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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Four candidates in the running for post of Verkhovna Rada chair

by **Zenon Zawada**
Kyiv Press Bureau

NEW YORK – Parliamentary deputies, not the coalition government, will select the Verkhovna Rada's new chair, drawing interest from several potential candidates.

All the potential replacements for ousted Rada Chair Arseniy Yatsenyuk served in key posts in the government of former President Leonid Kuchma and are well-entrenched among Ukraine's establishment.

Yet, given Ukraine's rancorous Parliament, which failed to produce a coalition government, a new Rada chair might not emerge anytime soon, said Dr. Taras Kuzio, president of Kuzio Associates, a government communications and consulting firm.

"I have a strong suspicion that nothing will happen, and no candidate will get enough votes," he said.

However, at this point in the process, the names of four candidates for the position have emerged.

Volodymyr Lytvyn

The front-runner for the parliamentary chairmanship is Volodymyr Lytvyn, because he is among the few candidates who can draw support from either side of the aisle in Ukraine's fiercely divided Parliament.

Having served as the Rada chair between 2002 and 2006, Mr. Lytvyn has

Zenon Zawada, our Kyiv Press Bureau correspondent, is currently in the United States.

wanted to return ever since his eponymous bloc failed to qualify for Parliament in the 2006 election that produced the Anti-Crisis Coalition.

The Lytvyn Bloc returned to Parliament the next year with 4 percent of the vote in the 2007 election, after adopting a widely suspected campaign strategy of buying votes, particularly in central Ukraine's rural communities.

After his close ties to Mr. Kuchma caused much controversy, particularly his alleged role in the murder of journalist Heorhii Gongadze, Mr. Lytvyn has tried to adopt the post-Orange Revolution image of a neutral mediator between Ukraine's pro-Western and pro-Russian forces.

In order to become elected, he would need to align himself with either the Party of Regions of Ukraine or the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, both options open to him.

"Lytvyn can swing between a larger Orange coalition or the Regions," Dr. Kuzio said. "But he must be thinking, 'Is this worth the effort?'"

Ivan Pliusch

The first chair of the Verkhovna Rada has remained a tactful player in Ukrainian politics, enjoying close ties with politicians across a broad spectrum.

Mr. Pliusch is particularly friendly with President Viktor Yushchenko, Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha and industrial kingpin Rinat Akhmetov, the top financier of the Party of Regions.

In Parliament Mr. Pliusch draws the most support from the Single Center

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Yushchenko addresses the world about the Holodomor of 1932-1933

Following is the text of the appeal of the President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine to the Ukrainians of the world and the international community on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933. The English-language text was released on November 21. (It has been edited for clarity by The Ukrainian Weekly.)

I address you with regard to the 75th anniversary of the most tragic incident in Ukrainian history – the Holodomor of 1932-33.

It took decades for the truth about this genocide deliberately perpetrated by Stalin's regime on the Ukrainian land of plenty to make its way to the public.

I want to express my deepest appreciation to all who refused to be silent during these years when fear bound Ukraine under the Soviet regime, when all the rest of the world preferred to remain complacently ignorant about one of the gravest crimes against humanity.

Only after cutting the strings of communist totalitarianism did independent Ukraine manage to testify aloud about this attempt on the life of the entire nation conducted in distant 1930s of the last century.

Today the truth about the Holodomor has been made public. It became impossible to keep it secret any longer. The gloom of Stalin's night of 1932-1933 is fading away.

The Holodomor has been already recognized and condemned by many countries and international organizations, regional governments and parliaments, and municipal councils all over the world.

Let me extend my deep respect and gratitude for this humanism and solidarity with millions of innocent victims of genocide.

International support sustains our belief that historical justice will be restored. This consolidates our common will to strive for its establishment in full measure.

The global community must realize that it will be impossible to prevent future crimes against humanity unless past crimes are condemned.



Markian Hadzewycz

Display at the entrance to an exhibit about the Holodomor at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey.

We do not speak about what could have been done 75 years ago if the world had known the full truth. We raise our voices to talk about what can be done today in order to honor those who perished and those who managed to survive in the hell of the Holodomor.

Millions of candles lit by Ukrainians on November 22 in honor of fellow countrymen tortured with hunger will merge with the flame of the International Holodomor Remembrance Torch that passed through 33 countries and all Ukrainian regions, becoming filled with the spirit of many sincere people from different countries and nations.

I call upon everyone who cannot be indifferent to the feelings of mercy, sympathy and justice, who supports the victory of good over evil to light their own candles of remembrance and join us in honoring the victims of the Holodomor.

Ukraine remembers! The world acknowledges!



Volodymyr Lytvyn



Ivan Pliusch

ANALYSIS

Verkhovna Rada investigates arms supplies to Georgia

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor
November 19

A Ukrainian parliamentary commission investigating arms supplies to Georgia has claimed that they were illegal. The commission chairman, Valerii Konovaliuk from the pro-Russian Party of Regions (PRU), insists that President Viktor Yushchenko was aware that Ukraine supplied arms to Georgia illegally. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) denied this and prevented the presentation in Kyiv of a Russian documentary that reflects Moscow's interpretation of Ukraine's role in the August Russian-Georgian conflict over South Ossetia, a point of view shared by the commission.

According to Moscow, Kyiv supplied arms to Georgia ahead of and during the conflict in violation of bilateral agreements and international laws. Kyiv does not deny that the supplies took place, but insists that they were legal. Moscow also claims that there were Ukrainians fighting on Georgia's side in the conflict. Kyiv denies this.

The opposition in Ukraine, especially the PRU and the Communists, are inclined to believe Moscow. On September 2 the Ukrainian Parliament set up an ad-hoc commission to look into the issue. The commission is dominated by the opposition, so its preliminary findings, reported at the end of September, were not surprising. They generally coincided with the Kremlin's official line, but the focus was slightly different.

Mr. Konovaliuk, who visited South Ossetia in the wake of the war, said that he had evidence confirming the participation of Ukrainian nationalists in the conflict. Mr. Konovaliuk also claimed that President Yushchenko personally coordinated the arms trade with Georgia, that Kyiv had known about Georgia's preparations for the war, and that offensive rather than defensive weapons were shipped to Georgia. At the same time, Mr. Konovaliuk's focus was on the alleged damage from the arms trade to the Ukrainian army and the economy.

Mr. Konovaliuk said that arms were sold to Georgia at artificially low prices and to the detriment of Ukraine's own military capability. According to Mr. Konovaliuk, certain weapons that the Ukrainian army was short of were supplied to Georgia rather than to Ukrainian army units. "We have found proof that we were arming a foreign state that, I am sure, was preparing for military aggression, while destroying our own defense capacities," he said. He also suggested that a fire at the Ukrainian ammunition

depot near Lozova at the end of August was arson masterminded in order to cover up the smuggling of arms to Georgia (www.liga.net, www.regnum.ru, September 26).

Mr. Konovaliuk said that most of the funds raised from the arms trade during the past few years, not only with Georgia, did not go into the state coffers. According to his calculations, Ukraine's losses from arms supplies to Georgia amounted to some \$100 million (Interfax-Ukraine, October 8). The Ukrainian Defense Ministry and the state arms trade company, Ukrspetsexport, flatly denied Mr. Konovaliuk's conclusions.

The National Security and Defense Council, a body chaired by President Yushchenko, said that Mr. Konovaliuk's commission had been set up "in order to use in domestic political fights the dangerous myth forged by Ukraine's opponents about Ukraine's involvement in the Russia-Georgia conflict" (Ukrayinska Pravda, October 8).

Mr. Konovaliuk planned to show Ukrainian officials and journalists, as well as foreign diplomats, a Russian documentary about Ukraine's alleged participation in the Georgia war. The five-star hotel in Kyiv where the documentary was to be shown on November 12 refused, however, to host the event after warnings from the SBU, according to Mr. Konovaliuk (Kommersant-Ukraine, November 13).

The Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry officially protested against the Russian Embassy's involvement in organizing the showing of a documentary that, the Affair Ministry said, "was fabricated by Russian special services." In reply, the Russian Foreign Ministry accused Ukraine of "hiding the truth" about "Ukraine's involvement in the events in South Ossetia" (Interfax-Ukraine, November 13).

Speaking in the Verkhovna Rada on November 13, Mr. Konovaliuk echoed Moscow's accusations. "The actions by the SBU chief are aimed at covering up crimes in the sector of arms exports, the violations that the commission exposed and the damage inflicted on our state, its defense capabilities and security," he said (Interfax-Ukraine, November 13). He also said that his commission wanted to summon Mr. Yushchenko to ask him questions about the arms supplies to Georgia (UNIAN, November 14).

Mr. Konovaliuk also alleged that the United States had helped Ukraine ship arms to Georgia. "Tanks were loaded for the first 15 days at the military airfield in

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Yushchenko believes Orange Revolution awakened Ukraine's political consciousness

Ukrinform

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko said on November 21 that he believes the events of 2004 on the "maidan," or Independence Square in Kyiv, were a revolution of the political consciousness of the Ukrainian nation.

Speaking in a Channel 5 TV interview dedicated to the fourth anniversary of the Orange Revolution, he said, "I will keep for all my life as a subject of my biggest politi-

cal pride [the fact] that this took place in Ukraine and I was related to it."

Mr. Yushchenko assessed the events of November-December 2004 as an expression of national dignity. "What is most important about the Orange Revolution and maidan 2004 is that it brought us self-respect. Really, this maidan brought freedom," Mr. Yushchenko said, adding that those on the maidan spoke out against a president's appointment as a result of a stolen election and defended their right to vote freely.

NEWSBRIEFS

Yanukovich meets with Putin

KYIV – The leader of the opposition Party of Regions, Viktor Yanukovich, and the chairman of United Russia, Vladimir Putin, met on November 21 in Moscow, where they discussed prospects for the future development of cooperation between the two parties. In particular, they discussed "filling an agreement between the Party of Regions and the all-Russian Party United Russia with qualitatively new contents," the PRU press service reported. The two party leaders touched upon the need to strengthen good-neighbor relations between Ukraine and Russia, as well as cooperation and coordination of efforts aimed at overcoming the consequences of the economic crisis consequences. Mr. Yanukovich participated in work of the 10th congress of the United Russia Party. (Ukrinform)

PRU chief promises improved relations

KYIV – Viktor Yanukovich, leader of the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU), who attended the 10th congress of the United Russia Party in Moscow on November 20, told journalists that he had participated in the congress because his party has a cooperation agreement with this ruling party in Russia. "We, as the most influential parties in our countries, will guarantee stable relations between Ukraine and Russia," he said. He added that this cooperation is becoming particularly important in view of the current state of Ukrainian-Russian relations. Mr. Yanukovich slammed the "outrageous unprofessional activities of the current authorities," which he believes have triggered a deep social and economic crisis in Ukraine. He said that "everybody in Ukraine is already bored with the weak authorities" that have policies that ignore the wishes of citizens. The leader of the Ukrainian opposition accused the government of spoiling relations with Russia. Mr. Yanukovich stressed the need to "end intrigues against Russia" and resume a strategic partnership with the country. Moreover, under conditions of the global economic crisis, Russian assistance might come in handy for Ukraine, he added. "Given that Russia has found itself more prepared for this global economic crisis, I think that we need not only to coordinate our activities, but also to receive

possible assistance from Russia," Mr. Yanukovich said. He also called for a return to the idea of a common economic space. Speaking about the worsening of Ukrainian-Russian relations, the PRU leader said that "Ukrainian-Russian relations have been significantly spoiled" because of the position adopted by the Ukrainian leadership during the Russian-Georgian military conflict. He described the position of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko as "unacceptable," and accused him of supporting one of the sides in the conflict – Georgia. "As soon as political changes are made in Ukraine, relations with Russia will immediately improve," Mr. Yanukovich said, adding that these changes will definitely occur. (Ukrinform)

Intelligentsia appeals to Russians

KYIV – The Ukrainian intelligentsia addressed the president of Russia and its citizens with an appeal to honor the memory of the victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. The appeal was read by the chairman of the Congress of the Ukrainian Intelligentsia, Ivan Drach, during a press conference on November 21. Ukrainians addressed the Russian people and the Russian leadership, asking them on November 22 to join in prayer and light candles to revere the memory of the millions who died during the Holodomor. Mr. Drach noted that an opinion expressed by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev with regard to the fact that the Ukrainian authorities have been trying to add a nationalistic character to the Holodomor is an echo of the Soviet regime's legacy. "In the people's prison ruled by the Communist Party, all the nations suffered and among them the Russian people," the statement reads. The appeal also emphasized that the Ukrainian people share grief for Famine victims of all nations. (Ukrinform)

Mace works published in Ukraine

KYIV – A collection of works by the well-known American researcher of the Holodomor 1932-1933, Dr. James Mace, titled "Your Dead Have Chosen Me..." has been published in Ukraine. The book presentation took place within the framework

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Editors: Matthew Dubas
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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator	(973) 292-9800, ext. 3041 e-mail: ukradmin@att.net
Maria Oscislawski, advertising manager	(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040 e-mail: adukr@optonline.net
Mariyka Pendzola, subscriptions	(973) 292-9800, ext. 3042 e-mail: ukrsubscr@att.net

The Holodomor 75 years later: The Poltava Oblast

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KONCHA ZASPA, Ukraine – Stalin's despised "kurkuls" (well-off peasants) who thrived on the legendary "chor-nozem," or black earth, of the Poltava Oblast were the hardest of workers.

Even as she rode to the field to harvest wheat, Baba Hanna spun linen from flax fibers so as not to waste time. The cart filled on the way back, she tied the threads to the bushels and spun as she walked in tow.

That's why long before Dr. James Mace and President Viktor Yushchenko raised awareness of the Holodomor, Poltava residents knew it was genocide.

"People didn't know of Stalin's orders, but they knew there couldn't be a famine," said Halyna Kapustian, who in October published "The Memory of '33 Summons Youth" ("Pamiat 33-ho Klyche Molodykh"), a collection of first-hand accounts of the Holodomor accounts in the Poltava Oblast.

"It was a good harvest, and it was clear that it was intentional," she underscored.

Once Mikhail Gorbachev gave Ukrainians their first glimpses of freedom, Dr. Kapustian rolled up her sleeves, inspired by the eight family members who perished during the Holodomor in her native village of Zaruddia.

Now a professor at Kremenchuk State Polytechnic University, she began collecting testimonies in the late 1980s, when there were survivors who were teenagers or in their 20s during the Holodomor. "The ocean of Ukrainian emotion surpassed that of a Shakespearean tragedy,"



Halyna Kapustian compiled "The Memory of '33 Summons Youth," a collection of first-hand accounts of the Holodomor accounts in the Poltava Oblast.

she said of those years.

"Don't forget this," Ms. Kapustian's father told her before he died in 1993. "Forever preserve our memory and how many in our family died."

Like in millions of Ukrainian families, mentions of the Holodomor would surface sporadically, as if a horrid truth that couldn't be contained, but always behind closed doors and in hushed tones. "Not outside, but only at home in the yard

among relatives, it was said that it was Stalin's order," Dr. Kapustian recalled.

Her grandmother, Iryna Honchar, would mention furtively how "they destroyed my girls," referring to her three daughters who starved to death.

Knowing her grandchildren wouldn't learn the truth in Soviet textbooks, "babusia always said, 'Stalin vydushyv' (destroyed us)," Dr. Kapustian recalled.

Ms. Honchar also raised her children to honor bread and never throw it away.

She never wished vengeance on anyone, insisting there is a God, everything is in His hands and everything will fall into place, although she watched her daughters starve.

When revealing such details, Ms. Honchar cried only once, when recalling how she baked bread for the first time in July 1933. "She smelled the scent of bread and was reminded of her three daughters who had begged for bread just months earlier," Dr. Kapustian related.

Even when confronted with hellish conditions, Ukrainians retained their unique sense of humor in finding some relief amidst the torture.

A murderous Soviet brute confronted a starving peasant and taunted him, "So, you're hungry?"

"No, I ate breakfast," the peasant replied.

"You ate breakfast? What?"

"Varenyky."

"Varenyky! Where did you get them?"

"My wife picked them from the garden."

After the Soviet Union's fall, Dr. Kapustian's students began volunteering

The Holodomor in the Poltava Oblast

60,000 known casualties *

1,990 population centers affected

443 known mass graves

598 population centers with monuments

* This figure is a gross underestimate, local officials said, and may reach as high as 440,000 as more casualties are officially confirmed.

to collect such testimonies, many of which were published in "Memory of '33."

Poltava researchers are still working to establish a casualty rate, reported as a mere 54,000 in the Poltava chapter of the Holodomor Victims National Book of Memory.

Although Poltava was part of the Kharkiv Oblast during the Holodomor, the region remained largely rural and was not as strongly Russified as Kharkiv, though the same techniques of collectivization and destruction were employed.

Therefore, its residents are more able to accept the Holodomor's truth, as compared with their neighbors to the east. Nor are they bitter, Dr. Kapustian said.

"Let the Russian people know that we don't demand compensation or money," she said. "Maybe they fear that, but no. It's important for us to establish that there was a tragedy caused by the Bolshevik-Muscovite center, not by the Russian people."

NEWS ANALYSIS: Four years after the Orange Revolution

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Four years after the Orange Revolution, the Russians have regained the upper hand in their battle with the United States for Ukraine. (No need to mention Europe.)

Both of Ukraine's biggest political forces, the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB), are vying for Moscow's favor.

In giving up on the Democratic Forces Coalition after the South Ossetian War, a wise and observant Ms. Tymoshenko calculated that allying herself with Russia would be far more promising for the near-term future than teaming with the Americans.

Meanwhile the politicians that Washington placed its chips on – President Viktor Yushchenko and the Our Ukraine bloc – are on the brink of extinction.

If the U.S. government orchestrated the Orange Revolution, as old school conservatives such as Pat Buchanan allege, then it is a failure.

In doing nothing to improve rule of law, combat corruption and maintain stability, Mr. Yushchenko has discredited the West in the eyes of many Ukrainians.

Efforts such as the Holodomor commemoration campaign are admirable, but ultimately hollow without meaningful reforms, thus further buttressing the cynicism of Russophile Ukrainians towards ideas of patriotism and national-democratic ideals.

President-elect Barack Obama and his foreign policy advisers will need a new strategy to steer Ukraine out of the Russian sphere of influence.

But whatever new strategy is developed, it's unlikely to succeed in subverting the well-entrenched position of the Russian Federation, which has effectively played

several key cards in its hand that the U.S. is currently incapable of countering.

The English language is making enormous strides in Ukraine, particularly among its youngest generations, but it still can't compete with the predominance of Russian as the first or second language of Ukrainians.

The Russian government is well aware that keeping Ukrainians thinking and speaking Russian will keep Ukraine in its sphere of influence.

It's no coincidence that English-speaking countries, such as the U.S., Canada, Great Britain and Australia, are very close partners. They not only share the same language, but very similar cultural and historical traditions.

Russia is aiming to create a similar alliance with Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, all Russian-speaking nations with similar cultural and historical traditions.

An even greater tool than language in forming civilizations and alliances is religion. The Russian Orthodox Church, known in Ukraine as the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate, is perhaps the single biggest influence on Ukrainians in forming foreign policy views – particularly in the central and eastern regions.

Religion formed the foundation of modern civilizations. Although that notion has gone by the wayside in Western societies, which are increasingly relying more on government rather than Christian self-restraint, it is still highly relevant among Ukrainians, who are among the few European peoples that embrace their Christian heritage.

Not only is the Russian Orthodox Church the most popular in Ukraine, but it is growing. In fact, no other organization has built more churches in Kyiv since the Orange Revolution than the Moscow



A billboard spotted in October outside a Kharkiv Oblast elementary school tells students in Russian, "Study and be a worthy citizen of your Fatherland!" Behind the photos of students, a map depicts the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, as opposed to an independent Ukrainian state.

Patriarchate, all with the support of the local government.

The Russian Orthodox Church promotes the notion that the Slavic people, consisting of Russians, Belarusians and Ukrainians, are all brothers and sisters of a single family with its roots in the Kyivan Rus civilization that accepted Christianity in 988.

Civilizations need ideas and myths to ultimately survive, and it is this simple thesis that influences millions of Orthodox Ukrainians in their support for pro-Russian forces and policies.

Just as Kosovo is sacred to the Serbians, Kyiv is sacred to the Russians.

Kyiv's Monastery of the Caves (Pecherska Lavra) is among the holiest

sites of the Russian Orthodox Church, and Kyiv becoming a NATO outpost would be perceived by millions, whether appropriately or not, as an invasion and conquest.

Meanwhile, the Moscow Patriarchate supports the Party of Regions, Ukraine's biggest political force, and the Communist Party of Ukraine, which stunned political observers by increasing its support in the 2007 election.

In the face of such advantages held by the Russians in the battle for Ukraine, the U.S. is fighting back feebly.

While Ukraine is clearly among Russia's top three foreign policy priorities – if not

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Conference discusses tougher Kremlin's challenges to new U. S. administration

by Areta Kovalsky

WASHINGTON – The American Enterprise Institute on November 13 hosted the conference, "A New White House Faces a Tougher Kremlin: Tackling Contentious Multilateral Issues in U.S.-Russian Relations," at which experts, policy-makers and government advisers from the United States, Russia, East and Central Europe and Eurasia discussed the future of U.S.-Russia relations.

The all-day session included five panels: "U.S.-Russian Relations Today: A Tour d'Horizon," "Democratization, NATO Membership and the European Union," "Energy and Pipelines," "Missile Defense" and "Where Do We Go from Here?"

During the panel, "Where Do We Go from Here?," the speakers summarized and analyzed some of the points that were made earlier in the day and then offered their suggestions on the next steps the U.S. should take in relations with Russia.

The first speaker was Stephen Biegun of McCain-Palin 2008 and the Ford Motor Co. He began by stating that the U.S. has had an open and patient approach to Russia. He suggested that the U.S. needs a common approach with European allies towards Russia, and that the U.S. needs to engage Georgia and Ukraine. He also said U.S. must not isolate Russia, but must leave an open door, and keep Russia engaged.

The recent U.S. election, Mr. Biegun said, will allow for new relations with new lines of communication; however he said he does not see the need for new structures. He emphasized that the U.S. cannot lose its voice, especially in regard to the erosion of democracy in Russia. Over all, Mr. Biegun said he feels the election and a new U.S. administration offer a chance to change the tone in bilateral relations.

Andrei Kortunov of the New Eurasia Foundation outlined two factors that drive Russia closer to the United States. The first is the social transformation of Russia, which comes from the fact that the Kremlin cannot isolate Russia from the outside world. Exposure to the West, through such experiences as Russians training and traveling abroad, as well as Russian business entering the global market, can limit the state's authoritarianism and centralization.

The second factor is external pressure: oil prices, global problems and other issues that Russia will have to handle with the West. He said he believes there are reasons to be optimistic about Russia moving closer to the U.S., but has no idea how much time it will take, as this is a matter of the will and persistence of the Russian people.

For the short term, Mr. Kortunov said he thinks it is a good thing that a NATO Membership Action Plan is postponed for Ukraine; the issue can wait and it is important not to push it for the time being. Two issues that he does feel need to be discussed by Russia and the U.S. are international law and the international economic crisis. Regarding international law, he said there has been an erosion of compliance by all players.

Mr. Kortunov concluded his analysis by stating that the U.S. needs to have a consensus with European allies vis-à-vis Russia. It is a mistake for European allies to blindly support the U.S. position. Rather, the U.S. needs to understand the position of both "old" and "new" Europe. An appeasement policy will not work in dealing with Russia, and neither will a policy of containment.

Fyodor Lukyanov of the journal *Russia in Global Affairs* stated that the U.S. cannot expect a miracle in relationship with

(Continued on page 14)

Komichak installed as commander of Military Intelligence Group-Europe

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Col. Michael Komichak, a resident of Chatham, N.J., was officially installed as commanding officer of the Military Intelligence Group-Europe (MIG-E), 7th Civil Support Command (CSC) during a ceremony held on October 12 in Schwetzingen, Germany.

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored military tradition representing a complete transfer of authority from one individual to another – in this case from Col. William Dorais to Col. Komichak – and provides formal recognition in front of their entire unit.

A native of McKees Rocks, Pa., Col. Komichak assumed command of Army Reserve Soldiers who are trained for deployable contingencies and events sponsored by U.S. Army Europe. His mission is to quickly train mobilizing MIG-E units in and outside the continental United States.

Col. Komichak gained training experiences in exercises ranging from Austere Challenge, Darfu Intelligence Primer and Intelligence Readiness Exercises in both Poland and Turkey.

"I will strive to live up to the high standard you have set," Col. Komichak told Col. Dorais. "I have also come to appreciate the professionalism and dedication of the soldiers of the MIG-E... and see that you are among the finest with whom I have ever served."

Col. Komichak received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Military Intelligence Corps in 1979 from the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC). He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics, a B.S. in electrical engineering, and

a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering and computer sciences from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass. He also holds a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the United States War College.

Mobilized twice in support of Operation Noble Eagle, and prior to the MIG, Col. Komichak was deputy director of the capabilities integration, prioritization and analysis directorate in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7 at the Pentagon.

Among his military awards are a meritorious service medal and the joint service commendation medal with oak leaf cluster.

Col. Komichak is active with the Ukrainian Orthodox League and is a parishioner at Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Maplewood, N.J. Col. Komichak and his wife, Daria, also perform with the Dumka Choir of New York.



Lt. Col. Michele R. Sutak

Col. and Mrs. Michael Komichak pose for a photo after Komichak assumed command of the Military Intelligence Group-Europe, 7th Civil Support Command, Oct. 26 at Tompkins Barracks, Schwetzingen, Germany. Daria Komichak, of Chatham, N.J., received a bouquet of flowers during the ceremony.

Delegation from Greenhouse Association of Ukraine visits U.S.

by R.L. Chomiak

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – Locally grown produce in November? You'll have to come to Ukraine to see how it's done. Greenhouse vegetables – by definition locally grown – are widely used in Ukraine, as in other parts of the former USSR.

In the old days, the Communist Party elite had to have fresh produce on the table, so large hothouses were in operation throughout Ukraine. Now they are privately owned and employ some 30,000 workers who harvest about 480,000 tons of vegetables annually.

The story of Ukraine's greenhouses was told at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington recently, when the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council hosted a delegation of the post-Soviet Greenhouse Association of Ukraine. The association, founded in 2002, has 26 member companies out of about 100 such businesses in all parts of Ukraine. Seventeen of the entrepreneurs toured the United States as guests of Philadelphia's Ukrainian Federation of America on October 10-14.

They visited hothouses and mushroom farms in Pennsylvania; visited Penn State University, which has an exchange program in agriculture with Ukraine; and visited an agricultural district of Ohio and met the district's Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, who has kinfolk in Ukraine and who promotes modern agriculture as a

solution to all of Ukraine's economic problems. Rep. Kaptur is active in the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus and happens to be the senior female member of the House of Representatives. On November 4 she was re-elected with 73 percent of the vote.

The Ukrainian delegation also visited Niagara Falls before heading home.

At the Embassy roundtable discussion on October 15, the Ukrainian "teplychnyky" ("teplytsia" is hothouse or greenhouse in Ukrainian) had a chance to exchange ideas with American specialists in this field and with government officials.

Henadiy Nadolenko, who is on his second tour in the Washington Embassy, this time as chief of the Economic and Trade Mission, welcomed the roundtable participants to the Embassy and passed the chair over to Andrew Bihun. In the 1990s Mr. Bihun headed the commercial section of the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, and now is a partner in Global Trade and Development Inc. in Washington.

Oleksandr Tomlyak, executive director of the Ukrainian association, said his members manage more than 1,600 acres under glass and about 2,500 acres under plastic sheeting. Today, he added, greenhouses in Ukraine are mostly family-owned enterprises that supply the market primarily in the spring, fall and winter months.

A glance at a list of the group visiting the United States showed that these mom-

and-pop agricultural business owners were from all regions of Ukraine. In one case, a Crimean greenhouse now privately owned kept the old Soviet name – "Radyanska Ukraina," or Soviet Ukraine.

Also in the delegation was Andriy Zhuravlov, who runs a Dutch seed company in Ukraine that supplies the greenhouse farmers, and Yevhen Chernyshenko, president of the Greenhouse Association, who runs the biggest greenhouse in Ukraine: 125,000 acres under glass, growing 20,000 tons of vegetables a year.

While Ukrainians can teach Americans a thing or two about growing produce locally year round, avoiding transport across the continent or from the southern to the northern hemisphere, Ukrainians who visited the U.S. said they were interested in American equipment and services for greenhouses.

From the American side at the Embassy roundtable, Dr. George Melnykovich, who represents Food Processors Suppliers Association, talked about machines and packaging produced by members of his association, some of them already established in Ukraine. Based on American experience, he also praised institutions such as the Greenhouse Association of Ukraine as a tool for development of the industry. Proof of the American penchant for successful associating was participation at the roundtable of Dewitt Ashby, who represents the National Association of State

Departments of Agriculture.

The level of U.S.-Ukraine relations in trade and investment was spelled out for the visitors by Christine Lucyk, who covers Ukraine in the U.S. Department of Commerce. Last year, she said, total U.S. exports to Ukraine amounted to \$1.3 billion, and a similar sum was invested by Americans in Ukraine. Ukraine, in turn, exported to the U.S. products worth \$1.2 billion.

She characterized Ukrainian commercial relations with the United States as very significant and noted that last April the two countries signed a treaty on trade and investments. She encouraged Ukrainian visitors to keep in touch with the commercial section of the American Embassy in Kyiv.

Morgan Williams, president of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council, who has quadrupled the number of council members since taking over the helm, was on one of his frequent visits to Ukraine during the greenhouse delegation's visit. His associate, Iryna Teluk, membership director of the council, explained that the organization works with governments of Ukraine and the United States for the benefit of its members.

At the end of the visit Executive Director Tomlyak told me by phone that his group was tired, but very satisfied with the tour and the contacts its members have established. "This was our first trip," he said, "but not our last."

Ukrainian American Veterans hold 61st convention

by Atanas T. Kobryn

SOMERSET, N.J. – The 61st National Convention of the Ukrainian American Veterans was held in Somerset, N.J., on September 26-27 to celebrate the 60th birthday of this organization and its continuous service to its members, members' families, the Ukrainian American community and the United States. It was hosted by three New Jersey UAV Posts: 6 of Newark, 17 of Passaic and 30 of Freehold.

National executive board officers, delegates and guests began to arrive at the Holiday Inn Somerset early on Thursday, September 25. That evening the national executive board held its last meeting, chaired by National Commander Anna Krawczuk. The agenda included officer's reports approval of the Convention Committee Chairs, and the approval of the agenda of the upcoming convention. The status of inactive posts and the ways to reactivate some or all of them was discussed at length.

The next day National Commander Krawczuk opened the convention with the appropriate ceremonies at 10 a.m. The roll call of UAV national executive board officers, past national commanders, state and post commanders was executed by UAV National Adjutant Walter Bodnar, confirming that a quorum was present.

The delegates were saddened by the absence at the 61st Convention of once very active posts, including Post 7 of New York, 19 of Spring Valley, N.Y., 23 of Buffalo, N.Y., 25 of Trenton, N.J., 32 of Chicago, 33 of New Haven, Conn., 35 of Palatine, Ill.

Five delegates, led by Post Commander Ihor W. Hron, represented the Cpl. Roman G. Lazor Post No. 40 of North Port, Fla. Jack Palance Post 42 of Lehigh Valley, Pa., was well represented.

The following national board officers presented their financial and activity reports: Finance Officer Wasyl Liscynsky, Quartermaster Stephen Kostecki, Welfare Officer Myroslaw Pryjma and Scholarship Officer Nicholas Skirka.

National Commander Krawczuk reported on the status of the UAV Registration Project and UAV National Monument financials.

Activity reports by National Commander Krawczuk and other officers, as well as the reading of some reports submitted by absent officers, and discussion of all reports concluded the first day's activities.

In the late afternoon on Friday a large group of delegates and guests took advantage of guided tour of St. Andrew's Cemetery by Peter Paluch. The primary goal was to see the location of the future UAV National Monument. This prominent site, graciously donated by the Archdiocesan Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., is near St. Andrew Memorial Church. The memorial will honor the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian American men and women who have honorably served and continue to serve in all branches of the U.S. armed forces.

The tour participants also learned about the history of the 18th century Fisher Family Historic Cemetery and saw a number of very important and impressive monuments, including that of Metropolitan Vasyl Lypkivskyi and other famous Ukrainians.

Saturday's activities began with the Nominating Committee meeting at 8 a.m.

Atanas T. Kobryn is a past national commander of the Ukrainian American Veterans.



Ukrainian American Veterans gathered at their 61st convention.

Past National Commander Atanas T. Kobryn, member of Post 40 in North Port, Fla., chaired the committee, consisting of past national commanders and State and Post Commanders present at the convention.

After National Commander Krawczuk called the convention to order at 10 a.m., chairs of the convention committees presented the reports and recommendations of their committees.

Brig Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk reported for the Resolutions Committee, Past National Commander Edward A. Zetick for the Membership Committee, Wasyl Liscynsky for the Finance and Auditing Committee, Mr. Kostecki for the Quartermaster Committee, Mr. Pryjma for the Welfare Committee, M. Skirka for the Scholarship Committee and Bernard W. Krawczuk for Public Relations Committee. National Commander Krawczuk spoke about the UAV Archives due to the absence of National Historian Dr. Vasyl Luchkiw. Jerry Kindrachuk reported for the UAV History and National Monument Committees.

The recommendations included: reactivating UAV website, enrolling at least one new member per post, recognizing the post with the most new members added during the period and establishing a reward for "Post of the Year."

National Judge Advocate Michael Demchuk reported for the By-Laws Committee. The most significant recommendation was the addition of description of duties and responsibilities for the position of National Service Officer/Chaplain (changed from National Chaplain/Service Officer). Delegates approved all recommendations.

Mr. Kobryn, chair of the Nominating Committee, after calling for nominations from the floor as required by protocol, presented the slate of candidates for national executive board positions, as follows: Brig. Gen. Kondratiuk (Post 31, Boston), national commander; Walter Michajliw (Post 31, Boston), vice-commander; Jerry Kindrachuk (Post 42, Lehigh Valley, Pa.), finance officer; Mr. Demchuk (Post 24, Cleveland), judge advocate; Mr. Kostecki (Post 31, Boston), quartermaster; Mr. Pryjma (Post 101, Warren, Mich.), welfare officer; Mr. Skirka (Post 301, Yonkers, N.Y.), scholarship officer; and Mr. Krawczuk (Post 30, Freehold, N.J.), public relations officer. All nominees were unanimously elected.

The Nominating Committee did not recommend any candidate for the position of service officer/chaplain. Rostyslaw Ratycz, nominated Marian Bojsiuk, past post commander of post 40 in North Port, Fla., for the position. After Mr. Hron seconded the nomination, Mr. Bojsiuk was

unanimously elected.

The Nominating Committee was unable to find suitable candidates for the positions of national historian and webmaster. The committee recommended that for national webmaster the national executive board find a qualified candidate and to make him/her a member of the board if he/she is a UAV member; if the qualified person is not UAV member, engage that person via contractual agreement, with a provision for remuneration, if necessary. For national historian the UAV board was directed to find a qualified candidate and to make him/her a member of the board, as well as to explore possibility of engaging college students who might be willing to work on a part-time basis in arranging and cataloguing the archives in return for scholarships. The committee recommendations were approved without dissent.

Much time was devoted to discussion of the UAV Tribune. The national executive board was instructed to keep up the flow of communication with posts and members by regularly publishing the UAV Tribune or by instituting other appropriate channels of communication.

60th anniversary banquet

At the UAV's 60th anniversary banquet, National Commander Krawczuk greeted the delegates and guests and requested the posting of colors. The UAV Color Guards were Post Commanders Michael Fedirko (Post 6), James Fedorko (Post 17) and Mr. Krawczuk (Post 30); they were led by Mr. Bojsiuk (Post 40).

Celebrating 60 years

Native Ukrainians, naturalized American citizens of Ukrainian descent, as well as native-born Americans of Ukrainian descent fought in the Armed Forces of the United States in all wars, from the Revolutionary War of Independence through and including the latest Operation Iraqi Freedom, not to mention the Ukrainian Zaporozhian Kozaks accompanying Captain Smith to the ill-fated Jamestown colony. There are no accurate records, but one can find Ukrainian names in the rosters of various units and, of course, on the grave markers on many military cemeteries.

A significantly larger number of Ukrainian Americans fought in World War I, many having distinguished themselves in battles in service to the country they had adapted as their own. World War II saw a quarter million or more Ukrainian Americans in all branches of service fighting in all corners of the world, from Guadalcanal, the Philippines



UAV National Commander Brig. Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk.

The singing of the American and Ukrainian national anthems was led by Oksana Telepko. A moving "Missing Man Honors Ceremony" was masterfully presented by Mr. Fedorko.

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor in Ukraine, Bishop Daniel Zelinsky of the UOC-USA lit a candle and held a brief service.

(Continued on page 20)

and Iwo Jima in the Pacific theater to North Africa, Sicily, Normandy and Central Europe. Many Ukrainian Americans fought in Korea, Vietnam, and Operation Desert Storm, and many do so now in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

Returning World War I veterans organized veterans posts in several cities, but only the World War II veterans, thanks to a large degree to the efforts of the late Maj. Michael Darmopray, succeeded in forming the national Ukrainian American Veterans organization at the convention that took place on May 29-31, 1948 in Philadelphia. Michael Hynda from New Jersey Post No. 6 was elected the UAV's first national commander.

In the 1980s the UAV was granted war veterans' organization status under IRS Code Section 501 (c) (19), and was incorporated in the State of New York.

– Atanas T. Kobryn

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Giving thanks and giving back

As we write these words, Thanksgiving – one of our favorite holidays – is almost here. Soon we will be sitting down to Thanksgiving feasts and considering the multitudes of things we have to be thankful for. It is a time to reflect on our families' good fortune – even in these tough economic times, and to consider the wealth we enjoy in the form of our families, our friends, our communities, our nation.

As the Thanksgiving holiday leads to Christmas, a time of giving thanks leads to a season of giving. Yes, we give gifts to those closest to us: our families, friends and colleagues. But surely our Christmastime giving should extend beyond that circle. So, as you rush to the shopping malls on the day after Thanksgiving, please keep in mind others – groups, organizations, institutions and charities – near and dear to your hearts.

Perhaps we can all follow the cue of local parish youths in these parts who are holding a food drive to benefit the Interfaith Food Pantry that serves the needy. This is an especially meaningful project during this 75th anniversary year of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine when millions were starved to death. Why not do as the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America in New York did just two weeks ago when a food drive was conducted in memory of the Holodomor's victims? In addition to food items, such charities welcome monetary donations with which they purchase goods for those less fortunate.

There are a number of national and international Ukrainian organizations that do good works here in North America, Ukraine and other countries where Ukrainians reside. Among those we urge readers to consider are the Ukrainian National Foundation (which supports various cultural and educational programs here in the United States and is affiliated with the Ukrainian National Association), the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (which has special funds that provide assistance to Ukrainians both in this country and abroad), the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (which, among its many projects, is still collecting funds to aid flood-ravaged areas of Ukraine), the Toronto-based Help Us Help the Children (whose goal is to improve the quality of life in Ukraine's orphanages) and the Chicago-based Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation (which supports the exemplary work of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv).

Nor should readers forget their local organizations, whether their parishes, youth organizations, dance groups, community centers or schools of Ukrainian studies. These are the institutions from whose work we personally benefit each week of the year, the groups that serve us, our children and our seniors – all segments of our "hromada." Shouldn't we give a little something back to those who give us so much? A donation at Christmastime will help allow these organizations to continue and perhaps expand their invaluable work within our community.

In short, our goal during this post-Thanksgiving/pre-Christmas season should be both giving thanks and giving back.

Dec.
4
2007

Turning the pages back...

Last year, on December 4, 2007, the newly formed Democratic Forces Coalition elected 33-year-old Arseniy Yatsenyuk as the Verkhovna Rada's new chairman with all 227 votes from the coalition. The new Rada chair, the youngest in Europe, was expected to neutralize the polarized Parliament and establish compromise between the pro-Western

and Russian-oriented forces.

All three opposition factions, including the Party of Regions, the Communist Party of Ukraine and the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc, were against Mr. Yatsenyuk's candidacy, but didn't nominate a candidate of their own and didn't participate in the vote.

Mr. Yatsenyuk, a member of the Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense (OU-PSD) bloc, was seen by political analysts as "not politically compromised."

"He's not a party politician, but more of a technical bureaucrat and good executor," said Oleksander Lytvynenko, an analyst with the Razumkov Center for Economic and Political Research. "He's not going to lobby the interests of any particular political force."

Viacheslav Kyrylenko, also of OU-PSD, was also nominated for the post of Rada chair, but a camp within the bloc, led by Presidential Secretariat Viktor Baloha, was opposed partly because Mr. Kyrylenko was too closely allied with Yulia Tymoshenko, a candidate for prime minister.

Ms. Tymoshenko spent the December 4, 2007, session of the Verkhovna Rada rallying in favor of Mr. Yatsenyuk, who wanted to ensure the coalition's success (which had a slim majority by one vote) by quickly approving the candidate for parliamentary chair.

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

On December 5, 2007, Mr. Yatsenyuk submitted the coalition's nomination of Ms. Tymoshenko as Ukraine's next prime minister.

"Any lack of support will look as a blunt betrayal, and that will hurt Yushchenko. The train has already left the station and Our Ukraine has no option other than to support Tymoshenko," said Yuri Syrotiuk, a political analyst with the Kyiv-based Open Society Foundation.

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

Source: "Democratic coalition succeeds in electing Yatsenyuk as Rada chair," by Zenon Zawada, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 9, 2007.

Notes from the homeland

by Danylo Peleschuk

Conclusion: Reflection

Now that I've been home for nearly as long as I was in Ukraine, I've had a lot of time to think. I've reflected, remembered and reminisced, and I've fully committed to life back in the states.

One thing, though – I'm not over it.

I haven't gotten over the freezing, 7 a.m. showers during the entire month and a half the Kyiv City Administration shut down the hot water pipes for maintenance, nor have I let go of my newly discovered pushy and adamant side – a major requisite if you ever want to get your way in Ukraine. And now, as I'm scanning for job openings, sending scores of resumes and digging for connections, I can't help but keep Ukraine at the forefront of my mind.

Though I may very well have a few solid future prospects in the U.S., the idea just isn't as alluring as returning to the homeland. As a Ukrainian American in Ukraine, I found, you're plugged into networks both foreign and American. You meet people you'd have never otherwise met, and you build relationships with those whom you least expected to encounter. In short – if you're a Westerner, you've got the world at your feet.

In comparison to Western standards and luxuries, though, the bar is admittedly lower. You won't find an X-box in every child's bedroom or a Blackberry in every businessman's hand. Likewise, you'll find that most of your waitresses and servers will be less-than-pleasant, and if you ever drive a car anywhere besides the Khreshchatyk, you'll probably spend more money on tires than on gas.

So what's the appeal?

Simple – it's not what you've grown accustomed to. It's not America, or Canada, or even Western Europe. It's out of your comfort zone, but still close enough that you

Danylo Peleschuk was The Ukrainian Weekly's summer editorial intern at the Kyiv Press Bureau. Mr. Peleschuk, who hails from Stamford, Conn., is majoring in journalism at Northeastern University in Boston.

could get by. Especially during my first few weeks in the country, every day was an adventure, and, as a co-worker described it, every conversation was "a battle for information." Life was challenging, exciting and unpredictable all at once.

Sometimes, it was downright frightening.

Like when a patrolman stopped me late one night on the "maidan" (Independence Square) and asked for my "documents." Upon telling him that I left my passport at home, he threatened arrest and, after 20 minutes of my frantic rebuttal, he asked – albeit discreetly – for a bribe. It was my first (but not last) experience with the law, and I had no idea how to handle it. When I continued arguing in what seemed to be the most fluent and hard-hitting Ukrainian I'd ever spoken, he gave up and issued me a warning.

What got him, I later realized, was when I spoke about what I was doing in Ukraine. I told him about my trip, my relatives, my self-discovery – anything that I thought would pry his mind away from throwing me into the cramped backseat of his Lada with a siren slapped on top.

As we listened to each other's language and accents, we both knew that the other was from western Ukraine, where the state language continues to flourish and national culture is bred proudly. In the end, we connected – culturally and personally. After we exchanged names and handshakes, I walked away knowing that any other foreigner wouldn't have gotten off as easily.

Despite all the tangible setbacks and trials attached to a life abroad, that moment alone sold me. I realized that, even though home was more than 4,000 miles away, I was actually closer to it than I'd known.

To those who have tossed around the idea of visiting the homeland – do it. To those who have spent their entire lives propagating Ukrainian customs and values to their children, but have never visited – do it. Because only now, after returning back "home," do I really recognize how meaningful a Ukrainian identity is. And only now can I look at my grandparents with the utmost respect and finally say, "Thank you."

FOR THE RECORD: Ambassador's letter to The New York Times

Following is the text of a letter to the editor of The New York Times from Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Oleh Shamshur, that was published on November 15 under the title "Democracy and Ukraine."

To the Editor:

Re "As Ukraine Staggers, Its Leaders Quarrel" (news article, November 4):

Part of the recent criticism aimed at Ukraine stands in sharp contrast with very real achievements in many areas that define Ukraine as a modern and dynamic country.

I would not deny that some critical remarks aimed at Ukrainian authorities are to the point. Yet we are committed to democratic procedures.

The decision on early parliamentary elections announced by the decree of the president has clearly demonstrated his adherence to democratic values. His position might not be shared by various political forces, but this was his response to their inability to create

an effective coalition according to the provisions of the Ukrainian Constitution.

By requesting explicit compliance with the constitutional principles and resolutely advocating the national interests, the president of Ukraine has shown again that he is the undisputed focal point of the nation's consolidation, the leader capable of protecting it from economic or political crisis.

Having faced the aggravation of the situation in the financial sector, he suspended his decision on elections, so that Parliament could approve the stabilization package and adopt other urgent socioeconomic measures.

I am positive that we shall overcome all the difficulties no matter how complicated the process of our development may look from the outside.

Centuries of struggle for independence and freedom have taught us to uphold them.

Oleh Shamshur

Ambassador of Ukraine
Washington, November 11, 2008

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Syzokryli search for information

Dear Editor:

The Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble will celebrate its 30th anniversary with a concert at New York University's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, March 28, 2009.

As part of the celebration we would like to acknowledge all of those dancers who have performed with Syzokryli through the years. We ask that anyone who has been with the company forward contact information: name, address, telephone number, e-mail, including the years in which you danced, to nkobryn@hotmail.com.

We would also appreciate copies of any photos and/or videos for an exhibition we are planning in conjunction with the performance.

Ania Bohachevsky Lonkevych
North Wales, Pa.

The letter-writer is executive director of the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Foundation.

Basilian Sisters seek materials

Dear Editor:

From Philadelphia to New York City, Chicago to Newark, N.J., Hamtramck, Mich., to Chesapeake City, Md., the Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great have been a major component of numerous lives through schools, orphanages and parishes.

In preparation for the 100th anniversary of our ministry in the United States, we are collecting memories of the many people whose lives are intertwined with the Basilian Sisters.

Anyone with memories of time spent with the Basilian Sisters, photographs or other mementos is asked to contact Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski at 215-379-3998 ext. 35, dabusowski@stbasils.com, or 710 Fox Chase Road, Fox Chase Manor, PA 19046.

Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski
Fox Chase Manor, Pa.

We welcome your opinion

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

Letters should be typed and signed (anonymous letters are not published). Letters are accepted also via e-mail at staff@ukrweekly.com. The daytime phone number and address of the letter-writer must be given for verification purposes. Please note that a daytime phone number is essential in order for editors to contact letter-writers regarding clarifications or questions.

Please note: THE LENGTH OF LETTERS CANNOT EXCEED 500 WORDS.

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Destructive conflict is nothing new

Dear Editor:

One can only wonder about the insanity of the warfare between President Viktor Yushchenko's Secretariat and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's Cabinet. The destructive war between two heroes of the Orange Revolution started less than a year after its success in 2004 and has continued unabated to the present.

The current destruction of the fourth Ukrainian government under President Yushchenko is being stocked by the head of the Presidential Secretariat, Viktor Baloha. The actions of the Presidential Secretariat will most likely lead to the dismissal of the democratic government of Ms. Tymoshenko and resurrection of the pro-Russian government of Viktor Yanukovich.

The architect of this national tragedy is President Yushchenko, who during four years of his presidency has already destroyed three governments of Ukraine (led by Ms. Tymoshenko, Yuri Yekhanurov and Mr. Yanukovich) and presently is in the process of destroying the fourth one.

It is a sad story, but really not a new one.

In 1834 Mykola Hohol wrote the short novel "A Story about the Quarrel between Ivan Ivanovich and Ivan Nikiforovich" that was published as part of the Myrhorod anthology. In it he describes the conflict between two dear friends that were prominent and beloved by the community of Myrhorod's gentlemen farmers. The conflict starts as a result of a quarrel about a material possession (a rifle) and rapidly degenerates into violence and endless court battles. In the end, the friends manage to destroy each other.

The absurdity of the situation as described by Hohol in his short novel in 1834 is very much like the absurdity of the Ukrainian political scene in 2008. Hohol starts his story expressing admiration for the virtues of two dear friends (you can substitute Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko) and ends by saying "How sad it is in this world, gentlemen," when they destroy each other. And how true this is 174 years later.

The psyche of the nation has not changed much. It is still Myrhorod.

Ihor Lysyj
Austin, Texas



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

About Ukraine in Q and A

A newly released book should be a requirement for every "Ridna Shkola" (school of Ukrainian studies) as well as a source for anyone wanting to know the basics about things Ukrainian: "Naitsikavishe pro Ukrainu u Pytanniakh ta Vidpovidiakh" (The Most Interesting Facts about Ukraine in Questions and Answers by L. V. Mykhailenko, I. M. Rebrova, V. A. Sushko, and T. I. Lahunova. Kharkiv: Tornado, 2008. ISBN 966-635-752-6). This is not a textbook, and should not be considered one. But it is fascinating for young and old alike.

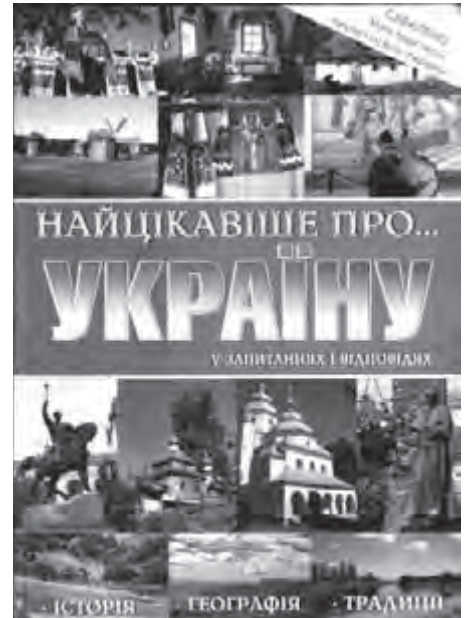
As the publisher's blurb indicates, this colorful and interesting book attempts to answer children's numerous questions about Ukraine. It is divided into three subject areas: history, geography, and culture and tradition. But the book should not be limited to children, because anyone interested in Ukraine will find the questions and answers enlightening. And what a source for your next Ukrainian Jeopardy game!

Without giving our dear readers the answers (hey, you completed your "matura," right?), below are some questions from the book.

From the section on History: Did our ancestors hunt mammoths? Which ancient Greek cities were founded on the territory of present-day Ukraine? What is a "kapsche?" Which state was the largest in medieval Europe? Where did the "serpent's" (zmiyevi) earthen ramparts throughout Ukraine come from? Why is Yaroslav the Wise called the father-in-law of Europe? Why is one of the oldest French national treasures considered Ukrainian? Why is Kyiv called the golden-domed? What happened to Yaroslav's library? Did Volodymyr Monomakh actually wear the "hat of Monomakh?" Why is the Ukrainian currency called "hryvnia" and what is the difference between "hryvnia" and "hryvna?" Which Ukrainian cities were founded during the times of Kyivan Rus'? Which contemporary Ukrainian symbol is the oldest? What were the requirements to become a Kozak? Why did Catherine II (of Russia) liquidate the Zaporozhian Sich? How many siches were built by the Zaporozhian Kozaks? How old is the Ukrainian university of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, and what was its original curriculum? What is the Black Way (Chorny shliakh)? During the Ottoman Empire's 1,000-year-old history, who was the only woman – a Ukrainian – who became a sultan's wife? Who was the author of the first democratic constitution in the world? Who was the Robin Hood of Podillia? Who was the first President of Ukraine? Why do we celebrate January 22 as the Day of Unification of Ukraine? Why is the legendary "Batko (father) Makhno" famous? For what was one punished by the "zakon pro piat koloskiv" (the law on five stalks of wheat)? What would have been the fate of Ukraine if Hitler were successful in his "Ost" plan?

How are we doing so far? Have you checked for answers with your grandparents or your grandchildren yet?

Now for some geography: Are there gold deposits in Ukraine? Where? What do you know about amber? Where are the largest deposits of the mineral of wisdom? On which river's banks was the first battle between the Kyivan Rus' armies and the Mongol-Tatar horde of



Cover of the book "The Most Interesting Facts about Ukraine in Questions and Answers."

Genghiz Khan? This sea was called Pontas Melas by the ancient Greeks, and the river flowing into it was the Boristhenes – what are they called now? How were the lakes in the Carpathian and Transcarpathian regions formed? Are there waterfalls in Ukraine? Volcanoes are called the hot blood of the earth – are there any volcanoes in Ukraine? Which Ukrainian carbonate bedrock caves are the largest? What is loess? Are there earthquakes in Ukraine? Apart from the one in Kyiv, is there another golden gate (zoloti vorota) in Ukraine? Who in Europe published the first map of Ukraine?

Now for traditions: How was Christmas (or the Winter Feast) celebrated by our ancestors? What were some games played at Sviat Vechir (Ukrainian Christmas Eve)? How were the elderly relatives honored at Christmas? How long did the Christmas celebrations last? What is a vertep? Who sows grain on the New Year? Are there any new attributes of Christmas – from the last two to three centuries? How was Velykden (Easter) celebrated? What are the differences among pysanky, krashanky and malio-vanky? How is Green Sunday celebrated? For what feast are buns with poppy seeds baked? How was Kupalo celebrated? What is the feast of harvesters and farmers? Why do the mothers of the bridal couple throw seeds of various grains on them? Why are the "verba" (willow) and the "kalyna" (viburnum, or high-bush cranberry) so revered in Ukraine? Why is bread called holy? When do the domestic animals speak? Why do the elderly forbid throwing garbage into a fire? For whom is a row of ripened grain left unmowed? How did young women foretell their future? What did the interior of a village house look like? Why was the pich (oven or hearth) so revered? What are icons? How were rushnyky (ritual cloths) made? What types of transport were there in the olden days? What kinds of sorochky (traditional Ukrainian shirt) are there? What kinds of hairstyles were there for women and men? Was there jewelry long ago?

And so, I will leave you with many questions and no answers. If you're stumped, look them up in your old Ridna

(Continued on page 22)

FOR THE RECORD: Speeches at the Holodomor service in St. Patrick's

The following are statements read by Ukrainian religious and community leaders, Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A, Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, and Tamara Gallo-Oleksy, president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, during the Holodomor commemorations at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York on November 15.

Archbishop Antony

Your Eminence, Cardinal Egan, Your Grace Metropolitan Stefan, Your Grace Bishop Basil, Your Grace Bishop Paul, Your Grace Bishop John, Your Excellency Ambassador Shamshur, Your Excellency Ambassador Sergeyev, Honorable Consul-General Krychenko, Beloved Clergy, Ladies and Gentlemen... GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

We have come once again to that time of year when we commemorate the seven to ten million men, women and children of the Ukrainian Nation, who perished in the genocidal famine of 1932-33. It is difficult to believe that three quarters of a century – over 75 years – have passed since this tragedy of tragedies occurred – the most horrific example of man's inhumanity to fellow man known in history. For those who visit this cathedral today and are not familiar with the circumstances of the genocide, it was a deliberate campaign ordered by Josef Stalin against the Ukrainian population, attempting to force them into the grand soviet collective farming system. Their land, for Ukrainian farmers, was central to their existence and survival.

In a year of bumper wheat harvests, the quotas for grain were set higher and higher in order to feed the wheat export goals of the regime, which, in turn, fed the never ending needs of building the immense Soviet industrial complexes– in particular weapons factories. All offers of assistance from foreign nations were rejected because Stalin claimed that no famine existed!

Now, imagine – if you will – gathering together with your entire family at Babtsia's home – grandma's home – on Thanksgiving Day. Imagine the anticipation of sitting down together at the family table to offer thanks for the blessings bestowed upon the family during the past year as babtsia, mom, aunts and cousins prepare the feast and the men of the family prepare a special large table.

Imaging – if you will – the doors of the family home bursting open and five or six Godless government troops forcing their way in to confiscate, in the name of the government, all the grain needed for export... taking every grain stored for the long, hard winter... tearing up the floor boards of the home looking for even the seed grain reserved for planting next spring... breaking the door off the oven to remove the bread and desserts baking for the Thanksgiving meal... a sacrifice necessary for continuing the "revolution"... and imagine this same scene happening over and over and over, millions of times, until the population of your city, your county, your state was left with nothing to eat and no where to find sustenance for life.

Imagine – if you will – watching as your younger siblings, brothers and sisters, become the first to suffer without that sustenance because their growing bodies have such enormous needs to make that growth possible. Imagine that growth stopping and their stomachs swelling. Imagine babtsia and didus, your grandparents, and all the older people becoming the next to fade away because their bodies are weak with age and after decades of long, hard work to provide for their families.

Imagine – if you will – your family members, your neighbors, your friends, you, yourself slowly – devastatingly slowly – fading away, without enough strength to lift a spoon even if a speck of food was provided for you during the next six months – most of the deaths occurred in the spring of 1933 after six months of starvation.

Imagine – if you will – daily having to carry a deceased member of your family or neighborhood from their homes – not to the local cemetery, because they were all full – but simply to the curb, where the horse-drawn wagons came by with grave-diggers to add them to the mound of other bodies, hauled off to an unknown, far away destination and dumped into mass graves. Imagine – if you will – when the horses died of starvation and no more wagons came and the grave-diggers perished and no more were buried.

Imagine – if you will – the loss of your eyesight and your memory and your ability to even think at all, before you, yourself, come to your end. I know, my dearly beloved, that it is difficult and almost impossible to imagine such things – because we have such abundance in our life – even during the recessions or depressions we experience now or in the past. Those we lost in the genocidal famine 75 years ago – who never experienced the abundant life – could not have imagined it either. In all their poverty – they knew happiness because they had their families, their homes and their land to sustain themselves. And suddenly, they were gone.....

Seven to ten million people – some government officials say even more – we will probably never know the exact number – 20 to 25% - one-fourth of the population of Ukraine at the time – gone. Those who would have been their descendents – never to be – resulting in a population of the nation today at only 50% of what it probably would have been, had the genocide not been perpetrated.

We have come here to remember those who perished and I say to you, as I have for all the years we have met in this magnificent cathedral: If we permit ourselves the luxury of letting history be history, then we are doomed. If we force the memory of those millions who died out of our minds because it makes us, or perhaps someone else, uncomfortable, then we fail them. If we ignore our responsibility to assist in correcting the history books and educating present and future generations of young students in Ukraine and throughout the world; if we fail to assist in building a proper memorial in city center – Kyiv – Ukraine's capital, and one here in United States of America and others throughout the world – memorials worthy of the sacrifice of so many millions of modern day martyrs; if we fail to stand for and preserve the sanctity of life – all of it created by God Almighty, then we will be participating in the creation of all the necessary circumstances for the horror to occur again, for the forces of evil to arise once more.

Imagine...if you will...Let us pray to the Lord...

Bishop Paul Chomnycky

I want to ask you to search your "memory banks" today and try and recall how you felt on your eighth birthday. Although I cannot remember my eighth birthday in any specific detail, I can certainly recall that any childhood years were generally happy. I was secure, well-fed and well-loved and I would like to think that most of us share a similar experience.

Imagine however, that on your eighth birthday, the only thing you could think about was the gnawing hunger in your stomach that would not go away. Imagine watching soldiers come into your farmyard and house and confiscate every last morsel of food, every grain of wheat, every kernel of corn, every chicken, every cow, every pig. Imagine seeing the weakest members of your family – your grandparents, and your younger brothers and sisters – slowly and painfully waste away to skin and bone, and perish until only you and your mother are left barely alive. Imagine eating leaves and boiled bits of bark and straw to dull the pain in your stomach to allow you to at least fall asleep for an hour or two at night. And imagine, on the morning of your eighth birthday, a



Matthew Dubas

Bishop Paul Chomnycky

government official bursting into your house and saying, in a voice full of surprised annoyance, as if at some vermin caught in a trap: "What! Are you still alive?"

These are the birthday memories of Victor Tkacz, one of the few fortunate individuals who survived one of the most brutal acts of genocide in the history of mankind, the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. This year marks the 75th anniversary of this genocide when anywhere from 7 million to 10 million Ukrainians, 3 million of them children, starved to death. During this month of November, Ukrainians and many others the world over are commemorating this solemn and sad anniversary with vigils, solemn marches, conferences and prayer services.

Seventy-five years ago millions of lives were sacrificed as a direct result of dictator Joseph Stalin's policy of deliberate grain and food confiscation in Ukraine in order to facilitate his policy of collectivization and rapid industrialization. It was designed specifically to crush the will of the Ukrainian peasantry, who wanted no part of this plan to solidify Soviet control and authority in Ukraine, whose agricultural riches were key for the future of the Soviet Union.

As Stalin and his lackeys put their lethal plan into action, the first shadows of famine fell upon Ukrainian villages and towns, and people began to die by the thousands, despite record harvests in 1932. Peasants who attempted to hide grain or other sources of food were deported or executed. Withholding grain became a crime punishable by death. Heavily guarded grain silos, filled to capacity, lay, ironically, just outside the reach of the starving peasants. Rather than feeding the slowly dying Ukrainians, the Soviet government sold the grain in Western markets, the proceeds of which were used to finance Stalin's industrialization plans for the Soviet Union.

The Soviet government rejected all offers of humanitarian aid and instead launched a propaganda campaign insisting that the Famine was a slanderous fabrication concocted by enemies of the Soviet Union. Even today, Vladimir Putin, the present prime minister of a now "democratic" Russian Federation, shamelessly apes this tired old line. However, history documents that Moscow sealed Ukraine's borders, making it impossible for anyone to escape in search of food and to conceal this act of genocide from the outside world. The systematic murder by starvation of millions of men, women and children began in earnest and went virtually unnoticed outside the borders of Ukraine.

Today, thank God, the veil of secrecy and deceit is being lifted, and the world is beginning to realize the horrors of "the other Holocaust" of 20th century Europe. Many books and articles are being written, documentary films are being produced, monuments are being erected, and research by many renowned scholars and historians is proceeding to ensure that knowledge of the Holodomor will grow and the memory of those who perished in this heinous act will be preserved with dignity.

The Holodomor was an act of gross and deliberate dehumanization. The all-powerful state looked upon the victims, not as living human beings, but as cold statistics, faceless workers, mere fodder for the engine of Communist progress. The starving peasants were stripped of all human dignity and forced to die like vermin.

But can we not also say that those who perpetrated this act were just as dehumanized, just as much stripped of their humanity, as were those whom they victimized? I maintain that only he who has had every ounce of humanity squeezed out of his being, only he who has had the smallest breath of human compassion smothered from his heart, only he who has been reduced to the level of an animal by a soulless political regime could gaze upon a starving mother and child and say without a trace of compassion: "What! Are you still alive?" Ask Victor Tkacz.

As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor, let us lift up hearts to the Lord and ask, above all, for the gift of healing:

"Almighty and loving God! You created all people in your tillage and likeness. Lead us to seek your compassion as we listen to the stories of our past. We place before You

(Continued on page 18)

Security Service of Ukraine launches Digital Archives Center

KYIV – The Security Service of Ukraine (known by its Ukrainian acronym as SBU), on October 2 launched its Digital Archives Center (DAC) in an effort to simplify access to materials stored in the SBU archive.

The documents are arranged according to various topics, including the 1932-1933 Holodomor, activities of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), repression in Ukraine and the dissident movement.

The DAC also provides access to a large number of photos, scientific journals and books, as well as digital versions of exhibitions and presentations. The DAC's easy search system is billed as being convenient for scholars, journalists and students of Ukrainian history.

As declassification and conversion of materials into digital form is under way, the DAC database is updated daily. At the same time, SBU has appealed to institutions, NGOs and individuals owning archival documents on relevant topics to make their materials available to DAC visitors.

The SBU Digital Archives Center is located at 4 Irynynska St., in Kyiv; telephone, 380-44-255-82-24. Its website may be accessed at www.ssu.gov.ua.

Working group studies OUN/UPA

In order to facilitate the impartial treatment of Ukrainian history, the SBU is working on declassifying and publicizing its archival documents on the operations of Soviet security services and the liberation movement in Ukraine.

In early 2008, a working group of historians was set up at the Security Service of Ukraine to study the activities of the OUN and UPA. The group is made up of members of various state and public organizations: the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory, the State Committee of Archives of Ukraine, the Institute of History at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University, the SBU National University, the SBU Archive and the Memorial Society.

According to working group members, their research will focus on the liberation movement in Ukraine from 1920 through 1991. To be examined separately are: the dissident movement of the 1960s-1970s as well as the democratic movement of the 1980s-1990s. One of the priorities of the group is to study SBU documents in the central and oblast archives.

The working group hopes to attract scholars interested in the examination of archival materials and the implementation of joint research and publication projects. The group's chair is SBU Chairman's Adviser Volodymyr Viatrovykh, (who holds a doctorate in history). His contact phone is +380-44-239-70-93.

At present, the SBU possesses the largest amount of materials on OUN/UPA activities. However, these materials have been studied inadequately and were not available to the public. Given highly mixed and controversial feelings on these issues existing in Ukraine, the declassification and publication of archives is of crucial importance.

Accordingly, the Center for the Study of Documents on the History of the Liberation Movement was set up in June 2008. The center is part of the SBU state archive. The center's main purposes are: to search, study, systematize and declassify archives on the history of the liberation movement; to create an annotated digital directory of materials; to implement publication projects, compile books and articles, organize public hearings on OUN/UPA activities; to involve NGOs in the

study of documents on the liberation movement; and to cooperate with domestic and foreign research and public organizations involved in the study of OUN/UPA history. The center may be contacted at: phone, +38-044-256-98-32; fax, +38-044-253-13-86, e-mail, arhivsbu@ssu.gov.ua.

Digital archive of national heritage

The SBU together with the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory has initiated the creation of a digital archive of national heritage. The archive is to facilitate the study of liberation movement history and contribute to its unified assessment among Ukrainians.

At present, the bulk of related materials is stored in state and law-enforcement agencies archives, as well as the archives run by NGOs and individual researchers, both in Ukraine and abroad. The purpose of establishing the digital archive is to create a unified database allowing comprehensive study of the 20th century liberation movement history. The first stage of this work is to convert SBU archive documents into digital form.

Publication projects

The book titled "Declassified Memory. 1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine as reflected in GPU/NKVD documents" was published by the SBU with the assistance of the Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Foundation, the country's academic institutes and scholars, as well as the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory.

The book is the first in Ukrainian history to present a complete range of documents of Soviet security services (the State Political Department, or GPU, and the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, or NKVD), unveiling the causes, strategies and consequences of the 1932-1933 Holodomor. The documents shed light on massive political repressions by state security agencies, unveil the truth about the Famine and provide a credible source for the study of activities of central and local executive officials and party leaders in 1932-1933.

"Roman Shukhevych in the Documents of Soviet State Security Agencies" is a collection of materials about various aspects of the life of the UPA commander-in-chief. The book was published together with the Center for Ukrainian Studies at Kyiv Shevchenko National University.

Another book on the 1932-1933 Holodomor is being compiled jointly with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration of Poland. It is the seventh volume to be published within the research/publication project of the SBU and its Polish partners called "Poland and Ukraine in the 30s and 40s of the 20th Century. Unknown Documents in Secret Services' Archives."

The book titled "1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine in the Documents of Soviet and Polish Secret Services" will be published in Ukrainian and Polish to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor. The book's presentation is scheduled in Kyiv; later it will be translated into English and presented in the United States, Canada and Europe.

The first volume of this research/publication project was published in 1998 with the support of Presidents Viktor Yushchenko and Lech Kaczynski.

Public hearings

With the participation of the working group of historians, the SBU has launched a series of public hearings of scholars, journalists and members of the public in order to shed light and discuss the Ukrainian liberation movement, involv-

ing recently declassified documents.

In 2008, for instance, the following hearings, open to the public, were held: "Operations of Secret Agents and Guerrilla Groups," "UPA: Its Trail in History," "Accusations against the Nachtigall Unit – Historical Truth or Political Games," "OUN Activities in Central and Eastern Ukraine," "Role of Jews in the Ukrainian Liberation Movement."

Exhibitions

Based upon declassified materials from SBU archives, three topical exhibitions were arranged. Along with the already showcased "UPA: History of the Unconquered," the two others are "Roman Shukhevych" and "Declassified Memory."

"Declassified Memory," which portrays the 1932-1933 Holodomor, was displayed in all the regions of Ukraine, attracting about 100,000 visitors. Exhibition materials were given to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for translation into other languages and presentation worldwide.

List of Holodomor perpetrators

The SBU published and placed on its website the first list of high-ranking Communist Party and state officials who were heads of the punitive bodies OGPU (United State Political Department) and GPU (State Political Department) in 1932-1933, as well as the documents signed by these officials that formed a legal and organizational base for perpetrating the Holodomor and massive political repressions.

The documents are conclusive evi-

dence of the fact that the 1932-1933 Holodomor was deliberately engineered by the totalitarian Communist regime.

Among the orders, Communist Party Politburo protocols and secret instructions to party activists are instructions on how to apply the notorious "Law on the Five Spikelets [ears of grain]" and directives on arrests in the rural areas.

International cooperation

The SBU is involved in cooperation with counterpart agencies abroad, primarily in the former Soviet republics, aiming at finding and exchanging information about the victims of political repressions by the totalitarian regime in the Soviet Union.


Thus, the SBU is cooperating with the Committee for National Security of Kazakhstan, having received information regarding 15,675 Ukrainians who were victims of repressions and served their sentences in Kazakhstan in 1920s-1950s.

Notably, the Kazakh security service provided a list of 7,103 Ukrainians and victims of the Steplah concentration camp and 915 victims of the Karlah camp (near Karaganda).

At the same time, the SBU handed over to Kazakh authorities a list of 85 natives of Kazakhstan who had been imprisoned or repressed in the Ukrainian SSR.

SBU website

The SBU website, www.ssu.gov.ua, carries announcements of events, news about SBU activities, digital versions of publications and exhibitions, copies of archival documents, and protocols of work groups and public hearings.



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NEWS AND VIEWS

Ukraine during the Cold War: the role of Prolog Research Corp.

by Roman Kupchinsky

The history of the Cold War, which is being researched in universities and think-tanks in the West, has been the subject of numerous books and articles by historians and journalists. These publications have revealed many anti-Soviet covert activities funded by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) during this era. However they have not shed any light thus far on the role played by a Ukrainian American organization called Prolog Research and Publishing Corp., which existed from 1952 until 1988.

Prolog, first based in Philadelphia, then in New York City and finally in Newark, N.J. where it operated until the time of its demise, was, since the time of its creation, a subsidiary company of the CIA – the technical term for an independent entity funded by the Agency, but not under its direct management.

Prolog initially was given the randomly chosen CIA cryptonym “Aerodynamic” which was later changed to “QRDynamic.” It emerged as the continuation of a relationship established between the CIA and its predecessor, the Central Intelligence Group (CIG) and the Ukrainian Supreme Liberation Council, known in Ukrainian as UHVR (Ukayinska Holovna Vyzvolna Rada), in 1946, during the early stages of the Cold War.

Recently declassified CIA documents describe how the leadership of the UHVR, created in 1944 to be the political command of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, the UPA, began cooperating with the CIA. These documents outline the

nature of the agreement worked out between the two sides and provide important information about special operations which took place in the early years of the Cold War.

One document called “Operation Belladonna” describes how and why the government of the United States came in contact with representatives of the UHVR in Rome and why the U.S. came to select the UHVR as a partner or, as the document states, a “collaborator,” in an operation meant both to support the Ukrainian liberation struggle and to provide the U.S. government with timely information about Soviet intentions in post-war Europe.

The UHVR, as the political command of the UPA, controlled a network of guerrilla fighters in Ukraine and Poland which were well-positioned to act as an early warning system and provide accurate and timely intelligence should Stalin’s Red Army begin marching west. This information was invaluable for the intelligence-gathering agency of the United States, the CIG, and its successor, the CIA.

For the UHVR, however, the mission of the UPA was first and foremost to fight Soviet forces and establish an independent Ukrainian state. Any other tasks assigned by the UHVR to the UPA leadership were of secondary importance.

What the UHVR needed more than anything else was to find a Western ally to fund its seemingly romantic and hopeless activities. The United States was its greatest hope, and its leadership believed

that an acceptable cooperation agreement would serve the interests of both sides.

Belladonna

“Operation Belladonna,” written in November 1946, is a 25-page overview of Ukrainian organizations active in post-war Europe, along with biographies of their leaders and an assessment of these groups’ potential to be useful to U.S. intelligence-gathering.

The various organizations were soon narrowed down to two groups – the UHVR and the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists led by Stepan Bandera, the OUN-Bandera group.

The “Operation Belladonna” document states that the first contact by an unidentified American intelligence officer with the UHVR was made in April 1946 in Rome using contacts with representatives of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church at the Vatican.

“Contact was thus established with the UHVR for the purpose of obtaining intelligence concerning the USSR and Soviet operations at home and abroad. It was understood from the beginning that the Ukrainians considered themselves not agents but collaborators of the Americans and that their subordinate agents should remain ignorant of the American aspects of their work. On this basis contact has been maintained with the representatives of the UHVR at the highest level: (Ivan) Hrynioch, (Yuriy) Lopatynsky and (Mykola) Lebed.”

The author of the Belladonna report provided his assessment of Ukrainian

organizations active at that time in the West.

“After a thorough study of the Ukrainian problem and comparison of information from several sources in Germany, Austria and Rome, source believes that UHVR, UPA (Ukrainian Insurgent Army) and OUN-Bandera are the only large and efficient organizations among Ukrainians and that most of the other organizations are small émigré groups without much influence and without contact with the homeland. UHVR is recognized as having the support of the younger generation and of Ukrainians at home, and the authority of its leaders Hrynioch and Lebed is established. Some other groups are envious of the UHVR complex because the organization is independent and forceful and always refused to collaborate with Germans, Poles or Russians.”

The Belladonna report noted that:

“They are determined and able men, but with the psychology of the hunted. They are ready to sacrifice their lives or to commit suicide at any time to further their cause or to prevent security violations, and they are equally ready to kill if they must. They are resolved to carry on their work with or without us, and if necessary against us. They are not seeking any personal profit or advantage.”

“Source feels that the conspiratorial mentality and the extreme distrust of everything and everyone not tested are great hindrances in dealing with the Ukrainians. It is always necessary to

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Capitalism, poverty and Russification: the ignored interrelationship

by Stephen Velychenko

All who follow the activities of Ukraine’s capitalists (oligarchs) know well some of the results of their “business activities” – not the least of which is the horrific destruction of Kyiv described by Oksana Zabuzhko <http://blogs.pravda.com.ua/authors/zabuzhko/483c1a8676ead/>.

Any perusal of maidan.org.ua will also show that, while Ukraine’s politicians engage in seemingly endless confrontation, the oligarchs continue “business as usual.” This includes a corporate-led destruction of lives and property, including nature-reserves, forests, parks and playgrounds in Kyiv, and the demolition of a 12th century cathedral in Chernihiv to make way for a casino-hotel complex (<http://maidan.org.ua/static/news/2007/1214397626.html>).

Even presidential decrees failed to stop someone from building a monstrous high-rise for the rich on the banks of the Dniro, near the Mariyynskyi Palace that now blots its once beautiful skyline – and will someday collapse into the river since the land there cannot support its weight. Since few oligarchs pay taxes on their personal wealth, if they pay at all, the corresponding shortfall in revenue means the government must raise rates more than they would otherwise and even so, still cannot maintain run-down public areas and services, which then discredits

the government in citizens’ eyes. What people do see, however, are ever more “private” buildings and sites that are not only clean but “safe” thanks to innumerable “private security” guards.

This “privatization of security” is an indication of something the average citizen does not see – a re-feudalization of society that is occurring under the name of “free-market economics” or “capitalism” – that is, a situation when the government no longer has a monopoly on the control of violence within its borders. That control is now shared, as it was centuries ago, with privately commanded armed men, which were then called mercenaries and who in Ukraine today are called “okhorona.”

The rich and powerful in Ukraine today even want to pass a law that, as in feudal times, would allow them to evict and resettle whoever lives in buildings they want to demolish and replace with more of the monstrous high-rises (“svichky”) for the rich that dot Kyiv’s landscape (<http://maidan.org.ua/static/mai/1206609260.html>).

Despite the persistence and extensive nature of this criminal activity, there is no organization similar to corporatwatch.org monitoring it. In any case, given the rampant corruption in government, there is little possibility of prosecuting the guilty.

Another area of activity where the owners of private corporations are engaged in activities that are difficult to imagine as in any way helping Ukrainians overcome their historical legacy of foreign domination is publishing. Here, owners both foreign and native seem to be more interested in keeping Ukraine under Russian influence than in helping

its government create a national public communications sphere.

As anyone who has been to Ukraine knows, even in the capital it is almost impossible to find a Ukrainian-language newspaper or glossy magazine. In a country where less than 20 percent of the population is Russian and where all Russians who were born and educated there can read Ukrainian, the printed media is over 80 percent Russian-language.

Particularly curious is that this situation seems to be totally unrelated to considerations of profit. For instance three big media conglomerates, (the Dutch-based Telegraf media group, and the Kyiv-based KP Media and Segodnya Multimedia) publish a total of 28 newspapers and journals. Of these, only two are Ukrainian-language products. Among these products are three mass-circulation four-page Russian-language daily newspapers that are distributed free in hundreds of thousands of copies in at least four major cities.

Why in a country where everyone can read Ukrainian do companies distribute, for free, Russian-language publications? Russian-language publications in Ukraine, simply by virtue of being in Russian, perpetuate the rationalization for being able to read in Russian. This not only perpetuates the notion that Ukrainian is somehow “not acceptable” for areas of life unrelated to folklore or scholarship, but maintains a channel for Russia’s Kremlin-dominated politicized media to influence opinion in Ukraine.

That having been said, Russian-language materials produced in Ukraine need not necessarily be anti-Ukrainian and pro-Russian, and to placate Ukrainian concerns, the issue could be empirically

examined by a rigorous content analysis. Yet, oddly enough, after 17 years of independence no one has done such an analysis and, even worse, no one is even engaged in such a project.

In the three above-mentioned media groups I was able to locate two of the top officials and send them a set of questions on their language policies.

Guillermo Schmitt of Segodnya, an Argentinean national, did not reply.

Jeff Sunden, the American owner of KP Media did. In reply to why 95 percent of his publications were in Russian and why his freely distributed newspaper was Russian he replied: “more money.” He expressed indifference about Russian domination of Ukraine’s public communications sphere and stated that he considered “abstract national identity” as an “artificial limit” on freedom of speech and freedom of the press – which he called “natural rights.”

Mr. Sunden is from a country with no experience of national oppression and he understandably reiterates an 18th century classical view of language as a “tool of communication” divorced from considerations of power, status or prestige – a theory developed by men who had long forgotten how their medieval ancestors had established English in a struggle against Latin and French. But how is it that people like Mr. Sunden control media in post-colonial Ukraine and use it to keep the country within the Russian-language communications sphere?

Another important unresearched issue concerns Ukraine’s oligarchs. What appears to be case is that very few of Ukraine’s wealthy are Ukrainian speakers, or that they run their organizations in

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Stephen Velychenko is a research fellow at the Chair of Ukrainian Studies (University of Toronto) and visiting professor at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy. An earlier version of this article first appeared on The Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research site ucipr.kiev.ua.

Ukrainian actress Olga Kurylenko is James Bond's newest flame

by Helen Smindak

NEW YORK – Legendary agent 007 – James Bond – always gets his man. And his woman.

James Bond's newest flame is Ukrainian beauty Olga Kurylenko, an actress/model who plays Camille in the new Bond movie "Quantum of Solace." A native of Berdiansk in southeastern Ukraine, Ms. Kurylenko stars opposite handsome, British-born Daniel Craig, who stepped into James Bond's shoes when actor Pierce Brosnan retired from the intriguing role some years ago.

The English actress Judi Dench plays M, Bond's superior in the British Secret Service.

The film opened in New York on November 14 (coincidentally, Ms. Kurylenko's 29th birthday), following red-carpet premieres in several foreign capitals, including Amsterdam, Berlin, Paris and Rome. The gala world premiere in London on October 29, benefitting two charities, was attended by British royals Prince William and Prince Harry.

"Quantum of Solace," the 22nd installment in the Bond series, is fast, furious and deafening, as Bond speeds through life-threatening escapades in search of the killer of Vesper, his girlfriend in the previous Bond film "Casino Royale," hoping to find a measure of consolation by killing her assailant.

His true assignment, though, as M sarcastically reminds him more than once, is to track a mysterious criminal syndicate that's out to take over South America's water supply as a step to controlling the world's most important natural resources.

Among hair-raising action sequences are a wild car chase in northern Italy, a motorboat whirl around a busy seaport with Mr. Bond and Camille crouching inside the boat to escape adversaries' bullets, and a spine-tingling episode inside a glass building as the two cling to a dangling rope high above the ground.

Before he meets his new romantic interest, Bond dallies briefly with an attractive Canadian Secret Service agent. A bit later in the movie, Camille turns up at the wheel of a car just as Bond runs out of a hotel, looking for escape from another wild confrontation with the enemy, and orders him brusquely to "Get in!"

This marks the beginning of a close relationship – but without any dalliances – that has the two paired against those mysterious bad guys who want to take control of the world. Camille, it turns out, is a Bolivian Secret Service agent who's after the men who murdered her father. As they pursue their quarry, the two turn up in London, Austria and Sienna, Italy, as well as Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and South America, attend a Puccini opera and cross a portion of desert unscathed.

Personal appearance

Several days before the film's opening, a publicity rep informed me that "Olga Kurylenko will not be in New York this week, and is due to start a promotional tour in Australia and Japan later this week." Despite this announcement, Ms. Kurylenko appeared as a guest on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Show" on November 13 during a special all-Bond night (Mr. Craig appeared in another segment), and sparred good-humoredly with Mr. Kimmel about the pronunciation of her last name.

Responding to the host's questions, she said she came from a small town "near the sea" in the south of Ukraine, and revealed that her first acting role occurred in a school play in Ukraine. She started modeling at age 16. Her selection as the romantic interest in "Quantum of Solace" came after three auditions. "My agent called me about (the good news) on Christmas Eve."

When Mr. Kimmel slyly produced a photo of her taken at age 2 and another in her teens, Ms. Kurylenko gasped in feigned surprise, asking "Where did you get those?"

She told Mr. Kimmel she did her own stunt work in "Quantum of Solace," spending the month before filming in a daily four-hour session of fight training – "learning how to fall, how to react to a kick or a punch."

On television, Ms. Kurylenko radiates a soft, beautiful image and a somewhat shy personality; as Camille in "Quantum of Solace," she is an exotic, sultry-eyed and feisty female with a vendetta.

Ms. Kurylenko was born in 1979 to a Russian mother, Marina Alyabusheva, and a Ukrainian father, Konstantin Kurylenko. Her parents divorced when she was 3 years old and she was raised by her mother; she did not see her father again until she was 8 and later, when she was 13.

Discovered by a female model scout while on a week's vacation in Moscow, she moved to Paris when she was 15 to pursue a career in acting. Her thespian endeavors ran alongside a very successful career as a model in Paris, Milan and Canada. At 5 feet 8 1/2 inches tall, with a shapely 34-23-35 figure, dark brown hair and green eyes, she

appeared on the cover of magazines such as Elle and Vogue by age 18 and became the face of Lejaby lingerie.

Her marriage at age 20 to French fashion photographer Cedric Van Mol in 2000 ended in divorce four years later. A second marriage, to the mobile phone accessory entrepreneur Damian Gabriel Neufeld, ended in late 2007.

Ms. Kurylenko made her debut lead performance in Diane Bertrand's "L'Annulaire," playing the lead of Iris; her performance was a favorite at the 2005 Toronto film fest and earned her a Certificate of Excellence award for best actress at the 2006 Brooklyn International Film Festival.

She followed this with a role as a creepy, unnamed vampire opposite Elijah Wood in the 2006 movie "Paris, Je T'Aime," a high-profile independent film in which a cooperative of acclaimed international directors told their own short stories about each district of Paris.

That same year, she played the sexy seductress Sofia in Eric Barbieri's thriller "Le Serpent" (The Snake), co-starring with French luminaries Yvan Attal, Clover Cornillas and Pierre Richard. Her success in "Le Serpent" led to her first English-language role, as Nika in Xavier Gens' "Hitman," produced by Luc Besson.

Ms. Kurylenko, who has met with Ukraine's First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko at the Yushchenko family's country house, will be featured on the cover of Maxim Magazine's December 2008 issue. It's rumored that her next film will be the upcoming 2009 movie "Kirov."

Although some critics feel that "Quantum of Solace" is not one of the better Bond films, film critics Jeffrey Lyons and Alison Bailes of NBC's "Reel Talk" concur that good talents, like those of Ms. Kurylenko, were wasted in this film. Ben Stein of the CBS "Sunday Morning" show declared that "the action makes no spatial sense" and "nothing seemed (to be) at stake" in "Quantum of Solace." You'll have to see the movie for yourself to judge, and to watch Ms. Kurylenko in action.

An MGM Pictures and Columbia Pictures' production, "Quantum of Solace" was released by Sony Pictures and is rated PG-13 due to the intense sequence of violence and action and some sexual content.



Eva Oertwig

Olga Kurylenko, James Bond's latest flame, is seen at the red-carpet opening of "Quantum of Solace" in Berlin on November 3.



Theodore Wood

Olga Kurylenko and Daniel Craig (right) chat with Prince William and Prince Harry at the red-carpet premiere of "Quantum of Solace" in London on October 29.

Russian Communists upset with Kurylenko

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – A group of Russia's Communists, commenting on 28-year-old Ukrainian-born Olga Kurylenko, the new Bond girl in "Quantum of Solace," wrote on their website on October 21: "In the name of all Communists we appeal to you, Olga Kurylenko, wanton daughter of unclean Ukraine and deserter of the Slavic world. The Soviet Union educated you, cared for you, and brought you up for free, but no one suspected that you would commit this act of intellectual and moral betrayal that you would become a movie kept girl of Bond, who in his movies kills hundreds of Soviet people and citizens of other socialist countries: Cubans, Vietnamese, North Koreans, Chinese and Nicaraguans."

Ms. Kurylenko, according to the Communists, could only redeem herself by handing over her co-star, Daniel Craig, to Russian security agencies.

"Let him tell what other plans are being written in the Pentagon and Hollywood to discredit Russia and drive a wedge between Russian and Ukrainian peoples," the Communists wrote.

The fact that Bond is a fictional British character and that Ms. Kurylenko's character is a Bolivian agent, seems to have escaped the Communists.

"Everyone knows that the CIA and MI6 finance James Bond films as a special operation of psychological warfare against us," Sergei Malinkovich, leader of the city party told The Times. "The Ukrainian girl sleeps with Bond and that means that Ukraine is sleeping with the West."

Ms. Kurylenko's character, uncharacteristically for a Bond girl, does not sleep with Bond in the film, and on screen only shares a kiss with the British agent.

Ms. Kurylenko has not commented on the "traitor" accusations.

This is not the first time the Communist Party of St. Petersburg, or Leningrad, as they would prefer it to be called, have demonstrated that they do not operate in reality. Earlier this year, the party declared that Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, set in the Cold War of 1957, was a vehicle for anti-Soviet propaganda. The party declared Cate Blanchett, who played a Russian spy, and Harrison Ford, capitalist puppets.

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Concert in D.C. area celebrates 70th birthday of Myroslav Skoryk

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Myroslav Skoryk, Ukraine's best known contemporary composer, was honored here with a special concert celebrating his 75th birthday. Part of The Washington Group Cultural Fund's 2008-2009 Music Series, the concert was held on November 9 at the historic Lyceum building in Alexandria, Virginia.

The concert featured not only a selection of Mr. Skoryk's well-known and cherished compositions but the composer himself. He performed along with violinists Oleksandr Abayev and Yuri Kharenko, violist Borys Deviatov, cellist Natalia Khoma and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky. This same ensemble performed a week earlier at a similar Skoryk anniversary concert program at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City.

The concert began with two pieces for violin and piano, "Poem" and "Carpathian Rhapsody," performed by Mr. Kharenko with the composer himself at the piano. His Partita No. 6 for String Quartet concluded the first half of the program.

After intermission, Messrs. Abayev and Volodymyr Vynnytsky treated the audience to the very popular "Melody for Violin and Piano." TWG Cultural Fund Director Chrystyna Kinal drew attention to this piece in her welcoming remarks to the audience at the beginning of the concert, when she spoke about the deeply Ukrainian character found in Mr. Skoryk's compositions.

As an example of this, she quoted from an e-mail received a few days before the concert from Svitlana Shiells, a former director of the Cultural Fund. Ms. Shiells has been living in Vienna, Austria, where earlier this year she taught a course on the Asian influences on Russian and Ukrainian art. When her students asked her to describe her feelings about Ukrainian art, Ms. Shiells said she could not adequately put her feelings into words. Instead, she let them listen to Skoryk's "Melody," which, she told them, "captures all of the pride, pain and heavenly beauty of Ukrainian culture."

Next on the program, Mr. Vynnytsky joined with Ms. Khoma in Skoryk's "A-RI-A," and followed with continued with a solo piano piece, "Burlesque."

Mr. Skoryk's Concerto No. 3 for Piano and String Quartet, in which the composer joined the ensemble as a percussionist, received a standing ovation from the audience, as did his three "Jazz Pieces" for piano four hands with which he and Mr. Vynnytsky concluded the concert.

Celebrating Mr. Skoryk's birthday every five years is becoming a tradition in Washington. In 2003 his 65th anniversary was marked with a concert at the Ukrainian



Yaro Bihun

Composer Myroslav Skoryk (right) and the artists performing his Concerto No. 3 for Piano and String Quartet accept the applause of the Greater Washington area audience celebrating his 70th birthday concert. The performers are (from left): violinists Yuri Kharenko and Oleksandr Abayev, cellist Natalia Khoma, violist Borys Deviatov and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky.

Embassy, featuring the composer and baritone Oleh Chmyr. And in 1998 the TWG Cultural Fund commemorated his 60th birthday with a concert featuring his works as performed by Mr. Vynnytsky and the Leontovych String Quartet at the historic Dumbarton United Methodist Church in Georgetown. He was there as well.

Mr. Skoryk's works are frequently performed by many of the artists in the TWG Cultural Fund's Music Series concerts — most recently by violinist Solomia Soroka who included the Allegretto and Dance from his "Hutsulian Triptych" in her program in April.

Eight years earlier, in her debut with the TWG Cultural Fund, Ms. Soroka's performance of Skoryk works piqued the interest of Washington Post music critic Joseph McLellan, who, admitting in his review that he had "never heard a note composed by Myroslav Skoryk" before this performance, characterized him as "an original, a composer with a distinct identity, a mastery of many idioms — jazzy, folk-style and moderately avant-garde — that he uses to shape works embodying piquant contrasts, convincing climaxes and sometimes impish wit."

Mr. Skoryk's many compositions include orchestral works; concertos for violin, piano and cello; sonatas for violin and piano; and numerous compositions for the keyboard. He has written music also for some 30 stage productions and 40 films, the best-known of which is the classic "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors." Among his most recent monumental works are the opera "Moses," based on the work by Ivan Franko, and the cantata "Hamalia," based on the Taras Shevchenko



Composer Myroslav Skoryk talks with one of the many well-wishers who came to the concert marking his 70th birthday at the historic Lyceum in Old Towne Alexandria, Va.

poem. He also writes jazz and popular music.

Mr. Skoryk was born in Lviv, where he received his musical training from childhood through the Lviv Conservatory. In the early 1960s he studied for four years at the Moscow Conservatory, but returned to teach at the Lviv Conservatory and later in Kyiv. He is a respected musicologist and the author of numerous articles and two books, the founder of the contrasts International Festival of Contemporary Music and head of the Kyiv Music Fest international festival.

The Cultural Fund of The Washington

Group, an organization of Ukrainian American professionals, was formed in 1994 to promote Ukrainian culture in the Washington metropolitan area. Since then, it has organized more than 100 events — concerts, art exhibits, book presentations, lectures and the like. Many are sponsored in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine.

Laryssa Courtney was the driving force behind the Cultural Fund's formation and was its director for the first 10 years. The reins have since passed to Svitlana Shiells, Marta Zielyk and, this year, to Chrystyna Kinal.



Marking Myroslav Skoryk's 70th birthday, the appreciative audience saluted him with a rendition of "Mnohaya Lita" at the beginning of a reception that followed his anniversary concert in Alexandria, Va. Joining in the singing, standing behind him, is cellist Natalia Khoma.



Pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky and composer-pianist Myroslav Skoryk respond to the standing ovation that greeted them after their performance of Three Jazz Pieces for Piano for four hands, which concluded the concert celebrating Mr. Skoryk's 70th birthday at the historic Lyceum in Alexandria, Va.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

of events dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor. The book's title come from one of the most emotional articles written by the historian and journalist, who was among the first Western researchers to publicly state that the Holodomor was an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people. The collection of Dr. Mace's little-known works includes the articles "Political Reasons of the Holodomor in Ukraine (1932-1933)," "Ukraine as Post-Genocidal State," "The Great Experiment (about national communism in Ukraine)" and others. In 1986-1987, Dr. Mace was staff director of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, a special body created by the U.S. Congress to study the Holodomor and collect testimonies of survivors. In 1993 Dr. Mace moved to Ukraine; he lived and worked in Kyiv, and lectured at the Kyiv

Mohyla Academy. He died on May 3, 2004, and was buried in Kyiv. (Ukrinform)

Holodomor recalled in Uzbekistan

KYIV – The "To Light a Candle" project took place on November 20 at the Ukrainian Embassy in Uzbekistan in memory of the victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933. Participating in this project were Embassy employees and representatives of other embassies accredited in Uzbekistan. "The main reason for the Holodomor was the policy of the totalitarian regime of Stalin," said Ukraine's ambassador to Uzbekistan, Vladyslav Pokhvalskyi. "The Stalin regime acted consciously and according to a precise plan. This brought horrible consequences for the nation; the ethnic structure of the Ukrainian population changed and the nation's life potential was undermined," he added. (Ukrinform)

(Continued on page 15)

Conference discusses...

(Continued from page 4)

Russia. Although doubtful about the opening of a new chapter in bilateral relations, he said at least we can pretend it is quite new.

Mr. Lukyanov continued by outlining a few suggestions. First, he said, the conceptual framework of international law must be reinvented. Provisions of international law recently have been undermined by all sides; consequently, new and revised principles are needed. Second, the U.S. needs to focus on security, including nonproliferation and arms control, and there needs to be stronger security for countries outside of NATO. Third, there is no guarantee for stable developments through economic interdependence. The Group of 20 can be the first step toward creating a new architecture to address economic issues and the financial crisis.

The fourth and final speaker was Stephen Sestanovich of the Council on Foreign Relations, who said he believes that, since the experts say there will not be a new chapter, one should indeed be expected. Furthermore, he noted that it is not constructive to talk purely about Russia-U.S. bilateral relations because the relationship will naturally include other countries. It is impossible to ignore the importance of the effect European allies have on U.S. policy.

Mr. Sestanovich said the U.S. must identify what are the major moving parts of its relationship with Russia and where there is room for adjustment.

According to Mr. Sestanovich, the U.S. must monitor how the issues seen as pillars of the U.S.-Russia relationship — devised after September 11 — figure into the future. After September 11, U.S. policy assumed it had the opportunity for a full-blown Russian-American partnership, and that nonproliferation, counterterrorism and energy security would be the strong pillars supporting the relationship. These pillars, however, have proven to be a disappointment; they ended up being a weak platform for cooperation.

Both governments need to explore the pillars and find the true priorities, he noted.

Another question is how will some of the main issues — strategic arms control, NATO and Russia's periphery — of the previous U.S. administration be maintained.

Also, the U.S. must monitor how its relationship fits into an overall narrative about the country's place in the world and determine whether a new narrative is possible. There were new ones after the Cold War and after September 11, he pointed out.

The final question Mr. Sestanovich said the U.S. must keep in mind is how the economic crisis — something that has not been prominent in relations since the 1990s — will affect the preoccupation of leaders and what impact it will have on priorities and approaches.

Mr. Sestanovich concluded on a positive note, stating that despite all the negative aspects, the forecast is positive. Now, with a new U.S. administration coming in, there is an opportunity to write a more constructive narrative.

A few of the main points of consensus that were put forth in the last panel were that the U.S. needs to work together with and have a consensus with its European allies in regards to Russia. There was also a general agreement that a MAP should be held off for Ukraine. Although the speakers did not necessarily denounce a MAP for Ukraine, taking into account the current issues and events, they do not advise pursuing these next steps for NATO integration. A couple of the speakers spoke about the breaches in international law and the fact that revisions need to be made in the conceptual framework. And finally, there were mixed opinions and predictions on whether or not the new U.S. Administration will allow for a new chapter in U.S.-Russian relations — this is only something time will be able to answer for us. The overall feeling from the conference, however, was that the new U.S. administration does at least open an opportunity for some positive changes.

Verkhovna Rada...

(Continued from page 2)

Kyiv region at night. Military air transport units of the United States and NATO were loading missile systems and tanks," he claimed (UT1, November 14).

The SBU, after questioning Mr. Konovaliuk, said that it had completed its own investigation and found that his statements did not correspond to reality and that they had damaged Ukraine's national interests. The SBU said that it

had found no violations of either Ukrainian or international laws in the arms trade with Georgia (Ukrayinska Pravda, November 17). Mr. Konovaliuk said that the PRU would insist that SBU Chief Valentyn Nalyvaichenko be summoned to Parliament to report on the SBU's investigation (Channel 5, November 18).

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

Elections could be in February-March

KYIV – Ukrainian political experts believe that, because a new chairman of the Verkhovna Rada has not been elected, pre-term parliamentary elections will be delayed further – possibly until February or March of 2009. According to Andrii Yermolayev, deadlock in the Verkhovna Rada can reappear in December due to the failure to elect a chair and “the question of early elections will arise again.” If such a situation arises in December, the elections can be scheduled for late February or early March 2009, Mr. Yermolayev said on November 21 in a poll of experts conducted by the Center for Political Values Studies. He noted that such potential candidates as Adam Martyniuk (Communist Party of Ukraine), Volodymyr Lytvyn (Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc), Oleksander Lavrynovych (Party of Regions), and Ivan Pliusch (Our Ukraine – People’s Self-Defense bloc) equally deserve this post, regardless of which party they belong to. The selection of candidates for Rada chair has now turned into a struggle among the leading political forces in Ukraine. Another political expert, Volodymyr Fesenko, explained the reluctance of the biggest factions in the Verkhovna Rada (the Party of Regions and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc) to elect a coalition speaker by pointing to a hypothetical new coalition of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc, the Our Ukraine – People’s Self-Defense bloc and the Lytvyn Bloc, which would like to see a chairman supported by this coalition, while the Party of Regions wants its own candidate. Mr. Fesenko also said that the situation in the Verkhovna Rada had become a deadlock. (Ukrinform)

President orders repayment of gas debt

KYIV – The Cabinet of Ministers must settle Ukraine’s debt for Russian natural gas within five days, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko told the National Security and Defense Council meeting on November 21. The president noted that the gas price in 2009 must be “economic rather than political.” It is also necessary to take into account the rent of Ukrainian land by Russia’s Black Sea Fleet and the cost of transit and storage of Russian gas in Ukraine. The president said the debt of \$2 billion (U.S.) is the responsibility of the Cabinet of Ministers. At the same time, the national joint stock company Naftohaz of Ukraine insists that the debt is just \$1.267 billion. Meanwhile, an ex-minister of fuel and energy and the current director of the Energy Saving and Ecology Institute, Serhii Yermolov, said Ukraine “has no debt and cannot have any direct gas debt” to Russia, since Ukraine did not buy anything directly from Russia. Rather, Russia should settle the gas debt problem with Switzerland, where RosUkrEnerg, the mediator of gas supplies to Ukraine, is registered. Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko agreed, saying, “I believe, the president must know the debt he is talking about is that of RosUkrEnerg rather than of Ukraine.” Ms. Tymoshenko noted that mediators like RosUkrEnerg operating in the Ukrainian market for several years have accumulated debts to Gazprom. “So, this is the debt of that not very transparent company, rather than of Ukraine,” she stated, voicing hope that as of January 1 the two countries would establish direct contracts between SJSC Naftohaz of Ukraine and JSC Gazprom. In regard to a possible gas price, Ms. Tymoshenko stressed that it would reach the free-market level gradually, in keeping with the memorandum she signed with her Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin. (Ukrinform)

Danylo Husiak, Ph.D.

Passed away on October 19, 2008. He was 61.

On the 40th day after his death, we share some thoughts about this beautiful human being who was taken away from us too soon.



Danylo Husiak was born in Brooklyn New York to John and Tekla Husiak. He had a happy childhood with his brothers Johnny and Stephen... except for one major trauma – to survive the tragedy of the Dodgers moving from Ebbets Field to Los Angeles! At age 12, he joined Plast Youth Organization. Plast Camp “Vovcha Trova” in East Chatham, NY became his favorite retreat. He loved the heady scent of the pine and birch woods after a rainfall, the expansive vistas, the spectacular sunrises and sunsets that spoke to his poetic soul. Most of all, he loved the star-lit nights. It was at this camp that he developed a passion for astronomy. Later in life, to mark his 60th birthday, he was ecstatic to have the opportunity to purchase a small piece of the Sikhote-Alin meteorite which fell to earth just 14 days after his birth in 1947.

During his college years, Danylo hitchhiked across this great land; from the East Coast to the West, from Canada to Mexico, covering over 6,000 miles. Danylo graduated City of College of New York with a Bachelor of Sciences in Chemistry. He was inspired by President John F. Kennedy to join the Peace Corps and served two years, teaching English and Science in a small village in Sierra Leone, West Africa. When Danylo got homesick for varenyky, wrote to his mother for the recipe and instructions. However, the only flour available was from the casaba root – the varenyky were not a resounding success! During his tenure, Sierra Leone had three changes of government. Although, for the most part, these transitions were non-violent, Danylo did live through some harrowing moments.

After returning to the U.S., Danylo taught high school chemistry while earning a Masters in Chemistry and then a Ph.D. in Chemical Physics from New York University. In 1969, he married Natalia Chudy. Their lovely daughter Laryssa was born in 1983.

After his Ph.D., Danylo worked for AT&T and Bell Labs in technology forecasting and strategic planning. In 1986, AT&T sent him to Orange County, California to run a major project. In California, Danylo found his “paradise” and moved his family to the West Coast. He was recruited by TRW (which later became Experian) and held management positions for several commercial divisions of TRW, as Director of Marketing, Strategic Planning and Business Development.

In 1993, he married Luba Dmytryk who also moved from New York to pursue a career in film and television production in Los Angeles.

Danylo was active in Los Angeles’ “Ridna Shkola”. Along with some other parents, he developed a curriculum, including History and Culture, for those children who were not fluent in Ukrainian.

In 2000, Danylo and his business partner Frank Scavo co-founded Strativa, Inc. a management consulting firm located in Irvine. Danylo managed the Strategic Decisions group, where his specialty was strategic planning and business process reengineering. His clients, included companies in the financial services industry, information services, manufacturing, distribution, health care, commercial real estate, and Internet-based businesses. In 2005, Danylo and his partner purchased an IT research and advisory firm, Computer Economics.

Danylo was a man with a thirst for knowledge and a curiosity about everything. He loved people and discovering what makes them unique. He touched many lives and inspired those around him to reach for the stars. He was passionate about his work. He loved good food and fine wines. He loved to travel, particularly to the regions of his favorite wines such as Barolo in Italy, Burgundy in France and the Saar Valley in Germany. He loved foreign films and novels about espionage. He loved Mystery and Masterpiece Theatre on PBS. But what he loved and cherished above all else, was Family: To Danylo, family was as important as the air he breathed. Danylo is gone now but he has left us with wonderful memories of a life well-lived. We will miss him forever.

He is survived by his wife Luba, daughter Laryssa, mother Tekla, brothers John and Stephen, sister-in-law Carole, niece Emily, god-daughter Kathryn and nephew Eli. And the extended family in the U.S., Canada and Ukraine.

40th Day services will be held on Wednesday, November 26 at St. Andrew’s Church in Hamptonburg, New York and at Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary Ukr. Catholic Church in Los Angeles, CA

Donations in Danylo’s memory can be made to his favorite cause: Plast Camp “Vovcha Trova” c/o Strativa 2082 Business Center Drive Suite 240 Irvine, Ca 92612 Attn: Dan Husiak Memorial



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що в понеділок, 17 листопада 2008 р. померла наша найдорожча ДРУЖИНА, МАМА І БАБЦЯ

СВ. П.

д-р ДАРІЯ МАРКУСЬ

нар. 15 січня 1935 р. в Незнанові, Галичина.

Співпрацівниця Енциклопедії Української Діаспори, засновниця „Клубу 500” на підтримку Генерального Консульства України в Чикаго, член Союзу Українок, професор і Пластунка.

ПАРАСТАС буде відправлений в неділю, 23 листопада в похоронному заведенні Музики в Чикаго, Іл., о год. 5 веч.

ПОХОРОННІ ВІДПРАВИ відбудуться в понеділок, 24 листопада о год. 10-й ранку в Українському католицькому соборі свв. Володимира і Ольги в Чикаго, а відтак у середу, 26 листопада о год. 10-й ранку Покійна буде похована на цвинтарі св. Андрія в С. Бавнд Бруку, Н. Дж.

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та ближча і дальша родина.

Вічна її пам’ять!

В пам’ять Покійної просимо складати пожертви на Енциклопедію Української Діаспори – Encyclopedia of Ukrainian Diaspora, 2247 West Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60622 або на Українську Католицьку Освітню Фундацію (Український Католицький Університет у Львові) – Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, 2247 West Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60622.

Branch 1 of Lemko association celebrates 75th anniversary

NEW YORK – The first branch of the Organization for the Defense of Lemko-Western Ukraine celebrated the 75th anniversary of its founding on November 8 with a banquet and dance at the Ukrainian National Home in New York City.

More than 200 members and supporters attended, raising more than \$5,000 for the organization's efforts to support Lemko culture in Poland, including a \$1,000 donation presented by the New York Self Reliance Federal Credit Union.

The branch of the Lemko organization in New York City is among the oldest Ukrainian diaspora organizations. Nearly two dozen branches sprang up throughout the U.S.

"Our branch began the tradition of helping Lemkivschyna and served as the hub for other diaspora Lemko organizations" said Jan Zawada, chair of Branch 1.

Among the most critical issues facing the Lemkos today is their alleged association with the Rusyn movement, which seeks to create an autonomous republic within Ukraine.

Although some Lemkos identify themselves as Rusyns, the World Federation of Lemko Organizations condemned notions of Rusyn identity and autonomy and efforts to integrate Lemkos into that movement.

"They're trying to change the identity of Ukrainians," said Zenon Halkowycz, chair of the Organization for the Defense of Lemko-Western Ukraine. "Up until recently we were Ukrainians of Lemko descent. Now they're saying Lemkos are Rusyns, not Ukrainians, which is historically and politically false."

The Lemkos, who consider themselves



Organization for the Defense of Lemko-Western Ukraine President Zenon Halkowycz presents Jan Zawada, chair of the organization's first branch, an award for his leadership.

a Ukrainian sub-ethnos, lost their homeland after the Polish government incorporated Lemkivschyna into its territory and forcibly deported 550,000 Lemkos between 1945 and 1947 in an ethnocidal campaign named "Akcja Wisla."

Funds raised by the November 8 banquet and similar events finance Ukrainian schools in Poland, support convents where nuns live and build new churches

or restore churches destroyed by the Polish government, Mr. Halkowycz said.

As early as 1936, Branch 1 of the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivschyna (as the organization was then called in English) sent funds to Lviv to publish a Lemko newspaper.

"Lemkos making 10 cents an hour or less pooled together money to fund a newspaper in Lviv," Mr. Halkowycz said.



Myroslava Morokh recites her "Poem of Lemkivschyna" at the November 8 banquet marking the 75th anniversary of Branch 1 of the Organization for the Defense of Lemko-Western Ukraine.

"It's significant this branch survived that long."

The November 8 banquet featured song and dance performances. The Pavlyshyn sisters, Nadia and Natalia, sang Lemko and contemporary Ukrainian folk songs. Myroslava Morokh recited a passionate self-penned oratory, "Poem of Lemkivschyna," that stirred memories and emotions among the banquet's attendees.

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Palatine branch of Ukrainian American Youth Association marks 40 years

PALATINE, Ill. – The Dmytro Vitovsky branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association Inc. (UAYA) in Palatine, Ill., celebrated its 40th anniversary with a dinner dance on Saturday, November 1. The event capped a season of renewal and growth for the organization, which is in the process of renovating and expanding its premises, the Palatine Ukrainian Cultural Center.

Located adjacent to Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, the youth organization grew as the parish expanded. Together with the Palatine office of Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, they serve as a focal point for Ukrainian life in northwest suburban Chicago.

The UAYA's Vitovsky branch was founded in 1968 by a dedicated group of individuals who lived in or near the northwest suburbs of Chicago and believed their children should have a UAYA branch of their own. Their initiative was supported by Branch 31 of the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine and the Olena Pchilka Women's Association of the ODFFU.

Hundreds of Ukrainian youths have participated in UAYA's programs in Palatine, which include the Ukrainian Saturday School, the Iskra Dance Ensemble, weekly youth meetings and special programs, as well as various cultural, social and sport activities. The Ukrainian American Youth Association helps children understand and appreciate their heritage, to socialize with other Ukrainian youths and be proud of their Ukrainian identity. In keeping with UAYA's motto "God and Country," the Vitovsky branch promotes the principles of Christian ethics and pride in the Ukrainian national heritage. UAYA youth learn to be good citizens of their country and to honor the memory of their forefathers. Children develop lifelong friendships as together they learn to love their Ukrainian culture.

The 40th anniversary festivities at the Cotillion Hall in Palatine began with a greeting by Olya Kusyik, chair of the jubilee committee. She introduced the Rev. Mykhailo Kuzma of Immaculate Conception Parish, who read the invocation. Following a moment of silence to honor the organization's departed members, the youth of UAYA Palatine entertained the assembly with a medley of songs, recitations and dance.

Following dinner, Ms. Kusyik provided a brief sketch of the organization's history, at the conclusion of which she asked Volodymyr Kusyik, Myron Luszczyk and Nadia Golash, the widow of Stepan Golash, to step up and receive commendations for their long years of dedicated service to the UAYA. She then read a list of all the past presidents of the Vitovsky

branch: Petro Hasiuk and Mykhailo Jaworsky (one term each); Oleksa Vashkiw, Myron Dobrowolsky, Yaroslav Mandziy, Arkady Moroko and Fred Stupen (two terms each); Roman Holowka, Yaroslav Sydorenko and Vera Dobrowolsky (three terms each); Olya Fedaj and Oles' Strilchuk (five terms) and Myron Wasiunec, who is currently in his eighth term.

Myron Wasiunec then spoke about the achievements of UAYA in Palatine and its plans for the future. He explained the organization's motto, "Remember the past, plan for the future," and how this was incorporated into current growth plans, as the membership of UAYA Palatine continues to increase.

Askold Lozynskyj, former president of the Ukrainian World Congress, spoke of the growth of UAYA and the Vitovsky branch identifying the role its leaders played in ensuring its successful initiatives in educating Ukrainian youths to be the future leaders of the Ukrainian community.

Bohdan Harhaj, U.S. president of UAYA, congratulated the Vitovsky branch on its achievements, stating that UAYA Palatine is held in the highest regard by the entire organization and its leaders deserve to be commended.

The president/CEO of Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union (SUAFUCU), Bohdan Watral, then greeted the assembled guests. In recognition for its continued cooperation with the credit union, he presented UAYA Palatine with a check for \$300,000 toward the cost of renovating the Ukrainian Cultural Center. The new premises will also house an office of the credit union, so the cooperation between the two organizations will continue into the future.

Heritage Foundation President Julian Kulas praised the leaders of the Vitovsky branch for their dedication and presented the organization with a check for \$100,000.

Vera Dobrowolsky, manager of MB Financial Bank, presented the organizers with a check for \$5,000. MB Financial has a branch office not far from Palatine's Ukrainian Cultural Center.

Yaroslav Abramiuk, president of the UAYA's Mykola Pavlushkov branch in Chicago, congratulated the Palatine group on its 40 years of dynamic growth and wished its leaders all the best in their future work with Ukrainian youth.

Ms. Kusyik thanked the guests for their patience during the official part of the program and invited everyone to enjoy themselves for the remainder of the evening. As the musical ensemble Rendezvous took to the stage, young and old alike found their way to the dance floor. The celebration continued well into the night.



Selfreliance UAFCU

Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union President/CEO Bohdan Watral presents a \$300,000 check to the Ukrainian American Youth Association's Dmytro Vitovsky branch President, Myron Wasiunec.



UAYA Vitovsky branch presidents of the past 40 years.



The branch's Iskra dancers.



Young members of the branch file into the banquet hall.



At the jubilee banquet (from left) are: president of UAYA Vitovsky branch, Myron Wasiunec, the chair of Jubilee Committee, Olha Kusyik, and keynote speaker Dr. Askold Lozynskyj.

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Bishop Paul Chomnycky

(Continued from page 8)

the pain and anguish that our people have experienced. Touch the hearts of the broken and inflicted and heal their spirits. In Your mercy and compassion, walk with us as we continue our journey of healing to create a future which is just and equitable.

We place before You, our God all the wrongs committed against our brothers and sisters during the time of the Holodomor in Ukraine. We pray for those who perpetrated it. We pray for those who find great difficulty in acknowledging its existence. Give them the healing grace of Your truth. We pray for all those who suffered great wrongs and cruelty at the hands of those who caused it. For those who perished grant the forgiveness of their sins and eternal rest among Your saints.

To those who survived, grant a healing of their memories. Remove whatever bitterness may still be in their hearts. Grant them the peace that comes from being united with You.

O Lord, send us Your Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Spirit of all truth fill our hearts with love so that we may gain the freedom which comes from You alone, Amen.

Tamara Gallo-Oleksy

Seventy-five years ago, the Stalinist government of the Soviet Union did the unthinkable... they used food as the ultimate weapon against the people of Ukraine. They inflicted a policy of harsh collectivization – so harsh in fact that it was impossible for the Ukrainians to meet the soaring quotas imposed on them. Subsequently, all food-stuffs were confiscated in order to satisfy these unrealistic quotas, and the people themselves were left with nothing. So the Holodomor – murder by starvation – began...

It is difficult to comprehend the magnitude of this famine-genocide in a country once known as the "breadbasket of Europe." It is impossible for us to understand the desperation these people must have felt as they tried to save their loved ones and friends – and the hopelessness that must have overcome them as they watched those around them starve to death before their eyes, one by one.

Of the millions who perished in 1932-33, approximately 3 million of them were children. How can we possibly imagine the state of the desperate mothers in the countryside who would toss their children onto city-bound trains in the hopes of saving them? Perhaps someone in the city would take pity on them and offer them a morsel... however, because city dwellers were prohibited from helping the hungry, more often, these children, orphaned and alone, would succumb to starvation.

We know only what has been left to us by the courageous survivors – their chilling accounts – in their flight for survival. They witnessed the unimaginable.

As Dr. Anna Pachkoyska, in October 1954 at the hearing of the House Select Committee on Communist Agression in Chicago, Illinois, testified:

The peasants with faces and legs swollen from the hunger of the famine were invading the town and were dying in masses in the streets. The administration of the town was unable to bury the dead peasants in time, and there was a repulsive odor in the air during all this time. The police, or rather militia patrols, driving along the streets, collected the corpses. They also took those completely exhausted by starvation who arrived in town to ask for a "little piece of bread." The militia put them on the mound of corpses, saying, "you'll get there, don't worry." I saw this all myself, and quite often.

The policy of Stalin's regime was nothing less than a systematic campaign to wipe out the nationally conscious Ukrainian people, their history, culture, language and way of life – to crush the Ukrainian spirit of independence. According to Ukraine's President, Viktor Yushchenko, and I quote, "The Holodomor was an act of genocide designed to suppress the Ukrainian nation. The fact that it failed and Ukraine today exists as a proud and independent nation does nothing to lessen the gravity of this crime. Nor does it acquit us of the moral responsibility to acknowledge what was done."

The Ukrainian diaspora's efforts over the years have begun to shed light on the Holodomor, referred to in some circles as the forgotten holocaust. This year alone, Ukrainians around the world embarked on several initiatives - beginning with the International Holodomor Remembrance Torch that traveled through 22 U.S. cities and 34 countries before it arrives in Ukraine next week to participate in the official commemoration of the 75th anniversary. We have held numerous scholarly conferences, published a range of articles, implemented school curriculums, hosted exhibits and screened films.

But it is not enough – much more still needs to be done...

Today, as we gather within the sacred walls of this magnificent cathedral to mark the culmination of the 75th anniversary year – we must vow to continue our work to educate the public about the Holodomor and remember the countless victims who suffered and died as a result of this vicious crime against humanity.

This unprecedented tragedy in Ukraine's history is one that should never be forgotten – for to do so would be a crime in itself. As Ukrainian Americans we are honor-bound to remember the millions who perished as a result of this deliberate act of genocide – and as Americans, we must vow to do what is in our power to never allow such a tragedy to repeat itself... in any nation... under any circumstances.

By gaining international recognition of the Holodomor as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian nation, we may help to prevent such atrocities from ever happening again - for as President Yushchenko so aptly stated, "We must insist that the world learn the truth about all crimes against humanity. This is the only way we can ensure that criminals will no longer be emboldened by indifference."



Matthew Dubas

Tamara Gallo-Oleksy

UCU students make pilgrimage to shrine of 20th century martyrs

by Mike Rudzinski

LVIV – Thirty-three students from the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) and Holy Spirit Seminary made a four-hour foot pilgrimage on October 4 to Stradch, Lviv region, to venerate the shrine of two new Ukrainian martyrs. An annual event for the past six years, this has been a rite of initiation for new students at UCU and the seminary.

“It is going to rain today,” the Rev. Yurii Schurko warned a crowd of UCU students and seminarians huddled outside the seminary’s preparatory-year campus in Rudno, near Lviv. (Father Shchurko is, perhaps not coincidentally, the new head of UCU’s Pastoral Department and himself a graduate of UCU and the seminary.) “Do you still want to go on the pilgrimage?”

Over 30 hands shot into the air as the young pilgrims cheered their reply. With a nod and smile, the Rev. Shchurko proceeded to lead the students on a four-hour trek down a muddy path through farms and forests to Stradch.

“I’ve been to many holy places in Ukraine, but Stradch is an especially peaceful place,” said Halyna Yurkevych, 16, a first-year history student at UCU who had never been to Stradch before.

Approximately 12 miles from Lviv, the village of Stradch has strong ties to Ukrainian identity and history, making it a popular place of pilgrimage. The Rev. Mykola Konrad and choir director Volodymyr Pryima were murdered in the nearby forest on June 26, 1941, by the

Bolsheviks, who were fleeing before the German invasion. These martyrs had gone to administer the sacraments to a sick woman in Stradch.

Beatified by Pope John Paul II during his trip to Ukraine in June 2001, both men have become symbols of Ukrainian faith and culture. They are what the Rev. Shchurko calls “modern martyrs.”

In addition, Stradch has a cave monastery dating back to the 11th century. It also houses a miraculous icon of the Mother of God, for which it was declared an indulgenced pilgrimage site by Pope Pius XI in the early 20th century.

As the students laughed and sang songs along the trail, the sweet melody of prayer echoed across the yellow fields and pastures. Farmers and cattle herders bowed their heads, and a man mending a roadside fence removed his cap and crossed himself. Everywhere the neighbors came out to watch and pray with the pilgrims.

“When I heard the seminary was making a pilgrimage, I asked myself ‘why not?’” said Nazar Fylypiv, 19. In his second year in the seminary, he had already visited Stradch six times before – the first time with his family when he was 12. Of the UCU pilgrimage, he noted how “peaceful and safe” he felt while praying there.

Tired, muddy and wet, the entourage of students and seminarians reached the gates of Stradch in early afternoon and filed quietly past flower-laden graves to the church. Seminarians sang hosannas from the choir loft during divine liturgy.



The forests of the Lviv region form the backdrop for the pilgrimage to Stradch.

Before the final blessing, the pilgrims trudged down to the cave, where a stone sculpture marks the spot where the Virgin Mary appeared to villagers hiding from Tatar invaders. With only candles to light their path home, the seminarians enthusiastically explained how the monks of Stradch volunteered their lives in service to the villagers and pilgrims.

“If I was there, I could give my life for others, too” said Mr. Fylypiv. “That is why this place is important to me.”

Further information about UCU (in

English and Ukrainian) is available on the university’s website at www.ucu.edu.ua. Readers may also contact the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, which raises about half of UCU’s annual operating budget of approximately \$2.5 million.

The UCEF may be contacted in writing at 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; telephone, 773-235-8462; e-mail, ucef@ucef.org; website, www.ucef.org. The phone number of the UCEF in Canada is 416-239-2495.


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Plans are being formulated for the second Ukraine Little League Championships for children from orphanages for September of 2009. Financial help is needed. Please consider helping me help those almost forgotten children.

Please contact Basil (Vasy) P. Tarasko to contribute or learn more about this program for children. District Administrator - Little League Baseball Program in Ukraine (1995); c 718-415-7821; email: bt4ukraine@aol.com; website: www.ukrainebaseball.org

Four years after...

(Continued from page 3)

No. 1 –Ukraine doesn't make the top five list for the U.S. government, falling behind Israel, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran and China.

U.S. diplomats and foreign policy gurus also appear unaware of just how dirty and fierce is the battle the Russians are ready to fight. Currently they are playing a game of divide and conquer with the goal of keeping significant chunks of Ukraine should it ever collapse.

Westerners demonstrate irresponsibility on the crucial language issue in Ukraine. How self-defeating it is when consuls employed in the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv interview visa-seekers in Russian instead of Ukrainian.

What message does it send when Americans in Ukraine, including Peace Corps volunteers and U.S. government employees, prefer to learn and use Russian instead of Ukrainian? It's a suicidal strategy that plays right into the notions of Russian cultural supremacy.

Westerners don't seem to understand that Ukrainian cultural and spiritual independence are critical to NATO integration efforts. The belief that a Russian-speaking Ukraine will integrate into NATO, and encourage the Russians to do so, is short-sighted and grounded in ignorance.

Just as Canadians have always been allied with Americans (nor have the American battled the Brits in centuries), Russian-speaking Ukrainians won't turn their backs on the Russians, particularly not after watching the Russian evening news for half their lives. For the language in which you receive your knowledge, values and perception of the world is the language that shapes emotional ties, biases and allegiances.

The Russian government understands this, which is why it finances so many Russian-language initiatives in Ukraine.

It's only common sense to think that someone who speaks your language is your ally.

Though an increasing number of Ukrainians recognize that NATO could improve rule of law and reduce corruption, they also recognize that the current global crisis is a direct result of irresponsibility and corruption in the U.S. financial industry.

Though integration with the West would improve Ukrainian living standards, Ukrainians aren't convinced the same can't happen in alliance with the Belarusians and Russians. After all, those nations are much more satisfied with their oppressive governments and enjoy higher living standards than Ukrainians.

Meanwhile, the same values of multiculturalism and moral relativism, all of which are undermining a Western civilization once based on Christian values, are cunningly employed by the Russians to undermine the Ukrainian cultural independence critical to NATO integration.

In the name of tolerance and diversity, Ukrainian Russophiles successfully uphold the status quo of the Russian language's dominance in all spheres of life and thinking.

Western attempts to create societies, in which even the most socially oppressed and alienated are comfortable, are undermining the contemporary efforts of Ukrainians to somehow reverse the 350 years of Russian oppression and cultural genocide in Ukraine. Tolerance is simply an ineffective weapon against brutal chauvinism.

And while Europe has long ago conceded to Russia, the U.S. is picking a fight that it can't win in Ukraine because it doesn't have the right strategy and isn't willing to invest enough.

With the current trend of events and the Americans' inability to face up to certain realities, if Ukraine is ever to integrate into NATO, it seems it will do so together with Russia or not at all.

Ukrainian American...

(Continued from page 5)

After Past National Commander Eugene Sagasz had installed the newly elected UAV national executive board and UAV National Ladies Auxiliary officers, the Banquet Committee chairman, Mr. Fedorko, welcomed all officers, delegates, and guests.

Bishop Daniel, former chaplain of the U.S. armed forces and a UAV member-at-large, offered the invocation. Master of Ceremonies Zenko Halkowycz, (Post 17) introduced the individuals at the head table and called for brief remarks by Oksana Koziak, president of the UAV National Ladies Auxiliary, Past National Commander Krawczuk, and National Commander Kondratiuk.

The highlight of the banquet was the recognition and greeting of all veterans present at the banquet, from World War II era to Operation Iraqi Freedom, including those who served in the Ukrainian military.

This was followed by awarding of certificates "for service, dedication and honor in the cause of freedom" to all Korean War era member-veterans.

A special certificate of merit was presented to Brig. Gen. Kondratiuk together with a symbolic "bulava" (mace) from Ukraine. Past National Commander Dmytro Bodnarczuk was awarded a certificate for the book "Ukrainian American Veterans 1948-1998."

Several individuals representing community organizations, including the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics of America, the Ukrainian

Catholic weekly America and the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, greeted the newly elected officers and convention delegates.

Bishop Daniel gave very moving remarks from the chaplain's point of view, ending with a request to remember and visit forgotten veterans in VA hospitals and veterans' homes.

The newly elected national commander, Brig. Gen. Kondratiuk, delivered the keynote address. An expert in military history, he presented a concise yet comprehensive overview of the role, contributions and sacrifices of Ukrainian American officers and enlisted personnel in the U.S. armed forces from the earliest period of our nation up to and including the current hostilities.

The anniversary banquet concluded with a musical interlude by bandura player Ms. Telepko, closing remarks by Post 17 Commander Fedorko, the benediction by Bishop Daniel and the singing of "God Bless America."

The officers and members of the UAV National Ladies Auxiliary, headed by President Koziak, contributed to the success of the 61st national convention of the UAV.

The registration of delegates and guests proceeded smoothly. Officers and members of the UAV NLA not only registered the arriving delegates and guests and presented them with convention folders and badges, they also managed to raise funds for the UAV Scholarship Fund, the Welfare Fund and the National Veterans Monument Fund.

The UAV National Ladies Auxiliary held its convention concurrently with that of the UAV.

Ukraine during...

(Continued from page 10)

remember that they have an almost religious worship of their nation and distrust anything foreign: first and foremost, Polish; then Russian; then German. To summarize his continuous observation and study of these people, source believes that if they are properly treated they can be useful at any time and for any purpose."

By 1952 the Belladonna operation underwent a substantial change. The UPA struggle had proven to be futile, yet the U.S. continued to maintain links to the UHVR.

It was then that Prolog Research and Publishing Inc., the office of the UHVR which later changed its name to "Foreign Representation" (Zakordonne Predstavnytstvo, or ZP UHVR), was created in Philadelphia with funding from the CIA.

The history of Prolog is one of the most fascinating yet unknown chapters of the Cold War. During its 36-year history, Prolog mobilized hundreds of people, most of whom were unaware of Prolog's relationship to the CIA, to take tremendous personal risks to help the cause of Ukrainian freedom and independence.

Prolog published the monthly journal Suchasnist, the monthly Digest of the Soviet Ukrainian Press, the quarterly Russian language journal Forum, as well as over 100 books on Ukrainian history, political thought, literature, memoirs of the Stalinist purges in Ukraine during the 1930s and the underground struggle of the UPA.

Prolog operatives brought to the West numerous samvydav articles from Ukraine. These were then reprinted and clandestinely distributed back into Ukraine. It also mailed to Ukraine the Information Bulletin of the ZP UHVR which upset the Soviet leadership to the point that Soviet Premier Nikita

Khrushchev complained to U.S. President John F. Kennedy about these mailings. All this would have been impossible without the U.S. government as a secure financial base.

Prolog played a key role in the release of Archbishop Josyf Slipyj from the Soviet Gulag and was instrumental in the recruitment of a number of high-level Soviet officials. Prolog's co-workers were involved in helping Poland's Solidarity movement and the Czechoslovak resistance after the crushing of the "Prague Spring" of 1968 by the armies of the USSR and the Warsaw Pact. Prolog also supplied Lithuanian organizations in the United States with copies of the samizdat Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church.

Throughout this period Prolog provided ongoing political intelligence to the CIA about trends in Ukraine and the role of the Ukrainian SSR within the USSR.

Prolog existed for almost the duration of the Cold War and ended its operations in 1988 when the National Security Council, on orders from then U.S. President George H.W. Bush ordered the CIA to cease funding QRDynamic.

The bulk of CIA documents about Prolog and its activities remain classified for the time being, but hopefully will be released soon, giving historians a chance to evaluate QRDynamic and the role it played in the collapse of the USSR and the creation of an independent Ukrainian state.

Note: The declassified documents are part of a study of the history of Prolog by Roman Kupchinsky, the head of Prolog Research Corp. from 1978 until 1988 and Jaroslav Koshiv, a scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center and George Washington University in 2007. The documents were obtained from the U.S. National Archives in 2007 by Mr. Koshiv. The aim of their project is to publish a study of Prolog along with the accompanying CIA documents.

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Kule Folklore Center displays wedding traditions in Saskatoon

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan – The Ukrainian Museum of Canada of the Ukrainian Women’s Association of Canada in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on September 12 hosted the opening of their latest exhibit, “Ukrainian Weddings.”

“Ukrainian Weddings,” a multimedia display, was developed by the staff at the Kule Folklore Center at the University of Alberta for its initial launch at the 2007 Ukrainian Festival at Harbourfront in Toronto, Ontario.

The exhibit is a series of panels and videos that explore Ukrainian wedding traditions through four different times and settings. These settings include classic Ukrainian traditions from Ukrainian villages of the 1800s, a 1995 Bukovynian village wedding, wedding traditions from pre-1940 western Canada and post-1970 Ukrainian wedding traditions.

The Saskatoon exhibit also has antique Ukrainian wedding headpieces, examples of “korovayi” – a traditional wedding bread – and an authentic wedding dress made by one of the donors of the Kule Folklore Center, Anna Kuryliw, in her Ukrainian village in 1936 and brought to Canada for her wedding to Wasyl Kuryliw.

Several members from the Kule Folklore Center were on hand for the opening of the exhibit, which featured refreshments and hors d’oeuvres and a tsymbalan player who greeted the 130 guests at the exhibit entrance.

Dr. Andriy Nahachewsky, Huculak Chair of Ukrainian Culture and Ethnography and director of the Kule Folklore Center and Nadya Foty, Archivist of the Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Archives, who was instrumental in arranging the exhibit collaboration with the museum, spoke to the audi-



A view of Ukrainian wedding artifacts.

ence about the Kule Folklore Center and its role as the leader of Ukrainian Folklore outside of Ukraine.

They noted that the Kule Folklore Center is committed to the exploration and documentation of Ukrainian and Canadian culture through teaching, research, archiving, publishing, scholarships and active community engagement.

The exhibit, which has also been shown at the Moncton Museum, New Brunswick, Vegreville Pysanka Festival, several Edmonton events, and Folkfest in Saskatoon, was at Saskatoon’s Ukrainian museum through early November.

Chornobyl film receives award at Virginia film festival

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. – The film “Epiphany At Chornobyl” was selected for a Redemptive Storyteller Award for 2008 in the Professional Low Budget category by the Redemptive Film Festival, a production of FireWorks International, a Christian media production company located in Virginia Beach, Va. This is the festival’s third year.

Jurors for the festival selected the film based on the following criteria: truth well told, simplicity of message and excellence of presentation. The awards ceremony was held November 1 during the Redemptive Film Festival at Regent University School of Communication and the Arts in Virginia Beach, Va.

“Epiphany at Chornobyl” is a 10-minute offshoot of the larger documentary project, “Life in the Dead Zone,” about the returning evacuees currently living in the forbidden “dead zone,” the area within a 30-kilometer radius surrounding the

Chornobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine.

Both films are based on the novel “The Sky Unwashed” by Irene Zabytko, who also co-directed and co-edited “Epiphany at Chornobyl” along with filmmaker Peter Mychalcewycz.

Using archival photos and recent original footage, “Epiphany at Chornobyl” chronicles the Chornobyl nuclear power plant explosion on April 26, 1986, and features an interview with an elderly woman who returned to her ancestral village after the explosion. Also featured are remaining Chornobyl community members celebrating the feast day of Epiphany in the only functioning church in the zone.

Throughout, the scenes are punctuated with stunning music composed by Mariana Sadovska and performed by the

(Continued on page 23)

Four candidates...

(Continued from page 1)

wing of the Our Ukraine – People’s Self-Defense bloc led by Mr. Baloha.

For years Mr. Pliusch opposed the Tymoshenko Bloc, not supporting the coalition government that emerged in December 2007 with Ms. Tymoshenko at the helm.

That opposition cost him the support of the wing of the Our Ukraine – People’s Self-Defense bloc that is loyal to the prime minister.

“Pliusch would only get votes if a grand coalition was in the making,” Dr. Kuzio said, referring to a union between the Party of Regions and Our Ukraine.

Oleksander Lavrynovych

The former Rukh official has climbed Ukraine’s political ranks swiftly since joining the Party of Regions.

He is the party’s top lawyer and served as justice minister in the government of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich in 2006-2007.

He’s unlikely to become Parliament chair for lack of support beyond Ukraine’s pro-Russian forces, Dr. Kuzio said.

Adam Martyniuk

Always a bridesmaid and never a bride, Mr. Martyniuk, a lifelong Communist, has long positioned himself near the Rada chair, serving as vice-chair three times.

Mr. Martyniuk’s election as chair of the Verkhovna Rada is the least likely because the Communists don’t have broad support in Parliament.

Furthermore, the Party of Regions is unlikely to support his candidacy over that of its own man, Mr. Lavrynovych.



Oleksander Lavrynovych



Adam Martyniuk

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Capitalism...

(Continued from page 10)

Ukrainian, or that they are in the least concerned about the lack of Ukrainian-language products on the market, or that they sponsor Ukrainian national culture. On the one hand, Rinat Akhmetov now purportedly supports President Viktor Yushchenko and, implicitly, his initiatives on issues of national significance. On the other hand, not only does Mr. Akhmetov not seem to finance even one Ukrainian-language publication, but he supports a Russian-language newspaper (Segodnya) that regularly publishes Ukrainophobic rantings by the Russian extremist-nationalist Oles Buzina and anti-NATO editorials by Mr. Schmitt.

How many "Ukrainian" oligarchs can stand alongside someone like Victor Pinchuk, who generously provides grants and stipends for students in Ukraine and most recently established a multi-million dollar fund to enable Ukrainian students to study in the best European and North American universities? How many "Ukrainian" oligarchs own Ukrainian-language media enterprises? Do any of them use their wealth and influence to encourage their European and American counterparts to produce Ukrainian-language products?

If there is no national Ukrainian capitalist class, the implications would be profound, as it would mean that today, just like 100 years ago, the divide between rich and poor is enforced by a divide between poor Ukrainian speakers and rich non-Ukrainians. If this is indeed so, it would mean that the national and social questions in Ukraine have not been resolved despite independence.

In a recent international bestseller, journalist Naomi Klein (<http://www.naomiklein.org/shock-doctrine>) analyzed

how, throughout the world since the 1970s corporations, with the collusion of governments, have used disasters to rid territories of local inhabitants and remake their former "unprofitable" homes and neighborhoods into "profitable" shopping-malls and hotels.

Exploiting the initial shock of disasters, corporate agents and their lawyers strip away laws protecting national economies, the environment and health standards; they steal state-assets and eliminate social programs, full-time skilled jobs and unions. The redistributed incomes produce polarized societies with a few more wealthy, many more poor and less in the middle-class than previously. This scenario is visible in South Ossetia, where the only group poised to win from the misery are Russia's oligarchs and their corrupt local agents (<http://www.rferl.org/content/Article/1189525.html>).

The "capitalism" Ms. Klein describes is not of the Keynesian mixed-economy sort that Ukrainians imagined they would have in 1991, that brought with it skilled full-time jobs, good wages, fair corporate taxation, social services and union rights wherever it was established. It is a variant of the "new" capitalism that has been emerging in the world since the 1980s and is most often identified with Milton Friedman and "neo-liberalism."

This is a throwback to the vicious capitalism of the early Industrial Revolution. It is a semi-criminal kind of activity dominated by unelected corporate managers, bankers and money-traders who consider laws passed by elected governments protecting public assets and interests and regulating international capital flows as restrictions on their right to make profit.

These people then direct their untaxed profits to only a small group of shareholders and to off-shore accounts and in their wake they leave behind them Zimbabwes, Zaires and, most recently, George Bush's

America (<http://www.counterpunch.org/whitney08292008.html>). The majority of jobs that remain in countries where this kind of capitalism is established are part-time, unskilled, non-union, low-paid, with no benefits, pensions or health-care. What benefits it does bring are skewed in favor of the very rich.

While Ukraine, for the moment, seems to have been spared the horrors of "disaster capitalism," it is getting its share of the Dickensian-Friedman version. One of the people involved in this new capitalism, as Klein points out, was a former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine (<http://www.thenation.com/doc/20050502/klein>.) The corporation Halliburton, meanwhile, that made billions in profits from its corrupt activities in Iraq (http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Halliburton_Company, <http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=12266>), and is considered semi-criminal by critics, is a member of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (www.usubc.org).

Another member of this group is the Cargill Corp. which, in pursuit of monopoly and ever higher profits, during the last decades has used government subsidies, that is, taxpayers' money, to systematically dispossess farmers and destroy the environment with monoculture plantations. In general, this involves replacing the production of staple crops with luxury crops for export. Most recently, the men who run this organization are destroying the Brazilian rainforest with their soybean plantations – some of which are worked by de facto slave labor (<http://www.corpwatch.org>).

Nonetheless, Ukrainians and all those concerned with Ukraine's fate, do not seem to be concerned about this, nor are scholars studying how American Friedman neo-liberal corporate criminality is supposed to bring Ukraine into the European Union faster by destroying its productive capacity, and polarizing and pauperizing its population. Will the Ukrainian society this "new capitalism" is making resemble the shape of an egg or a pear? If the latter, then Ukraine's future is dim. No one should forget that, for the moment, the EU, with the exception of Britain, is among those fortunate parts of the world where neo-liberal "new capitalism" is weak.

Nor does anyone ask why the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council apparently has no criteria of membership. Why, besides Cargill and Halliburton, does it include companies like Vanco, which is likely linked to the Russian mafia (http://www.jamestown.org/edm/article.php?article_id=2373367)? Why has the USUBC not issued any formal statement condemning illegal corporate "raiding" and destruction of public or citizens' assets in Ukraine? Why does it condone its members running their businesses in Ukraine in Russian?

Political loyalties in Ukraine are not determined by language use. Russian-speakers in Kyiv, as is well-known, overwhelmingly supported the national-democratic Orange Revolution. Russian-speakers are within the majority of the population which supports Volodymyr Lytvyn, Viktor Yushchenko, Yulia

Tymoshenko, Yurii Kostenko and Yurii Lutsenko – all national-democrats in the broad sense of the term and who together consistently get more votes than the neo-Soviet pro-Russian Party of Regions and the Communists. The majority of Russian-speakers, in short, accept independent Ukraine as their country (<http://www.mw.ua/1000/1550/62942/>).

Nonetheless, poll after poll tells us that urban Russian-speaking Russians are more likely to be pro-Russian, neo-Soviet, anti-Ukrainian and anti-EU, than rural/small town Ukrainian-speaking Ukrainians (J. Besters-Dilger ed., "Movna Polityka ta Movna Sytuatsiia v Ukraini" [Kyiv, 2008]).

It is also the case that whereas there are well-organized extremist-nationalist pro-Russian fringe-groups supported directly or indirectly by the Kremlin in Ukraine, there is no comparable influential extremist Ukrainian nationalist group. Insofar as such a group once did exist (UNA-UNSO) it has shrunk to a shadow of its former self. One of its leaders, Dmytro Korchynsky, formed a group called Bratsvo, which he now runs under the auspices of the Kremlin and Russian extremists under Alexander Dugin (http://www.ucipr.kiev.ua/modules.php?op=mod_load&name=News&file=article&sid=6032579&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0). Another group based in Kharkiv that uses variants of Ukrainian national symbols and extremist rhetoric is also, in fact, pro-Russian (<http://www.khpg.org/en/index.php?id=1220644493>). Set-up by Party of Regions hardliners, presumably with the participation of Kharkiv Mayor Mykhailo Dobkin, the Patriots of Ukraine are a Kremlin "black-ops" project aimed at discrediting Ukrainian national ideas and independence.¹

Alongside these two pro-Russian front groups are the openly pro-Kremlin, anti-Orange, anti-Ukrainian organizations like the Communist Party, the Russian Orthodox Church in Ukraine, the Russian Bloc and the Natalia Vitrenko Bloc – all considered part of the Russian "fifth column" in their country by national-democrats. The clearest evidence of their work is visible in the Crimea (Yu. Tyshchenko et al, "Susplyno-Politychni Protsey v AR Krym: Osnovni Tendentsii" (Kyiv, 2008) 54-74. Available online: <http://www.ucipr.kiev.ua/index.php?newlang=ukr>).

In light of these considerations, the question arises: how is the dissatisfaction and anger generated by the social dislocation, de-industrialization, poverty and polarization that Russifying neo-liberal capitalism has brought to Ukraine supposed to prepare the country for entry into the European Union, where the international language of communication is English? This is a question no one seems to be studying.

¹ Although Ukraine and Russia in 1992 signed an agreement that forbade either side from using their civilian intelligence agencies against the other, the agreement made no mention of Russian Military Intelligence (GRU), which remains active throughout former USSR territories (<http://www.ut.net.ua/art/167/0/763/>).

About Ukraine...

(Continued from page 7)

Shkola texts, or online at <http://www.encyclopediaofukraine.com/>.

This book is beautifully illustrated, but I have some quibbles. In the item on pysanky, painted wooden ones (these don't count at all!) are shown, not true pysanky. In the question on embroidery, a woven textile is illustrated. In contemporary Ukraine January 22 is celebrated as the date of the reunification in 1919 of

Ukraine, but January 22 of 1918, the first Independence Day, is not marked or mentioned at all.

The Ukrainian Bookstore in Edmonton is hoping to have this new book available soon (visit <http://www.ukrainianbookstore.com/>). In the meantime, if you are traveling to Ukraine, do try to find one or a few to bring back. Learning is so much fun!

Orysia Tracz may be contacted at orysia.tracz@gmail.com.



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OUT AND ABOUT

- December 5
Washington
Lecture by Vladyslav Hrynevych, "Politics and Memory: How the History of World War II is Perceived and Changed in Ukraine After 1990," U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, 202-223-2228
- December 5
Ottawa
Lecture by Yevhen Zakharov, "The Evolution of Civil Society in Ukraine: 1987-2008," Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada, Embassy of Ukraine, 613-733-7000 or 613-230-2961 ext. 105
- December 6
Baltimore, MD
Wacky Tacky Christmas Sweater Party, Dnipro Ukrainian American Sports Club, 410-598-4935
- December 7
New York
International conference, "The Legacy of George Y. Shevelov," Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the United States, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-222-1866
- December 7
Hillside, NJ
St. Nicholas program, Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, 908-289-0127
- December 7
New York
Christmas concert, "Koliada and Hutsul Music," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110
- December 7
Toronto
Christmas Bazaar, Levada Choir, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 416-239-1685
- December 13
New York
Yalynka Christmas Party, Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America and Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-222-1866
- December 13
New York
Christmas concert, the Ukrainian Dumka Chorus, Our Lady of Refuge Roman Catholic Church, 718-896-7624
- December 14
Baltimore, MD
Christmas Bazaar, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 410-675-7557 or 410-967-4981
- December 15
Washington
Lecture by Volodymyr Kulik, "Minority Education in Ukraine: Combining Identity and Integration,"

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 202-691-4000

December 20
Bethesda, MD
Holiday Bazaar and St. Nicholas program, Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies, Westland Middle School, www.ukieschool.org

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. 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. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.

Chornobyl film...

(Continued from page 21)

Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble from their recent CD, "The Rusalka Cycle: Songs Between the Worlds."

"We are delighted and honored to receive this award, considering we had just recently released the film short to the public," Ms. Zabytko said. "Actually, we didn't intend on doing a short," she continued, "but we had such great footage from our trip to the zone in January that we decided a shorter film would create a buzz about our longer film project, 'Life in the Dead Zone.'"

A sneak preview of "Epiphany at Chornobyl" was first screened at The Global Peace Film Festival at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., in September. Other screenings followed at the "Celebration of the Ukrainian Arts" hosted by Friends of Chernobyl Centers-U.S. (FOCCUS) on October 30 in Madison, Wis., and the Sierra Club at Leu

Gardens, Orlando, Fla.

Ms. Zabytko noted that plans are also under way to return to Chornobyl to continue filming "Life in the Dead Zone" early next year if funding comes through.

"We are very grateful for the generosity of the Ukrainian communities in North America and to all our worldwide supporters who have helped us this far," she added. "We still have a considerable amount of money to raise, but we are optimistic that people will see the value in our work and help us continue the project."

Donations, which are tax-deductible, may be sent to: The Ukrainian Artistic Center, 2657 W. Iowa St., First Floor, Chicago, IL 60622-4755.

Checks should be payable to The Ukrainian Artistic Center with the memo "Chornobyl film."

To arrange for a screening of "Epiphany at Chornobyl" readers may e-mail the filmmakers at info@lifeinthedeadzone.com or irenezabytko@yahoo.com.



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New Haven, CT 06511
Tel: 203-785-8805
Fax: 203-785-8677

E-mail: newhaven@sumafcu.org

NCUA

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UNA Christmas Cards 2008 - 2009



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1. Pavlo Lopata, Terra Cotta, ON, Canada, - Umilenije Mother of God, egg tempera/gold leaf, 2008; 2. Lyudmyla Mosijczuk, Clearwater, FL - Ukrainian Folk Art - watercolor, 2007; 3. Natalie Gawdiak, Columbia, MD, Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, pen on paper, 2008; 4. Irene Twerdochlib, Rochester, NY - St. Nicholas church in Kryvchytsy, Ukraine, oil, 1988; 5. Olvin Vladyka, Lviv, Ukraine - Ukraine is caroling - Indian ink, 2000; 6. Ilona Shytyk, Cherkasy, Ukraine, - Christmas- pen and ink, 2007; 7. Marta Shramenko-Randazzo, Potomac, MD, Angel Herald, ink, 2004

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, December 6

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Vita Susak titled "Ukrainian Artists in the Context of Ecole de Paris (First Half of the 20th Century)." Ms. Susak, an art specialist, is director of the division of 19th-20th century European art at the Lviv art gallery, as well as a 2008-2009 Fulbright Fellow. The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets), at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Saturday, December 13

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Chorus Dumka will perform Christmas Music at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Refuge Roman Catholic Church, 2020 Foster Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11210. The public is cordially invited. For additional information call 718-896-7624.

Sunday, December 14

PHILADELPHIA, PA: The Ukrainian American Youth Association cordially invites everyone to attend its traditional annual fun-filled "Christmas Bazaar and Welcoming of St. Nicholas" in the church hall of Annunciation Ukrainian Catholic Church at Old York Road and Cheltenham Avenue in Melrose Park. Starting time is

9:30 a.m. Throughout the day there will be plenty of delicious food for breakfast and lunch, hot and cold drinks, games and entertainment for children, a "Wheel of Fortune" and "Basket of Cheer" for adults, many interesting items for sale, including Christmas cards, traditional Christmas "kutia," poppyseeds, books and much more. St. Nicholas shall pay a visit at 1 p.m. The heavenly office (for gifts) will be open from noon. For information call Halya at 215-745-9838.

Saturday, December 20

BETHESDA, Md.: The Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies will host a Sviatyi Mykolai Show and Holiday Bazaar. Students will present a St. Nicholas program at noon and Sviatyi Mykolai (St. Nicholas) will then meet with each grade/age group. The Heavenly Office will be open at 9:15-11:45 a.m.; please bring only one item per child (\$2 fee) and have it clearly labeled (child's full name and grade/age). The bazaar, scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to noon, will include home-baked goods, varenyky and vushka (frozen), books, gift items, etc. Location: Westland Middle School, 5511 Massachusetts Ave., Bethesda, MD 20816. For further information visit www.ukieschool.org or contact Lada Onyshkevych, lada2@verizon.net or 410-730-8108.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of 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.

Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, 973-644-9510; e-mail, preview@ukrweekly.com. **NB: If e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments; simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message.**

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