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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2007

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## At emergency meeting, Ukraine's elite decries sorry state of cultural life

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — A tour guide in Ukraine's capital, Tetiana Nechai comes across daily evidence of Ukraine's historical inheritance under threat.

She discovered that an underground gym built next to the 11th century St. Sophia Cathedral — the center of Ukrainian Orthodoxy, actually extends underneath its walls.

"And every day 200 cars safely drive in and out of an underground garage under the walls of St. Sophia Cathedral," she said, addressing what she called Kyiv's cultural ruination.

More than 600 representatives of Ukraine's intellectual and cultural elite gathered at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy for an emergency meeting on November 30 that unanimously declared Ukraine a "zone of cultural misery."

The raucous meeting largely consisted of a three-hour public discussion at which cultural leaders offered their opinions, contributed to the meeting's resolution and offered possible solutions to the crisis.

Pent up with outrage, writers, theater directors, architects, artifact restorers and other cultural workers vented their frustration with the Ukrainian government, which they accused of ruining all spheres of Ukrainian cultural life and failing to support its leaders.

Instead, cultural activists said construction bulldozers are destroying his-

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## Democratic coalition succeeds in electing Yatsenyuk as Rada chair

by Zenon Zawada  
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — The newly formed Democratic Forces Coalition on December 4 elected Arseniy Yatsenyuk as the Verkhovna Rada's new chairman. The 33-year-old is known as an independent politician widely expected to neutralize the polarized Parliament and establish compromise between the pro-Western and Russian-oriented forces.

Although elected as part of the pro-presidential Our Ukraine — People's Self-Defense bloc, Mr. Yatsenyuk is a pragmatic centrist with considerable experience in working with Ukraine's Russian-oriented politicians.

"President Yushchenko suggested Yatsenyuk himself, knowing he is not politically compromised," said Oleksander Lytvynenko, an analyst at the Kyiv-based Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Research, which is funded by more than 50 international organizations. "He's not a party politician, but more of a technical bureaucrat and good executor. He's not going to lobby the interests of any particular political force."

Observers said Mr. Yatsenyuk's candidacy was strongly supported by President Viktor Yushchenko, who sought to counterbalance the influence of Yulia Tymoshenko, who has now drawn significantly closer to returning as Ukraine's prime minister.

Our Ukraine — People's Self-Defense had earlier nominated stalwart national democrat Viacheslav Kyrlyenko for the post of Rada chair, but a camp within the bloc led by Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha emerged in opposition, partly because Mr. Kyrlyenko was too closely allied with Ms. Tymoshenko, observers said.



Arseniy Yatsenyuk, the newly elected chairman of Ukraine's Parliament.

"Kyrlyenko would have been morally obliged to Tymoshenko," said Yuriy Syrotiuk, political analyst at the Kyiv-based Open Society Foundation, which is financed by American, British and Polish government and private grants. "Yatsenyuk is obligated to Bankova [the presidential administration] and Yushchenko personally. The president wanted his person, and not Tymoshenko's person."

Nevertheless, Ms. Tymoshenko spent the December 4 session of the Verkhovna Rada rallying the Democratic Forces Coalition in favor of Mr. Yatsenyuk's nomination, knowing the coalition's success depended on its quick approval of a candidate for the parliamentary chair.

With only a one-vote majority, the coalition risked unraveling before it

passed a single law.

Political observers cast doubt that the fragile coalition could remain intact in the secret-ballot vote for Rada chair, when all it would take is bribing or making a backroom deal with two deputies to undermine any candidate.

Yet, by 9 p.m., the Democratic Forces Coalition proved it could muster the crucial votes when necessary, rallying all of its 227 national deputies to arrive at the Verkhovna Rada and vote for Mr. Yatsenyuk.

In order to vote, National Deputy Ivan Spodarenko had to be released from a hospital, where he was diagnosed with a pre-stroke condition.

"The session offered exceptional force

(Continued on page 28)

## UCC meets with Canadian PM to discuss key policy priorities



The Ukrainian Canadian Congress delegation during a meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper (left).

OTTAWA — The newly elected president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Paul Grod, on November 30 led a delegation to discuss the community's key policy priorities with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Speaking about the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, Mr. Grod said, "During our discussions, the prime minister demonstrated his understanding of the enormity of the crime committed against the Ukrainian people."

"We asked that the Canadian government through a unanimous act of Parliament, recognize the Holodomor as a genocide against the Ukrainian people during this 75th anniversary of the Holodomor," he added.

The UCC delegation also discussed the ongoing negotiations with the government of Canada concerning Canada's

first internment operations in 1914-1920. In particular they emphasized the need to memorialize these events through a community-based endowment, thereby ensuring the longevity and effectiveness of these initiatives.

"The prime minister reaffirmed Canada's commitment to supporting Ukraine's democratic development," said Bob Onyschuk, UCC director and chair of the Canada Ukraine Foundation, which is charged with developing mutually beneficial relations between Canada and Ukraine. "We look forward to working with the government of Canada in assisting Ukraine as it develops into a full-fledged and economically robust democracy," he added.

Members of the delegation also included Eugene Czolij, a past president of the UCC, and National Vice-Presidents Daria Luciw and Alexandra Chyczij.



## ANALYSIS

## Praise and condemnation of Stalin: Russia and Ukraine go their separate ways

by **Taras Kuzio**

*Eurasia Daily Monitor*

On November 24-25 the Ukrainian authorities marked the 75th anniversary of the 1932-1933 Famine. President Viktor Yushchenko, Acting Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, former President Leonid Kuchma and other political leaders attended the ceremony.

Writing in *The Wall Street Journal Online* on November 26, President Yushchenko said, "The Holodomor (Terror-Famine) was an act of genocide designed to suppress the Ukrainian nation." Mr. Yushchenko described Stalin's policy as aimed at destroying Ukrainian national identity by targeting the peasantry and Soviet Ukrainian institutions, including national Communists: "It was a state-organized program of mass starvation that in 1932-1933 killed an estimated 7 million to 10 million Ukrainians, including up to a third of the nation's children."

Mr. Yushchenko's counterpart in Russia has a very different view of Stalin. In June President Vladimir Putin dismissed Stalinist crimes with the words: "Other countries have done even more terrible things."

The differing regimes in Ukraine and Russia – democratic versus nationalist-autocratic – have taken different approaches toward what became known in the Gorbachev era as the "blank pages of history" – especially the Stalin era.

A similar rehabilitation of Stalin is also taking place in Belarus where Stalin is, like in Russia, routinely praised on television. There, Stalinist atrocities have been presented as committed by the Nazis, while Stalinist crimes, such as the massacre at Kuropaty, have been ignored. In contrast, Kuropaty's equivalent in Ukraine, the Bykivnia forest outside Kyiv, the site of hundreds of thousands of Stalinist crimes, is officially commemorated.

Mr. Yushchenko has expanded the commemoration of the Ukrainian Famine and Stalinist crimes, following a process that can be traced to the early 1980s ([president.gov.ua/content/150\\_1.html](http://president.gov.ua/content/150_1.html)).

First, the Ukrainian diaspora commemorated the Great Famine on its 50th anniversary in 1983, followed by the release of the

1984 film "The Harvest of Despair" ([video.google.com/videoplay?docid=3897393411603039499](http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=3897393411603039499)) and Robert Conquest's book, "The Harvest of Sorrow."

Second, the national-democratic opposition uncovered "blank pages," including the Famine, during Gorbachev's glasnost campaign. The Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) was forced to admit the existence of the Famine in a 1990 resolution.

Third, post-Soviet Presidents Leonid Kravchuk and Leonid Kuchma issued a decree on the 60th anniversary in 1993, and more commemorative decrees, resolutions and appeals followed.

In 2002-2004, Mr. Kuchma sought international recognition of the Famine as "genocide," a policy that Mr. Yushchenko has followed. During his three-year presidency, Mr. Yushchenko has issued seven decrees on the Famine and Stalinism. UNESCO picked up the theme and issued a resolution on November 1 on the Famine, calling it a "national tragedy" ([unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001538/153838e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001538/153838e.pdf)).

In Ukraine, many political parties, the president, school textbooks and the media have all negatively portrayed Stalinist crimes alongside Nazi crimes against humanity. But in Mr. Putin's Russia, the crimes committed in the 1930s are ignored or marginalized, while Stalin is praised for transforming the USSR into a "superpower."

Russia's rehabilitation of Stalin has been accompanied by a similar rehabilitation of the intelligence agencies. Last year, copying the KGB, the FSB introduced national prizes for art, cinema and literature that created a "positive image" of the intelligence services. But works published in Russia extolling the virtues of the KGB and its bloody predecessors far outnumber books on Stalinist crimes.

In Ukraine the Security Service (SBU) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have supported the denunciation of Stalinist crimes ([mfa.gov.ua/mfa/ua/publication/content/14504.htm](http://mfa.gov.ua/mfa/ua/publication/content/14504.htm)). The SBU declassified 5,000 pages of relevant documents for the Declassified Memory exhibition in Kyiv

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## Russia shifts from 'managed democracy' to 'manual control' of the federation

by **Robert Coalson**

*RFE/RL Newline*

December 4

No one was surprised that preliminary official results of the December 2 Duma elections gave a resounding victory to the pro-Kremlin Unified Russia party. Receiving some 64 percent of the vote, according to government figures, the party seems set to get about 310 seats in

the 450-seat lower chamber – more than the two-thirds majority needed to initiate constitutional changes.

Moreover, the left-leaning pro-Kremlin A Just Russia party – which competes with Unified Russia only in manifesting its loyalty to President Vladimir Putin's administration – somewhat unexpectedly was awarded 7.6 percent of the vote and some 38 seats, giving the Kremlin-controlled parties a solid block of nearly 350 seats. On top of that, the pseudo-opposition Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), which consistently votes with Unified Russia, can expect a faction of some 40 seats. In all, the block of seats in the Duma representing parties that stand for increased centralization and state domination will reach nearly 400 seats.

"There is no doubt this is a different country now," Boris Nadezhdin, a leader

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Rada elects Yatsenyuk as chair

KYIV – At its session on December 4, Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada elected Arseniy Yatsenyuk as its new chairman, Ukrainian media reported. Mr. Yatsenyuk, proposed by the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) and the Our Ukraine–People's Self-Defense bloc (OU-PSD), was supported by a narrow majority of 227 votes from the YTB and OU-PSD. Other parliamentary factions did not take part in the vote. The Party of the Regions (PRU) and the Communist Party protested against the conduct of the vote by leaving the session hall. Nestor Shufrych of the PRU told UNIAN that YTB and OU-PSD leaders, who stood near the ballot box, pressured lawmakers as they cast their votes. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Yulia cites PRU bribery attempts

KYIV – Yulia Tymoshenko, the leader of the parliamentary bloc bearing her name (YTB), said on December 3 that the opposition Party of the Regions (PRU) tried to bribe four lawmakers to withdraw their signatures from the coalition agreement between the YTB and the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc, RFE/RL Ukrainian Service reported. Ms. Tymoshenko said the lawmakers accepted the bribes with the goal of collecting evidence against the Party of the Regions. "This was our project to publicly demonstrate a betrayal of political morality, the Party of the Regions betrayal of the principles that should exist in politics," Interfax quoted Ms. Tymoshenko as saying. "We have recorded the transfer of the money, which we then returned. We recorded how, where and to whom they returned it," she said. Ms. Tymoshenko said that "one lawmaker's soul is valued at \$20 million." In late November Ms. Tymoshenko accused the PRU of attempts to bribe YTB lawmakers. Raisa Bohatyriova of the Party of the Regions subsequently challenged Ms. Tymoshenko to repeat her allegations in a court of law. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Gazprom, Ukraine set gas price

KYIV – Gazprom Chairman Aleksei

Miller and Ukrainian Fuel and Energy Minister Yurii Boiko agreed on December 4 that Russia will supply natural gas to Ukraine at \$179.5 per 1,000 cubic meters in 2008, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. Ukraine currently pays \$130 per 1,000 cubic meters of gas, most of which comes from Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan recently raised the price for gas sold to Russia from \$100 to \$130 in the first six months of 2008, and to \$150 in the second half of the year. Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko earlier said that the price for gas supplies to Ukraine in 2008 would not exceed \$160 per 1,000 cubic meters. Messrs. Miller and Boiko also set the transit fee for gas shipments across Ukraine and for gas shipments to Ukraine across Russia at \$1.7 per 1,000 cubic meters per 100 kilometers. (RFE/RL Newline)

### EU OKs simplified visas for Ukrainians

KYIV – The European Union's European Council has approved agreements with Ukraine on simplified visa requirements for Ukrainians entering the Schengen travel zone, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported. The agreement, ratified earlier in November by the European Parliament, sets the cost of a visa at 35 euros (\$51 U.S.) and reduces or eliminates that fee for some Ukrainian citizens. The agreement is due to come into force on January 1, 2008, after its ratification by the Ukrainian Parliament. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Yushchenko insists on closing Zasiadko

KYIV – Following the most recent gas explosion at the Zasiadko coal mine in Donetsk, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko sent a letter to outgoing Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich demanding that operations at the mine be halted immediately, and calling for an investigation into why it was not closed after the initial deadly explosions on November 18, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on December 3. The gas blast in November killed 101 miners; another on December 1 left dozens hos-

(Continued on page 18)

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**Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz**

**Editors:**

**Zenon Zawada (Kyiv)**

**Matthew Dubas**

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: [www.ukrweekly.com](http://www.ukrweekly.com); e-mail: [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com)

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### ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3041

e-mail: [ukradmin@att.net](mailto:ukradmin@att.net)

Maria Oscislawski, advertising manager

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040

e-mail: [adukr@optonline.net](mailto:adukr@optonline.net)

Mariyka Pendzola, subscriptions

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3042

e-mail: [ukrsubscr@att.net](mailto:ukrsubscr@att.net)

## Correction

Due to a typesetting error, an incorrect number appeared in the story headlined "Ukrainians in the U.K. demand recognition of Genocide of '32-'33." Gareth Jones was killed on the eve of his 30th birthday (not his 35th). Also the last name of Dr. Margaret Siriol Colley was rendered incorrectly in one reference as Coley.



## NEWS ANALYSIS

# For Ukraine's miners, demands and dangers are mounting

by Claire Bigg  
RFE/RL

Ukraine on November 20 burned the first victims of a coal mine blast on November 18 that has claimed 101 lives.

Deadly methane blasts are not rare in Ukraine, which is the world's second-deadliest country for miners after China. But the disaster at the Zasiadko mine, located near the eastern city of Donetsk at the heart of the country's coal industry, is the worst of its kind since Ukraine's independence.

Miners and their families are pinning the blame squarely on the government, which they say has done little to improve miners' safety in its drive for greater productivity.

"An accident like this could have been prevented if the state had carried out its responsibilities properly and controlled the

situation in the industry," said Mykhailo Volynets, the chairman of Ukraine's independent trade union for miners.

The country's coal industry, Mr. Volynets claimed, is riddled with "corruption and irresponsible behavior" at the managerial level.

Ukraine's run-down coal pits are among the most hazardous in the world. The Zasiadko mine, despite being one of the country's largest and best-equipped, has still been plagued by a string of disasters: 125 miners died there between 1999 and 2002.

A number of miners said they intended to quit their jobs at the Zasiadko mine after the deadly blast. But the mine's leadership is likely to find quick replacements. In economically depressed eastern Ukraine, coal mining for many remains the only

source of income.

Mykola Surhai, who served as a Ukrainian coal minister during the Soviet era, says mining safety has deteriorated since the 1991 break-up of the USSR.

"New mines have to be built, equipment should be upgraded, funds should be allocated for protection and new security equipment," said Mr. Surhai. "There used to be a law controlling work in the mining sector and other industries. All controlling organs were guided by this legislation and security rules. These were compulsory for all."

Mr. Volynets agreed, claiming the number of mining deaths in relation to the volume of coal produced has tripled in Ukraine since the country gained independence.

"It's become worse, much worse. The system of work has disintegrated, particularly the work safety system," he said. "The coal industry is plagued by poor funding, bad management, a low level of responsibility for security and a lack of governmental will to fix the problems. So these accidents repeat themselves over and over."

Part of the problem is that Ukrainian mines are deeper than average, usually running more than 1,000 meters underground. The danger is compounded by routine safety violations. In the country's now mostly private mines, workers are paid by the amount of coal they extract and

often disable gas-detecting devices in order to continue work.

The government has pledged to pay relatives of the Zasiadko victims about \$20,000 (U.S.) per miner in compensation. But this has done little to soothe the grief and outrage sparked by the most recent tragedy.

Serhii Harmash, an independent Ukrainian journalist, said miners will continue dying unless money-hungry officials shift priorities.

"If this mine continues to function, I'm convinced more people will die. People have been dying there, and lessons still haven't been learned," said Mr. Harmash. "Now we have another accident. If nothing is done, people will continue dying. I think that's what is going to happen, because for our so-called leaders, money is more important than the lives of simple workers."

President Viktor Yushchenko has criticized the government's safety record.

Ukraine is unlikely to follow in Europe's footsteps and move away from its coal industry, which currently accounts for 95 percent of the country's energy sources.

During a visit to Donetsk on November 19, Mr. Yushchenko criticized the government for the poor safety record in mines. But he said coal production will nonetheless remain a top priority for Ukraine.

(Continued on page 21)

## OSCE: press freedom commitments not met during Russian electoral campaign

Organization for Security  
and Cooperation in Europe

VIENNA – The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Miklos Haraszti, said on December 4 that harassment of media outlets, legislative limitations and arbitrary application of rules prevented equal media access by the political forces during the 2 December Duma elections in Russia.

Submitting a detailed report to Foreign Minister Serge Lavrov on the handling of the media by the authorities during the election campaign, Mr. Haraszti said that his aim was to remind the Russian Federation of its commitment to guarantee free and fair media coverage during elections.

"These findings are an early warning in view of the March 2008 presidential election. I ask the new State Duma to ensure the right of the media to provide balanced and objective information," said Mr. Haraszti, referring to the list of cases of media freedom violations he sent to Minister Lavrov.

"Unfortunately, the OSCE commitment to sustain a diversity of news sources was violated during the campaign for the State Duma. Television coverage was monopolized by the ruling party," said the OSCE representative. "Several cases of harassment and vio-

lence against the independent media have contributed to the intimidating atmosphere."

Mr. Haraszti noted the particularly grave incident of the kidnapping and brutal beating of REN TV journalists and human rights expert Oleg Orlov in Nazran, Ingushetia, when they came to cover a demonstration against security forces.

"The monitoring by the Central Electoral Commission and the NGO Russian Union of Journalists showed a clear bias in favor of the ruling party candidates on the main television channels. Combined coverage of the president, government and the ruling party approximated 80 percent of the total political time on the nationwide channels," said Mr. Haraszti.

"The president's party chose to ignore the TV debates, and was instead given extra time. While this was done in conformity with the electoral law, the TV debates for the rest of the political parties were downgraded and broadcast in the early morning and late night. This was a breach of the electoral law," said Mr. Haraszti.

He also pointed out that negative campaigning was punished on the opposition side, but went unnoticed on the ruling party side.

## Quotable notes

"Seventy-five years ago the Ukrainian people fell victim to a crime of unimaginable horror. Usually referred to in the West as the Great Famine or the Terror Famine, it is known to Ukrainians as the Holodomor. It was a state-organized program of mass starvation that in 1932-1933 killed an estimated 7 million to 10 million Ukrainians, including up to a third of the nation's children. With grotesque understatement the Soviet authorities dismissed this event as a 'bad harvest.' Their intention was to exonerate themselves of responsibility and suppress knowledge of both the human causes and human consequences of this tragedy. That is reason enough for us to pause and remember.

"During the long decades of Soviet rule it was dangerous for Ukrainians to discuss their greatest national trauma. To talk of the Holodomor was a crime against the state, while the memoirs of eyewitnesses and the accounts of historians like Robert Conquest and the late James Mace were banned as anti-Soviet propaganda. Yet each Ukrainian family knew from bitter personal memory the enormity of what had happened. They also knew that it had been inflicted on them deliberately to punish Ukraine and destroy the basis of its nationhood. It is to honor the victims and serve the cause of historical truth that independent Ukraine is today working to promote greater understanding and recognition of the Holodomor, both at home and abroad. ..."

– President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine, in his commentary "The Holodomor," which appeared in *The Wall Street Journal Online* on November 26.

## SURVEY REGARDING POSTAL DELIVERY OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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# University of Chernihiv remembers the Holodomor

by Victor E. Glasko

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

CHERNIHIV – The Taras Shevchenko Chernihiv Pedagogical University hosted an awards ceremony on November 23 for creative projects on the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

The competition was held in conjunction with the fourth annual Innovative Projects in Education Competition, initiated by Prof. Orest Tsap of the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg.

Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Abina Dann presented 30 innovative projects awards, and Canadian Taras Hukalo, among the producers of the world's first documentary on the Holodomor, presented nine Holodomor-related awards.

The Chernihiv competition was supported by Rector Mykola Nosko and organized by the president of the Ukraine-Diaspora Foundation, Prof. Stanislav Ponomarevskyi of the University of Chernihiv, Prof. Tsap and Mr. Hukalo.

The competition was sponsored by the Dejardins, Caisse Populaire Ukrainienne de Montreal (a Ukrainian credit union) and Hennadii Udovenko, Ukraine's former foreign affairs minister.

The Chernihiv Oblast Ministry of Education sanctioned the competition, and local newspaper *Severschyna* provided advertising.

The purpose of the competition is to stimulate research and thought, to increase knowledge and to promote growth of a strong Ukrainian identity within the framework of a free and sovereign nation and as part of the world community, Prof. Ponomarevskyi said.

Submissions included research papers, records of eyewitness accounts, poetry, stories, a film and artwork.

The event began with the arrival of Ambassador Dann and her delegation, who laid flowers at the university's monument to Taras Shevchenko. Students dressed in traditional Ukrainian costumes presented her with the traditional offering of bread and salt.

The Canadian ambassador addressed more than 250 students and participants

in the Ukrainian language. Encouraging the students to think creatively, she quoted the words of Albert Einstein, "Imagination is more important than knowledge."

Citing the example of the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada, which for 100 years didn't give up on the hope that one day Ukraine would be independent, she encouraged the audience not to give up hope because things appear to be moving too slowly. "Hang in there, listen to your teachers, keep the faith," she said.

Herself of Irish and Scottish descent, Ambassador Dann referred to a similar, though not "as politically motivated," tragedy suffered by her Irish ancestors. Between 1845 and 1852, the Potato Famine of Ireland decimated 20 to 25 percent of its population. The spirit of this tragedy helped her empathize with the people of Ukraine as they remembered the sacrifices of the Holodomor, she noted.

The Canadian envoy encouraged those present not only to "recognize terrible tragedies, but to use the lessons to apply it to a better future."

In a video message, Prof. Tsap referred to the students as the vanguard of Ukrainian education, responsible for preparing the "young generation for a life of contemporary standards continually on the cutting edge" that will take leadership in Ukraine.

Mr. Hukalo, a producer of "Ten Million Victims: Ukraine 1933 – The Unknown Holocaust," described the challenges of producing a documentary film on the Holodomor when very little was known and available about the subject. The 28-minute film was broadcast on Radio Quebec public television on the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Holodomor in 1983.

Mr. Hukalo stressed the international collaboration on his film, which included notables such as Dr. James Mace of the U.S., Ukrainian human rights advocate Nina Strokata, as well as English, French and Russian contributors.

After showing his film, Mr. Hukalo closed with a brief, verbal tribute to the



Victor Glasko

At Taras Shevchenko Pedagogical University in Chernihiv (from left) are: Canadian film producer Taras Hukalo, contest winner Yana Prokorenko, Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Abina Dann, contest winner Lilia Vadych and winning teacher Liudmyla Yavolchenko.

late Dr. Mace for the great service that he gave to Ukraine and its people.

Ambassador Dann handed out 30 Innovations in Education awards, which included honorary diplomas and \$900 prizes and Mr. Hukalo distributed nine honorary diplomas for the Holodomor projects, including \$500 (Canadian) prizes.

Also distributed were five English language sets for Ukrainian elementary schools provided by Prof. Volodymyr Bandera of Temple University and the Ukrainian Federation of America.

Nadia Oleksandra Marchuk of Sribneh, who is disabled, was honored for her literary and artistic work.

Among the 10 Holodomor award recipients were three representatives of the research group Poshuk from the Nizhyn Institute of Culture and Art, recognized for publishing the book "Ukrainian Holodomor: Facts, Consequences and Research." They presented three oil paintings depicting the pain, suffering and hope

of the Ukrainian people that rose out of the Holodomor.

Receiving his award by proxy was 91-year-old Mykhailo Deyneha, a resident of the distant Russian city of Nyzhnyekamsk, Tatarstan, an ethnic Ukrainian who compiled personal accounts and feelings on the Holodomor.

The University of Chernihiv awarded Ambassador Dann with the title of honorary professor and invited her to return as a lecturer.

For his contributions to the competition, Mr. Hukalo was presented an oil painting of one of Chernihiv's ancient treasures, the Church of Ss. Mykhailo (Michael) and Fedir.

"The goal of our research was not to earn a good mark or even to win an award, but to bring this information to the youth and to the people who may in time become our top governmental leaders, so that they will not allow this to happen ever again," said Yana Prokorenko, a member of Poshuk.

## Born in captivity: survivor found of Canadian internment operations

OTTAWA – On Monday, November 26, the CBC Radio One program "The Current" aired a major segment on the Ukrainian Canadian community's ongoing calls for official recognition of what happened and for the restitution of the internees' confiscated wealth.

In response, Jerry Bayrak, of Edmonton, Alberta, contacted the CBC and through the network the chairman of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA), Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, to reveal that his mother, Mary Hancharuk, was born at the Spirit Lake internment camp on December 16, 1915, and will soon be celebrating her 92nd birthday.

Dr. Luciuk commented: "We were both astonished and delighted to learn that a survivor of Canada's first national internment operations remains with us. We can confirm that Mary's father, Nikolaj, was arrested and that he and his family were subsequently held at the Spirit Lake camp. That an actual survivor will join us for the signing of a Ukrainian Canadian redress and reconciliation settlement is an unexpected Christmas gift, for when Mary Manko [Haskett] died we mourned not only her passing but that the government would not have an actual

internee present to witness this closure. Now that will happen because of a Canadian-born child, Mary Hancharuk, whose first years were spent in a Canadian concentration camp."

Negotiations toward securing a Ukrainian Canadian redress settlement began in Ottawa on November 26, thanks to MP Inky Mark's Bill C 331 – The Internment of Persons of Ukrainian Origin Recognition Act – which obliges the government to reach an agreement with designated organizations representing the Ukrainian Canadian community.

During Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920 thousands of Ukrainians and other Europeans were unjustly imprisoned as "enemy aliens" and forced to do heavy labor for the profit of their jailers, not because of anything they had done but only because of where they had come from.

Some women and children were held at Vernon, British Columbia, and Spirit Lake, Quebec (now La Ferme). Montreal-born Mrs. Haskett was 6 when she was transported into Quebec's Abitibi region with her family and interned at Spirit Lake. Thought to be the last survivor of the internment operations, she died on July 14.

## Yushchenko criticizes government for 'inertness' on HIV/AIDS issues

Press Office of Ukraine's President

KYIV – A meeting on fighting HIV/AIDS in Ukraine headed by President Viktor Yushchenko took place at the Presidential Secretariat on December 4.

Mr. Yushchenko heavily criticized the government's work in that field. He presented the latest statistics showing that there are currently over 119,000 HIV-positive people and over 21,000 people afflicted with AIDS in Ukraine.

The president expressed his concern about the prognoses for Ukraine's future. If the current approach to HIV/AIDS remains, there will be 150,000 people suffering from HIV/AIDS in Ukraine in three years; by 2014 that total could rise to about 820,000. Mr. Yushchenko said these statistics are the result of the government's inertness.

He pointed to issues that require urgent attention. First of all, he said, governmental purchases of antiretroviral medications lack transparency. That leads to irregularity in the supply of medications, as well as to questions about their

quality. Therefore, the president urged the Office of the Procurator General to conduct a "total inspection of all tender purchase operations made by the Ministry of Health."

Mr. Yushchenko also pointed out issues regarding the financing of countermeasures against HIV/AIDS. Despite a sixfold growth of budget financing in 2007 as compared to 2004, only 50 percent of the 98 million hrv (\$19.3 million U.S.) allocated have been used to fight HIV/AIDS during past 10 months.

In addition, the president emphasized that the 112 million hrv (\$22 million U.S.) provided in the draft budget for 2008 is an insufficient amount even for treatment of those who are already ill, not to mention for preventive measures or purchase of necessary medical equipment.

Therefore, Mr. Yushchenko demanded that all corresponding expenses be taken into account by the draft budget for 2008. He added that he would not sign a budget law that disregards expected expense fig-

(Continued on page 21)



**OBITUARIES**

**Yaroslav Kulynych, director and producer of films, 81**

NEW YORK – Yaroslav Kulynych, noted Ukrainian American film director and producer, died on October 30 in New York, following a serious illness. He was 81.

Mr. Kulynych, who for decades was a regular fixture at various Ukrainian community events – many of them of historic significance – released numerous documentary films of those events.

Most recently, his footage of the first conclave of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians (today known as the Ukrainian World Congress) held in 1967 in New York, was shown at the 40th anniversary commemorations of the WCFU's founding. He was recalled with a moment of silence at the anniversary gathering held in New York City on November 18.

Mr. Kulynych was born on March 21, 1926, near Ternopil on western Ukrainian lands. After World War II he studied in Munich and worked at the UFA film studio. Later he immigrated to Australia, where he attended the University of Adelaide. He moved to the United States in 1961.



**Yaroslav Kulynych in a file photo taken on one of his many visits to the editorial offices of Svoboda.**

Among the subjects of his films are: the Ukrainian community in Australia,

(Continued on page 28)

**Mykola Francuzenko, 83, radio journalist and writer**

SILVER SPRING, Md. – Mykola Francuzenko, radio journalist, former chief of the Ukrainian branch of Voice of America and writer, died here on October 28 at the age of 83.

He was born November 25, 1923, in Krasnokutsk, Kharkiv region of Ukraine. After World War II broke out he was sent with the Soviet army to the front, where he was wounded and captured. He later served as an officer of the 1st Division of the Ukrainian National Army. After the war he was sent to a POW camp in Rimini, Italy.

From Italy, Mr. Francuzenko moved to England and later to Germany. In 1957-1962 Mr. Francuzenko worked in Munich at Radio Liberation, which later became Radio Liberty. In 1962 he moved with his family to New York, where he worked for Radio Liberty as director of its Ukrainian-language staff in that city.

He earned both a B.A. and an M.A. in Slavic studies from Norwich University in Vermont.

At the end of 1968 he began working at the Ukrainian branch of Voice of America in Washington. He was promot-



**Mykola Francuzenko**

ed to chief of the branch, a position from which he retired in 1990.

Mr. Francuzenko was also a writer and publicist, known under the pseudonym Mykola Virnyi. He wrote countless

(Continued on page 28)

**The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund: November**

Amount	Name	City
\$500.00	Pauline and Warren Bruggeman	Schenectady, N.Y.
\$250.00	Yuriy and Irena Deychakiwsky	North Potomac, Md.
\$200.00	Peter Yurkowski	Holmdel, N.J.
\$140.00	Thomas Olijnyk	Rosedale, N.Y.
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	Christine Deremer	Glen Burnie, Md.
	Andrew Diakun	Williamsville, N.Y.
	Roman Golash	Palatine, Ill.
	Marie Gordon	Glastonbury, Conn.
	Nadia Haftkowycz	Wethersfield, Conn.
	Werner Hahn	Herndon, Va.
	William Kataryniak	Bayonne, N.J.
	Robert Keybida	Clifton, N.J.
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	Adrian Krawczeniuk	Old Greenwich, Conn.
	Mary Kuduk	Jackson, Mich.
	Andrij Leshchyshyn	Columbia, Md.
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	Myron Saldyt	Carrales, N.M.
	Olga Semeniuk	Amherstburg, Ont.
	Marusia Soroka	Mississauga, Ont.
	Wasyl Sosiak	Forest Hills, N.Y.
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	Nazar Shcheglov	Jackson Heights, N.Y.
	Ija and Rostyslaw Wasylenko	Union, N.J.

**TOTAL: \$4,035.00**

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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Our postal delivery

For the past three weeks, plus in this week's issue, this newspaper has published a "Survey Regarding Postal Delivery of The Ukrainian Weekly." An analogous form has been published also in our sister publication, the Ukrainian-language weekly Svoboda. The clip-out forms were prepared and published as a direct result of the increasing number of complaints about poor delivery of the two weekly newspapers published by the Ukrainian National Association. We have asked readers – many of whom have called or written to tell us how late their papers are arriving – to help us pin down where the problems with postal delivery arise by tracking the delivery of four consecutive issues.

Readers were asked to fill in the forms exactly as requested and then to send them in to our subscription department. Most importantly, we asked readers to note the issue number, issue date and date received for each of these four issues. Some of you (thank you!) have begun doing just that. Some have filled out the forms improperly. (It doesn't help us to know, for example, that you consistently receive your paper a week late. We need the specifics. E.g.: The Weekly No. 47, dated November 25 was received on December 3.) Others are just not sure why they should bother. (And, by the way, even if you think postal delivery in your area is good, please do fill out the form. That, too, will be useful information.)

By way of explanation, let us backtrack. We'd been hearing complaints about the deterioration of U.S. postal delivery since about the middle of 2007. Furthermore, the complaints were not limited to a particular area, but came to us from all over the country. (We won't even get into the issue with delivery to Canada here, as that is a whole separate matter.) We must tell you that postal delivery has gotten worse even close to home – readers in the immediate area of our home office used to receive their copies of The Weekly, which is printed on Fridays, the very next day. Now those issues arrive in their mailboxes on Mondays or Tuesdays.

In mid-September, at the annual meeting of the UNA General Assembly, that body's Publications Committee, prodded by the editor-in-chief of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda, discussed the issue of poor postal delivery. The committee recommended that we run a survey in order to collect data on delivery, which would then be presented to U.S. postal authorities. We are currently in the data collection phase.

For the record, The Ukrainian Weekly is printed and mailed on Friday mornings. For example this issue, dated Sunday, December 9, was actually completed on Thursday, December 6, and sent off to you on Friday, December 7. We have yet to miss a publication deadline. Similarly, Svoboda is printed and mailed, without fail, on Thursdays; the paper bears a Friday date of issue.

Clearly there is a problem with second-class delivery of our newspapers – and it's a service for which we (and you) pay a significant amount of money. We at The Weekly and Svoboda are determined to improve mail delivery to our faithful readers.

So, please do help us help you by filling out the forms being published in both The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda. With your assistance, we hope to be able to improve postal delivery and, thus, bring you the news in a much more timely fashion.

Dec  
14  
2005

### Turning the pages back...

Two years ago, the Russian state-controlled gas monopoly Gazprom increased its natural gas prices for Ukraine from \$50 per 1,000 cubic meters to a European rate of \$220-\$230 per 1,000 cubic meters. Gazprom also threatened to cut off gas supplies in the event that Ukraine did not accept these new market prices by

January 1, 2006.

President Viktor Yushchenko said that the latest gas negotiations were an instrument of Russian political pressure on Ukraine, but reassured Ukrainians that this issue would be "yesterday's problem."

"I am sure that we will review the prices and transit fee, and reach an agreement in our mutual economic interests," Mr. Yushchenko said on December 14, 2005.

Ukraine received 25 billion cubic meters of natural gas from Russia as a barter payment for transporting the gas to Europe, accounting for more than 31 percent of Ukraine's needed annual supply of natural gas.

The Ukrainian government insisted on shifting from barter transactions to money payments for natural gas, but Gazprom representatives accused Ukraine of dragging out negotiations after Ukraine refused an offered price of \$160 per 1,000 cubic meters.

"Ukraine has wasted time in these talks and now there can be no more talk about \$160," said Oleksander Medvedev, Gazprom's deputy board chairman. "The market situation has changed."

President Vladimir Putin asserted that Ukraine could afford market prices, given that it has received money from privatizations and Western loans. Some Russian national deputies argued that since Ukraine had achieved market economy status, it must accept the market economy rules.

Ukrainian officials hoped that bilateral agreements would allow Ukraine to continue to receive discounted natural gas from Russia for many years.

"We've got a contract with the Russia monopoly [Gazprom]," said Mykhailo Volynets, a member of the Ukrainian Fuel and Energy Complex in the Ministry of Heating and Energy. "According to this document, the [gas] price is unchangeable until 2009. I am sure that Ukraine will sue Gazprom based on this document," he added.

Mr. Yushchenko said that it is necessary to launch a new energy concept for Ukraine and increase domestic oil and natural gas production on the Azov and Black Sea shelves. "My aim is to provide for the absolute energy independence of Ukraine," Mr. Yushchenko said.

Source: "Russia pressures Ukraine, raising prices on gas," by Yana Sedova, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 18, 2005.

## Notes from Ukraine

### Taras Kuzio's blog

#### A need to go all the way

November 25

Last weekend Ukraine commemorated the millions of Ukrainians who perished in the 1932-1933 Famine. President Viktor Yushchenko has led the way in promoting these commemorations and has devoted a lot of his energy in revealing the horrors of Stalinist totalitarianism ([http://www.president.gov.ua/content/150\\_1.html](http://www.president.gov.ua/content/150_1.html)).

In 1983 the Ukrainian diaspora commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine. This was during the era of stagnation in the USSR, and Volodymyr Shcherbytsky ruled Ukraine. The Ukrainian diaspora's commemoration was denounced by Soviet propaganda and by pro-Soviet and Russophile academics and journalists in the West. It took another seven years before the Communist Party in Ukraine admitted that the Famine had taken place. What is the situation today?

Nobody doubts that a famine took place in Ukraine at that time. But, among some Western academics (particularly among some historians and former Sovietologists), there remains the view that the Famine was not directed against Ukraine specifically but against peasants throughout the former USSR who all equally suffered. The millions of deaths were a product of poor weather and economic disorganization arising out of collectivization, they argue.

This view that all Soviet peoples suffered and that the Famine was not deliberate Soviet policy is also to be found in contemporary Russia. There is, though, an important nuance. How a country relates to its history is a reflection of what kind of regime is in place. In Ukraine, whether under Leonid Kuchma or Mr. Yushchenko, the crimes committed under Stalinism are commemorated and denounced.

In Russia, under Vladimir Putin, these Stalinist crimes are ignored and marginalized, being replaced by a new cult of Stalin as the "great leader" who transformed the USSR into a superpower. This fits in with Mr. Putin's new emphasis on rebuilding Russia as a "great power."

What would the outside world have thought of Germany if in 1962, 17 years after the defeat of Nazism, there was a former Gestapo officer as chancellor who praised Adolf Hitler as a "great leader" and successfully placed Wehrmacht, SS and Gestapo officers in high-ranking positions throughout his regime? Well, welcome to a Russia in 2007 ruled by a former KGB officer who praises Stalin and has put in place military and intelligence officers as his new ruling elite.

Clearly, this radically different view of Stalinist crimes is a reflection of the contrast between the great power nationalist autocracy in Russia and a young, but nevertheless flowering, democracy in Ukraine. Ukraine's denunciation of totalitarian crimes, therefore, follows in the footsteps of the denunciation of Nazi totalitarianism after World War II by the young and revived German, Austrian and Italian democracies.

There is, though, one notable exception. When President Yushchenko demands that those who deny the Famine should be prosecuted he should take this rationale to its logical conclusion in two ways.

It makes no logical sense to have such legislation if the Communist Party is per-

mitted to continue to exist as a legally registered party. Just as in Germany, Austria and Italy, where Nazi and Fascist parties have been illegal since World War II, the Communist Party of Ukraine should also be banned as a body that is the direct descendent of the criminal political force that unleashed Stalinist crimes against Ukrainians.

A second logical step is to morally denounce the members of the former secret police (NKVD, KGB), some of whom are still alive and receive state pensions. If it is perfectly humane to legally prosecute old men in the West who allegedly committed Nazi crimes then why not prosecute old men who committed Stalinist crimes?

Ukraine, as a country that suffered inordinately from both Nazi and Soviet totalitarianism, should lead the way in establishing a moral equivalence between Communist and Nazi crimes against humanity. There should be no place for either Communist or fascist parties in Hitler's and Stalin's playground – Ukraine – except in the rubbish bin of history.

#### The Kivalov diploma

November 18

Is it time for Viktor Yushchenko to resign in disgrace? *Ukrayinska Pravda* (<http://pravda.com.ua/news/2007/11/15/66906.htm>) published the honorary diploma that Serhii Kivalov, the disgraced chairman of the Central Election Commission (CEC) in the first and second rounds of the 2004 elections, was awarded by the Central Election Commission. Mr. Kivalov also obtained a medal.

In typical Orwellian language, the honorary diploma is given to Mr. Kivalov "For his great individual contribution to ensuring the realization of the constitutional rights of Ukrainian citizens and on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Central Election Commission."

The head of the CEC is Viktor Shapoval, a loyal member of Mr. Yushchenko's team. Mr. Kivalov was the chairman of the CEC in the 2004 presidential elections. He was removed by Parliament on December 8 as part of a compromise vote. On December 3, 2004, the Supreme Court had annulled the official second round results and called for a repeat run of the second round within three weeks.

Mr. Kivalov was elected to Parliament in 2006 and 2007 within the Party of the Regions, which includes a large number of unrepentant Kuchma-era officials who, if Ukraine had the rule of law and the president fulfilled his commitments to the Orange Revolution, would today be behind bars.

So there we have it. In February the disgraced former Procurator General Mykhailo Potebenko was given a state medal for his alleged "contribution to improving the rule of law" in Ukraine. The year before, oligarch Rinat Akhmetov was given a state medal; other oligarchs have also been given such awards since then.

One American colleague who works on Ukraine wrote to me after learning of Mr. Kivalov's award: "And this suggests to this reader at least that Ukrainian officials are not serious about becoming a modern state. This kind of nonsense goes beyond corruption – it suggests that the

(Continued on page 27)





## The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

### Finding relatives in Ukraine: it helps if they look like you

We've established which "selo" (village), "povit" (county or district) and oblast is your ancestral place. Now we arrive in the village.

In my last article (November 4), I should have mentioned that one way of finding family is writing to the "Silka Rada," or Village Council, addressing the letter to the village, povit, oblast and Ukraine. Try to have the letter written in Ukrainian (a neighbor or friend can help) but, if not, write in English – someone there will know the language. Ask very general questions about the family – give names, years, but not much more. Let the addressees reply to you with information. This avoids "finding" relatives you never knew (or actually had). You don't want relatives coming out of nowhere.

Before you set out to the village, you need to arrange for a driver – and interpreter, if need be. The driver should be someone who knows his way – not only around roads, but around people. This is important, because the way you ask questions is crucial to finding out anything and finding anyone. Prepare ahead of time: ask people who have traveled, who have family there and who know people they can trust. And agree upon the fee for the trip in advance (don't forget a nice tip, if deserved).

During my tours, in helping people find and communicate with relatives, I have had to run interference. Some folks had pushy and intrusive very distant relatives who would not go away, others had people they weren't even sure of. As the "glorious leader" of the group, I was the stranger who could say "no." I often go to the village with people from my groups. It is a truly satisfying and blessed experience.

Now to find your folks. We arrive in the village – the right one, we hope. Our driver either goes straight to the Village Council or stops the car as an elderly person walks towards the car. "Slava Isusu Khrystu ... dobryi ranok, vam, babusiu ..." (Praise be to Jesus ... good morning to you, grandmother.) You must know the correct ritual respectful greeting.

Then you ask about this and that family. Usually it turns out there are a few families in the village with the same surname. Then you go into specifics. If you know the first names of the ones who emigrated and when, that helps. If not, you ask if anyone had left for Canada or America so many years ago. Chances are the locals will know someone and lead you to someone's house.

Last August, Nadia (names have been changed) from Vancouver wanted to meet her father's family in a village near Radekhiv. He had supported his brother's family for many years, helping put the children through medical school. We arrived in

the village on a Sunday, mid-day, during a Village Council election. The officials were all there. We asked for the "Ivakhiv" family. The head of the council thought a bit, says that there are three Ivakhiv families in the village – but you should go to the one on this-and-this road, because, turning to Nadia, he said, "you look just like them." Sure enough, she did!

Another time, in Stari Kutly, in the Carpathian Mountains, Olia wanted to find her grandmother's family. At the Village Council, no one recognized the old names. Then Olia took out the old photographs from her grandmother, and, of course, everyone there recognized the "Stakhiv" family. Someone from the rada went on the bus with us, and we all drove through the village to the Stakhiv house. Olia's distant cousin was quite shaken, because a few days ago he had dreamt about something like this.

Joe from Edmonton was looking for his uncle's family near Brody. Approaching an old man on the village road, the guide asked about "Osyp Senkiv." "No, don't know anyone like that." "He's blind in one eye and has one leg." "Oh, that Osyp. Of course!"

When we went to the village of Uvysla, Halia found her great uncle's face looking up at her from a book on the Village Council display table – he was a hero of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) in this very patriotic village. The elderly lady who wrote the history of the village was called, and told us all about Halia's family. She showed us where the church bells had been buried to prevent their melting down by the Germans. She also showed us the burial mounds of the many village resistance fighters executed by the Soviets.

One time, a person in my group just wanted to see her grandparents' village. No one would be left, since the whole extended family had left for Canada a century ago. We stopped at a light in Rohatyn, and our guide opened the door to ask directions to Soroky. A young man thought he was getting a ride and entered. After a confused conversation, it turned out he was trying to get to Soroky. Well, we had our guide, which was good, since this village was quite remote. Donna did not find any actual relatives, but half the village had the same surname as her relatives – few related to each other. The village was so old, with so many extended clans, that these were separate families. The cemetery was full of "Saranchuks." We all had a good time anyway.

Near Terebovlia, in Zubiv, on a rainy day we approached an old man walking down the now muddy road. No, he can't tell us about the Yurkiv family, because he's "new" in the village, one of the many exiled

(Continued on page 27)

## Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



### Ukrainian generosity

Ukrainians are generous with their time and treasure. We consistently sustain many worthwhile cultural causes in our community – churches, museums, youth organizations, schools, dance groups, publications. Many of these enterprises would disappear were it not for Ukrainian munificence.

For years Ukrainians have supported a variety of political causes and functions aimed at informing the world about Ukraine's freedom crusade – Independence Day (January 22), Lystopadove Sviato, Famine marches and various other commemorations. We also established three chairs of Ukrainian studies at Harvard University in the belief that they would enhance the world's understanding of Ukraine and its people.

With the advent of Ukrainian independence, various new enterprises have surfaced in Ukraine – museums, orphanages, publications – all in need of our financial assistance.

Today, three universities in Ukraine have emerged as leading institutions of higher learning: the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and, of course, the National University of Ostroh Academy. All three are unique in their own way, and all three deserve our encouragement and financial sustenance.

Recently, the rector of Ostroh, Ihor Pasichnyk, and his able assistant, Eduard Balashov, head of the Ostroh Foreign Relations Department, toured the United States, informing our Ukrainian American public about the strides that have been made at that institution since its rebirth in 1994. As any Ukrainian American who visits Ostroh will tell you, the institution has made enormous progress in the last 13 years: a state-of-the-art new library, Western-style housing for regular and visiting faculty, as well as a soccer stadium and tennis courts are testimony to that. The goal has always been to create a Western-style university in Ostroh.

Thanks to the vision of Basil Tarasko, who has made four trips to Ostroh, plans are under way to construct a baseball/softball diamond on the university grounds. There are six universities

Myron Kuropas's e-mail address is [kuropas@comcast.net](mailto:kuropas@comcast.net).

with a girls' softball program in Ukraine and Mr. Tarasko, who has made baseball and softball in Ukraine his mission since 1995, plans to develop a girls' softball team at Ostroh.

First stop on the rector's whirlwind tour of the United States was the Ukrainian Museum Archives in Cleveland, where he was hosted by museum Director Andrew Fedynsky. Taras Szmagala and Orest Nebesh assisted in making the event highly successful, bringing in \$7,850 for the university. Rep. Marcy Kaptur was also present for the occasion and was recognized for her contributions on behalf of Ukraine by Rector Pasichnyk. Rep. Kaptur has visited Ostroh and has paid the tuition of one of her own young relatives in Ukraine who attended the university.

Next stop was St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Parish in Bloomingdale, Ill., where a total of \$13,490 was raised. John Jaresko, his mother, Maria, and sister Katherine Marcyniuk were the local organizers for that event.

Visiting the Chicago offices of Julian Kulas resulted in a donation of \$25,000 for Ostroh from the Heritage Foundation of 1st Security Bank.

Donations at St. John the Baptist Church in Newark, N.J., brought in an additional \$16,800 thanks to the work of Roman Rychok, Lev Khmelkovsky and Leonid Jakobchuk.

A series of events in North Port, Fla., hosted by Drs. Bohdan and Vira Bodnaruk, resulted in a bevy of local Ukrainians coming together and donating \$9,855.

The final stop on the tour was Houston, where, thanks to the organizational efforts of Vasyl Dijak, donors gave a total of \$1,150.

Of the three trips that Rector Pasichnyk has made to the United States, this last one was the most successful. He continues to be mightily impressed with the generosity of our Ukrainians and the amount of support that the National University of Ostroh Academy enjoys in the United States. If you haven't made your 2007 tax-deductible donation as yet, you have until December 31 to do so. Make your check out to the UNA Foundation/Ostroh Fund and send it to me at 107 Ileshamwood Drive, DeKalb, IL 60115-1856. All donations for 2006 and 2007 will be acknowledged in The Ukrainian Weekly early in 2008.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### Thanks for item about Troy, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

I wanted to thank you for the recent "Community Chronicle" article about the Shevchenko monument located in Troy, N.Y. As recent transplants to upstate New York (via Boston), my husband and I

enjoyed learning about the monument and history of the local Ukrainian community.

Additionally, since I work in downtown Troy, I plan on visiting the pocket park, and perhaps I'll be able to thank the caretakers in person for their efforts in upkeeping the monument and the park.

Renata (Wynnyk) Ockerby  
Buskirk, N.Y.



Dr. Julian Kulas presents a check for \$25,000 from the Heritage Foundation to Rector Ihor Pasichnyk of the National University of Ostroh Academy. From left are: Dr. Paul Nadzikewycz, Dr. Pasichnyk, Dr. Kulas and Chrystia Wereszczak.



## At emergency meeting...

(Continued from page 1)

toric structures, and American and Russian films monopolize movie theaters and television screens.

All of the problems in Ukrainian cultural life reflect the lousy Ukrainian government, said Heorhii Dukhovychnyi, a renowned architect and the vice-president of the Kyiv branch of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

"Needless to say, the architecture of city planning is a reflection of the situation in society and the face of society," he said as the first speaker to address the meeting. "Today each of us understands that all of Ukrainian society is penetrated by forgery, falsification and falsehood. The situation is everywhere, from the government to each of us, because the government has as its goal to take society and drag everyone into this."

Builders violate all laws on city planning in Ukraine, a profession that has been reduced to a secret exchange of land and permits for construction, Mr. Dukhovychnyi said.

Development laws, regulations and norms are being developed without any input from city planners, he said. The national and local government isn't interested in a normal, legal construction process that consists of standard documentation, which the civilized world abides by, he added.

"Everything we see on our streets, in our yards, on our squares is a result of the same falsehood, falsification and fabrication that emerges from every decision by the Kyiv City Council, with every approved project and with every building permit in our city and every city



Victor Glasko

Writer Vitalii Kapranov leads the emergency meeting that declared Ukraine a "zone of cultural misery."

of Ukraine," Mr. Dukhovychnyi said.

The Ukrainian government has a double standard, he said, via which it claims the Ukrainian people are gifted, knowledgeable and capable of anything. But when Ukrainians suggest the government adopt European and global standards in their fields, its officials turn around and claim Ukrainians aren't capable of absorbing and employing knowledge, Mr. Dukhovychnyi commented.

"This is a problem each of us runs into on a daily basis."

The last few years have seen Kyiv's city center become utterly depleted of its cultural institutions, bookshops, museums and art galleries because of an explosion in development, Mr. Dukhovychnyi said. "Architects are getting no requests for such institutions, and our government won't find money for them," he said. "It won't find the money."

The government shut down the Institute for Architectural and Planning Theory, he said, and plans to evict the Institute of Philosophy of Ukraine because it needs the space for the Euro 2012 soccer championship.

"All of this is done with the hands of an amorphous, corrupt and interconnected mass of officials and powerbrokers," Mr. Dukhovychnyi said. "That's why the single thing we can do today is personify all this activity, which is driving toward destruction of the culture and a cultural environment."

Personify they did, and Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi became the target of abundant and furious criticism throughout the afternoon.

His government is notorious for rampant corruption, widely reported in the Ukrainian media, particularly in privatizing land and buildings and distributing such real estate under opaque and corrupt conditions.

Such corruption – coupled with real estate values that have exploded in recent years – has not only forced cultural institutions out of the expensive city center, but also thousands of architects from their offices and artists from their galleries.

Special disdain was also reserved for Dmytro Tabachnyk, the acting vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs, who became notorious for his October 2006 comment that "Ukraine's cultural policy can't be conducted only in the interests of the narrow stratum of the Ukrainian-speaking intelligentsia which fears competition in everything."

Cultural misery isn't limited only to what is visible, however, as renowned film critic Vadym Skurativskyi offered this assessment of Ukrainian film: it doesn't exist.

"To great misfortune, Ukraine entered into history too late, and entered only then when this history entered into an incredible crisis," he said. "And now we stand before the monsters of this very crisis from the West and the East."

While Ukraine should turn to Europe politically, it has long abandoned the culture that Ukraine currently needs, Mr. Skurativskyi said, referring to contemporary films that are filled with glorification of homosexuality, among other things.

"There is no hope that intellectuals, artists will arrive from the West and help us," he said. "It's better they not arrive."

The Ukrainian government must be pressured to provide the necessary

financing to jump-start the nation's film industry and begin producing films that reflect Ukrainian culture and values, he said.

Mr. Skurativskyi proposed an Association to Save Ukrainian Culture as a lobbying group to the government.

Similar ideas emerged throughout the conference, including one proposing a Cultural Parliament that would act as a non-governmental organization to shadow the government's activities and lobby cultural interests.

In its final resolution, the emergency meeting accused the Ukrainian government of working to destroy Ukrainian culture and failing to provide an effective and supportive system to administer the nation's culture.

Ukraine's legislative base in the cultural and science spheres, as well as the procurator general's work in enforcing existing laws are unsatisfactory, the resolution stated. (The text can be read at <http://www.cultura.net.ua/assembly.php>.)

The current system of creating citizens' advisory councils is ineffective and manipulative, the resolution noted. It called for creating a state program of emergency measures to end Ukraine's "cultural misery," including clear goals to improve the nation's cultural infrastructure and the methods planned to achieve them.

The resolution also called for creating new mechanisms to form and implement the nation's cultural policy, particularly creating an authorized government body responsible for defining the nation's cultural strategy, formulating concepts and directions for cultural policy and monitoring the executive government's activities in the cultural sphere. This government body should be formed transparently, openly and under the control of the cultural community, the resolution underscored.

The resolution also called for the cultural, scientific and educational communities, as well as the public at large, to prepare for protests to defend the cultural values and interests of Ukraine's citizens.

"The government can't be left to itself with money," said Vitalii Kapranov, a writer who led the emergency meeting. "It needs to be constantly exposed with floodlights and held by its throat."



Victor Glasko

Tetiana Nechai of the League of Tour Guides of Ukraine discusses the destruction of historic landmarks on November 30 at an emergency meeting at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

## Notice to publishers and authors

It is The Ukrainian Weekly's policy to run news items and/or reviews of newly published books, booklets and reprints, as well as records and premiere issues of periodicals only after receipt by the editorial offices of a copy of the material in question.

News items sent without a copy of the new release will not be published.

Send new releases and information (where publication may be purchased, cost, etc.) to: Editorial Staff, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.



# INTERVIEW: George Grabowicz on state of culture in Ukraine

*George G. Grabowicz, professor of Ukrainian literature at Harvard University and editor of the journal Krytyka, recently conversed with Alexander J. Motyl, professor of political science at Rutgers University – Newark. Following is a transcript of the interview/conversation conducted by Prof. Motyl.*

**You're known as a severe critic of contemporary Ukrainian culture. Just what are its greatest problems?**

It's not so much contemporary Ukrainian culture that I criticize as the way it's administered and projected. Almost 20 years after independence, Ukraine still lacks a cultural policy. That's outrageous.

**Isn't that putting it a bit strongly?**

Well, most people in the know there think so. It's a question of fundamental justice, of compensating for historical wrongs – providing something like affirmative action. The Ukrainian nation was supposed to disappear, to be merged into a "Soviet people" that would be based on the Russian nation and speak Russian. Ukrainian culture was systematically provincialized. Cutting-edge sciences and the humanities, the arts, theater, and especially film, were confined largely to Russia or conducted almost exclusively in Russian.

**Give us a few examples.**

During the 1970s and early 1980s the Ukrainian language was progressively eliminated from the theater. Of the seven theaters for the "young viewer" only one, in Lviv, was in Ukrainian. Of the 50 theater-studios created in Ukraine at the beginning of the 1980s, only two were in Ukrainian. All the theaters of musical comedy were in Russian. And film was almost never in Ukrainian.

The notion that Ukrainian high culture – as opposed to a staged folk culture – was "bezperspektyvna" [had no future] was both official policy and part of a general consensus. For Ukrainians, the demoralization and imputation of inferiority was massive.

**But then came the collapse of the Soviet Union – and independence.**

Yes – and there's the rub. A nation that had been condemned to the "trash bin of history" could be expected to develop those areas of culture, intellectual life and collective memory that had been forcibly suppressed and dismantled. But this didn't happen. It's as if the newly formed state of Israel didn't have a policy for commemorating the Holocaust or nurturing Jewish cultural and intellectual life.

**So why has Ukraine neglected culture?**

Because the same people who ran Ukraine's cultural institutions still run them, and they don't want change. And they've never even had to answer for the rot they produced. Most became "patriotic" overnight.

**In my own experience, the "propagandists" all became "politologists."**

And since the same kind of people still run Ukraine's politics, everybody is

*The Ukrainian nation was supposed to disappear, to be merged into a "Soviet people" that would be based on the Russian nation and speak Russian.*

happy to leave things unchanged. Culture, education and scholarship simply do not rate. Oil and gas, land and business focus the elites' attention: there's money to be made there. Culture involves a different kind of investment and a more sophisticated calculus of returns.

**Some things have changed. Ukraine has many fine writers, artists, and poets – even some filmmakers. And some oligarchs, such as Victor Pinchuk, support the arts.**

Yes. But what is missing is institutional support. You could write a poem on your own; you can even do it in the gulag – as Vasyl Stus did. But to paint you really need a studio. And to stage an opera or make a film you need infrastructure and resources.

Here's where the system has all but broken down: the more complex the art form, the bleaker the picture. Ukrainian cinema is basically defunct. The best Ukrainian opera singers are mostly abroad.

As to the oligarchs, most are just crude "nuvorishi" [nouveau riche]. Pinchuk does have a foundation and he does support some art, but the effect is minimal. At this stage there's no alternative to state support – and that's nowhere in sight.

**Part of why it may be so hard for Ukraine to develop a cultural policy is the divide between the Russian-speaking east and south, and the Ukrainian-speaking west and center. How can the state promote Ukrainian culture if many people don't want it or don't care?**

Although a consensus on the "Ukrainian idea" is still missing, that's not the full answer. The divide you mentioned would suggest a Ukrainian-focused cultural policy in the west and center, and a Russian-focused one in the east and south. But aside from language instruction in the schools, neither side cares about culture. But some people do care. The good news is that recently there have been efforts to sound the alarm about the critical state of culture in Ukraine.

**I suppose Ukraine's cultural problems also have something to do with the quality of its educational institutions.**

For the most part, Ukraine's Communist-era universities have barely changed, and many new institutions were founded that are academic in name only. On the other hand, two new non-state institutions, the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and the [Ukrainian] Catholic University in Lviv, are among the best in the country.

**Their students are certainly no worse than Americans or Europeans.**

But the great majority studying in state-run institutions are still getting a Soviet-style education. And a number of

places are hotbeds of opportunism and anti-intellectualism. The Interregional Academy of Personnel Management (better known by its Ukrainian acronym, MAUP) is notorious for its promulgation of anti-Semitic views. And the Kyiv University of Culture has chairs in cosmetics and hair design. Both have money and the latter has considerable political clout. Its "singing rector," Mr. [Mykhailo] Poplavskii, was recently awarded an Order of Merit by President [Viktor] Yushchenko.

**He's the one who sings about loving "salo," right?**

I guess so – that certainly is his style. But more eloquent is the fact that this kind of "academic" achievement and "culture" are rewarded by the president for "leadership in the field of higher education"; that says something.

**You don't sound very appreciative of Mr. Yushchenko here. What do you think of [Yulia] Tymoshenko and [Viktor] Yanukovich?**

Yanukovich is abominable – but fully in keeping with such precursors as [Leonid] Kuchma and [Leonid] Kravchuk. I admire Tymoshenko and hope she'll have a chance to implement her reforms. Unfortunately, she hasn't said much about culture or education.

**So what's to be done about Ukrainian culture and education? When I think back to our own experience as students in the United States, one answer might be to wait for the old guard to pass away and, in the meantime, to develop one's own "counter-culture" and independent educational institutions.**

For me, waiting for the old guard to die out is not an option. Although I know that fundamental change takes time, I'm interested in change in my lifetime. That means forcefully acting now.

**So what can we expect from Ukraine's youth and especially from its students?**

A generation brought up in a democratic and Europe-centered (if not altogether European) context should be better. But everything depends on the values they're raised in, and Ukraine's leave much to be desired. I can just as easily foresee a cynical, nihilistic and opportunistic generation brought up on hybrid neo-Soviet and neo-nationalist values, Russian pop culture, and the daily example of Ukraine's degenerate oligarchs and politicians. The tolerance that Ukrainian students have for corruption in education, bribes and plagiarism isn't very inspiring, is it?

**Krytyka's been in business for 10 years now. Tell us about your adventures and misadventures in the wonderful world of Ukrainian publishing.**

I should note that Krytyka has been a monthly journal since 1997, a publishing house since 1999 and a research outfit (the Krytyka Institute) since 2004. And, at the risk of sounding immodest, we've done well. Krytyka is the premier intellectual journal in the region, read by Ukrainian, Belarusian, Polish and Russian intellectuals. And our authors are among the best names from Europe, North



Prof. George G. Grabowicz

America, Eastern Europe and Ukraine.

**They're pretty wide-ranging too, with articles on current events, interethnic relations, the politics of memory and amnesia, and the arts, among other things.**

We've also published dozens of books – mostly scholarly works on Ukrainian history and culture published jointly with the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. I'm especially proud of "The Open Archive" series, which focuses on some major authors who've never had complete editions of their works.

**I saw the two-volume edition of Volodymyr Svidzinsky's poetry in a few Kyiv bookstores. What else?**

A multi-volume edition of the complete works of the outstanding Ukrainian writer of the 19th century Panteleimon Kulish. One volume has already appeared, and two more should be out shortly.

**You've won a variety of book awards, haven't you?**

Yes, and just last year an independent poll of Ukrainian intellectuals found Krytyka to be the outstanding Ukrainian publishing house.

**All this sounds a tad too optimistic for a severe critic of culture...**

The picture is hardly rosy: we don't have a stable financial base. The Krytyka Institute received some Western funding, primarily from HURI [Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute], for two international conferences – on totalitarianism in Ukraine and on the legacy of Jerzy Giedroyc and the journal *Kultura*. But it can't move forward with its other projects: the scholars are there, but the money isn't. And continually rising costs in Ukraine don't help.

**So you're like so many other Ukrainian cultural institutions: you lack the infrastructure and resources. We've come full circle in our conversation, haven't we?**

It does seem so. But we know what needs to be done, and we're not about to give up: I trust we'll find further support for our activities.



# Ukrainian National Shrine's library marks 25th anniversary

by Pamela White

WASHINGTON – Surely when the first books on Ukraine entered the U.S. Library of Congress in the 1860s, there was a humble and beneficent spirit patiently observing, laying in wait for just the right moment – some 120 years later – to bless and sanctify an established collection of books for the library in the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine (UCNS) of the Holy Family.

Indeed, that very same spirit may likely have been responsible for inspiring a young Ukrainian American, who recognized the importance of focusing on heritage and identity, to dedicate himself to educate, remind, share and inform all who may be interested in Ukraine.

Although this article is not actually about Jurij Dobczansky, the founder of the UCNS library, the 25th anniversary of the library cannot legitimately be celebrated without a tribute both to Mr. Dobczansky and to his wife, Olenka. Together they established and continue today to maintain the UCNS library.

As senior cataloguing specialist and recommending officer for Ukraine at the Library of Congress, Mr. Dobczansky's career was profoundly influenced when he found himself answering questions on the Eastern Rite while growing up in a Roman Catholic school environment: Are you really Catholic? Does Eastern-rite Ukrainian mean you're Russian Orthodox? How can your Church be Catholic if you have married priests?

These questions and more followed him from grade school to his graduate work at the School of Library and Information Sciences at the Catholic University of America. All the while he continued to dream of the day when he would be instrumental in giving people the tools to be able to answer such questions.

That day was preceded by a first attempt of the Marian Sodality (Mariyska

Druzyna) to establish a collection for the UCNS in the 1970s. Led by the late Eugenia Sharko, a group of student volunteers catalogued the first books, assisted by a parents' committee made up of Olha and Basil Nakonechny, Olha and Stephan Kurylas, Alex and Maria Sokil, Michael Dankevych and Ilarion Kalynevych.

By divine contrivance, a hundred books from this first collection were found inside boxes during the parish move from Blagden Avenue to the UCNS present location on Harewood Road. After this move, with the agreement and encouragement of Father Joseph Denischuk (then parish priest), Mr. Dobczansky's plans for a shrine library took form. The former parish library officially re-opened as the UCNS Library in November of 1982.

During the first years of UCNS at the present location, there seemed to be a natural but all-pervasive obsession with completion of the building. It dominated conversations, sermons, fund-raising – just about everything. This focus had a formative effect on Mr. Dobczansky's vision for the library. He knew that more than cinder blocks were necessary for building a parish community. In order for the parish to gain deeper insight into its faith and to develop a greater knowledge of the Ukrainian cultural heritage, the library inside this new building would need more than just the kind of books usually found in a local public library.

After all, the Ukrainian Catholic parish was – and is – unique. It is not a traditional, geographically determined parish. It is not a "neighborhood church." Rather, it is part of the larger Ukrainian American community. Its ties to Ukraine and its link to the real community of Ukrainian Americans make it a cross-cultural Christian community. Those ties are a both a blessing and a challenge. The collection within the library would have to reach both.



A view of the main reading room of the library at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family.

Just as the new shrine building was being completed and the new location was establishing a renewed parish community, preparations were also under way during these early 1980s to celebrate the 1988 Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine. This reawakening of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the homeland happened to coincide with a new development of Ukrainian studies in North America. The resulting new crop of books quickly activated Mr. Dobczansky's insight towards a strategy for including these publications in the library's collection. It would certainly be the most effective strategy for promoting the personal growth of the parish and Ukrainian community.

With every parish penny devoted to the construction of the new building, however, Mr. Dobczansky faced the daunting challenge of securing alternative funding for the purchase of this new crop of publications. As is so frequently the case, necessity became the mother of invention. Two book titles, "Ukrainian Christmas" and "Ukrainian Easter" became the sole source of income for the newly created fledgling library bookstore. Through these sales alone, the library bookstore was gradually able to generate enough cash to purchase more and more titles for resale.

Suddenly, the library's bookstore began to thrive as never before. Customers included visitors to the shrine, as well as parishioners. Eventually, profits included sales from book booths set up at the Ukrainian festivals in Baltimore and Silver Spring, Md. The UCNS Library grew even larger, eventually becoming the book supplier for the Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies.

Today many of the book titles in the library are a direct result of Mr. Dobczansky's personal purchasing power. He has never neglected an opportunity to stop at bookstores during his travels, whether it be to New York, Toronto, Winnipeg, Chicago, Kyiv or Lviv. He has been known to overload his car during family vacations and to request friends traveling to and from Ukraine to be "mules" for the transport of books. He will often have to send packages of books home from Ukraine to avoid carrying more than his share through customs. His thoughtful nature and sincerity over decades of purchasing certainly accounts for some of those trade discounts on new titles.

Donations have been another source for the library's varied collection. Many "visiting parishioners" come to work for

only a few years in the D.C. metropolitan area. Such transience has worked to the library's advantage when these traveling professionals go on to other locations but decide not to take their Ukrainian books with them. Resulting donations have included permanent collections that could otherwise never have been acquired. To honor these invaluable sources for the library's rich array of books, Mr. Dobczansky has compiled a list of donors which he intends to finalize and post on the UCNS website ([www.ucns-holyfamily.org](http://www.ucns-holyfamily.org)).

Ironically, the library recently had to call a moratorium on all donations. The discovery of dozens of cartons of books in storage made it apparent that there is simply no more room in the library, despite its renovation and new bookshelves. The renovation was completed just this past fall and greatly facilitated by select members of the parish community. Each was gratefully acknowledged by Mr. Dobczansky during the UCNS Library Open House in October, including Joseph Chabot, Zenia Choma, Christine Paclawsky, Andrew Pozda, Oksana and Andrew Sorokowski, Olenka Dobczanska and Roman Dobczansky. Loyal and regular volunteers were also gratefully acknowledged: Lon Chuchman, Andrew Hetmanky and John Kun.

The success of the library and bookstore owes much to the curiosity of parishioners and visitors alike, both desiring to learn more about Ukraine, the Eastern Rite and the Catholic faith. New paint on the walls, a table for study and chairs for seating truly make the library a welcoming addition to the shrine's ground floor, where there is also a gift shop, a great hall and stage for rental, and a small chapel for divine liturgy during the weekdays.

Those who have never visited the shrine are welcome every Sunday to step over the threshold of the UCNS Library door and enter a world of knowledge, history, culture, politics and memoirs. There are also maps, children's books, art books and even a modest collection of movies.

Jurij Dobczansky has surely succeeded in fulfilling his dream.

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For more information on the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family, contact 202-526-3737. The shrine is located at 4250 Harewood Road, NE Washington, DC 20017



## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM THE UKRAINIAN MUSEUM





The Museum gift shop carries art books, exhibition catalogues, greeting cards, ceramics, woodcarvings, woven items, embroideries, jewelry, Christmas tree ornaments, and works by Ukrainian artists.

Beautifully illustrated children's books from Ukraine (including the complete Harry Potter series), embroidered children's shirts, teddy bears, and dolls are available.

Richly illustrated exhibition publications make wonderful gifts:

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*The Tree of Life, the Sun, the Goddess*  
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*Ukrainian Modernism, 1910-1930*  
*Thread to the Past*

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# Parish in Hillside, N.J., celebrates golden jubilee

by Joe Shatynski

HILLSIDE, N.J. – Parishioners, clergy and friends of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic parish in Hillside, N.J. gathered in church on Sunday, October 14, to celebrate its golden jubilee – a story over 50 years in the making.

The celebration began at 10:30 a.m. with a pontifical divine liturgy presided over by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka and concelebrated by the following Ukrainian Catholic clergy: the Rev. Joseph Szupa (pastor, Hillside and Elizabeth, N.J.), the Rev. Andrij Rabyj (Philadelphia), the Rev. Thaddeus Krawczuk (Mt. Carmel, Pa.), the Rev. Leonard Ratuszniak (Winnipeg, Manitoba), the Rev. Vasyi Vladyka (Carteret, N.J.) and the Rev. Dmytro Dnistrian (Newark, N.J.). Msgr. Venantius Fernando of Christ the King Roman Catholic Parish in Hillside also concelebrated the divine liturgy.

Parish trustees Joseph Shatynski and Michael Szyhulsky greeted the metropolitan with the traditional bread and salt once the procession arrived at the tetrapod, and several of the parish children presented him with roses.

The children of the parish read the Epistle eloquently – Andrij Shatynski in Ukrainian and Sonya Khedr in English.

The congregation sang under the direction of Thomas Dochych and George Shuhan.

Metropolitan Soroka delivered a very touching homily, speaking of the very special place that the Hillside parish has in his heart, as this was the first parish that he visited after his installation as metropolitan-archbishop of Philadelphia.

After a beautifully uplifting divine liturgy, clergy, parishioners and friends traveled a few minutes down the road to the Galloping Hill Inn in Union, N.J., which the golden jubilee banquet began. Mr. Szyhulsky served as emcee. Trustees Emeritus Walter Lysak and John Shatynski greeted the metropolitan with the traditional bread and salt, and the Rev. Szupa, pastor, gave the benediction and toast.

A special surprise came when Hillside Councilman Frank Deo announced October 14 as “Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church Day” in Hillside Township. Mr. Deo also read a proclamation from the Hillside Township governing body.

A rich artistic program blended the talents of parish children, a dance ensemble from Whippany, N.J., and parishioners. The Iskra dance ensemble set the mood by welcoming all with a “Pryvit” and several other engaging dance numbers by its youngest members. Many of the parish children belong to Iskra and were thrilled to be performing before their home community.

The youngest parish children captured

the hearts of all when they sang several religious songs and a very special song written by Christine Khedr. Titled “We the children of the parish have come to visit you,” the song was written specifically for the 50th anniversary celebration, capturing the children’s love of their Hillside parish.

Odarka Polanskyj Stockert provided a musical interlude on the harp. The audience was deeply touched by her first song, “Mary of Graces,” and by the second song, “We are Gathered Together,” in which the parish children joined Ms. Stockert in singing.

The Rev. Krawczuk delivered the main address, “A Reflection on the Early Years of the Parish,” in which he traced the parish’s first 25 years in a detailed manner – complemented by humor – beginning with Bishop Constantine Bohachevsky of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Philadelphia signing the certificate of incorporation of Immaculate Conception Church on August 22, 1957. He spoke of the tremendous spirit, generosity and energy that this small parish has had from its inception.

Joseph Shatynski provided a visual presentation reflecting on the parish’s second 25 years. His talk highlighted the unique aspects of the Hillside parish’s history. In particular, he spoke of the parish’s: lead role in erecting a monument on the gravesite of Father Nestor Dmytriw (the first Ukrainian Catholic priest to celebrate divine liturgy in Canada) at Evergreen Cemetery in Hillside during 1985; spiritual and outreach programs relating to the Millennium celebrations of Ukrainian Christianity during 1988; extremely strong Catechesis program; role in sharing the “Message of Garabandal” during 2005 (i.e., personal accounts of the mystery of the Blessed Virgin Mary as she appeared in Garabandal, Spain); and six-year preparation for the 50th anniversary.

The day allowed all to share in fellowship and become spiritually uplifted. Special thanks were offered to the parish’s past and current pastors.

Msgr. Fernando of Christ the King Roman Catholic Parish in Hillside later commented in his parish bulletin on the “beautiful liturgy, ... beautiful cultural program, ... and enjoying the warmth and hospitality of the pastor and the people of the parish and the very pleasant company of the Most. Rev. Stefan Soroka, their archbishop and the good priests.”

The Hillside parish expressed its sincere gratitude to Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union for its very generous gift to the parish and for sponsoring the entertainment, as well as to Lytwyn & Lytwyn Union Funeral Home and Gowney Funeral Home for their donations.

Many parishioners commented that the memory of this golden jubilee would remain deeply imbedded in their hearts and souls.



The 50th anniversary celebration officially begins as parish children, parishioners, altar boys, clergy and Metropolitan-Archbishop Soroka process into Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hillside, N.J.



Parish children sing religious songs and a special song written specifically for the Hillside parish’s 50th anniversary.



Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka blesses the congregation with the Trikerion (three candles joined together to honor the Trinity) and Dikerion (two candles joined together to honor the two natures of Jesus).



The Iskra dance ensemble delights the crowd with its Hopak.



## “Song of Ukraine” concert supports training of Ukrainian physicians

by Roman Mykytyn

GLENDALE, Calif. – On the afternoon of November 4, Ukrainian Americans from all around southern California gathered at the historic Alex Theater in Glendale for a very special event: “a musical tribute to Ukraine and its people.” The Ukrainian Culture Center of Los Angeles and the Ukrainian National Choir Kobzar presented “Song of Ukraine.”

The event raised funds for a joint project between the California Association to Aid Ukraine and Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Fund. These two important organizations are combining efforts to support the advanced training of medical doctors from Ukraine for the Children’s Hospital of the Future in Kyiv.

Taking part in the concert were the 70-member-strong Ukrainian National Choir Kobzar and the Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra, consisting of 65 musicians. Kobzar, whose members primarily reside in the greater Los Angeles and San Diego areas, also included participants from as far away as Illinois and Georgia.

The choir’s director, Gregory Hallick, artistically arranged and orchestrated the music, allowing these normally a cappella choral works to be supported by a large symphony orchestra. Mr. Hallick, who began his musical studies at a very early age under the tutelage of his father, the Very Rev. Stephen Hallick, commenced his conducting studies at West Chester State Teachers College in Pennsylvania, continuing under various Ukrainian directors such as Dmytro Yakubenko, Petro Kondratenko and Yuri Kolesnyk of the Kyiv Opera Chorus and Orchestra. In addition, Mr. Hallick has studied composition and arrangement under Maestro Paul Bateman of the Royal Philharmonic of London, England.

The Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra, under the leadership of its music director and conductor, Ivan Shulman, is one of the oldest community orchestras in the United States and still presents regular concerts. Its origin is in the health professions, and a number of its members are physicians, dentists or allied health professional women and men in medicine and other healing arts.

The afternoon event was hosted by well-known film and television actor George Dzundza, himself a Ukrainian



Director Gregor Hallick, guest soloists Vasyl Nechepa and Stephan Szkafarowsky, the Kobzar Choir and the Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra on stage at the Alex Theater.

American. Mr. Dzundza, who has had major roles in films and television for more than 30 years, expertly guided the program with aplomb and humor.

The program began with a reading in Ukrainian of a “pryvit,” or welcome, from Kateryna Yushchenko, the first lady of Ukraine and chairperson of Ukraine 3000, by Mykola Tochytskyi, consul general of Ukraine in San Francisco. The letter was also read in English by Mr. Dzundza.

Ms. Yushchenko’s greeting highlighted the extremely important work that this concert was supporting in raising the level of medical care offered to children throughout Ukraine. She acknowledged the contributions of everyone involved in making this event possible, including the members of the Ukrainian American community who came out to support the fundraiser.

The musical portion of the program commenced with the national anthems of both the United States and Ukraine, followed by works by noted composers such as Mykola Lysenko, Stanislav Liudkevych and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, among others. Guest soloist Stefan Szkafarowsky, bass, of New York’s Metropolitan Opera performed a number of pieces, including “Taras’s Aria” from the opera “Taras Bulba” and a memorable “Ol’ Man River” from the musical “Showboat.”

Tenor and Ukrainian bandurist Vasyl Nechepa offered several songs, accompanying himself on the kobza.

Messrs. Szkafarowsky and Nechepa also were featured as soloists in a powerful rendition by Kobzar’s all-male voices of the Ukrainian folk song “Play My Bandura,” which brought the audience to its feet.

The “Medley of Kolomyikas,” which immediately followed and was performed by the full choir and orchestra, had everyone tapping their toes to the lively uplifting beat.

Orest Sushko deftly played a medley of songs on the traditional Ukrainian “tsymbaly,” dedicating his performance to his late grandfather, who was also his mentor. Mr. Sushko’s performance was rewarded with long and hearty



Vasyl Nechepa plays the kobza.

applause.

Soloists John Jewell (tenor), Ludmilla Honchariw-Simon (alto) and Christine Marie Linton (soprano) also appeared during the course of the program. Individually and as an ensemble, their lyrical performances added to the excitement that permeated the concert hall.

Other highlights included Vasyl Yemet’s stirring “For the Republic,” skillfully arranged and executed with gusto by the choir and orchestra, Liudkevych’s “In the

Meadow,” as well as Kyrilo Stetsenko’s tribute to the great Ukrainian bard, “Shevchenko.”

With the participation of the choir, orchestra and soloists, the concert concluded with a highly moving performance of “Poem for Ukraine,” arranged by Gregory Hallick and dedicated to the millions of Ukrainians who were impacted by the ravages of World War II. The audience stood and gave the performers a standing ovation with cries of “More! More!”



Tsymbalist Orest Sushko performs.



# Life and career of Jack Palance remembered at Ukrainian Institute of America

by Helen Smindak

NEW YORK – Moviegoers around the world remember him as an all-around tough guy, a heavy, an assassin, a killer – the embodiment of true grit.

Today's generation recalls him best as the gruff trail boss Curly Washburn in the 1991 comedy drama "City Slickers" and remember his infamous one-armed push-ups when he accepted the Best Supporting Actor Award at the 1992 Oscar Awards ceremonies.

Television viewers cheered his powerful Emmy Award-winning performance in Rod Serling's "Requiem for a Heavyweight." Broadway audiences applauded his superb acting in the play "Darkness at Noon."

Ukrainians know Jack Palance as a staunch defender of his Ukrainian ancestry, a man who held a bandura on his knee while singing "Vziav By Ya Banduru" to the accompaniment of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus at a patriotic Toronto rally, a man who took part in Ukrainian American festivals, visited Harvard's Chair of Ukrainian Studies, recited a poem in Ukrainian at the unveiling of the Shevchenko statue in Washington, visited Soyuzivka with fellow Ukrainian American actor Mike Mazurki and was named Man of the Year by the Ukrainian Institute of America in 1986.

Before his acting career took off, Mr. Palance worked as a coal miner and a professional prizefighter; between early acting assignments, he worked odd jobs – short-order cook, waiter, soda jerk, lifeguard and model. For much of his life, he enjoyed painting abstract landscapes and writing free verse.

Mr. Palance was a man of many talents, a multi-faceted personality whose accom-

plishments garnered numerous trophies and prizes, including the Oscar, Emmy and Golden Globe awards, as well as induction in 1992 into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.

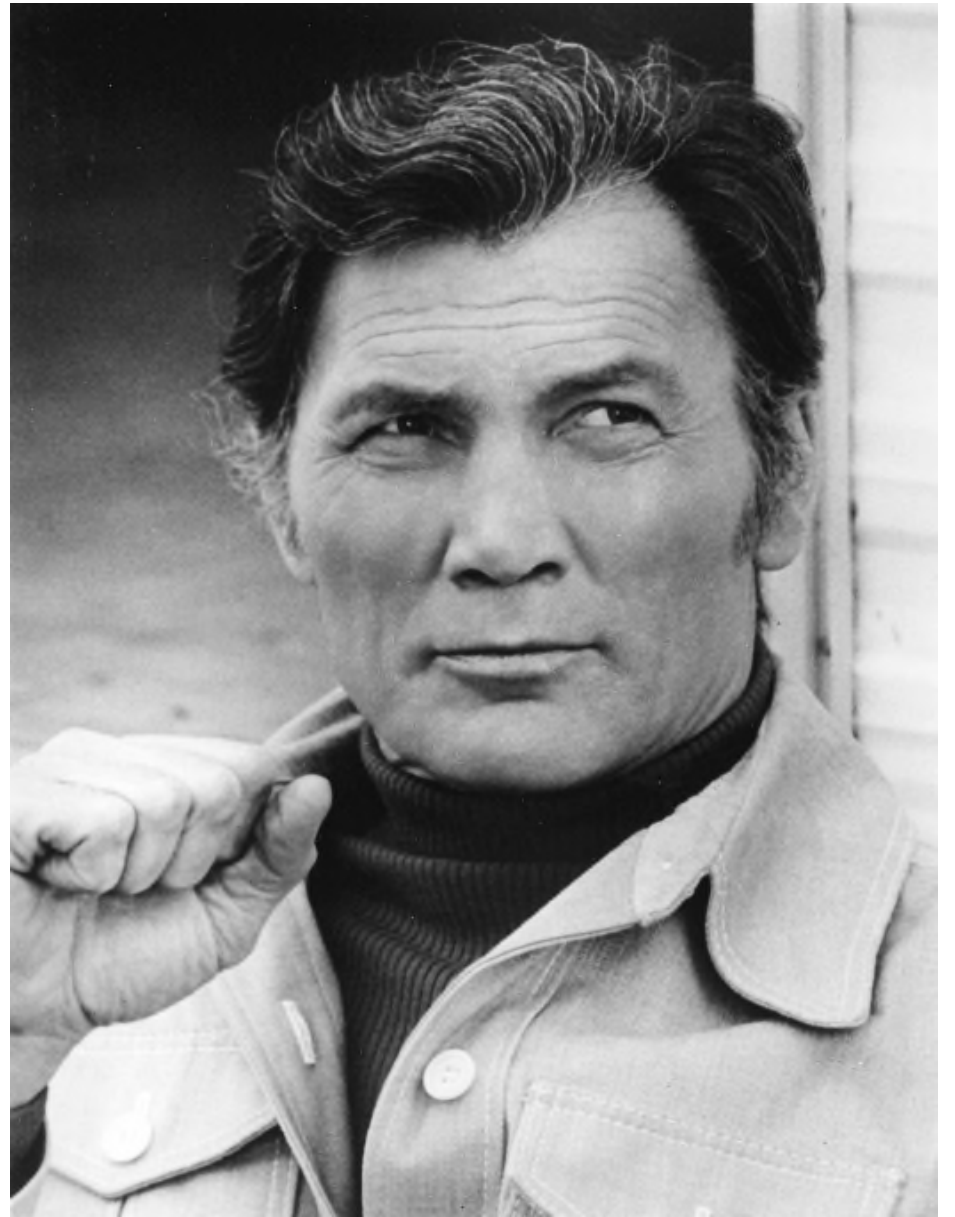
His personal life and long career were remembered last month during a two-day tribute at the Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA), exactly one year after the actor's death on November 10, 2006. The commemoration was sponsored by the UIA and the Hollywood Trident Foundation, an organization chaired by Mr. Palance since its founding in 1992 with the basic purpose of raising the media profile of Ukraine.

At the initial event – an elegant cocktail reception attended by his widow, Elaine Rogers Palance, and his longtime good friend Peter Borisow, who flew in from California for the tribute – honorary Ukrainian Institute of America memberships were presented to Ms. Palance and to Holly Spottiswoode and Brooke Wilding, the actor's daughters from his first marriage.

A collection of larger-than-life promotional movie posters lined the walls of the institute galleries, portraying Jack Palance in many of the 89 films in which he appeared.

Presenting the awards, the UIA's former President Walter Nazarewicz, who chaired the tribute committee, told Ms. Palance that the memberships were bestowed by the institute's board of directors in memory of the late actor.

Ms. Palance accepted the awards for both herself and for Ms. Spottiswoode and Ms. Wilding, who were unable to attend, saying she was honored to receive an award for Jack. "No one has impacted my life more than Jack Palance," she declared. "I



Jack Palance



Ukrainian Institute of America President Jaroslav Kryshchalsky (left) and Hollywood Trident Foundation Chairman Peter Borisow at the Jack Palance tribute.



Palance fan Lilya Buchynska and UIA President Jaroslav Kryshchalsky pose with Olympic skating champion Oksana Baiul and Ted Dzus, grandson of UIA founder William Dzus, and his wife, Carol Dzus.

think my life with Jack was blessed; it's been infused with Ukrainian spirit."

Mr. Borisow, president of Media Finance Management LLC in Los Angeles, spoke of Mr. Palance's dedicated work as chairman of the Hollywood Trident Foundation, and stressed his close friend's strong determination to stand up for his Ukrainian heritage. Former president and CEO, and now chairman of the Hollywood Trident Foundation, Mr. Borisow described a Los Angeles event touted as a Russian-Ukrainian film festival, which planned to honor Mr. Palance. As events unfolded, he said, it became clear that festival officials were planning to honor Jack Palance, the actor "from Mother Russia."

"Jack got up and said, I feel like a guy who walked into the wrong party. I'm not Russian, I'm Ukrainian. With all due respect to your Russian movies, I'm leaving." Mr. Borisow said that Mr. Palance walked out with a small group of friends, in front of thousands of people – "it takes a lot

of courage, a lot of moxie to do that; I don't think Jack was afraid of anything." He said news of the incident spread around the world, inspiring pride in Ukrainians everywhere they lived.

He said Mr. Palance often recounted stories of his father, known as Big John the Coal Miner because of his height and size, who used to read a Ukrainian newspaper to his young son every day. "Jack knew how to read and write Ukrainian; he was up to date on the Orange Revolution and current events in Ukraine."

### Recollections of the actor's life

On the following evening, the career and personal life of Mr. Palance were retraced in an hourlong film biography originally shown on the A&E cable channel, acquainting viewers with the actor's progress from his early years as Volodymyr John Palahniuk, who grew up on a farm in

(Continued on page 26)



Elaine Rogers Palance speaks with Helen Smindak.



## Ukrainians in Philadelphia support Ukrainian National Information Service

by Serhiy Zhykharev

*Ukrainian National Information Service*

PHILADELPHIA – In what has become an annual tradition in the Philadelphia area, a fund-raiser for the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) was held on Sunday, November 4, at the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center.

Led by the Philadelphia branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), over 50 people donated their time, effort and funds to help the UNIS office continue its major role and function of promoting the interests of the Ukrainian American community in Washington.

The event began with opening remarks by Ihor Kusznir, chairman of the Philadelphia UCCA branch, who said, "I'd like to thank all the various Ukrainian organizations of the greater

Philadelphia which are represented here today for our traditional UNIS fund-raiser in celebration of UNIS' 30th anniversary of service to the Ukrainian American community." He offered "a special thanks to the Self-Reliance Credit Union in Philadelphia for their commitment to many of our projects, in particular, funding for the Holodomor high school curriculum for the Pennsylvania school districts."

Several speakers addressed the fund-raiser. Michael Sawkiw Jr., president of the UCCA, spoke about UNIS' role in the upcoming commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933, in particular as a pivotal player in the law designating federal land to build a memorial in Washington to the victims of the Ukrainian Genocide. "Our aim at UNIS," said Mr. Sawkiw, "is to promote the Ukrainian Genocide for all of American society to know, whether it

be through a memorial in Washington, D.C., through genocide curriculum in our high schools; or, through a march along New York City streets to gain public awareness and attention to this little-known genocide."

Mr. Sawkiw also spoke about the upcoming U.S. presidential race and its impact on U.S. foreign policy vis-à-vis Ukraine, as well as the current situation in Ukraine.

Audience members also added to the discussion by asking pertinent questions pertaining to worldwide recognition of the Holodomor as genocide of the Ukrainian nation, including the recent UNESCO resolution, and the future outlook for U.S.-Ukraine relations.

Myron Soltyz of the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics presented a generous donation in the amount of \$2,000 to the Ukrainian National Information Service.

The Philadelphia UCCA branch's choir, Akkolada, under the direction of Bohdan Gengalo, also sang a few selections for the occasion.

Dr. Alexander Lushnycky also addressed the participants and presented his new book, "Ukrainians of Greater Philadelphia." The author described the tremendous Ukrainian American community in Philadelphia and its many accomplishments since the first Ukrainian immigrants settled and organized themselves in the City of Brotherly Love. "Unlike other books, the "Ukrainians of Greater Philadelphia" is a photographic-montage depicting the Ukrainian American community's life in the greater Philadelphia area. Pictures say more than words, thus my intent was to show through pictures the richness and uniqueness of the Ukrainian American community in Philadelphia," stated the author.

## Shevchenko Scientific Society begins medical lecture series in NYC

NEW YORK – The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) initiated its 2007-2008 medical lecture series on October 20 with a presentation titled "The Death of Alexander Litvinenko: Understanding the Health Effects of Polonium 210 Exposure." Dr. Lesia Kushnir, head of the medical section of NTSh, introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Borys Mychalczak, associate professor and chief of radiation oncology at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Westchester, N.Y.

Mr. Litvinenko was a former lieutenant in the Russian Federation's security service and sought political asylum in the United Kingdom in 2000. In 2006 he accused Russia's President Vladimir Putin of complicity in the murder of journalist and outspoken critic Anna Politkovskaya. On November 1, 2006, Mr. Litvinenko met with former KGB agents at the Millennium Hotel in London, where he drank some tea and fell ill shortly thereafter. On November 3 he was hospitalized and by the 11th he was seriously ill. He died on November 23, after 22 days of suffering. His death at age 43 was attributed to radiation poisoning from Polonium 210.



At the Shevchenko Scientific Society (from left) are: Dr. Borys Mychalczak, Dr. Lesia Kushnir, Dr. Roman Andrushkiw and Dr. Orest Popovych.

Polonium was the first element discovered by the Curies in 1898. All 25 isotopes are radioactive. Tissue damage is caused if Polonium 210 is internalized, such as by ingestion or breathing, Dr.

Mychalczak related. Cellular damage is largely irreversible and is dose- and time-related, affecting all cells. Acute radiation syndrome mimics symptoms of an acute digestive illness along with bleed-

ing and dehydration. Ultimately, death can ensue due to destruction of the immune system and blood forming elements. Late effects from cellular mutation can cause leukemia or other cancers in five to 20 years after exposure to Polonium 210.

Dr. Mychalczak concluded his fascinating lecture by taking questions from an enthusiastic audience which continued discussions with the speaker well into the informal reception that followed.

Future lectures on medical topics are planned by the Shevchenko Society's medical section and will be announced in The Ukrainian Weekly. The public is invited to attend.

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Dr. Mychalczak delivered his presentation on the Litvinenko case also on December 2 at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, where his talk was sponsored by the Arts, Culture and Education Committee of the Whippany-based UACCNJ and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, New York/New Jersey Metro branch.

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## UABA becomes 50th member of U.S.-Ukraine Business Council

WASHINGTON – The Executive Committee of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC) announced on November 29 that it has approved the Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) as the 50th member of the USUBC.

The Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) is a professional legal association of U.S. judges, attorneys and law students of Ukrainian descent and those with an interest in Ukrainian matters. The affiliate membership of the UABA includes Ukrainian and Canadian attorneys, Supreme Court and District Court judges and prosecutors from Ukraine, as well as members of the Ukrainian Parliament.

The UABA Scholarship Fund was established in the 1980s to provide financial assistance to qualified law students from the United States and Ukraine and since its inception has granted numerous scholarships. The UABA Scholarship Fund also funded a separate scholarship with the Georgetown University Law Center.

The UABA was established in 1977 to promote human rights and to defend dissidents in Ukraine during the Soviet era, and to work more closely with the Ukrainian community and Ukrainian organizations. Since Ukraine's independence, the UABA has taken an active legal role in Ukraine by promoting democracy, constitutional reforms, commercial law projects and the rule of law.

The UABA provides legal assistance to the Embassy of Ukraine and consular offices in the U.S., participated in the formation of the World Congress of Ukrainian Jurists and assists in lobbying efforts with the U.S. Congress on behalf of Ukraine and the Ukrainian American community.

The UABA has developed a strong working relationship with the American and Ukrainian legal and business communities. UABA members represent U.S. businesses in the complexities of the Ukrainian legal system, as well as Ukrainians and others living in the U.S. with legal matters in Ukraine. UABA members also represent Ukrainian inter-

ests in the United States, including commercial transactions, civil litigation, immigration and many other legal matters.

The UABA is the 28th new member for the USUBC this year. The 27 other new members are: American Continental Group, LLC, Atlantic Group, Bracewell & Giuliani, LLP, Bunge North America, Cardinal Resources, Cisco Systems, The Coca-Cola Co., The Eurasia Foundation, Holtec International, Int'l Environmental Trading Group, Kennan Institute, Kyiv-Atlantic Group of Companies, Marathon Oil Corp., Marks and Sokolov, LLC, Northrop Grumman, Open World Leadership Center, Shell Oil Co., TD International, LLC, The State Export-Import Bank of Ukraine, U.S. Civilian Research Development Foundation, U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, Ukrainian American Environmental Association, Ukrainian Development Co., Vanco Energy Co., Law Offices of Charles H. Camp, Ukrainian Federation of America and UPS.



## Tidewater Ukrainians mark 75th anniversary of Holodomor

by Nadia Hoots  
and Wolodymyr Melnitchouk

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. – On November 3 the Tidewater Ukrainian Cultural Association (TUCA) in Hampton Roads, Va., commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor. The commemoration took place in the Virginia Beach Central Library and was very well attended, attracting over 50 Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians from the local area and from as far away as Richmond.

The program opened with a panakhida, or requiem service, by the Rev. Taras Lonchyna from the Holy Trinity Particular Ukrainian Catholic Church in Silver Spring, Md., in memory of the men, women and children who lost their lives during the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

Nadia Hoots, TUCA president, gave a brief history of the Holodomor and introduced the special guest speaker, Rostyslav Wasylenko of New Jersey, who lived through the Famine. Mr. Wasylenko, 87, was born in Kyiv, where

he completed his studies at the renowned Ivan Franko Theatrical Studio. In 2002 he received the title "Honored Artist of Ukraine" from then Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. He is also the author of the book "A Life With and Without Makeup." Mr. Wasylenko gave an insightful and passionate speech about the events of the Holodomor, and his own experiences.

The ceremony ended with the lighting of black candles and a moment of silence in memory of those who perished in the Famine-Genocide, followed by a stirring rendition of the Ukrainian national anthem.

Following the ceremony, the participants were able to view a display of art work by local Ukrainian artist Elaine Hampton, featuring her unique "Madonnas" icons, presented in honor of the lost lives of the Holodomor.

A reporter from the local Virginia Pilot newspaper was also on hand to interview Mr. Wasylenko and several of the attendees at the service for an upcoming article about the event.



Some of the participants of the TUCA Holodomor commemoration (from left): Lucy Halunko, Wolodymyr Melnitchouk, Liudmyla Havrylenko, guest speaker Rostyslav Wasylenko, Oksana Makowiec, Olena Hanenko, Elaine Hampton, Andy Grynewytsch and Nadia Hoots.

## Seminar on Famine-Genocide held at University of Alberta



EDMONTON, Alberta – An expanded seminar on the Holodomor, the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, took place at the University of Alberta in Edmonton on Tuesday, November 13. The event was sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies. Liudmyla Hrynevych (left) and Mykola Ryabchuk (right) spoke at the seminar. Ms. Hrynevych read a paper titled "Imposed Amnesia: The Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Official Policy of Remembrance and Historical Writings," while Mr. Ryabchuk spoke on the Famine in official commemorations and politics since Ukraine's independence.

– Andriy Makuch

## Town proclamation recognizes Holodomor



HANOVER TOWNSHIP, N.J. – Local Ukrainians attended Hanover Township's Town Council Meeting on Monday, November 19, during which the council's proclamation recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, or Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, was read. The proclamation was then presented to community members led by Michael Koziupa, president of the Morris County branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, and the Rt. Rev. Roman Mirchuk, pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Whippany, N.J. Seen above are: (front row, from left) Zorian Kovbasniuk, Roman Bura, (second row) Markian Hadzewycz, Mayor Ronald Francioli, Mr. Koziupa, Roman Kovbasniuk and Alex Kleban.

## Ukraine 3000 presents new edition of Conquest's 'The Harvest of Sorrow'

KYIV – The Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Fund on November 9 presented a new Ukrainian-language edition of Dr. Robert Conquest's landmark book "The Harvest of Sorrow: Soviet Collectivization and the Terror-Famine."

Kateryna Yushchenko, first lady of Ukraine, is the head of the supervisory board of Ukraine 3000. Speaking at the book launch, she noted: "I thank Dr. Robert Conquest for being among the first to tell the world the truth about the man-made Famine, systematically organized by the Stalin regime."

"I assure you that I personally, along with my husband and the Ukraine 3000 Fund I head, as well as the whole conscientious patriotic Ukrainian community, will do everything to bring back from

oblivion every soul killed in the Famine," Mrs. Yushchenko said.

Other participants in the event, held at the residence of the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, were Ambassador William Taylor, writer and political/cultural activist Yevhen Sverstiuk, the translator of the book into Ukrainian, Zoryna Korablina, and the director of Teren Publishers, Andrii Kryshchalsky.

"The Harvest of Sorrow" was first published in 1986. The first Ukrainian-language edition of the book appeared in 1993.

Copies of the new Ukrainian edition released by Teren Publishers are to be sent to libraries in every oblast of Ukraine. The publication was funded by Ukraine 3000 in observance of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor.



U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor, holding a copy of "The Harvest of Sorrow," speaks at the launch of a new Ukrainian-language edition of Dr. Robert Conquest's book.



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# EXHIBIT IN KYIV: 'Holodomor Through the Eyes of Ukrainian Artists'

KYIV – The collection “Holodomor Through the Eyes of Ukrainian Artists” was on display in Kyiv to mark the 75th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. The exhibit featured more than 75 works of art depicting the Holodomor. Morgan Williams, president of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council and Washington-based director of government affairs for the Sigma Bleyzer Emerging Markets Private Equity Group, is the trustee of the collection. On this page are reproductions of some of the exhibited works.



President Viktor Yushchenko and First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko at the exhibit with Morgan Williams. In the background are paintings by Ukrainian American artist Anatole Kolomayets of Chicago: “Journey into the Unknown 1932-1933” (2002), “In Search of Bread” (2002) and “Famine in Ukraine 1932-1933” (2002).



“Year 1933” (1953) by Victor Cymbal of New York.



“Memoirs of My Own Life” (2004) by Eugenia Sakevych-Dallas of Los Angeles.



“Ukraine, Breadbasket of Europe 1933; 7 Million Starved by Moscow” (1983) by Roksolana Lushchakivska-Armstrong of Dallas.



“Despot’s Commandments” (1991) by Lydia Bodnar-Balahutruk of Dallas.



“1933” (1963) by Mykhailo Dmytrenko of the U.S.



“Collectivization in Ukraine” (1983) by Nadia Somko of the U.S.



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## NEWSBRIEFS ...

(Continued from page 2)

pitalized, and a third the following day  
killed five more. Mr. Yanukovich, who  
visited Donetsk on December 3, did not  
rule out the closure of the coal mine in  
order to prevent further casualties, but  
warned it might cause major economic  
problems. Mr. Yanukovich said that the  
Zasiadko mine produces 3 million tons of  
coal annually, while Ukraine still has a  
deficit of around 6 million tons a year.  
(RFE/RL Newsline)

### OSCE commemorates Holodomor

MADRID - Meeting in the Spanish  
capital, the Council of Ministers of the  
Organization for Security and  
Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on  
November 30 approved a joint statement  
titled "About the 75th anniversary of the  
1932-1933 Great Famine in Ukraine,"  
RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on  
November 30, commemorating the victims  
of the events orchestrated by the  
regime of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin.  
The document acknowledges the efforts  
undertaken in recent years toward raising  
awareness of the Famine, including in the  
United Nations, its specialized agencies,  
and in the OSCE's member-states. The  
document also welcomes Ukraine's  
efforts to hold events devoted to the 75th  
anniversary of the Famine, as well as the  
participation in these events of the  
OSCE's member-states. (RFE/RL  
Newsline)

### Baltic Assembly statement on Famine

KYIV - The Baltic Assembly has  
adopted a statement "On  
Commemorating Victims of Genocide  
and Political Repression in Ukraine in  
1932 to 1933," made public on  
November 27 by the Latvian bulletin, the  
Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry's  
spokesperson Andrii Deschytzia said. He  
noted that the Baltic Assembly expressed  
sympathy with the Ukrainian nation  
regarding the moral and physical  
onslaught on Ukrainians and declared the  
Holodomor in Ukraine as an act of geno-  
cide against humanity. The Baltic  
Assembly is an international organization  
composed of representatives of  
Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.  
(Ukrinform)

### Czech Parliament on Holodomor

KYIV - The Czech Parliament adopt-  
ed a resolution recognizing the  
Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine as  
genocide of the Ukrainian people, the  
press service of the Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Ukraine reported on  
December 1. The instrument notes that  
the tragedy was deliberately and purpose-  
fully initiated by the criminal totalitarian  
regime of Stalin to suppress rebellion of  
the Ukrainian people against forced col-  
lectivization and annihilate its national  
dignity. (Ukrinform)

### U.S. slams Russian allegations

MADRID - Speaking in Madrid on  
November 28, U.S. Undersecretary of  
State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns  
called "preposterous" President Vladimir  
Putin's recent claim that the State  
Department was behind the decision by  
the Office for Democratic Institutions  
and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the  
Organization for Security and  
Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) not to  
send an election observer team to Russia,  
news agencies reported. Mr. Burns  
argued that "it was clear to everybody in  
Vienna at the OSCE that Russia had bro-  
ken precedence, that Russia had inflicted  
upon the OSCE, or impressed upon the  
OSCE, conditions for the monitors that  
were unworkable, [and] that it was the

first country in memory over the last 15  
years to demand the types of conditions  
that would make it impossible for  
ODIHR to act." He added that a Russian  
draft proposal on reducing the OSCE's  
vote-monitoring "would severely weaken  
and undermine ODIHR. And I know that  
some of the co-sponsors are Uzbekistan  
and Belarus, and I know Kazakhstan is.  
We think it's very unfortunate that those  
countries developed this proposal. We are  
absolutely opposed to it." The U.S. offi-  
cial stressed that "we will not compro-  
mise." The OSCE's ministerial council  
met in Madrid on November 29-30. Mr.  
Burns said that the U.S. delegation would  
hold talks during those days with its  
Russian counterpart, which is headed by  
Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. On  
November 28 the daily Kommersant  
wrote that Messrs. Lavrov and Putin have  
recently dealt a blow to relations with  
Washington by "outlining the concept of  
a foreign conspiracy against Russia's  
elections, with the OSCE acting as the  
contractor and the Bush administration as  
the client." (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Putin warns against interference...

MOSCOW - President Vladimir Putin  
said at a reception for the heads of for-  
eign diplomatic missions on November  
28 that Russia is determined to take its  
place among the major powers of the  
world and will not tolerate any attempts  
from the outside to "correct" its domestic  
political development, kremlin.ru report-  
ed. He pledged that the upcoming parlia-  
mentary elections will be "honest...,  
transparent and open as possible, without  
organizational failures and problems," in  
a possible dig at the United States, where  
the 2000 presidential election was riddled  
with organizational difficulties. He point-  
ed out that "Russia is one of the world's  
10 largest economies." Mr. Putin argued  
that Moscow seeks to solve international  
problems through the "honest and direct  
dialogue... that I called for [in] Munich in  
February" in a speech that many Western  
observers, however, considered bellicose  
and anti-American. Using a favorite term  
of America's European critics, Mr. Putin  
on November 28 called for "multi-polar-  
ity" in world affairs and defended his  
tough policies on "missile defense, the  
Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty  
and the Intermediate Nuclear Forces  
Treaty" as contributing to "strategic sta-  
bility." He rarely mentioned the United  
States by name but made it clear indirect-  
ly that Washington remains Moscow's  
chief priority. He stressed the importance  
of international cooperation against ter-  
rorism, arguing that "Russia felt the  
effects of this threat long before...  
September 11, 2001, [through] large-  
scale aggression by international terror-  
ists in Chechnya and Daghestan." In a  
possible allusion to the 1997 book "The  
Grand Chessboard" by U.S. strategic  
expert Zbigniew Brzezinski, President  
Putin warned that Russia's first priority is  
its relations with the CIS countries,  
which are not "a 'chessboard' on which  
geopolitical games are played out." He  
called the European Union an "important  
partner for Russia," noting that "we  
understand the difficulties the EU is  
going through and are confident that life  
will put everything in its place." He  
hailed "most importantly, the intensive  
bilateral relations" between Russia and  
some individual EU member-states. Mr.  
Putin has been criticized by many in the  
EU for trying to split the bloc by avoid-  
ing dealing with the EU as a whole and  
concentrating on making deals with indi-  
vidual Western European countries.  
(RFE/RL Newsline)

(Continued on page 19)



## NEWSBRIEFS ...

(Continued from page 18)

...calls for Russian NGOs to work in U.S.

MOSCOW – In one of his few explicit references to the United States in his November 28 speech, President Vladimir Putin suggested that unnamed Russian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should “be able to work in... the United States and other countries in an environment as comfortable as that which we provide for their counterparts working in Russia,” kremlin.ru reported. He did not mention that his government has harassed or shut down many NGOs through tough legislation. The daily Vremya Novostei noted ironically on November 29 that Mr. Putin effectively announced on November 28 that Russia wants to export its defense of human rights. The paper recalled that Mr. Putin first floated the idea of setting up a joint “Russian-European institute for freedom and democracy” at the Russia-European Union summit in October in Portugal. Western human rights organizations and official agencies quickly dismissed the proposal as politically motivated and “not serious.” Vremya Novostei pointed out on November 29 that the Russian president is simply reviving an old Soviet propaganda technique by claiming that his country can help protect human rights abroad. The daily recalled that the Soviet authorities sought to spread the view among their citizens that human rights are not respected in the West and that Moscow must act to help the oppressed. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Harsh assessment of Duma vote

MOSCOW – At a press conference in Moscow on December 3, Goran Lennmarker, the chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said the December 2 legislative elections did not comply with OSCE standards, RFE/RL’s Russian Service and other media reported. He said the elections did not meet the obligations Russia has undertaken in the OSCE and the Council of Europe. Mr. Lennmarker said the merging of the government bureaucracy and the United Russia party amounts to an abuse of office. He added that the state-controlled media was clearly biased in favor of United Russia; that new election legislation has resulted in reduced competition; and that opposition parties were harassed and prevented from campaigning. Luc van der Brande, who headed the observer mission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), told journalists that President Vladimir Putin’s decision to run for Parliament while still serving as president was “unprecedented.” “The presidential administration and the president himself exercised enormous influence on the election campaign,” he said. “If Russia has managed democracy, then these were managed elections.” The PACE is expected to issue a complete election assessment on December 17. President Putin dismissed the criticism and repeated the assertion that Russia is developing in a democratic direction. “Russians will never allow for the development of the country along a destructive path, the way it happened in some countries in the post-Soviet space,” Mr. Putin said, according to The New York Times of December 4. “And this sense of responsibility of citizens for their own country is, in my view, the most important index of the fact that our country is strengthening not only economically, not only socially, but also in terms of its domestic politics.” (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Yanukovich congratulates Putin

KYIV – Ukraine’s acting Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich has congratulated Russian President Vladimir Putin on parliamentary victory of the United Russia party on December 2. The will of the Russian nation shows that it is consolidating around the president, and this is support for political reforms run by the authorities, Mr. Yanukovich commented. (Ukrinform)

### OSCE special envoy visits Moscow

MADRID – The special envoy of the OSCE chairman-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Josep Borrell, visited Moscow from November 30 to December 2 to keep the chairman informed about the December 2 elections to the State Duma. The special envoy met representatives of the Russian authorities and political parties running in the elections. He also met the heads of the international missions sent by the Parliamentary Assemblies of the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the CIS to observe the elections. Mr. Borrell said he regretted that the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) could not participate in observing the Duma elections, but said he was confident the current difficulties could be overcome. “Electoral observations carried out by ODIHR along with the Parliamentary Assembly are one of the most valuable assets of the OSCE, therefore I regret that the elections to the Duma did not meet the conditions so that ODIHR could proceed and observe them,” said Mr. Borrell, adding, “I hope that next year’s presidential election will meet such conditions. In this respect I welcome the confirmation by the Russian authorities of their readiness to invite ODIHR to observe the presidential elections. I am confident that to make it possible an efficient co-operation based on transparency and on a clear will to cooperate in all fields will be established.” (OSCE)

### Church to honor Holodomor victims

KYIV – The first Ukrainian church dedicated to Holodomor victims will open in Donetsk, it was reported on November 29. According to the secretary of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate’s Donetsk Eparchy, liturgies in the church will be carried out in memory of the Holodomor victims. A museum will also function within the church. Clergy are collecting information about Holodomor victims; a book listing the names of all the victims will be kept in the church. Donations will support the construction of the church. (Ukrinform)

### New coin commemorates Holodomor

KYIV – The National Bank of Ukraine has released a coin devoted to the Holodomor victims, it was reported on November 28. The coin has face values of 5 to 20 hrv. The obverse side depicts a girl and kalyna (guelder rose) branches, as well as the national emblem. On the reverse side are depicted a cross with a stork, surrounded by an inscription saying “Holodomor – Genocide against the Ukrainian nation, 1932, remember, 1933.” (Ukrinform)

### Cabinet resolution on Holodomor

KYIV – Ukraine will negotiate with Russia, as the successor-state of the USSR, on releasing archival materials connected with the 1921-1923, 1932-1933 and 1946-1947 famines, according to a resolution adopted by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers in conjunction with 75th anniversary observances of Holodomor. The resolution also instructs local authorities to reveal and register

places of mass burial of Holodomor victims, as well as to dismantle monuments to persons who were engaged in the organization of the Holodomor and to rename streets, squares, parks, etc. named after such persons. In addition, the plan passed by the Cabinet calls for a memorial to Holodomor victims and a monument to the American scholar of the Famine-Genocide James Mace to be erected in Kyiv. (Ukrinform)

### Yukhnovskiy on Holodomor research

KYIV – The Ukrainian Institute of National Memory, which has been engaged in researching the 1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine, is working to have the tragedy recognized as a genocide of the Ukrainian people, said the institute’s director, Ihor Yukhnovskiy, on November 26. “Our task is to prove first of all the premeditated character of the 1932-1933 Holodomor, and the institute will tackle this issue thoroughly, proceeding from scholarly facts and legal norms,” the expert said at a briefing. Referring to resolutions of the central bodies of the Soviet government, Dr. Yukhnovskiy stated that the man-made Famine in Ukraine was conceived as early as in 1928. “We qualify that those actions by the Soviet authorities, namely, the collectivization of agriculture and deportation of the so-called ‘kurkuly’ [well-to-do peasants] were a crime against humanity and conform to the definition of crime in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in the Hague. The Institute of National Memory will systematize these data and present them to the international community,” Dr. Yukhnovskiy said. (Ukrinform)


### European Parliament leaders on Famine

KYIV – The leaders of the European Parliament have expressed solidarity with the Ukrainian people on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933, it was reported on November 22. Speaking during a ceremony in Brussels to commemorate the Holodomor’s victims, Vice-President of the European Parliament Marek Siwiec said that people must know their history in order to live on into future. The Holodomor, in which millions of people died and which was attributed to natural circumstances for many years, was in fact masterminded by the Soviet Communist regime, Mr. Siwiec said. On behalf of the European Parliament he

urged the nations across the globe to recognize the Holodomor as genocide. “We are here to honor the victims as well as to prevent similar things from happening in the future,” he underscored. European Parliament President Hans-Gert Poettering also made a statement on the occasion of the 1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine. “Today we know that the Famine which has come to be known as the Holodomor was in reality an appalling crime against humanity. The Famine was cynically and cruelly planned by Stalin’s regime in order to force through the Soviet Union’s policy of collectivization of agriculture against the will of the rural population of Ukraine. It was only in 1991, when Ukraine regained its independence, that it became possible for people there to discover the background to this tragic period of their history. All of us should be prompted by this day of remembrance to engrave the Holodomor in our memories,” Mr. Hans-Gert Poettering’s statement read. (Ukrinform)

### U.N. has new Chernobyl concept

KYIV – The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution that envisages a new concept for development and recovery of the Chernobyl zone, it was reported on November 22. The document calls for strengthening efforts intended to help Chernobyl-affected territories and moving steadily toward the “recovery phase.” The General Assembly proclaimed the next 10 years as a decade of “recovery and sustainable development.” The resolution also includes time limits: Chernobyl-affected communities should be returned to normal life by 2016. The U.N. secretary general is to present a recovery report in 2010. A UNDP representative said Ukraine, Belarus and Russia need “healthy life-style” promotion, including psychological aid and efforts to combat radiophobia. It is expected that awareness raising campaigns will be carried out to “strip away the myths,” and remove the label of a “burnt area” from the Chernobyl zone. Radiophobia causes people to leave their native villages, while investors avoid investing in economic development and employment, it was noted. As a result of the Chernobyl accident of April 26, 1986, some 8.4 million people of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia suffered radioactive radiation, about 155,000 square meters of territory became contaminated with radiation, and 330,000 people had to leave their homes. (Ukrinform)



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## BOOK NOTES

## 'The Grand Harmony,' collection of Antonych poems in English

"The Grand Harmony," by Bohdan-Ihor Antonych, translated by Michael Naydan. Lviv: Litopys Publishing House, 2007. ISBN: 966-7007-63-9, 117 pp. \$12.

"The Grand Harmony" is a collection of religious-themed poems by Bohdan-Ihor Antonych written during 1932-1933, which explores the testing of one's personal faith. This book is the first publication of Antonych's "Grand Harmony" in English. The original Ukrainian text is also provided alongside the English.

The author, who was 22 at the time he wrote these poems, brings the reader to Antonych's deeper understanding of the nature of God, and defines his personal and poetic relationship to Him. Antonych's metaphysical works were influenced by his father, a Catholic priest in the Lemko region. Also significant is that the dates the majority of the poems were written coincided with the Lenten Fast and Easter, which is a spiritual time of introspection and renewal. Additionally, during this time the greatest human tragedy was taking place – the Soviet-orchestrated Holodomor, which systematically starved between 7 million and 10 million Ukrainians to their deaths.

Many of Antonych's poems are prayer-like in offering thanks to God or beseeching His guidance and tranquility in those troubled times.

"Molytva" (Prayer) written on Saturday, March 26, 1932, reads:

Lord, do You know how much we need faith –

More than our stale daily bread,  
do You know our sadness all the way  
up in heaven,  
how the hovel of daily life burdens us?

How we need Your smile,  
joy for our hearts,  
deliverance from all evil,  
how we need sunny faith.

The azure flower of hope,



the great truth-sun at night,  
the golden equilibrium of reality and  
dreams,  
the harmony of the soul.

Lord, we need Revelations again,  
the autumn rains of doubt lash us.

Let us hear the Tongues of Flame  
once again in a burning bush.

This book was published with the assistance of Alex and Helen Woskob, who established an endowment in Ukrainian studies at Pennsylvania State University.

Readers can obtain copies of the book by sending \$12, plus \$3 postage, to: Michael Naydan, 201 Pickwick Ave., State College, PA 16803.

Mr. Naydan is also looking for a new distributor for this book and other translations, including works by Antonych and Maksym Rylsky, and an anthology of women's prose.

## Fictional diary tells the story of internment operations

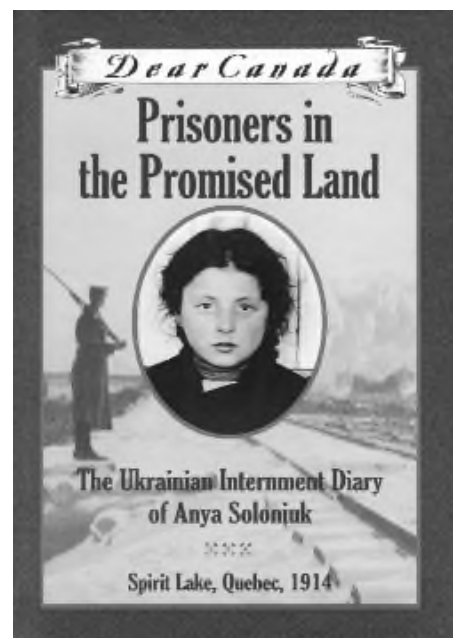
"Prisoners in the Promised Land: The Ukrainian Internment Diary of Anya Soloniuk," by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch. Scholastic Canada Ltd., 2007, ISBN: 978-0-439-95692-5, 246, \$14.99 pp. (U.S.).

This fictional tale is based on the historical events of the Canadian internment of Ukrainians during the first world war. The story opens with Anya Soloniuk receiving a diary from her father while Anya resided in Horoshova, Ukraine (at that time part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire). Her father lived in Montreal, trying to bring his wife and daughter to a better future.

One diary entry reads: "Tuesday, April 13, 1915, Mary says that 'internment' means something different from what Mr. Foster told us. She said that it is definitely a kind of jail. This makes me worried. Are Tato and Stefan and Mr. Pemlych in a jail right now? Are we going to be sent to a jail too?"

The diary format limits the perspective to that of Anya, but through the prism of her diary, a text that appeals to young and old alike captures the imagination and breathes new life into the historical experience.

This book is dedicated to the author's grandfather, George Forchuk (Yurij Feschuk), who was interned at Jasper Internment Camp, Alberta, during this



time. A brief biography of his experience is included in the book.

Also included is a historical note that explains the internment operations and highlights the work of Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk and the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association in bringing public awareness to these events.

Readers may obtain copies of the book by visiting [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca). For more information on the Dear Canada series, see [www.scholastic.ca/dearcanada](http://www.scholastic.ca/dearcanada).

## For Ukraine's miners...

(Continued from page 3)

"Ukraine's coal reserves amount to some 175 billion tons. This represents energetic security for more than one Ukrainian generation," Mr. Yushchenko said. "The coal industry has been a priority over the past century, and I'm convinced it will remain a national priority for many more years."

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich,

whose stronghold is based in coal-rich eastern Ukraine, sought to minimize his government's responsibility in the tragedy.

"Not a single mine in the world is safe from such incidents," he said during his visit to the Zasiadko mine. The government, he said, is "definitely" working to increase coal production.

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service contributed to this report.

## Yushchenko criticizes...

(Continued from page 4)

ures presented by the Ministry of Health.

Ukraine is experiencing one of the fastest-growing HIV epidemics in the world. According to the United Nations and the World Health Organization (UNAIDS/WHO), the actual number of people infected is considerably higher than official statistics suggest.

While the Ukrainian Center for AIDS Prevention has registered 104,645 cases of HIV-infection among adults and children (as of January 1), international experts estimated the actual number of people living with HIV to be around 377,000 in 2005, and the epidemic is still growing. In 2006 authorities officially registered 16,078 new cases of HIV infection; in 2005 there were 13,770 new cases registered.

The southern and eastern regions of Ukraine – including the Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Odesa and Mykolaiv oblasts, as well as Crimea – are the most affected. While a third of the population lives in these regions, they represent two-thirds of all officially registered HIV cases. Western regions of Ukraine remain the least affected.

December 1 was marked around the globe as World AIDS Day.



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## COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

### Florida community welcomes Ostroh Academy president



Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk (second from left) and Eduard Balashiv (right) are welcomed at the airport by Dr. Bohdan Bodnaruk and Prof. Vira Bodnaruk.

by Vira Bodnaruk

NORTH PORT, Fla. – The Ukrainian community of southwest Florida had the pleasure of meeting the rector of the National University of Ostroh Academy, Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk, at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Cultural and Religious Center here on November 14.

Travelling with Dr. Pasichnyk was Eduard Balashiv, head of the foreign relations department. At the well-attended meeting with the community Dr. Pasichnyk talked about the academic programs at Ostroh, as well as plans for expansion and improvement of the current facilities. At present there are 2,500 students from various oblasts of Ukraine studying at Ostroh.

Since this was the Ostroh group's first trip to Florida, their host, the Ukrainian Language Society, made sure that there was an opportunity for a closer interaction between its members and Dr. Pasichnyk and Mr. Balashiv at an informal get-together

*Prof. Vira Bodnaruk is president of the Ukrainian Language Society.*

er in Venice, Fla. A pleasant surprise was the arrival of Dr. Ben Abramowitz, a Fulbright scholar who taught business ethics at Ostroh a year ago. Dr. Abramowitz is a retired U.S. Army colonel who taught at West Point and other military academies in the U.S. He described his experience at Ostroh Academy in glowing terms.

Of course a trip to Florida makes it a must to see some of the highlights of the area, such as the Gulf of Mexico, the Ringling Museum of Art (with its painting of Roxolana by Titian and a sculpture by Alexander Archipenko), the Ca'd'Zan and the Historic Spanish Point.

The Ostroh delegation's four-day visit was all too short, but it was a success in terms of informing the Ukrainian community of the academic work at Ostroh Academy, as well as raising funds. Anyone interested in supporting the programs at Ostroh Academy can send a tax-exempt donation to: Ukrainian National Foundation/Ostroh Fund, c/o Dr. Myron Kuropas, 107 Ilehamwood Drive, DeKalb, Ill. 60115-1856.

### Minneapolis remembers UPA, Shukhevych

by Michael Kozak

MINNEAPOLIS – Ukrainians in 2007 commemorated two important historical anniversaries which are closely connected with Ukraine's struggle during World War II against two occupiers – Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union.

This year marks the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), which waged this armed struggle. It also marks the 100th anniversary since the birth of its commander-in-chief, Gen. Roman Shukhevych (Taras Chuprynka).

These anniversaries were observed at St. Constantine Parish, where the Rev. Canon Michael Stelmach is pastor.

On Sunday, July 22, after the holy liturgy, the Rev. Stelmach and the Rev. Roman Voronchak, recently arrived from Ukraine, celebrated a panakhyda for the repose of Gen. Shukhevych.

On Sunday, October 7, the month of the founding of the UPA, a panakhyda

was celebrated for the repose of the insurgents who sacrificed their lives defending their homeland.

On both occasions the parish bulletin contained special sections about Shukhevych and his family and about the history of the UPA.

Thanks to Zenon Stepchuk and Dmytro Tataryn, the UPA observance included a display of copies of photographs depicting the life and the struggle of the UPA against Ukraine's enemies, which were obtained from the collection belonging to this writer. At the parish library, 120 pictures were displayed.

Every Sunday of November, after the liturgy, the display was open to viewers who eagerly studied the photographs. Some of them looked for their relatives or friends, and some simply sought to learn the truth about the heroic struggle of the UPA against the numerically superior and technically better equipped enemies.

### New Britain parish sends aid to needy children of Ukraine

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. – St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church, located at 54 Winter St. in New Britain, has completed its 17th year of sending aid to the children of Ukraine. The Bundles for Ukraine group meets every Thursday to sort and pack items to send to orphanages, homes for abandoned infants, tuberculosis hospitals for children, schools and parishes for St. Nicholas Day distribution.

This year 125 packages, totaling 4,521 pounds, or 2.5 tons, were sent in time for the children to receive the gifts of toys, candy and clothing on St. Nicholas Day, the customary day for gifts. The group has developed a network of Orthodox

priests in Ukraine who distribute the gifts to the children.

The Bundles for Ukraine project collects all year long in order to have a sufficient amount for shipment. Donations, including money for shipping costs, come from parishioners and friends.

Members of the group are Dr. Joan Kerelejza, chairperson; Alice Andrusia, Andrew Buczko, Ann Harris, Helen Kochanowski, Stefan Melnyk, Sylvia Lindgren, Lester Sirick and Julia Stepanczak. Dimitry Shafran translates all the letters from Ukraine. The Very Rev. Ihumen Gregory Woolfenden is pastor of the church.



Sylvia Lindgren, Julia Stepanczak, Helen Kochanowski, Alice Andrusia.

### Yonkers branch of UNWLA begins 2007-2008 activities



YONKERS, N.Y. – Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 30 of Yonkers, N.Y., commenced its fund-raising activities for the 2007-2008 year with a meeting on September 27. The branch decided to proceed with the sale of coffee and baked goods once a month after each liturgy at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yonkers, as well as to hold the annual Christmas Bazaar. Also on the agenda was Christmas caroling, a branch activity revived three years ago, as well as a clothing drive for orphans and the infirm in Ukraine. The branch also sponsors various social events, such as a wine-tasting event held on May 4. The event was attended by branch members and prospective members (seen above) who became acquainted with the work of the UNWLA. Fifteen women enjoyed the many fine wines that were picked by Adrianna Rudyk, sales and marketing executive with Eber Brothers, a wine and liquor distributor in New York. Anyone interested in joining UNWLA Branch 30 may call the branch president, Iryna Hoshovskiy, at 914-693-8764 or e-mail Olia Rudyk, vice-president, at paniolia@hotmail.com.

– Olia Rudyk



## New Jersey Ukrainian American Veterans pay tribute to comrades

by Walter Bodnar

UNION, N.J. – On the 11th month, the 11th day, at the 11th hour – Sunday, November 11, members of the Ukrainian American Veterans Post 6 of the greater Newark, N.J., area gathered to pay tribute to their comrades at their monument in Hollywood Cemetery, Union, N.J.

The day was crisp, bright and sunny. The yellow, red and russet autumn leaves were gently and silently falling, making a multicolored carpet on the grass that rustled underfoot.

Michael Fedirko, commander of Post 6, opened the solemn ceremony. Steve Yacus placed a wreath at the foot of the monument. The veterans stood at attention during the minute of silence in honor of the departed. Walter Bodnar, the chaplain, recited a prayer and read a moving statement about service and sacrifice given to this country.

“God Bless America” was sung by all. In addition, a small group of women, wives, widows and friends joined in. After a hand salute, the ceremony was over.

Most of the veterans in Post 6 are World War II veterans; several are from the Korean and Vietnamese conflicts.

This is a yearly tradition that has been

repeated by the post since its inception in 1946. In the past, after the cemetery ceremony, they used to gather in a hall for their traditional hot dogs and beer. Songs and music accompanied their feast. The gatherings were jolly and tales of yore were exchanged.

Another event, in which the Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) from various posts participated, was the 75th anniversary of the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine in which 10 million people died of starvation induced by the Soviet regime. The event on Sunday, November 17, comprised a march from St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church from Seventh Street to St. Patrick's Cathedral on 51st Street in Manhattan.

The veterans marched with their flags, as well as the American and Ukrainian flags. They wore their blue caps with yellow piping which serve to identify their posts. Past National Commander Mathew Koziak, who is also the chairman of the UAV National Monument Committee, represented the national executive. Others were from Lehigh Valley Post 32 (Victor Litkevycz, Jerry Kindrachuk, Oleh Balaziuk, Orest Harasymowycz, Myroslaw Kedulych), Brooklyn Post 27 (George Mutlof, Peter Terrebetzky), Spring Valley



Courtesy Walter Bodnar

Walter Bodnar, Marty Panko, George Kimak, Michael Fedirko, Bob Dolan, Steve Yacus, Danylo Marchishin.

Post 19 (William Szozda), Passaic Post 17 (James Fedorko, Andrew Hadzewycz, Zenon Halkowycz), Hartford Post 14 (Ihor Rudko) and Boston Post 31 (Stephen Kostecki).

Once inside the cathedral the veterans walked down the main aisle and stood as an honor guard at the front of the church for the requiem service in memory of the Holodomor's victims.

## Activities of UAV Florida Post 40 commemorate Veterans Day

by Jerry Zinycz

VENICE, Fla. – Ukrainian American Veterans Cpl. Roman G. Lazor Post 40 of Southwest Florida honored all veterans with multiple activities during the Veterans Day weekend.

On Friday, November 10, post members placed American and Ukrainian flags on the graves of Ukrainian American veterans, as well as Ukrainian veterans at Venice Memorial Gardens, Venice, Fla.

Since the establishment of Post 40 in 1999, an officers' installation dinner-dance has been held annually. That tradition continued on Saturday, November 11.

The opening ceremonies began with North Port High School Junior Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets marching into the reception hall and posting the colors on the stage. Then the attendees sang the American and Ukrainian national anthems while saluting the colors.

Past Post Commander Marian Bojsiuk, dressed in his parade Marine uniform, introduced the cadets as future officers of the U.S. Navy.

The newly elected officers were sworn in by Past National Commander Atanas Kobryn. The new officers are Commander Ihor W. Hron, Vice-Commander Gene Tomashosky, Quartermaster and Finance Officer Julian Helbig, Chaplain, Service and Welfare Officer Orestes Lazor and



UAV Post 40 members with their spouses and guest of honor Yuri Shukhevych (center).

Historian Marian Bojsiuk.

The event continued with the annual presentation of the Person of the Year award. This year's award was presented to Daria Tomashosky of North Port, Fla., an activist who excels in the Ukrainian-American community as president of the North Port chapter of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, president of the Ukrainian American Club of Southwest Florida, presi-

dent of the “Hromadskyi Komitet,” as well as a member of other American and Ukrainian organizations.

The Ukrainian War Medal award was presented to Mr. Kobryn by Past Post Commander Bojsiuk in recognition of his military activities in Ukraine during World War II and in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Yurii Shukhevych, a special guest from

Ukraine, was introduced by Mr. Kobryn and presented with Volume I of the UAV Registration Project, the UAV medallion, and the UAV lapel pin. Mr. Shukhevych and his wife, Lesia, were warmly greeted by all attendees.

After the ceremonies, the Rev. Severyn Kovalyshin, pastor of St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, blessed the food, and the attendees were served a gourmet dinner provided by “Nasha Kuchnya,” under the management of Lydia Marusyn.

After dinner, the veterans, their spouses and guests danced the evening away to the music by Merena Band. Proceeds from this event go to Post 40 Scholarship Fund

On Sunday, November 11, as is the custom here, the post was well-represented with its colors at the annual Veterans Day ceremonies at the North Port Veterans Park. The event is attended by local politicians, veterans' organizations, police and fire departments and Junior Naval ROTC cadets who man the colors.

Post 40 always takes part in these activities of the city of North Port, and is well recognized as the “boys in the blue caps.” After the ceremonies at the park, this year's host, VFW Post 8203, served a luncheon at its hall to all attendees. Several UAV Post 40 members also belong to the VFW, as well as The American Legion, AMVETS and Marine Detachment.

## Ukrainian American Veterans present scholarships for 2007

YONKERS, N.Y. – The recipients of the Ukrainian American Veterans Scholarship Awards were announced at the organization's national convention held here on October 11-13. Scholarships are awarded by the UAV Scholarship Committee to college students who are descendants of Ukrainian American Veterans. Students are required to write an essay (400-500 words) about a current military topic; this year's topic was “What role or strategy should the United States take in its continued efforts in the war on terrorism?”

Seven college students applied and were awarded the 2006-2007 UAV Scholarship Award. Jillian Marie Auletto of

Wellington, Fla., majoring in business marketing received the Cpl. Roman G. Lazor Post No. 40 Scholarship for \$500; James Austin Smith of Anna, Ill., majoring in agriculture business and finance, received the National Ladies Auxiliary Award for \$500; Juliana Sophia Wynohradnyk of Stony Point, N.Y., majoring in communications and technology, received the Ukrainian American Club of the Palm Beaches award for \$500; Nicholas Zurawskyj of Warren, Mich., majoring in pre-law and history, received an award for \$400; Adam Charles Smith from Anna, Ill., majoring in secondary education, received an award for \$400; Roman S. Palylyk of Ridgefield, Conn., majoring in music busi-

ness received an award for \$300; Thomas Andrew Wynohradnyk of Stony Point, N.Y., majoring in meteorology, received an award for \$300.

Students interested in applying for UAV Scholarship Awards should fill out an application, include their transcript, write an essay on the year's military topic and send a picture. Applications are available on the UAV website, [www.uavets.org](http://www.uavets.org). To be eligible for a UAV scholarship, applicants must be descendants of Ukrainian American veterans and be full-time matriculated college students in a degree program. Students from accredited trade schools or institutions that have degree programs are eligible as well. Applications

are accepted year-round and the deadline for each year is on the last day of August.

Organizations and/or individuals wishing to make a tax-exempt donation should make their checks payable to: UAV National Scholarship Fund. Contributions should be mailed to the UAV National Scholarship Officer, Nicholas Skirka, 109 Windsor Terrace, Yonkers, N.Y., 10701. Applications for the scholarship should be sent to the same address. For additional information, readers may email [n.skirka@optonline.net](mailto:n.skirka@optonline.net) or call 914-965-3707.

The UAV National Scholarship Committee members are John Tkachuk, Peter Olijarczyk, Peter Matthews and Russel Olijarczyk.



# SPORTSLINE

## Soccer

• Ukraine finished its quest for Euro Cup 2008 in fourth place with 17 points, coming behind Italy (29), France (26) and Scotland (24). Ukraine's final games before missing the grade in the qualifying round were: a loss to Scotland (1-3) on October 13, a strong victory against the Faroe Islands (5-0) on October 17, a loss to Lithuania (0-2) on November 17, and a draw against France (2-2) on November 21. Out of 12 games played, Ukraine had five wins, two draws and five losses, with 18 goals for and 16 goals against.

• After three games played, Ukraine's Under-19 team is in first place in Group 11 of the qualifying round of the UEFA European Championship with three wins, six goals for, one goal against, with a current total of nine points. Ukraine defeated Azerbaijan (3-0), Scotland (1-0) and Moldova (2-1).

• Andriy Shevchenko was ranked by the soccer magazine 442 as being the sixth of the top 100 richest footballers in the English Premier League. His bank account reportedly totals over \$52 million (25 million pounds).

## Chess

• Vasyl Ivanchuk defeated Peter Leko during the three-day "blitz" tournament held in Mukachiv, Ukraine, on October 25-28. This "blitz" style of play during the tournament consists of four games per day, with 10 minutes per side and 10 seconds per move. A tiebreaker match decided the victory with four minutes per side and two seconds per move. Ivanchuk won with a score of 7.5-6.5 points. Ivanchuk is

a grandmaster rated at 2787. The following month, Ivanchuk won the World Blitz Championships held in Moscow on November 22, with a total of 19 wins and 5.5 points.

• The Ukrainian men's and women's teams finished in fifth place at the European Chess Championship held in Crete, Greece, on October 27 through November 7. Ukraine defeated Bosnia-Herzegovina (4-0), drew Spain (2-2), drew Israel (2-2), defeated Macedonia (2.5 - 1.5), drew France (2-2), defeated the Czech Republic (2.5 - 1.5), defeated Azerbaijan (2.5 - 1.5), tied with Poland (2-2) and defeated England (2.5 - 1.5). The men's team consisted of Vasyl Ivanchuk, Sehiy Karjakin, Andrei Volokitin, Alexander Moiseenko and Alexander Areshchanko, while the women's team included Kateryna Lahno, Natalia Zhukova, Anna Ushenina, Inna Gaponenko and Tatjana Vailevich.

## Boxing

• At the AIBA World Boxing Championships held in Chicago, Ukraine's featherweight Vasyl Lomachanko (57 kg) won the silver medal, middleweight Serhiy Derevyanchanko (75 kg) won the bronze and super-heavyweight Vyacheslav Hlaskov (91+ kg) won the silver medal. Light flyweight Georgi Chygayev (under 48 kg), who finished fifth, and the above competitors qualified to compete in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

• Wladimir Klitschko, the IBF/IBO world champion, will have a chance at a unification fight against WBO champion Sultan Ibragimov of Russia. "We've been

negotiating with Sultan's team immediately after he had defeated Evander Holyfield. The fight is slated for February 23, 2008. Wladimir Klitschko's next fight is scheduled for the very date. The venue of the grand fight will surely be at Madison Square Garden Arena in New York," Klitschko's company, K2, said.

## Gymnastics

Olena Movchan won the gold medal and scored 37.5 points to win the overall com-

petition at the Good Luck Beijing 2007 Trampoline Gymnastics International Invitational Tournament, held on November 30 through December 3 in Beijing, China. Movchan edged out Canadian Rosannagh MacLennan, who scored 36.80 points, and He Wenna of China, who earned 36.60 points. Dariya Zgoba, also of Ukraine, won the gold medal in the uneven bar event with 15.725 points.

– compiled by Matthew Dubas

## Sitch soccer team vying for New Jersey State Cup

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Ukrainian American Sports Club Chornomorska Sitch won the semi-professional Central Division of the Garden State Soccer League against Union Ticos with a final of 2-1 on October 28. Chornomorska Sitch players were down 1-0 after the half but equalized in the 78th minute with a goal from Dan Lewycky. Andrew Panas assisted Mark Hordynsky for Sitch to win in the 86th minute.

On November 4 Sitch began its quest for the New Jersey State Cup with their

first match against Pompton Lakes. Lewycky scored the lone goal of the match before the end of the first half. The defensively weaker team allowed many attempts on goal by Sitch's snipers, but many of them were just shy of the goal.

Other members of the Sitch squad in both games were: Alexander McDonald, Stepan Kolodiy, Andriy Kudryk, Alvis Pereypa, Andriy Mandsiy, Dan Paslawsky, Christian Pardo, Greg Serheev, Lawrence Deliaavaks, Antin Danes, Collin Meger. The team's coach is Mykola Hordynsky.

## Need a back issue?

If you'd like to obtain a back issue of The Ukrainian Weekly, send \$2 per copy (first-class postage included) to: Administration, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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## Ukrainian pro sports update: tennis

by Ihor Stelmach

### Alona Bondarenko, aspiring tennis ace

Alona Bondarenko has been around the pro tennis circuit for a long time for a young lady still in her early 20s. At the age of 14, she made her professional debut at a small ITF event in Poland back in 1999. For a qualifier she put up a good fight, losing in the first round, but stretching her second-seeded opponent to three tiring sets.

When she returned to this same tournament one year later, it was with a finals appearance already on her brief resume. She went on to the semifinals in her second time around. To observers it was obvious this girl was fast-tracking it to success.

By 2002 Bondarenko had already made her Fed Cup debut (the Fed Cup in tennis is comparable to the World Cup in soccer) for Ukraine, while cracking the top-200 list of women's players. This past July, at the age of 22, she notched her 13th Fed Cup tie (appearance) when Ukraine matched up against Australia on the Gold Coast. Prior to the Fed Cup match at Royal Pines Resort in Ashmore, Australia, Bondarenko looked forward to the challenge of attempting to spearhead her native country into the World Group for the first time. (Ukraine plays Belgium in the first round of World Group II in February 2008.)

Speaking with Australian tennis reporter Ian Burrows prior to Fed Cup play in July, Bondarenko said: "Actually I am excited about the tie. I like Australia and I've never been in winter before, only summer, so it will be interesting."

Of course there is the one element of the competition she does not look forward to: "When I'm thinking about the flying, it's not easy. It's 24 hours to Australia. It is not fun, I do not like flying."

Having experienced eight years on the tennis circuit to date, Bondarenko surprises nary a soul with her impressive physical conditioning. She first drew acclaim in 2002 with her maiden ITF title in Italy. What about her stamina? How about four qualifying wins just to get into the main draw, then another five victories en route to nabbing the title?

The year 2003 saw this striking Ukrainian blonde make her main-draw debut on the World Tennis Association Tour. However, she was still a couple of years away from making herself known. When it finally happened, the tennis world became most attentive. Heading into 2005, Bondarenko had not played that many main draw matches. Her surprising runner-up finish at the WTA event in Hyderabad, India, in 2005, got her the aforementioned notice in tennis circles.

In 2006 Bondarenko claimed her first tour-level titles in singles and doubles, while reaching at least the last eight at four other tournaments. Easily one of the most recognizable sports stars in Ukraine, the world's No. 22 ranked women's tennis player now has to deal with media attention.

Does she like the attention?

"Sometimes yes and sometimes no. When I have to practice and the press wants to talk to me and come to my practice, it's a little bit tough to concentrate on my practice," she told Mr. Burrows. "I come to my country not so often and I just come and see my family, and I have much press in Ukraine wanting to write something about me and talk to me."

Bondarenko's progress in 2007 has been continuing impressively. In most tournaments a top-10 player has been required to eliminate her run. At the Tier II Warsaw tournament, Bondarenko defeated high-ranked Svetlana Kuznetsova on her way to a runner-up finish.

Why tennis, and where does she get her natural ability, you ask?

That's simple, as both mother and father partook in the



Aleksandr Lepetukha/UNIAN

Olena Bondarenko after her first WTA series win in 2006.

sport, then became coaches. Her two sisters also play: older sister Valeria played the pro circuit, but now coaches; while younger sister Kateryna is following in Alona's footsteps, ranking in the high 40s of all women players. Alona said it was only nature taking its course for her getting into tennis. Granted it was quite a challenge to plot a tennis career in Ukraine.

"My mom played tennis, and my whole family played tennis, and when I was 4 I started playing. It's my whole life," she explained. "But growing up we always have problems finding courts and tournaments to play."

The Bondarenko family realized any tennis future for Alona would require relocation to the nation's capital. Her hometown of Kryvyi Rih had little or nothing to offer in the area of tennis opportunities.

"At 12 we move to Kyiv for sports school. We have to practice and in Kyiv it's easier to train and go to school to study. To find a balance," Bondarenko recalled.

Her success and the success of several others, has led to a tennis mini-boom in Ukraine. The triumphs for a handful of tennis stars over the past decade have popularized the game among children, resulting in more players and more tennis facilities to accommodate the players. Ukraine currently has nine female players ranked in the world's top 200.

"Now we have a lot of clubs in Kyiv, and in Kharkiv we have three clubs, and now we have a women's tournament. Year on year tennis is more people play tennis."

As democracy and freedom blossom in Ukraine, North American and European influences are seeping into the country's culture. People see and hear about professional careers in hockey, basketball and tennis. A sport like tennis gains in popularity, creating more attention and interest in the importance of national identity and international competitions like the Fed Cup.

"Actually now in Ukraine it's very important because we have many people who care about tennis and we have

lots of people who want to play on our team. So for me, and the team, and Ukraine, the Fed Cup is very important," Bondarenko commented.

The Fed Cup match in Australia saw Bondarenko and her younger sister, Kateryna, as the workhorses of the team. Alona was tabbed to play both singles and doubles, and the sisters teamed up in doubles. Alona felt fortunate to have her sister nearby for company (the pair travel together), though she was quick to proclaim everything is not always peachy between them.

"Sometimes it's not easy, but it's better playing with my sister than with someone else. We play together all the time, so I know what she can do and she knows my game. For sure we have disagreements. We argue about everything. It starts from one point and next point it's okay, but there's always some problems," she joked in her chat with Mr. Burrows.

Alona does admit that having both a mother and a sister in the game is a plus. (Her mother used to travel with and coach both daughters). "We travel together so I'm surrounded by coach and sister and family around me so it's a bit easier," she said.

Mrs. Bondarenko undertook a new project recently, thus bringing an end to traveling with her daughters. Mom built a tennis academy in Ukraine and, although its still in its infancy, the school is attracting lots of would-be players. The academy caters to younger children and has an enrollment of some 40 candidates. Older sister Valeria helps her mother in coaching the youngsters. The tennis school has been in existence for a little over a year and consists of five courts: three clay and two hardcourts.

#### Fed Cup update

Having narrowly avoided relegation in 2006, Ukraine survived Europe/Africa Group IB and then defeated Australia in a World Group II playoff.

February 2008 will be Ukraine's debut in World Group II after it lost its two previous playoffs in 2002 and 2004.

Ukraine defeated Lithuania, Hungary, Belarus and Poland prior to besting Australia in the playoff.

Team Ukraine's players are: Alona Bondarenko (4-1 singles, 2-0 doubles), Yuliana Fedak (4-1 singles), Kateryna Bondarenko (1-1 singles, 5-0 doubles), Olha Savchuk (2-0 doubles) and Yuliya Beygelzimer (1-0 doubles).

### Want to reach us by e-mail?

Editorial materials:  
staff@ukrweekly.com

Subscription Department:  
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Advertising Department:  
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Вечорниці

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## Life and career...

(Continued from page 13)

Lattimer, Pa., to Jack Palance, who created a unique rogues' gallery of characters that made him a Hollywood legend.

Interwoven in the running commentary were the personal recollections of Ms. Palance, Ms. Spottiswoode and John Palance, one of the actor's four siblings, and several Hollywood actors, including Anthony Quinn. Clips from various movies spotlighted Jack Palance's unique acting skills.

During a post-film Q&A session, Ms. Palance told guests, "Yes, Jack did work out every day – he also ate the right foods, and he took care of himself." A vivacious brunette who spoke with a charming Texas drawl, she said, "We were in Ukraine in 1991, in Yalta and Symferopol. We loved it; Jack really enjoyed it, he talked with people on the street. We were planning to go back to Ukraine."

"Jack was incredibly proud of his Ukrainian ancestry; he liked to meet other Ukrainians, he enjoyed reading his poetry to Ukrainians, he spoke Ukrainian with his sister until he died. He even talked with my grandmother, who was from Czechoslovakia; they would sit for hours

and just chat along," she related.

Of his interest in art, Ms. Palance pointed out that "he had an artistic soul; when he lived in Europe, he visited museums with other artists, and when we were at home, either at the California ranch or the Pennsylvania farm, he would paint in his studio for hours every day."

"Jack left such a phenomenal collection of paintings, poems, keys to cities, proclamations and resolutions that the institute people and I have been talking about mounting an exhibit of Jack's work and awards next year," she said.

She reminisced about their first meeting in a London hotel lobby, when both were checking out; he was returning to New York after a visit with daughter Holly, she was leaving for the airport as a senior flight attendant shepherding 17 airline hostesses bound for Dallas.

"When I saw him, he winked at me, and I winked back. We talked for an hour while waiting to check out. A friend of mine gave him my phone number with a note saying, 'Call her, she'd like to have a date with you.' He called me every day for two months, in London, Hawaii, Dallas, wherever I happened to be. By the time we met face to face, I knew how to say words like 'holubtsi,' 'pyrohy' and 'ya vas liubliu.'"

The two were married in 1987, after 10

years of living together, but divorced in 1992. They continued to enjoy a close personal and professional relationship, and the actor even made appearances on her local cable show.

The audience at the film showing included Ambassador Valeriy Kuchynsky, former permanent representative of Ukraine to the United Nations; Olympic figure skating champion Oksana Baiul; Ted Dzus Jr., grandson of UIA founder William Dzus, and his wife, Carol; and Iryna Kurowycky, president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

### First critical notice

Mr. Palance won his first critical notice understudying Anthony Quinn in the national company and Marlon Brando in the Broadway company of "A Streetcar Named Desire," replacing each of them during illnesses. On the basis of those performances, he was cast in the films "Panic in the Streets" and "Halls of Montezuma," and gave an outstanding performance in the powerful war film "Attack!"

He won an Emmy Award in 1957 for his performance as an unfortunate boxer in Rod Serling's landmark TV play "Requiem for a Heavyweight," and starred in "Dracula" and in the series "The Greatest Show on Earth," performing his own stunts as circus boss

Johnny Slate.

In contrast to his long-standing screen image as the personification of villainous aggression, the six-foot-four 200-pound actor was cast as a police detective on special assignment in the CBS adventure series "Bronk." With his daughter Holly, he co-hosted the very popular weekly show "Ripley's Believe it or Not," taunting television audiences to "believe it ... or not" for four years.

Beginning in the late 1950s, he appeared in numerous foreign (especially) Italian films, with Jean-Luc Goddard's 1963 "Le Mepris" a particular highlight. Alternating supporting roles with leads in the late 1960s and early '70s, he was kept busy in mostly action fare, including "The Desperados" and "The Horsemen."

He won new audiences in the late 1980s as the courtly, aging artist in "Bagdad Cafe," and in the early 1990s with his Oscar-winning portrayal of the rough-riding Curly Washburn in "City Slickers." The film, which also earned him the Golden Globe Award, led to another sprightly performance – "City Slickers II: The Search for Curly's Gold." Since the first film killed off Mr. Palance's character, this film featured the feisty actor as Curly's brother.

UIA President Jaroslav Kryshchalsky, who opened each night's program and introduced honored guests, read letters from film producer Slavko Nowytski of Washington and Prof. Vsevolod Isajiw of the Ukrainian Research and Documentation Center in Toronto, commending Mr. Palance for his contribution as narrator of the film "The Helm of Destiny," about Ukrainian immigrants in America.

Closing the tribute observance, Mr. Kryshchalsky thanked committee chairman Walter Nazarewicz and members Dzvinika Burchak, Susan Bozek, Alexandra Gryschuk, Svitlana Matviyenko, Kathy Motyl and UIA Program Director Walter Hoydysh and his wife, MaryAnn.

### Son of immigrants

Born on February 18, 1919, Mr. Palance was one of five children of Ukrainian immigrants John and Anna (Gramiak) Palahniuk, who came from western Ukraine. An honors student who excelled in sports and appeared in school plays, the young man was determined to escape his father's harsh life as a coal miner.

Dissatisfied with a football scholarship to the University of North Carolina and a try at professional boxing, he joined the Army Air Corps in 1942. He was discharged in 1944 after bailing out of his disabled B-24 bomber during a training flight and suffering head trauma, facial burns and lacerations. Studio publicists later alleged that the injuries required extensive surgery that left him with a gaunt, high cheekboned look.

While studying journalism at Stanford University under the GI Bill of Rights, he joined the drama club and appeared in 10 comedies. Streamlining the name Palahniuk to Palance, he moved to New York to try his hand at professional acting.

His marriage in 1949 to actress Virginia Baker produced three children, Holly, Brooke and Cody. Mr. Palance was disconsolate when Cody died in 1998 at the age of 42 from a malignant melanoma. To raise awareness and funds for a cancer research center in Los Angeles, he hosted the Cody Palance Memorial Golf Classic.

Revealing a highly creative side of his identity, he painted oils with nature themes and composed poems which portrayed his childhood, his parents and the tortuous, exacting life of coal miners in Pennsylvania's anthracite mining region. He wrote many poems of love which were published in the book "The Forest of Love: A Love Story in Blank Verse" (Summerhouse Press, 1996) that includes his artwork.



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## Russia shifts...

(Continued from page 2)

of the opposition Union of Rightist Forces (SPS) – which failed to win seats in the Duma – told RFE/RL's Russian Service. "We have returned to the Soviet Union. It is not Parliament or the next president that will have real power, but the Unified Russia party."

As President Putin said in a nationally televised message days before the vote, the Duma elections have set the tone for the presidential election on March 2, 2008, in which a Unified Russia candidate handpicked by Mr. Putin will almost certainly sail to an easily stage-managed victory. This new combination of power gives the party and those who control it virtually a blank check in terms of remaking Russia's political balance.

"The country is now entering a period of full renewal of supreme legislative and executive authority," Mr. Putin said in the same campaign message. "And in this situation it is especially important for us to ensure continuity of the [political] course."

Although calls for changing the Constitution have been mounting for months and were renewed on election night by A Just Russia leader Sergei Mironov, major changes will likely be instituted only after the March presidential election. If Mr. Putin and his inner circle intend, as it now seems that they do, to establish Unified Russia and its domination of the Duma as the center of political power in the new Russia, they will need to trim the independence of the president.

The model for doing so has already been established. In 2004, in purported response to a series of devastating terrorist incidents including the school hostage-taking in Beslan, Mr. Putin's team dusted off an old set of proposals to centralize power and bring the Duma and the regional authorities under the wing of the presidential administration. One of the key changes instituted was the elimination of the direct election of regional heads, who have since been confirmed by local legislatures following nomination by the president. The move cut off the regional heads from their independent sources of support among the electorate.

Analogously, following the presidential election in March, the pro-Kremlin Duma could move to create a parallel system in which the president of the Russian Federation is confirmed by the Duma after being selected by the ruling party. Such a move would greatly simplify the oft-stated main goal of Mr. Putin, Unified Russia and the ruling elite: maintaining continuity of the current political course.

Similarly, the revamping of the political structure in Russia could encompass a reduction of the authority of the Federation Council. It is even possible the upper chamber could be deemed redundant and eliminated – despite its useful function as a source of sinecures for discarded former officials.

At the same time, the December 2 elections represent a huge – perhaps fatal – setback for Russia's liberal-democratic opposition. In the 2003 elections, the main parties of this ilk, Yabloko and SPS, polled about 4 percent each, which was rightly considered a disaster. This year, all the liberal-democratic parties combined failed to poll even 4 percent and none of them individually reached even 2 percent.

The immediate consequence of this defeat is that the parties will not qualify for further state support. Under Russian law, parties that pick up at least 3 percent of the vote are given five rubles (20 cents U.S.) per vote received each year. Yabloko leader Grigory Yavlinsky has said that such support is virtually the only source of income for his party.

Moreover, parties that fail to poll 2 percent must reimburse the state at commercial rates for the free broadcast airtime and space in state newspapers that was allotted to them during the campaign. This provision of the law gives the state considerable legal leeway to initiate actions against these parties.

Finally, parties that failed to receive 4 percent of the vote will forfeit the 60 million-ruble deposit they submitted to participate in the elections. Considering these new obstacles and the stacked political environment in Russia, it would be little short of miraculous if any of these parties even exist in four years, and a genuine miracle would be required for any of them to have any measurable influence.

As a result of Unified Russia's consolidation of political power and the devastation of the genuine opposition that the official results of these elections represent, Russia can look forward to a political scene dominated by the party of power for years to come.

There is one thing that all four parties in the next Duma will be able to agree on: the Kremlin's increasingly assertive stance on the international stage. If the world sees any unanimous votes coming out of the lower chamber, they will certainly be on such hot-button issues as relations with Georgia, missile defense, NATO expansion, etc.

One of the first statements that the Unified Russia leadership made on election night was to assert that the new Duma will take up the matter of the breakaway Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which have sought incorporation into the Russian Federation. If anything, these elections represent a manifestation of foreign-policy solidarity that is even stronger than the near-unanimous support they create for the so-called Putin Plan.

Speaking to journalists in October, Mr. Putin said Russia will require "manual control" for the next 15 to 20 years. The December 2 elections have put in place all the tools necessary for his inner circle to exert and extend that control. From "managed democracy," Russia has entered a phase of just plain "management."

## Praise and condemnation...

(Continued from page 2)

([ssu.kmu.gov.ua/sbu/control/uk/publish/category?cat\\_id=63245](http://ssu.kmu.gov.ua/sbu/control/uk/publish/category?cat_id=63245)).

In November all branches of the Ukrainian military lower the state flag in honor of the victims of the Famine-Genocide and Communist crimes. During that month, the military also helped repair monuments, organized lectures at military bases by writers and academics, showed films, and discussed books on the Famine and Communist repression. Each year the president presents state medals to Ukrainian scholars and activists working to document Stalinist crimes.

In contrast, Alexander Filippov's new school textbook, "A Modern History of Russia: 1945-2006," describes Stalin as "one of the USSR's most successful leaders" whose repression brought the USSR out of crisis (AFP, November 3). While Ukrainian textbooks denounce both Stalinism and Nazism, Mr. Filippov justifies Stalin as a necessary evil and backs his positive treatment by citing opinion polls giving him a positive approval rating among Russians of 47 percent.

In Ukraine the opposite tendency is taking place. Some 72.4 percent of Ukrainians blame the 1932-1933 Holodomor on the authorities, and 63 percent of Ukrainians support the recognition of the Famine as "genocide" (Ukrayinska Pravda, November 20). These polls have both cross-party and cross-regional support: 75 percent of the centrist Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc and 43 percent of the Party of the Regions supported the definition of the Famine as "genocide," while Donetsk's annual commemorations of the Famine and Communist repression are attended by local officials, including the oblast governor and city mayor (Donbass, November 25, 2006). Even the left supports this step. Some 80 percent of the Socialist Party and 41 percent of the Communist Party backs the use of the term "genocide" to describe the Famine.

How the "blank pages" of history, such as Stalinist crimes, are treated reflects the nature of the democratic and nationalist-autocratic regimes emerging in Ukraine and Russia. In both countries there is cross-party, parliamentary and public support – but over polar opposite positions. Ukraine seeks a denunciation of Stalinist crimes, while Russia praises Stalin and ignores his crimes.

## Finding relatives ...

(Continued from page 7)

by the Poles in the Akcja Wisla deportation in the late 1940s. He takes us to one house, where the people know others from that particular extended family. This gentleman does ask if we know the Potichny family, because he was taught by a Potichny in Pavlokoma, a village where the Ukrainian population was murdered by Poles after the war. As we were walking down the road, I looked back. There was a kerchiefed head looking out from every gate as far back as I could see.

Some people going to Ukraine don't have any relatives left there. They are happy just to see the family village, to go to the church and cemetery, and walk around the streets. Even though these are people of a few generations in North America, they instinctively take a small clump of soil from

their village to treasure. In the 12 years I have led tours to Ukraine, I had only one person who went all the way to Ukraine who was not interested in seeing her ancestors' village. And we were only about a half-hour away. I still cannot figure that out.

Once you find your family, if you had not been in contact before, you may wish to revisit them. Be prepared for a celebration, a "hostyna," that will last for a long time. And don't think that the first entrée served is the only one of the meal. The food keeps coming and coming. Be sure you bring your own gifts of drink, flowers, family photos and envelopes with dollars (or Euros perhaps). You will certainly be loaded down with gifts for you and the family back home.

So, if you are motivated, do the genealogical searches. But, at the same time, if you know the place, just go and find them. The family will be waiting. They remember and will be waiting for you.

## Taras Kuzio's...

(Continued from page 6)

only thing that really counts for the Ukrainian political elite is personal connections and cronyism. That applies to virtually everybody in the political elite or these shenanigans would not be happening."

He continued, "In the meantime, it is incumbent up the West to speak out, regardless of who the intended audience is and will be. To play down this absurdity is to fall victim to the worst kind of associational guilt possible."

In Ukrayinska Pravda's eyes, the granting of this award to Mr. Kivalov "will be seen as spitting in the face of half of Ukraine." The granting of a diploma and medal to Mr. Kivalov insults the one in five Ukrainians who participated in the Orange Revolution. Mr. Yushchenko will not be the president who will bring the rule of law to Ukraine – that is clearly seen in his awards to Messrs. Potebenko and Kivalov. Mr. Kivalov was not only never prosecuted, but he was permitted to continue as dean of the Judicial Academy in Odesa, where he unveiled a monument to himself in 2005. ...



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## Democratic coalition...

(Continued from page 1)

majeure conditions," Mr. Lytvynenko said. "It's doubtful the coalition will have 227 votes every time a vote comes up. Any voting will be a result of compromise."

All three opposition factions were against Mr. Yatsenyuk's candidacy, but didn't nominate a candidate of their own and didn't participate in the vote.

At one point during the session, representatives of the Democratic Forces Coalition were in talks with the Communist Party of Ukraine to strike a deal. Deputies such as Mr. Spodarenko and billionaire Kostiantyn Zhevago were missing, and other votes were needed. The negotiations fell through as the Communists accused the Democratic Forces of setting excessive demands.

The Party of the Regions offered the most opposition to the coalition, resorting to obstructionist tactics that bordered on the absurd.

When the card of a Tymoshenko Bloc deputy failed to register during a procedural vote, Party of the Regions National Deputy Vladyslav Lukianov accused Oleksander Turchynov, a Tymoshenko Bloc deputy who led the session, of falsification and called for a criminal investigation.

The spectacle grew sillier when the secret-ballot voting commenced, as one Regions deputy allegedly swiped the official stamp to approve voting ballots.

A swarm of Regions deputies attempted to block the coalition deputies from placing their ballots in the voting urn, provoking shoving matches that nearly involved Ms. Tymoshenko herself.

To ensure the secret-ballot vote wouldn't be undermined, Ms. Tymoshenko personally reviewed every deputy's ballot before he or she threw it in the voting urn.

Ms. Tymoshenko's diligence infuriated the Party of the Regions, even prompting National Deputy Vasyl Kyseliov to grab the ballot of Tymoshenko Bloc National Deputy Serhii Teriokhin and tear it to shreds.

"Secret voting was violated and the regimen was insolently abused when every deputy approached Tymoshenko, stated which faction he represented and demonstrated his ballot," Mr. Kyseliov said.

In his defense, Mr. Kyseliov said he tore Mr. Teriokhin's ballot because he was waving it in his face. "And how would you react if someone abusively behaved with a ballot in your face?" he said.

The day after, Party of the Regions leader Viktor Yanukovych referred to the vote as "severe democracy," and Nestor Shufrych said the vote demonstrated it was a "totalitarian coalition," not a democratic one.

No lawsuit was filed in the ensuing days.

On December 5 Mr. Yatsenyuk submitted the coalition's nomination of Ms. Tymoshenko as prime minister to the president.

The next day, Mr. Yushchenko responded by nominating Ms. Tymoshenko as Ukraine's next prime minister.

The Parliament has five days to approve or reject the president's nomination, but Mr. Turchynov said her candidacy wouldn't be voted on December 6.

"After yesterday's vote, Yushchenko appears to have resigned himself to Tymoshenko's candidacy," Mr. Syrotiuk said. "Any lack of support will look as a blunt betrayal, and that will hurt Yushchenko. "The train has already left the station, and Our Ukraine has no option other than to support Tymoshenko."

Ms. Tymoshenko's approval won't go as smoothly as Mr. Yatsenyuk's did, observers said, but the president hinted at

his support for her candidacy by stating on December 6 that he approves of the Verkhovna Rada electing the new prime minister before passing a critical package of reform bills that he had requested.

In becoming Verkhovna Rada chair, the 33-year-old Mr. Yatsenyuk is Europe's youngest parliamentary speaker.

The ambitious banker has ascended to the peaks of Ukrainian power and influence in a relative brief period of time. Just 10 years ago, Mr. Yatsenyuk was running a law firm in Chernivtsi that he founded in college.

During the Orange Revolution, he worked at the National Bank of Ukraine, assuring the business community the economy would remain stable and the hryvnia would not falter.

He was appointed minister of the economy by then-Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov in September 2005.

When Viktor Yanukovych's government fired Borys Tarasyuk and rejected Volodymyr Ohryzko's candidacy to replace him as foreign affairs minister, Mr. Yatsenyuk emerged as the compromise candidate to appeal to both the pro-Western and Russian-aligned forces. His

nomination received almost unanimous approval from the Verkhovna Rada, including the Communists.

Mr. Yatsenyuk's unusual appeal is his experience in having worked alongside diverse political figures.

When serving as first assistant of the Odesa Oblast State Administration, he worked alongside Vasyl Tsushko of the Socialist Party of Ukraine. At the National Bank of Ukraine, Mr. Yatsenyuk served assistant to Serhii Tyhypko, who has close ties to the Party of the Regions.

As he accepted the post of Verkhovna Rada chair, Mr. Yatsenyuk assured the assembled deputies that he would represent all the Parliament's parties.

"Every deputy will be heard, every faction will have equal rights, and there won't be those more or less equal. And we will form a capable organ which is oriented toward only one thing - Ukraine's reconstruction," Mr. Yatsenyuk said.

Perhaps the most revealing comment was Mr. Yatsenyuk's answer to a question posed by Party of the Regions National Deputy Raisa Bohatyriova. "I never give direct answers," he reportedly told her. "Don't expect that."

## Mykola Francuzenko...

(Continued from page 5)

articles about the life and work of Ukrainian writers, as well as poetry, short stories and dramas. He was also a talented speaker and actor.

He was a member of the Ukrainian Writers' Union, the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was a lecturer of Ukrainian literature at teachers' seminars organized by the

Educational Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

Surviving are Mr. Francuzenko's wife of 49 years, Jaroslawa Hubarshevsky Francuzenko; three children, Ruslan Francuzenko, Alexander Francuzenko and Roxana Finkelberg; three grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

The funeral liturgy was offered on November 2 at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Silver Spring, Md., with burial the next day at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.

## Yaroslav Kulynych...

(Continued from page 5)

the unveiling of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington, the life of Patriarch Josyf Slipyj, the St. Sophia Sobor in Rome, a return to his native Ukraine, the 10th anniversary of Ukraine's independence, Ukrainians in Argentina and the Ukrainian National Association. One of his most significant works was a film about the history of Ukraine and its struggle for independence during the 20th century.

During his several decades of indefatigable work he amassed a comprehensive film archive. In 1994 a Ukrainian-language book about his work in film was published under the title "Filmova Tvorchist Ya. Kulynycha."

For many years Mr. Kulynych was

also a freelance photographer for Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, whose editors recalled his dedication, friendship and sense of humor as he traveled from one assignment to the next.

Mr. Kulynych was a member of many Ukrainian organizations, among them the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the Ukrainian National Association.

His son, Lou, recently wrote on his blog: "My father was a film producer who was very active in the Ukrainian community. All of his life he filmed and documented different Ukrainian events throughout the world. I am currently in the process of converting all his videos and films and indexing them. I plan on setting up a new website called Kulynychfilms.com in order to have his films available online for all to view my father's work."

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## OUT AND ABOUT

- |                               |   |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Through December 23<br>Ottawa | Art exhibit, "A Beautiful Thing," featuring works by Terry Sametz, Foyer Gallery, 613-580-2424, ext. 42226  | December 23<br>Ottawa         | St. Nicholas program, Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 613-728-0856   |
| December 15<br>New York       | Annual "Yalyinka" party, Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, Ukrainian Institute of America, nyc@uesa.com  | December 31<br>Whippany, NJ   | New Year's Eve dance, music by Ostap Stakhiv and Friends and Tempo, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-599-0555 or 973-397-9651 |
| December 15<br>New York       | Lecture by Dr. Volodymyr Mezentsev, "Archeological Excavations in Baturyn in 2007," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130                               | December 31<br>Uniondale, NY  | New Year's Eve party, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, 516-481-7717 or 516-996-3231   |
| December 15<br>Bethesda, MD   | Christmas bazaar and St. Nicholas children's program, Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies, Westland Middle School, 410-730-8108 or lada2@verizon.net | December 31<br>Jenkintown, PA | New Year's Eve ball, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, contact@ueccphila.org or 215-663-1166  |
| December 16<br>Toronto        | Christmas bazaar, sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Social Services, University of Toronto, 416-763-4982  | December 31<br>Passaic, NJ    | New Year's Eve dance, music by The Wave Band, Ukrainian Center, 973-779-4017   |
| December 16<br>Ottawa         | Dinner and concert, featuring Accord Men's Choir of Ottawa, Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 613-722-1372 or 613-728-0856          | December 31<br>Ottawa         | New Year's Eve celebration and potluck dinner, Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 613-728-0856                            |
| December 16<br>Baltimore, MD  | Christmas bazaar, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 410-687-3465 or 410-675-7557   |                               |  |

*Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers; please send e-mail to [mdubas@ukrweekly.com](mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com). Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows; photos will be considered. Please note: items will be printed a maximum of two times each.*

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# TRAVELS: The new Ukrainian wave in Portugal

by Olia Rudyk

In mid-September I traveled to Portugal with three close friends: Iryna Hoshovskyj, Maria Zakotiria and Maria Zakoturria (yes, you are reading correctly). Maria and Maria are related, but separated by a vowel. Try to keep a straight face while going through airport security; or better yet, while checking into a hotel and arguing that the room should not be charged at the higher single occupancy rate. Anyway, needless to say, the four of us had a wonderful time, loads of laughs and a week of relaxation while visiting Lisbon and the Argarve region of Portugal.

One of the highlights of the trip was meeting many "Fourth Wave" Ukrainians, including the president of the Ukrainian Association in Portugal, Mariya Dets. Today, young Ukrainians are part of the work force in just about every country in Western Europe, so we were excited about meeting a few who currently live in Lisbon. On a number of occasions while strolling along beautiful cobble stoned streets and narrow alleys, relaxing at an outdoor café at one of the many historical plazas, or having dinner at a restaurant with a traditional Portuguese "Fado" musical performance, it was no surprise to hear Ukrainian spoken.

Currently there are about 78,000 Ukrainians legally registered and working in Portugal. They are located in 10 major metropolitan cities throughout the country and maintain a favorable and visible Ukrainian presence. As a result, they receive recognition by local govern-

ments.

They actively celebrate and commemorate Ukrainian holidays and invite government officials and native Portuguese to take part. Their performances of song and dance during a show commemorations of Taras Shevchenko, Christmas caroling in large groups in major squares of the city, celebrating Ukrainian Independence Day or exposure of the tragedy and horrific facts of the Holodomor via pamphlets and newspaper articles have established Ukrainians as a strong ethnic minority within the country's work force.

Lisbon has a Ukrainian Catholic church and presently the Ukrainian Association is discussing financial strategies in order to eventually acquire a building the association can then use as its community center.

Portugal has made it much easier for Ukrainians to immigrate and establish a good life for themselves and their families. The government allows a legal immigrant to sponsor the rest of the family without much red tape. They actually prefer this, knowing that it will help these immigrants root themselves as a family unit and, in turn become productive citizens who care about the economic growth of the country.

Portugal is experiencing a boom in housing development and much of this has to do with the influx of immigration. Although the pay scale is not on par with other European countries, work is easy to find.

Ms. Dets is a highly vibrant, open and warm individual originally from Ternopil, Ukraine. Her husband first



In Portugal (from left) are: Maria Zakoturria, Maria Zakotiria, Mariya Dets (president of the Ukrainian Association in Portugal), Iryna Hoshovskyj and Olia Rudyk.

arrived in Portugal about seven years ago, and four years later she and their two sons joined him. She is passionate about her heritage, as well as dedicated to the work she has taken upon herself. She spends many weekends and holidays traveling to other regional Ukrainian communities, assisting in the development of Ukrainian schools, helping to resolve issues and meeting with local government officials.

A few years ago at a regional meeting, Ms. Dets jokingly announced, "One day we will have a Ukrainian newspaper in Portugal." Three years later it became a reality. Our small travel group was very impressed by the exuberance she

revealed while speaking with us and respected her for the difficulties she has overcome and the magnificent plans she laid out for herself and the Ukrainian Association for the near future.

My three travel buddies and I very much enjoyed the few hours spent with Mrs. Dets, who at the end of our meeting escorted us to a local shop where we found excellent local cheese and Port wine to bring home to our families. Our trip to Portugal was enjoyable, relaxing and most informative. It was further evidence that you don't have to leave your Ukrainian heritage behind when you travel to various locations around the world.

## New Hope for Children raises funds to help Ukraine's young

by Bozhena Olshaniwsky

NEW MILFORD, N.J. – A special program – a fund raiser for orphans in Ukraine – took place on Sunday, November 4, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the hall of St. Joseph Council of Knights of Columbus here. The organizer for this event was Maryanne Olsen, a dedicated humanitarian who works tirelessly working for orphaned, needy and abandoned children in Ukraine. She has been working toward helping the children of Ukraine for the past eight years and is the founder of the Cross Cultural International Institute – New Hope for Children.

Hundreds of people attended this event, ate a delicious breakfast, participated in the benefit raffle and socialized. Yuriy Sergeev, ambassador of Ukraine to the United Nations, came from New York City with his second secretary, Vitalii Pohribnyi and spoke eloquently during a short program.

"It gives me special pleasure to be here today and to see beautiful people who have compassion for orphans who are hurting, and a sincere commitment to see their lives transformed," Ambassador Sergeev said. "The valuable gift of hope and well-being that you give to the abandoned and neglected children in no better way shows us that in the world, divided by territorial barriers, there exist no boundaries for the great human values

such as love, goodness and compassion."

"On behalf of Ukraine's government I want to thank you for caring for these orphans who, I have no doubt, will reward your love and support by growing into bright and pride-worthy human beings," he added. "God bless you all in your noble mission."

Pawlyshyn Sisters Nataalka and Nadiya, dressed in stylized Ukrainian costumes, sang Ukrainian songs with great feeling and emotion. Dr. Marta Kokolsky encouraged the audience to participate in the raffle and to give generously in the spirit of charity.

Several other Ukrainians attended and helped out: Mr. and Mrs. Ihor Pawlyshyn (parents of the two singers), Ola Makienko, Maria and Roza Pitula, Daria Bekesewycz, Walter Bodnar, Bozhena Olshaniwsky and Nadia Hawrylak. The total income from the event was more than \$9,000. Maryann Olsen is planning to purchase an industrial sized washer and dryer for an orphanage in Ukraine.

In addition many gifts and clothing were donated by the community; Ms. Olsen is trying to get additional funding for the mailing of these items. Contributions may be sent to: New Hope for Children, 740 Plympton St., New Milford, NJ 07646.

In addition, she is looking for help from youth groups to send Christmas cards with monetary gifts to individual orphans during the holiday season.



Maryanne Olsen (center) of New Hope for Children with Ambassador Yuriy Sergeev and Bozhena Olshaniwsky.

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# UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

## A chance to visit with bandurists

by Petro Chudolij

WHIPPANY, N.J. – When our counselor with the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA) found out that the touring Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus was going to perform on October 23 at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center in Whippany, N.J., she strongly suggested that our UAYA group, “Hetmany,” attend. It was a little tough for most of us, being that it was a school night, so only four of us actually got to go.

When we first saw the singers and bandurists taking the stage dressed in full Kozak costume, it was like being culturally transported to Ukraine. It was awesome to see all these men, young and old, dressed like Kozaky and singing like “kobzari,” while playing the bandura, Ukraine’s uniquely original national instrument.

The pieces that were strictly instrumental showcased the artistry, depth and versatility of the bandura, as well as the mastery of the bandurists who delicately and confidently commanded their beloved instrument. These dedicated men play the Poltava-style bandura, which is different from the Kharkiv-, Lviv- and Kyiv-style banduras.

*Petro Chudolij, 12, resides in Clifton, N.J., where he attends Woodrow Wilson Middle School. He is a parishioner of the Ukrainian Orthodox Holy Ascension Church in Clifton and is an active member of the Ukrainian American Youth Association, Passaic branch.*

Hearing and experiencing this concert live rather than listening to a CD was much more rewarding. The program was filled with ballads, lyrical traditional folk songs, love songs and funny songs that always had another meaning behind them. All of us liked the familiar cheerful songs that got your foot tapping. Also included were heroic Kozak battle songs.

One piece that stood out was “The Battle at Konotop,” during which there was a mix of dramatic narration, acting and the intertwining of soloists, the choir and even the additional use of cymbals and a Kozak kettledrum. We liked the picture painted by this composition and the significant story it told. We understood the powerful and historical meaning it communicated: no matter the odds, when Ukraine was under attack, men were called to arms by their Hetmans and gladly went into battle and risked everything to protect their beloved homeland and rid themselves of invading enemies, traitors and oppressors. This is a lesson worth remembering.

All in all, the concert was better than we expected. This inspired us and increased our interest to become involved in our Ukrainian musical heritage, each in his own way.

Afterwards, we were able to meet the conductor and artistic director of the chorus, Oleh Mahlay, who graciously posed with us, along with a few of the bandurists. This was an event we were happy to attend and we recommend it to young people as a worthwhile experience.

## Ukrainian scarecrows in Hartford



HARTFORD, Conn. – Members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association Branch 5 of Hartford, Conn., under the leadership of counselor Irene Bobriwnyk, prepared a scarecrow entry titled “Ukrainian Dancers,” which won first prize in the youth division in the “Scarecrows Along Main Street Parade Exhibit” sponsored by the Old Wethersfield Shopkeepers Association of Wethersfield, Conn. The previous year, the youth group “Puhachi” of Hartford won a prize for their entry titled “Ukrayinka.” Seen above, with their scarecrows, are (from left): Nataliya Vorobetz, Olga Lyba, Christina Sorano and Victoria Kebalo.

## Mishanyna

To solve this month’s Mishanyna, find the Ukrainian terms for the months of the year – listed below in order of their appearance on the calendar – hidden in the Mishanyna grid.

- |         |         |          |
|---------|---------|----------|
| sichen  | traven  | veresen  |
| liutyi  | cherven | zhovten  |
| berezen | lypen   | lystopad |
| kviten  | serpen  | hruden   |

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V	E	I	N	Y	H	O	T	O	I	N	R	E	B	E
A	R	I	D	S	A	O	L	D	E	C	E	R	E	N
R	P	O	D	K	P	O	V	O	C	H	H	U	R	Y
T	E	R	N	A	D	I	S	T	O	E	C	E	E	E
S	N	E	D	U	R	H	E	R	E	R	J	R	N	S
Y	O	G	A	S	I	D	N	A	F	N	A	E	E	T
L	T	N	O	V	E	E	R	V	A	E	N	O	Z	E
O	T	I	L	A	P	R	E	E	L	C	U	O	E	R
D	U	R	A	Y	A	L	A	N	L	H	A	Z	R	O
A	L	P	L	I	U	T	Y	I	L	A	R	M	E	N
P	O	S	U	M	M	E	R	H	O	R	Y	N	B	E



Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus Director/Conductor Oleh Mahlay (far left) and some of his bandurists with four young UAYA members, (foreground, from left) Petro Chudolij, George Harhaj, Michael Betley, Matthew Betley.





Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA)

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, December 14

730-8108.

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The New Jersey "Spartanky" Sorority of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization invites Ukrainian American youths age 12 and up to join in the traditional Ukrainian "Andriyivskiy Vechir" festivities at 7-9 p.m. at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 60 N. Jefferson Road. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, December 15

KERHONKSON, N.Y.: Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church at 211 Foordmore Road (off Route 209) is holding its Christmas Bazaar at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Featured are the usual home-baked goodies, Ukrainian foods from a Ukrainian meat market in New York City (kovbasa, kabanos, kyshka, back-bacon, etc.), varenyky (made by the church ladies) and gift items. All are welcome, free admission. For additional information call Oleh Maczaj, 845-647-6911.

BETHESDA, Md.: The Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies will host a "Sviaty Mykolai" show and holiday bazaar. Students will present a play, "Sviato Mykolaya," at noon. Sviaty Mykolai (St. Nicholas) himself will meet with each grade/age group. The Heavenly Office will be open at 9:15-11:45 a.m.; one gift only per child. Gifts should be clearly labeled (child's full name and grade/age); \$2 fee. The bazaar will take place at 9:30 a.m.-noon. Available for purchase: varenyky (25 for \$14), home-baked goods (torte slices, makivnyky, medivnyky, fancy cookies, children's sweets), plus items sold by various vendors. Location: Westland Middle School, 5511 Massachusetts Ave., Bethesda, MD 20816. For further information log on to www.ukieschool.org, or contact Lada Onyshkevych, lada2@verizon.net or 410-

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Dr. Volodymyr Mezentsev (University of Toronto) titled "Archeological Excavations in Baturyn in 2007." The talk will be illustrated with numerous slides. The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Saturday, January 19, 2008

WASHINGTON: You are cordially invited to attend Malanka 2008, sponsored by the Ukrainian Association of Washington Metropolitan Area Inc. The gala banquet and ball will be held at the Georgetown University Conference Center, 3800 Reservoir Road NW. Music will be provided by Canada's Zolota Bulava. Tickets are \$115 if purchased prior to December 19. For tickets and information call Sophia Caryk at 301-854-2062 or e-mail malanka2008@gmail.com.

CARTERET, N.J.: St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a Malanka, which will be held at the St. Demetrius Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave. Music will be by Fata Morgana. Tickets are \$50, which includes admission, choice of sirloin beef or stuffed capon dinner, open bar, midnight hors d'oeuvres and a champagne toast. (Outside liquor is prohibited.) The St. Demetrius Center is located just blocks from Exit 12 of the New Jersey Turnpike. Doors open at 6 p.m.; dinner will be served at 7 p.m.; music begins at 8:30 p.m. For tickets and table reservations call Peter Prociuk, 732-541-5452. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Deadline for tickets is January 14.

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 submission) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be no more than 100 words long.

Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510; e-mail, preview@ukrweekly.com.

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BAZAAR

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