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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Clinton extends help to Ukraine in battling AIDS

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Former U.S. President Bill Clinton met with Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko on November 27 to extend his foundation's help in combating the nation's AIDS epidemic.

The two leaders signed an agreement in which the Clinton Foundation will provide high-quality training for medical personnel, access to less-expensive testing equipment, offer HIV/AIDS patients access to inexpensive drugs and fund treatment programs on the oblast level.

"I believe in the potential of this project, and I believe in its immense effectiveness," Mr. Yushchenko said at a joint press conference on November 27.

In late October Mr. Yushchenko declared Ukraine's AIDS rate "disastrous," citing official government statistics that there are about 12,000 AIDS patients in Ukraine.

Weeks later, German Ambassador to Ukraine Dietmar Studemann estimated that about 1.4 percent of the population is HIV positive, or about 672,000 Ukrainians.

The Clinton Foundation signed its first memorandum of cooperation with the Ukrainian government in September 2004.

He said it was a "great honor" to sign the latest memorandum, which was signed by Health Minister Yurii Poliachenko on the Ukrainian side. "I have always been warmly received and remain this way in my relations with Ukraine," Mr. Clinton said.

As part of the agreement, the Ukrainian government will also be able to buy antiretrovirus medication at 90 percent below market prices.

The foundation's assistance will significantly reduce the money spent by the Ukrainian government per HIV/AIDS patient, estimated at between \$2,500 and \$5,000, Mr. Yushchenko said. As a result, funds will be available to assist more patients.

In addition to discussing his foundation's work, Mr. Clinton said Ukraine has made progress in the year since the Orange Revolution. "I see a more vibrant democracy, freedom of speech, a more aggressive free press, freedom of political assembly and the kind of disagreements that characterize any modern democracy," he said.

Ukrainians need to be patient in building an economy and political system that will provide a decent life for its citizens, Mr. Clinton added. "I think that in the last month, Ukraine was able to significantly improve its investment climate."

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## Ukraine remembers Famine-Genocide



Zenon Zawada

Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate and Cardinal Lubomyr Husar of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church lead a service commemorating victims of the Holodomor.

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – No one was punished for the Holodomor of 1932-1933, and perhaps that's why it has been so difficult for

Ukrainians to restore the authority of law, justice and well-being in their country to this very day.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko offered these thoughts on November 26 in a speech delivered on St. Michael's Square

as part of the national Day of Memory for Victims of Famine and Political Repressions.

"The Communist system didn't repent

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## Ukraine's two procurators general: court reinstates Sviatoslav Piskun

by Yana Sedova  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – In what has become a national spectacle, a Kyiv court ruled on November 18 that Sviatoslav Piskun was once again illegally fired from his post as procurator general, the nation's top prosecutor.

As a result, Ukraine now has two acting procurators general because President Viktor Yushchenko had already named Oleksander Medvedko as Mr. Piskun's replacement.

Just three days after the court decision, Mr. Piskun arrived at the Procurator General's Office to take his seat behind his old desk, but security guards prevented him from entering the building.

After a second vain attempt to enter

the next day, Mr. Piskun threatened to press criminal charges against the president if he didn't adhere to the court's decision reappointing him.

In response to the chaotic situation, Justice Minister Serhii Holovatyi called a press conference on November 25 announcing that his ministry had appealed the ruling re-appointing Mr. Piskun to the Highest Administrative Court of Ukraine in order to defend the president's decree.

Responding to Mr. Piskun's threat, Mr. Holovatyi accused him of illegally pressuring the president. Mr. Piskun is part of a "political operation purposefully carried out by powerful financial and political forces aimed at disorganization of the

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## EU grants Ukraine market economy status

by Yana Sedova  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – In a major step toward Ukraine's accession to the European Union, EU leaders announced on December 1 that Ukraine has finally earned market economy status.

"Ukraine has inspired the people all over the world for the past year," European Council President Tony Blair told a press conference at the ninth EU-Ukraine Summit. "Everybody still watches your progress and the process of change here with a lot of respect, admiration and solidarity for you."

Accompanying Mr. Blair at the summit were EU Council of Ministers

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## ANALYSIS

## Why are Ukrainians disappointed with the Orange Revolution?

by Jan Maksymiuk  
RFE/RL Newswire

Ukrainians converged on Kyiv's Independence Square on November 22 to mark the first anniversary of the Orange Revolution, which installed Viktor Yushchenko as Ukraine's president.

One year ago, tens of thousands of people came to the same square to protest what they saw as a rigged second election round in favor of Yushchenko's rival, then Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. Weeks of peaceful protests in Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities led to a repeat runoff on December 26, 2004, which was won by Mr. Yushchenko with 52 percent of the vote.

The Orange Revolution, which has drawn comparisons to the Solidarity movement in Poland in the 1980s and the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia in November 1989, was a time of immense social optimism and activism in Ukraine. However, one year later, a majority of Ukrainians say they are disappointed with the current course of events in their country.

According to a poll taken earlier this month, more than half of Ukrainians say the new government has failed to keep the promises that were made on the square. Today just one in seven Ukrainians fully supports President Yushchenko, compared to nearly 50 percent declaring such support shortly after his inauguration in February.

What are the main reasons for this general disappointment?

First, the Yushchenko government has failed to exploit the backing it gained

during the Orange Revolution to institute coherent reforms. Such a scenario could have set Ukraine on a path of irreversible transformation from the current oligarchic-capitalism system to a more market-oriented economic model.

Instead, Mr. Yushchenko resorted to a populist and expensive increase in wages and pensions, apparently to keep the electorate satisfied until the 2006 parliamentary elections. After several months of relative social contentment, this move was followed by increased inflation and a rise in costs of living. At the same time, the economic growth rate in Ukraine has slumped from 12 percent in 2004 to some 3 percent today. As a result, Ukrainians justifiably view their economic prospects as bleak.

Second, Mr. Yushchenko has failed to fulfill his revolutionary pledge to eradicate endemic corruption and "send all bandits to jail." True, the government has annulled more than 4,000 regulations in business registration, which was a breeding ground for corrupt practices. However, the general view is that corruption in Ukraine has remained no less acute than it was during the reign of President Yushchenko's predecessor, Leonid Kuchma. No senior official from Kuchma's regime has been brought to court on charges of corruption or abuse of office.

Third, Yushchenko was constrained to dismiss Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's Cabinet in September, after some high-ranking government officials accused sever-

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## Government faces uphill battle in achieving NATO aspirations

by Jan Maksymiuk

RFE/RL Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova Report

Ukrainian Defense Minister Anatolii Hrytsenko visited the Czech Republic and Slovakia recently to discuss ways of strengthening Ukraine's military cooperation with these two NATO countries. Both Prague and Bratislava assured Mr. Hrytsenko that they support Ukraine's NATO bid.

But the Ukrainian defense minister was reluctant to speculate on when Ukraine might join the alliance. He appears to be aware that Ukraine's NATO accession depends not only on support from NATO members, but also on the ability of the Ukrainian government to cope with its domestic agenda. Czech Defense Minister Karel Kuehnl said during a joint news conference with Minister Hrytsenko in Prague on November 15 that the Czech Republic wants NATO next year to prepare a "realistic" plan for Ukraine's NATO accession.

The Czech defense minister said his country can help Ukraine resolve some of the problems it is encountering on its path toward NATO integration.

"There are three spheres where the Czech Republic can share its experience in the transformation of its armed forces," Mr. Kuehnl said. "This is primarily the so-called personnel management; that is, a wide sphere ranging from edu-

cation to social issues. Furthermore, it is financial-resource management. Finally, we have a common problem of disposing of unnecessary ammunition."

But Ukraine faces a number of hurdles to its NATO accession that Czech expertise might not help overcome.

For example, carrying out the military downsizing required to join NATO by 2008 threatens to strain Ukraine's budget. This is because such massive cuts could mean that the state will have to pay to retrain and find jobs for discharged servicemen.

Ukraine is currently undergoing reforms that will reduce its 280,000-strong military to some 140,000 troops by 2012. It is also restructuring its combat capabilities to comply with NATO standards.

As part of this reform effort, Ukraine last year cut 70,000 military personnel. The military is to be reduced by a further 40,000 servicemen this year, and by 18,000 annually in the coming years.

Some Ukrainian politicians and economists are also worried that Ukrainian NATO accession could ruin or significantly damage the country's military-industrial complex. They argue that the country's defense industries will become obsolete after the military switches to weapons and military technologies used by NATO troops.

Such an outcome could result in the loss of tens of thousands of jobs in Ukraine and, possibly, a disruption of

(Continued on page 16)

Jan Maksymiuk is the Belarus and Ukraine specialist on the staff of RFE/RL Newswire.

## NEWSBRIEFS

### Lithuanian Sejm recognizes Famine

VILNIUS – The Lithuanian Sejm, or Parliament, has recognized the Famine of 1932-1933 in Ukraine as an act of genocide, reported Radio Liberty. Soviet leader Joseph Stalin's totalitarian Communist regime committed a deliberate act of genocide against the Ukrainian people, the Sejm declared. The Parliament expressed sympathy with Ukrainians and solidarity with the Ukrainian people. The Famine-Genocide cost the lives of 7 million people. (Interfax-Ukraine)

### CNN TV heads for Ukraine

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn met with an official representative of CNN TV, Ioannis Litinas, on November 24, who unveiled plans for the establishment of a CNN office in Ukraine and a TV channel to be called CNN in Ukraine. According to the CNN representative, inaugurating the office and further prospects are connected with "huge interest toward Ukraine" in the United States and around the world. Mr. Lytvyn hailed the announcement of a CNN channel in Ukraine and noted that "unbiased and objective information about the situation in Ukraine is especially needed in the period before and during the elections, as well as while developing democracy and establishing a civil society." (Ukrinform)

### Kyiv has candidate for envoy to U.S.

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko stated that the candidate for the position of Ukraine's extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to the United States finally has been determined. "Many candidates were considered, but a couple of weeks ago the decision was passed and, presently, relevant procedures are under way, Mr. Yushchenko said at a press conference following his meeting on November 27 with former U.S. President Bill Clinton. The Ukrainian president stressed that the appointment of the Ukrainian envoy to the U.S. is very important for the development of bilateral relations between the two countries. (Ukrinform)

### Naftohaz Ukrainy wants unchanged tariffs

KYIV – The Ukrainian oil and gas transport company Naftohaz Ukrainy said

on November 28 that it wants to continue sending Russian gas through its pipelines to Europe under existing conditions – that is, charging \$1.09 per 1,000 cubic meters per 100 kilometers of transit, Interfax-Ukraine reported. Naftohaz Ukrainy was responding to the Russian gas monopoly Gazprom's statement earlier the same day saying that Gazprom is ready to pay for gas transit across Ukraine according to "European tariffs." Gazprom also proposed to sign a contract with Naftohaz Ukrainy on Russian gas transit to Europe for 2006, before discussing the price of Russian gas supplies to Ukraine for that year. Gazprom deputy head Aleksandr Ryazanov suggested on November 29 that Ukraine in 2006 should pay more than the current price of \$50 for 1,000 cubic meters of Russian gas. "Of course, with the [former] price of \$80 [for 1,000 cubic meters of Russian gas] at the border with Germany, the price of \$50 for Ukraine, excluding transportation costs, was considered acceptable," Mr. Ryazanov said. "But when this price [for Germany] becomes \$200, the price of \$50 is too small. It doesn't even cover our real costs for production and transportation of the gas to the CIS countries." (RFE/RL Newswire)

### Akhmetov to run for Parliament

KYIV – Rynat Akhmetov has accepted an offer from former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich to run in the 2006 parliamentary elections as a candidate for the Party of the Regions, which is headed by Mr. Yanukovich, Ukrainian news agencies reported on November 29. "I have decided that this is the best moment for me to take part in political life, and that I'll be of maximum benefit to Ukraine as a parliamentary deputy," Mr. Akhmetov said in a written statement. Mr. Akhmetov is widely believed to be Ukraine's richest man, with a fortune estimated at nearly \$2.5 billion. He is the largest shareholder of the System Capital Management concern, and his business interests range from steel and machine-building plants to telecom companies, banks and the Shakhtar Donetsk soccer club. Mr. Akhmetov backed Mr. Yanukovich during the 2004 presidential campaign but distanced himself from active participation in politics. (RFE/RL Newswire)

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## ONE YEAR AFTER: Residents of Alchevsk, in eastern Ukraine, reflect on Orange Revolution

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

"One Year After" is a four-part series examining the lives of Ukrainians a year after the Orange Revolution. This first installment features Halyna Herasymenko, 50, a resident of Alchevsk in the Luhansk Oblast and mother of two children.

ALCHEVSK, Ukraine – Before the Orange Revolution, Ukraine didn't mean much to Halyna Herasymenko, a lifelong resident of Alchevsk, an industrial town in Ukraine's easternmost oblast of Luhansk.

Still bearing the identity of the "Soviet citizen" instilled in her since kindergarten, she remembered visiting relatives in Russia after the Soviet Union's collapse.

They joked that Ukraine is an insignificant country compared to the empire that once was and asked her, "Just what is it that you people want?"

Ms. Herasymenko said she never cared much either way, but her feelings have changed as of late.

"Now when they say something, I want to stand up and defend my Ukraine," Ms. Herasymenko said in a proud, melodramatic voice, before breaking out into laughter.

Then her tone became matter-of-fact.

"But the Orange Revolution changed something in people's minds. It showed

that these people mean something and they can change something in this country. It's exactly as though our lives have been overturned," she commented.

One year after the Orange Revolution, Ukrainians are engaged in a national dialogue. Around kitchen tables, in "marshrutka" commuter buses and at the bazaar, they are debating whether life has changed after the Orange Revolution and, if so, whether for better or worse.

They are also asking themselves whether those who risked their lives and braved the freezing temperatures on Kyiv's Independence Square had accomplished anything at all.

Or was the Orange Revolution instead a cynical ploy by Ukraine's millionaires to swipe power from their billionaire rivals, as Russian Communist Party Chairman Gennadii Zyuganov recently charged.

**"We all know you're for Yushchenko"**

Ms. Herasymenko is not a typical 50-year-old Ukrainian woman.

An athletic trainer at Alchevsk's only sports center, the Sports Palace for Children and Youth, she is still physically active and fit.

She emanates a remarkably vibrant and cheerful spirit in spite of her bleak and desperate surroundings in Alchevsk, an industrial town full of aging, Soviet-era factories.

She enjoys the company of children,



Alchevsk is a city of 120,000 in Ukraine's easternmost oblast, Luhansk. Its population is 58 percent ethnic Ukrainian.

who remember her guidance. When strolling Alchevsk's streets, she daily bumps into her former athletes who greet her with a smile and a "privet."

She also enjoys her co-workers, with whom she shares her infectious laughter. "My friends sometimes joke that I will be buried with a smile on my face," Ms.

Herasymenko said with yet another immense laugh.

She also stands apart from fellow Alchevsk residents because she was among the very few in the city of about 120,000 who openly supported and voted

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## Gathering on the eve of official celebrations, others offer their assessments of the Orange Revolution

by Zenon Zawada and Yana Sedova  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – As Ukrainians were preparing to officially mark Freedom Day decreed by President Viktor Yushchenko for November 22 to mark the first anniversary of the Orange Revolution, Kyiv was witness to other gatherings also focused on the first year of Orange power.

### Pora on Bankova Street

The day prior to the anniversary, the Pora political party, also referred to as "Zhovta" Pora, held a conference in two large yellow tents on the maidan.

Afterwards, more than 1,000 activists marched in a wide column to Bankova Street with the intention of dismantling the iron gates that prevent pedestrians from approaching the Presidential Secretariat building.

"The high gate on Bankova Street became an obstacle between society and the government," said Yevhen Zolotariov, a Zhovta Pora leader.

For several months, Zhovta Pora had demanded that the new government dismantle the gates that the Yushchenko administration made even higher after the Orange Revolution.

However, top officials paid no attention to their claims.

"Though the government changed, relations between the government and society haven't," Mr. Zolotariov said. "As it was before, top officials are not in a hurry to submit to society's control."

As the Pora activists approached the Presidential Secretariat, about 400 police officers, many of them in body armor and helmets, lined up in rows in front of the iron gate.

The scenario began to resemble last year's events, when Leonid Kuchma's regime placed rows of police in front of main government buildings.

However this time around, Presidential Secretariat Chair Oleh Rybachuk diffused and prevented any confrontation. Just as the marchers began heading down Bankova Street, Mr. Rybachuk ordered the police to open the gate and invited

journalists into the gated area.

Pora activists joined them without any disturbance and demanded that the government dismantle a symbol of separation between government and society.

Mr. Rybachuk said "the gate was built by our enemies," with approval from the Kyiv local government. At times yelling into a megaphone in his dialogue with the activists, he said the government wouldn't dismantle the iron gate.

After their loud meeting with Mr. Rybachuk on the steps of the landmark Building with Chimeras, Pora activists presented him with a metal cutter for him to dismantle the gate in case it is closed again.

Then the activists crossed the street and went back to Independence Square.

Mr. Rybachuk promised that the gate would remain open, unless there is an official meeting between President Yushchenko and top foreign officials.

### Vitrenko on the maidan

Two days prior to Freedom Day, Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine (PSPU) Chair Natalia Vitrenko was the first political leader to deliver a public speech in relation to the Orange Revolution's anniversary.

The main purpose of the so-called "Progressive Maidan" rally, attended by about 2,000 pro-Russian demonstrators, was to condemn the Yushchenko government and urge the Ukrainian people to unite with Russia and Belarus.

During her one-hour speech, Ms. Vitrenko said President Yushchenko and the Orange Revolution's leaders had deceived Ukrainian citizens. "I want all people to know how deceitful, greedy and amoral are those who stand on the maidan, these ringleaders," Ms. Vitrenko said.

Massive political repressions started when Mr. Yushchenko became president and 18,000 government officials lost their positions because they didn't support the leaders of the Orange Revolution, Ms. Vitrenko charged.

She also cited an Internet article she had read that Mrs. Yushchenko had been awarded the rank of general in the

Central Intelligence Agency for her spying activities in Ukraine.

Her party's leaflets called last year's events "an Orange takeover" and said the new government "is selling the country, attacking the Russian language and the Russian Orthodox Church."

Many of her supporters arrived from Crimea and the eastern regions of Ukraine and waved PSPU and Party of the Regions flags, as well as those of Russia and Belarus.

Tetiana Prokofieva, 58, voted for Viktor Yanukovich in all three rounds of the presidential election and said the former candidate was the only person able to bring Ukraine out of crisis.

"When Yanukovich was prime minister, social programs were launched and life became stable," Ms. Prokofieva said. "Now these programs do not function."

Many participants of the meeting asserted that unity with Russia is the only way for Ukraine to revive.

They were sure that Ukraine's eastern neighbor would offer cheap energy resources, such as natural gas, in

exchange for the country's loyalty.

"We are spiritually together (with the Russian people) and they will always support us," said Oleksii Oleksandrov, 20. "Western countries used us and they will do so in the future."

Vera Rozum, 66, echoed the words of Ms. Vitrenko, referring to the Orange Revolution's leaders as thieves. "Yushchenko says that his hands are clean," Ms. Rozum said. "But his right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing."

Pensioners from Crimea said the economic situation has become worse and they barely survive on their pensions. "Two months ago, one canister of natural gas cost \$17, now it is \$30," Ms. Rozum said. "And our pensions are \$60 a month." Families in small towns and villages buy canisters of natural gas for cooking food. One canister is enough for one month.

"My ideal is the unity of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia," Ms. Prokofieva said. "These Slavic people were together, and they should be together. Ukraine can economically benefit only from unity with Russia."



Yana Sedova

Presidential Secretariat Chair Oleh Rybachuk addresses Pora demonstrators on the steps of the Building with Chimeras on Kyiv's Bankova Street.

# International medical aid group quits work in Ukraine, citing corruption

by Andrew Nynka

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – An international medical mission that has worked in Ukraine for six years decided it will no longer work in the country, citing corruption as the central reason for its decision to leave, officials with the organization said.

On a trip to Ukraine in September, members of the Volunteers in Medical Missions organization were detained by customs agents in Kyiv's Boryspil airport. The team of seven doctors and nurses traveled to Ukraine and planned to distribute their shipment of medical supplies and medications to needy villagers in the Chernobyl region.

But Customs officials told the group that they would only be allowed to leave the airport with their shipment of medications and other medical aid if they paid a duty of nearly \$45,000, said Lisa Prytula, one of the team's two trip leaders. According to Mrs. Prytula, a registered nurse from St. Paul, Minn., the group never learned why its medications were confiscated.

"I was never told of any missing documentation or incomplete paperwork by the Ukrainian customs agents," Mrs. Prytula said. "I requested many times clarification on what was inadequate and exactly why we were not able to take our meds in. My question was never answered."

Larry Secrest, the organization's executive director, told The Ukrainian Weekly that Volunteers in Medical Missions has sent teams of volunteers to Ukraine for six consecutive years and this was the

first time they had encountered such a problem.

The group regularly plans and coordinates international aid trips from its offices in Seneca, S.C., and Mr. Secrest said that the planning for the trip to Ukraine was no different.

"To my knowledge the team followed the same procedure that previous teams had followed prior to their entrance into Ukraine," Mr. Secrest said. "I believe the proper paperwork was completed and the team did what was required of them."

Customs Service officials at Kyiv's Boryspil airport told The Ukrainian Weekly that the volunteer group did not have the necessary documents. According to Serhii Cheperys, the deputy chief of Customs at Boryspil, the group should have gotten permission from the Cabinet of Ministers.

Mr. Cheperys said that Customs officials confiscated the medications, but these can still be returned if and when all of the proper documents are received. He also said that, as Customs officials were examining the medications, they found that some drugs had expired.

Following the incident, the board of directors of Volunteers in Medical Missions met to discuss the organization's future in Ukraine.

The board decided that because of the incident, which took place on September 18, Volunteers in Medical Missions was pulling its operations out of Ukraine.

"The board discussed the trip to Ukraine and felt that it would not be wise to plan and promote another trip into Ukraine for 2006," Mr. Secrest said. "This was based upon the difficulties that

were encountered on the recent trip and also upon the pressing needs that are represented by other countries."

Mrs. Prytula, who works as a nurse at United Hospital in St. Paul, Minn., said she understood the board's decision, but regretted that move.

"They're stewards of very limited resources and they just said forget it – it's not worth it," Mrs. Prytula said.

Volunteers in Medical Missions (VIMM) is a non-profit humanitarian aid organization that has sent similar aid missions to the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Ecuador, Honduras and Mongolia, among other countries. The organization estimates that in 2003 it treated 17,449 people and provided \$1.14 million in medical care over the course of 13 international trips.

"It would be imprudent to say that we would never return" to Ukraine, Mr. Secrest, the executive director, said. The organization would "seriously consider the possibility of again returning to Ukraine should a medical leader appear that has a desire to work in [Ukraine]," he said. "We would of course do so with our eyes open to the possible problems that could arise."

The exact value of the medical shipment is not known, Mrs. Prytula said, because the medications were not bought by the organization. Rather, they were donated to the group from a number of different sources – various hospitals from around the United States, as well as several aid organizations.

"It is very difficult to say how much – [to determine] the value on this trip," Mrs. Prytula said. In addition to carrying prescription and non-prescription strength medications, the group brought stethoscopes and protective equipment, such as latex gloves.

Mrs. Prytula said she brought with her eight containers weighing 70 pounds each, while most other team members each brought two containers. In addition to the medicines, the containers were filled with 1,000 toothbrushes and 1,000 tubes of toothpaste, inhalers and "lots of orthopedic supplies," she noted.

Much of the medication was meant to treat ulcers, hypertension, infections and inflammations. There were oral pills for diabetics, as well as acetaminophen, aspirin and vitamins, which are very expensive to buy in Ukraine, Mrs. Prytula said. She noted that in Ukraine a typical bottle of 100 vitamins costs \$8. (Ukraine's monthly subsistence minimum, which was set by the Parliament in October 2004, amounts to \$85.)

After being held by Customs agents for nearly three hours, the group was released, though without its medications. Mrs. Prytula said the group spent several thousand dollars to purchase what they could in Ukraine to replenish what was taken from them so that they could continue on with their mission.

The group had planned to set up clinics in remote Ukrainian villages where the team would hold eight health clinics.

"I think it's very responsible and ethical medicine" because, in addition to the medicines and equipment, Volunteers in Medical Missions also provides an education to people, Mrs. Prytula said.

Despite the setback, the organization was able to serve a total of 1,200 people, Mrs. Prytula said. "I really believe that health care is a human right," and people in Ukraine are "clearly being ignored," she said.

*Yana Sedova of The Ukrainian Weekly's Kyiv Press Bureau contributed to this report.*

## In memoriam: recently deceased prominent writers and artists

The last few months have seen the passing of the following Ukrainian writers and artists whose work marked a significant contribution to Ukrainian culture.

- Roman Babowal – Ukrainian Belgian poet, a member of the New York Group and author of many books of poetry in Ukrainian and French, among them "The Deceit of Milk," "Letters to Lovers," and "Travelers of the Probable." He also compiled and implemented on the Internet "A Virtual Anthology of the Poetry of the New York Group." Mr. Babowal died on June 15 in Mintigny-le-Tilleul, Belgium. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

- Valeriy Illya – author of a number of books of poetry, including "Blacksmiths in the Fog" and "Svarha." In the 1990s he edited the literary journal *Osnova*. Mr. Illya died in Kyiv on July 27. He is survived by his wife, the poet Valentyna Otroshchenko, and son.

- Viktor Kordun – member of the so-called Kyiv School of Poets, longtime vice secretary of the Writers' Association of Ukraine, and editor of the journal *Svitovyd*. His many books of poetry include "Slavia," "Solstice" and "Wintry Sound of the Woodpecker." Mr. Kordun died in

Kyiv on September 3. He is survived by his wife, the writer Tetyana Kaunova, son, daughter and granddaughter.

- Anatole Fourmanchouk – Ukrainian American stage director. Mr. Fourmanchouk studied at the Karpenko-Karyi Institute in Kyiv and Rada in Moscow, and directed some 70 productions in many countries, including Ukraine, Russia, Spain and the United States. He moved to the United States in 1995 and taught acting at the Michael Howard Studio in Manhattan, where he staged Edward Albee's "Counting the Ways." (See the review in The Ukrainian Weekly, March 23.) In New York, he also founded New York Art Theater, where he staged "The Idiot" based on the Dostoyevsky novel, and Tennessee Williams' "Something Cloudy, Something Clear." His staging of "Metamorphoses," consisting of Samuel Beckett's "All that Fall" and Eugene Ionesco's "The Picture," is still being performed at the Theater for Young Audiences in Kyiv. Mr. Fourmanchouk died on November 7 in Jersey City, N.J. He is survived by his companion, the actor Stass Klassen, and two sons.

– Yuri Tarnavsky

## OBITUARY: Dr. Roksolyana Fokshey, 45, dentist and active parishioner

SPARTA, N.J. – Dr. Roksolyana Fokshey, a dentist and active Ukrainian community member, died on Friday, November 25, at her home in Sparta, N.J. She was 45.

She was born in Lviv on September 16, 1960. She graduated from high school in 1978 and was selected to attend the prestigious University of Medicine in Lviv. She graduated with high honors and after a year of residency received her medical license in dentistry in 1984.

From 1984 to 1986 Dr. Fokshey practiced general dentistry and then was invited back to the university to become a research scientist and professor of general dentistry. From 1986 to 1991 she taught university students from all over the world, including Africa, Europe and the Middle East. In addition to her native Ukrainian, she was fluent in French, English, Russian, Latin, Spanish and Polish.

Dr. Fokshey came to the United States in 1991 and graduated from New York University in 1996, completing studies of dentistry.

She practiced dentistry in Hamburg, N.J., starting in 1996 and became associated with Gentle Dentistry in Sparta in 1997, where she worked until her death.

She was a parishioner of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany, N.J., where she was an active member of the parish's Ways and Means Committee.

Surviving are her husband, Roman; children, Adriana and Svitozar; parents, Lidiya and Yaroslav Dutkevych; and sis-



Dr. Roksolyana Fokshey

ter, Zoriana Pihovich.

A funeral liturgy was offered on November 29 at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany. A parastas had been offered on the evening of November 28 at the Goble Funeral Home in Sparta.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Dr. Fokshey's memory to either St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church Building Fund, 7 S. Jefferson Road, Whippany, N.J. 07981 or to the American Cancer Society.

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## Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition

Ambassador Steven Pifer and Ambassador William Miller, co-chairmen

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 Ukrainian National Women's League of America – Regional Councils: Detroit, Northern New York, Central New York, Northern New York, Ohio, New Jersey, Chicago, New England, Philadelphia; Branches at large: Phoenix, Atlanta, Miami, Pittsburgh, Denver, North Port, Washington D.C., San Jose, Los Angeles, Houston, Tucson, St. Petersburg  
 United Ukrainian American Organizations of Greater New York  
 U.S.-Ukraine Foundation  
 World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, Financial Committee  
 World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations

## Quotable notes

“The passage of this bill signals the commitment of the U.S. to support freedom and prosperity in Ukraine. The U.S. should continue to work with Ukraine to address trade issues between the two nations and ensure trade benefits to American businesses, farmers and ranchers.”

– Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), as quoted in a November 18 release from his office.

“It is a long-awaited step that will help remove this problem, which is a relic of the Cold War and does not reflect the spirit of the Ukrainian-American strategic partnership. ... We hope that the U.S. House of Representatives will take rapid moves to make a final decision on waiving the Jackson-Vanik Amendment for Ukraine.”

– Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Vasyl Fylypchuk, as quoted in a November 20 news story filed by Interfax-Ukraine.

“We're hopeful that the Congress will graduate Ukraine from Jackson-Vanik this year.”

– Matt Niemeyer, assistant U.S. trade representative for congressional affairs, as quoted on November 21 by the Reuters news service.

“Compared to the situation in Ukraine just one year ago, I think the progress they've made is impressive ... I wish all our trading partners demonstrated that kind of respect for the rule of law.”

– Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Ohio), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, urging the House of Representatives to follow the Senate's move to lift Jackson-Vanik restrictions on Ukraine, as quoted on November 21 by Reuters.

“Our hope is that the United States Congress will seize the appropriate legislative and other opportunities to help foster closer bilateral ties between Kiev [sic] and Washington and to recognize and encourage the deep yearning for a modern, Western-oriented society. ... Graduation from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment is a goal we fully share.”

– David A. Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, in a letter to all members of Congress, as cited in a November 21 news release from the American Jewish Committee.

## A CALL TO ACTION: Urge the House to graduate Ukraine from Jackson-Vanik

The Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition, with over 65 member-organizations and businesses, needs your support to encourage the U.S. Congress to pass legislation to graduate Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment this year. The amendment was passed in 1974 to impose trade restrictions on the Soviet Union in response to its poor human rights policies, particularly its restrictions on the emigration of religious minorities. Ukraine is a success story for Jackson-Vanik, now having a strong record of open emigration and having created conditions for religious minorities to practice their beliefs freely.

Recognizing Ukraine's full compliance with the amendment, the U.S. Senate acted to graduate Ukraine from the trade restriction on November 18 by passing Senate bill S. 632.

Now the House of Representatives must also pass legislation to graduate Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. The House Ways and Means Committee is currently considering several possible bills. However, the House of Representatives will be in session for only two weeks, beginning on December 5, before recessing for the holidays.

The Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition Co-Chairmen sent a letter on November 30 to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Thomas and Ranking Minority Member Charles B. Rangel, urging their action to pass legislation to graduate Ukraine (see text below). The coalition urges that readers to immediately call or send a letter of support for Ukraine's graduation as well.

Due to increased security measures in Congress, correspondence through the postal service can be delayed for up to two weeks. We therefore recommend that you call or send letters via fax. You can find a list of suggested points to address in your letter of support on the US-Ukraine Foundation website, [www.usukraine.org](http://www.usukraine.org), by clicking on the link for the “Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition Information Page.”

Please e-mail [JVGC@usukraine.org](mailto:JVGC@usukraine.org) for more information or to add your

organization or business to the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition.

### WHOM TO CONTACT IN CONGRESS

Please direct your calls/letters to:  
 House Ways and Means Committee  
 Chairman Bill Thomas (R-Calif.)  
 Phone, (202) 225-2915  
 Fax, (202) 225-8798  
 Attention: International Trade Aide  
 Mike Holland

Ranking Minority Member Charles B. Rangel, (D-N.Y.)  
 Phone, (202) 225-4365  
 Fax, (202) 225-0816  
 Attention: International Trade Aide  
 Jon Sheiner

If your congressman is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, please contact him/her with your support for Ukraine's graduation as well.

House Ways and Means Committee Members: E. Clay Shaw Jr. (R-Fla.), Nancy L. Johnson (R-Conn.), Wally Herger (R-Calif.), Jim McCrery (R-La.), Dave Camp (R-Mich.), Jim Ramstad (R-Minn.), Jim Nussle (R-Iowa), Sam Johnson (R-Texas), Phil English (R-Pa.), J.D. Hayworth (R-Ariz.), Jerry Weller (R-Ill.), Kenny C. Hulshof (R-Mo.), Ron Lewis (R-Ky.), Mark Foley (R-Fla.), Kevin Brady (R-Texas), Thomas M. Reynolds (R-N.Y.), Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), Eric Cantor (R-Va.), John Linder (R-Ga.), Bob Beauprez (R-Colo.), Melissa A. Hart (R-Pa.), Chris Chocola (R-Ind.), Devin Nunes (R-Calif.), Fortney Pete Stark (D-Calif.), Sander M. Levin (D-Mich.), Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.), Jim McDermott (D-Wash.), John Lewis (D-Ga.), Richard E. Neal (D-Mass.), Michael R. McNulty (D-N.Y.), William J. Jefferson (D-La.), John S. Tanner (D-Tenn.), Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.), Lloyd Doggett (D-Texas), Earl Pomeroy (D-N.D.), Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-Ohio), Mike Thompson (D-Calif.), John B. Larson (D-Conn.), Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.).

## FOR THE RECORD: Coalition co-chairmen's letter to Ways and Means Committee chair

Below is the text of a letter sent on November 30 to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Thomas by Ambassador Steven Pifer and Ambassador William Miller, co-chairmen of the Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition.

Dear Chairman Thomas:

On the first anniversary of Ukraine's Orange Revolution, and with the Senate having passed S. 632, we are writing to request your action to pass legislation in the House of Representatives to graduate Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. The Jackson-Vanik Graduation Coalition has united organizations from across the country in support of the immediate graduation of Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

Ukraine has fully met the requirements of Jackson-Vanik, in particular by its exemplary record of open emigration. This has been recognized by President [Bill] Clinton, who found Ukraine to be in full compliance with Jackson-Vanik in 1997, and President [George W.] Bush, who called for Ukraine's graduation in his April 4, 2005, joint statement with President [Viktor] Yushchenko.

President Yushchenko received a unanimous ovation during a joint session

of the U.S. Congress on April 6, 2005, when he remarked “we seek a new atmosphere of trust, frankness and partnership. I am calling upon you to [end] the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Please tear down this wall.”

We have just returned from Ukraine, where we heard concerns from a number of Ukrainian political leaders that lack of action by the United States with regard to Jackson-Vanik could be seen as a failure of Yushchenko's pro-Western policy. With the upcoming March 2006 parliamentary elections in Ukraine, graduation from Jackson-Vanik would be understood by the people of Ukraine as a compelling sign of U.S. support for the continued development of a democratic market economy and further integration of Ukraine into Europe.

Our broad coalition, which currently includes over 65 Ukrainian American and Jewish American groups, business organizations and NGOs, urges immediate Congressional action to accomplish Ukraine's graduation. We very much hope for your support.

Sincerely,  
 Steven Pifer  
 William Green Miller  
 Washington, D.C.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### The Times's complicity

Last week's front page carried a story headlined "Protesters' demand: The New York Times must repudiate Walter Duranty's reporting." It reported that a small but determined group of demonstrators picketed The Times headquarters in New York City in hopes of influencing – or shaming – the newspaper into acknowledging that its star foreign correspondent did not deserve to receive the Pulitzer Prize for 1932.

They called on the publisher of The New York Times to acknowledge that the Pulitzer was given to Duranty in error since his dispatches from the USSR had parroted the official Soviet line instead of offering objective information, and to renounce Duranty's journalistic work because he denied that millions were dying as a result of Famine in Ukraine – even while privately admitting exactly that.

Requesting such action by The Times in regard to one of its own correspondents is certainly not unprecedented.

Back in 2003, The Times published a huge article that began on page 1, detailing the fraud perpetrated upon its readers by reporter Jayson Blair, who was responsible for, in the words of The Times, a "chain of falsifications and plagiarism" that appeared in the paper. Publisher Arthur Sulzberger Jr. referred to the case as "a huge black eye" and "an abrogation of the trust between a newspaper and its readers." Mr. Sulzberger, and the executive and managing editors at the time, also reassured the newspaper's staffers: "We are resolved to do all that we can to learn from this tragedy and prevent any similar instances of journalistic fraud in the future."

This year, The New York Times and controversial reporter Judith Miller "agreed to part company" after she was criticized, on the pages of The Times and elsewhere, for inaccurate reporting on the issue of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq – basically parroting the Bush administration position on WMD – and her professional conduct in the wake of the Valerie Plame affair (in which the identity of a CIA operative was revealed by the press). By parting company with her, The Times disavowed Ms. Miller.

And yet, The Times won't budge on Duranty.

The paper's response to the recent demonstration in front of its headquarters, a reaction solicited by this newspaper, was a repeat of its statement from 2004. "The Times has not seen merit in trying to undo history," it stated, while referring to the decision of the Pulitzer Prize board to not revoke Duranty's award.

From where we sit, unless The Times has joined the ranks of Famine deniers, the least The Times could do is publicly acknowledge that Duranty's reporting from the USSR was deeply flawed and that his dispatches concealed a genocide in progress in Ukraine. Of course, if The Times were truly concerned with journalistic principles – and the truth – it could renounce the Pulitzer Prize Duranty was awarded, instead of using the Pulitzer board's inaction as an excuse. (The Times has said it cannot physically return the prize since it is not in its possession.)

As long as The New York Times refuses to "part company" with Duranty, to reveal the facts surrounding Duranty's successful duping of the public, to repudiate his heinous reporting, Duranty's offense will remain a stain on its history and its collective conscience. And The Times will remain complicit in one of history's greatest and most tragic cover-ups – a cover-up that cost 10 million lives.

Dec.  
5  
2004

### Turning the pages back...

Last year at this time, as our editorial of December 5, 2004, noted, "readers, listeners and viewers around the globe saw that the Orange Revolution in Ukraine was not waning, but growing. More and more people flocked to Kyiv to take part in the mass protests there, and more and more actions were organized around the country in support of the opposition. The momentum seemed to be on the opposition's side, judging by the actions of the Verkhovna Rada, the fact that the Supreme Court was hearing Viktor Yushchenko's appeal, and the ever-increasing reports of news media, police, security officials and ordinary people taking the opposition's side. Mr. Yushchenko vowed to stand fast on insisting for a revote of the second round of the presidential election due to the massive vote fraud that rendered the election illegitimate."

Meanwhile, the editorial continued, "Viktor Yanukovich, the favorite son of the eastern regions and the hand-picked successor of President Leonid Kuchma, seemed to be strangely quiet this week. His supporters were deserting him in droves, willing to sacrifice their candidate for the sake of something greater – a reflection of whatever their personal interests are. His wife resorted to scare tactics as she told an audience in Donetsk that the demonstrators in Kyiv were ingesting drug-laced oranges and that there was an outbreak of meningitis."

Russian President Vladimir Putin of Russia got a visit from Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, who was proposing a completely new presidential election, with new candidates. President Putin supported the outgoing president's idea, noting: "A revote of the second round might prove useless. ... And then what? A third, fourth, 25th time. This could continue as long as one of the sides doesn't obtain the result it needs."

Our editorial went on to state: "What Messrs. Yanukovich, Kuchma and Putin, and others who support them would like the world to believe is that the millions demonstrating in Ukraine are simply unhappy that their candidate lost. Therefore, these 'malcontents' are not to be taken seriously. Thankfully, most of the West agrees with the opposition that there is much, much more at stake here. What we're talking about is an election stolen from the people of Ukraine. The people are not going to stand for this and that's why they've been occupying Kyiv ..."

"The only issue in Ukraine is that the voice of the people must be heard. Millions are demanding a free and fair election, and their demands and aspirations deserve the strong support of the West. ..."

Source: "The will of the people" (editorial), *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 5, 2004, Vol. LXXII, No. 49.

## STATEMENTS ON THE FAMINE-GENOCIDE

### President George W. Bush

*Below is the text of President George W. Bush's message on the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine.*

I send greetings to those gathered to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine. I join my fellow Americans in expressing deepest condolences on this solemn occasion.

Millions in Ukraine were oppressed by Joseph Stalin's totalitarian regime and suffered through devastating famine from 1932 to 1933. They showed great courage and strength throughout this atrocity, and the world will always remember those who gave their lives to resist evil. We

must strive to prevent similar acts of cruelty from ever happening again.

The desire for justice, freedom, human rights and accountable, representative government is universal. Since Ukraine's independence in 1991, the Ukrainian people have demonstrated a firm commitment to freedom for all people, and last year's Orange Revolution was a powerful example of democracy in action. In President Viktor Yushchenko, the Ukrainian people have a courageous leader, and America is proud to call Ukraine a friend.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this solemn occasion.

### Ambassador Valeriy Kuchinsky

*Below is the text of the statement by Valeriy Kuchinsky, permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, at the memorial service for victims of the Holodomor at St. Patrick's Cathedral on November 19.*

It has become a valuable tradition that every November St. Patrick's Cathedral welcomes those who feel deep sorrow for the tragedy of the Holodomor. Generations have come and gone, but the

horrors of 1932-1933 remain in the hearts of the survivors and their descendants.

The whole truth about the Holodomor is not yet fully known to the world. We strongly believe that the international community must give that crime its proper name – genocide, which was planned and executed to destroy the Ukrainian people.

(Continued on page 20)

### President Viktor Yushchenko

*Following is the message by President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine to the participants of the ceremonies to honor the victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral on November 19.*

I am wholeheartedly grateful to the participants of the ceremony to honor the victims of Holodomor of 1932-33 for their concern and sympathy that unite us in this time of sorrow.

Today we are bowing our heads before the deep tragedy of a loss of loved ones, remembering both the tyranny of the totalitarian system and the historic lie of concealing the crimes against humankind and humanity.

The Ukrainian people survived this ordeal by the too high price of millions of lives.

I would like to express my special words of gratitude to the American nation, which was the first to recognize the terrible consequences of the Holodomor of 1932-1933. I hope that this

tragedy of a European scale will be recognized also by the whole international community. Truth and remembrance are needed to make sure that the horrors of the past will not be repeated in the future.

In Ukraine, honoring the fallen and supporting those affected by famines, as well as study of hidden-for-decades pages of the Ukrainian history, are matters of high priority for state policy. We are in the process of establishing the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance, building new memorials and restoring burial sites. Soon, there will be a guelder rose ("kalyna") park on the hilly banks of Dnipro River to pay tribute to every village that had suffered the effects of the Holodomor.

I believe that the words of common prayer in memory of the victims of the Holodomor that will resound in many places around the world will bring peace and solace to the souls of the innocently perished [and] will unite us in the common striving to build a just world with its highest value – that of human life.

### Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg

*Following is the text of the Proclamation issued by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York.*

Whereas: This year marks the 72nd anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, which claimed the lives of at least 5 million men, women and children in the Ukraine, in

addition to an estimated 2 million people in other regions. As the horror of this atrocity recedes deeper into history, the responsibility of remembrance weighs heavier on all of us. New York City joins the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America in observing Ukrainian

(Continued on page 17)

### FOR THE RECORD: Borys Wrzesnewskij on Orange Revolution

*Following is the text of a statement on the first anniversary of the Orange Revolution by Member of Parliament Borys Wrzesnewskij (Etobicoke Center) in the House of Commons on November 22.*

As a light snow fell on my way to the

House of Commons this morning, I felt a moment of nostalgia. In the morning one year ago today, I stood in Independence Square with Viktor Yushchenko as a light snow fell on a gathering of tens of thousands.

(Continued on page 17)

## Double Exposure

by Kristina Lew

### Red lollipops and Orange dreams

In preparation for the Thanksgiving holiday, my son's schoolteacher asked him what he was thankful for. While "red lollipops" and "my friends" may be an appropriate response for a 3-year-old, it got the Ukrainian part of me thinking. What am I thankful for – and in keeping with the holiday season – for what do I wish?

I am thankful that my parents sent me to Ukrainian Saturday school, but I wish I hadn't had to miss Saturday morning cartoons. I am thankful for bandura lessons on Tuesdays and Plast meetings on Thursdays, because that's how I met my husband. I wish I could have skipped the annual Taras Shevchenko commemorations though – when all the Ukrainian school kids took their turns badly reciting the bard's verse.

I am thankful I was raised in a bicultural home, because it exposed me to a whole other world of language, custom and tradition, and taught me tolerance of others. I wish it hadn't been so hard being Ukrainian sometimes, missing out on "American" things like high school football games, because the Ukrainian activities took precedence.

My Ukrainian heritage prodded me along my career path, so I am thankful Ukraine became independent when I started working as a reporter. I was able to cover some truly amazing events in modern Ukrainian history: the referendum on Ukraine's independence in 1991, a Ukrainian president's first official visit to the White House in 1994, Ukraine's Orthodox Churches struggling for recognition during the 1995 funeral-turned-riot of Patriarch Volodymyr (Romaniuk). I wish the rest of the world could see then how important Ukraine would be to a peaceful, expanded Europe.

Working in Ukraine in the 1990s introduced me to people who today have become leaders in Ukraine's political, legal and cultural worlds, and I am thankful to know them as friends. I only wish life in Ukraine would get easier for them, although I fear that they will continue to scramble to make a living, and that the fruits of an independent Ukraine will only be enjoyed by their children's generation.

Working at The Weekly and freelancing for the Ukrainian Congress

Committee of America, I have met several Americans and Canadians of Ukrainian descent who are committed to keeping the Ukrainian identity in North America alive and growing. They are writers, editors, educators and community organizers, and they continue to run our newspapers, schools, museums and political organizations, often for minimal pay and with little recognition, even though Ukraine has been independent for almost 15 years.

I am thankful to them for making it easier for me to raise my son in a bicultural home. I wish they had the resources – material and other – to run top-notch endeavors, instead of being forced into mediocrity because they have no support.

Back on the other side of the ocean, I am thankful for the Orange Revolution that spurred civic consciousness among Ukrainians all over the country. On the first anniversary of the revolution, I am thankful that supporters of both Viktor Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko massed on the Maidan to mark the date. Although Ukraine's democrats may be facing a showdown leading up to next March's parliamentary elections, it is a great manifestation of the democratic ideal to have supporters of two popular Ukrainian politicians meet in one space without rancor.

I wish that Ukraine's democrats find a compromise and unite for the good of Ukraine before the campaign season begins.

Lest my American side get jealous, some thoughts from the other half of my heart. I am thankful that my parents found their way to America after the second world war. America permitted them, and by extension us, to become whatever we wished to be: writers, students, photographers, mother, Ukrainian in America, American in Ukraine. America is a beacon for freedom and the embodiment of the individual spirit.

I wish that America could help the victims of Hurricane Katrina get back on their feet and bring our soldiers home for the holidays.

A tall order for both sides of my heart, and one I fervently hope will come true. May all your wishes come true this holiday season.

## PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



### Casting a sweeping eye

I was a little boy in the 1950s at the Plast scout camp near Buffalo and didn't know any better. So when one of the campers in the cot next to me said he didn't have a father, I wanted to know why not.

Wordlessly, he took a piece of string, tied a hangman's noose, held it to my face and dropped it. I gulped.

The Soviets did dreadful things in Ukraine. Nearly every Ukrainian I've known even slightly has a relative or ancestor who suffered Soviet prison, labor camp or execution, each a tiny portion of the torment that time has distilled into simple words: Famine, Terror, Genocide, Stalinism – shorthand for the ghastliness entire libraries can't adequately explain or fully describe. No wonder millions rejoiced in June 1941 when the German Wehrmacht crossed into Ukraine on their way to Moscow.

It didn't take long, however, for the Nazis to begin doing dreadful things of their own. Here, too, are millions of individual stories of prisons, camps, deportations and executions, each a tiny portion of the suffering we've abbreviated to a few horrific words: Eastern Front, Ostarbeiter, Fascism, Holocaust – shorthand for evil that defies comprehension.

I remember the boy who made the hangman's noose as being pretty quiet and, besides, he was from somewhere else – Toronto, Rochester, Syracuse or Buffalo – so I didn't play with him much, but I did glance at him from time to time with curiosity and trepidation. I knew my own father had been in a Nazi prison somewhere and something called the NKVD had tried to kill him, but that seemed almost normal.

Being hanged, though – that was a whole different story; one I never got to hear. My tent-mate couldn't bear to talk about his father and I wasn't going to ask any more questions. Someone hanged him – either the Soviets or the Nazis, probably. Both, I learned, did that routinely. Either way, many children were scarred for life.

In World War II, Ukrainians were tragically caught between two of history's most evil powers. Forced to choose sides, those in central and eastern Ukraine – with nowhere else to turn – rallied to the Red Army. In western Ukraine, paramilitary groups that had organized before the war to separate from Poland, morphed into the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), adopting the same mission as the Red Army – drive out the barbarian who marched to a swastika while presuming to rule over the "Untermenschen" (subhumans) who had naively tossed flowers at his tanks and troops.

With much smaller forces and limited arms, the UPA adopted classic guerrilla tactics, disrupting Nazi supply lines, attacking ammunition dumps, harassing individual units. As for the Red Army, it fought immense battles. In the end, they drove the Nazis all the way back to Berlin.

Although UPA and the Red Army fought a common enemy, a clash between the two forces was unavoidable. Hiding in the forests and mountains of western Ukraine, amidst a supportive population that helped them stay in the field into the early 1950s, the UPA was fighting for nothing less than full independence for Ukraine. The Soviets, though, would have none of that. With Ukrainians on both sides, the decade-long struggle amounted

to a civil war. Vastly outnumbered and outgunned, the UPA was ultimately subdued. But its legacy is incalculable.

Because the UPA challenged Stalin so openly and fearlessly, he had to take a political stand, as well as a military one. Historians John Armstrong, Yaroslav Bilinsky and others argue that Stalin created the accouterments of statehood for Soviet Ukraine – a separate Foreign Ministry and a seat in the United Nations – in order to undercut the UPA's rationale for fighting. That short-term tactic, however, had a long-term impact. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry and U.N. delegation – hollow institutions in 1944 and 1945 – became crucial in 1991 when independence was hanging in the balance.

The UPA also had an immediate and far-reaching impact on Soviet society and economy, where mass arrests and slave labor played such a central role. Thousands of UPA members had been killed fighting the Nazis and the Soviets, but many thousands more were captured and shipped to the gulag to join millions of others who were already there, including future Nobel Prize winner Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

The UPA, writes Solzhenitsyn, "brought the bacillus of rebellion" to the gulag: "These sturdy fellows, fresh from the guerrilla trails, looked around themselves ... were horrified by the apathy and slavery they saw, and reached for their knives." It was they, he maintains, who set in motion the revolt that forced the dismantlement of the vast network of slave labor camps. A handful of those released in the mid-1950s became the dissidents whose activism escalated a generation later into a revolution that toppled an empire.

Casting a sweeping eye on Ukraine's history since 1940, it's astonishing to see what's been achieved. Struggling for independence, Ukrainians took on two of history's greatest monsters – the Third Reich and the Soviet Union – and played critical roles in destroying both. Then they amazed themselves and the world when they defended their freedom in the Orange Revolution.

Today, Ukrainians commemorate their struggle against the Nazis with a thousand village monuments. The Red Army role in World War II is well-chronicled and celebrated. UPA's story, on the other hand, is neglected and unappreciated. They deserve better, even as they take satisfaction in the blue-and-yellow flag flying over government buildings, the trident, the currency, the growing use of Ukrainian, an Olympic team and Independence Square in the center of Kyiv.

Ironically, that's where several hundred UPA and Red Army veterans recently confronted each other: on October 15 on the UPA's 63rd anniversary and again on November 7, the 88th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, with 800 Kyiv police on duty and 6,000 more on call. As it developed, both sides – many of them with canes and some in wheelchairs – waved flags, sang songs, shouted slogans and then went home.

Ukraine has moved on, even if the two groups of now-frail veterans remain hostile to one another. And that's a shame, because they have much in common. Thanks to them, Europe has no more concentration camps; no child will be rendered speechless because some ideology killed his father. Both sides did a great thing for their country and the world. Too bad they can't acknowledge that.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is: fedynsky@stratos.net.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Language, literature part of Ukrainian studies

Dear Editor:

Re: "Ukrainian studies at University of Toronto now part of European program" by Oksana Zakydalsky (October 30).

I was delighted to read about Ukrainian Studies at the University of Toronto. However, to avoid confusion, I would like to point out that Ukrainian studies at the University of Toronto is not limited to the Jacyk and Danyliv programs that have been amalgamated into the new Center for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies.

Ukrainian studies at the university go back over 40 years and include programs (both teaching and research) still fortuitously housed in the department of Slavic languages and literatures and in

the Chair of Ukrainian Studies.

The popularity of contemporary Ukrainian politics in current scholarship is a very welcome development but Ukrainian studies has not yet lost its other, more traditional branches.

Prof. Maxim Tarnawsky  
Toronto

### We welcome your opinion

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

Letters should be typed and signed. Letters are accepted also via e-mail at staff@ukrweekly.com.

## COMMENTARY

## Amnesia, or who we are

by Tetiana Seleznyova

## Part II

As for the president – he is my president. And he completely responds to the country we have with all its complexities: hesitation, restlessness, inconsistency, imbalance, lack of knowledge, spontaneity and weakness. During the “Orange days,” thousands of Ukrainians finally learned the words to the national anthem that were disregarded until then. They sang it standing shoulder to shoulder, looking into each others’ faces, Donechany [residents of the Donetsk region] and Lviviany [residents of the Lviv region], waiting for the Supreme Court verdict. It seemed that the entire future was dependent on it. It happened that way. It was a miracle that could appear only in suffering and only here.

They say there is another camp, there are others, and they deserve respect. It is terrible, and it does not hold up to any scrutiny or sober comprehension – that those who have lied openly and with impudence, stole from their country for years, deprived old people of bread and

*Tetiana Seleznyova is a correspondent for Radio Era in Kyiv. She is a native of Vinnytsia, Ukraine.*

let children die for years, today are speaking about tyranny, political repressions and the need for protection. And Ukrainian journalists support them – “Tak!” For one cannot say the revolution took place and there’s no need to insult those who “think differently” because “everybody” did not stand on the maidan.

Dear people! It’s not everyone that launches revolutions and changes the world. Only the bravest and most courageous people do this. And those who destroy nothing and kill nobody create history under God’s blessing and protection. And what they accomplished in the fall of 2004 doesn’t fall under any example in world history because it was a revolution without aggression. It was bloodless and calm with a smile. It seemed the entire earth stood up to protect that group of thousands of people. And even powerful officials lacked the evil spirit to kill their compatriots. Therefore, it’s no wonder that the revolution roused envy in neighboring countries.

And it’s not possible to find such a president elsewhere. I see him: absurdly sincere and laughingly trustful, undisciplined for some undefined reason, simple and loving his country not for show, but with all his soul. Not presidential qualities, you say? I agree. But this is such an odd country. It was most strange that for the first time after the revolution, thanks

to the president, my priorities in life became completely clear: God, family, a child’s smile and respect for one’s own country. I will treasure this.

And the rest – for some reason the trial of Joan of Arc comes to mind. Pharisaic priests said to her, “Repent because everybody has betrayed you!”

“That’s not true. The king is with me,” the French heroine replied.

“You’re naive! Your king is the first who betrayed you,” they replied.

“So France needed that,” the wise woman shot back.

So, allow me to draw a parallel on behalf of all the people who were on the maidan. If my president betrayed me, so what. It means Ukraine needed that. It means the time hasn’t yet arrived. A miracle won’t appear out of the blue. You should cherish it, nurture it, preserve it and create favorable conditions for its return. You should create it yourself, every day and every second, getting over your fear and desire to have a safe and quiet existence, patiently persuading yourself that “moya khata ne skrayu” [my house is not on the outskirts]. Then, maybe, I will deserve a president who doesn’t betray.

You know, there are too many judgments today. But there is a lack of faith and effort. And there is too much nonsense in the name of Natalia Vitrenko, Dmytro Korchytskyi, Viktor Yanukovich, Petro Symonenko, Nestor Shufrych, Leonid Hrach. Look into their eyes and ask, “What do you most long for?” As far as I can tell, their aspirations don’t have anything to do with the prosperity of Ukraine. The proof of that will be in their eyes as they avert their gaze. Atavism in the guise of Soviet rudiments, Lenin monuments, red flags, solemn,

empty speeches – these, too, are some terrible realities of my country.

Ukraine is so strange. During the first months of this year, prominent, respectful, well-known and talented people at press conferences (which I, as a journalist, attended almost every day) without exception uttered the words, “Today new times have arrived,” “A country is being born,” “Thanks to the Orange Revolution it became possible.” Can we alone appreciate what had happened? No. Today we act as if we were apologizing for this. How pathetic. We refer to names, bitterly disappointed by how the people today to whom these names belong “are not the same people from last year.”

The politicians who stood on the maidan’s stage are not important. The important ones are those who stood in front of it. Those stage names, after all, are relative. Some of those who led turned out to be weak and lacked faith. There is only one hero of the Orange Revolution: the people.

You may say that this sounds abstract. Well, then, I am proud of each of you who got over some fear or feeling of insignificance, each of you who believed and did the impossible, who got up and said, “Enough,” who found the courage not to lie, who neglected convenience and peace in order just to be there.

I am proud of the country where you live! Don’t listen to those who talk about manipulations! Don’t forget what really happened! You are the heroes of your own country! Do not betray your country with a bad word, because it is the only one and the best. As our president says, “Glory to each of you and to our Lord.”

– Translated from Ukrainian by Maria Samoylenko.

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## Candidacy of Michael Ignatieff protested by riding membership

by Myroslava Oleksiuk

TORONTO – After prolonged speculation about whether and where he would run, Michael Ignatieff, an academic, journalist and novelist, appears to have found himself a safe haven in the Ontario riding of Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

The executive of the Etobicoke-Lakeshore Federal Liberal Riding Association learned late on Friday, November 25, that their member of Parliament, Jean Augustine, has resigned her seat and that Mr. Ignatieff is to be parachuted in as the sole, uncontested candidate in a surprise nomination meeting scheduled for December 1.

The speed with which the nomination meeting was called and the abridgement of all timelines suggests that the Liberal Party is discouraging all other contenders.

Despite the time constraints, and the difficult nomination filing requirements, two candidates were in fact able to pre-

*Myroslava Oleksiuk is membership secretary of the Etobicoke Lakeshore Federal Liberal Riding Association.*

pare and submit the required forms, including police and credit checks, as well as the required 30 signatures in support of their nominations.

The two candidates delivered their nomination documents to Liberal Party headquarters in Toronto, only to find that the office was locked before the 5 p.m. filing deadline. Liberal party staffers could be seen through the second-story windows, but they refused to answer repeated knocking on the doors and phone calls to the office.

The two potential candidates are: Marc Shwec, a bilingual (English/French) engineer who holds an M.B.A. degree and has been active in community and volunteer work; and Ron Chyczij, also an M.B.A., who is the president of the Etobicoke-Lakeshore Riding Association and is active in many community and volunteer projects.

Mr. Ignatieff, 58, is considered by the Ukrainian community to be a virulent Ukrainophobe, and his candidacy is offensive to the many Ukrainian Canadian residents of the riding, many of whom have been members of the riding association for many years and form more than one-half of the membership of the riding association.

## Statement by Michael Ignatieff

*Following is the text of a statement by Michael Ignatieff that was released on November 28 – Etobicoke, Ontario, via Canadian news services.*

I was delighted to learn today that I have been confirmed as the Liberal candidate for the electoral district of Etobicoke Lakeshore. I look forward to running under the leadership of Prime Minister Paul Martin in the next election campaign.

I want to first thank Jean Augustine. She is a remarkable Canadian for whom I have the highest regard. She has set an example of service to the citizens of Etobicoke Lakeshore and to all Canadians that I will strive to emulate. In her many roles, but especially as secretary of state for multiculturalism and women, Jean Augustine made a remarkable difference. I am truly honored to inherit her legacy.

It was a special pleasure to meet with the many Liberals from Jean's successful campaign team in Etobicoke Lakeshore over the weekend. Their warm embrace of my candidacy has been deeply gratifying.

Now I would like to directly address the allegations that surfaced at the 11th hour in relation to my nomination.

I have a deep, personal affinity with the suffering of the Ukrainian people at the hands of Soviet Russia and a deep respect for the Ukrainian Canadian community. My own family escaped to Ukraine following the Russian Revolution, when they lost everything. My ancestors are buried in Ukraine. I have visited their graves. I have made it a point to understand the horror of mass killing and starvation imposed by the Soviet regime in the 1930s. I have lectured on the Ukrainian genocide in my courses at Harvard.

But my sympathy for the historic plight of the Ukrainian people goes much further. As a journalist, I have traveled many times to Ukraine and spent months there trying to better understand its history. I have taken my children to those national parks of Canada where Ukrainians were interned during World War I. I have tried to translate the horrible weight of the Ukrainian experience not only to them, but also to thousands of students and readers.

My family, like so many Ukrainian Canadian ancestors, left Ukraine to start a

new life in Canada with nothing but the clothes on their backs. That is why there has always been a tremendous mutual respect between the Ignatieff family and the Ukrainian Canadian community. We all came here to build a great country, based on inclusion and not exclusion. That is why I am so pleased to see Canada and Ukrainian Canadians take such a leading and inspirational role in the modern Ukrainian democracy movement.

I was saddened to learn yesterday of an attempt to distort my words and pervert my meaning in a discussion of the Ukrainian experience in one of my books, "Blood and Belonging." Anyone who reads the entire chapter in question, rather than merely the phrases that have been cited in isolation and out of context, will quickly recognize that my sole purpose was to rebut, not assert, the odious stereotype of Ukrainians that has been wrongly and unfairly attributed to me.

This is a transparent attempt to twist my writings with the objective of sowing division and strife in Liberal ranks on the eve of a campaign. I am satisfied that tactics of this sort tend to rebound heavily on their perpetrators when weighed against the truth.

My record and writings on the subject matter of Ukraine and Ukrainian history are clear. I welcome anyone who wants to review that record to do so in its entirety.

Etobicoke Lakeshore is a wonderfully diverse multicultural constituency. I am committed to working with the Ukrainian Canadian community, as I am with all the communities in the riding. I look forward to meeting with Ukrainian Canadians and their leaders from Etobicoke Lakeshore and across Canada, to share views on the Ukrainian experience and discuss my writings with them. They will quickly recognize that Michael Ignatieff is a staunch friend and supporter of Ukrainian Canadians who has been wrongly maligned by persons with an agenda at variance with that of the Liberal Party.

Our agenda as Liberals is to build a great country based on democracy, prosperity and inclusion. I look forward to joining hands with all of the citizens of Etobicoke Lakeshore, including all its citizens of Ukrainian descent, as we work to realize these important goals.

## COMMENTARY: Candidate's views on Ukrainians should disqualify him

by Lubomyr Luciuk

He thought people like my parents were "strange and pathetic" because, in the 1960s, they would gather in protest, even in the snow, "haranguing people" who just wanted to see the Bolshoi Ballet, and "to hell with the politics."

He wondered how they thought Ukraine could ever be free. Hadn't these folks bothered to check a map? Didn't they know Ukraine had "been part of Russia for centuries?" And why wouldn't they accept that, "obviously," Kyiv was the "birthplace of Russian national identity"?

When, "unbelievably," that city became the capital of a "new" and independent state, he confessed to having "difficulty taking Ukraine seriously" because, as a "Great Russian" he held "just a trace of old Russian disdain for 'little Russians'" meaning Ukrainians. The thought of their independence conjured up only "images of embroidered

*Lubomyr Luciuk, Ph. D., professor of political geography at the Royal Military College of Canada was born in Kingston in 1953 and remembers standing in the cold protesting Soviet imperialism in Ukraine. He says he has no regrets. It worked. The commentary above was published also in the November 30 issue of The Ottawa Citizen.*

peasant shirts, the nasal whine of ethnic instruments, phony Cossacks [Kozaks] in cloaks and boots, nasty anti-Semites."

I confess that I have an embroidered Ukrainian shirt, several in fact, which my mother hand-made for me, and which I am proud to wear. I share other kindred, albeit more intellectual, prejudices with Michael Ignatieff, who probably thinks he is my "elder brother." So I get a laugh when reading about those puffed up White Russian émigrés – with their profascist sentiments and stunted ideas about the rights of other nations to self-determination – who fittingly ended up as so many Grand Dukes Such and Such taxi cab drivers in Paris, or Princesses This and Thats serving up tables, or themselves, in Harbin dancing halls.

They were the flotsam of the failed tsarist regime, pretenders and pogromschiks, most shoveled into the dustbin of history during the interwar period, although a few managed to hold on long enough to serve Hitler as collaborators on the Eastern Front. One of their own (and yes he was a count, what else), Vladimir Kokovtsev, described his fellow exiles in 1930 as an admixture of "nostalgia, fatalism, balalaikas, lugubrious songs of the Volga, a crimson shirt [and] frenzied dance."

Of course, some took longer to accept

(Continued on page 15)

## Ukrainian Canadian Congress "disappointed" with party's push

*Following is the text of a release titled "Ukrainians Disappointed with Liberal Push for Ignatieff as Candidate" that was issued by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress on November 27 in Ottawa in response to the nomination of Michael Ignatieff as a Liberal candidate for Parliament.*

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress is very disappointed that the Liberal Party of Canada would support the nomination of Michael Ignatieff as a candidate for the Liberal Party of Canada.

It will be difficult for Canadians to support a party that fields a candidate who makes such derogatory remarks as:

"From my childhood in Canada, I remember expatriate Ukrainian nationalists demonstrating in the snow outside ballet performances by the Bolshoi in Toronto. 'Free the captive nations!' they chanted. In 1960, they seemed strange

and pathetic, chanting in the snow, haranguing people who just wanted to see ballet and to hell with the politics. They seemed fanatical too, unreasonable. Hadn't they looked at the map? How did they think Ukraine could ever be free?" – "Blood and Belonging" (p.79) by Michael Ignatieff.

"I have reasons to take the [sic] Ukraine seriously indeed. But, to be honest, I'm having trouble. Ukrainian independence conjures up images of peasant embroidered shirts, the nasal whine of ethnic instruments, phoney Cossacks in cloaks and boots, nasty anti-Semites." – "Blood and Belonging" (p.79) by Michael Ignatieff.

The UCC calls upon the Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, the Right Hon. Paul Martin, to withdraw his support of Michael Ignatieff's nomination as a Liberal candidate for the upcoming Parliamentary elections.

## IN THE PRESS: Ottawa Citizen writes of "Headache for Ignatieff"

*The Ottawa Citizen, in an editorial headlined "Headache for Ignatieff," published on November 29, wrote in part:*

"The federal Liberal Party clearly wants Michael Ignatieff, the he-man of Harvard, to be its candidate in Etobicoke-Lakeshore.

"Two others tried to file their papers by the short deadline the party imposed after the incumbent suddenly bowed out; they had to slip their documents under a locked office door. Angry allies of the sidelined candidates are drawing attention to Mr. Ignatieff's 1993 book

on nationalism, 'Blood and Belonging,' in which the descendant of Russian nobles disparaged Ukrainian protests in 1960s Toronto and recalled his own youthful belief in the absurdity of Ukrainian independence.

"We shouldn't hold Mr. Ignatieff's childhood understandings of world politics against him, but even in 1993 he was skeptical that Ukrainian nationalism was 'real.' So Ukrainian Canadians, who claim to make up half the Etobicoke-Lakeshore riding association, are literally protesting in the street. One news release calls Mr. Ignatieff 'a virulent Ukrainophobe.' ..."

# Orysia Tracz tells Toronto audience: Baba was right all along!

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – Do you remember being fed Baba's (grandmother's) gogel-mogel when you had a sore throat? Did she make you drink sickeningly-sweet chamomile tea when you had an upset stomach? "Baba was right all along!" claimed Orysia Paszczak Tracz, a columnist for The Ukrainian Weekly, when she was recently in Toronto.

Invited to speak at the Toronto Study Tour of the Midwestern Region of the Costume Society of America (whose regional president is Irene Romaniw of Winnipeg), Ms. Tracz came to the city to speak about the symbolism of the Ukrainian costume. That presentation was hosted by the Toronto Branch of The Ukrainian Museum of Canada.

Ms. Tracz's talk about folk medicine on October 14 was as a guest lecturer at St. Vladimir's cultural program. Ms. Tracz became interested in Ukrainian folk medicine as she researched the numerous aspects of Ukrainian ethnology. "The 'why we do what we do' has been a lifelong question for me, and I keep trying to dig deeper and deeper for answers. What I have discovered is that all aspects of traditional Ukrainian life are interconnected, and folk medicine is

related to beliefs, rituals, folk songs, and ornamentation," she said.

As a child, back in Jersey City, Newark and Irvington, N.J., Ms. Tracz often suffered from ear and throat trouble. Her father would give her one of two potions before bedtime. Somehow he knew by her cough which to prepare – and there was one she preferred over the other. One was tea, honey, lemon juice and brandy, the other – hot milk, butter and crushed garlic. Readers can decide which she liked better.

Her mother would treat small wounds with "babka" (*Plantago major* L) – common plantain ("podorozhnyk"). For the same type of festering wounds, her mother-in-law would use a poultice of flour and one of the following ingredients: sour cream, sweet butter or honey. Both the plant and the poultice drew out the pus.

Ms. Tracz pointed out that folk medicine, which deals with the treatment and prevention of disease, is a blend of medicine and ethnography and includes not only ancient and tested remedies, but the use of plants, spells, incantations, astrology, shamans, talismans, etc.

Before medicine became a science, who healed the sick? The healer was a

family member, a trusted person or a person with a reputation for some particular skill – usually a specialist who treated one disease or a category of illnesses. The skill was passed down to children and hence healing tended to be a heredi-



Orysia Tracz speaks in Toronto.

tary job.

Ms. Tracz gave some examples: villages and towns would have a "babapovytkha," a woman who swaddled babies, a "branka," a midwife; and a "kostoprav," one who fixed bones. Remedies were found near at hand – in the fields, gardens and orchards, or were products of domestic animals. Because traditional medical practices were tied to oral tradition, they were localized, hence there are different cures in different regions of Ukraine as well as different names for the same plants.

The Ukrainian names of some plants in traditional medicine are descriptive – their names tell you what they are used for. For example "chystotil" (literally, body cleanser) is chelidonium, used to treat cancer; "borodavnyk" comes from "borodavka" (wart) and was used to remove warts; "padyvolos" (literally "hair falling") was a plant used to strengthen hair.

Traditional people believed that disease came from unclean, evil spirits or forces ("nechysta syla"). Hence an important part of folk medicine involves plants and rituals used to ward off such spirits.

"Polyn" (wormwood) has a bitter taste and, because it was unappealing to people, it was believed that evil spirits would dislike it. For example, girls wore it on Zeleni Sviata and the feast of Ivan Kupalo as protection against mavky and rusalky (forest and river nymphs) – demonic creatures who could lure girls and boys into the forest or into the water.

Chornobyl, related to polyn, was another such bitter plant, and girls wore it around their waists to ward off witches. It was also thought to prevent TB and was used as a bath to ward off the disease. Chornobyl was sometimes used to decorate houses on Kupalo, to chase away the evil spirits that were ubiquitous during that festival.

Garlic was a symbol of good health, as well as another plant that chased away evil spirits. It was worn around the neck, carried in one's pocket, hidden in a baby's bed or even woven into a bride's bouquet. In some regions, people put garlic cloves under the tablecloth in the four corners of the table on "Sviat Vechir" (Christmas Eve). The cloves were then planted in a pot until Easter and then, if a clove was put under one's tongue, it gave the person the power to

see witches. Garlic's medicinal properties are now being recognized by medical and pharmacological professionals.

Another interesting plant in folk medicine mentioned by Ms. Tracz was hemp ("konopli"). Although hemp had practical uses as a source of hemp fibers and hemp oil, it also had a strong smell and was another plant thought to provide good protection against evil spirits. Together with other plants, hemp was blessed on the feast of Makovey and the blessed plants were then used to "smoke out" the house to keep away ghosts of the dead. Growths of hemp (a plant that can grow from one to four meters in height) often served as hiding places because the plant overpowers the scent of a person and throws off tracking dogs. That's why the saying "vyskochyv yak Pylyp z konopel" means "he gave himself away."

Health is not entirely an objective and physical state. It also involves many culturally based factors. An example of this is provided by the traditional wax ceremony ("vylyvannia vosku"). During the ceremony, the patient is seated in a chair, a bowl is filled with cold water and a lump of wax is melted. The healer asks the patient for his symptoms. While incantations are uttered, the healer pours the wax into the water. The solidified wax is taken from the water, turned over and its shapes interpreted. This process is repeated three times. The wax ceremony is considered effective in curing fear and other maladies. It was brought to the Canadian prairies by Ukrainian pioneers and widely practiced at the time of immigration as it nullified fear and nervousness, and was a method of reducing stress and anxiety.

I asked two young new immigrants from Ukraine if they had heard about the wax ceremony method of handling stress when they lived in Ukraine. They had not only heard of it, but each had actually gone to a healer. One of them emphasized that it was important to go to a "good" healer, otherwise the experience would be a waste of time. The answer to my question "did it help you with your problem" was rather vague, but I got the impression that going through the wax ceremony gave them a feeling of confidence and convinced them that, by being ready to try all remedies, they were really serious about getting rid of their problems.

At the end of her lecture, Ms. Tracz asked people in the audience to share their "Baba" experiences and describe their own encounters with folk medicine. Here was mine, although, in my story, it was "Dido" (grandfather) who was right.

When I was growing up in Toronto, Dido used to take us swimming to a pond in High Park and, one time, I stepped on some glass in the water and badly cut my foot. Seeing the blood, Dido unpacked our dark rye lunch sandwiches, took two slices of the bread, placed them on the wound and wrapped some cloth around the foot to keep them in place.

As a kind passer-by drove us to the hospital, I sat in the car, cringing with embarrassment, imagining what the doctor would think when he saw my bloody foot encased in slices of rye bread like some gory sandwich.

But I should have had more faith in Dido's remedy.

When he unwrapped my foot, the examining doctor said, "What a good idea! Rye bread is great for clotting and helping to control the flow of blood."

"Everything old is new again. Each culture has its wisdom, and there is much we can learn from our heritage, where we can find both knowledge as well as fascinating information," concluded Ms. Tracz.

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Ms. Sonia Semanyshyn, Soyuzivka Resort, Kerhonkson, NY

and to the dozens of Little Leagues in the US who have donated baseball and softball equipment to the children in Ukraine.

and a special thanks to my lovely wife Professor Alexandra Tarasko and my two wonderful sons Andrei and Michael for supporting me and encouraging me to travel those thousands of miles to Ukraine, the home of my parents and ancestors.

Thank you all,  
Basil (Vasyl) P. Tarasko  
District Administrator of the Little League in Ukraine (1995)

# Morris County Volleyball Club hosts first annual tournament

by Bohdan Porytko

WHIPPANY, N.J. – New Jersey’s Morris County is home to a growing Ukrainian “hromada” (community) that already boasts one of the largest schools of Ukrainian studies in the United States and has recently witnessed a groundbreaking on a major community center to house its sports, youth and cultural organizations.

Most recently Morris County became the venue for a volleyball tournament for Ukrainian sports clubs.

The host club, Morris County Volleyball Club (MCVC), conducted the first annual Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey Volleyball Invitational 2005 on Saturday, October 22, with proceeds going to the building fund of its new community home. Co-hosts included the Whippany branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), the Newark branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Chornomorska Sitch sports club.

The organizing committee responsible for the MCVC tournament was typical of the “expatriates” involved in the new hromada in Morris County: Myron Bytz (originally raised in Detroit), Bohdan Porytko (Brooklyn), Orest Kucyna (Yonkers, N.Y.), Orest Fedash (Oradell, N.J.) and Andrew Hadzewycz (Hartford, Conn.).

As expected, the fiercest competition came in the men’s open division, where Chornomorska Sitch of Newark, SUM Hartford, the Trenton Ukrainian Home and the MCVC slugged it out. Sitch and MCVC wound up playing a see-saw, two-hour final until men’s MVP Roman Bulawski finally took charge and led the MCVC to victory.



The Morris County Volleyball Club seniors’ team: (standing, from left) Adrian Baranetsky, Bohdan Duda, Bohdan Porytko, Walter Syzonenko, Myron Kukuruza, (kneeling) Gene Mandzy and Walter Yatskiw.



Women’s MVP Alexandra Zawadiwsky takes home her trophy.

In the women’s open division, the final came down to Sitch and the MCVC as well. The MCVC took the first two games of the match, and held an early lead in the third. But the Sitch women, using only five players and no subs all day, finally shook off their initial rust and allowed their natural skills to re-emerge with each successive game. Led by the women’s MVP, Alexandra Zawadiwsky, Sitch swept the last three games to win the match 3-2.

The youth division was an all-SUM affair, with Yonkers, Whippany and two teams from Passaic competing. Passaic took the crown among the under-18 co-ed teams, with Maggie Krol winning the MVP trophy.

The over-40 seniors’ division witnessed MVP Jaroslaw Palylyk working tirelessly but ultimately proving unable to lift his Yonkers Krylati team over the MCVC seniors in the finals.

Games were played in a professional venue: the PowerZone in Denville, N.J., a six-court facility solely dedicated to volleyball. Certified referees were used exclusively, and the courts sported all the amenities, such as regulation nets with antennae, scoreboards and hard-rubberized surfaces.

Registrar Katia Kucyna and Scorekeeper Natalka Hucul maintained order. Chris Bytz

and Mary Kucyna supervised the complimentary lunch catered by sponsor Duda Provisions, as well as the awards dinner at St. John’s Church Hall in nearby Whippany, N.J.

Awards included team and individual trophies for first, second and third place in all divisions, as well as for MVPs. Each division also established a permanent cup which will see the winner’s name engraved each year and will be on the display in the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey when construction is completed.

Finally, there was an overall club champion trophy awarded to the club that achieved the most top-five finishes across all divisions. The MCVC won the inaugural trophy, outdistancing Sitch, which came in second.

Sponsors that ensured the viability of the event included the Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union, Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, Plast Newark, SUM Whippany, Duda Provisions and the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey.

Complete results and numerous photos from this year’s competition can be found online at <http://www.socceragency.net/mcvc>, along with an application for the second annual invitational in 2006. (It’s never too early to start training.)



MCVC members accept the championship trophy: (from left) Myron Bytz, Craig Marsdenowych, Orest Kucyna, a representative from the Ukrainian Orthodox Federal Credit Union making the presentation, men’s MVP Roman Bulawski and team captain Orest Fedash.



The winning youth team: SUM Passaic.

## Residents of Alchevsk...

(Continued from page 3)

for President Viktor Yushchenko during last year's elections.

Both Ms. Herasymenko and her 17-year-old son, Artem, supported Mr. Yushchenko because his politics represented hope for economic prosperity.

Essential to prosperity, they believed, was Mr. Yushchenko's plan for Ukraine to integrate with the European Union.

"Why do I want to move toward Europe?" Ms. Herasymenko said. "Because I want to live as they live. Why should we have a poor life? Why do we have to live as poorly as the Russians live?"

Alchevsk residents overwhelmingly supported opponent Viktor Yanukovich in the third round of voting, with the Luhansk Oblast giving him 91 percent of its votes, according to the final results.

Alchevsk also became the scene of a fierce anti-Yushchenko attack, thanks to a widely watched television news investigation launched by the Inter network.

In the undercover experiment, the news network sent a car decorated with pro-Yanukovich banners, flags and stickers into western Ukraine, and a pro-Yushchenko vehicle into eastern Ukraine.

When the pro-Yushchenko vehicle drove through Alchevsk, opponents cut the car off in a tunnel and told them to leave. Later on, anti-Yushchenko activists stopped the car again, kicked and struck it, tearing off its orange flags and even burning them.

In the news report, western Ukrainians proved far more tolerant, even allowing the Yanukovich supporters to set up a tent city in one town and engaging them in political debate.

Ms. Herasymenko admitted that she and her son were scared to wear any orange clothes in Alchevsk during the elections out of fear of getting attacked by hooligans.

But, for most of the elections, Alchevsk's streets were actually rather placid, she said.

Just as there weren't any pro-Yushchenko banners, placards or demonstrations to be seen, there were relatively few pro-Yanukovich demonstrations, although "his fliers were everywhere," Artem said.

While Alchevsk's streets weren't politically charged, its airwaves were.

The news media were exclusively for Mr. Yanukovich; there was no access to the pioneering and independent Channel 5 unless a viewer owned a satellite dish.

Artem said he got most of his objective information about Mr. Yushchenko and his presidential campaign from his 22-year-old sister, Lena, who was living in Kyiv.

The oblast television network, Irta, was and remains heavily biased toward pro-Russian candidates.

Even as Ms. Herasymenko flipped channels on her television set on November 7, Irta was still running advertisements for the Luhansk Oblast's United Communist Front, a collection of pro-Russian political parties.

At the sports center, all of Ms. Herasymenko's co-workers voted for Mr. Yanukovich in the third round. They knew Ms. Herasymenko was a Yushchenko supporter, but didn't systematically criticize or abuse her, as was the case with hundreds of Yushchenko supporters throughout Ukraine's eastern and southern oblasts.

Her friendships at work prevented any serious political tensions, she said, although going to work was stressful on a daily basis. On several occasions, the school's janitors and cleaning ladies criticized Ms. Herasymenko for supporting Mr. Yushchenko, whose campaign, they said, was falsifying votes just as much as



Zenon Zawada

**Halyna Herasymenko, 50, shares breakfast with her 17-year-old son Artem, who covers himself with a blanket in their chilly Alchevsk apartment.**

Mr. Yanukovich was.

Ms. Herasymenko outed herself as a Yushchenko supporter when the center's director, Mykola Kucharenko, instructed employees to attend mandatory Yanukovich political rallies at 4 p.m. every day. She told Mr. Kucharenko that she didn't support Mr. Yanukovich and shouldn't have to go.

At first, Ms. Herasymenko's tenacity caused a stir. Even her friends were talking behind her back. But eventually they got used to the situation and tolerated her.

Rather than force her to attend the pro-Yanukovich gatherings, Mr. Kucharenko allowed Ms. Herasymenko to stay behind and tend to the sports center and its children.

"When they went and I stayed behind, they would say, 'You don't have to go. We all know you're for Yushchenko!'" Ms. Herasymenko said laughing.

"But many of those who supported Yanukovich didn't even believe in him. Wherever they got paid more is where they went," he said.

Most of Mr. Yanukovich's campaign staff and workers only joined to earn money, Ms. Herasymenko believes. Many supported him simply because they were instructed to do so, or because he was "one of ours" from the Donbas, she said.

None of the Yanukovich supporters would have gone to the "maidan" (Independence Square in Kyiv) on their own money to protest the Orange Revolution, she said. They were all paid to do so, she said.

"And those from Lviv and Uzhhorod, they went to Kyiv on their own money," she said. "Yushchenko has no possibility to bring these people to Kyiv because he wasn't in the government and he wasn't in charge, and he didn't have ability to use administrative resources to bring these people to Kyiv."

Ms. Herasymenko herself worked at an election polling station for the Yushchenko staff during the second round, where she was paid \$20 for one day of work.

A friend working for the Yanukovich staff later told Ms. Herasymenko that she had earned five times as much.

And, after the elections, the polling station chair confided to Ms. Herasymenko that local police called him into their office, where they instructed him to give Mr. Yanukovich between 90 and 92 percent of the votes from his election district, she said.

Ms. Herasymenko also witnessed voting fraud in her district. The most common tactic involved going to homes where people no longer lived, she said. Since their names were still on election rolls, campaign workers cast votes for Yanukovich in their absence.

"The elections were certainly falsified throughout all of eastern Ukraine," she said.

**"... it's become worse for people!"**

Like most of eastern and southern

Ukraine, Alchevsk still clings to its Soviet past, rather than replacing the old symbols with new ones.

A fierce statue of Lenin towers over a boulevard in the city center. Military monuments such as Soviet tanks decorate the city, as do memorials to soldiers who died during the Great Patriotic War, as World War II is known in Soviet parlance.

At the sports center, all the Soviet slogans remain painted on the walls: "Glory to the Soviet Olympians!" Her boss, Mr. Kucharenko, still wears a "Master of Sports" Soviet lapel pin with "USSR" engraved in large letters.

The tall, broad-shouldered former athlete sat behind a desk the afternoon of November 7 soldering the wires of a night light that broke. "At night, there's no light," he pointed out.

Mr. Kucharenko has been the director of the sports center since it opened in November 1970. Back then, it was a source of pride for the community, boasting a basketball court with bleachers, as well as an Olympic-style swimming pool. Thousands of youngsters learned how to swim there, particularly young men who then served in the Soviet army.

But the "Sports Palace" is anything but. After the Soviet Union's collapse, its decline into disrepair accelerated because of a complete absence of funding.

The sports center mostly serves as a place where Alchevsk's children go to play after school to stay physically active.

On splintering basketball courts which haven't had their wooden floorboards replaced in three decades, kids kick around a ragged soccer ball. Mr. Kucharenko was forced to forbid swimming in the center's pool in December 2004 because chunks of the leaking roof had begun falling off, threatening swimmers below.

When asked what has changed since the Orange Revolution, Mr. Kucharenko's opinions more adequately reflect those of the Alchevsk populace.

In the first place, he was shocked that it even occurred.

"I do not know how they could organize a revolution if the Donbas is so powerful," Mr. Kucharenko said. "And then suddenly 'the Orange' came to power!"

He belongs to Mr. Yanukovich's Party of Regions, and has recruited some of his employees at the center to join, including Halyna Mykava, a friend of Ms. Herasymenko's and a fellow trainer at the center.

"Of course it's become worse for people," Mr. Kucharenko said of life after the revolution. "Everything became expensive. Our salary increase is unable to keep up with the prices at the markets. This is clear. If I didn't have a job now, as I am receiving a pension, then I would be begging."

During Soviet times, Mr. Kucharenko

said he could take a vacation every year to Crimea or somewhere else. The Soviet era wasn't necessarily good, he said, but the current situation isn't much better.

"I get a pension and I work, so I wouldn't say that I have a bad life," Mr. Kucharenko said. "I have enough to buy bread and butter. My wife also works and receives a pension, but we haven't had a vacation in three years."

The sports center's staff has no hope that any community leader, politician or businessman, will offer any help to restore the sports center and its swimming pool. A miraculous donation from a foreigner is more promising.

"They all want some gain," Ms. Mykava said of local businessmen. "He will immediately assess and think, 'What gain will I obtain from this?'"

**"God help them do this!"**

Sitting in Ms. Mykava's kitchen after the workday, it's a wonder how two women with such differing views of Ukraine and politics have remained such close friends.

Mmes. Mykava and Herasymenko have worked together for eight years, spending every summer traveling with the sports center's children to summer camps in Sudak, Crimea.

Throughout the evening, Ms. Mykava repeated that she wants Ukrainians to remain on friendly terms and peaceful, no matter what language they speak. But just as important, she said, is for Ukrainians to remain on friendly terms with their Russian neighbors.

Ms. Mykava herself was born in Voronezh, Russia, as were her three brothers who still live there. It's a city 300 kilometers north of Alchevsk, which serves as the capital for the Voronezh Oblast that borders Luhansk.

Ms. Mykava married a Georgian; one brother married a Ukrainian and another married a Bulgarian. "We're all mixed up," Ms. Mykava said laughing, seated at a kitchen table with her daughter Natalia and Ms. Herasymenko.

The industrial oblasts of eastern Ukraine, particularly Donetsk and Luhansk, are full of families that resulted from interethnic marriages, and its residents take pride in their multiethnic heritage.

It's one of the reasons that many eastern Ukrainians fiercely resent the nationalism of western Ukrainians.

"We don't want any wars or cataclysms," Ms. Mykava said. "We should make agreements and live in peace. I don't want Ukraine to be separated from Russia, and I don't want to have to open a visa to travel to Russia just to visit family."

Pragmatism is critical to survival. So, Ms. Mykava worked for the Yushchenko campaign staff in the second round of voting in order to earn a paycheck, even though she voted for Yanukovich in the second and third rounds. She would have worked for the Yanukovich staff, which paid five times as much, if only given the opportunity.

During conversation over dinner, Ms. Mykava bashfully admitted that she voted for the Communist Party in the first round. In defending this vote, she explained that the Communists once offered the prospect of stability, which is severely lacking in Ukraine today.

"For the last several years, everything here has been unreliable," Ms. Mykava said. "You can't put anything in a bank, because it will disappear. We have lost faith during these years, and we are not sure about tomorrow."

She recited a Chinese proverb she heard: If you wish something upon your enemy, it's that they live in an epoch of change. "We live in an epoch of change, and that is why everything is so unreliable," she said.

Ms. Mykava recently joined the Party of the Regions. The Orange Revolution

(Continued on page 13)

## Philately next week

"Focus on Philately," which is usually published in the first issue of each month, will appear in next week's issue.

## Residents of Alchevsk...

(Continued from page 12)

"meant nothing" to her, she said.

"We chose the wrong way," Ms. Mykava said. "I think staying on the maidan gives birth to another movement – a maidan movement. If somebody doesn't like something in Yushchenko, his power will be taken through this maidan method. We must find another way. This produces chaos that leads to bloody victims and civil war."



**Mykola Kucharenko, director of Alchevsk's Sports Palace for Children and Youth, said life has gotten worse since the Orange Revolution because of inflation.**

Ms. Herasymenko eagerly countered Ms. Mykava's comments, prompting a debate.

The revolution had brought her unparalleled enthusiasm and happiness, she said. She had visited the maidan with Artem in December when her daughter Lena married.

"I was with them on the maidan and I thought, 'God, help them do this!'" she said. "Some people say that if we want to integrate with Europe and NATO, then we won't be friends with Russia ... But we want to live better."

Separating the Soviet Union was akin to separating the United States, Ms. Mykava countered, and she hopes the Soviet republics will re-unite one day.

At the same time, though she grew up in Russia, she considers Ukraine her native land, and she never felt there was any difference between the two countries until recently. The Orange Revolution aggravated the people's differences, she said.

"I wish Ukraine prosperity and for the nation to grow," she said. "My children will give birth here, and their children will live here, not in Russia. I am not planning to go to Russia. I am settled here and my roots are now here."

### "It's a closed circle"

Ms. Herasymenko's 48-square-meter apartment got chilly the night of November 8, when the temperature outside was 48 degrees. Although the government is supposed to turn on all central heating on October 15, Ms. Herasymenko's building hasn't had any yet.

So, as to whether there have been any tangible improvements in her life, Ms. Herasymenko can only point to the four small increments of salary hikes she received during the Yushchenko presidency, which boosted her pay to about \$156 a month.

However, she agrees with Mr. Kucharenko and Ms. Mykava when they complain that any salary increases given by the Yushchenko government have been entirely erased by double-digit inflation.

It seems that when Alchevsk's factory or civil workers get even a tiny raise, the city's merchants raise prices at the same time. Or prices for meat will rise simply because it's the weekend. Sellers seem to

find any reason.

"At the market, there was a babushka selling petrushka (parsley) that she grew," Ms. Mykava recalled. "I asked her how much was it, and she said a hryvnia. And I asked her why did the price rise, and she said, 'Because the U.S. dollar rose.'"

Sitting in her sparsely furnished apartment, Ms. Herasymenko painted a bleak picture of the Alchevsk economy.

Pension payments are so anemic (\$72 a month) that many of Alchevsk's older citizens keep working at the city's

Soviet-era factories and civil service jobs in order to collect a paycheck as a critical second source of income.

Those clinging to their jobs are 65 or even 70 years old, she said. As a result, the younger generations have no job opportunities when they graduate with college degrees.

If a job does open up, a rather large bribe is necessary to secure it, she said. The new employee could potentially spend the first year or two on the job earning the bribe money back.

The desperate economic conditions force young people into desperate decisions. Young men with degrees look for any jobs abroad, including hard labor and construction work in places such as Moscow or Prague.

Thousands of Alchevsk's women choose to pursue jobs at what are advertised as dance or strip clubs in European vacation spots such as Cyprus. Turkey is another popular destination.

Inevitably however, they choose prostitution as a source of income because stripping rarely pays enough money to make the several months abroad profitable, Ms. Herasymenko said.

These foreign governments extend visas to these women for only several months at a time.

Most Alchevsk residents, including Ms. Herasymenko, have become jaded to the fact that many of their women have chosen to work as prostitutes.

After all, the reasoning goes, why spend a month working for \$100 in an Alchevsk government job when the same amount of money could be earned abroad in a single night?

Many of these women end up settling in Alchevsk, she said. They buy apartments they otherwise could never afford, marry, have children and try to resume a normal life, she said.

Ms. Herasymenko recalled one occasion when she visited a young woman, who showed photographs of her experience working in Turkey. The young woman described each photograph, reaching one in which she was posed next to a man. "And that's my pimp," she said nonchalantly.

The same woman was able to provide her mother with enough money to renovate their apartment, among other things.

"It's not right, of course," Ms. Herasymenko said. "But given the situation in this country, people are forced to do these things. They'll end up doing the same here anyway, and instead of earning \$100, they'll only get 20 hrv (\$4 U.S.) here."

She paused, exasperated from trying to explain these things to a sheltered American.

"It's a closed circle," Ms. Herasymenko said. "Where to go? What to do? I don't even know anymore."

### "If the world learns about Ukraine..."

Ms. Herasymenko is grateful that her daughter's fate was much more fortuitous. Lena was a bright and diligent student who had an excellent French instructor during high school.

In 1999 she gained acceptance to one of Ukraine's most prestigious universities, Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv, largely because she finished in first place in a national high school competition of the French language.

Ms. Herasymenko's co-workers found it hard to believe that an Alchevsk native could end up in such a prestigious university. "All my co-workers don't believe that she was accepted on her own," Ms. Herasymenko said. "They said I must have paid a bribe."

Lena is fluent in French and works as a translator in Kyiv. Last year, she married Andrii Zeziulin, a sales executive for Caterpillar, the Peoria, Ill.-based multinational.

Despite their diplomas from a prestigious university and their above-average salaries, the Zeziulins see little future for themselves in Ukraine and their hopes for a middle-class lifestyle, which involves raising a family.

Real estate is far too expensive, they believe, especially considering that entire tracts of land could be purchased in the West for the same price as a Kyiv apartment.

Additionally, the interest rates offered by Ukrainian banks for real estate loans start at 15 percent, but are usually worse.

Ms. Herasymenko's son, Artem, mean-

and there is only a plot of land to feed them ... So they cannot afford sit in the evenings in some bar or dance club."

Everyone in the Herasymenko family agrees that the Orange Revolution will bear fruit in Ukraine – only 15 or 20 years down the road, at a minimum. More likely it will take another 40 or 50 years, they said.

The Soviet mentality, in the view of Ms. Herasymenko, needs to die away entirely, and that will happen only when those raised under the Soviet system pass the reins on to the younger generation.

She said she detested the Soviet system, in which anyone exceptionally motivated or bright was deliberately humiliated or brought down to mediocrity.

Though education and medicine were free, they were also of low quality. And priority was given to members of the Communist Party, which Ms. Herasymenko chose not to join.

Thirteen years after the Soviet Union's collapse, she was standing in her living room, watching the Orange Revolution on television and singing the Ukrainian national anthem with her hand on her heart.

But while she is hopeful that Ukraine will rebuild for the better, she doesn't want her children to have any part in that long, dreary process.

Perhaps Andrii and Lena will find opportunity abroad, she said, thinking out loud. And as for Artem, her minimal hope for him is not in Alchevsk, Luhansk or even Kyiv. With a computer science degree, she hopes he will find an adequate paying job in Europe or North America.

In Artem's view, the Orange Revolution gave his generation at least some basic hope for the future – and if not in Ukraine, then at least they will have a chance to travel abroad.

"I think that Ukraine with Yushchenko has more chances to join the European Union and to become a country that the world will respect," Artem said. "If the world learns about Ukraine, I think the people's standard of living will improve. It would have never happened under Yanukovich."

Instead, it would have benefited Mr. Yanukovich to keep Ukrainians mired in



**Halyna Mykava, 55, and Halyna Herasymenko, 50, of Alchevsk enjoy a close friendship despite their sharp political differences.**

while is a freshman at Alchevsk's Donbas State Technical University, specializing in computer systems administration.

A soft-spoken, gentle-mannered man, he spends his leisure time playing billiards in Alchevsk's pool halls. Though fairly young, he is well aware of the economic situation he confronts, and also sees little hope for himself in Ukraine in the near future.

So does his generation. He said at least 80 percent of his friends and classmates smoke marijuana, he said, because it's cheaper than alcohol.

"It's all a matter of money," he said. "Many of my colleagues are from villages,

poverty, Artem said.

It'll be trying to live so far apart from her children or possible grandchildren, Ms. Herasymenko acknowledged, but it's their only hope for a better future.

When asked whether she'd want for her grandchildren to know Russian, or perhaps Ukrainian, her face brightens with a smile of hope.

"Maybe they'll do what your parents did," she told this reporter. "They will speak to them in Ukrainian, as well as English or French. That would be nice. And why do I care? Maybe because only now do I feel as though I am a Ukrainian."

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## Why are Ukrainians...

(Continued from page 2)

al top presidential aides of corrupt practices. The crisis served to severely damage the Yushchenko camp by fueling arguments that the Orange Revolution was not so much a popular revolt as a rebellion of pro-Yushchenko "millionaires" against pro-Yanukovich "billionaires."

Fourth, Mr. Yushchenko made an ill-advised deal with Mr. Yanukovich in late September to secure the approval of a new Cabinet. In particular, Mr. Yushchenko obliged himself to draft a bill on amnesty for those guilty of election fraud in 2004.

In other words, President Yushchenko not only reneged on his vow to "send all bandits to jail," but also undermined one of the primary motivations of those who supported the Orange Revolution. Many of Mr. Yushchenko's former supporters and sympathizers were taken aback by this move, and some accused him of "betraying" the revolution.

Fifth, prior to the Cabinet crisis in September, President Yushchenko could hardly be credited as a strong-willed and objective-driven leader. For example, he involved himself in an embarrassing public argument with Ms. Tymoshenko regarding the scale of reprivatization in Ukraine. While the president wanted to review some 30 dubious privatizations, the prime minister called for a much broader effort – saying their number must be at least 3,000.

For several months Mr. Yushchenko also tolerated the existence of two "parallel governments" in the country, one centered on Ms. Tymoshenko's Cabinet and another on the National Security and Defense Council headed by Petro Poroshenko. To resolve this controversy, he eventually dismissed both of them.

Sixth, there is also a growing feeling in Ukraine that Mr. Yushchenko came to power with hardly any coherent or long-term economic program. For many commentators this was illustrated by the much-publicized reprivatization of the Kryvorizhstal steel mill. In October, the government sold Kryvorizhstal to a Dutch steel conglomerate for some \$4.8 billion – six times the amount Kuchma's government received for it in 2004.

Initially, Mr. Yushchenko said the money would be spent in the social sphere to improve the lives of ordinary Ukrainians. However, he recanted on this promise and announced that the sum would be primarily invested in Ukrainian industries. Meanwhile, lawmakers have reportedly drafted no fewer than 20 bills on how to spend the Kryvorizhstal windfall. This seems to indicate that decision-makers in Ukraine remain fairly confused regarding the country's development priorities or economic course after the Orange Revolution.

For most Ukrainians, the above-mentioned drawbacks of the post-revolutionary government in Ukraine seem to outweigh the benefits that derived from Mr. Yushchenko's coming to power. This is unfortunate, as it is difficult to ignore or to discredit the accomplishments of the Orange Revolution.

First, Ukrainian media now operate in an incomparably freer environment than they did during the Kuchma era. Second, the Orange Revolution has given rise to vibrant civic activism, pulling Ukrainians out of the public passivity that is characteristic of many post-Soviet societies. And third, the Orange Revolution has introduced a political reform that will soon transform the country into a parliamentary-presidential republic – that is, objectively a more democratic political system than most post-Soviet governments.

It is these achievements that should be most remembered on Independence Square on November 22.

## Ukraine's two...

(Continued from page 1)

government and creating legal chaos," Mr. Holovatyi alleged.

He suggested that the twice-appointed former top prosecutor has an unstoppable desire to pursue the position at any cost.

Mr. Holovatyi defended Mr. Yushchenko after the president fired Mr. Piskun on October 14 without citing any specific reason, which is why the court ruled the dismissal illegal.

Since the president didn't explain his decision in his decree, the court interpreted the dismissal as an attempt to influence the Procurator General's Office that could lead to its eventual manipulation.

The Shevchenkivskiy District Court that issued the ruling is not competent to review the president's decrees concerning the procurator general's dismissal,

Mr. Holovatyi told reporters. The Constitutional Court prohibits common law courts from examining presidential decrees, he added.

Instead, it's the representative of the Constitutional Court in the Verkhovna Rada who should settle such disputes, he said.

"This is a shining example of when three judges of [a first-level] court disregard the Constitution," Mr. Holovatyi said. "This court, or several judges, are able to block the activity of any governmental institution in making decisions like that. The whole governmental system and the mechanism of the government have come under its impact."

Mr. Piskun has come full circle after nearly a year.

Late in December 2004, another Kyiv court ruled that former President Leonid Kuchma had illegally fired him and re-



Justice Minister Serhii Holovatyi speaks at a November 25 press conference on the case of Sviatoslav Piskun.

appointed him procurator general.

When fired by Mr. Yushchenko in October, Mr. Piskun acted as though he wasn't interested in the position, even making the snide comment that his dismissal "has added 10 years to my life."

Since the ruling however, he has been

serious in reclaiming his post, threatening to fire his "colleague Oleksander Medvedko."

He said his orders and commands have the same legal weight as Procurator General Medvedko's.

Not so, according to Mr. Holovatyi, who warned Mr. Piskun that there is criminal responsibility for misappropriation of governmental authority and an official position.

"When he says he will give orders and open criminal cases, isn't that a misappropriation?" he asked rhetorically, adding that Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko should file a lawsuit against Mr. Piskun for his usurpations of power.

The conflict has increasingly taken on a farcical tone with Mr. Holovatyi and Mr. Piskun exchanging sarcastic remarks in their respective press conferences.

In addition to its ruling, the Shevchenkivskiy court "should have provided Piskun with a room for him to sit there and make procurator general's statements," Mr. Holovatyi said.

Meanwhile, Ukrainians jokingly refer to Mr. Piskun as the "nevtopliuvanyi," or "the unsinkable one."

One of the newest jokes paints the future of Ukraine: "It's the year 2017. Mr. Piskun has reinstalled himself as Procurator General ... for the 87th time."

## Candidate's views...

(Continued from page 9)

their fate than others. The Counts Ignatieff, for example, reportedly held forth in Toronto libraries in the mid-1930s, blustering on about Russia yesterday, Russia today. How strange. How could they dare dream of their "One, Holy and Indivisible Russia" ever being restored? Did they not have maps? Did they not realize that their feeble tsar and his mendacious ministers, and the imperial Russia they all pined for, were irrevocably lost, replaced by what the "Man of Steel," Stalin, and his Bolshevik minions were manufacturing?

As for whether these sham nobles ever patronized the Soviet artists sent out to demonstrate the triumphs of the Communist present over their Old Russian ways, I do not know, nor much care. For, happily, the commissars have gone where the counts went earlier, even if a few self-styled "Great Russians" still wander about. Perhaps I should show a little Canadian empathy. After all, once you've been a commissar, or a count, it is hard to become a commoner.

But there's the rub. Mr. Ignatieff wants to play a role on the floor of the House of Commons. He says he is a Liberal, one of our indigenous brand of Reds. He regards them, and they like to boast of it, too, as the only legitimate governing party of Canada, rather like those other party members used to claim in Mother Russia, after they chucked out their dukes and dames, those they didn't butcher.

So we have a self-styled governing party divvying up this land and assigning the peripatetic descendant of some

kicked-out grandees an estate he wants to call his own, known to locals as Toronto's Etobicoke-Lakeshore riding. The intellectual star-tsar deeded this Canadian peat has discovered, however, that it is peopled with "Little Russians."

Back in "the good old days," when other Ignatieffs held carriage of some captive turf just south of Kyiv, populated with peasants in embroidered shirts, that finding would have been of little consequence. At least until 1917 most serfs were quiescent. But when they got mad a lot of counts took road trips. Some even got here.

It may happen again. For the common folk, in this country sometimes also known as voters, aren't happy. They don't like being lorded over. They even had the temerity to think that, in a democracy, they have a right to choose one of their own to represent them. In fact, the good people of Etobicoke-Lakeshore had two guys in mind for that job. I know both men. They have embroidered Ukrainian shirts and occasionally do "play" at being Kozaks, since we all prefer that role to pretending to be the Count of a Somewhere Else that hasn't existed for nearly a century.

And we checked the map. Ukraine has regained its place in Europe, something we'll wager tsarist Russia never will. That happened, in part, because "strange and pathetic" people, like our parents, stood in the snow and called for the freedom of the captive nations instead of going inside to get warm and gawk at ballerinas. They wanted nothing to do with those who called them "Little," or "Russians," nor would they ever vote for anyone who thinks they once were, are now, or ever will be.



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## Government faces...

(Continued from page 2)

cooperation ties with Russia's military industries.

But the main obstacle to Ukraine's NATO membership seems to be presented by ordinary Ukrainians. Most still retain the Soviet-era perception that the alliance is a hostile organization, or are unconvinced about the advantages of NATO membership. According to a poll conducted among 11,000 respondents in May, more than half of all Ukrainians oppose the country's NATO entry, while fewer than one in four support the move.

Mr. Hrytsenko said in an interview with RFE/RL that a government trusted by the people can change this perception of NATO among Ukrainians.

"First, it is a problem of informing people about what NATO is and what it is not. The government has not yet done this. It can seriously tackle this issue only after the conclusion of the [2006 parliamentary] election campaign, which is not a favorable background for this," the defense minister said. "Second, it is a problem of public trust in the government. If the government resolves successfully economic, social, and all other problems, then citizens trust this government and support its foreign-policy course." Ukraine has more than a decade of experience in dealing with NATO.

In 1994 it became the first CIS country to join the Partnership for Peace. The partnership was a program of security and defense cooperation that NATO offered to non-members after the break-up of the Soviet Union and the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact.

In 1997 NATO offered Ukraine a "Distinctive Partnership" status that underlined the country's important role in maintaining European stability. A NATO-

Ukraine Commission was established to coordinate further development of bilateral relations. In May 2002, then President Leonid Kuchma announced Ukraine's goal of achieving NATO membership.

In November 2002 NATO foreign ministers adopted a NATO-Ukraine Action Plan. The plan aims to expand bilateral relations and to support Ukraine's reform efforts toward integration with Euro-Atlantic security structures.

NATO-Ukraine contacts have increased following Viktor Yushchenko's victory in the 2004 presidential election. President Yushchenko earlier this year visited NATO headquarters in Brussels. There he confirmed that he considers a course toward NATO a strategic political goal, and he urged the alliance to take relations with his country to a "qualitatively new level."

Shortly afterward, NATO and Ukraine launched an "Intensified Dialogue" phase in their relations, which is expected to lead to the opening of direct talks on Ukrainian NATO membership. However, NATO officials persistently emphasize that the speed of Ukraine's integration will be closely related to the country's pace of implementing political, economic and military reforms.

In May President Yushchenko told Ukrainians that he will seek a referendum on the country's NATO and EU membership. Thus, considering the lack of support for NATO accession among the population, the Ukrainian government is facing an uphill task in persuading them that NATO membership is truly beneficial.

*Marianna Dratch from RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service contributed to this report.*

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## Clinton extends...

(Continued from page 1)

he said, in a direct reference to the Ukrainian government's sale of Kryvorizhstal to the Netherlands-based Mittal Steel Co.

The successful sale was widely discussed among American businessmen and investors, Mr. Clinton said.

"The spirit of openness, which currently reins in Ukraine, will attract foreign, and especially American, investors," he said.

Mr. Clinton declined to comment on Ukraine's internal politics, stating that Mr.

Yushchenko "doesn't need any advice."

President Yushchenko, however, issued yet another call for unity among Ukraine's democratic forces. "Solidarity and unity is the most original concept for bringing victory in the 2006 parliamentary elections," he said.

During Mr. Clinton's visit, President Yushchenko hosted the former U.S. president at his Koncha Zaspaspa home in suburban Kyiv.

Mr. Yushchenko also said he would accompany Mr. Clinton to place flowers at the memorial to victims of the 1932-1933 Holodomor located in Kyiv's at St. Michael's Square.



Former U.S. President Bill Clinton shakes hands with Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko before their meeting on November 27 in Kyiv.

## University of Pennsylvania offers three Ukrainian courses

PHILADELPHIA – In the spring semester 2006, the University of Pennsylvania will continue to offer Ukrainian language instruction on both the elementary and intermediate levels.

Elementary Ukrainian – Slavic 591 – will be taught Mondays and Thursdays at 4-6:30 p.m., and Intermediate Ukrainian – Slavic 593 – immediately thereafter, at 6:30-8:30 p.m.

In addition, the university is introducing an undergraduate course on the intellectual history of Ukraine which is scheduled for Wednesdays from 5:30 to 8:40 p.m. This course, Slavic 220, is also

cross-listed as History 218 (Topics in Ukrainian History).

The principal text of the course is "Towards an Intellectual History of Ukraine: An Anthology of Ukrainian Thought from 1710 to 1995," edited by Ralph Lindheim and George S.N. Luckyj. To register for this course, prospective students should apply to the College of General Studies (CGS) of the University of Pennsylvania.

The courses are taught by Dr. Leonid Rudnytzky and will feature guest lectures by poets and intellectuals from Ukraine, such as the poet Oleksander Irvanets.

## EU grants...

(Continued from page 1)

Secretary General Javier Solana and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso.

The EU leaders cited significant progress in implementing the EU-Ukraine Action Plan signed by the leaders on February 21. Ukraine carried out five of six obligations it faced in Strasbourg, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said.

The EU leaders said they believe Ukraine will gain entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2006, however, Mr. Blair stressed "this is a mission that should be shared by a country, not only by its leader." The WTO battles in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada

have allowed only 65 percent of the necessary legislation to pass.

EU leaders lauded Mr. Yushchenko's government for successfully promoting economic reforms, respect for human rights and shared values of democracy.

"You can rest assured that in that progress toward a shared future, the European Union and the countries like the U.K. will be your partners," Mr. Blair said.

EU leaders favored Ukraine's decision to continue visa-free travel for EU citizens and said this visa regime is a long-term goal.

Mr. Yushchenko and EU leaders signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the energy sector, which will help the Ukrainian energy market as it integrates with the European Union.

## Michael R. Bloomberg

(Continued from page 6)

Genocide Remembrance Day. Together we honor those who suffered and pledge to remain vigilant against the dark impulses that triggered this genocide.

Whereas: The Famine was deliberately initiated and enforced by the Soviet regime through seizure of grain and the blockade of food shipments. Borders were sealed to prevent the population from leaving the region or receiving assistance. The purpose of the Famine was to eliminate resistance to the forced collectivization of agriculture and to destroy Ukraine's national identity. Only recently has this atrocity begun to garner

international awareness and understanding.

Whereas: Today, the Ukrainian American community gathers at St. Patrick's Cathedral to pay their respects to all those who lost their lives in this terrible event. New York City honors the memory of the victims, for the sake of those who suffered in the past and to ensure that future generations will never know such devastation.

Now, therefore, I, Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York, in recognition of this important event, do hereby proclaim Saturday, November 19, 2005, in the City of New York as "Ukrainian Genocide Remembrance Day."

## Borys Wrzesnewskyj

(Continued from page 6)

The day before a massive fraud was committed against that "will of the Ukrainian people." Canadian observers documented hundreds of cases of fraud and intimidation reaching the highest levels. All exit polls showed Yushchenko had been chosen by the people, yet the interfering Russian government announced Yanukovych the victor. In addressing the gathering crowd, I congratulated Yushchenko as being the duly elected president and assured that the people of Canada would stand shoulder

to shoulder with the people of Ukraine.

During the weeks that followed, the crowds grew to millions. Our prime minister provided critical support to the people of Ukraine at key points in time. In the end, the color orange spread over the snow-covered cities of Ukraine like the promising rays of sunshine.

I'd like to thank the prime minister, every parliamentarian and the thousand Canadian observers for rising to the occasion; not a single life was lost and the will of the people overcame the forces arrayed against them. Or as the slogan of people said, "We are many, we will not be overcome."

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## Ukraine remembers...

(Continued from page 1)

what it did, and an unrepentant sin becomes the source of future misery," Mr. Yushchenko said in his 12-minute address. This is the reason it's been so difficult to alter our consciousness, which has been poisoned by fear and everlasting slavery."

Thousands of Ukrainians joined Mr. Yushchenko, his family, Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov and other political leaders in the commemoration in front of the Holodomor memorial on St. Michael's Square.

They worshipped at a divine liturgy prior to the president's speech led by Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate and Cardinal Lubomyr Husar of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Among the thousands attending the divine liturgy and commemoration were the few remaining survivors of the 1932-1933 Holodomor.

In his speech, Mr. Yushchenko paid tribute to those scholars who documented the Famine, and announced he had signed a presidential decree honoring them with Ukraine's highest state award. He mentioned by name scholars Robert

Conquest, Andrea Graziozi and James Mace, writer Volodymyr Maniak and historian Vasyl Marochka.

"I bow my head in memory to those who told the world the truth about the catastrophe of the Ukrainian people," he said.

Mr. Yushchenko asked that the United Nations acknowledge the 1932-1933 Famine as a genocide against the Ukrainian people before the Holodomor's 75th anniversary.

The gathering on St. Michael's Square capped off a weekend of several events commemorating the Famine that killed more than 10 million Ukrainians.

Historians estimated another 2 million Ukrainians starved to death in the famine of 1946-1947, and 1 million died in the 1921-1922 famine.

On November 25, President Yushchenko helped open a six-day exhibit at Kyiv's Ukrainskyi Dim exhibition center, "The Bells of Remembrance," which featured artwork about the Famine and related Ukrainian themes.

The next day Mr. Yushchenko, accompanied by his family, planted the first

guelder rose ("kalyna") bushes in a garden honoring the victims of the Holodomor at a field near Askold's Tomb on the Dnipro River.

Also attending were Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn, Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov, Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko, boxing champion Vitalii Klitschko and pop star Ruslana.

About 300 bushes were planted that day, and "there should be 10,000 to symbolize all the Ukrainian villages destroyed by the famine," the president's official website reported.

Following Mr. Yushchenko's speech at St. Michael's Square, Ukrainians lit hundreds of candles in red glass jars and placed them in staggered rows and columns across the plaza between St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral and St. Sophia Sobor.

Later that evening, Mr. Yushchenko made an unexpected appearance at St. Michael's Square with his wife, Kateryna, by his side. Accompanied by only a few security guards, Mr. Yushchenko spoke with people in the crowd.



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Ukrainian political leader Levko Lukianenko lights a candle at St. Michael's Square on the national Day of Memory for Victims of Famines and Political Repressions.



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## Valeriy Kuchinsky

(Continued from page 6)

The Ukrainian authorities take every opportunity to remind the international community of the Holodomor. Addressing the 2005 World Summit in September here in New York, the president of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko, told the leaders of over 150 countries:

“I am appealing to you on behalf of the nation that has lost 10 million of human lives because of the Famine-Genocide arranged against our nation. At that time the governments of all countries turned their back to our grief. We insist that the world should come to know the truth about all the crimes against humanity. That is how we can be sure that indifference will never encourage the criminals.”

In his address to the 60th session of the U.N. General Assembly a few days later, the minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine, Borys Tarasyuk, once again drew attention to the tragedy of our nation.

Seizing the opportunity of the Holocaust remembrance at the U.N. General Assembly earlier this month, I underlined in my statement that the Holodomor as well as the Holocaust continues to belong to those national tragedies which still await wider interna-

tional recognition, I called on the representatives of states to recognize this crime against humanity as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation.

Two years ago, a Joint Statement on the 70th anniversary of the Holodomor, supported by over 60 delegations – one-third of the U.N. membership – was issued as an official document of the General Assembly. In this declaration, for the first time in the history of the United Nations, the Holodomor was officially recognized as the national tragedy of Ukrainian people caused by the cruel actions and policies of the totalitarian regime. Representatives from different parts of the world expressed their sympathy to the victims of the Holodomor and deplored the acts and policies that brought about the mass starvation and deaths of millions of people.

The House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress has adopted a resolution that allows Ukrainian officials to establish a memorial in Washington to honor the victims of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

Ukraine will continue to do its utmost to bring the truth about the Holodomor to the world at large.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, let me read out the message from the president of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko, on the occasion of the holding of today’s memorial service.


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## \$25,000 Kobzar Literary Award to be inaugurated in 2006

TORONTO – The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko has announced that the inaugural Kobzar Literary Award will be presented in 2006 with a prize of \$25,000.

The Shevchenko Foundation envisions the Kobzar Literary Award as a means to foster cultural development through the literary arts and create opportunities for all Canadian writers to explore Ukrainian Canadian themes relevant to Canadians.

To be presented every two years, the \$25,000 Kobzar Literary Award – \$20,000 to the author and \$5,000 to the publisher – recognizes a Canadian writer who best presents a Ukrainian Canadian theme with literary merit through poetry, play, screenplay, musical, fiction, non-fiction or young people's literature.

The list of finalists for the award is to be released on January 16, 2006. Then, on March 2, 2006, the inaugural winner will be announced at a dinner and awards ceremony to be held at Toronto's Eglinton Grand.

The board of directors of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko on November 15 announced the judging panel for the 2006 Kobzar Literary Award. In alphabetical order, the judges are: Myrna Kostash, journalist and non-fiction author; Mieko Ouchi, actor, writer and director for theater, film and TV; Bill Richardson, writer and CBC broadcaster; and Antanas Sileika, journalist and fiction author, artistic director of the Humber School of Writers.

"We are very pleased by the caliber of this judging panel," said Andriy Hladyshevsky, president of the Shevchenko Foundation. "All four members are highly regarded in their respec-

tive fields, and will bring diverse talents and experience to the judging process."

For more information readers may contact: Christine Turkewych, Ph.D., program director of the Kobzar Literary Award and Program, Gregory Hamara, Canadian media contact, or Oksana Zakydalsky, Ukrainian media contact, at (416) 243-0122. The Shevchenko Foundation's website is located at [www.shevchenkofoundation.com](http://www.shevchenkofoundation.com)

### Background: Shevchenko Foundation

The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko was established in 1961 when the Ukrainian Canadian community raised funds to celebrate the work of Shevchenko, Ukraine's great poet (1814-1861), with a monument erected on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature.

In July of 1962, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (then the Ukrainian Canadian Committee) resolved to set aside a \$30,000 surplus from the Shevchenko monument project into a capital fund that became known as the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko. The Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko became incorporated by an act of Parliament on July 22, 1963.

In 1964 the Shevchenko Foundation began distributing project grants, awarding \$400. In 1973, on its 10th anniversary, total donations to the foundation surpassed \$500,000.

Today the Shevchenko Foundation awards nearly \$300,000 annually. To date the foundation has distributed over \$5.5 million in grants to organizations and individuals who support cultural development among Ukrainian Canadians.

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

### Melnychenko wants to return home

KYIV – Former presidential security officer Mykola Melnychenko is planning to return to Ukraine from the United States, where he was given political asylum in 2001, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on November 28, quoting former Ukrainian National Deputy Oleksander Yeliashkevych, also a refugee in the United States. In 2000 Mr. Melnychenko fled abroad and made public the so-called Melnychenko tapes – hundreds of hours of alleged recordings of conversations in the office of former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. In particular, the Melnychenko tapes suggest that Mr. Kuchma and other former and current high-ranking Ukrainian officials may have been behind the kidnapping and murder of Internet journalist

Heorhii Gongadze in September 2000. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Our Ukraine bloc agreement signed

KYIV – On November 25, an agreement was signed on forming the Viktor Yushchenko Our Ukraine bloc, with a view toward participation in the 2006 parliamentary elections. The document was signed by the leaders of: the Our Ukraine People's Union (Roman Bezsmertnyi), Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists (Oleksii Ivchenko), Party of Ukrainian Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (Anatolii Kinakh), People's Rukh of Ukraine (Borys Tarasyuk), Ukrainian Republican Party Sobor (Anatolii Matvienko) and the Christian-Democratic Union (Volodymyr Maruschenko). Mr. Bezsmertnyi said the bloc calls upon all other political parties that participated in the Orange Revolution to join the bloc and thus work toward restoring the configuration of the 2002 Our Ukraine coalition. Mr. Matvienko noted

that the new bloc unites a political potential that is capable of winning the Verkhovna Rada elections. Mr. Tarasyuk expressed his conviction that the creation of this bloc of democratic forces will initiate the reunion of the Orange coalition. (Ukrinform)

### Parties prepare for 2006 elections

KYIV – The Fatherland Party led by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko resolved at a convention on November 26 to form a Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc for the elections. The bloc is expected to come up with an election program and a list of candidates in December. At a convention on November 27, the Communist Party approved an election program and a list of 450 candidates for the parliamentary ballot. Former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych on November 26 announced the entry into the parliamentary campaign of his Party of the Regions. He made the announcement from Krasnoyarsk, Russia, where he was attending a congress of the pro-Kremlin Unified Russia party. According to a Razumkov Center poll conducted on November 3-13, if elections were held now, the Party of the Regions would win 17.5 percent of the vote, President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine People's Union 13.5 percent, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc 12.4 percent, the Communist Party 5.8 percent, the Socialist Party 5.6 percent, the Lytvyn Bloc 3.3 percent and the Progressive Socialist Party 2.6 percent. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Klitschko to run for mayor?

KYIV – Ukrainian boxer Vitalii Klitschko told a press conference in Kyiv on November 25 that he does not rule out his nomination for Kyiv mayor. He added that at present he is not ready to give a final answer. At the same time he said he is also considering a run for the Verkhovna Rada, if "democratic forces unite." He added: "I know Viktor Yushchenko and respect Yulia Vladimirovna (Tymoshenko), and I do not understand why this artificial separation happened." He emphasized that he is negotiating with different political forces. On November 9 Mr. Klitschko, WBC super heavyweight champion, declared his decision to give up his sports career because of injury. (Ukrinform)

### New filing in Gongadze case

KYIV – The Procurator General's Office (PGO) filed a criminal case regarding the murder of Heorhii Gongadze with the Supreme Court of Ukraine for jurisdictional determination, the PGO press service told Ukrinform on November 25. The criminal case is against three persons who are charged with crimes under Part 3, Article 166 (power abuse) and Item K, Article 93 (premeditated murder made in previous agreement by a group of persons or an

organized group) of the Criminal Code. This case has been severed from the criminal case on the Gongadze murder, which is still being investigated. Ukrinform reported that three former policemen are being charged with the murder. While being interrogated, they pointed to Oleksii Pukach, saying that he had killed the journalist via strangling with a belt. Gen. Pukach has been declared wanted. The masterminds behind the crime have not yet been established. (Ukrinform)

### Russia worried about Ukraine and EU

MOSCOW – Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on November 28 that Ukraine's aspirations to join the European Union should be pursued in a way that does not infringe on Russia's national interests, Russian news agencies reported the same day. "Ukraine's intention to join the EU is its sovereign right. But ... this process should not infringe on our legitimate interests," RIA-Novosti quoted Mr. Lavrov as telling a roundtable at the State Duma. "It is in our interest that the situation be clarified. We want this choice to be made as soon as possible," he added, according to Interfax. Mr. Lavrov said Moscow is interested in how the situation develops with its closest neighbor. "But our conclusions will depend on economic expediency and what kind of relationship we develop with Ukraine," Mr. Lavrov said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Tests show presence of dioxin

KYIV – The family of President Viktor Yushchenko has received information stating that the tests conducted on Mr. Yushchenko's blood samples showed the presence of dioxin in his body. Mr. Yushchenko's spokeswoman Iryna Heraschenko announced this at a press conference on November 22. She said, the dioxin level in Yushchenko's blood was 1,000 more than the normal level. According to her, the official statements regarding the results of the tests will be made by the Procurator General's Office. Mr. Yushchenko provided blood samples on November 9 for the tests that were ordered in connection with the criminal case alleging an attempt on his life. (Ukrinform)

### Yushchenko vows 2006 victory

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko told Reuters on November 21 that his allies will regain the public trust wrecked by the dismissal of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's Cabinet in September, win the 2006 parliamentary elections and form a new parliamentary majority and government. "A victory in Parliament will be our second victory after winning last year. There is still time for us to learn the lessons of what happened and achieve understanding," Mr. Yushchenko said. He stressed that no one should be promised the post of prime minister in the process of forging an election coalition. "We made a mistake once," President Yushchenko said, referring to the appointment of Ms. Tymoshenko as prime minister after the Orange Revolution. "Once bitten, twice shy. I would say the main loss was disappointment among the people." (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Vice PM Bezsmertnyi steps down

KYIV – Vice Prime Minister Roman Bezsmertnyi stepped down on November 21, saying he is going to focus on the 2006 parliamentary elections campaign of the pro-presidential Our Ukraine People's Union, which he leads, Ukrainian media reported. Mr. Bezsmertnyi told journalists that the government officials who will be placed on the party's election list will remain in their posts since, he added, they will not be involved in managing the election campaign. Mr. Bezsmertnyi also said President Viktor Yushchenko can be given the top place on the party's election list if

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(Continued on page 23)

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 22)

he decides to run. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Rada calls for end to media checks

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on November 17 adopted a resolution urging the government to stop carrying out inspections of media outlets from December 1 through the conclusion of the 2006 parliamentary election campaign, Interfax-Ukraine reported. Legislators also approved amendments to the parliamentary election law, which barred the media from editorializing about political forces during the campaign and empowered the Central Election Commission to close down or suspend any media outlet found in violation of this provision. Under the adopted changes, the ground rules were loosened and only courts were given the right to shut down media outlets for non-compliance. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### World Forum postponed yet again

KYIV – The chairman of the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council, Mykhailo Horyn, told a press conference at the Ukrinform offices on November 21 that the fourth World Forum of Ukrainians has been postponed once again. He said a non-scheduled session of the UWCC Presidium, which was convened the previous Saturday, had passed such a decision. At first, the fourth World Forum of Ukrainians was to be held on August 24, 2004, but was postponed until November 2005. Now, it has been postponed again – this time to August 19-23, 2006. Chairman of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists Mykola Plawiuk, Secretary General of the World Congress of Ukrainians Viktor Pedenko, Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee for Foreign Affairs Ihor Ostash, Chairman of the all-Ukrainian association Congress of the Civil Society Borys Kozhyn and Chairman of the European Congress of Ukrainians Yaroslava Khortiani were the initiators of the press conference. They explained that the decision to postpone the forum was due to the change of the political regime in Ukraine, the difficulties of the new administration and, thus, the unavailability of state bodies and world Ukrainian public organizations to stage such a large-scale event. Participants in the UWCC session approached President Viktor Yushchenko, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn and Prime Minister Yuriy Yekhanurov with a letter requesting that the first session of the organ-

izing committee of the fourth World Forum of Ukrainians be held by the end of this year, with a view toward drafting the tactics and strategy of this international event's organization. (Ukrinform)

### "Tevye" still hot in Ukraine

KYIV – "Tevye the Milkman," a play reminiscent of "Fiddler on the Roof," continues to draw crowds in Ukraine, reported the JTA news agency on November 13. On a recent Friday night, hundreds of people at a Kyiv theater watched as a few people lit Shabbat candles and said the traditional blessings. The ceremony was part of a sold-out performance of "Tevye," which is enjoying its 16th season this year at the Ivan Franko National Academic Drama Theater in Ukraine's capital. The play, by the Russian Jewish author Grigory Gorin, is based on the writings of the Yiddish classic Sholem Aleichem. The ongoing success of the show is attributed to the high quality of the production, the brilliant performance by the actor Bohdan Stupka as Tevye, and the never-ending interest of many Ukrainians in Jewish culture, the JTA reported. "It's an outstanding story with beautiful music and dances and the spectacular acting by Bohdan Stupka. This combination makes the show a great success in Ukraine, the motherland of Sholem Aleichem," said Sergei Komissarenko, a former Ukrainian Cabinet member and Ukraine's former ambassador to London. Mr. Stupka is widely recognized as Ukraine's most famous actor, and many think that Tevye is his most memorable stage role over the last 10 years. "Stupka gets into the psychology of his character to complete reincarnation on stage. His laugh through tears is the laugh of Sholem Aleichem," said Alexander Zlotnik, a popular Ukrainian composer and the president of the Association of Reform Jewish Congregations in Ukraine. Mr. Stupka said he had contact with Jews as a child. Born in a region of western Ukraine once densely populated by Jews, he was brought up and educated in a region where Jewish life and tradition were kept alive even after the Holocaust. "At home and in the theater – everywhere I lived and communicated with Jews. In western Ukraine, where I grew up, many Jews were very religious. Sometimes, I got to see how they celebrated Jewish holidays," recalled Mr. Stupka, who on stage as Tevye speaks about the importance of keeping Jewish tradition alive. Tickets to "Tevye the Milkman" are sold out far in advance of each show, said a theater administrator. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency via Action Ukraine Report)

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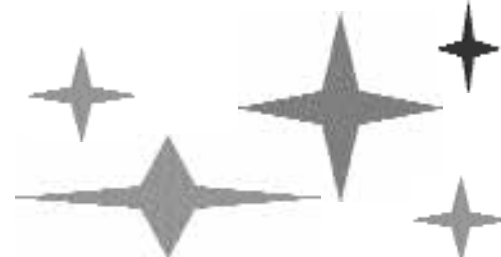
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| <b>December 10, 2005</b><br>UNA Employee Christmas Party  | <b>January 27-29, 2006</b><br>Church of Annunciation Family Weekend, Flushing, N.Y.   |
| <b>December 23, 2005</b><br>Jeremiah Flaherty Law Office Christmas Party  | <b>January 28, 2006</b><br>2006 Ukrainian Engineer's Malanka  |
| <b>December 24, 2005</b><br>Traditional Ukrainian Christmas Eve Supper, 6 p.m., \$25 per person, overnight packages available | <b>February 10-12, 2006</b><br>Valentine's Day Weekend  |
| <b>December 24-27, 2005</b><br>Skoczylas Christmas Family Reunion   | <b>February 17-20, 2006</b><br>Family Winter Weekend  |
| <b>December 31-January 1, 2006</b><br>New Year's Eve Extravaganza Package   | <b>February 25, 2006</b><br>Wedding   |
| <b>January 1, 2006</b><br>New Year's Day Brunch, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., \$14 per person  | <b>March 3-5, 2006</b><br>Plast Kurin "Khmelnychenky" Annual Winter Rada  |



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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

**Monday, December 5**

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) will host a lecture by John Gillingham, professor of history, University of Missouri – St. Louis, and senior visiting scholar, HURI, titled "Democracy, Ukraine and Europe's Future." The lecture will be held in the institute's Seminar Room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m. For more information contact HURI at (617) 495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu.

**SATURDAY, December 10**

**SILVER SPRING, Md.:** A Christmas Bazaar will be held at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, 16631 New Hampshire Ave., at 4-6 p.m. There will be Ukrainian ethnic food (to eat in or take out), baked goods, including Sviatyi Mykolai (St. Nicholas) cookies, icons, Ukrainian music and books, greeting cards, Christmas ornaments, embroidery, jewelry, Eastern Rite prayer beads and pysanky. Tours of the church will be conducted. For more information call (410) 884-9025 or (301) 365-2490.

**Monday, December 12**

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) will host a lecture by Lubomyr Hajda, associate director, HURI, and Yakiv Gubanov, associate professor of composition, Berklee College of Music, Boston, titled "O Tempora, O Opera! Christmas in Ukraine on the World Musical Stage." The lecture will be held in the institute's Seminar Room, 1583 Massachusetts Ave., at 4-6 p.m. For more information contact HURI at (617) 495-4053 or huri@fas.harvard.edu.

**ADVANCE NOTICE**

**Saturday, December 31**

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA) and the Ukrainian Professionals at the Institute present "New Year's Eve at the Institute," to be held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St., at 9 p.m.-3 a.m. Welcome 2006 at this elegant evening, with dancing to the music of Luna and a silent auction benefiting the Ukrainian Children's Aid and Relief Effort and the UIA. Tickets include a buffet, open bar and midnight champagne toast. Dress is black tie. Capacity is limited, and guests are encouraged to buy their tickets early. Ticket prices: members, \$125; non-members, \$150; students, \$100. After December 7, ticket prices increase \$25. For tickets and information call the UIA, (212) 288-8660.

**HORSHAM, Pa.:** The Tryzub Ukrainian American Sports Center, County Line and Lower State roads, in Horsham, Pa., invites the public to its New Year's Eve Extravaganza. As part of the festivities, there will be a two-hour cocktail party, beginning at 7:30 p.m., with a select open bar; live Latin guitar music and an elegant selection of gourmet foods and desserts catered by Coleen's of Center City Philadelphia. Guests will dance the old year away to the music of the popular Fata Morgana band. There will be a midnight champagne toast along with Viennese desserts, coffee and tea; festivities will close with a bountiful buffet station breakfast. Admission: \$95 per person. Tickets and tables to be reserved by payment only, on or before December 17. Seating is limited. Evening attire is required. For further

information call Nika Chajkowsky, (215) 860-8384, or Natalia Luciw, (215) 362-5331. Proceeds to benefit cultural programming and youth soccer. For general information visit [www.tryzubsportscenter.org](http://www.tryzubsportscenter.org).

**Friday, January 13, 2006**

**SCRANTON, Pa.:** The combined Ukrainian community organizations of Northeastern Pennsylvania will hold a New Year's Eve or Malanka celebration at St. Vladimir Parish Center 430 N. Seventh Ave., at 7 p.m.-1 a.m. The evening will include a generous dinner buffet, cash bar, complimentary midnight champagne toast and dancing to music by Fata Morgana. Admission: \$40 per person. For reservations contact Ann Zinich, (570) 752-4706; Kathleen Izak, (570) 346-2414; or, Dorothy Jamula, (570) 822-5354. The annual event is sponsored jointly by the Ukrainian Heritage Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the North Anthracite Council League of Ukrainian Catholics.

**Saturday, February 25, 2006**

**LOS ANGELES:** The California Association to Aid Ukraine (CAAU) will host its annual charity ball and presentation of debutantes. Pack your beach hat and join us at the Marriott Hotel in Marina Del Rey, Calif., south of Los Angeles. Proceeds from the 2006 Ball are designated for biomedical research in Ukraine. Admission: \$95 per person for adults; \$85 for students. Admission price includes champagne and hors d'oeuvres, three-course meal, live music and dancing. The silent auction will feature a dazzling array of Hollywood items, Ukrainian gifts, baskets, artwork and toys. For reservations please send a check to Treasurer Marta Mykytyn-Hill, 1219 Via Arroyo, Ventura, CA 93003. Accommodations are available at the hotel. For preferred rates please book before February 6, 2006; mention CAAU when booking. Rooms are subject to availability. For further information please contact Luba Keske, (818) 884-3836 (home) or (310) 449-3485 (office) or Shannon Micevych, (818) 774-9378.

**Saturday, April 29, 2006**

**CHICAGO:** Please mark your calendars for the one-day conference "Chornobyl: The Next Generation" to be held on the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl disaster. Specialists from Ukraine and North America will review current findings on the ecological, medical, health and societal impact of the nuclear explosion. Scheduled speakers include Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, former ambassador to the U.S. and Ukraine's first minister of environmental protection; Prof. David Marples, University of Alberta; and Dr. Ihor Masnyk, National Cancer Institute. The conference will be held at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Conference sponsors include: Ukrainian Business and Professional Group of Chicago; Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, Illinois Chapter; Ukrainian Engineers' Society, Chicago Chapter; and University of Illinois Occupational Health and Safety Center. Specialists, students and members of the general public will appreciate this comprehensive and focused review of the Chornobyl aftermath. For additional information call Anna Mostovych, (847) 359-3676.

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

Listings of no more than 100 words (written in Preview format) plus payment should be sent a week prior to desired date of publication to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510.

Items may be e-mailed to [preview@ukrweekly.com](mailto:preview@ukrweekly.com).