



ПРИСТОС РОДИВСЯ! CHRIST IS BORN!

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Tymoshenko returns as prime minister of Ukraine

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Fired little more than two years ago, Yulia Tymoshenko returned as Ukraine's prime minister after the parliamentary coalition elected her on December 18 by the thinnest of margins.

Later that day, the coalition approved her Cabinet of Ministers, which she described as a team of professionals prepared to undertake sweeping reforms.

"I am happy that the democratic forces were able to return to government to install order in the country," Ms. Tymoshenko told a press conference, adding "the government appointed today is highly professional and consists of experienced people who don't have a conflict between business interests and their governing tasks."

With the rise of a new executive government, Ukraine is reset on a path toward adopting European standards, values and political structures, something that was attempted by Ms. Tymoshenko's first government, which was installed by the Orange Revolution.

Her new foreign policy team consists of Vice-Prime Minister for Euro-Integration Issues Hryhorii Nemyria and Minister of Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Ohryzko, stalwart supporters of Ukraine's integration into Euro-Atlantic structures.

Mr. Nemyria is Ms. Tymoshenko's top foreign policy advisor and a close confidante who frequently accompanies her on visits to the West. Mr. Ohryzko is a trusted confidante to President Viktor Yushchenko and widely regarded as a staunch Ukrainian patriot who favors Ukraine's integration into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

On the day of her election, Ms. Tymoshenko immediately made clear her top priorities: drafting and passing



Yulia Tymoshenko waves to onlookers in victory after the majority coalition in the Verkhovna Rada elected her prime minister on December 18.

the 2008 budget, reassessing Ukraine's energy contracts, combating corruption and eliminating bureaucracy.

"It's possible we obtained a difficult inheritance and, possibly, we won't be able to embody in three minutes everything that we would have wanted to embody even 10 years ago," she told a press conference after her elec-

tion. "But rest assured that we are devoted, we won't allow anyone to abuse government positions, we won't allow politics to be used for profit and we will step-by-step carry out strategic, systemic reforms that were out-

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Efforts to raise awareness of Holodomor get boost from Ukrainian government

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Globally, November 24 marked the start of the 75th anniversary commemoration of the Holodomor under the motto "Ukraine Remembers, the World Acknowledges."

The persistent leadership of President Viktor Yushchenko on raising recognition and awareness, along with the emergence of a new Cabinet of Ministers led by Yulia Tymoshenko, has fueled significant momentum on global efforts to prepare for next November's commemoration, which will mark the culmination of the solemn anniversary year.

"The president's position on the Holodomor is very strong, and he has demonstrated 100 percent commitment on the issue," said Stefan Romaniw, chair of the International Coordinating Committee of the 75th Anniversary of the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, which functions under the aegis of the Ukrainian World Congress.

After meeting with the president at his dacha on December 9, Mr. Romaniw said he felt confident of the Ukrainian government's ability and commitment to

raise awareness and recognition to unprecedented levels in the next year.

Ms. Tymoshenko's ascension to the prime ministership will colossally boost Holodomor commemoration and recognition efforts, Mr. Romaniw observed.

A pair of key government officials with whom Mr. Romaniw has been working closely on Holodomor recognition is now part of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

Ivan Vasiunyk left his post as first assistant chair at the Presidential Secretariat to become vice-prime minister for humanitarian affairs. His new position will enable Mr. Vasiunyk to concentrate the government's energies on next year's commemorative activities throughout Ukraine.

On the international front, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, now led by Volodymyr Ohryzko, will play a significant role in providing Ukrainian Embassies throughout the world with information, exhibits and displays, much of which will be stored on simple computer discs and will be easily distributable, Mr. Romaniw said.

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New Cabinet of Ministers is decidedly pro-Western

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's new Cabinet of Ministers led by Yulia Tymoshenko is distinctively pro-Western, not only in its policy but in its make-up.

Of the 25 ministers, 11 are natives or lifelong residents of western Ukraine.

Specifically, six are from the Halychyna region, Minister of Finance Viktor Pynzenyk is a Zakarpattia native and Minister of Internal Affairs Yuri Lutsenko is a Rivne native.

Meanwhile, Vice-Prime Minister for Euro-Integration Issues Hryhorii Nemyria and Minister of Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Ohryzko are consistent advocates of Ukraine's integration into Euro-Atlantic structures.

In selecting the ministers, Ms. Tymoshenko was given preference over the economic posts, while President Viktor Yushchenko and the pro-presidential Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc secured defense, law enforcement and humanitarian posts.

First Vice-Prime Minister Oleksander Turchynov. Born March 31, 1964, in

Dnipropetrovsk. Previous post: first assistant secretary of the National Security and Defense Council.

Her most trusted political advisor and right-hand man, Mr. Turchynov has been allied with Ms. Tymoshenko since the early 1990s, when they operated a video rental business.

Vice-Prime Minister for Euro-Integration Issues Hryhorii Nemyria. Born April 5, 1960, in Donetsk. Previous post: national deputy.

Having worked at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London and the NATO Defense College in Rome, Mr. Nemyria is a foreign policy maven and strong advocate for integration with the European Union.

Vice-Prime Minister for Humanitarian Issues Ivan Vasiunyk. Born July 7, 1959, in Velykyi Liubyn, Lviv Oblast. Previous post: first assistant chair of the Presidential Secretariat.

A longtime advisor to Viktor Yushchenko, Mr. Vasiunyk will make the

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ANALYSIS

First vote on Tymoshenko reveals democratic coalition's limitations

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor
December 13

The coalition of President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense (OU-PSD) bloc and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) has thus far failed to ensure Ms. Tymoshenko's return to the post of prime minister, from which the president fired her in fall 2005.

This time it is not disagreements within the coalition that stand in her way, but what looks like a glitch of the "Rada" electronic voting system and the opposition's determination to capitalize on it. Ms. Tymoshenko's bid for the prime ministership was supported by exactly half of the Verkhovna Rada – but not a majority.

The voting on Ms. Tymoshenko on December 11 demonstrated that the coalition of the YTB and OU-PSD will have to fight for every important issue in the newly elected Parliament, as it numbers 227 members – just one vote more than the simple majority needed to pass laws in the 450-seat legislature. The opposition – the Party of the Regions (PRU), the Communists and the Lytvyn Bloc – refused to cast a single vote for Ms. Tymoshenko, so all members of OU-PSD – even those who happened to be seriously ill – had to come to Parliament.

Their turnout was in vain. Ms. Tymoshenko mustered 225 votes, just one short of her premiership. Two coalition members complained that, for some reason, their votes "in favor" were not counted by the electronic voting system. Rada Chairman Arseniy Yatsenyuk, despite loud protests from the opposition, ruled to re-vote. At that point, PRU Deputy Vladyslav Lukianov snatched the chairman's voting card. Without Mr. Yatsenyuk's vote, the Rada displayed the figure 225 again. In addition, another coalition member claimed that his vote was not counted.

The opposition did not allow a re-vote. Furious, OU-PSD and YTB claimed that the opposition had tampered with the Rada system and threatened Mr. Lukianov with criminal prosecution. The PRU, however, defended Mr. Lukianov, saying that he had only prevented a procedural violation.

Technical experts interviewed by Channel 5 said that the Rada system could not possibly be tampered with. They suggested that the incident during the voting was an unfortunate coincidence. After checking the voting system the Security Service of Ukraine reported that nothing suspicious was found.

On December 12 President Yushchenko again submitted Ms. Tymoshenko's nomination to Parliament. The opposition, however, blocked the session hall. The PRU said that the December 11 voting was just a one-off concession to the coalition, and now they want Parliament to continue working according to the usual procedure, which stipulates that the Rada chair and vice-chairs should be elected and standing committees should be formed before voting on a new prime minister. Only the chair has been elected so far.

It was not clear at the time this analysis was written when Parliament will vote on Ms. Tymoshenko's bid again if the opposition does not drop its demand.

The composition of Ms. Tymoshenko's future Cabinet of Ministers has already been made public. It is not ruled out, however, that some changes may be made to the list by the time of Ms. Tymoshenko's appointment. Her proposed Cabinet will include representatives of the YTB and OU-PSD in equal proportion. The foreign affairs and defense ministers are picked by the president, as this is his privilege according to the Constitution of Ukraine.

The four vice prime ministers designated by Ms. Tymoshenko are: Oleksander Turchynov, her key ally since the late 1990s, when both were on the team of former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, who was later imprisoned in the United States for graft; Ivan Vasiunyk, a former deputy head of President Yushchenko's office; Yosyp Vinskyi, a former No. 2 in the Socialist Party, who left the Socialists when they abandoned Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko and joined the Yanukovich camp in 2006; and Hryhorii Nemyria, a foreign relations expert who has accompanied Ms. Tymoshenko on foreign trips.

President Yushchenko's choice for

(Continued on page 22)

East Europe Foundation is launched to assist development in Ukraine, Moldova

KYIV – A reception at the Suziria Theater in Kyiv on November 29 marked the official launch of the East Europe Foundation (EEF), which will continue the work of the Eurasia Foundation (EF) in Ukraine and Moldova, mobilizing public and private resources to drive social and economic development.

William B. Taylor Jr., U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, and Douglas Menarchik, assistant administrator for the Bureau of Europe and Eurasia at the U.S. Agency for International Development, spoke at the opening reception to celebrate the launch. Ukraine's Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Andrii Veselovsky also attended.

Leaders in the business, diplomatic and academic communities make up the EEF board of trustees. Members of the board include: Yuriy Sivitsky, co-founder of Softline; Trond Moe, head of Telenor in Ukraine; Helen Volska, managing partner and director of Emergex Business Solutions; Sarah Carey, partner at Squire,

Sanders & Dempsey LLP; Adriaan Jacobovits de Szeged, former ambassador of the Netherlands and special representative of the European Union for Moldova; Natalie Jaresko, managing and founding partner of Horizon Capital; Tatiana Komarova, financial director of Wimm-Bill-Dann Foods; Steven Pifer, senior advisor of the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies; Andy Wilson, president of the East Europe Foundation; and Regina Yan, executive vice-president of Eurasia Foundation.

The EEF has already gained the support of over a dozen organizations prior to the January 1, 2008, launch of its operations. The foundation will use this support for grant-making and targeted programs in the areas of corporate social responsibility, local economic development, sustainable solutions for organizations, municipal partnerships, business and economics education and just and fair governance.

NEWSBRIEFS

Oldest citizen dies at age 116

KYIV – Ukraine's oldest citizen, Hryhorii Nestor, who lived in the Lviv region, died on December 14 at the age of 116. Mr. Nestor was born on March 15, 1891, on Ukrainian lands then under Austrian-Hungarian rule. To his very death he worked as a shepherd and was a confirmed bachelor. Repeatedly asked about his secret to a long life, he joked that he had never been married, which kept him strong and healthy. His favorite hobbies included singing in German, Polish, Ukrainian and Russian. Mr. Nestor was to be included in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's oldest person. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko waxes optimistic

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said on Channel 5 television on December 13 that lawmakers in the Verkhovna Rada would reach an agreement and resolve all current disputes by the end of the year. "I am convinced that the country will enter 2008 with [an agreement on] the leadership of the newly elected Parliament, the government and parliamentary committees," Mr. Yushchenko said. "Ukrainian politicians should take responsibility for the ongoing order or disorder in the Parliament. The country expects the authorities to be in place and to defend Ukraine's domestic and foreign interests," he added. At the time of his interview the Rada was deadlocked in a procedural dispute between the opposition Party of the Regions and the majority coalition of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense bloc. The coalition insisted on first voting on the nominee for prime minister, while the Party of the Regions demanded that the Rada vote on its own leadership before the prime minister was approved. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yanukovich: coalition lacks viability

KYIV – Viktor Yanukovich, the outgoing prime minister and leader of the Party of the Regions, has said that hopes for stability in Ukraine are misplaced, Interfax reported on December 12. The

December 11 "events in the Verkhovna Rada revealed the obvious lack of viability of a [YTB/OU-PSD] coalition of 227 lawmakers," Mr. Yanukovich said. "Society should receive an answer to the question of whether a coalition of 227 is capable of taking responsibility for the country," he continued. "Either they take responsibility and realize their promises to voters... or they must admit that a coalition of 227 cannot work," he added. The coalition has a two-seat majority in the 450-seat Verkhovna Rada. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Yushchenko rules out dismissing Rada

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko told Channel 5 television on December 16 that he rules out the possibility of dissolving the Verkhovna Rada if it fails to form a government by the deadline for doing so. "Unfortunately, the Constitution does not provide for this," he said. Mr. Yushchenko said that political forces should renew talks if Parliament fails to elect its leadership and parliamentary committees and approve the prime minister and government within the next two or three days. Mr. Yushchenko said that the Party of the Regions and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) bear most of the responsibility for the ongoing deadlock in forming a new Ukrainian government. The Verkhovna Rada on December 14 agreed to vote on approving the prime minister and new Cabinet on December 18. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Tymoshenko wants stable relations

KYIV – Yulia Tymoshenko on December 17 told the Izvestia in Ukraine newspaper that the new Ukrainian government will build its relations with Russia based on "stability, harmony and partnership." She said, "We will resolve the issues of gas supplies and gas transportation during talks. We want to act in favor of the mutual benefits [that can be] derived by Ukraine and Russia." Ms. Tymoshenko stressed that Ukraine should move toward integration with the European Union and the World Trade

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Ukraine's new Cabinet of Ministers

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko
First Vice-Prime Minister Oleksander Turchynov
Vice-Prime Ministers Ivan Vasiunyk and Hryhorii Nemyria
Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko
Defense Minister Yurii Yekhanurov
Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko
Justice Minister Mykola Onischuk
Economy Minister Bohdan Danylyshyn
Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk
Education and Science Minister Ivan Vakarchuk
Transport and Communications Minister Yosyf Vynskyi
Culture and Tourism Minister Vasyl Vovkun
Labor and Social Policy Minister Liudmyla Denysova
Health Minister Vasyl Kniazevych
Agricultural Policy Minister Yurii Melnyk
Industrial Policy Minister Volodymyr Novytskyi
Family, Youth and Sports Minister Yurii Pavlenko
Coal Industry Minister Viktor Poltavets
Fuel and Energy Minister Yurii Prodan
Environmental Protection Minister Heorhii Filipchuk
Emergency Situations Minister Volodymyr Shandra
Minister for Building and Public Utilities Oleksii Kucherenko
Minister for Interregional Development and Construction Vasyl Kuibida
Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers Petro Krupko



Minister of Finance Viktor Pynzenyk



Minister of Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Ohryzko



Minister of Internal Affairs Yurii Lutsenko



Minister of Justice Mykola Onischuk



First Vice-Prime Minister Oleksander Turchynov



Vice-Prime Minister for Euro-Integration Issues Hryhorii Nemyria



Vice-Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Ivan Vasiunyk



Minister of Defense Yurii Yekhanurov

New Cabinet...

(Continued from page 1)

75th anniversary commemoration of the Holodomor in November a top government priority.

Minister of Agricultural Policy Yurii Melnyk. Born August 5, 1962, in Verkhniachka, Cherkasy Oblast. Previous post: minister of agricultural policy.

The only minister to remain from the government led by Viktor Yanukovich.

Minister of Culture and Tourism Vasyl Vovkun. Born June 16, 1957, in Maschoshyn, Lviv Oblast. Previous post: artistic director for the Art Veles events organizing firm.

Mr. Vovkun's firm Art Veles played a critical role in organizing the Orange Revolution, as well as government ceremonies and events, including President Yushchenko's inauguration and the recent Holodomor commemoration.

Minister of Defense Yurii Yekhanurov. Born August 23, 1948, in the Russian Federation. Previous post: national deputy.

Among the president's most loyal allies, Mr. Yekhanurov succeeded Ms. Tymoshenko as Ukraine's prime minister, presiding over the natural gas crisis of winter 2005-2006.

Minister of the Economy Bohdan Danylyshyn. Born June 6, 1965. Previous post: chair of the Productivity Studies Council of Ukraine at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

A lifelong scholar and doctor of economics, the Tymoshenko Bloc member wrote more than 150 academic works on national

and regional policy.

Minister of Education Ivan Vakarchuk. Born March 6, 1947, in Moldova. Previous post: rector of Ivan Franko State University in Lviv.

A doctor of physics and professor, Dr. Vakarchuk has served as rector of the Ivan Franko State University in Lviv since 1990.

Minister of Emergency Situations Volodymyr Shandra. Born January 11, 1963, in Zborove, Ternopil Oblast. Previous post: advisor to the president of Ukraine.

A trained nuclear engineer, Mr. Shandra served as minister of emergency situations during the first Tymoshenko administration.

Minister of Environmental Defense Heorhii Filipchuk. Born December 19, 1950, in Kyseliv, Chernivtsi Oblast. Previous post: chair of Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc's Vinnytsia headquarters.

Mr. Filipchuk was a trusted advisor to Mr. Yushchenko during the 2004 presidential election and a Tymoshenko Bloc leader in Vinnytsia in the recent elections.

Minister of Family, Youth and Sports Yurii Pavlenko. Born March 20, 1975, in Kyiv. Previous post: chair of Zhytomyr State Oblast Administration.

Having served in the same post in the first Tymoshenko government, Mr. Pavlenko is a longtime ally and "kum" (parent of a godchild) to Mr. Yushchenko.

Minister of Finance Viktor Pynzenyk. Born April 15, 1954, in Smoloholovytza, Zakarpattia Oblast. Previous post: national deputy.

The leader of the Reforms and Order Party, Mr. Pynzenyk is veteran of Kyiv politics, having served as a vice-minister, econ-

omy minister and, most recently, finance minister.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Ohryzko. Born April 1, 1956, in Kyiv. Previous Post: first vice-minister of foreign affairs.

Abhorred by the Russian Federation's government, Mr. Ohryzko is a firm advocate of Ukraine's integration into the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Minister of Fuel and Energy Yurii Prodan. Born January 27, 1959, in the Russian Federation. Previous post: assistant secretary of the National Security

and Defense Council.

An engineer and veteran of Ukraine's energy industry, Mr. Prodan supported Ms. Tymoshenko's 1999 campaign to eliminate electricity barter and advised Mr. Yushchenko during his presidency.

Minister of Health Vasyl Kniazevych. Born March 9, 1956, in Ternovytsa, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast. Previous post: assistant chair of the State Affairs Management.

A personal physician to the president, Dr. Kniazevych rose through the ranks of the nation's medical bureaucracy from his hum-

(Continued on page 20)

Archbishop Vsevolod of UOC-U.S.A., Western Eparchy, dies at age 80

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – On Sunday, December 16, Archbishop Vsevolod (Kolomijcew-Majdanski) eparch of the Western Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., passed away after a brief illness. He was 80. (A detailed biography of the archbishop will appear in an upcoming issue of The Ukrainian Weekly.)

Archbishop Vsevolod is survived by his sister Ilaria; his nieces Juliana Krejer, Christina Krejer and Deana Krejer-Mush, with her husband, Mark, and their children, Blade and Conall; as well as family members in Ukraine.

Funeral services will be held in three parts: on December 26, at 3 p.m. at St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Chicago; on December 27, at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew the First-Called Memorial Church in South Bound Brook, N.J.; with interment at St.

Andrew Cemetery on December 28 at 9 a.m. in South Bound Brook, N.J.

In lieu of flowers, the Church and family request that donations be made in the archbishop's memory to any of the following charities: Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. Education and History Complex, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. Orphanage Adoption Program, or the Simon Petliura Library Renovation and Memorial in Paris.

Condolences may be sent to: Consistory Administrative Offices, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., P.O. Box 495, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880; (for courier delivery use: Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., 135 Davidson Ave. Somerset, NJ 08873), e-mail, uocofusa@aol.com; or fax, 732-356-9437.

All ministers' photos by Zenon Zawada

'Holodomor' documentary feature film to be made in Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. – "Holodomor; Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933," a feature-length documentary, is in production by Tomkiw Entertainment and Moksha Films. The film's production coincides with the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, Ukraine's Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

"Holodomor; Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-33" promises to be an edgy, auspicious, cinematic look at a very dark and horrific time in which millions of people died due to a man-made famine in Ukraine perpetrated by Joseph Stalin.

In November 2006 Hollywood filmmakers Bobby Leigh and Marta Tomkiw were invited to a Holodomor memorial service in Los Angeles. "Although I had fancied myself as a history buff, seeing every World War I and II movie that I could and studying countless hours of history channels, I had never before heard of the Holodomor or any genocide or famine in Ukraine. I was also surprised, as I later found out, that nobody I knew had ever heard of it either," said Mr. Leigh, the director of "Holodomor."

In the early 1930s, Ukraine was the breadbasket of the Soviet Union and had bountiful crops of grain, yet its people were dying of starvation. In order to crush the will of the independent-minded Ukrainian peasants and secure collectivization of all Ukrainian lands, Stalin ordered an army of ruthless Communist Party activists to confiscate all harvested grain and seize all the foodstuffs in the villages. As a result of this genocidal decree, by the end of 1933 nearly 25 percent of the Ukrainian population – some 10 million people, including 3 million children – had perished.

Ukrainians had little possibility of escap-

ing their horrific fate or even to create another type of life elsewhere. Travel was banned for Ukrainians, keeping them confined in a prison of starvation within their own villages.

This is the first full-length feature film documentary on this tragic event in history. "Holodomor; Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-33" will tell the story of the cold-blooded destruction of human life, kept from the world for over seven decades.

"Marta and I researched and found no documentary film on this topic with the exception of 'Harvest of Despair,' which was made in 1983 and was only 53 minutes. A full-length theatrical documentary movie had to be made. I think we both felt that it was time that all the souls who needlessly died or had been murdered were given a collective voice to tell their story," Mr. Leigh commented.

"We found it a duty or a calling to lift the veil of silence that's been shrouding the Ukrainian nation for too many years," recalled Ms. Tomkiw, the film's producer.

"This story should be important to all of us, not only as a historical fact but also because the atrocities that happened to the Ukrainian people should never happen again," added Mr. Leigh.

Upon film industry veteran Luba Keske's urging and planting of the seed (Ms. Keske is a member of the Los Angeles committee on the Holodomor), as well as Ms. Tomkiw's convincing tactics, Mr. Leigh decided that "this story needed to be told after being suppressed for 75 years."

Ms. Tomkiw is a filmmaker who now lives in Los Angeles. She is a Detroit native born to Ukrainian immigrants and grew up attending Ukrainian schools (Immaculate

Conception Ukrainian Catholic Grade School and High School, Ukrainian Saturday school), was a member of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and briefly studied Ukrainian dance.

She studied film at the School of Visual Arts in New York, where she worked at Rockamerica Video, a music video production company, with various recording artists. She graduated from Wayne State University with a degree in film and television. She has also lived and worked in Miami for the television show "World Business Review with Casper Weinberger" and later worked as an executive producer for AFI Filmworks and produced car commercials.

Ms. Tomkiw has produced several independent films, her most recent being a documentary titled "High Tech Soul" about the history and evolution of techno music in Detroit.

She also works as a location manager on feature films and television shows and has worked on various film projects, some of which include: "John Hancock" starring Will Smith and Charlize Theron; "Get Smart" starring Steve Carrell; "Transformers" (for which she received a "COLA Award" [California On-Location Awards] for Location Team of the Year), "Ghost Whisperer," "West Wing," "Red Eye," "Million Dollar Baby," "S.W.A.T.," "Kill Bill," "8 Mile" and many others.

Mr. Leigh served as a producer on "The Gift ... At Risk" starring Vince Vaughn and Randy Travis, which debuted at the Monaco Film Festival. For Visualiner Entertainment, Mr. Leigh is a producer on the award-winning feature film "Stripped Down," starring Ian Ziering ("Beverly Hills 90210" and "Dancing with the Stars,").

The film, which took three awards at the Silver Lake Film Festival, including Outstanding Achievement in Production, has been sold to eight European Markets including the Commonwealth of Independent States and Ukraine, and will have an American theatrical release in 2008. Recently he produced "The Guitar Player's Girlfriend," winner of the Los Angeles Screenwriting Competition sponsored by Kodak Panavision.

With the Filmmakers Alliance, Mr. Leigh produced "Plus or Minus: A Few Things I Thought I Should Consider" with director Amanda Swikow. He also directed the children's film "It's All an Illusion" for Christopher Coppola's Project Access Hollywood. The film, which took third place in the best picture category, is also on the festival circuit. Other film credits include "Infidelity," "Childlike Violence," "Burning Man," "Broken," and "Butterfly Sky."

Mr. Leigh served as a producer for three "MTV Video Awards" television shows, two in New York and one in Dublin. He also produced Visionfest/The Vision Awards for Filmmakers Alliance and the Directors Guild of America for four years in a row.

Currently Ms. Tomkiw and Mr. Leigh have put together a five-minute sample trailer of the film and are looking for financing for the documentary feature film.

"I really feel that this subject needs awareness and must be brought into the mainstream cinematic arena. There is no more effective way to get into everyone's homes and hearts than through cinema." Mr. Leigh underscored.

To view the trailer and to donate, please see www.HolodomorTheMovie.com.

UCCA executive board adopts plan of activity for 2008

by Serhiy Zhykharev

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

NEW YORK – The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) executive board met on Saturday, December 8, at its headquarters in New York City to discuss its plans for 2008. Among the most notable of projects will be the continued promotion of knowledge about the Ukrainian Holodomor of 1932-1933. The executive board adopted an action plan to push for recognition in the U.S. Congress of the Holodomor as genocide of the Ukrainian nation.

Through its participation in the National Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933, the UCCA will also co-sponsor a large-scale political conference in Washington in the spring of 2008 with the participation of government officials from Ukraine, the United States and Europe, as well as experts in the field of genocide.

Other projects related to the Holodomor include continued advocacy of a Ukrainian Genocide curriculum in high schools throughout the United States. Beginning in 2005, the UCCA initiated a curriculum review in Pennsylvania and enlisted the services of Vera Bej, Christine Schwed and Ihor Mirchuk, Ph.D., to create and publish the "teacher and student workbook" dedicated to the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933.

The workbook was recently distributed to all 500 school districts in Pennsylvania with a cover letter endorsed by the social studies education advisor for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education, Jeffrey Zeiers. The UCCA in other states is also embarking on similar projects. UCCA plans also include hosting a conference of Ukrainian American high school teachers to assist in the curriculum project, using the Pennsylvania workbook as a case study.

The UCCA will also work to expand the subscription base of its academic journal, The Ukrainian Quarterly, by publishing a brochure and developing a marketing strategy. The goal is to entice various universities, especially those with Slavic studies programs, to become yearly subscribers, bringing in \$150 per subscription, thus raising the necessary funds to maintain this journal.

Contact with the ever-growing Ukrainian American community is a highlight of the planned actions for 2008. The UCCA approved a strategy to create new branches in newer Ukrainian communities, as well as to direct attention to the status of existing community organizations. Plans call for visiting various communities on the East Coast, West Coast and Midwest. "Strength in Unity" and recognition of the Holodomor as the genocide of the Ukrainian nation will be the overarching themes of the community dialogues.

Considerable focus was placed on the U.S. political system and increasing the effectiveness of the UCCA's advocacy. With the upcoming U.S. presidential elections, the UCCA executive board adopted a decision to write a white paper that would be sent to all the major candidates emphasizing the concerns of the Ukrainian American community, including: recognition of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation; enhanced bilateral relations with Ukraine through inter-parliamentary and youth exchange programs; and immigration issues. The goal is to eventually request a meeting with each of the candidates to discuss the concerns of the Ukrainian community outlined in the white paper.

Finally, the UCCA board discussed how to better promote in Washington the work of the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) on behalf of the Ukrainian American community. Since 1977 UNIS



The Akolada Choir from Philadelphia sings Ukrainian Christmas carols at the UCCA Christmas party.

has been facilitating interaction between the Ukrainian community, members of Congress, administration officials, the mass media and think-tank organizations, while advocating Ukrainian Americans issues of interest and concern. Following a successful 30th anniversary campaign throughout the Ukrainian American community, additional emphasis will be placed on expanding the scope and nature of UNIS fund-raisers.

In 2007 UNIS distributed its newest brochure, which highlighted the accomplishments of the community's advocacy office. UNIS plans for 2008 include the promotion and advocacy of a Ukrainian Genocide resolution in the U.S. Congress, as well as fostering additional contacts in Congress to assist with the Ukrainian community's concerns.

The UCCA executive board also reviewed several important anniversaries, which will be commemorated next year:

The 75th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933; the 90th anniversary of January 22, 1918, proclamation of Ukrainian statehood; the 90th anniversary of November 1, 1918, proclamation of the Western Ukrainian National Republic; the 70th anniversary of the death of Evhen Konovalts, founder of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists; and the 130th anniversary of the first immigration of Ukrainians to the United States.

Following the UCCA National Council meeting, members of the UCCA executive board, National Council and representatives from the Ukrainian diplomatic corps and Ukrainian American organizations gathered for the annual UCCA Christmas party. The Akolada Choir, which is part of the UCCA Philadelphia Branch, sang traditional Ukrainian Christmas carols. The choir is directed by Bohdan Gengalo.

 **THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM**

UNA's 2007-2008 Christmas cards benefit Soyuzivka

by **Oksana Trytjak**
UNA National Organizer

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The Ukrainian National Association, in keeping with tradition, has published a selection of Christmas cards that were mailed to UNA members and subscribers to the UNA's newspapers in time for the Christmas celebrations of 2007-2008.

The packets contain 12 cards that reproduce the works of various Ukrainian artists. Some of this year's cards are reprints of Christmas cards printed in the past. This year's new cards are Irena Zielyk's oil on canvas depicting Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kerhonkson, N.Y., and Lyudmyla Mosijczuk's watercolor of Ukrainian folk art. In addition, the packet contains two new blank cards that can be used for any occasion.

The UNA is asking the Ukrainian community to participate in this fund-raising project benefiting Soyuzivka by purchasing the cards. Payment for the cards and any other donation (e.g., for the press funds of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly) should be made to the Ukrainian

National Foundation Inc. All payments are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

The UNA thanks all the artists who have submitted their works for reproduction this year and in the past. Their permission to reproduce their works is their donation to Soyuzivka; the artists receive no payment.

The artists who have participated in the Christmas card project from 1995 to the present include: Jaroslav Adamovych, Anatolij Balukh, Krystyna Baranska (Nana), Bohdan Borzemsky, Anatolij Burtovyy, Marta Cisyk, Mykhajlo Dmytrenko, Tatianna Gajecky, Olenka Hanushevsk-Galadza, Maria Harasowska-Daczyszyn, Jacques Hnizdovsky, Petro Holovatyj, John Jaciw, Natalia Josypchuk, Oleksander Kaniuka, Andriy Khomyk, Moki Kokoris, Danylo Koshtyra, Natalia Kovalenko, George Kozak, Yarema Kozak, Zenowia Kulynych, Zoya Lisowska, Pavlo Lopata, Oksana Lukasewycz-Polon, Vitaliy Lytvyn, Andrij Maday, Roman Markovych, Marta Anna, Luba Maksymchuk, Leo Mol, Lyudmila Mosijczuk, Natalka, Chrystyna Nykorak, Lydia Palij, Rev. Serhij Pastukhiv, Aka Pereyma, Lidia Piaseckyj, Orest Poliszczuk, Myron Ryzhula, Christina Saj, Martha Savchak, Ivan

Skolozdra, Roman Smetaniuk, Christine Sobol, Jaroslav Stadnyk, Olena Stasiuk, Myroslava Stojko, Youlia Tkatchouk, Yurij

Trytjak, Irena Twerdochlib, Halyna Tytla, Markijan Vitruk, Yurij Viktiuk, Olvin Vladyka and Irena Zielyk.



Clockwise from top left: cards by George Kozak, Lyudmyla Mosijczuk, Irena Zielyk, Christine Sobol and Moki Kokoris.



Young UNA'ers



Madeline A. Voinov, daughter of Alexander and Monica Voinov of Wayne, N.J., is a new member of UNA Branch 42. She was enrolled by her grandparents Walter and Mary Voinov.



Elijan Nicholas Kazmaier and Madeline Sofia Kazmaier, twin children of Maria Wallace Kazmaier and Nicholas Kazmaier of Rossford, Ohio, are new members of UNA Branch 165. They were enrolled by their great-grandfather Peter Lahola.



Maksym Michael Napora, son of Taras E. and Tania Napora of Broadview Heights, Ohio, is a new member of UNA Branch 291. He was enrolled by his grandparents Mike and Vera Napora.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Gifts at Christmastime

So, your Christmas shopping is done, or almost done. But, are you truly done with giving gifts to all those who deserve or need them this year? We're not talking about your family, friends and colleagues here, but about various charitable organizations, non-profit groups and community institutions that all could benefit from some of our largesse. And, since we're in a giving mood at Christmastime, why not extend that giving to those entities whose goals we support and appreciate?

Below, we offer some ideas for potential recipients of your gifts. To be sure, the list is far from complete; nor does it aim to tell you where to donate. It is meant simply as food for thought, to point out some of the possibilities that you, Dear Readers, might consider in your Christmastime gift-giving.

Locally, there are many organizations you probably know about that deserve your Christmas gift. For example, in these parts we have the new Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (uaccnj.org; 973-585-7175), whose beautiful new facilities are used by many local groups, ranging from youth organizations and the Ukrainian studies school to sports teams and dance groups. The UACCNJ has quite a mortgage to pay off, so all donations are welcome.

Or, you could support the ongoing work in Ukraine of the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation (www.usukraine.org; 202-223-2228), whose mission is to "facilitate democratic development, encourage free market reform and enhance human rights in Ukraine." In our editorial of September 16 we called this foundation "one of the most effective non-governmental organizations helping transform Ukraine from a post-Soviet society into a democratic and transparent state governed by the rule of law."

If history is your thing, consider donating to Brody-Lew Inc. (P.O. Box 261 Cooper Station, New York NY 10276), a brotherhood that concerns itself with the preservation of Ukrainians' war graves and memorials, as well as providing humanitarian aid to needy veterans who fought for Ukraine's independence.

If the future of Ukraine's children is close to your heart, you might want to take a look at the work being done by the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (www.childrenofchernobyl.org; 973-463-1986) to protect and save the lives of the youngest generation. CCRDF provides humanitarian aid and medical equipment to hospitals, trains doctors and other medical practitioners, and cares for the health of pregnant women and newborns.

The Ukrainian National Women's League of America (www.unwla.org; 212-533-4646) has a proud history of supporting various charitable, educational and cultural causes, both close to home here in the U.S. and abroad – in Ukraine and in the diaspora. Its myriad programs range from feeding needy children in Ukraine and helping provide for the education of students in South America, to funding the work of The Ukrainian Museum in New York.

If you're thinking globally, you should take a look at the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (www.uuarc.org; 215-728-1630), which traces its beginnings to the post-war period when it helped countless Ukrainian refugees arriving in this country. The UUARC is "dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of Ukrainian communities and individuals" around the globe. Its programs include soup kitchens and the "adopt a grandparent" program to aid the elderly in Ukraine, financial aid for poor farmers in Brazil, and support for orphanages in Ukraine, Romania, Poland and other countries.

We could go on and on and on. But, hey, if you read this newspaper, you know a lot about the work of Ukrainian organizations active in North America. So, enough said. Please don't forget to include some of these worthy recipients on your Christmas list.

Dec
24
2003

Turning the pages back...

Four years ago on December 24, 2003, 276 deputies of Ukraine's Parliament voted in favor of a bill amending the Constitution of Ukraine, which would have made 2004 the last year that popular and direct presidential elections were to be held in Ukraine. Instead, the power to elect the president was given to

the Parliament.

Co-authored by Communist leader Petro Symonenko and Viktor Medvedchuk, presidential chief of staff, the bill and two additional measures were approved by the Constitutional Court. During the day and a half of debates, Viktor Yushchenko of the Our Ukraine faction and allies from the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc and the Socialists, led by Oleksander Moroz, physically disrupted the proceedings to prevent preliminary voting on the constitutional amendments.

The controversy began when opposition forces objected to the limited amount of time set aside for debate and because a second bill, not yet voted on, would have done away with the 2004 popular presidential election. This was in complete disregard of public opinion polls which revealed that between 80 percent and 90 percent of Ukrainians wanted to elect their president directly and rejected delegating this authority to the Parliament.

In its first reading, backers of the bill voted by a show of hands, because other deputies had allegedly disrupted the operation of the electronic voting system, and the Communists would only do so on the condition that voting take place in the Rada chamber.

Communist Valerii Mishura was charged with counting the show of hands and said the vote was legitimate, claiming that 11 of the 19 members of the vote tabulation body had agreed to the results of the count, but deputies from Our Ukraine and others disputed the validity of the results and promised to challenge them before the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and that body's Vienna Commission, which reviews constitutional legislation of PACE member-states.

In order for it to be adopted, during its final reading, a constitutional majority of two-thirds (300 votes) was necessary.

Source: "Rada passes constitutional amendment bill, opposition vows to 'defend the Constitution,'" *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 28, 2003.

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTER

May the star of Bethlehem illumine our hearts with joy, love and peace

Christmas pastoral letter of the Ukrainian Catholic hierarchs of the United States.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

The annual celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord is replete with many venerable traditions and symbols, and among them the star of Bethlehem is one of the most beloved. We see examples of the star everywhere: on Christmas greeting cards, crowning the top of practically every Christmas tree, adorning church steeples and the chimney tops of houses. And a brightly decorated star of Bethlehem invariably leads the way for Ukrainian carolers making their joyful rounds from home to home during this season.

The star of Bethlehem plays such a prominent role in our celebrations because of its significance in the Gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus. Meditating upon them, it is especially interesting to note the contrast in reaction that the star's appearance elicits between the Magi on one hand, and Herod and the chief priests and scribes on the other.

The Magi were foreigners in Palestine, but when they arrived in Jerusalem after their long trek they are in no way intimidated or doubtful. They boldly approach Herod and ask with confidence, not if the child has been born, but where it is they will find him. "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage" (Mt. 2:9).

The Magi are filled with joy when they finally behold the Child. "Going into the house, they saw the child with his Mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh" (Mt. 2:11).

Compare and contrast the joy and faith of the Magi at the appearance of the star to the suspicion and fear the same appearance evokes in Herod and the religious authorities. They seem not to be even aware of the existence of this beacon from heaven. They are totally oblivious to the presence of the star which had appeared literally above their very rooftops, while the Magi had witnessed it from afar and had traveled perhaps hundreds of miles to learn its secret.

Their mysterious pilgrimage to seek a newborn king catches Herod and the entire city off guard. No one expects it and it elicits great consternation and uncertainty among the people. We read that Herod "was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him" (Mt. 2:3). He calls a meeting of the chief priests and scribes, who confirm that, according to the prophecies of old, Bethlehem is, indeed, to be the birth place of the long-awaited Messiah: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel" (Mi. 5:1).

This news, which should have filled their hearts with unspeakable joy, instead plunges them into suspicion, hatred and jealousy, and Herod hatches a plot for the life of the Child which ends in the deaths of the Holy Innocents, the first men to spill their blood for Christ: "(Herod) had all the male children killed who were 2 years old or under, reckoning by the date he had been careful to ask the wise men" (Mt. 2:16).

Why were Herod and the chief priests and scribes so blind to the brightness of the star of Bethlehem, while the Magi were able to see it clearly from such a great distance? Why was the heart of Herod filled with lies and duplicity, while the hearts of the Magi were so open and generous? Why did Herod stubbornly remain in his palace, while the Magi sought out the cave where the Child lay? Why did Herod attempt to stifle news of the birth of the Messiah, while the Magi proclaimed it? Why did Herod bring a sword with which to cut short the life of the Newborn King, while the Magi brought earthly treasures of gold, frankincense and myrrh?

The answer is that Herod's heart was poisoned with the vice of pride, while the hearts of the Magi were overflowing with the virtue of humility. The pride and covetousness of Herod shackled him to his cold throne, while the Magi, in humility and reverence knelt before Jesus and did him homage.

Anyone who has had the good fortune of visiting the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem knows that to enter it one must proceed through a very low doorway. It is called "The Door of Humility" because one must bend one's head in order to enter. Only then can one approach to pray at the holy spot where tradition says Our Lord was born.

Dear Brothers and Sisters! Humility is the key to a meaningful and spiritual celebration of the Nativity of Christ. We too must approach the manger of Christ, just as the Magi of old, just as modern-day pilgrims to the Church of the Nativity – with bowed heads and humble and open hearts in order to be illumined by the warmth and light of the newborn Son of God. The secular and unbelieving society in which we live is blind to the light of the star of Bethlehem which illumines the world, just as were Herod and the chief priests and scribes. Let us not be as they were. Let us always be guided, as were the Magi, by the light of the star of Bethlehem which leads us to Christ.

The appearance of a star that heralded the birth of the Messiah was prophesied in Holy Scripture long before it actually appeared. Very early on, at a time when Israel was still wandering in the desert following the Exodus from Egypt we read of the great prophecy of Balaam, the Seer: "I see him, though not now; I behold him, though not near. A star shall advance from Jacob, and a staff shall rise from Israel" (Nm. 24:17).

The star, shining brightly through the mists of centuries in the vision of Balaam, is a symbol of the power and authority with which he established the Kingdom of God on earth. The birth of Christ is the culmination and summit of God's communication with mankind. When was it ever heard before or since, that God could love his creatures so much that he would desert his lofty domain and descend to them in order to save them? How much closer can God be to us, than by clothing His eternal divinity with our mortal humanity and by walking among us? This is the wonder that envelops us every year when we celebrate the Nativity of Christ: God among us – 3 нами Бог!

May the light of the star of Bethlehem illumine and warm our hearts with joy, love and peace now and always. May its light guide us safely into the loving

(Continued on page 22)



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Christmas wishes: "vinshuyu vas..."

As greetings go, "Merry Christmas" and "Happy Holidays" just isn't enough. In Ukrainian, the formal greeting is "Khrystos Razhdayetsia" or "Khrystos Rodyvsia" (Christ is Born). That carries the message of wishing the blessings of the season upon people, but it still is not the actual wishing.

When it comes to that, Ukrainians really know how to do it. It's called "vinshuvannia." (I wrote about this tradition back in 2001. See <http://www.ukrweekly.com/Archive/2001/500118.shtml>.)

In my annual travels to Ukraine, I always pick up books, and even more books. There are more and more fine publishing houses getting established, forming their own niches.

Svichado, in Lviv, is a publishing house associated with the Studite Monks. Most of its publications are religious and educational, and all are of the highest quality in content, art and print. Svichado has a bookstore near the church and monastery at 22 Vynnychenko Street (up the hill from the Porokhova Vezha and the monument to Ivan Fedorov). I am not sure if you could order online from Svichado, but its website (<http://www.svichado.com/>) lists its publications.

Vira Manko of Svichado is the author of the very successful "The Ukrainian Folk Pysanka," now available in four languages (Ukrainian, English, French and Polish). This publisher also has a new book on Ukrainian beadwork, "Ukrayynski Narodni Prykrasy z Biseru." Perhaps Ukrainian distributors in North America could carry their publications.

This is a roundabout way of telling you about a Svichado book from 2000 – "Vistku Radisny Nesemo: Verstepy ta Vinshivky [We Bring Joyful News/Nativity Plays and Versed Wishes] compiled by Zenon Borovets. (ISBN 966-561-202-6).

This is an interesting compilation of verstepy (plural of verstep, Nativity play) from western Ukraine, especially from the Lviv region, beginning with the 1930s. The ones from the late 1980s are especially indicative of the patriotism and hope bubbling to the surface, culminating with Ukraine's independence in 1991. The vinshivky or vinshuvannia are from various verstepy (the last greeting at the end of the play), also from the 1930s to 1998. And a few are the vinshuvannia early on New Year's morning, when the little boy enters your home as early as possible to throw wheat kernels against all the walls, wishing you a good harvest

and prosperity in the new year.

The traditional vinshuvannia carries greetings and wishes of well-being and future prosperity (in Ukrainian these verses sound so much more lyrical and poetic than in the English translation):

Schedryi vechir (literally: generous eve), master of the home!

May God be generous to your farm animals and your supplies,

May you never have any problems nor accidents in the home or on the farm.

Siyu, siyu, posivayu – I am sowing the grains, the wheat kernels,

And greet all of you with the New Year.

May you have bliss, health in the New Year,

May it be better for you than the passing year,

May you have a fine summer,

May your children be healthy,

May the earth be generous to you,

And to the carolers, treating us,

May you have health, happiness, well-being and all that is good in the New Year.

An indication of how tradition survives, develops and reinvents itself is seen in this vinshuvannia from the folks at the ceramics factory in Lviv, 1996:

We came to you with our verstep,
With that koliada,
To greet you all with the bright star.
Because the newborn Jesus
Greets you generously,
Sending bliss and joy to all from heaven.

May the fields in our Ukraine
Be bountiful,
May no one suffer any misfortune this year.

May there be light and gas for all,
May we all have work
And raise the glory of Ukraine for the whole world to see.

Our people finally received what they awaited:

We have our own independent country,

We have our own flags,

And the tryzub (trident), our glory.

So do not forget our customs,

Come with us to our verstep.

Everyone carol with us as our parents did,

So that our traditions will be remembered even by our grandchildren.

Let us carol together, joyfully sing,

(Continued on page 22)

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Have a frosty brown Christmas?

Is Christmas making a comeback?

In our area at least, more and more people (including some store clerks) are not ashamed to say "Merry Christmas." Nativity scenes are springing up in the most unexpected places. Children now sing Christmas carols in the public schools. The latest issue of U.S. News & World Report suggests that Christians and Jews are returning to traditional rituals.

The national picture has also improved. On December 11 the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a resolution "recognizing the importance of Christmas." A small step but significant nevertheless.

With a religious painting as background, and "Silent Night" playing softly, the Fox News Channel wishes its viewers a "Joyous and Blessed Christmas."

Despite much publicity and the strong support of Scholastic, publisher of elementary school materials, "The Golden Compass," purportedly an anti-Christian film for children, was a financial flop during its first week in theaters. According to Catalyst, a journal published by the Catholic League, the film is based on a children's novel by Philip Pullman, an atheist, who a few years ago stated, "I'm trying to undermine the basis of Christian belief."

The best news, however, is what happened in Colorado. This year the Fort Collins City Council established a task force and charged it with developing a policy that would make the Christmas season more "inclusive." Headed by the local head of the ACLU, the task force recommended that only "white lights and secular symbols not traditionally associated with any particular holiday be permitted." This meant no recognition of Christmas. The group also recommended replacing festive red and green Christmas colors with brown – brown, mind you – and lots of decorative frosty icicles. Learning of the recommendations, hundreds of local residents showed up at the city council meeting to protest. The proposal was defeated by a vote of 6 to 1.

So much for the good news. The bad news is that the aforementioned House Resolution about Christmas had nine Congressional representatives who voted "no" and 10 who voted "present." In comparison an earlier resolution recognizing the Muslim holiday of Ramadan garnered a House vote of 358 to 0, with 42 members voting "present." Small wonder that Congress has such low ratings.

There's more. According to Catalyst: "Muslim students in a Chicago suburb are complaining that Christmas celebrations are offensive. After the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce said it would no longer produce the Hollywood Christmas Parade (which it had for 75 years), local officials said it would save the parade but would rename it the 'Hollywood Santa Parade.' ...

"Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officials have banned religious symbols that are associated with Christmas from HUD housing. Downtown Chattanooga, Tenn., banned the Nativity scene that has been there for years."

According to a recent article by

Maria Puente in USA Today, Christmas caroling is also on the way out. Polls conducted by the National Christmas Tree Association found that in 1996 22 percent of the Americans surveyed said they planned to go caroling. By 2005 the number had dropped to 6 percent. "Neighborhood caroling is so rare these days that some homeowners may be flummoxed if singers appear on their doorstep," wrote Ms. Puente.

Ukrainian Americans who carol every Christmas will tell you the same thing. Organizations such as Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, the Ukrainian American Youth Association and some church societies still carol, but it's harder than ever to find people willing to go house to house singing "Dobryi vechir tobi, Pane Hospodariu ..."

What's going on? Atheist authors are writing best-sellers such as "The God Delusion" and "The End of Faith." Darwinian theory is taught as fact in our public schools; intelligent design is not to be discussed. Ever. Some academics and other leftists are proclaiming the end of Christianity. Religious belief is "politically dangerous," writes philosopher Richard Rorty. Atheism is the only reasonable basis for a "pluralistic, democratic society." Science is the answer. "Better by far to embrace the hard truth than a reassuring fable," proclaimed renowned scientist Carl Sagan.

Not to worry. Western Europeans may be denying their religious roots, but in the United States Christianity is alive and well. Polls indicate that 90 percent of Americans believe in a supreme being and 40 percent attend church regularly. More than half believe in miracles, and most believe that they will someday meet their relatives in heaven.

"Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis, first published in 1952 and now a classic, has been read by millions the world over, and remains a popular seller every year. "What's So Great About Christianity" by Dinish D'Souza is a current best-seller in the United States. "Ten Tortured Words: How the Founding Fathers Tried to Protect Religion in America and What's Happened Since" by Stephen Mansfield presents the unvarnished truth about the vision of those who wrote the American Constitution. Even Thomas Jefferson, a Deist and the least "religious" of our founders, writes Mr. Mansfield, believed that our liberties "were a gift of God and not to be violated but with His wrath."

Religious convictions are still with us and have become an important issue among the current crop of Republican presidential contenders because, for many American voters, they are a reflection of one's character.

So, dear reader, forget brown. Enjoy this season of light in green, red and white.

Remember the true meaning of Christmas. Celebrate. Go Christmas caroling and confound the experts. Surround yourself with those you love. Pray a lot. Go to church. Forgive your enemies. Call long-forgotten friends and wish them a blessed Christmas.

Khrystos Rodyvsia! Slavim Yoho!

Myron Kuropas's e-mail address is kuropas@comcast.net.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Let's promote info about Holodomor

Dear Editor:

So far, the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, one of the greatest human tragedies in the 20th century, has been overlooked by most of the U.S. mainstream media.

There is still time. Perhaps our scholars (e.g., Harvard, Columbia), professorial elite, journalists or certain institutions could suggest/provide an incentive and resources necessary to broadcast discus-

sions on the Holodomor.

Popular radio and TV talk-shows, like the award-winning "The Diane Rhem Show" on National Public Radio, which is broadcast daily not only across the U.S. but also worldwide, would be very desirable vehicles for the purpose of informing the public about the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933.

Surely talk show hosts (e.g., ABC's "Nightline") would be interested if presented with professional, well-planned and necessary resources.

Nadia Deychakiwsky
Brecksville, Ohio

Canadians commemorate Holodomor with ceremony on Parliament Hill

OTTAWA – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), along with the Canada Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship group and the Embassy of Ukraine, launched the yearlong commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor at a ceremony on Parliament Hill on November 28.

The master of ceremonies was Sen. Raynell Andreychuk. The government was represented by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and a number of ministers. Representatives from all political parties were present at the event.

An ecumenical moleben was presided over by Bishop Stephen Chmilar, Ukrainian Catholic eparch of Toronto, along with Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox clergy.

The event was well-attended by parliamentarians, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of multicultural communities, as well as the Ukrainian Canadian community.

Among those addressing the gathering were Prime Minister Harper and Paul Grod, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the texts of whose remarks follow.

Our special kinship with Ukraine was displayed to the world again last month. At UNESCO, Canada proudly co-sponsored the government of Ukraine's motion honoring the millions who perished in the Famine and acknowledging that their deaths were caused by the brutal Communist dictatorship of Joseph Stalin. That was just the beginning of a year of commemorative events in Canada planned by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Our government welcomes and supports these efforts because remembering those who died, and why they died, is our best hope against history repeating itself.

Statement by UCC President Paul Grod

Following is the speech delivered by Paul Grod, recently elected president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, at the National Holodomor Commemoration Ceremony.

In this 75th year since one of the greatest genocides of human history, Ukraine remembers and the world acknowledges. That is the slogan of this year's commemoration of the Ukrainian Holodomor, during which the lives of millions of innocent men, women and children were suddenly eradicated by starvation in the very heart of Europe's breadbasket.

The objective of the Holodomor was to destroy Ukrainian national consciousness and to quash the aspirations of the Ukrainian people for independence, thereby eliminating a serious threat to the integrity of the Soviet empire.

The suffering of the Ukrainian people during the Holodomor is reflected in a great many publications and documents, as well as innumerable oral histories of survivors. With the opening of archives in both Ukraine and Russia, the overwhelming body of evidence continues to grow. The Holodomor was, undeniably, an act of genocide.

This year Canadians join the international community in commemorating this tragedy to recognize the Holodomor as a genocide against the Ukrainian people and to ensure that the heinous crime of using food as a weapon against a people is no longer used by despots in other parts of the world.

In meeting with the prime minister today, the new executive team of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress emphasized the need for Canada to stand up against despots, regardless of their size or international influence. We received reassurance that Canada will continue to be an ardent supporter of Ukraine and its political independence. Canada demonstrated this in 1991, being the first Western nation to recognize Ukraine's independence. Canadians demonstrated this again in 2004, sending the largest-ever delegation of international observers to monitor the presidential elections during the pivotal Orange Revolution. Canada must once again lead the international community in supporting Ukraine as it calls upon the United Nations to recognize the Holodomor as a genocide.

Ukrainian Canadians have launched a yearlong program of commemorative initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the Holodomor. We call upon the government of Canada to partner with us in raising awareness of this issue in Canada and internationally.

As the newly elected president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, I look forward to working with each member of Parliament to ensure that a unanimous act of Parliament recognizing the Holodomor as a genocide against the Ukrainian people is passed during this 75th anniversary of the Holodomor. Let us remember and show our resolve as Canadians, thus ensuring that similar tragedies are never repeated in the history of mankind.

"Ukraine remembers – the world acknowledges."

Statement by Prime Minister Stephen Harper

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued the following statement on November 28 at a commemoration ceremony for the victims of the Holodomor.

I am very honored to join you tonight in this solemn commemoration of the Holodomor. The 20th century was described by Pope John Paul II as the "century of tears." The world was infected by a lethal combination of utopian ideology and brutal despotism. It spawned totalitarian regimes that enslaved their own peoples and sought to conquer others.

Rarely did dogma and dictatorship combine to more murderous effect than in the regime of the Communist tyrant Joseph Stalin. Tonight we remember and honor those Ukrainians who suffered horribly during his savage reign. The main instrument of Stalin's persecution of Ukrainians was collectivization.

The honest and hard-working people who had tilled the rich soil of Eastern Europe successfully for centuries were forced to farm for the Soviet state. By crushing private ownership, initiative and dignity, collectivization destroyed most of their agricultural production, and the Soviets stole the rest. The result was one of the worst famines the world has ever known, millions of men, women and children – mostly Ukrainian, but also some Kazakhs and Russians – died of starvation. Those who refused to yield were slaughtered.

We in Canada are bonded to this dark chapter in human history by more than a million Canadians of Ukrainian descent, many of whom lost loved ones in the Holodomor. And so, all Canadians join us in commemorating this 75th anniversary of the terrible Famine of 1932-1933. Because what was done to the Ukrainian people was a mortal offense against the values we hold dearest; freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Ladies and gentlemen, in remembering these events, we should also never forget the efforts that some made to encourage us to cast aside these values and turn a blind eye to this brutality. Between the two world wars and the long Cold War that followed, apologists tried to persuade us that the ideology of communism was benign. They said we should be neutral towards it – an "honest broker."

They said we should learn to live with it – that we had nothing to fear from the Soviet empire. Canadians knew better. So we took a stand. We stood for freedom and fundamental human rights. We stood against oppression in Ukraine. We stood with its brave people, and those of the other captive nations of Central and Eastern Europe. And when Ukraine won her freedom, we became the first Western country to formally recognize her membership in the free world.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Mykulychyn Internat suffers from years of neglect

by Anne Linden

MYKULYCHYN, Ukraine – Nestled in the shadow of the famed Bukovel Ski Resort in the Yaremche region of Ukraine sits the Mykulychyn Internat, a boarding school for 106 children. But location is the only thing this institution has in common with its affluent neighbors. Years of neglect compounded by heavy rains in October-November have turned the facility's grounds into a large pond.

But the grounds are not alone in being water-soaked. The kitchen and dining center are as well.

Cooks, who must still prepare meals for this group of 7- to 15-year-olds, devote free minutes to bailing out what must be the country's largest wading pool. Activities normally scheduled for the dining center – the only space large enough to accommodate all of the students – have also had to be cancelled. The dining room furniture was removed in order for it not to be damaged. But dampness has already ruined the recently

refinished posts. And the floor, like the floor in the kitchen, needs bailing out.

Recently donated athletic equipment goes unused as children are forced to get their exercise indoors. Even getting from classroom buildings for dorms has become an exercise better suited to ducks. Finding suitable indoor activities for such a large group of academically challenged kids, especially when the dining center is not usable, is particularly difficult. The Mykulychyn Internat is one of five in the Ivano-Frankivsk oblast for children suffering from fetal alcohol syndrome.

Stephan Severylov, the internat's 28-year-old director, has headed it for just two years. Thanks largely to his efforts, the facility is in considerably better condition today than it was when he took over. But, as he's learned, turning a dilapidated warehouse for unwanted children into a successful training facility is an expensive and time-consuming proposition.

As he explained the day I met him, "During my first winter here, trying to keep the children warm demanded 100 percent of our effort." Throughout the school, not a single radiator had worked and even windows that were not broken let in a strong enough breeze to sail a

boat. "We had no choice but to cancel classes until the weather improved," he recalled.

In 2006, thanks to a change in directors, a shift in the government's priorities and a tightening of fiscal controls, money intended on repairs was actually spent for repairs. Many of the internat's radiators and windows were replaced. And later, thanks to a major windstorm, the state had no choice but to replace the dining center's roof.

I met Mr. Severylov shortly before students were due to return in the fall of 2006. A Peace Corps volunteer preparing to return to the United States at the end of her two-year commitment had asked me to follow up with several of her unfinished projects. I was told that the Mykulychyn Internat should be my top priority.

The school's septic system was grossly inadequate and needed immediate updating. She'd been shown the children's shower room after one storm; the septic system had backed up and she could see feces floating on the still water-covered floor. The stench, she told me, was unimaginable.

After doing some checking, I learned that upgrading the septic system would

cost around \$50,000 – clearly nothing my small NGO UkraineWorks could tackle.

But as the director and I began a tour of the grounds, I noticed shards of glass covering a large area adjacent to the dining center. When questioned, he explained that for years Mykulychyn had had no trash collectors, so anything that did not burn was buried. But he went on to say that Mykulychyn now had such a service, but without a dumpster the school couldn't take advantage of it. "We'll buy one," I told him.

Within 10 minutes, he, my interpreter and I were on a bus heading for Yaremche. Four days later, the internat had not one but two new dumpsters. That marked the beginning of what has turned into a most rewarding partnership, one based on mutual trust, good communication and commitment to improving the facility.

Mr. Severylov and I sit down regularly to discuss problems and possible solutions. I always leave with a long list of the school's needs – and a clear understanding of which are the most pressing. This director's priorities are clear; his

Anne Linden, originally from Boston, is a former peace Corps volunteer who now divides her time between the United States and Ukraine.

(Continued on page 21)

BOOK NOTE: Novel tells of terror during Stalin regime

"Wave of Terror," by Theodore Odrach (translated by Erma Odrach). Chicago: Academy Chicago Publishers, 2008. 350pp., paperback. \$19.95. ISBN: 0-89733-562-9/978-0-89733-562-1.

Set in the Soviet era, this novel by Theodore Odrach, which was hidden from the English-speaking world for more than 50 years, is now available in an English translation prepared by Erma Odrach from the original Ukrainian text.

The story begins with the Red Army invasion of Belarus in 1939. Ivan Kulik has just become headmaster of School No. 7 in Hlaby, a rural village in the Pinsk Marshes. Through his eyes, readers witness the tragedy of Stalinist domination, as people are randomly deported to labor camps or tortured in Zovty Kazarny prison in the center of Pinsk.

Ivan struggles to make sense of this new world. Learning the politics of survival in the emerging Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic, he tries in vain to sort out his personal life, enveloped by his deep passion for an unpredictable young woman.

Although "Wave of Terror" is based on Mr. Odrach's first-hand knowledge of events, it is not a mere exposé of Soviet oppression, but a literary achievement. The characters are drawn in painstaking detail, as each actor comes through as a fully real-

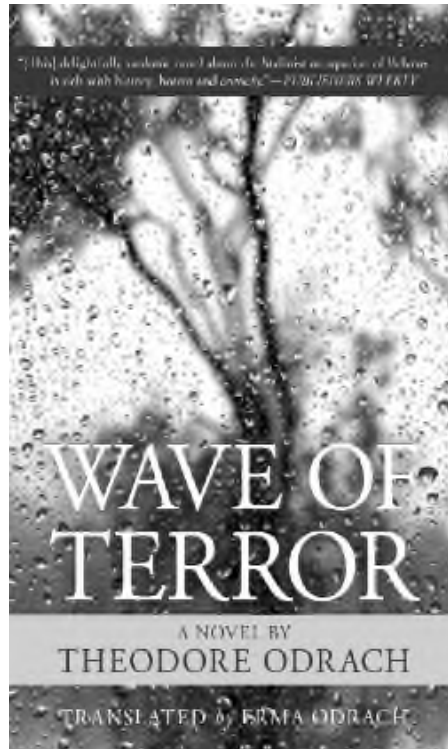
ized human being, not as a caricature.

T.F. Rigelhof, a Montreal writer, notes in the introduction: "Odrach's individual gift... is the range of his sympathies... His debt to Chekhov is obvious in his ability to capture the internal drama of his characters with psychological concision."

Theodore (Fedir) Odrach, who died in 1964 at the age of 53, immigrated to Canada in 1953, settling in Toronto. He worked in a print shop by day, and wrote at night. He authored four novels, two collections of short stories, a memoir, a historical account of his homeland and numerous essays – all in the span of 11 years beginning in 1953.

His daughter Erma started to translate his works two decades ago, sending his short stories to literary journals. A collection titled "Whistle Stop and Other Stories" was eventually published, and Mr. Odrach's stories appeared in various publications, including "The Penguin Book of Christmas Stories" (2005), which includes works by such writers as Graham Greene, John Cheever, Vladimir Nabokov and Alice Munro.

The editor of the Penguin collection, Alberto Manuel told *The Globe and Mail* (March 16, 2006): "Odrach has a very precise style... He's not interested in expanding the event. He has almost a journalistic eye for the story he wants to tell. I felt he was in



the same league as Alexander Solzhenitsyn, though that tempers, perhaps, my opinion of Solzhenitsyn. But he gives you a very good sense of a political situation and knows what part of a story should be told."

Mr. Rigelhof, who reviewed that book

for the Toronto newspaper, said: "When you read Odrach, you realize immediately that you're in the presence of a front-line eyewitness to some of the more casual brutalities of the 20th century. His fictional world feels like the everyday world must have felt for ordinary people living through extraordinary times, as captured by a rigorous investigative reporter..."

Mr. Odrach, whose original family name was Sholomitsky, was born in Belarus in 1912. He was sent to reform school in Vilnius for minor acts of delinquency, and eventually earned a degree in ancient history and philosophy from the university in the Lithuanian capital.

In the introduction to "Wave of Terror" Mr. Rigelhof notes that during World War II Mr. Odrach moved to Ukraine, "where he edited and circulated underground newspapers in collaboration with the Ukrainian Insurgent Army as it resisted the Soviets on one front and the Germans on the other."

"Wave of Terror" was originally published in Ukrainian in 1972 under the title "Voshchad." It was to be the first book of a trilogy telling the story of the Belarusian-Ukrainian border area during the Soviet takeover, the German occupation and the aftermath of the second world war.

To purchase the book readers may log on to www.academychicago.com.

BOOK REVIEW: New Ukrainian edition of Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary

"Ukrainian-English Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary," P. I. Dzul, M.D., project director and editor-in-chief; B. Zimenkovskiy, M.D., associate editor. Lviv: Nautilus, 2007. 2,202 pp., two volumes. ISBN 966-85-74-07-09.

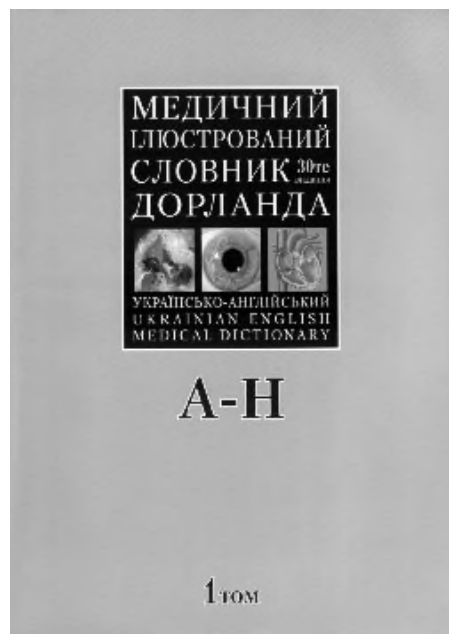
by R.B. Worobec

A major milestone in the evolution of Ukrainian medical terminology was reached in 2007 with the publication of the Ukrainian-English version of "Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary," 30th Edition. Dorland's undergoes detailed revisions every four years and, arguably, is generally acknowledged as the most authoritative and certainly the most comprehensive of the four major American medical dictionaries used by clinicians and biomedical scientists the world over.

The new Ukrainian edition is a logical complement to the two-volume English-Ukrainian version of Dorland's 28th edition published in 2003. Together, these two dictionaries add up to almost 5,000 pages and constitute the most comprehensive and up-to-date medical dictionaries in any Slavic language currently available. The latest Ukrainian edition, moreover, has been supplemented by additional entries for select medical plants and their color illustrations. Obviously, these entries are not found in Dorland's Japanese, Italian, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese and Indonesian translations.

Even a glance at the two large volumes is enough to convey the impression of a serious, information-rich scholarly work that every academician should have at hand, and which should be found in every biomedical library in Ukraine. The inclusion of placeholder ribbons is a thoughtful detail seldom found in medical books. Not surprisingly, the dictionary placed second in the "best books of the year" category among the thousands of books at the third International Book Exhibition and Fair in Kyiv in 2007.

This version of Dorland's encompasses more than 2.3 million words, and has been enlarged by almost 900 new entries in comparison with the earlier English-



Ukrainian edition. It also contains over 1,100 illustrations – most of them in full color. However, the intellectual content is embodied in the more than 122,000 entries and over 118,000 in-depth definitions that cover all branches of medicine, ancillary sciences and nontraditional medicine. In addition, 200 pages are dedicated to 18 appendices dealing with medical etymology, anatomy, common abbreviations, temperature scales, phobias, laboratory results, cancer staging, surgical instruments and so forth. In some cases their inclusion obviates the need for additional reference works.

This dictionary stands head-and-shoulders above bilingual dictionaries that lack definitions and merely provide parallel columns of lexical equivalents in two languages. Although it can be used as a comprehensive Ukrainian-only medical dictionary, the English equivalents ensure an entrée to the 60-65 percent of the world's significant medical literature that is published in English.

Extensive use of color makes this version very user-friendly. Ukrainian entries are printed in red boldface, followed by their English equivalents in blue, and then the Ukrainian definitions in black. Where appropriate, pronunciation and

word-derivation guides are provided. A convenient innovation has been the use of yellow collocation boxes for subentries and their illustrations under certain main entries, such as bone (kistka) or tumor (pukhlyna).

This dictionary represents the culmination of years of dedicated work by a team of more than 80 medical scientists, clinicians, linguists, translators and editors. Dr. Paul Dzul, president of the American-Ukrainian Medical Foundation (AUMF), served as project director and editor-in-chief, and in his foreword summarized the history of Ukrainian medical lexicography and the problem of proper transliteration of g and h with the Ukrainian r and r. Production was coordinated by Dr.

Oleksander Zavadka, member of the editorial board and executive director of the Lviv Publishing House Nautilus.

The publication of the dictionary was initiated and financed by AUMF and its generous benefactors, foremost among whom are Dr. Lubomyr and Daria Kurylko, who understood the significance of the dictionary for the status of medicine in Ukraine and for the development of medical Ukrainian. They were inspired by the words of Oles Honchar "... for our people, language is life itself!"

For ordering and other information, please contact the foundation by e-mail at foundation@aumf.net, or write to AUMF, 18530 Mack Ave., Suite 146, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

NEW RELEASE: Film titled "My Beautiful Ukraine"

PLYMOUTH MEETING, Pa. – "My Beautiful Ukraine" is a very colorful documentary film with incredible scenery, from amazing poppy and daisy fields of the lowlands to the majestic Carpathian Mountains. The 25-minute film was released earlier this year as a fund-raiser for the United Orphaned Children's Fund of Pennsylvania (UOCFP), advocates for Ukraine's orphans.

Viewers of the film can join Olia Klenus Vetterlein, a native of Ukraine, as she travels around the Ternopil Oblast and then to the very heart of Ukraine. The spirited music of Ukraine provides a fitting soundtrack.

"Take a wonderful journey with me," Ms. Vetterlein says on the DVD cover. And the promise of that statement is evident as viewers travel from the peaceful countryside to the hustle and bustle of the capital city of Kyiv. Along the way, they learn a little bit about the history, mythology and fascinating culture of the very hospitable Ukrainian people.

One of the purposes of this film is to help promote tourism to Ukraine, added Ms. Vetterlein's husband, Steve, who was editor of the movie.

"My Beautiful Ukraine" is the creation

of two ordinary people, without the help or backing of any sponsors or major funding.

"We started a small film production company, with the hopes that someday we can work on other documentary film projects with a budget much larger than what we had in our own pockets for this film," explained Mr. Vetterlein. The movie was filmed entirely in Ukraine, with Ms. Vetterlein narrating in English.

This is not your typical travel movie, well-financed with lavishly produced scenes, nor is it one filled with many major historical sites. Instead it is a simple glimpse into the landscape and how things really are in today's Ukraine.

The DVD is available for \$18 on the website www.uocfp.org, or from the production studio: Seabreeze Productions, 614 Treaty Road, Plymouth Meetings, PA 19462.

For every DVD sold, \$5 will go toward the UOCFP's Humanitarian Fund. The balance covers the expenses to make the DVD: production, printing, packaging and marketing.

For further information readers may e-mail questions@seabreeze-productions.com.

St. George School class of '52 holds 55th anniversary reunion

by Iryna Kurowyckyj

NEW YORK – A 55th anniversary reunion of the class of 1952 of St. George Ukrainian Catholic School of New York was held on September 23-25 in Atlantic City, N.J. Seventeen persons, including classmates and their spouses, made the trip to the New Jersey shore for their reunion.

By way of background: on January 7 Walter Cybenko received a phone call from classmate John Lipka, with whom he had not spoken for 55 years. Mr. Lipka said that during the past few months he had been trying to contact students from the graduating class of 1952 and that his endeavors had met with some success. He had already contacted Maryann (Okpysh) Devlin, George Drebych and Mary Cox, who had graduated in 1951. Mr. Cybenko said he would assist in trying to locate other students from the class and organizing a reunion.

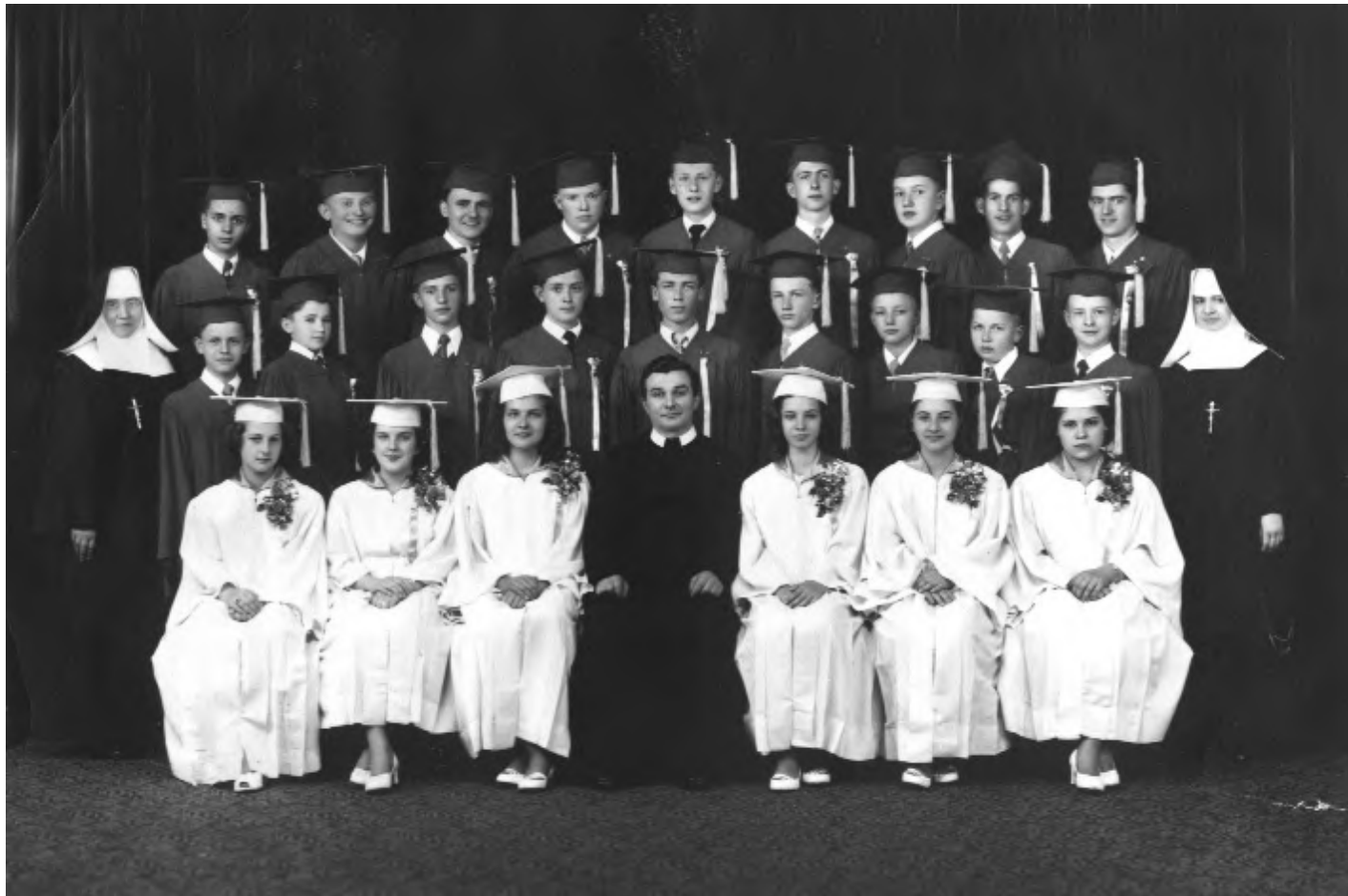
There were 24 graduates in the class of 1952 – six girls and 18 boys. Mr. Cybenko found his graduation picture and began his quest by putting names to the faces in the picture. While he remembered the names, he did not always remember how they were spelled and this prompted him to call St. George School, where Sister Theodosia agreed to send him the names of the students.

After hundreds of telephone calls and hours on the computer, Mr. Cybenko was able to locate 22 of the 24 students who had graduated in 1952 – a 92 percent success rate that was quite remarkable considering the fact that 55 years had elapsed since graduation.

The class comprised American-born students and newcomers to the United States. After graduation, this writer lost all contact with the former and maintained some contact with the latter because many of us participated in activities of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, attended the same dances, and met up at various festivities organized by the Ukrainian community in New York City. The one girl from the class with whom I had maintained regular contact, Olya Katynska Schevchuk, had passed away. My contact with male classmates, like Nestor Bazarko, George Shuhan and a few others, were limited to brief encounters at events where we would greet each other and go our separate ways.

So, when Mr. Cybenko called, my first reaction was: "Why would I want to get together with people I have not seen or have barely spoken with in 55 years? We have nothing in common." By the end of our conversation, however, Mr. Cybenko had changed my mind. I agreed to attend the reunion, deciding that the event might be even be fun.

Once a decision was made to have the class reunion, the next step was to decide



The class of 1952 at St. George School: (front row, from left) Nadia Bartkiw, Iryna Knysz, Maryann Okpysh, the Rev. Petro Dydyk, OSBM, Mary Lucyshyn, Maryann Neglia, Olha Katynska, (second row) Sister Olha, OSBM, George Shuhan, Stephen Bihun, Orest Bilous, Basil Tershakovec, John Kisielka, Andrew Nawrocky, Oleh Bohachewsky, Peter Hewka, Constantine Klufas, Sister Aurelia, OSBM, (third row) Walter Cybenko, George Drebych, John Lipka, Bohdan Tomaszewsky, Richard Clark, Stephen Turczan, Nestor Bazarko, Oscar Hoshko and Eugene Maciejewsky.

where to have it. Mrs. Devlin was instrumental in selecting the Showboat Hotel in Atlantic City because she had friends at the hotel and could initiate contact. Mr. Lipka did much of the legwork and finalized most of the arrangements with the hotel.

The reunion was scheduled for September because several people in the group would already be in New Jersey to attend the wedding of the son of another classmate, Orest Bilous.

Prior to the event, Mr. Cybenko sent everyone a questionnaire; using the responses, he prepared fact sheets about the students, outlining what had happened to each of them over the past 55 years. Mr. Drebych brought candles inscribed with the names of classmates who had passed away; on the first evening of the reunion all shared a brief prayer to honor their memory.

The reunion was attended by Nestor and Marta Bazarko, Walter and Yvonne Cybenko, Mr. Drebych, Peter and Orsya Hewka, Constantine and Oksana Klufas, Iryna (Knysz) and Jaroslaw Kurowyckyj, John and Sharon Lipka, Mrs. Devlin, Mr. Shuhan, and Basil and Mary Tershakovec. Nadia Bartkiw, Mary Lucyshyn Rutherford and Maryann Neglia were unable to attend,



At the reunion (first row, from left) are: Constantine Klufas, Iryna Knysz Kurowyckyj, George Shuhan, Maryann Okpysh Devlin, (second row) George Drebych, Walter Cybenko, John Lipka, Basil Tershakovec, Peter Hewka and Nestor Bazarko.

and one of our classmates, Stephen Bihun, missed the boat by arriving at the Showboat Hotel a day late. After driving more than four hours to attend, he found that most of his classmates had checked out and were on their way home.

Some of the classmates are already thinking ahead to our next reunion, which will probably be held in Florida at the end of 2008 or 2009. (We hope that someone calls Mr. Bihun to remind him to check his calendar.)

North Port parish celebrates feast day

by Ann-Marie Susla

NORTH PORT, Fla. – The Presentation of the Most Holy Mother of God (St. Mary's) Ukrainian Catholic Church of North Port, Fla., on Sunday, December 2, celebrated its feast day with a solemn divine liturgy, followed by a dinner in the parish center.

The service was celebrated by the pastor, the Rev. Severyn Kovalyshin, and the church choir sang under the direction of Lubow Ingram. The soloist was Chrystyna Sheldon of Englewood, Fla., and Hunter, N.Y. Dr. Eugene Kisak, a guest from Montreal, also sang during communion.

This day was dedicated as a day of spiritual renewal in the parish. Prayers of

thanksgiving were offered, along with prayers for continued blessings and strengthening of the spiritual and social future of the parish family.

After the liturgy, a festive parish dinner was held in the church hall with Omelan Hrab, church trustee and master of ceremonies, speaking briefly about the parish's achievements.

A delicious meal served by Nasha Kukhnia (Our Kitchen) under the supervision of Lida Marusyn, was enjoyed by the congregation and guests.

Since the actual holy day of the Presentation of the Mother of God fell on Thursday, December 4, the Akafist (service of praise) was celebrated that afternoon.



Divine liturgy at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in North Port, Fla., celebrated by the Rev. Severyn Kovalyshin on the parish feast day, December 2.

Australia's Plast members observe 50th anniversary of first jamboree

by Nestor Yaworsky

MELBOURNE, Australia – Christmas – which takes place during Australia's summer – this year will see the passing of 50 years since the first Plast Jamboree was held in Australia. Attended by 205 Ukrainian scouts from all over Australia between December 21, 1957, and January 3, 1958, the camp was held in Seville, a provincial setting 100 kilometers east of Melbourne.

Australia is the third diaspora after the United States and Canada to have proudly achieved this unique distinction. It is even more remarkable if one considers that the first Ukrainians arrived in Australia only after World War II.

Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in Australia began with absolutely nothing. Unlike in Canada and the U.S., there were no previous generations to fall back on – except for a donation of \$20 from the Melbourne Parish to assist Plast in organizing its first summer camp in 1952-1953. Thirty scouts participated.

However, by the time of the second Jamboree in 1962-1963 the number of participants had grown to 600, and overall there were more than 1,000 Plast scouts registered throughout Australia.

In 1985-1986 a combined Jamboree of Plast and Ukrainian Youth Association (SUM) members saw an unprecedented 880 Ukrainians camping together. It is remembered also because Ukrainian World Congress President Dr. Dmytro Cipiwnyk came from Canada especially for the occasion to be part of this memorable 10-day camp. His address at the

opening ceremony included “prophetic words” that still ring in my ears. “The Soviet Union is near it's end. Its collapse is imminent. It will not survive 10 years,” he said.

How right he was.

I had the pleasure of catching up with Dr. Cipiwnyk at the seventh Ukrainian World Congress in Toronto in 1998. I reminded him of his extraordinarily accurate prediction. He replied with a smile that said “I told you so.”

The only survivor of the executive in charge of the first Jamboree is its secretary (pysar), Rostyk Skandrij, now an octogenarian. He will take part in this year's jubilee celebrations, which will take place between Christmas and the New Year at Sokil, a 134-acre Plast venue 200 kilometers southwest of Melbourne. It is expected that some 500 Ukrainians will attend over the 10-day period. The camp will also commemorate 60 years of Ukrainian settlement in Australia.

The 50th jubilee of the first Plast Jamboree will be marked on December 30 with a church service followed by a special assembly (“zbirka”) of Plast members at which participants of the 1957 Jamboree will be recognized with special certificates. Mr. Skandrij, the senior surviving executive officer, will deliver an address. A jubilee campfire that evening will feature reminiscences of the Jamboree and songs from that time.

Although isolated from Ukraine, Australian Ukrainians have played their part in maintaining Ukrainian culture. Former Soviet political prisoner Levko Lukianenko, visiting Melbourne in 1990, paid the community a big compliment. “It feels like I am living at home in Kyiv,” he observed.

Nestor Jaworsky was a participant of the first Plast Jamboree held in Australia. He is a former director of foreign affairs for the Organization of Ukrainians in Australia.



A group of Plast youths from Melbourne and Sydney.



The commander of the jamboree, Anatoly Zhukivsky, presents a sports medal to Marko Vartsaba.



The emblem of the 1957 Plast Jamboree.



Teenage Plast members at the jamboree.



The camp for “novaky” (cub scouts). In the first row, center, is the camp director, Mykola Svidersky.



The camp for “yunaky” (scouts) during an assembly.

AN OPEN INVITATION TO LOCAL COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS

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Okean Elzy brings Ukrainian rock 'n' roll to Vancouver

by Teresa Stolarskyj

VANCOUVER, British Columbia – Fans of Okean Elzy in Canada and the United States recently were abuzz on Facebook. Since the Ukrainian rock 'n' roll group announced a handful of North American dates on its current "I'm Going Home" tour, the online social networking site was active with fans connecting, sharing ticket details and discussing travel plans.

Surely enough, fans from across British Columbia's Lower Mainland and from across the U.S. border made the trek to Vancouver's Plaza Club for the group's November 6 performance.

Given that Vancouver is not especially known as a hotbed of Ukrainian culture in Canada – and that no Ukrainian act has previously launched an independent, self-supporting tour – the band's draw of a few hundred ardent followers was impressive enough. Composed largely of Ukrainian and Russian émigrés, the audience spanned a demographic that included teens and parents who arrived together, the latter equally familiar with the group's songs, and no less shy about dancing and cheering at the foot of the stage. Enthusiasm ran high, with fans proudly wearing and waving Ukrainian flags, breaking into ardent chants of "U-kra-yi-na!!" or cheering the singer by his diminutive name, "Slava!"

Over the course of the two-and-a-half-hour set, Okean Elzy demonstrated adeptly why it stands as the most successful popular music group in post-Soviet Ukraine and, arguably, in the entire CIS. With all songs and discourse delivered in Ukrainian, the evening's

repertoire spanned the group's 13-year career, including hits such as "Kishka," "Bez Boyu" and "Kholodno," alongside new songs from their most recent release, "Mira."

Despite a change in most of the group's line-up in 2004, singer Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, bassist Denys Dudko, keyboardist Milos Jelic, guitarist Petro Cherniavskiy and drummer Denys Hlinin gel naturally, each demonstrating both technical excellence and maturity as a cohesive unit.

Mr. Vakarchuk is a powerful presence onstage, passionately loping, skipping and dancing as if in a trance. His is a natural sensitivity for, and easy connection with, the audience, often reaching to meet their outstretched hands or to accept the gifts of flowers and stuffed animals some extended.

While the group's four musicians typically hang back slightly from the spotlight to allow Mr. Vakarchuk command of the performance, the singer often allows his bandmates a turn to shine.

All five refreshingly belie the stereotype of a typical rock 'n' roll band, conveying grace and professionalism, a love for creating music and respect for the opportunity to make it a living.

During two well-earned encores, the band jammed more freely than in the main program, flirting with sounds verging on funk and psychedelia while Mr. Vakarchuk scatted his vocals and strutted wildly about the stage. Given his magnetism, a fan commented following the show that, "Slava is so awesome," because "he doesn't do anything stupid for attention."

Indeed, while the group currently



Teresa Stolarskyj

Okean Elzy's Svyatoslav Vakarchuk.

enjoys a high degree of popularity, the journey has been a slow, steady climb built on commitment and hard work. Certainly, successful acts preceded Okean Elzy and others have risen as their contemporaries, but Okean Elzy is somewhat unique in capturing the spirit of the generation young enough to have grown up, for the most part, in a free Ukraine.

Commercially their milestones are many. The video for their early single, "Tam, de nas nema" was the first Ukrainian music video to air on MTV Russia and France's MCM Channel. The band has also enjoyed various corporate sponsorships, and their songs are heard accompanying commercial advertisements on domestic television.

With fame comes responsibility and opportunity, and Okean Elzy has not been shy in embracing both. Perhaps even more commendable than its professional accomplishments are the storied political and social initiatives in which the band has become involved, especially in recent years.

Most famously, the group appeared at the front and center of the 2004 Orange Revolution, with Mr. Vakarchuk emerging as something of its poster-boy. Educated formally in theoretical physics, the singer conveys intelligence and a broad worldview in interviews, freely discussing the political, cultural and economic challenges of Ukraine as it struggles to develop into a free market and a

democracy.

He has been involved with literacy support, and has met with domestic university students to help shed light on political issues about which many Ukrainians, due to longstanding control and corruption of much of the domestic media, are mis- or under-informed.

In recent years, Mr. Vakarchuk has been named an official Ambassador of Ukrainian Culture, United Nations Ambassador of Goodwill and one of Ukraine's 100 most influential people by Korespondent magazine.

The group as a whole has also maintained involvement with various high-profile charitable initiatives as well, including a performance in Kosovo at an international peacemakers' conference, and a joint campaign combating human trafficking, founded in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration and MTV Europe Foundation.

One cannot help but be awed thinking about these details while standing stage side, an arm's length from these wonderfully accomplished yet humble performers, and feeling the immense pride of the audience in their musical and cultural heroes.

The excitement that had been building on a simple Facebook forum burst to life, bypassing linguistic and cultural differences, and making for an unequivocally unique experience on what might have been just another rainy autumn evening in Vancouver.

Okean Elzy and Western Union collaborate on band's European tour

KYIV – Thousands of expatriate Ukrainians living in Europe are getting a taste of home from Okean Elzy, the perennially popular Ukrainian rock group, which is staging a European tour. The tour is supported in part by Western Union, a leader in global money transfer service.

"Western Union is very pleased to be supporting the Okean Elzy tour," says Mikhail Babirenko, Western Union's country manager for Ukraine. "Supporting the band's European tour is a great way to say 'thank you' to our Ukrainian customers living and working abroad. We are confident that the concerts will be very warmly received."

Ukrainians working in Portugal,

Germany and Greece have had the opportunity to see the band perform live as part of its "I'm Going Home" tour. Concerts have created excitement in local communities, and over 1,000 people have attended each of them. Concerts in Great Britain and Italy will take place shortly.

Okean Elzy has several times been recognized as the best live group and the best rock group of the CIS countries. The band exudes expression and self-sacrifice to create true concert passion. Its Slavic lyricism creates real rock energy.

In this European tour, Okean Elzy presents selections from its new album, "Mira," which reached platinum on the day of its

(Continued on page 20)



Guitarist Petro Cherniavskiy.

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NEWSBRIEFS ...

(Continued from page 2)

Organization while not weakening its
relations with Russia. "We need to enter
the free-trade zone and simplify the visa
regime for our citizens," she added.
(RFE/RL Newslines)

Parliament approves Yulia as PM

KYIV – The 450-seat Verkhovna Rada
on December 18 approved Yulia
Tymoshenko, leader of the parliamentary
bloc bearing her name (YTB), as
Ukraine's prime minister, UNIAN report-
ed. Ms. Tymoshenko received 226 votes,
the exact number needed for her approval
as prime minister. The voting session was
attended only by the coalition lawmakers
of the YTB and the Our Ukraine –
People's Self-Defense bloc (OU-PSD).
All 156 YTB members and 70 out of 72
OU-PSD members voted in favor of Ms.
Tymoshenko. Ivan Spodarenko did not
cast his vote because he was hospitalized,
and Ivan Pliusch abstained. The previous
week Ms. Tymoshenko, who is backed
by President Viktor Yushchenko, fell
short of winning approval as prime min-
ister by a single vote. (RFE/RL
Newslines)

President hails Tymoshenko's election

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko
on December 18 hailed the election of
Yulia Tymoshenko as prime minister and
said the success of the vote was proof of
the efficiency of the democratic majority
in the Verkhovna Rada. A commentary
by the president, which was issued by the
presidential press service, said that "the
government received a leader and the
country received hope for efficient work
by the new team." The president added
that the vote also gives reason to hope
that the next steps of the coalition, direct-
ed toward solving first-priority state
tasks, will be productive. "Society wants
to see real embodiment of electoral
promises, including those concerning dis-
putable issues. The coalition is now faced
with a wide field of activities, whose
results the people will estimate," Mr.
Yushchenko observed. (Ukrinform)

PRU officially shifts to opposition

KYIV – Viktor Yanukovich
announced on December 18 that the
Party of the Regions (PRU) was official-
ly shifting to the opposition. "We have
passed a decision on that," he said after
Yulia Tymoshenko was officially
announced as the newly elected prime
minister. Mr. Yanukovich noted that he
welcomes the election of the new prime
minister, as "now there is somebody to
assume responsibility" for the situation in
the country. The PRU leader expressed
his hope that the new members of the
government will also be elected. "And
the Ukrainian people will see how
responsibly the new government will
work," he said, wishing the future gov-
ernment "to do good things for the coun-
try." As the leader of the opposition, Mr.
Yanukovich stressed that the PRU "will
support reasonable and constructive
cooperation in the Parliament and won't
allow anybody to destroy the economy."
(Ukrinform)

Yulia blames previous government

KYIV – Yulia Tymoshenko, speaking
in the Verkhovna Rada on December 18
before the vote on the prime minister-
ship, tied the failed voting on her candi-
dacy on December 11 to the attempt of
the previous government to send
Ukrainian assets abroad. She once again
accused the government of Viktor
Yanukovich of corruption. She said the
national joint-stock company NaftoHaz
Ukrayiny is on the verge of bankruptcy,

as are the central gas networks. Ms.
Tymoshenko charged that a 51 percent
share of the nuclear energy assets of
Ukraine was on the verge of transfer to
another country and that shelves of the
Black and Azov seas have been squan-
dered. All this results from the prime
ministership of Viktor Yanukovich, she
said. In turn, Mr. Yanukovich took the
floor to blame the previous government
of Ms. Tymoshenko, which was in office
in 2005, for the economy's collapse,
redistribution of property and undermin-
ing investors' trust in Ukraine. The ex-
prime minister said the election of Ms.
Tymoshenko as prime minister will wors-
en political confrontation and negatively
influence social economic development.
He added that "promises given by 226
coalition members will never be ful-
filled." (Ukrinform)

Opposition will be shadow Cabinet

KYIV – "The efficiency of the work
of the government will depend on how
efficiently we will control it," said the
leader of the opposition Party of the
Regions, Viktor Yanukovich, on
December 19. The opposition will sup-
port every move in favor of Ukraine and
the people, and will offer alternative
decisions, the ex-prime minister stressed.
"I think we'll distribute obligations in a
way to cover each direction and ministry,
and will monitor the situation and air our
positions," Mr. Yanukovich said, adding
that the opposition will practically create
a shadow Cabinet. (Ukrinform)

U.S. welcomes Yulia's election

WASHINGTON – The United States
of America welcomed the election of
Yulia Tymoshenko as prime minister of
Ukraine and expressed hope for fruitful
cooperation with the new government,
U.S. Department of State Deputy
Spokesman Tom Casey said at a news
briefing on December 18. Mr. Casey
said, "It's a good thing that there is now a
government in place. And we certainly
hope that that government will continue
the work that the president and others
have set out for Ukraine, which is to
strengthen its democratic institutions and
also proceed with the process of econom-
ic reform." He added that the formation
of a government led by Ms. Tymoshenko
"is a positive step forward" and said the
U.S. looks forward to working with the
new prime minister and her team.
(Ukrinform)

President: new Constitution needed

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko
said he believes that amending the
Constitution with a view toward over-
coming the imbalance that has been in
place since 2004 is the utmost priority for
the head of state. He stated this in an
exclusive interview with Channel 5 tele-
vision, it was reported on December 17.
"If we want political stability, we have to
revise the political reform of 2004," he
said, adding that the reform has caused a
fatal disproportion of power among the
branches of Ukraine's government. Mr.
Yushchenko said that a new version of
the Constitution must be approved by
national referendum. "This decision
should be left up to the people. The
Parliament should participate by giving
approval to this reform and to the holding
of the referendum. According to the
Constitution, the Parliament may not
adopt the supreme law," he stated. Mr.
Yushchenko added that he believes that
before a new Constitution is put to a ref-
erendum it must be debated in the
Verkhovna Rada. "It wouldn't be a good
example if we ignored the Parliament
when it comes to discussing a new ver-
sion of the Constitution," the president
said. (Ukrinform)



З невимовним жалем ділимося сумною вісткою з родиною і приятелями, що в четвер, 27 вересня 2007 р. з волі Всевишнього по короткій недузї відійшла увічність найдорожча
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Bohdan Faraoniw, M.D.



Bohdan Faraoniw, M.D. died December 4.
He was born in Kyiv, Ukraine. Bohdan is survived by his wife Olha.

He was a member of Holy Trinity Church in Trenton, a member of the American Medical Society and delegate to the Convention, and a member of the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York.

Dr. Faraoniw studied medicine in the University of Innsbruck, Austria, where he graduated in 1947.

To fulfill his dream as a physician, he chose to emigrate to Australia. His deceased mother and stepfather, Ludmila and Wasyl Serdiuk, emigrated to the United States which was more sympathetic to foreign-born physicians.

The search began to obtain a visa for entrance into the United States. With the help of Ukrainian priests in New York City, Dr. Faraoniw arrived in the United States of America.

Dr. Faraoniw served a rotating internship at St. Francis Hospital in 1954, following which he took residency in internal medicine for the next five years. He spent one of these years at St. Francis Hospital in Trenton, two years at Eagleville Sanatorium in Eagleville, Pa., one year at Montgomery Hospital in Norristown, Pa., and the final year at Mercer Hospital in Trenton.

Dr. Bohdan Faraoniw opened his private practice in Ewing, often making house calls to his grateful patients.

His final journey and burial will be conducted in Ternopil, Ukraine. All arrangements were completed and directed by Kutch Funeral Home, 215 Grand St., Trenton.



Irena Duwalo

Mrs. Irena Duwalo, née Mojsak, was born on May 7, 1906 in Stryj, Ukraine, and entered her eternal rest on November 21, 2007 in Toronto, Ontario at the age of 101 years. Funeral services were held November 23, 2007 at the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Protection of the Mother of God (Pokrova) in Toronto, with burial following in Prospect Cemetery. She was preceded in death by her son Jurij, her husband Wasyl, and her sister Maria Horochowianka. She was laid to rest next to them.

Mrs. Duwalo is survived by:

her cousin, Maria Genyk-Berezowska of Toronto, and her children Myron (her godchild), Roman, and Adriana, together with their families.

her great-nephew Dr. Stephen Sokolyk of New Braunfels, Texas, together with his family.

her longtime caretaker and companion Yaroslava Tomych, together with her mother and daughter.

After coming to Canada in 1949, "Pani Iryna" was an active member of the Toronto Ukrainian community. She had a fervent interest in both Ukrainian and American politics, and Viktor Yushchenko's victory in 2004 was a source of great satisfaction to her. As she aged, she kept her positive outlook despite all her personal tragedies, and as a result she made many friends among the younger generations of Ukrainians, including those from the "Fourth Wave". She was tremendously helpful and supportive to so many new immigrants to Canada. There were a lot of these young faces at her hundredth birthday celebration in May 2006, which was a very joyous occasion.

We shall miss her youthful spirit, her twinkling smile, and her gift of insight into our hearts and souls.

Vichnaya Pamyat!

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Prof. Orest Lysynecky

Beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, passed into eternal rest on December 6, 2007.

He is survived by:

Wife: Ivanna (Olesnicky)

Children: Alexander with wife Taissa
Christina Bejger with husband Bohdan
Tatiana
Irene Hayden with husband Michael

Grandchildren: Renata Hanchuk with husband Walter and children Deanna, Natalia and Andrea
Mark Lysynecky with wife Kyra and children Katya, Mykola and Maksym
Roman Bejger with wife Motryja and children Stephan and Alexander
Peter Lysynecky with wife Paula
Larissa, Samantha and Matthew Hayden

Nieces: Taissa Turiansky
Bozhena Polansky

Nephews: Orest Dutka
Alexander Sloniewsky with wife Dada and family
Roman Sloniewsky with wife Motria and family

Close relatives in the U.S. and abroad: Dolinsky, Hordinsky, Olesnicky, Sessak, Sharko, Shypailo, Tarnawsky.

May he rest in peace.

Ukrainian film studies go mainstream at AAASS convention

NEW ORLEANS – Looking at the program of the recent annual convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) that took place on November 16-18 in New Orleans, one could easily overlook an important new development: for the first time in the history of this forum, a special panel was organized to focus specifically on Ukrainian film studies.

The panel “Cinema and the Emergence of Modern Ukrainian Identity,” sponsored by the Ukrainian Studies Program and Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University, featured a discipline that in the American academic curriculum and agenda has yet to attain the prominence and weight that is rightfully its own. Unlike history, literature, language, political science and sociology – in North America, all well-established areas of Ukrainian studies – film studies, undertaken sporadically by individual scholars, has yet to emerge as a discipline comparable to that of film studies for other Central and East European areas, for example, Polish, Czech, Hungarian or Bulgarian.

A wealth of Ukrainian cinematic material, a multitude of films created over a hundred years by Ukrainians, in Ukraine, expressing a Ukrainian point of view and intended for a Ukrainian viewer have, more often than not, been presented as Russian or Soviet. The absence of vigorous and self-sustaining Ukrainian film studies has facilitated the continuation of Russian cultural appropriation of Ukraine and Ukraine's contribution to world film even after its 1991 independence.

This appropriation has taken various open and covert forms. Ukrainian masters like Oleksander Dovzhenko, Danylo

Demutsky, Ivan Kavaleridze, Ihor Savchenko, Serhiy Bondarchuk and Yuri Illienko are all too often still presented as Russian.

Important and often formative Ukrainian aspects of the oeuvre are overlooked. The creative biographies of such filmmakers as Dziga Vertov, who made his three most important films at the Ukrainian studio VUFKU and on Ukrainian themes, Sergey Chukhrai, Larysa Shepitko, Nina Ruslanova, and Liudmyla Hurchenko are more or less ignored.

In the inertia of imperial cultural policies, repeated efforts are made, some of them successfully, to represent Ukraine on the international arena by film products that have nothing to do with Ukrainian national cinema, however one defines it.

It is within this general context that the AAASS panel took place. The composition of panel participants reflected its organizer's desire to provide a wider perspective on and an interdisciplinary component for Ukrainian film studies. Discussion was meant both to validate Ukrainian film studies as a discipline and to attract scholars from other fields.

The paper “Visual Language and Identity Performance in Leonid Osyka's ‘A Stone Cross:’ the Roots and the Uprooting” was presented by Vitaly Chernetsky, a scholar of Ukrainian and Russian literatures, who has written engaging material on the two literatures while making comparisons with other countries. He has recently embraced film studies, writing on Ukrainian and Russian film, and offering film courses at Miami University in Ohio.

Dr. Chernetsky's AAASS presentation was directed to a gem of the 1960s



At the panel on cinema and identity (from left) are: Denise Youngblood, Yuri Shevchuk, panel chair Roman Senkus, Vitaly Chernetsky, and Alexandra Hrycak.

Ukrainian poetic film school, “A Stone Cross,” virtually unknown in the West among scholars and the wider cinephile public. Meanwhile, as he noted, in the histories of Ukrainian cinema this film is usually ranked next to and sometimes even higher than Sarkis Paradzhanian's (a.k.a. Sergey Paradzhanov) “Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors.” Chernetsky compared the two films as representatives of two very different aesthetics that co-existed within the short-lived Ukrainian poetic cinema and which still have a considerable influence on Ukrainian filmmakers today.

The second paper “The Invisible Cinema of the Invisible Nation: Early Ukrainian Film, 1896-1917,” presented by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk, who teaches Ukrainian language and film history at Columbia University, focused on the first decades of cinema in Ukraine. Analyzing the considerable amount of existing secondary material – 99 percent of early Ukrainian films have been irreparably lost – pertaining to Ukrainian filmmaking from the point of view of modern theories of national cinema, Dr. Shevchuk articulated the view that, even in the absence of an independent Ukrainian nation at the time, there are serious grounds to speak of, not simply cinema made in Ukraine, but a Ukrainian national cinema in its incipient form.

This national cinema, Dr. Shevchuk said, includes Ukrainian directors, actors, photographers, script-writers, Ukrainian themes, genres, a filmmaking, distribution and exhibition infrastructure, viewers, film criticism and other elements, which in their totality created a point of view, a sensibility, a message and a way to look at the world and oneself that was distinctly local and often overtly, unmistakably Ukrainian.

The two official discussants for the panel, Alexandra Hrycak and Denise Youngblood, enthusiastically endorsed the initiative to put Ukrainian film studies on the American Slavic agenda.

Dr. Hrycak, professor of sociology at Reed College in Portland, Or., noted that, “The panel contributes toward an intellectual project: the development of a theoretical framework for understanding Ukrainian cinema. The general puzzle posed by Yuri Shevchuk is whether it is possible for a national cinema to exist without a nation-state. Using Ukraine prior to Soviet rule as a site for exploration, a period many scholars call the ‘pre-history’ of Ukrainian cinema, he establishes that an infrastructure for national cinema in Ukraine in fact had come into existence at this time, and that it wasn't derivative of Russian cinema.”

A similar conclusion was reached by Dr. Chernetsky in his exploration of 1960s poetic cinema. For Dr. Chernetsky, the panel set an agenda for the future by “inviting future work that engages with historical, theoretical and cross-regional comparisons and the interactions they discuss.”

It was nothing short of a small coup that one of the leading authorities on Russian and Soviet film in the United States, Dr. Youngblood, agreed to be a discussant for the panel. A professor of history at the University of Vermont, Dr. Youngblood has authored six books and dozens of publications on Russian and Soviet cinema.

She noted that, “As a scholar who was once accused of (inadvertent) Russocentrism by equating ‘Soviet’ with ‘Great Russian,’ I was surprised and delighted to be invited as a discussant to the first AAASS panel devoted entirely to Ukrainian film. Resurrecting the ‘invisible history’ of Ukrainian cinema will be a difficult task, but an important one. Ukrainian directors like Dovzhenko, Savchenko and Shepitko are central to Russo-Soviet cinema but, with the exception of Dovzhenko, their Ukrainian nationality has been seen as tangential to their work, given that histories of Soviet

(Continued on page 20)



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ANNOUNCEMENT

Effective November 1, 2007, the Board of Directors of Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union announced the retirement of the current Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Bohdan Mizak and the appointment of Halyna O. Keller as his successor.

The Board of Directors of USFCU wishes to convey their sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Bohdan Mizak for his dedicated leadership of our Credit Union over the past four years and congratulates Halyna O. Keller, wishing her success in her new position.

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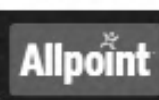
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Tymoshenko returns...

(Continued from page 1)

lined in the 'Ukrainian Breakthrough' program."

At an informal working group council in the Parliament on December 18, Ms. Tymoshenko said her Cabinet was shocked to discover that certain Ukrainian ministries had between 12 and 16 assistant ministers.

"This is an absolutely abnormal situation," Ms. Tymoshenko said. "We set the first task of cutting excess government personnel. We believe there should be one first assistant and a maximum of three assistants in ministries and government departments. That is sufficient to organize quality (government) processes."

The next day Ms. Tymoshenko arrived at the gargantuan Cabinet of Ministers building at 8:40 a.m., unaccompanied by her usual entourage of bodyguards and ambushed by journalists and cameras.

First Cabinet meeting

At her first Cabinet plenary meeting that afternoon, she announced an anti-corruption audit to review the prior government's spending at every ministry, "so that we examine how each kopek was spent, how each tender was conducted, how each license was issued, how each site was privatized and transferred into private hands, honestly or not, whether the state gained or lost," Ms. Tymoshenko explained.

Her first priority was the 2008 budget, a version of which has already been drafted by the government of former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich but was dismissed by Ms. Tymoshenko as "deceitful." She wanted a reassessed budget approved by the year's end, though she admitted that gave her financial and economic team less than two weeks to do so – "practically no time."

"Undoubtedly, this won't be a perfect budget," Ms. Tymoshenko said. "It won't be the type that we would like to see, because time is absolutely limited. Therefore, after passing the budget, we will immediately work on fundamental changes to the budget and will make changes to the budget in 2008."

As a second priority, Ms. Tymoshenko said her eponymous bloc's 14-point "Ukrainian Breakthrough" program needed to become approved as the coalition government's program of activities.

The Yanukovich government had never officially adopted a program of activities, in violation of the Constitution of Ukraine.

Entering the opposition, the Party of the Regions of Ukraine vowed it would exercise "fierce control" over the government's activities.

Ms. Tymoshenko vowed her government would review all natural gas supply agreements and documents, and request negotiations with the Russian government to re-examine conditions.

Ever since the opaque RosUkrEnergo arose in early 2006 as a gas supply intermediary, Ms. Tymoshenko has called for its elimination – a position supported by the U.S. government. The company is controlled by Gazprom and two Ukrainian nationals, one of whom, Dmytro Firtash, has become a billionaire as a result.

The country needs a strong establishment of order, Ms. Tymoshenko said at her December 18 press conference.

"Practically everything in this country is misbalanced," she said. "Making money off politics has become the norm, making money off government has become the norm. Chaos, indecisiveness and tactics instead of strategy have become the norm in practically every branch and sphere of our lives."

She vowed to meet with the Party of the Regions (PRU) opposition leadership in the following days and offer every opportunity for them to monitor and review the government's activity.

She said she will also involve PRU leaders in producing a final draft on the law on the opposition to determine its prerogatives and limits in Parliament.

Among those attending the historic parliamentary session was Jorge Zukoski, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine, who said he was optimistic Ms. Tymoshenko would pursue reforms.

"Our policy agenda is entirely reform-based, and we're looking forward to hopefully a new prime minister and Cabinet that are very interested in moving the reform agenda forward," Mr. Zukoski said. "I think that's in everybody's interests – Ukraine's and our members' as well."

U.S. reaction

The American government looks forward to fruitful cooperation with Ms. Tymoshenko, the U.S. State Department's deputy assistant secretary for European and Eurasian affairs, David Kramer, told Voice of America.

He said he expects introducing political stability and ensuring energy security will be top priorities, along with admission into the World Trade Organization. Investment development, economic reform and combating corruption should also be priorities for the Tymoshenko government, Mr. Kramer said.

He added that he hopes Mr. Yanukovich will fulfill his commitment to playing the role of the constructive opposition.

Russian Federation President Vladimir

Putin didn't comment directly on Ms. Tymoshenko's election, but that same evening the Kremlin publicized a letter sent to President Yushchenko criticizing his administration's humanitarian policies for causing strains in their bilateral relations.

The Yushchenko government is guilty of introducing distinct interpretations of "our common history"; the "raising to hero status of military criminals who collaborated with the Nazis"; waging war on Soviet monuments; discriminating against the Russian language; and causing a schism within the Orthodox Church, the letter stated.

"These unfriendly steps already darken the atmosphere of relations between our countries," the letter stated. "Moreover, they can cause serious damage to bilateral cooperation in various directions."

Incidentally, Ukraine isn't likely to satisfy Russia anytime soon given that the new Vice-Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs is Ivan Vasiunyk, a Lviv native who supports government recognition of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), as well as recognition of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate by the world's Orthodox Churches.

Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Viktor Chernomyrdin said Ukraine's choice of a new prime minister is an internal matter and declined comment.

Mr. Yushchenko congratulated Ms. Tymoshenko, stating that her professionalism and experience are appreciated. "May your knowledge and efforts further serve the Ukrainian people, the reconstruction of a contemporary democratic state and the strengthening of the highest European standards in all spheres of life," the president stated.

President Yushchenko said he intended to meet with Prime Minister Tymoshenko and Verkhovna Rada Chair Arseniy Yatsenyuk at noon on December 20 to discuss a strategy of cooperation among government branches, as well as goals to achieve in the new year. However, the meeting was postponed for a later date for undisclosed reasons, the president's press service reported.

The December 18 Rada session

The December 18 parliamentary session wasn't all smooth.

Before it even started, presidential confidante Yurii Yekhanurov, known for his antipathy toward Ms. Tymoshenko, told reporters he wasn't ready to cast his vote in her favor, stating that some issues still needed resolution.

When Ms. Tymoshenko took the parliamentary rostrum to address the Rada, she struck a fiery, emotional tone, nervously warning of repeated attempts to disrupt the vote yet again.

Exactly a week earlier, the vote for Ms. Tymoshenko's nomination failed by a single vote when two deputies, representing the coalition's two parliamentary factions, said they cast their votes but they failed to tally.

Afterwards Ms. Tymoshenko accused the Party of the Regions of sabotaging the electronic voting system. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) led an investigation and confirmed that nothing was tampered with.

To prevent such chaos from being repeated, deputies voted by hand on Ms. Tymoshenko's candidacy. The long, tedious process involved the tallying committee chair reading aloud the name of each deputy, the Parliament's video camera pointing its lens at the deputy, and the deputy raising his or her hand and stating "for" or "against."

The climactic moment arrived when the Rada chair called out Mr. Yekhanurov's name, after which he

replied, "for" and raised his right hand.

The session hall erupted in loud, joyous cheers, which were even more jubilant when Mr. Yatsenyuk cast the final vote to approve Ms. Tymoshenko's candidacy.

Kyiv political insider Volodymyr Fesenko reported that the president had convinced Mr. Yekhanurov to vote in favor in exchange for the post of defense minister in the new government.

Ms. Tymoshenko had the support of 226 national deputies, the bare majority out of 450 votes.

Two coalition members failed to vote in favor – Tymoshenko foe Ivan Pliusch abstained, drawing derisive chants from his colleagues, while 76-year-old Ivan Spodarenko remained hospitalized as he recovered from a stroke.

Applause for the new PM

After reviewing the vote, the tallying committee confirmed Ms. Tymoshenko's election, drawing another round of raucous applause.

The assembled Kyiv press corps of more than 50, watching the events on a large screen in the Parliament's corridors, erupted in boisterous laughter when the camera panned to Nestor Shufrych recording his reaction to Ms. Tymoshenko's election. The PRU national deputy appeared entranced.

The Parliament then voted to dismiss the acting Yanukovich government.

The departing prime minister offered a nasty outgoing speech that predicted virtual doom for the Tymoshenko government. Her election only deepens the political instability and conflict within Ukrainian society, Mr. Yanukovich said.

Mr. Yanukovich delighted in the possibility of holding the Tymoshenko government accountable for its upcoming performance because he doubts its ability to uphold its populist promises.

"Generous promises, which today's 227 coalition members lavishly bestowed, won't ever be fulfilled," he said. "I am convinced of that. That's why these promises were made – not to lower taxes or cover lost savings, increase wages and pensions or cancel army call-ups. Generous promises were needed only to come to power at any price."

Mr. Yanukovich claimed his government had improved the economy and living standards for Ukrainians, though the year is likely to conclude with inflation of 15 to 16 percent.

His comments drew derision and laughter from the coalition deputies, provoking Mr. Yanukovich to shout, "The laughter I hear from you isn't healthy. Don't laugh at people's misfortune."

Mr. Yanukovich called for the opposition forces to form a shadow government, but the Communist Party of Ukraine and the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc declined the offer.

Later that evening Mr. Yanukovich revealed he has changed little since 2004, when he referred to the Orange forces and their supporters as "goats." He said, "The people of Ukraine will throw out the populists like unneeded garbage is thrown out in the spring after winter."

Indeed, it's already apparent Ms. Tymoshenko won't fulfill one of her populist campaign promises. Mandatory military service won't be eliminated in January, as she advocated, because the new defense minister, Mr. Yekhanurov, is against the idea.

As for returning the \$120 billion in lost bank deposits from the 1991-1995 hyperinflation, Ms. Tymoshenko said she is expecting proposals from the Finance Ministry by December 21. "I have the firm intention of executing all obligations before the people and return their devalued savings to them," she said.

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Gretzky's greatest goals: 99 scores 77th to set new standard

The over 16,000 hockey fans who passed through the turnstiles at Buffalo's Memorial Auditorium to witness the Edmonton Oilers take on the Sabres on the night of February 24, 1982, got their money's worth. They saw a true rarity in the game, as two future Hall of Famers scored hat tricks on this special evening a quarter century ago.

Sabres center and "French Connection" leader Gilbert Perreault notched his three-goals relatively early in the game. Most in the hockey world expected Perreault's achievement would have made major headlines in the next day's local newspapers. Not so. Unfortunately for Perreault, Wayne Gretzky also scored a hat trick. And the first of his three-goal output turned out to be his 77th goal of the regular season, eclipsing the previous league record of 76 held by Boston Bruins hockey legend Phil Esposito.

There had been days – make that months, no, years – when hitting the 50-goal mark in a season seemed like an impossible task. Then along came Gretzky. And records began to fall in the National Hockey League like a line of dominos.

"There is no doubt that records are made to be broken," former defenseman and Hall of Famer Harry Howell said in an interview with Mr. Randy Schultz of NHL.com. "But when Gretzky came along he just shattered the record book. And the bench marks he established are going to be ones that may not be as easy to break. And breaking Esposito's record of 76 in one season, well, the way he did it was unbelievable. He not only broke it, he shattered it."

The 1981-1982 NHL season was a momentous one for "The Great One." In his fourth season of professional hockey and his third with the NHL's Oilers, Gretzky had already begun to establish himself as perhaps the greatest player in the history of the sport. (Gretzky began his pro career with a year of playing for the Indianapolis Racers and Edmonton Oilers in the old World Hockey Association.)

His initial foray into the record books

in 1981-1982 came in his team's 39th game of the regular season. Through his first 38 matches, Gretzky had tallied 45 goals. What does he do in game No. 39? Merely score five more goals to total 50 for the season. Prior to this, no player had ever scored 50 goals in fewer than 50 games. Ex-Canadiens great Maurice "The Rocket" Richard, Ukrainian Mike Bossy of the New York Islanders were the first players to score 50 in 50. Gretzky did it in only 39 games.

"I don't know what it was about that night," Gretzky would later recall in his conversation with NHL.com. "But before the game I got this strange feeling that something special was going to happen that night. I had been scoring goals in bunches before that.

"I think I had something like 10 in a stretch of four games. So I knew going into this game against the Flyers (referring to game No. 39 in 1981-1982), something special might happen. As it turned out, we were ahead 6-5, with about 10 seconds left in the game. The Flyers pulled goalie Pete Peeters. I took a pass from Glenn Anderson and, with a couple of seconds left, put it in the net for No. 51.

"The next thing I knew Mark Messier was tackling me in celebration. And what a celebration we had. It was nice to do it in front of the Edmonton fans," Gretzky noted.

Messier vividly recalled the special evening and allowed himself to prognosticate the future for "The Great One."

"Wayne had always been the type of player where anything was possible," Messier remembered in his chat with Randy Schultz of NHL.com. "And Wayne just had so much talent. He knew that it would just be a matter of time before he set his sights on Espo's record."

As the season progressed, Gretzky steadily crept up on the seemingly unreachable record of 76 goals in one season. Gretzky and his Oilers flew into Buffalo to play the hometown Sabres on February 24, 1982. Traveling with the team was a horde of media, along with a pair of big-name Hollywood celebrities from the 1980s. It just so happened that

Burt Reynolds and Goldie Hawn were filming a movie in western New York state. Sabre's owners Seymour III and Northrup Knox invited the movie stars to the Sabres-Oilers match. The record-holder for most goals in a season, Esposito, was also in Memorial Auditorium that night. Total attendance for the game was over 16,000 fans and the stage was set for NHL history to be rewritten.

Speaking of distinguished invitees to the Buffalo-Edmonton game that night, Walter Gretzky, Wayne's father, was present. His mother, Phyllis, was in transit to Quebec for a pee-wee tournament where Wayne's younger brother, Brent, was playing. No favoritism in this family – each hockey playing son got the same love and attention.

"That was the great thing about my mom and dad," recalled Gretzky. "They treated their children equally. Brent's tournament was just as important to them as me breaking an NHL record."

It was Gretzky's hope to get the record-breaking goal early so he and his Oiler mates could just go on and concentrate on the rest of the game. Of course he also realized the home team was not about to lay down and play dead. The Sabres were prepared to put up a good fight and not be the team listed as having given up goal No. 77. No way this Gretzky guy, less than 6 feet tall and weighing some 172 pounds was going to do this in their house.

"It didn't take too much to get up for a game like this," said Sabres goaltender Don Edwards to Mr. Schultz. "The only thing I didn't want to do is to get too psyched up for the game. I didn't want to embarrass myself in front of the rest of the hometown fans, as well as the rest of the hockey world that was watching us that night."

After the first two periods of action, the Buffalo defense held Gretzky from scoring a goal, though he managed two assists on Oiler goals. The third period was still to be played and it was a pretty safe bet something magical would still happen. After all, throughout Gretzky's illustrious hockey career, it always did. He, himself, could sense it.

It didn't take very long. Early in the third period, Gretzky scooped up a loose puck lost by Sabres forward Steve Patrick at the Buffalo blue line. Shifting into top gear without any hesitation, hockey's ultimate superstar center skated around Sabres defender Richie Dunn and snapped the shot past the goalie. The shot cleanly beat Edwards as goal No. 77 found the back of the net. Buffalo's Memorial Auditorium thundered with rousing cheers as the entire Edmonton bench rushed out on the ice to mob the record-setter.

Phil Esposito moved from his seating area down to the ice to offer Gretzky his congratulations. The two centers shook hands, exchanged a few words and posed for pictures. Back to the game where, as one would imagine, Gretzky wasn't done yet.

Just Wayne being Wayne.

With the stress gone, he went on to score two more goals in the last minutes of the game, spearheading the Oilers' 6-3 victory.

"Wayne never ceased to amaze me throughout our playing days together," remembered former Oilers defenseman Charlie Huddy, now an Edmonton assistant coach. "He just seemed to thrive on situations like this one in Buffalo, where he scored his 77th. And, of course, he wasn't just satisfied to score 77. He put two more pucks in the net that night to lead us to victory."

The night of February 24, 1982, when Wayne Gretzky rewrote hockey history will never be forgotten.

"When you look back on it now, it was exciting to be a part of something like that," Perreault, the scorer of all three Sabres goals said. "I had many thrills in my NHL career too. Wayne would have many more. He proved that night why he would become the greatest player to ever play this game of hockey. I'm proud to have been a part of that night. It is something I'll never forget, nor will anyone else who was there. It was like magic."

Source: "For 'The Great One,' a record for the ages," by Randy Schultz, NHL.com.



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Efforts to raise awareness...

(Continued from page 1)

"Communities around the world will be able to take a CD to their nearest printer, and for a small amount of money, print up placards and host their own exhibitions," he explained.

Foreign Affairs Minister Ohryzko and his team will also play a role in supporting a planned International Holodomor Torch Relay, that will be launched in Mr. Romaniw's native Australia and will pass through 17 countries, until ultimately reaching Kyiv on the last Saturday of November, when annual events commemorating the Holodomor are held.

Global tree-planting ceremonies are also planned throughout next year to symbolize the replenishing of lives lost to the Holodomor.

Mr. Yushchenko on December 19 nominated Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) Acting Chair Valentyn Nalyvaichenko as the agency's chairman. In the year or so he's served in his post, Mr. Nalyvaichenko took unprecedented steps in opening the SBU archives on the Holodomor to the public, even publishing incriminating documents.

Among the valuable archival material Mr. Romaniw was allowed to view was a six-volume, handwritten diary by Holodomor eyewitness Oleksandra Radchenko. When it was discovered by authorities, she was sentenced to 10 years' incarceration for engaging in

"anti-Soviet propaganda."

The availability of such valuable documentation and evidence significantly aids the committee's efforts in convincing governments throughout the world to offer their recognition and support, Mr. Romaniw said.

"Nalyvaichenko has proven to be a true leader on these issues, certainly setting the pace," Mr. Romaniw said. "The president is setting the tone on this issue, and the Foreign Affairs Ministry is providing the implementation and needed tools to move things along."

Meanwhile, the Tymoshenko government is already redrafting the 2008 budget, which may result in funding to begin construction of the planned Holodomor Historical Memorial Complex.

Leaders were hoping construction would have begun in November of this year, but the government of Viktor Yanukovich played a significant role in derailing such plans by cutting funding. So far, only soil and water content tests have been performed at the proposed site, which lies amidst monuments dedicated to the Soviet victory in World War II.

Construction of the complex will be led by a committee of builders and developers working in tandem with the Kyiv City Administration (the mayor's office).

The planned research center at the complex will serve as an informational hub that will distribute materials, research and documents throughout the world, Mr. Romaniw said.

Prior to visiting Kyiv, Mr. Romaniw



Stefan Romaniw, chair of the International Coordinating Committee of the 75th Anniversary of the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, acting chair of the Security Service of Ukraine, at an August press conference in Kyiv.

traveled to New York City to discuss with Yuriy Sergeyev, Ukraine's permanent representative to the United Nations, the Ukrainian Mission's strategy for mustering support within the U.N.'s diplomatic community for a general resolution recognizing the Holodomor as genocide.

Although the 75th anniversary observance provides an impetus for all the

efforts taking place, the ultimate goal is achieving global recognition, whether that occurs during the Yushchenko presidency, or long afterwards, Mr. Romaniw said. "The Holodomor issue is not about a commemorative year," he said. "We're in it for the long haul. It's about getting an outcome at the end."

New Cabinet...

(Continued from page 3)

ble beginnings as a doctor in rural Ternopil.

Minister of Industrial Policy Volodymyr Novytskyi. Born September 9, 1947, in Rysovata, Khmelnytskyi Oblast. Previous post: general director of the International Center of Economic Development Ukraine.

A doctor of technical sciences and specialist in oil and gas refinement, Dr. Novytskyi has served as an assistant industrial minister since 1992.

Minister of Internal Affairs Yuriy Lutsenko. Born December 14, 1964, in Rivne. Previous post: minister of internal affairs.

A leader in the Ukraine Without Kuchma movement of 2001, Mr. Lutsenko served as Ukraine's top policeman after the Orange Revolution. He failed to live up to its promises of jailing the lawbreakers and was accused of engaging in corruption himself.

Minister of Justice Mykola Onischuk. Born October 26, 1957, in Dolynivka, Zhytomyr Oblast. Previous post: national deputy.

A lifelong lawyer, Mr. Onischuk parted ways with close ally Anatolii Kinakh after the latter abandoned the opposition in the spring to become economy minister in the Yanukovich government.

Minister of Labor and Social Policy Liudmyla Denysova. Born July 6, 1960, in the Russian Federation. Previous post: national deputy.

The only woman in the Cabinet aside from Ms. Tymoshenko, Ms. Denysova served as finance minister in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Minister of Regional Development and Construction Vasyl Kuibida. Born May

8, 1958, in the Russian Federation. Previous post: national deputy.

Born in Siberia to politically persecuted Halychany, Mr. Kuibida was mayor of Lviv between 1997 and 2002, and is a leader in the People's Rukh of Ukraine.

Minister of Transport and Communications Yosyp Vynskyi. Born January 2, 1956, in Loshkyvtsi, Khmelnytskyi Oblast. Previous post: national deputy.

After he abandoned the Socialist Party of Ukraine when Oleksander Moroz formed the Russian-oriented government in 2006, Ms. Tymoshenko rewarded Mr. Vynskyi for his allegiance.

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Okean Elzy...

(Continued from page 13)

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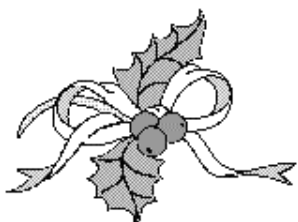
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Ukrainian film ...

(Continued from page 16)

cinema have been written by Russianists. The stories of 'unknown' Ukrainian Soviet directors like Leonid Osyka deserve to become part of Soviet history too, key to understanding all that was lost in the years of Soviet power. It will always be important for the AAASS to host panels solely on Ukrainian topics, but it is my hope that in the global world of cinema studies, we can move toward occasional integration. This panel was that first step."

The next annual AAASS Convention to be held in Philadelphia on November 20-23, 2008, will feature a panel that will discuss Ukrainian cinema of the 1960s and 1970s.



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Plast's Vovcha Tropa campground plans more capital improvements

by Andrij Kozak

EAST CHATHAM, N.Y. – A new round of fund-raising for the Vovcha Tropa (Wolf's Trek) camp of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization will be used to renovate the pool and surrounding sports area. This includes the pool itself, decking and fencing around the pool, and volleyball and basketball courts.

The renovations at the camp located in East Chatham, N.Y., have already begun. All the piping and pumps had to be replaced and, in order to do this, the concrete decking had to be broken up and removed along with the fence. The pool is 35 years old and has needed many repairs to be functional for summer camps.

The cost of additional work on the pool will be about \$85,000. To be in compliance with all state regulations and codes, a new pool would cost a minimum of \$300,000. Thus it was decided to repair rather than replace the existing pool.

The Vovcha Tropa campground has seen significant changes over the more than 50 years of its existence. The property, an old farm with a large brick main home and a towering barn, was purchased in 1954. The barn was demolished in the 1960s, and construction of camp barracks proceeded through the 1960s and the 1970s. Other additions included the main dining hall and a pool,

which was eventually replaced by a newer pool (the existing pool now being refurbished).

Starting in 2001 and using money from the sale of selective logging on the 350-acre property, another major round of work saw all of the older barracks renovated with the installation of new windows and doors, interior paneling and exterior siding. Streetlights were added along the main road from the parking lot. The water system was completely overhauled to meet new state requirements.

In 2004-2005, with camp committee members and other volunteers providing design and project management oversight, a large pavilion was constructed at Vovcha Tropa to provide a central gathering place for campers and parents. It was built in the Hutsul style, with open sides and exposed wood roof trusses spanning the entire floor area. A stone fireplace was completed, which allows for evening dances and bonfires in inclement weather.

The year 2006-2007 saw construction of a smaller dining hall for the older boys' camp. This dining hall was completed in time for the 2007 summer camps.

Those interested in donating to the current fund-raising campaign can request information from Andrij Kozak by e-mailing andykozak@comcast.net or by calling 781-821-6197.



The dining hall for older boys under construction at Plast's Vovcha Tropa campground in early 2006.

Mykulychyn ...

(Continued from page 8)

first was three climbing walls and other equipment needed for a small exercise room. His second was a karaoke with two microphones and his third was money so one child could go to Odesa for surgery. We met this challenge during the fall of 2006.

Next on the director's list were nine sets of hand tools used in wood carving, material for sewing, a loom, yarn and knitting needles, instruction manuals translated into Ukrainian, plus additional athletic equipment (a basketball, volleyball and net, a ping-pong table, paddles and balls), additional musical instruments, four computers and good quality,

long-lasting shower stalls.

Director Severylov's interest is always the same: how best to train the children in his care.

Although we have been able to meet many of his needs, we are doing fund-raising in order to buy computers, a Yamaha electric piano, in addition to items on the director's list.

But right now Mr. Severylov has a more pressing concern: eliminating the water. Dredging the small river flowing through the school's grounds and installing drainage pipes so the facility no longer floods every time there's a heavy rain has become a top priority – along with updating the school's antiquated septic system before more children get sick.

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Philly center holds annual Christmas bazaar

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center's Christmas Bazaar has become a yearly tradition for many and a great opportunity to meet up with old friends, do some shopping and eat some traditional Ukrainian "soul food." So, that's where the community headed on Saturday, December 8.

When the UECC opened its doors to the main hall for the bazaar it was ready to greet, feed and entertain the community. Natalka Firko, vice-president of the UECC Program Sector, and her army of volunteers, staff and members of the board of directors planned, decorated and worked all week to ensure the bazaar's success.

Throughout the day, performers welcomed guests to the holiday bazaar. The children's choir of the Ukrainian Heritage School, a program of the UECC, under the musical direction of Halyna Bodnar, sang traditional Ukrainian Christmas carols. Various other classes of the school also performed short Christmas greetings and sang carols. The Grace Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church Choir from Hatboro, Pa., entertained the public with its a cappella performance. The Children's Choir of the Ukrainian Music Institute, under the supervision of Lesia Penkalskyj with piano accompaniment by Helen Sagaty Porytko, sang and greeted those presented with traditional Ukrainian *vinshuvannia* (Christmas wishes). The children of Svitlychka – Ukrainian Cooperative

Nursery, also a program of the UECC, brought smiles to all with their adorable performance and "stage presence." Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Ukrainian American Youth Association, both housed in the UECC, also performed in the afternoon. To the delight of the Ukrainian boys and girls on stage and children of all ages gathered, St. Nicholas made a surprise visit.

Starting from breakfast, the UECC Club Room was buzzing with activity all day. Hungry shoppers gathered and tasted traditional Ukrainian foods, including *varenyky*, *holubtsi*, *borsch*, *kovbasa* with *kapusta*, and the popular potato pancakes. In between performances, visitors to the bazaar had time to stroll the aisles and visit the many vendors selling music, books, paintings, ceramics, *pysanky*, Ukrainian-themed clothing, honey, Christmas decorations, jewelry and more. Throughout the day, the UECC sold *kolachi*, *strudels*, breads, pastries, rings of *kovbasa*, dried fruit and mushrooms, and the ingredients for *kutia* (poppyseeds and wheat) in the Gallery.

The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, founded in 1980, is a non-profit organization whose objective is to preserve and promote awareness of Ukrainian heritage throughout the Philadelphia community. The UECC is located at 700 Cedar Road in Jenkintown, PA 19046; phone, 215-663-1166; e-mail, contact@ueccphila.org; website, www.ueccphila.org.

UAV members among Mission's guests at Ukraine's Armed Forces Day events



NEW YORK – Lt. Gen. Leonid Holopatiuk, military advisor at Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the United Nations and a representative of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, invited representatives of the Ukrainian American community to attend a reception at the Mission in honor of Ukraine's military on the occasion of Armed Forces Day, December 6. Among the attendees were members of Ukrainian American Veterans Post 17, Wolodymyr Stepaniak and Zenko Halkowycz, who spoke with Lt. Gen. Holopatiuk and explained the mission of the UAV. The group was joined by Col. Oleksander Uholnikov, the mission's deputy military adviser, who shared a copy of the Ukrainian magazine *Fokus*. Inside was a Russian-language article that told the story of a young Ukrainian American who served during the Vietnam War: Sgt. Stepaniak. Seen above (from left) are: Col. Uholnikov, Mr. Stepaniak, Lt. Gen. Holopatiuk and Mr. Halkowycz.

First vote...

(Continued from page 2)

defense minister was a surprise for many, as it had been expected that Anatolii Hrytsenko, who survived several Cabinets in this position since 2005, would stay. Instead, Mr. Yushchenko picked Yuriy Yekhanurov, who succeeded Ms. Tymoshenko as prime minister in 2005-2006. Mr. Yekhanurov opposed the alliance with Ms. Tymoshenko, preferring a "grand" coalition with the PRU.

Vadym Karasiov, an analyst close to the Yushchenko team, told Channel 5 that Mr. Yekhanurov would be a counterbalance to

Ms. Tymoshenko in the Cabinet. He also suggested that Mr. Hrytsenko might be promoted to secretary of the National Security and Defense Council.

Mr. Yushchenko's choice for foreign affairs minister is Volodymyr Ohryzko, a pro-Western diplomat who served as vice-minister for foreign affairs in several Cabinets. Mr. Ohryzko's appointment may not play well in Moscow, as he has been a tough negotiator on border issues and the Black Sea Fleet for many years. Mr. Ohryzko does not miss opportunities to challenge Russians even in matters of secondary importance. He once sparked a scandal by refusing to speak Russian at a meeting with Russian experts who complained

that their poor understanding of Ukrainian hindered normal dialogue.

Yurii Lutsenko, who spearheaded the anti-corruption drive immediately after the December 2004 Orange Revolution, is slated to return to the post of internal affairs minister. Viktor Pynzenyk, who has served in many Ukrainian Cabinets since the early 1990s, should return to the chair of finance minister. Vasyl Kremin, who was education minister for many years under former President Leonid Kuchma, should be education minister again.

Sources: *Ukrayinska Pravda*, Channel 5, December 11-12.

May the star...

(Continued from page 6)

embrace of the Christ Child. May the Newborn Son of God bless and protect our families, our parishes and our nation. Christ is born! Let us Glorify Him!

The Most Rev. Stefan Soroka
Metropolitan of the Ukrainian
Catholic Church in the U.S.A.
Archbishop of Philadelphia
for Ukrainians

The Most Rev. Robert M. Moskal
Bishop of the St. Josaphat Eparchy
in Parma

The Most Rev. Richard Seminack
Bishop of the St. Nicholas Eparchy
in Chicago

The Most Rev. Paul Chomnycky,
OSBM
Bishop of the Eparchy of Stamford

The Most Rev. John Bura
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archeparchy
of Philadelphia

Vinshuyu vas...

(Continued from page 7)

And greet the newborn Jesus and praise Him forever.

Things get lost in the translation – how more melodic does "vinok maly-novyi" sound than "the raspberry wreath." And I join the original reciters of this *vinshivka* in wishing all you, dear readers, my best:

We greet you, masters of the home, with Christ's birth.

May bliss always blossom for you with raspberry wreaths,

May love blossom within and over your home,

And glory reign within your home.

May Jesus from the other world send you bliss and good fortune and many years to live.

Khrystos Rozhdayetsia!



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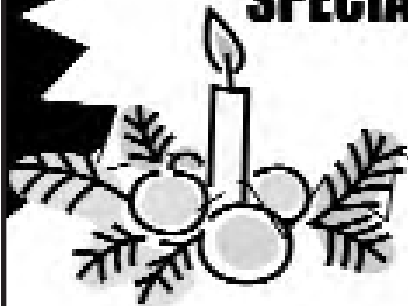


OUT AND ABOUT

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|
| December 31
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 | January 4
Washington | Monthly social, The Washington Group, Leopold's Café, 240-381-0993 or president@thewashingtongroup.org |
| December 31
Binghamton, NY | "First Night Binghamton," featuring the Svitanya Eastern European Women's Vocal Ensemble, St. Mary Church, www.southern-tier-celebrates.org or 607-723-8572 | January 5
Roseville, CA | Christmas Festival, Adventure Christian Church, 916-726-6153, 916-768-9832 |
| December 31
Uniondale, NY | New Year's Eve party, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church, 516-481-7717 or 516-996-3231 | January 11
New York | Ukrainian Christmas and New Year's Concert, featuring music by Cheres and Friends, The Wave Community Cultural Initiative, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 |
| December 31
Washington | New Year's Eve celebration, featuring music by the Scythians, Historic Carnegie Library, www.scythiansmusic.com | January 11
Scranton | Malanka dinner and dance, music by Fata Morgana, St. Vladimir Parish Center, 570-759-8697 |
| December 31
Stamford, CT | New Year's Eve Gala, music featuring Hrim, St. Basil's College, St. Vladimir's Organization of Young Adults, 203-329-8693 or 203-253-8005 | January 12
Mississauga, ON | Malanka, music by Vorony and Zahrava, Ukrainian Youth Association, Mississauga Convention Center, www.cym.org/ca/malanka/2008/index.asp |
| December 31
Jenkintown, PA | New Year's Eve ball, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, contact@ueccphila.org or 215-663-1166 | January 12
Hartford, CT | Malanka, featuring music by Halychany, Ukrainian National Home of Hartford, Inc., 860-563-4072 |
| December 31
Passaic, NJ | New Year's Eve dance, music by The Wave Band, Ukrainian Center, 973-779-4017 | | |
| December 31
Ottawa | New Year's Eve celebration and potluck dinner, Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, 613-728-0856 | | |

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. 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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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Monday, December 31

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey is sponsoring a New Year's Eve Winter Wonderland Celebration at 8 p.m.-2 a.m. at the UACCNJ, 60 N. Jefferson Road. All are invited to come celebrate the arrival of the New Year with their families and friends. Music will be provided by Ostap Stakhiv and Friends, and Tempo. The celebration features a buffet dinner, open bar at 8-11 p.m.; a champagne toast at midnight; and dessert and coffee. Tickets are \$135 per couple, or \$75 for a single ticket; \$20 for children age 16 and under; \$35 for youths age 17-20. Advance tickets are required. For information contact Ariadna Holynskyy, chudovaali@aol.com or 973-397-9651, or Oksana Telepko, ortelepko@aol.com or 973-599-0555.

Saturday, January 19, 2008

WEST ORANGE, N.J.: The Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF), in conjunction with the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ), is hosting a hockey fund-raiser at the Richard J. Codey Arena (formerly South Mountain Arena) located at 2 p.m. Come and witness the exciting match-up of the New Jersey Devils Alumni vs. the Ukrainian Kozaks, and see Olympic Gold Medalist Viktor Petrenko perform as a special guest. The participation of Patrik Elias, a current Devils player, and more of his teammates, is anticipated. Tickets are selling for \$50, \$25, \$20 and \$10. Stop by the UACCNJ or call 973-590-8026.

January 3-13, 2008

NEW YORK: La MaMa E.T.C. presents the work of a Ukrainian director, Oleg Braude, who unites three classic plays into one, called "Morning, Afternoon and Good Night." Three classics are "A Corner of the Morning" by Michael Locascio, "Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen" by Tennessee Williams and "Good Night, I Love You" by William M. Hoffman. "Morning, Afternoon and Good Night" offers a simplistic style - a black and white experience of three degrees of love. The show is presented Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. La MaMa Theatre is located at 74A E. Fourth St. at Second Avenue. Tickets are \$15; call the box office, 212-475-7710, or log on to www.lamama.org.

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 listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

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

Attention: Federal Employees and Military Personnel

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CFC #10325



Founded in 1925, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America is an all-volunteer organization that champions Ukraine's cultural heritage and provides humanitarian aid to Ukraine's elderly, infirm, and disadvantaged children in Ukraine and its diaspora.

www.unwla.org

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