of the Ukrainian National Foundation held its meeting. Look for a report on donations to the UNF, which is a 501 (c) (3) organization, early in 2004.

We must note with sadness the passing of two former members of the UNA General Assembly during 2003.

Anna Haras, former supreme advisor of the Ukrainian National Association and an honorary member of the UNA General Assembly, as well as a long-time secretary of Branch 47 and chairperson of the Allentown District Committee, died on March 31. She was 82.

Wasył Didiuk, honorary member of the UNA General Assembly, a former supreme advisor and supreme auditor, the UNA's longtime chief organizer in Canada and former UNA district chairman in Toronto, died on September 17. He was 88.

Finally, a word about the UNA's official publications. *Svoboda* marked its 110th anniversary on September 15. As noted in *The Weekly*, what many may not realize is that it was *Svoboda* that gave birth to the UNA, and not vice versa – truly a demonstration of the power of the press.

The Weekly also marked a milestone in 2003: the 70th anniversary of its founding (see the item about *The Weekly* at the end of the Year-in-Review section for more information). The anniversary date was October 6.

Both newspapers published special issues dedicated to their respective anniversaries and offered editorials about each other's milestones.

Both papers also were the beneficiaries of a Ladies' Night Out in northern New Jersey that raised money for their press funds through the Ukrainian National Foundation.

The UNA, in turn, will be celebrating its own significant anniversary in 2004 – its 110th – on February 22.

The noteworthy of 2003: events and achievements

Noteworthy – that's what we call the category of things that should be noted in our Year in Review issue, but perhaps do not easily fit any of our other categories. Following, listed in the order in which they were reported in this newspaper, are the notable events and achievements cited in 2003.

- After previous digs in 1995-1997, it was reported early in the year that excavations were under way again in 2001-2002 in Baturyn, located in the Chernihiv region north east of Kyiv. The expedition is sponsored by the Kowalsky Program for the Study of Eastern Ukraine of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), whose Dr. Zenon Kohut contributed much advice on the project, and the Shevchenko Scientific Society of America. Dr. Volodymyr Kovalenko, along with his team of 70 students from the University of Chernihiv unearthed artifacts from Baturyn, the official capital of the Kozak Hetman state in eastern Ukraine in 1669-1708 and 1750-1764.

Dr. Volodymyr Mezentsev of the University of Toronto, who was among the leaders of the archeological expedition, reported in *The Weekly* in January that the hetman's large brick palace in the citadel of Baturyn and its approximate size, ground plan, and architectural design were discovered. In addition, researchers have found traces of the wooden Church of the Resurrection. Researchers also uncovered a Kozak officer's opulent home, and hope to excavate Hetman Ivan Mazepa's residence, which consists of a wooden church. Not only have structures been unearthed, but archaeologists have discovered all types of ceramic tiles, weapons and tools, icons, coins, and other items.

Most significantly, also discovered were 26 skeletal remains, mainly of elderly men, women and children, pointing to the violent massacre that occurred there in 1708. Russian troops massacred most of the town's population of 15,000 in addition to the Kozaks in Baturyn, as a punishment for Mazepa taking the Swedes' side in the Northern War.

Donations were solicited welcome to continue the archaeological expedition in 2003 and beyond, which Chernihiv archaeologists estimate will cost \$16,000 (U.S.) per summer season. In addition, the Ukraine-Canada archeological expedition prepared two video documentaries about the project.

- Through the hard work of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund (CCRF), the kindness of Dr. Oleh Slupchynskyj and the dedication of doctors in Ukraine, Mariyka Tkachuk's future now seems promising. A February story reported that the little girl was born in a Kyiv hospital, where an infection had already killed four newborns. It was not long before the viral infection affected Mariyka, leading to the disintegration of her nose, and loss of a breathing passage. On a routine visit to Kyiv Children's Hospital No. 2, a hospital CCRF has supported for some time, a doctor took Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky, co-founders of CCRF, to visit the 4-month-old, and they immediately felt inclined to help.

In their search for a doctor who could perform the complicated reconstructive surgery, the Matkiwskys recalled Dr. Slupchynskyj, whom they knew from the Ukrainian National Association's resort, Soyuzivka. Dr. Slupchynskyj grew up in the East Village in New York City, attended St. George Ukrainian Catholic School, was a member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and graduated magna cum laude from Fordham University. He then earned his medical degree from New York Medical College in Valhalla in 1991.

Though the distance between him and his possible patient worried Dr. Slupchynskyj, he requested a picture of Mariyka right away, then went to Ukraine. Bringing his own equipment, he was amazed at how much Ukrainian doctors achieve with so little available to them, "I saw them do things that I've never seen our doctors [in the United States] do. They [the Ukrainian medical team] are very talented," Dr. Slupchynskyj said.

An amazing battle was won with the opening of a nasal passage for little Mariyka and the beginning of the process to restore her nose, but the war is not yet over. According to Dr. Slupchynskyj, he will make several more trips to Ukraine to perform additional surgeries on Mariyka.

- Assistant U.S. Attorney Bohdan Vitvitsky won the Department of Justice Director's Award for his work as lead prosecutor in a series of related cases involving a so-called land flip scheme and conspiracy, which is a type of bank fraud. In these cases, the 11 convicted participants included real estate businessmen, lawyers, appraisers and

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Fragments of ceramic tiles from a stove and glazed roofing tiles from a dwelling in Baturyn, the Kozak capital.

bankers. The annual Department of Justice awards ceremony, at which Attorney General John Ashcroft delivered the principal address, was held at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington and was reported in February.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of New Jersey first nominated Dr. Vitvitsky for the award, then a jury of federal prosecutors assembled by Main Justice in Washington selected him from a pool of other nominees. Attorney General John Ashcroft delivered the principal address at the ceremony. Dr. Vitvitsky received this same award in 1995 from then Attorney General Janet Reno for his prosecution of an international fraud case. Dr. Vitvitsky is a founding member and leading activist of the Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons of New York and New Jersey.

- On Sunday, March 16, the local Ukrainian Center and the Passaic branches of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) and the Organization for Lemkivschyna hosted "Sylvia's Brunch for Hope and Blood Drive for Life." The fund-raiser made almost \$15,000 to contribute to Sylvia Hyra's soaring medical bills, which have accumulated to treat the leukemia with which doctors diagnosed the 14-year-old girl.

In September 2001 Sylvia had been diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a fatal type of bone cancer beneath the knee, which only several hundred patients are diagnosed with annually. Doctors at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital in New York City toiled for 12 hours to remove the tumor from under Sylvia's knee. They then implanted four inches of donated bone supported by metal plates and 13 screws, to replace the bone they had removed. However, following the surgery, Sylvia had to endure three emergency surgeries to return blood flow to her leg. Sylvia then had to bear six months of chemotherapy and physical therapy, but it was successful; she was in remission by August 2002.

With months of chemotherapy, Sylvia's cancer vanished, but returned in the form of acute myeloblastic leukemia in November 2002. This type of leukemia sometimes occurs when chemotherapy is used to treat bone cancer. No additional healthy cells resided in Sylvia's bone marrow, so chemotherapy was administered once again, which cured Sylvia of her cancer. She required a bone marrow transplant for which a donor was found and the surgery was performed successfully. Mounting medical expenses were a concern, however, which is why family and friends appealed to the community for support. Among those who aided the cause were New Jersey women who donated the proceeds of a Ladies' Night Out.

- Bell Labs scientist Andrew Chraplyvy, a pioneer in the development of high capacity optical fiber communications systems, on March 25 received the Optical Society of America's 2003 John Tyndall Award during the international Optical Fiber Communications (OFC) conference, which took place in Atlanta this past spring.

The award, co-sponsored by the Optical Society of America and the IEEE Lasers and Electro-Optics Society, is named for the 19th century British scientist

who first demonstrated the phenomenon of total internal reflection. It recognizes individuals who have made significant or continuing technical or leadership contributions to fiber-optics technology. Dr. Chraplyvy was honored for "pioneering research on optical fiber nonlinearities and their dispersion management, and leading wavelength-division-multiplexed fiber transmission systems beyond terabit/second capacities."

Dr. Chraplyvy, who is director of the lightwave systems research department at Bell Labs, the research and development arm of Lucent Technologies, joined Bell Labs in 1980 after receiving an undergraduate degree in physics from Washington University in St. Louis, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in physics from Cornell University. He is a Bell Labs Fellow, a member of the National Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the Optical Society of America and a member of the IEEE.

- Among those killed in the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, in New York City, Washington, and Pennsylvania was Ukrainian American Oleh Wengerchuk. While some people gave in to deep sorrow and despair, and others pledged vengeance, Dennis Cannelis, a computer software company CEO from Texas, chose a different way to deal with the loss of his friend. In July 2002 he founded a non-profit tax-exempt organization, the Oleh D. Wengerchuk Memorial Foundation (ODWMF), and invested \$10,000 to create a living legacy to his friend: a scholarship program for orphaned, underprivileged or handicapped children in Ukraine. Mr. Cannelis recalled how Oleh touched those around him through his hard work, his love for the fine arts and Ukrainian culture, his love for social interaction, and his kindness in helping others to feel special about themselves.

The scholarship program is implemented in cooperation with Help Us Help the Children (HUHTC), a non-governmental organization in Ukraine that has been working with orphans since 1996, and U-CARE, the American sister-organization of HUHTC. As of 2003, 56 students were enrolled in the scholarship program – 10 of whom were funded by the Oleh D. Wengerchuk Memorial Foundation. The scholarship covers: books and school supplies; a monthly stipend; clothing; tutors, when necessary; medical and dental expenses; and travel to Kyiv for quarterly reviews with HUHTC staff, including a staff psychologist who is available for counseling and evaluation.

In addition to pursuing their education, they participate in the HUHTC's summer camp program for orphans which takes place every year in the Carpathian Mountains (there were over 500 participants from across Ukraine just this past year).

- Ukraine Post continued to produce attractive and interesting stamp issues last year, continuing various popular series from the past, as well as initiating quite a few new ones. In all, 66 stamps appeared in 2002, 15 of which were part of four souvenir sheets. In the end, the "Ukrainian Folk Costumes" release designed by Mykola Kochubei, which garnered 14 percent of the

vote, edged out the "Military History of Ukraine" issue stamps featuring ancient Scythian warriors, which got 12 percent of the vote; and the "Kyiv Through Artist's Eyes" stamp set (stamps depicting cityscapes by Taras Shevchenko), which had 11 percent.

Also receiving substantial support was Ukraine's first chess stamp commemorating Ruslan Ponomarev becoming the 16th World Chess Champion (8 percent), a new four-stamp set honoring Ukrainian space scientists (8 percent), and the latest three stamps of the ongoing "Hetmans of Ukraine" series (7 percent).

The prize is named after Heorhii Narbut, Ukraine's famous graphic artist of the early 20th century, who designed some of Ukraine's first stamps and banknotes. Instituted by Inger Kuzych in 1992, the year Ukraine resumed stamp production, the monetary prize has been awarded annually and is now regarded as the premier recognition for Ukraine's philatelic designers.

- Breast cancer is the No. 1 killer of women in the world, and Ukraine is one of the countries with the highest breast cancer incidence rates in Europe, with 15,000 new cases diagnosed annually. The incidence rate has doubled over the last 10 years. In response to Ukrainian women's needs in Ukraine, a fund-raising campaign dubbed "Because Life is Beautiful" was begun in the summer of 2002. It began with the sale of notecards (packets of eight) by Ukrainian women artists to raise money to produce public education materials on how to do breast self-examinations and to purchase medical equipment for the detection of breast cancer. In addition to the card fund-raiser, a charity event was held on November 17, 2002, in the Ukrainian House featuring singers and designers.

During 2003 the "Because Life is Beautiful" campaign made it to the United States and Canada, where benefit fashions shows were held in Chicago, Detroit, Toronto, Washington and New York, where the tour concluded on June 7. The shows featured fashions by Anna Babenko, Viktoria Gres and Oksana Karavanska; among the models was Miss Ukraine 1996 Natalia Shvachko.

Project coordinator Marta Kolomayets, a former associate editor at The Ukrainian Weekly who is president of Public Education International in Kyiv, explained that breast cancer awareness is a serious problem in Ukraine. "Ukrainian women do not have access to information and diagnostic tools. We've started a big learning process through pamphlets and brochures, but there's a desperate need for mammogram machines," she said. "If this fund drive can pay for mammogram machines in the provinces and save even a few lives, it's well worth the time and effort we've put into it." Ms. Kolomayets said that the North American campaign had realized approximately \$100,000.

- As the world reacted to the tragic and unexpected loss of the space shuttle Columbia in 2003 and mourned the death of its seven-person crew of NASA astronauts, Cmdr. Heide Stefanyshyn-Piper did so as well. Unlike most people, however, she had additional reasons to be shocked by the disaster; three of the Columbia astronauts were her former NASA classmates, whom she was scheduled to follow into space in the spring as a fellow NASA astronaut. Her flight would have marked the first trip into space by an American astronaut of Ukrainian descent.

Like all other shuttle flights in the wake of the disaster, Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper's flight – designated STS No. 115 – was delayed indefinitely as NASA and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) complete their investigation into the causes of Columbia's break-up during its fiery re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere. But despite this tragedy and the current grounding of the shuttle fleet, Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper is determined that her own venture into space, and NASA's manned space program, will go forward, "It's not a question of if we will resume manned flight, but when."

Cmdr. Stefanyshyn-Piper is an honorary member of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, and was the keynote speaker at the UESA's 50th anniversary banquet in 1998. She was active in the Ukrainian community in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, where she grew up, and was a member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization. Today she has ties to the Ukrainian American Cultural Club of Houston.

- Ukrainian Canadian Borys Chabursky became one of only 320 Canadians ever to be named a winner of Canada's Top 40 Under 40 – a prestigious award that honors Canadian leaders who have reached a significant level of success by the age of 40. Honorees of the award, which this year were picked from among a record 1,400 candidates, are selected by a distinguished

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panel of 29 business and community leaders as part of an annual national program founded and managed by The Caldwell Partners to “celebrate the leaders of today and tomorrow.” The program was designed to “promote mentorship and professional development by introducing these leaders to the established business community and by promoting them as role models for young Canadians.” Finalists for the Top 40 under 40 award were rated on five criteria: vision and leadership, impact, growth and development strategy, innovation and achievement, and community involvement and contribution. Winners were announced on April 15.

Mr. Chabursky, 35, received the award for his work as the president and founder of Strategic Health Innovations (SHI) and for the pro bono work he has done outside of his company. Much of Mr. Chabursky’s and SHI’s work involves finding venture capital for biotechnology start-ups. Founded in 1999 and headquartered in Mr. Chabursky’s hometown of Toronto, SHI is one of Canada’s largest biotechnology consultancies.

Mr. Chabursky was nominated for the award by Dr. Richard Heinzl, a founder of the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize-winning Canadian chapter of Doctors Without Borders. He has also found time to continue his involvement as a member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and its Chornomortsi fraternity, and is an active member of the Ukrainian community in Toronto.

• Thirty-five years of dedicated and inspired research reaped their reward when the American Chemical Society (ACS) recognized the contributions of Dr. Swiatoslaw Trofimenko with a symposium held in his honor at the ACS Spring National Meeting in New Orleans on March 23-27. As reported in the April 28 issue of the Chemical and Engineering News (C&EN), a journal of the ACS, the symposium, sponsored by the ACS Division of Inorganic Chemistry, was titled “Scorpionate Ligands – Thirty Five Years Later,” and was organized to honor Dr. Trofimenko, the creator of the scorpionate ligand system, a diverse class of some 200 compounds that form complexes with all metal ions. Significantly, scorpionate ligands made the cover of this latest issue of C&EN.

Ligands in this case are large organic molecules containing boron and nitrogen atoms that bind to metal ions. The ligands that Dr. Trofimenko created and developed bear the proper chemical name polypyrazolylborates, but the manner in which they combine with metal ions reminded him of the grabbing-and-stinging action of a scorpion, hence he coined for them the term “scorpionates.” This metaphoric nomenclature has been accepted by chemists worldwide.

Dr. Trofimenko is a vice-president and learned secretary of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in America, a vice-president of the Lypynsky institute of East European Research and a member of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. (UVAN). He is also a member of the ACS, in which he held a number of national and regional offices.

• Emergency Medical Aid for Ukraine (EMAU), the medical commission of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), noted in May that it was honored to be chosen from among thousands of humanitarian groups to be filmed for an informative documentary called “Legacy of Liberty” produced by the highly acclaimed series “The Visionaries.” The story of EMAU’s work in Ukraine was funded by a \$250,000 grant from “The Visionaries” and \$50,000 in supplementary donations from Ukrainian community groups and individuals of all nationalities. The program, filmed on site, shows EMAU’s work in Ukraine by focusing on the children and adult patients it helps, and in particular, it tells the story of EMAU’s efforts at the Lviv Regional burn center in the treatment of a young boy electrocuted by a fallen power line.

EMAU has received several awards and much media attention in the 12 years of its existence, including the Firestone “100 Who Serve Award,” the Washington Chief Consular Award for humanitarian aid to Ukraine and the “Mykhailo Hrushevsky Medal” for significant dedication to the Ukrainian people and for humanitarian aid by the International Golden Fortune Foundation.

EMAU, whose coordinator/director is Roman Dashawetz, is an innovative “no frills” non-profit organization whose mission is to set up medical centers of excellence in Ukraine in order to provide state-of-the-art medical care to its people. EMAU is an all-volunteer organization, in which all of its volunteers are unpaid and take upon themselves all administrative, travel and lodging costs. Ninety nine percent of donated funds are used for the direct medical care of patients. EMAU’s goal is to guarantee self-reliance and eventual self-sufficiency in the hospitals that it serves through education and training of the Ukrainian medical personnel and administrators.

• Few in the diaspora doubt that the Soviet Union was an evil empire. Yet, documentation to support what everyone knew either from personal experience or oral history was not available to the public until the fall of communism. The museum exhibition “Not to be Forgotten,” brought from Kyiv to Washington on April 10, provided a plethora of evidence pointing to the Soviet torture of Ukrainians. The exhibit was also on view at other venues throughout the U.S.

Seventy large panels illustrated the hidden history of Ukraine under Soviet communism, from 1917 as the fledgling independence was crushed to 1991 when it became a reality. This independence was won by the martyrdom of millions of Ukrainians tortured, starved and executed. The exhibition was documented with archival documents of orders of arrest and execution, photographs of excavated mass graves, and the lists of the executed in the executioners’ own handwriting. The non-profit, non-governmental exhibit is permanently housed at the Kyiv City All-Ukrainian Memorial Society of Vasyl Stus.

• For Long Island native Taissa Kuncio, leaving the Ukrainian community in New York and moving across the United States to own and run an outdoor adventure company in San Francisco just seemed like the right thing to do. In June 2003, a year after having taken over the reins of Absolute Adventures with a college friend, membership in the company tripled and the move, Ms. Kuncio said, was definitely a good choice. From the more extreme skydiving, climbing and whitewater rafting outings to kayaking alongside leopard sharks or under a lunar eclipse, Ms. Kuncio said the company helps expose people to “all of the natural wonders that the [San Francisco] region has to offer.”

The company, which Ms. Kuncio and her partner bought in early 2002, organizes a wide variety of events for people who might otherwise lack the time or inclination to do so on their own. Many of the more social events, which are often done on weeknights, provide a way for the adventure company to build trust and a relationship with prospective clients. “Climbing with people you barely know can be unnerving,” Ms. Kuncio said. “The dinners together give people an opportunity to get to know us, become familiar with us and trust us.”

• The Batkivschyna was still sailing in 2003. In late October of 2002 the Ukrainian sailing vessel, Batkivschyna, completed the third leg of a five stage journey that should have it back in Kyiv near the end of 2004. Batkivschyna is a 28-meter-long schooner, which gained international attention and a front page story in The New York Times in July 2000, after a harried trans-Atlantic crossing, which left it lost at sea at one point and well behind in its plans to join Operation Sail. Batkivschyna did succeed, however, in arriving for Op Sail, the international gathering of sea vessels on the Eastern Seaboard of the United States in celebration of the Millennium – the largest such event in maritime history before it was over.



The stamp issue featuring Ukrainian folk costumes that won the latest Narbut Prize.

Batkivschyna had set off on April 7, 2000, from its home port of Kyiv to “let the world know about Ukraine,” as its skipper, Dmytro Biriukovich, explained at the time. He decided to develop a project named “Discover Ukraine,” which would inform people about Ukraine and also allow him to travel the world. Overcoming financial and crew difficulties, Batkivschyna journeyed through the Great Lakes in 2001, then sailed to the Caribbean in 2002 and, after crossing the Panama Canal, headed up the Pacific coast of the United States. In June it was to depart from Long Beach, Calif., to continue its voyage to the Lahaina Yacht Club in Maui, Hawaii. After Hawaii, Batkivschyna’s destinations were New Zealand and Australia, to attend the Tasmania Tall Ship Festival scheduled for early 2004, after receiving an official invitation from the Tasmanian government.

• Ukrainian American Mark Olesnick was elected president of the Medical Society of New Jersey (MSNJ) for the 2003-2004 term. He was honored on May 2 as the 211th president of the Medical Society of New Jersey during a special evening at The Ritz-Carlton in Philadelphia. The MSNJ is the state’s largest organization for doctors, with approximately 8,500 of the 22,000 physicians in the state belonging to the group.

Dr. Olesnick, 60, set several goals for his term as president of the MSNJ, among which is increasing MSNJ membership. Another top objective for Dr. Olesnick’s term is the achievement of tort reform, meaning a change in the rules of malpractice lawsuits against doctors. His agenda also includes pressing for reform the system of managed care so that doctors regain a measure of autonomy.

Prior to his election as president of the MSNJ, Dr. Olesnick served as president of the Essex County medical society, president of the St. Barnabas medical staff, a delegate to the MSNJ House of Delegates, and vice-chair of the American Medical Association (AMA) delegation. He has also served on the Council on Communications and the Committee on Finance and Budget. Dr. Olesnick is known also for his charitable work, such as bringing children in need of specialized medical care from Ukraine to the United States.

• On April 18 the first woman “claimed” the North Pole by planting the Ukrainian flag at the apex of our planet. Ukrainian American Moki Kokoris ventured to degree 90 North, a childhood dream and secret wish which she never truly believed could be realized. However, while on this amazing expedition, Ms. Kokoris discovered that as large as the planet Earth really is, as minuscule and trivial as one can feel while standing in the midst of it all, it can still be a small world.

While on the last leg of her journey Ms. Kokoris flew in a helicopter from Borneo Ice Base Camp to a “safe” landing spot nearest the pole. As has been the case since 1968, all of the aircraft, as well as the base camp itself, are operated by Russians. Because the Ukrainian language is close enough to theirs, communication with the crew was rather effortless for Ms. Kokoris. Once all of the adventurers stepped out onto the ice, the expedition leaders began to set up flags they had brought along – one representing each expedition member’s country. But their set did not include a Ukrainian flag, which is when Ms. Kokoris quickly unrolled the one she had brought with her. When it was her turn to step into the half circle of flapping flags she unfurled hers and to her surprise one of the helicopter pilots introduced himself as Yuri Kuzmenko from the city of Kremenchuk in Ukraine.

• President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma on June 11 presented the Order of Princess Olha, III level, to Western NIS Enterprise Fund President and Chief Executive Officer Natalie A. Jaresko in recognition of her distinguished contribution toward the development of Ukraine’s investment climate. Established in 1997, the Princess Olha Order is one of the most prestigious national awards recognizing women who have made remarkable achievements and contributions to the national, industrial, social, scientific, educational, cultural, charitable and other spheres of life in Ukraine.

Under Ms. Jaresko’s leadership and guidance, WNISEF has become the region’s leading private equity fund. It has built a nearly \$80 million investment portfolio that includes 24 companies in Ukraine and Moldova. The majority of these companies lead the market in consistently providing high-quality, innovative products and services as a result of their enduring commitment to excellence in all business areas. WNISEF’s portfolio companies set standards for other businesses in the region and serve as strong examples of success that attract further potential investment into economies. A Chicago native, Ms. Jaresko was named by Mayor Richard Daley to the Kyiv-Chicago Sister City Committee.

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• Vira Hladun-Goldmann made headlines in 1998 when she divorced her husband of 33 years and was awarded half of his estimated \$90 million estate – the largest equitable divorce award in American history. In 2003, Vira, as she insists she be called, published a how-to book on divorce.

By mid-year her book “Separate Ways: Relationships, Divorce and Independence of Mind,” written with the help of ghostwriter Eli Gottlieb, has sold over 5,000 copies and received great reviews. In it, the Rochester, N.Y. native talks with gusto about her marriage to banker Robert Goldman and their eventual divorce, and counsels women on finding the right lawyer, choosing between mediation or court, keeping a marital diary and managing finances.

The author said she believes the two things most necessary to a woman facing the end of a marital relationship are information and confidence. Extremely important for a divorcing woman, she wrote, is to start keeping a diary dedicated to showing what she does in a typical married day. Then she can realize what she has given to the partnership and, more importantly, begin the process of recognizing her value.

• On August 8, Bronko Nagurski was honored with his own stamp as part of a set of four 37-cent “Early Football Heroes” stamps released by the United Postal Service. Born November 3, 1908, just north of the US border, in Rainy River, Ontario, Nagurski, a man who was destined to become part of history, was born. His Ukrainian immigrant parents, Michael and Michelina Nagurski, crossed the border to International Falls, Minn., in 1912. Bronko (a nickname for Bronislaw), spent most of his time working on his father’s dairy farm there or delivering groceries. His free time was spent hunting or fishing in the area’s wild surroundings.

Nagurski’s natural athletic abilities displayed themselves in the sports he took up at the high school in International Falls, and he was recruited to play football for the Minnesota Golden Gophers in 1926. He wound up playing four different positions. In 1929 he was named consensus All-American at two different positions, full-back and tackle – the first and only player to accomplish such a feat. In 1930 Bronko turned down numerous offers for commercial endorsements and signed with the Chicago Bears of the still-young National Football League. He signed his first contract for \$5,000, making him one of the league’s highest paid players. With Bronko leading the way, the Bears won the championship in 1932 and 1933, and advanced to the title game in 1934 and 1937.

In order to supplement his income during the Depression of the 1930s, Nagurski turned to professional wrestling part time. In 1938, when Halas, his coach, refused to raise his salary to \$6,500, Nagurski retired from football to follow a career in professional wrestling. In 1937 he became the world wrestling champion and appeared in “Ripley’s Believe It or Not” as the king of two sports. He again became wrestling champion in 1939 and 1941, and then retired. He then dedicated himself to full-time farming.

The following year the Chicago Bears implored Bronko to come out of his six-year retirement and play one more year with his old team. He agreed under two conditions: that he would be allowed to come late, after the harvest was in; and that he would only play tackle, since he doubted that he could still be effective at his old position of running back. He went on to win a crucial game for the Bears in the final regular-season game against their arch-rival, the Cardinals. Bronko Nagurski died in 1990 at the age of 81.

• In an attempt to get the public interested in space travel again, one private company, Canadian Arrow, launched a competition for the X PRIZE. Headquartered in London, Ontario, Canadian Arrow is the first private firm to send a rocket to space. On June 26 Canadian Arrow announced its participation in the program and introduced the six people who have been selected to train as astronauts for Canadian Arrow.

The first team that privately finances, builds, and launches a spaceship that can carry three people to travel to an altitude of 62.5 miles, returns safely to Earth, and repeats the launch with the same ship within two weeks wins the \$10 million X PRIZE. Hundreds of people applied to take part in the X PRIZE mission, but only six were chosen, one of whom was Ukrainian cosmonaut Dr. Yaroslav Pustovyi. Dr. Pustovyi, a Ukrainian, was born in Kostroma, Russia, but now lives in Kyiv.

In 1993 Dr. Pustovyi graduated from Mozhaiskiy Space Engineering Military Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia, with a master of science degree in radio electronics engineering with honors. He then received a doctorate in physics and mathematics (radio physics) in 1996 from Kharkiv State University in Ukraine. Since then Dr. Pustovyi has worked as an astronaut for the National



Moki Kokoris of the U.S. and Yurii Kuzmenko of Ukraine hold the Ukrainian flag at the North Pole in April.

Space Agency of Ukraine, where he is responsible for strategic planning and analytic studies.

Dr. Pustovyi also passed a year-long training program at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Florida. From December 1996 to January 1998 Dr. Pustovyi served as a backup payload specialist for STS-87 crew, which flew the Space Shuttle Columbia mission in November and December of 1997. His colleague Col. Leonid Kadenyuk flew on that mission, becoming the first Ukrainian cosmonaut to fly on a U.S. spacecraft and the first Ukrainian to fly into space since Ukraine declared its independence.

• An all-star cast of international skaters led by Ukrainian World and Olympic Champion Viktor Petrenko performed in a gala benefit titled “Viktory for Kids” in Danbury, Conn. for the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund on October 4.

The first Viktory for Kids skating gala in March of 2001 raised over \$105,000 and enabled CCRF to establish a state-of-the-art neonatal intensive care unit in Mr. Petrenko’s hometown of Odesa, Ukraine. This year’s program raised an estimated \$125,000 in cash and in-kind contributions, including an Acuson XP pediatric ultrasound donated by the Siemens Corp. and a \$20,000 title sponsorship from Western Union Financial Services. The program was also taped by Emmy-Award winning television producer Robert Dustin as a donation to CCRF.

Prior to the ice skating gala at the Danbury Ice Arena, the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund also held a fundraising reception across the street at the Colorado Brewery and Steakhouse, whose owner, Michael Kondrat is a prominent Danbury businessman of Ukrainian descent. A proclamation from Gov. John Rowland and the Connecticut State Legislature praised CCRF and Mr. Petrenko, and declared October 4 as “Viktory for Kids Day” in the state. A movie filmed by the staff at the Odesa Hospital, and narrated by Yuri Kokoris clearly showed the contrast between conditions at the hospital before and after CCRF implemented its modernization program.

• On October 1 Canada Post released a set of eight self-adhesive stamps honoring living Canadian Astronauts, one of which is Roberta Lynn Bondar, Canada’s first woman in space, who is of Ukrainian background. The official unveiling of the stamps took place on September 26, at Saint-Hubert, Quebec, the home of the Canadian Space Agency, with all eight astronauts on hand.

Dr. Bondar was born in Sault Sainte Marie, Ontario, on December 4, 1945, the younger of two children. From an early age she was fascinated by the world of science and this interest was nurtured by her parents. She also became fascinated with flying and was able to pilot a plane even before she could drive a car. She dreamed of someday becoming a real astronaut and avidly followed the American space program through pictures and news clippings sent to her by an aunt living in Florida.

In 1983 Dr. Bondar’s long-cherished dream of explor-

ing space became a real possibility when the National Research Council of Canada announced the formation of the Canadian space program, and invited applications from those interested in becoming astronauts. Dr. Bondar quickly submitted her application packet and spent the next several months undergoing a battery of interviews. In December of that year she was informed that she was one of six people, chosen from a field of over 4,000 applicants, who would begin training to become the first Canadian astronauts.

After a long wait, in 1990 Dr. Bondar learned that she would go into space as a payload specialist with the first International Microgravity Laboratory Mission, on board the space shuttle Discovery. She and the other six crew members had to wait a further two years for the launch of Mission STS-42, on January 22, 1992, which wound up lasting eight days.

• A Ukrainian American served during 2003 as interim minister of irrigation and senior advisor to Iraq’s Ministry of Irrigation. Dr. Eugene Z. Stakhiv, chief of Planning, Policy, and Special Studies Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Institute for Water Resources (IWR), delivered a presentation on “Water Resource Management: Theory and Practice in the Iraqi Reconstruction Project” to a packed audience on October 28 at the Ukrainian Engineers’ Society of New York City lecture series at the Ukrainian Institute of America.

As interim minister in Iraq from April through August, Dr. Stakhiv was responsible for managing 18,000 employees, 11 state-owned companies and five state commissions. This included responsibility for 10 major dams, 22 large barrages, 271 pumping stations; generation of 2,500 megawatts of hydropower; providing irrigation water for 9 million acres, and delivering water to all of the larger municipalities in Iraq.

Dr. Stakhiv has a doctorate in water resource systems engineering from Johns Hopkins University, has authored over 100 published papers, and is a member of the Ukrainian Engineers’ Society of America.

• Roy Romanow, former premier of Saskatchewan, received the Fifth President’s Award from the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association (UCPBA) of Toronto on November 5. The President’s Award, titled “The Sower,” is awarded by the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association of Toronto to individuals who have made a significant contribution to Canada.

Mr. Romanow, who was also chairman of the Royal Commission on Medicare, was a member of the group dubbed by the media as the “Tuque and Uke Show,” which resolved the impasse over the repatriation of the Canadian Constitution from Great Britain. The “Tuque and Uke Show” group was composed of Mr. Romanow, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Justice Roy McMurtry.

The president of Toronto UCPBA, Roman Nazarewycz, presented the award to Mr. Romanow and paid tribute to

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Mr. Romanow's roots in Saskatchewan and his continuous association with the Ukrainian Canadian community in Saskatoon.

• The Ukrainian Technological Society presented its 2003 Ukrainian of the Year Award on November 15 to Nadia Komarnyckyj McConnell, the founder and the president of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation in Washington.

Stephen Haluszczak, the founder and the president of the Ukrainian Cultural and Humanitarian Institute of Pittsburgh formally made the nomination of Mrs. McConnell at the annual awards dinner. He noted that the honoree is a graduate of Arizona State University with a bachelor of arts degree in political science, and brought many executive skills developed in industrial and government service to the founding of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, establishing its presence in the United States and Ukraine, even before Ukraine's independence. The major goals of the foundation, he noted, are facilitating democratic development, encouraging free market reform and enhancing human rights in Ukraine. As the founder of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, Mrs. McConnell has shown the way for many other Ukrainian constituencies to work

for Ukraine through an active non-governmental organization (NGO).

• The World Monuments Fund (WMF), an organization dedicated to preserving the historic, artistic and architectural heritage of humankind, included two sites in Ukraine on its 2004 World Monument Watch List of 100 most endangered sites. The biennial Watch list is a call to action on behalf of threatened cultural-heritage monuments worldwide.

In November it was reported that Ukraine appears on the "100 most endangered sites" list, with two sites listed: the ancient city of Panticapaeum (site of present-day Kerch), in Crimea and the Tyras-Bilhorod Fortress, in Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy, Odesa.

Part of WMF's description of the Panticapaeum site says: "Once the capital of the Bosporan Kingdom, the largest political site in the region of the ancient Black Sea, the ruins of the city of Panticapaeum contain evidence dating back to 2600 B.C. Over its long history the site has been occupied by Greeks, Scythians and Sarmatians, as evidenced in the art, architecture and Kerch-style ceramics of the Bosporan Kingdom. Since 1826, the site has been

under the auspices of the Kerch Museum of Antiquities."

The Tyras site is described by WMF as follows: "For centuries the fortress of Tyras-Belgorod [sic-WMF employs Russian-based transliteration] has watched over the calm waters of the Dniester [sic] Estuary. Founded in the sixth century B.C. as the Greek city of Tyras, the site was mentioned by Strabo, Ptolemy and Pliny. The ancient site encompasses the preserved remains of houses, paved streets, gutters, headquarters of a Roman garrison, and fortifications built of massive limestone plates unknown anywhere else in the world. Built in the Middle Ages, the fortress functioned as a military post for Byzantine, Moldavian, Turkish, and Russian forces until the early 19th century. With three gates, 20 towers, a defensive wall and a moat, Tyras-Belgorod is the only remaining medieval fortress in southwestern Ukraine."

The WMF program identifies a broad range of endangered sites and brings them to the attention of the public, preservation professionals and local governments with the aim of protecting the world's endangered heritage and in saving individual sites.

Our community mourns their passing

During 2003 we learned of the deaths of many prominent Ukrainians. Among them were the following people who were engaged in diverse fields of endeavor.

- Omelian Mazuryk, 65, Ukrainian Lemko-born artist and iconographer – Paris, November 13, 2002.
- Halyna Andreadis, noted opera singer, community activist – Washington, December 28, 2002.
- Oleh Nyzhankivsky, 79, opera and concert singer, soloist in Swiss opera theaters from the mid-1950s to the end of the 1980s – Geneva, Switzerland, January 8.
- Serhii Naboka, 47, independent radio journalist and political activist, former Soviet political prisoner – Vinnytsia, Ukraine, January 18.
- Michael J. Metrinko, 93, first Ukrainian American member of the New York Stock Exchange as well as the NYSE's oldest and longest serving – member Atlanta, January 12.
- Stefanie Pawliw (née Stefa Mileniczuk), 88, survivor of Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920, imprisoned as 15-month old child with her parents in the Spirit Lake concentration camp – Cowansville, Quebec, January 28.
- Father Werenfried van Straaten, 90, a Norbertine monk, founder of the international Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need, the largest Church aid organization of the post-war period, that initiated support for Christians and Churches persecuted or banned under the Communist regimes of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, including the Ukrainian Catholic Church – Bad Soden, Germany, January 31.
- Leonida Svitlychna, 79, an engineer by profession and wife of the eminent Ukrainian poet, literary critic, human rights activist and political prisoner Ivan Svitlychny – Kyiv, February 18.
- Dr. Dmytro Cipywnyk, 75, psychiatrist and former president of the Ukrainian World Congress – Saskatoon, March 9.
- Yaroslava (Slava) Stetsko, 83, founder and chairman of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, former leader of the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations; and oldest member of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada – Munich,

March 12.

- Anna Haras, 82, former supreme advisor of the Ukrainian National Association and honorary member of the UNA General Assembly – Bethlehem, Pa., March 31.
- Taras Protsyuk, 35, noted Ukrainian journalist and cameraman for the Reuters news agency – killed as a result of a shell attack by a U.S. tank on the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad, April 8.
- Oleksander Kryvenko, 39, leading Ukrainian journalist, founder and editor/director of prime broadcast, radio and print media outlets, including Hromadske Radio; the television news programs "Vikno" and "Studio 1+1"; the Lviv newspaper Post-Postup; and the Kyiv magazine Polityka i Kultura – killed in an automobile accident outside Kyiv, April 9.
- Vasyl Barka, 95, noted poet, writer, literary critic and translator – Liberty, N.Y., April 11.
- Martha Kulchitsky-Andriuk, 68, opera singer and Ukrainian community activist and benefactor – Washington, April 7.
- Dr. Stephen Sydoriak, 85, distinguished physicist and researcher at the Los Alamos National Laboratory – Los Alamos, New Mexico, May 15.
- Stefan Golash, 84, member of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and political coordinator of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists command structure in Lemkivschyna; executive board member of the veterans of the UPA; and Ukrainian American Youth Association activist – Palatine, Ill., May 28.
- Myron W. Surmach, 71, owner of the landmark Surma Book and Music Co., established by his father in 1918 – New York, July 4.
- Dr. Ilarion Kalynewych, 92, librarian, scholar, artist and benefactor – Silver Spring, Md., July 10.
- Bishop Isidore Borecky, 91, first Ukrainian Catholic eparch of Toronto and Eastern Canada – Toronto, July 23.
- Yuri Khymych, 75, leading Ukrainian artist, especially noted for his imaginative paintings of the architectural legacy of Ukraine, mostly churches, as well as landscapes – Kyiv, July 23.
- Olena W. Stercho, 48, lawyer and human rights activist, member of the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee, founding member of the Ukrainian American Nautical Association Inc. – Philadelphia, September 2.

- Wasyl Didiuk, 88, honorary member of the Ukrainian National Association General Assembly, former UNA supreme advisor and supreme auditor, and the UNA's longtime chief organizer in Canada – Toronto, September 17.
- Oresta Hryciw Kowcz, 38, banking executive, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization leader and active member of Cleveland's Ukrainian community – died of injuries sustained in a car crash in Royal Oak, Mich., October 7.
- Bishop Augustine Hornyak, OSBM, S.T.D., J.C.B., 84, apostolic exarch for Ukrainian Catholics in Great Britain – London, November 16.
- The Rev. Patrick Paschak, longtime pastor of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church in New York City, former provincial superior of the Basilian Fathers (1970-1982) and vicar general of the Stamford Eparchy – New York, November 25.
- Bohdan Koziy, 80, former U.S. resident, awaiting extradition to Poland, where he was to stand trial on war crimes charges – Costa Rica, December 1.
- Dr. Miroslav Labunka, 76, rector of the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, Germany (1995-1998), Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great (1998) and retired professor of history at Philadelphia's La Salle University (1965-1993) – Philadelphia, December 2.
- Maria Cisyk, 58, pianist, music teacher, performance coach and performing arts medicine consultant – Ridgefield, Conn., December 6.
- Dr. Myroslav Prokop, 90, lawyer, political activist, and publicist; former member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists leadership; founding member of the Ukrainian Supreme Liberation Council, member of its presidium and vice-president of its External Representation; and vice-president of the Prolog Research Corp. – New York, December 7.
- Bohdan Kolinsky, 49, sports editor at The Hartford Courant – South Windsor, Conn., December 14.
- Liuboslav Hutsaliuk, 80, Ukrainian-born artist, known for his neo-impressionist oil paintings of cityscapes, landscapes and still lifes, who worked in New York and Paris – New York, December 16.
- Renata Babak, 69, Kyiv-born internationally known mezzo-soprano, who defected from the Bolshoi Opera in 1973, and made her U.S. debut in Carnegie Hall in 1975 – Silver Spring, Md., December 31.



Serhii Naboka



Oleksander Kryvenko



Vasyl Barka



Dr. Miroslav Labunka



Dr. Myroslav Prokop

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Meanwhile, at *The Weekly*...

Wow, 70 years! That's how long *The Ukrainian Weekly* has been serving the Ukrainian community. A special issue devoted to our 70th anniversary appeared on October 5, 2003. Several subsequent issues carried anniversary sections, featuring greetings from community organizations and leaders, as well as political leaders in the U.S. and Ukraine and news media outlets. At the same time we also published our quinquennial questionnaire in which we asked readers to comment on the contents of our paper. We will publish the results as soon as possible in early 2004.

During this anniversary year we brought our readers, 52 issues (as usual), 1,316 pages, 1,617 articles and 1,263,676 words (that's actually 15,024 less than last year, leading us to conclude that we used longer words that took up about the same amount of space).

The word "Ukrainian" appeared 14,089 times, "Ukrainians" 1,340 times, "Ukraine" 8,679 times and "Ukraine's" 1,848 times. "Kyiv" appeared 2,648 times, "Lviv" 589 times and "Vinnytsia" 0 times (much to the chagrin of our colleague Serge Polishchuk, who hails from Vinnytsia, and who does these word counts for us). "Kuchma" appeared 1,621 times, while "Yushchenko" appeared 596 times (such is the power of the presidency...)

As is customary, we put the full texts of all our 2002 issues online on our website (www.ukrweekly.com) in February, at the time we annually celebrate the anniversary of the founding of our publisher, the Ukrainian National Association. The site now contains 12,830 full-text articles.

If ever there was proof that our community's news media are important, it came on June 2 when United Press International carried a major news commentary about Walter Duranty's ill-gotten 1932 Pulitzer Prize and the campaign organized by Ukrainian community organizations to strip The New York Times correspondent of that prestigious award. The commentary, written by Martin Sieff, identified as senior news analyst for UPI cited our newspaper and our editorial staff member Andrew Nynka in its second paragraph and went on to cite *The Ukrainian Weekly's* May 25 news story several more times. And the article was read and published by other news media. We believe it was that article by Mr. Sieff, a well-respected international affairs correspondent and editor, as well as a Pulitzer Prize nominee for international reporting, that prompted other news media to pick up the story of the anti-Duranty campaign.

Soon after that, Fox News Channel interviewed *The Weekly* Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzewycz and Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskij. Brief reports about the campaign to strip Duranty of his Pulitzer ran several times, and footage from the interview aired on June 15. Asked by Fox correspondent Rick Leventhal why someone should care about a tragedy that happened 70 years ago, the editor replied: because millions of Ukrainians around the world lost millions of their family members. Ms. Hadzewycz was interviewed also by Anya Dydyk Petrenko of Voice of America on the same topic. Later in the year Ms.

Dydyk interviewed the editor again, but this time about the 70th anniversary of *The Weekly*.

The Sieff article proved that the reach of this newspaper extends far beyond its paying subscribers. Now, in the age of the Internet, this newspaper's reach extends even farther as anyone anywhere with Internet access can find the information we carry in our newspaper.

We like to remind our readers that *The Weekly* was established in 1933 also to tell the world the truth about what was then taking place in Ukraine – at the very same time that the Durantys of the world were denying that a man-made famine was raging and killing millions of our people. In keeping with our mission, as of June 12, our website included a new special section titled "The campaign to revoke Duranty's 1932 Pulitzer." The section contains news stories, editorials, commentaries, columns and press reviews. Also introduced later in the year was a section devoted to Senate Resolution 202, which unequivocally called the Famine of 1932-1933 a genocide.

During 2003 *The Weekly* published many materials related to the Famine. We published a special section in our November 16 issue and continued publishing these sections in subsequent issues, creating quite a record of commemorations of the Famine-Genocide's anniversary, as well as reporting information on the latest scholarly research.

In September the Kyiv-based newspaper *Holos Ukrainy* published an article about the 70th anniversary of *The Ukrainian Weekly*, focusing on our newspaper as "a coeval of the Holodomor" (Famine-Genocide). *Holos Ukrainy* also pointed out that *The Weekly* has consistently focused on the Famine and on its 50th anniversary released a book titled "The Great Famine in Ukraine: The Unknown Holocaust."

As far as our staff was concerned, it was a somewhat difficult year. In June our layout artist and computer systems troubleshooter, Markian Rybak, who joined our staff in August of 2001, broke his leg. And, to make matters worse, it was a serious break. Thus, we have been without one-half of our regular production team for the past seven months.

If it wasn't for the fact that the other half of the team, our typesetter Awilda Rolon, basically did two jobs – or at least 1.75 jobs – we wouldn't have been able to put out a newspaper. Thanks go out also to our former layout artist/computer specialist, Mr. Polishchuk, who consented to come help one day a week. (Without his assistance, in fact, Ms. Rolon says there's just no way we would have been able to produce this Year in Review issue.) Thanks also go to our colleague at *Svoboda*, Pavlo Stokoteln, who assisted with the scanning of photos, and to the entire staff at *The Weekly* as everyone did some of the work previously done by Mr. Rybak, including layout, formatting of ads, scanning of photographs, work on website materials, etc.

During the summer, as is traditional, we had summer interns. Peter Steciuk, 22, who graduated before the summer from Harvard, was here for his fourth summer. A newcomer was Roxolana Woloszyn. Why two interns, you say? Well, because much as Peter loves to work at *The Weekly*, he also loves Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization. So it was off to camp for him for three weeks in July, when he was "kommandant" (director) of the camps for "yunaky" (boys age 11

and up) at the Plast camp in East Chatham, N.Y., and then again in August when he was director of the camp program at the sea scouting camp run by the Chornomortsi Fraternity of Plast. Ms. Woloszyn, meanwhile, held the fort. The 19-year-old is a sophomore majoring in English at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla.

We were lucky also to have help in December and part of January in the person of a veteran intern, Taisa Welhasch. Ms. Woloszyn came back, too, helping us through the difficult holiday period. Both were much appreciated also during the preparation and production of this week's mega-issue.

There was other news regarding the staff.

On March 30, 2003, our Kyiv Press Bureau correspondent Roman Woronowycz reported a story about a poor boy in Kyiv whose dream was to have his own violin. Thanks to that story, readers of *The Weekly* came up with funds to make the dream come true. In its June 15 issue *The Weekly* reported on the presentation of the violin to 14-year-old Ihor Lobok.

Andrew Nynka traveled to Ukraine in April and wrote an article from Kharkiv on the penal system and another on Kyiv's bazaars.

And, during the summer our arts editor, Ika Koznarska Casanova took off her editor's hat and put on the hat of executive director of the Music and Art Center of Greene County "Music at the Grazhda" Summer Concert Series.

A colleague of ours from Kyiv, photographer Efrem Lukatsky, many of whose photos grace these pages, recently traveled to Iraq where he ran into a Ukrainian American who grew up in our neck of the woods though he now resides in Texas, Lt. Col. Roman Bilinsky. He promptly called our man in Kyiv, Mr. Woronowycz, who wrote up a story about the encounter in Tikrit with Lt. Col. Bilinsky, who is an Army physician. What was missing, however, was a photo. We wondered: How could Efrem forget to send one? He's a photographer! Well, we've got one now, and we publish it here, for the record.

There were a number of firsts for *The Weekly* during 2003. Our first full-color advertisement – and a full-page ad, at that – was published in our special annual supplement called "A Ukrainian Summer" (May 4). It was a paid ad taken out by the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) to promote its summer camps.

Also during 2003 we instituted a new column called "The News from Here." Readers of *The Ukrainian Weekly* might recall an editorial headlined "The news from here" that appeared in our March 9 issue. The reference was to a reader who called to complain that our newspaper did not carry any "news from here," but declined to say just exactly where "here" was. Her point was well-taken, however. It was clear to us that one of the things we lack is news from our local communities. Two weeks later we printed a letter from a reader titled "The Weekly needs 'news from here.'" The letter writer suggested that we establish a special section for such news compiled into something à la "Newsbriefs." In July we published our first issue of "The News from Here," as compiled by Ms. Woloszyn, one of our summer interns.

In that same July 6 issue of *The Weekly*, we introduced a new columnist, Khristina Lew. Ms. Lew was on staff in November 1990-January 1998 and served in our Kyiv Press Bureau. Her column, titled "Double Exposure," appears monthly and deals with issues faced by young Ukrainian Americans and their families.

We must also note that Self Reliance New Jersey Federal Credit Union was the first donor to *The Ukrainian Weekly's* 2003 campaign to solicit funds for the Copies for Congress project, which provides free subscriptions to the newspaper for all members of the U.S. Congress. Other major donors were: Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union (\$1,000), the SUMA (Yonkers) Federal Credit Union (\$1,000), the Ukrainian Medical Association of North American (\$1,000) and First Security Federal Savings Bank (\$2,500), which made the donation through its Heritage Foundation. Thanks also are due to the countless readers who have contributed to *The Ukrainian Weekly* Press Fund. Frankly, we couldn't do what we do without you.

We end with the big THANK YOU to all our readers, correspondents and supporters, as well as our publisher, the UNA, and our administration. May 2004 bring you all happiness, good fortune and good health.

Credits: The materials in this yearender were prepared by our staff in Parsippany, N.J., Roma Hadzewycz, Andrew Nynka and Ika Koznarska Casanova; our Kyiv Press Bureau chief, Roman Woronowycz; our colleagues Yaro Bihun and Chris Guly, who contribute, respectively, from Washington and Ottawa; as well as interns Taisa Welhasch and Roxolana Woloszyn. The materials were handled, with care and love, and laid out by the production team of Awilda Rolon and Serge Polishchuk.



Efrem Lukatsky

The photo from 2003 that should have been printed along with a story about Lt. Col. Roman Bilinsky, whom Kyiv-based photographer Efrem Lukatsky, a contributor to our paper, encountered in Tikrit in November.

Chicagoan brings legacy of Bohdan Lepkyi back to Berezhany

by Marta Kolomayets

BEREZHANY, Ukraine – For Dr. Roman Smyk, popularizing the name of Bohdan Lepkyi, writer, lecturer, poet and publicist, is more than just a hobby. It is his life's mission.

"It was Bohdan Lepkyi (1872-1941) who gave me an education, it was people like him and writer Andriy Chaikovsky (1857-1935) who molded me," said Dr. Smyk, referring to the native sons of Berezhany, a sleepy town of 20,000 people located just 30 miles from Ternopil and about 60 miles away from Lviv.

"Lepkyi instilled a spirit of patriotism in me. Reading his works, I was influenced by his Mazepa trilogy, (which includes "Motria," "Ne Vbyvay" and "Baturyn"), stimulated by his belief in the Ukrainian nation," explained Dr. Smyk, 85, during a recent interview in Chicago.

Although Lepkyi spent most of his adult life in Poland and Germany (1899-1941), he lived for Ukraine. And it was precisely because he lived for Ukraine that the Stalin regime classified him as an enemy of the state, a "bourgeois nationalist," and banned his writings for more than 50 years.

"He was a real ambassador for Ukraine. First and foremost he lived to serve his beloved Ukraine," said Dr. Smyk, who lived with the Lepkyi family in Krakow, where he attended medical school at Jagiellonian University in the late 1930s. He admits that he can go on for hours talking about his uncle (Lepkyi's father and Smyk's grandmother were brother and sister), who taught Ukrainian literature and language at this prestigious Polish university for many years and translated the works of Shevchenko, Franko, Stefanyk and Kotsiubynsky into Polish and German.

"How could I thank Lepkyi for all the good he had done not only for me, but for the Ukrainian people," wondered Dr. Smyk, who emigrated to the United States in 1950.

That answer came in the 1970s, when he received a letter from Bohdan Lepkyi's youngest daughter, who had settled in New York after the second world war. She asked Dr. Smyk to be the curator of the Lepkyi archives, which her brother Rostyslav had managed to bring to the United States right after the war.

"And when the time is right, I ask you to make sure that the archives find a home in one of our museums or prestigious universities," she wrote. Dr. Smyk and his wife, Lida (also a native of Berezhany) tackled the project with zest, setting up a traveling exhibit of Lepkiiana in the United States and Canada, which included stops in such cities as Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Philadelphia, New York, Edmonton and Winnipeg and Toronto.

The Smyk family established the Bohdan Lepkyi Foundation and contributed financially to the publication of Lepkyi's autobiography, "Kazka Moyoho Zhyttia" (A Tale of My Life), which was released in New York in 1967. That publication rekindled the Ukrainian diaspora's interest in one of the great writers of the 20th century, who is perhaps best known in the West for his poignant poem "Zhuravli – Chuyev Brate Miy," set to music by his brother Lev. It is often sung at funeral services for veterans of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and others who dedicated their lives in the fight for an independent Ukraine.

But Dr. Smyk's real mission was to bring Lepkyi back to the citizens of his native land. After his wife died in 1988, he fell ill and donated the Lepkyi archives to the Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York City, but remained the guardian of the treasures.

"I knew I had to wait for Ukraine to be independent before we could bring Lepkyi back to the pages of Ukrainian literature," he explained. As his health improved, that opportunity came in the summer of 1990,

when he traveled back to Ukraine – the first time in 50 years – for the Ukrainian Medical Association convention and visited his native Rohatynschyna and walked the streets of Berezhany, where he spent many boyhood summers.

He wandered into the neophyte Book Museum and had a chance meeting with Nadia Volynets, the director of that museum, whom he now calls his guardian angel. That 20-minute meeting turned into a dozen years of collaboration to bring the works of Lepkyi back to the people in whom the writer fiercely believed.

Dr. Smyk also found out that the process of rehabilitating the productive Lepkyi – who had translated 62 books of Ukrainian literature into Polish and German and produced more than 77 of his own works that covered Ukrainian historical, ethnographic and cultural themes – had begun in 1988. It was then that an article was published in *Literaturna Ukraina* and the Book Museum was opened in Berezhany, featuring a sole excerpt from Lepkyi's works – his autobiography and a modest corner exhibit dedicated to the Rev. Markian Shashkevych (1811-1843) who also hailed from Berezhany.

Dr. Smyk's meeting with Ms. Volynets in 1990 also brought about the establishment of the Bohdan Lepkyi museum in Berezhany, part of a museum complex on the grounds of city hall, which includes the Book Museum and the Museum of the Persecuted Church. All three museums have been financially supported by Dr. Smyk and his family. Over the years, he has donated many of the original pieces from the released Lepkyi archives plus his own private collections of philately and memorabilia related to Patriarch Josyf Slipyj. He returned to Berezhany in 1991 and continued with plans for the Bohdan Lepkyi Museum, which was opened in 1995 with the participation of Dr. Smyk. The museum features original materials, including manuscripts, photos, paintings and books from the Lepkyi archives.

With the enthusiasm and commitment of her museum co-workers – Nadia Dydra, now the director of the Bohdan Lepkyi Museum in Berezhany, Yaroslava Mazurak and Ruslana Zalypyska – Ms. Volynets, was able to curate six rooms of Lepkyiana.

In 2002 the Lepkyi Museum was named the best regional museum in Ukraine. According to Ms. Dydra, a few thousand visitors, including schoolchildren from all over Ukraine, visit the museum yearly and consider it Berezhany's little gem.

"Of course, we suffer from a lack of government funding, but our benefactor keeps us going," noted Ms. Volynets, who continues to marvel at the energy and commitment of the philanthropist. "We want our children to know about Ukraine's 20th century heroes," she said, adding that Dr. Smyk is also regarded as a regional champion of Ukrainian independence.

Since the years of Ukraine's independence Dr. Smyk has devoted his energies to promoting the good name of his famous uncle, although now his trips to Ukraine are rare. Besides four museums that feature the Lepkyi family, memorial boards devoted to the Lepkyi family in the village of Zhukiv, monuments in the village of Krohulets and in Berezhany have all been financially supported by Dr. Smyk.

More than 30 Lepkyi works, also sponsored by Dr. Smyk have been published both in Ukraine and in the West, in order to acquaint readers with the prodigious works of Lepkyi, including the well-received compilation titled "The Return of Bohdan Lepkyi," which is a 1,100-page collection of articles, memoirs and literary works. Conferences, roundtables, seminars and exhibits have also celebrated the 120th, 125th and 130th anniversaries of the birth of Bohdan Lepkyi.

A meticulous collector and a great museum enthusiast, Dr. Smyk's interest in docu-



A monument to writer Bohdan Lepkyi in Berezhany, Ukraine.

mentation and museum work began early in life. While a student at the Stanislaviv Gymnasium, (now Ivano-Frankivsk), he helped set up the ethnographic museum there (1933-1937). That passion is something that has guided him throughout his entire life.

To date, Dr. Smyk is credited with setting up more than half a dozen museums, including a Josyf Slipyj Patriarchal Museum at the Ukrainian National Home in Warren, Mich., devoted to the life and works of the persecuted leader of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, a Patriarchal Museum at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome, another Patriarch Josyf Slipyj collection at Lviv's Ukrainian Catholic University, as well as a Patriarch Josyf Museum in Truskavets and the Persecuted Church Museum in Berezhany. His devotion to the Lepkyi

family is evident in the museums he has set up in Ternopil, Berezhany and the village of Zhukiv.

For his good works, Dr. Smyk has recently been rewarded with the publication of a new book, on the occasion of his 85th birthday. Released just weeks ago in Ternopil, the 350-page jubilee edition features his speeches on the Lepkyi family, as well as his philatelic works on the topic of Patriarch Josyf.

Already an honorary citizen of both Zhukiv and Berezhany, as well as an honorary member of the Prosvita Society in Ukraine and a recipient of both the Brothers Lepkyi Prize and the Volodymyr Vynnychenko Prize of the Ukrainian Cultural Fund, Dr. Smyk remains humble.

"I am a very lucky man," he said. "The Virgin Mary has been my protectress and she has watched over me all these years. This is my honor and my duty," he asserted.



Nadia Volynets (left) of Berezhany, who helped establish a museum of Lepkyiana, with Marta Kolomayets, a visitor from Kyiv who is originally from Chicago.

Hollywood Trident Foundation announces winner of film school scholarship

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. – The Hollywood Trident Foundation announced on January 5 that Olenka Denysenko has been chosen as the 2004 Los Angeles Film School scholarship winner. Ms. Denysenko was chosen from a large number of very qualified applicants from as far away as Ukraine and Australia.

The Hollywood Trident Foundation was formed in 1999 under the leadership of its chairman, Hollywood Academy Award-winning actor Jack Palance. The purpose of the foundation is, through education and the arts, to encourage film makers to research, film and present the contribution of the Ukrainian community worldwide to modern civilization, including the community's contribution to the film industry from its inception to modern-day times.

Ms. Denysenko is a cum laude bachelor of arts graduate of New York University, where she took courses in acting, directing and film. She appeared as a student actor in three NYU theatrical productions and has written two screenplays.

Apart from her interest in film, Ms. Denysenko took part in a variety of campus activities for which she was awarded the NYU President's Service Award. Ms. Denysenko, who is in her mid-20s, also

holds a first degree black belt form the New Jersey Black Belt Association, was a Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble member and graduated from the School of Ukrainian Studies in New York. She is fluent in Ukrainian, and has studied in France.

In making this year's award Peter Borisow, president of the Hollywood Trident Foundation, underlined that Ms. Denysenko's interest and participation in film, involvement in Ukrainian community life and outstanding student achievements made her an excellent candidate for the scholarship. Her father is Yuri Denysenko, longtime professor of cinematography at the NYU's School of Film.

The L.A. Film School is a major force in developing present and future filmmakers. Their advisory board includes such major talents as Faye Dunaway and Paul Verhoeven, and guest speakers include many major talents working in the business today. The school is located in the heart of Hollywood and offers total film-making facilities.

The scholarship award is estimated at over \$10,000 in value and includes tuition for attendance at an eight-week intensive course in film-making at the Los Angeles Film School, all incidental equipment fee



Peter Borisow of the Hollywood Trident Foundation congratulates Olenka Denysenko, the recipient of the foundation's film school scholarship.

costs, room, board, and travel expenses.

The Hollywood Trident Foundation would like to acknowledge the following persons and organizations for helping to make this year's scholarship possible. Special thanks were given to Diana

Derycz and the L.A. Film School, without whose generous contribution and support this scholarship would not have been possible. The Rev. Myron Mykyta and the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary were acknowledged for providing accommodations for the student while taking the course. Special thanks also went to Jim Makichuk, the chairman of the Scholarship Committee who coordinated the foundation's efforts with the film school and to Paul Wolansky, Misho Stawnychy and Taras Semchyshyn, Committee members who worked very hard to make the scholarship possible.

The Hollywood Trident Foundation noted "the wonderful depth of excellent student talent demonstrated by Ukrainians and friends of Ukraine throughout the world." In appreciation of applicants' interest in the industry and their very promising talent, the foundation is extending complimentary associate memberships for 2004 to all applicants.

The foundation hopes to make future scholarships available to Ukrainian students of film and thus is appealing to the Ukrainian community and all those who support the foundation's objectives for support.

The Hollywood Trident Foundation was formed to foster more films about the contribution of Ukrainians to modern civilization worldwide and also to bring together entertainment and media industry professionals in support of the following further objectives:

- to support fellow members in their career pursuits in the entertainment and media industry in Hollywood and internationally;

- to facilitate contact among professionals working in the entertainment industry who are interested in Ukrainian affairs; and

- to conduct seminars, workshops and other entertainment projects for members.

The organization was formed as the Hollywood Trident Network in late 1999 and later was incorporated into the Hollywood Trident Foundation. It includes members primarily living in the Los Angeles area working on Hollywood-related matters.

Persons who work in the entertainment or media industries may sign up as regular members. Persons who do not work in these industries but nonetheless support these goals may sign up as associate members. For information on joining the foundation interested persons may contact: Andriy J. Semotiuk, Manning & Marder, 23rd Floor, 660 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90017.

At the age of 95, Michael Ewanchuk is working on his 16th book

by Mary E. Pressey

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, Manitoba – Dr. Michael Ewanchuk, author of many books, is an exceptional man. At the age of 95 he is writing yet another book – his 16th.

He has a diverse background, one that makes Ukrainians in Canada and abroad proud.

On any given day he is invited to speak at various functions. His knowledge of facts, be they of past or present events or on any given subject – but especially pertaining to the struggles and achievements of the Ukrainian pioneers and younger generations in Canada – are articulated with detail recalled to the delight and enlightenment of the audience.

To outline all of his achievements in life would take volumes of written words and much space, thus follows a brief synopsis as presented in his autobiography, in several of his books, particularly in "Vertical Development: A New Generation of Ukrainian Canadians," submitted by Borislav N. Bilash.

Mr. Ewanchuk was born on March 14, 1908, in Gimli, Manitoba, to pioneer parents Wasyly and Paraskeva Ewanchuk, who arrived in Canada in 1902 from Kopychentsi, western Ukraine. He attended the Dnister School and was one of the first four students to complete the Grade 8 Entrance Examination. Upon completion of elementary school he entered high school in Gimli. Having a need for social interaction, he joined the Ukrainian National Home and the Taras Shevchenko Library, and participated in drama and debates.

Following high school, Mr. Ewanchuk worked temporarily as section hand for the Winnipeg Electric Railway, then took employment at the Ford Factory in Detroit. He worked the midnight shift and this gave him the opportunity to attend daytime classes at the Detroit Institute of Technology and later Detroit City College, now Wayne State University. He joined and became secretary of a Ukrainian students' club and was a member of the International Students' Club of the YMCA as well as the Ukrainian National Home.

In 1930 Mr. Ewanchuk returned to Canada and attended Wesley (United) College and the Provincial Normal

School in Winnipeg. While there, he became a member of Petro Mohyla Institute, where he served as assistant to the rector and as president of the student club Prometheus.

After becoming a teacher, Mr. Ewanchuk completed his academic work and received B.A., B.Ed. and M.Ed. degrees from the University of Manitoba. His first teaching position was at Beckett (Svoboda) School. He then accepted principalships at high schools in East Selkirk and Springfield.

In Springfield he met his primary teacher, Muriel Smith, whom he married and who was an inspiration to him throughout his endeavors. He became active in the Ukrainian Teachers Society and was president of the South Eastern School Teachers' Convention.

After their marriage, Dr. and Mrs. Ewanchuk moved to Cartwright, where he accepted the principalship at the high school. While in Cartwright he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in which he served as instructor of navigation and as officer in charge of airman-ship. He also served as a personnel counselor to the retiring servicemen. His last assignment was as an instructor in mathematics and English. He retired from the RCAF with the rank of flight lieutenant. His beloved wife died in 1997 after a prolonged illness.

Following his retirement from the RCAF, Dr. Ewanchuk became the first Ukrainian Manitoban to receive a permanent appointment as inspector of schools. After serving in that capacity in the Roblin and Carman inspectorial areas, he was transferred to Winnipeg, where he served for 20 years as inspector of elementary and high schools, evaluating, in particular, instruction in science and mathematics at the senior grade level. His special assignment was the statistical analysis of the high school examinations then conducted by the Department of Education.

During his years as inspector of schools, Dr. Ewanchuk served as president of the Manitoba Educational Research Council, the University of Manitoba Alumni Association, the Manitoba School Inspectors' Association, the Canadian College of Teachers and the

Canadian School Superintendents' and Inspectors' Association (CASSI). He represented CASSI at the American Science Seminar in Washington and at the conference of the American School Administration in Chicago. Additionally, he represented, as president, the University of Manitoba Alumni Association at the American Conference in San Francisco and was consultant to the Educational Show Place in Toronto. He also served as chairman of the editorial board of the Canadian Superintendent.

In 1964 Premier Roblin appointed him to take charge of a curriculum committee to prepare the first Ukrainian program of studies and to select appropriate textbooks for the teaching of Ukrainian in Manitoba high school.

Dr. Ewanchuk's credits as an educator are a showcase to be admired. He is honorary life member of the Canadian Association of School Administration and of the Canadian College of Teachers. He has received recognition from the Manitoba Modern Language Association, was awarded a certificate and a medal of recognition by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and received a certificate of recognition from the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in June 2000.

For his many books he has received the Margaret McWilliam Award from the Manitoba Historical Society. For his contribution to education he was awarded a doctor of law degree from the University of Winnipeg and a doctor of canon law degree from St. John's College at the University of Manitoba.

In 1973 Dr. Ewanchuk retired as inspector of schools and began devoting his time to writing articles and books. His articles have appeared in the Ukrainian Canadian and Ukrainian American newspapers. His many books comprise stories and history of the Ukrainian pioneers in Canada, their struggles and achievements, and the achievements of their children. For this purpose he has conducted historical research not only in various archives in Manitoba, but also in the Canadian Archives in Ottawa and the U.S. Archives in Washington.

Dr. Ewanchuk now resides in Winnipeg.

Dwojak family donates \$350,000 to enhance Ukrainian student exchange program with Iowa State University

AMES, Iowa – Stefan and Kateryna Dwojak, longtime supporters of an exchange program between Ukraine and Iowa State University, have donated \$350,000 to continue their support of the school. The gift was announced during an Iowa State University College of Agriculture donor recognition event here on November 15, 2003.

The gift kicks off a challenge to other supporters to raise \$1 million that will further aid student exchanges between Ukraine and Iowa State University.

"We intend to reach \$1 million fairly quickly and we invite everyone to help," Mr. Dwojak said. "This fund will help us reach another goal, which is to bring 1,000 students from Ukraine to the United States over the next several years."

The gift supports an exchange program that dates back 20 years, when Iowa State scientists first began visiting Ukraine. Since 1993 Iowa State students have been studying in Ukraine. In return, more than 500 Ukrainian students, scholars and trainees have studied at Iowa State.

The program targets students who are in their third or fourth year in a Ukrainian university or are successful professionals in Ukraine. The program is designed to ensure participants return to Ukraine.

"After the program at Iowa State students return home to finish their degree or continue work. This helps us maintain a high return rate," Mr. Dwojak said. "Individuals who do stay in the United States are accepted into a degree program to continue their education."

The Dwojaks, who live in Venice, Fla., met with several Ukrainian students during a recent visit to Ames. Iowa State has an active Ukrainian student club with 24 members enrolled in various university programs.

"We have tremendous feedback from the students who came here and now have exceptional jobs in Ukraine," Mr. Dwojak said. "This is a tremendous opportunity for young people because Ukraine is making huge progress and

really improving economically."

Iowa State will begin offering Ukrainian language, history and culture classes on campus in January 2004. The classes are currently offered through a web-based partnership program with Pennsylvania State University.

"Offering Ukrainian language, history and culture classes is very important and I think will encourage others to give to the program and encourage Ukrainian students to participate," Mr. Dwojak said.

The Dwojaks are active members of the Ukrainian American community in the United States. They first learned about Iowa State's work in Ukraine in the early 1990s, and began supporting the program with donations and fund-raising efforts.

"Iowa fits this kind of exchange better than any state in the nation. It is like Ukraine in that both are breadbaskets. Agriculture also is important to both areas," Mr. Dwojak said.

The College of Agriculture at Iowa State recently designated Ukraine as a strategic partner in its international education programs. David Acker, assistant dean of the College of Agriculture, said that the Dwojaks' gift is an investment in a program that benefits both Ukrainian and Iowa State students.

"The College of Agriculture is dedicated to pursuing research in a global context and educating students to work effectively in a global economy. This will help the college and aid Ukrainian students who will form the foundation for a democratic and prosperous Ukraine," Mr. Acker said.

Mr. Acker recalled meeting students who had participated in the exchange program when he visited Kyiv. He visited three former exchange students who were successful in Ukraine.

"I was invited to dinner by three young men that had participated in our program. One was president of the Ukrainian branch of a multinational company, one was a regional sales manager of a U.S. based company and another ran his own information technology company."

Catherine Woteki, dean of the College



Stefan and Kateryna Dwojak, (on the left) are seen with Catherine Woteki, dean, and David Acker, assistant dean, of the College of Agriculture at Iowa State University.

of Agriculture, thanked the Dwojaks at the event that recognized their contribution to the College of Agriculture.

"We recently completed two decades of cooperation with Ukraine and with the Dwojaks' leadership gift we are assured that we will continue cooperation long into the future," Ms. Woteki said.

For Mykola Sarazhynskyy, a Ukrainian student, the exchange program has led to an opportunity to study agricultural business at Iowa State University for the past two years. He met the Dwojaks six years ago in Kyiv and the following year he visited Iowa State.

"This is an opportunity for Ukrainian students to visit other countries and get an understanding about how things operate outside Ukraine," Mr. Sarazhynskyy said. "It also helps students take what they learn back to Ukraine."

Ukrainian students at Iowa State established a club over a year ago to share knowledge about their country with American friends. The club has 24 members and 34 associate members.

"The club organizes celebrations of Ukrainian Independence Day, participates in cultural events on campus and in the community, advises Iowa State students planning trips to Ukraine and helps Ukrainian students feel at home, whether they are in Iowa for short- or long-term visits," said Mr. Sarazhynskyy.

In September, eight faculty and staff members from Iowa State University visited Ukraine, and next spring six Ukrainian agribusiness leaders will visit Iowa State to learn about grain and seed marketing. Next May, 20 Iowa State students and four faculty will leave for a study tour of Ukraine.

For information about the program or for information on how to help support the program, contact Mr. Acker, ISU-Ukraine Student Exchange Program, 104 Curtiss Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011; or e-mail dacker@iastate.edu. You can also contact Rich Bundy in the college's development office at (515) 294-9088 or at rbundy@iastate.edu.

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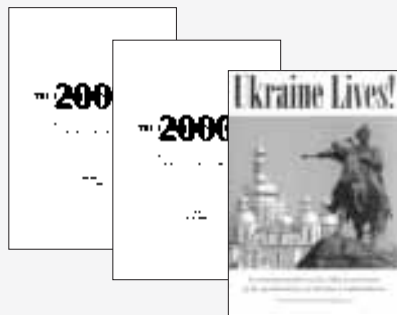
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Ukraine faces...

(Continued from page 2)

through controlling the future Parliament as well.

No less surprising than Mr. Kuchma's ingenuity in developing different schemes to diminish the political clout of his adversaries is Mr. Yushchenko's lack of a vision of what he plans to do in Ukrainian politics and with whom. To the disappointment of many in Ukraine, he failed to create a parliamentary coalition and run a government in 2002 following the victory in the parliamentary election. Now many fear that he is set to lose the fight for a full-fledged presidency.

One of his most natural potential allies, Yulia Tymoshenko, is becoming more and more impatient and irritated by his reluctance to strike a cooperation deal with her bloc (possibly, Mr. Yushchenko is afraid that Ms. Tymoshenko's public image of an oligarch involved in dubious financial machinations may do him more harm than good).

Another potential ally, Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz, has apparently received no reasonable proposal of cooperation from Mr. Yushchenko, since the Socialists seem to be generally in favor of the Medvedchuk-Symonenko constitutional-reform plan, even if some of them object to electing the president by Parliament.

And, judging by recent examples of the hostile reception of Mr. Yushchenko in eastern Ukraine, he has failed to convince any of the country's influential oligarchs to take his side in politics. On top of that, there have been no reports testifying that Mr. Yushchenko tried or even signaled his willingness to strike a kind of Yeltsin-Putin deal with Mr. Kuchma, whereby he would guarantee the current Ukrainian president (and some of his aides) quiet retirement from politics and immunity from prosecution in exchange for his smooth takeover in 2004.

Instead, Mr. Yushchenko is apparently pinning his hopes on ordinary voters. He has launched a campaign to collect signatures in support of the demand that the president continue to be elected in a universal ballot. The petition reportedly has so far been signed by more than 3 million people. Public surveys show that more than 80 percent of Ukrainians want to exercise their right to elect the president directly. Good for Mr. Yushchenko.

But what will happen if the authorities fail to heed this demand? The Kyiv-based Razumkov Center found in a poll in November that if the authorities launch a campaign of repression against the opposition and abolish the direct presidential election, no more than 27 percent of respondents would find the courage to provide "active" support to the opposition. Some 27 percent were unable to answer what they would do in such a situation, while 30 percent said they would do nothing at all.

As demonstrated by the "Ukraine Without Kuchma" and "Rise Up, Ukraine" opposition protest campaigns in 2000-2002, the political apathy of Ukrainians, or their reluctance to publicly demonstrate their discontent with the authorities, was even greater than that suggested by the above-mentioned poll. There is no reason to believe at the present moment that the implementation of the Medvedchuk-Symonenko constitutional overhaul may provoke an uprising against the Ukrainian authorities.

On the other hand, this possible overhaul also will not spark any significant public enthusiasm or instill the nation with new hope for a better life. The planned reform is not about a better life for the people but for their rulers.

Regional Center...

(Continued from page 2)

job skills has given Halya and the other residents a sense of self-worth and an opportunity to become productive, contributing members of Ukrainian society. It is clear that RCSA is providing a real solution to one of Ukraine's most challenging and least recognized social problems.

Despite its positive results and the importance of its mission, there have been times when the shelter remained open only through the sheer force of will of its founder, Mr. Hnat. Although many residents are sent to RCSA by Ukrainian prison officials, it receives no government funding. During the harsh winters, it is not uncommon for all the residents to have to huddle into one room, melting snow for water because of the frozen, faulty pipes. A recent hailstorm destroyed the greenhouse that the residents built for winter food production. But to keep the shelter open, the staff paid, and the program running, Mr. Hnat has worked seven days a week without a vacation in 10 years, and in the spirit of a true Ukrainian, has done whatever it takes. That is why Halya and the others call him "tato," or father. That is why they strive to make up for the mistakes of their past and to build new lives in recognition of the opportunity and the support he has given them.

In addition to running the shelter in Brody, RCSA also maintains a mobile community center for street children in Lviv. A used bus equipped with medicine, food, a social worker and a doctor drives around the city and provides services to the nearly 500 children who live alone on the streets of Lviv. Hnat has also helped victims of sex trafficking, an enormous problem in Ukraine, return home from abroad.

All of these programs are run out of a small office in Lviv with two old computers and an incredibly dedicated and selfless staff. RCSA has received financial support in the past from the Embassy of Canada, Caritas Austria and The International Renaissance Foundation for its job training programs, but funding for its operational costs and the maintenance of the shelter and other programs is scarce.

Nonetheless, RCSA continues to do its work despite the financial challenges. Halya and the hundreds of others who have lived in the shelter are on their way to becoming productive members of Ukrainian society instead of going back to prison or living on the street.

As the last ashes fall away from her cigarette, a smile flashes upon her face. She says, "I am whole again, I am a new person. I have goals." In a country where one rarely finds hope, her statement is a testament to the work of RCSA, and to the future of Ukraine.

For more information about RCSA or to make a donation, readers may e-mail RCSAukr@hotmail.com.

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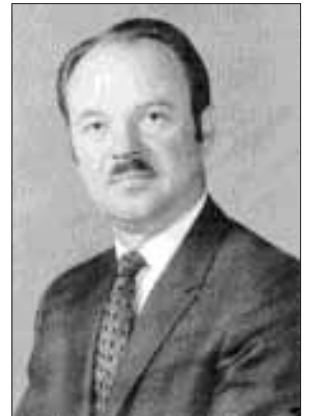
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Хай душу Бог держить
Твою в опіці, а ця земля,
Пером тобі лежить.
Лети й сні про Твої Груники,*

*Як Ти по них топтав,
Як ще в рядах УПА боровся
І волю добував!
Та хоч Ти вже від нас полетів,
Будь гордий, що боровся! –
І бачив вільну Україну,
Бо в славі розійшовсь!
Прощай же Друже в путь далеку:
У вічність ген лети
І про Твої рідні Груники
У чужині все сні...*

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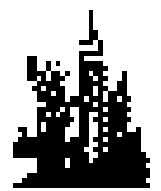
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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Talk about coincidences, or perhaps ironies. The very same day Wayne Gretzky was scheduled to create still more history by skating in the Heritage Classic (outdoor game) in Edmonton – supposedly the only old-timers game he says he'll ever play – another Gretzky planned on carving up the ice and adding to his own personal legend, albeit on an entirely lesser level.

Certainly there is no comparison between the career accomplishments of Wayne and his little brother, Brent. But mention passion for their chosen sport of hockey and good luck trying to distinguish between the two brothers. The youngest of the three hockey-playing Gretzky boys at age 31, is in his 12th year as a pro, playing for his 12th team in his sixth league. For the record, in case anyone asks, he's absolutely loving every minute of it.

"I was talking to somebody and I said, doctors go to school for half their life to become a doctor and that's what I've done for the last 25 years – learned to play hockey," says Brent, who was second in United Hockey League scoring with 12 goals, 5 assists and 17 points in his first 11 games before falling off a bit. His 12th employer is in Port Huron, Mich., the Beacons. "That's my schooling and this is my job. When I get to the rink and put my skates on, I work my best. And you know what, it's a pretty easy job."

Just like his older brother Keith, who played junior hockey in Brantford, Windsor, Belleville and Hamilton before embarking on a six-year pro career, Brent always faced high expectations because of his last name. (Brother Keith is currently employed as a scout by Wayne's Phoenix Coyotes.)

Little brother was a scoring machine in junior hockey, including 43 goals and 121 points in 62 games in his third season with Belleville. Those impressive scoring stats did not earn him an automatic pass into the NHL. As was the norm back then with most graduating junior players, he started in the minor leagues, with Atlanta of the International Hockey League. Brent had been selected 43rd overall by the expansion Tampa Bay Lightning in 1992.

"Being naive, 20 years old, I figured coming into a new situation with an expansion team that wasn't established, you're already part of the team," Brent says. "I think I could have trained a little harder leading into the season as far as speed or strength in the legs – like my big brother always did. People always thought he was slow, but his speed was deceptive and he was pretty hard to knock down."

The youngest Gretzky enjoyed two rock solid campaigns in Atlanta and even got a 10-game cup of coffee with the parent Lightning in 1993-1994. A three-game look-see followed a year later. He managed a goal and three points in his first visit to the NHL and an assist in the second call-up.

Brent readily admits he'll forever cher-

ish making it to the best league in the world, even if it didn't last very long. And he'll definitely never forget how his first call-up ended.

"I remember I was in the shower at the old (Boston) Garden and (Tampa Bay GM) Phil Esposito poked his head in and said, 'Gretz, I'm sorry, but I've got to send you down,'" says Brent with the same robust laugh Wayne has made famous. "It wasn't so bad except two nights before I paid \$3,500 for a rookie dinner party. That part kind of bit."

An innocent observer of his pro hockey bio might surmise that, because of how many teams he's played on over the years, his career has not been too satisfying. Perish the thought. The truth is the exactly opposite.

"Moving around is part of the whole experience," Brent says. "I got to see parts of the world I probably wouldn't have if I were doing something else. I was part of two championship teams (in the IHL with the 1994 Atlanta Knights and 2000 Chicago Wolves) and I won a scoring title (in 1999-2000 with Asheville of the UHL), so I'm pleased with the way things have gone."

No doubt about it, was there ever tons of pressure to exceed expectations that came with the label of the Gretzky name. Even The Great One understands this point.

"I was saying how much pressure there was on my own kids," Wayne says. "I can't imagine how tough it was for my brothers. But I think they handled it well. Brent plays the game because he loves it."

Brent simply laughs away the thought of Gretzky name pressure. He claims middle brother Keith had it worse, being the next immediate Gretzky to enter the lime-light after Wayne.

"Sure it was hard, but my parents helped us along the way," Brent says. "Of course with the Gretzky name, doors will open up, but it's up to us to keep our own jobs and if we don't produce, we're not going to stay. There's always somebody that isn't happy with what we're doing, like we're still riding coattails, but those types of people just make you want to play harder to prove them wrong."

These days Brent isn't quite sure how much longer he'll keep playing. He and his wife, Nicole, bought a house last year and with three children, son Luke, 8, and daughters Avary, 4, and Mila, 2, Brent is seriously thinking of a career change. He says he'd like to become a police officer.

"I've always loved the army thing, growing up as a boy," Brent says. "It has that whole team atmosphere – somebody watching your back."

Until then he'll continue doing what he loves to do best – skate, set up his linemates, score goals and try to help his Port Huron Beacons win the United League

(Continued on page 55)

Christmas cards mailed to American-Ukrainian service people



The Ukrainian National Association recently forwarded Christmas greetings and small packages of goodies to service men and women who are on duty far from the warmth and safety of their families. As per instructions from the veterans club, the goodies included tooth paste, soap, razors, socks, and an array of candy, coffee packets and for their added entertainment a copy of The Ukrainian Weekly.



The Ukrainian National Association is thankful and proud of the loyal American-Ukrainian service personnel who are committed to their duty and task at hand. It is difficult not to be with family and friends at a time when everyone is celebrating in the Christmas spirit. We applaud these men and women who stand alone defending our freedoms wherever they may be. Among the many military personnel there are thousands of men and women of Ukrainian descent. We have contacted but a few of them to remind them how much we appreciate their dedication and patriotism. We wish them a Merry Christmas and with the New Year pray for their speedy return to their loved ones.

Oksana Trytjak
UNA Special Projects and Fraternal Activities Coordinator

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Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 53)

championship.

Brent Gretzky played 13 NHL games in Tampa in the mid-1990s. He also played with the following teams.

Belleville (OHL), 1989-1992
Atlanta (IHL), 1992-1995
St. John's (AHL), 1995-1996
Pensacola (ECHL), 1996-1997
Las Vegas (IHL), 1996-1997
Quebec (IHL), 1996-1997
Graz EC (Austria), 1997-1998
Asheville (UHL), 1998-1999
Hershey (AHL), 1998-1999
Chicago (IHL), 1998-2000
Asheville (UHL), 1999-2000
Port Huron (UHL), 2000-2001
Fort Wayne (UHL), 2000-2002
Port Huron (UHL), 2002-2004

Stajan gives Leafs gifts of skill and patience

Sometimes it's nice to be rewarded for really going out on a limb and taking a chance on an obscure raw rookie. The 2003 holiday season brought many gifts to the Toronto Maple Leafs organization. A surprisingly long unbeaten streak, good health and some promising prospects making key contributions helped explain Toronto's standing in the NHL's Eastern Conference.

On a team with many proven warriors, rookie center Matt Stajan can easily obtain the sage advice of an elder, if he ever needs it. Not that he needs it thus far in 2003-2004. As the youngest player on one of the oldest teams in the league, the 19-year-old is finding his way through the league quite nicely. With the exception of being weak on face-offs, Stajan is displaying much of what the Leafs expected when

they surprised the pundits and kept him after training camp. In the season's first three months, Stajan has anchored the fourth line, occasionally even moving up to the third forward unit.

"It's the National Hockey League and I'm learning so much as a player just practicing with these players," Stajan said. "Each and every day I feel like I'm improving whether I play one minute or whether I play 10 minutes. All (you) can do is work hard and make the most of your opportunities."

Vishnevski in battle for regular spot

Vitaly Vishnevski has little hope of seeing himself in many offensive highlight clips, but he's making serious progress toward becoming a more well-rounded, two-way defenseman the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim want to see.

After having been a healthy scratch in five of the first 15 games, Vishnevski took full advantage of an injury to fellow blueliner Kurt Sauer to get himself back into the line-up and make an impactful contribution.

A line-up regular during his first three seasons in Anaheim, Vishnevski notched his first points of the current season with a rare goal and (get this) two helpers in a 4-3 victory over the visiting St. Louis Blues in mid-November. Vishnevski was a solid plus-6 during a three-game winning streak.

"I never think about scoring goals," Vishnevski said. "I just play hockey and do my best on the ice. Winning is important for me, not points."

As far as his Mighty Ducks are concerned, there sure is nothing wrong with a little bit of both.

(Above quotes courtesy of Mike Brophy, Ken Campbell and Dan Wood of The Hockey News.)

Ukraine's minister...

(Continued from page 1)

Minister Viktor Yanukovich stated on January 5 that the young political prodigy had failed to become a team player in the Cabinet, which led to his isolation and resignation.

"From the very beginning of the work of this government we have tried to develop a strong, united team. When one player or another does not understand his place, that which occurred always happens," explained Mr. Yanukovich, who waxed optimistic that he would find a talented, experienced expert to replace the outgoing minister of the economy and European integration.

In his resignation letter Mr. Khoroshkovskiy did not limit his reasons for leaving the Cabinet of Prime Minister Yanukovich to those that involved his feud with Mr. Azarov, who like the prime minister, hails from Donetsk.

Mr. Khoroshkovskiy also blamed the prime minister for limiting his ability to appoint subordinates, which he said caused his staff to be overworked and ineffective. "Currently only five of the 11 deputy ministers that I should have at my disposal have been appointed. For over five months the Cabinet of Ministers has not considered any of the other nominations I have forwarded," noted Mr.

Khoroshkovskiy.

In his letter of resignation, Mr. Khoroshkovskiy warned that the effects of the government's inability to focus on Ukraine's long-term growth could bear consequences as soon as this year. He said that the unrestrained effort to increase revenues and show a fully executed budget has led to administrative interference in the markets, which could stifle economic expansion. He also cautioned that if Ukraine failed to become a member of the World Trade Organization, a real threat with its move into the SES, the country risked economic isolation.

Mr. Khoroshkovskiy came to prominence in 1997 as a member of the National Democratic Party and a protégé of the party's leader and prime minister at the time, Valerii Pustovoitenko, who put him in charge of a special economic zone in the economically underdeveloped region of northern Crimea. A year later he was appointed an aide to the prime minister. Also in 1998, as well, he became a member of Parliament and secretary of the parliamentary Budget Committee.

After his party failed to gain entry into the Verkhovna Rada in March 2002, Mr. Khoroshkovskiy took a post in the Kuchma administration as first assistant to the chief of staff, Viktor Medvedchuk. He became minister of the economy and European integration in November 2002.

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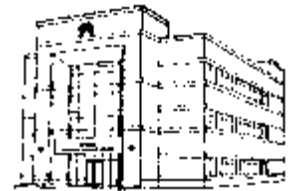
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January 30 - February 1, 2004 Church of Annunciation Weekend, Flushing, NY	February 28, 2004 SUNY New Paltz Sorority Semi Formal Banquet
February 14, 2004 Valentines Day Weekend, Dinner and Show	March 13, 2004 UACC Rada
February 21, 2004 Napanoch Fire Department Banquet	March 20, 2004 Grace Church Men's Retreat



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 18

PHILADELPHIA-JENKINTOWN, Pa.: The Ukrainian Federation of America and Meest Media corporation invite the Ukrainian American community to a presentation of a Ukrainian Vertep Christmas performance at 3 p.m. in the auditorium of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, Pa. The newly appointed ambassador of Ukraine, Mykhailo B. Reznik, will address the attendees prior to the performance. Dessert and coffee will be served. Admission is \$5 for adults; students and children, free of charge. For more information call Vera M. Andryczyk, (610) 539-8946.

Friday, January 23

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club and the New York Bandura Ensemble present the first concert in the 2004 season of the Bandura Downtown series, "Kubasonica," featuring Ukrainian sounds from the Canadian praries with tymbaly whiz Brian Cherwick, the man responsible for Edmonton's legendary Kubasonics. The program will include the songs "Baba Rolls Her Own" and "The Devil Went Down to Vegreville," mystery guests and much,

much more. Donation: \$10. Reception with the artists to follow. The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Mayana Gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor. In the gallery, the Christmas exhibit will be on view through January 25. Gallery hours: Saturday-Sunday, 1-5 p.m. For more information, call (212) 995-2640; check the website www.geocities.com/ukrartlitclub or e-mail nybandura@aol.com.

Saturday, January 24

CARTERET, N.J.: The St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a Malanka, or New Year's Eve dance, to be held at the St. Demetrius Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave. Music will be by Fata Morgana. Tickets, at \$40, include admission, hot buffet, beer, wine, soda, midnight champagne toast and a midnight buffet. There will also be a cash bar. The St. Demetrius Center is located just blocks from Exit 12 of the New Jersey Turnpike. There is also a Holiday Inn off the exit with free shuttle service. Doors will open at 6 p.m., buffet will be served at 7 p.m., and music starts at 8 p.m. For table and ticket reservations call Peter Prociuk, (732) 541-5452. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

PLEASE NOTE REQUIREMENTS:

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$10 per submission) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Payment must be received prior to publication.

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

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment of \$10 for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Information may also be e-mailed to preview@ukrweekly.com.

To The Weekly Contributors:

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

- ✦ News stories should be sent in not later than 10 days after the occurrence of a given event.
- ✦ All materials must be typed and double-spaced.
- ✦ Photographs (originals only, no photocopies or computer printouts) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- ✦ Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
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