

INSIDE:

- Text of U.S.-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership – page 3.
- Community commemorations of the Holodomor – pages 8-10.
- Ruslana in concert in Toronto and Montreal – page 18.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal non-profit association

Vol. LXXVI

No. 52

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2008

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

PM demands president's resignation Accuses him of conspiracy with bankers

U.S. and Ukraine affirm relations in Charter on Strategic Partnership



Official Website of Ukraine's President

President Viktor Yushchenko at a meeting with the Bankers' Council on December 19.

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko launched a vicious attack against President Viktor Yushchenko on December 19, demanding his resignation and accusing him of conspiring with bankers to intentionally plunder the hryvnia's value and profit from its decline.

The alleged scheme was aimed at generating 4.6 billion hrv (\$657 million) in profit, the prime minister claimed, dispatching Internal Affairs Ministry investigators to find evidence to verify her accusations.

Those allegedly involved include the president, National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) Chair Volodymyr Stelmakh, NBU First Vice-Chair Anatolii Shapoval, Presidential Secretariat Chair Viktor Baloha and Nadra Bank Chair Dmytro Firtash.

"This is macro-corruption, macro-speculation, which directly ruins the nation's national interests, ruins the economy's stability and financial system, destroys the hryvnia and practically destroys the family," Ms. Tymoshenko said at a December 20 press briefing at the Cabinet of Ministers.

Rather than pulling together to cope with financial problems, Ukraine's warring leaders have only escalated their conflict throughout the nation's economic crisis, which has devastated the real estate and automobile markets, plunged the national currency, frozen savings deposits and resulted in tens of thousands of layoffs.

The hryvnia set an unprecedented low on December 18, reaching 9.45 hrv per \$1 in interbank trading and 10 hrv per \$1 at street exchange kiosks, prompting a National Bank emergency meeting that evening and a conference between the president and bankers the next day.

The afternoon of December 19, the

(Continued on page 11)



Yaro Bihun

Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko of Ukraine (center) discusses U.S.-Ukraine relations with Ukrainian American representatives at the Embassy of Ukraine. Sitting next to him on the couch is Ambassador Oleh Shamshur.

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — The United States and Ukraine signed a "Charter on Strategic Partnership," in which they affirm a deepening of the security, economic, energy and other aspects of their bilateral relationship and indicate that the United States will establish a "diplomatic presence" in Crimea.

The document was signed on December 19 at the State Department by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko.

The statement about the opening of a U.S. diplomatic post in Symferopol came in the last sentence of the charter document: "Ukraine welcomes the United States' intention to establish an American diplomatic presence (American Presence Post) in Symferopol."

This drew the most attention of the media later during the daily press briefing at the State Department. As one reporter suggested, Russia could see this as "yet another American incursion into Russia's historic sphere of influence," or, in the words of another questioner, "as a provocative act, somehow protective of Crimea, that it will stay with Ukraine."

State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack said that opening a diplomatic presence is a bilateral matter between the United States and Ukraine. If the Russian government "chooses to be upset" by this, he added, "well, there's not much I can do about that."

Russia bases its Black Sea fleet in Sevastopol and has expressed some doubt over the years about whether Crimea, which was officially made part of the Ukrainian SSR only in 1954, should remain an integral part of Ukraine. The fleet-basing agreement runs out in 2017, and there are indica-

tions that there is a difference of opinion between Moscow and Kyiv as to whether the Russian fleet should leave or stay when the agreement expires.

Mr. McCormack explained that an American Presence Post is a small presence, consisting of one or two diplomats working on such things as cultural exchanges and events, and political reporting, among other duties.

In her remarks before signing the charter, Secretary Rice called Ukraine "a very important partner" and "a good friend" of the United States. "We have long believed that Ukraine's independence, its democracy, is essential to a Europe whole and free and at peace."

The charter, she said, "outlines a way to advance cooperation in defense and security, in economics and trade, in energy security, in democracy, and in people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges."

Ukraine's foreign affairs minister noted in his remarks that over the last few years U.S.-Ukraine bilateral relations "have truly attained the level of a strategic partnership" in such areas as defense, security, the economy, human rights, cultural and people-to-people contacts. Mr. Ohryzko also pointed to the "presence of the United States in Ukraine, in particular in Crimea."

"It's also very important that we are going to increase our contacts in the regions," he said.

In the first section of the charter, dealing with principles of cooperation, the parties state that "support for each other's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders constitutes the foundation of our bilateral relations."

Among other affirmations, the document states that the two countries "share a vital interest in a strong, independent and democratic Ukraine," that Ukraine's integration

(Continued on page 11)



Official Website of Ukraine's Government

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko at a press briefing on December 20.

Businessmen, politicians sponsor Christmas celebrations in Kyiv

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Ukrainian business leaders and politicians emerged as key sponsors of Christmas celebrations this season, both in the Western and Ukrainian traditions.

The Open Ukraine Foundation, created by former Verkhovna Rada Chair Arseniy Yatsenyuk, arranged for Santa Claus to visit Kyiv from his home in Lapland, the northernmost province of Finland.

Santa Claus kicked off his three-day visit on December 20 by riding a sleigh down the Khreschatyk, Kyiv's main boulevard, and lighting the 115-foot

Christmas tree at Independence Square — the tallest in Europe, according to the Kyiv City State Administration. He was joined by Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi.

"The fund has as its goal raising Ukraine's prestige in the world and developing Ukrainian diplomacy," said Orysia Lutsevych, the executive director of the Open Ukraine Foundation. "This is directly related to Ukraine's image, and we view Santa Claus as an ambassador of good will, peace, joy and the holiday for children."

(Continued on page 15)

ANALYSIS

Hard times for Ukrainian banks, central bank chairman under fire

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukraine's banking system is teetering on the brink of disaster. The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) \$16.4-billion loan (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, November 12) has probably come too late to restore trust in banks or to prevent the national currency, the hryvnia, (plural: hryvni) from a free fall. Most banks are in serious trouble, and several may soon change hands or collapse. Meanwhile, the chair is shaky under Volodymyr Stelmakh, the chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU).

Ukraine's ailing banks have been using the funds they are receiving from the NBU to buy foreign currency with hryvni. The demand for Ukraine's main export commodity, metals, has fallen dramatically on the world market, so less hard currency is coming into Ukraine. In addition, the Naftohaz Ukrainy national oil and gas company has been buying dollars on the domestic market in order to pay its debt to Russia (see EDM, December 3). All these factors have contributed to a 65 percent devaluation of the hryvnia against the dollar since August.

Ukraine has been among the countries worst hit by the global financial crisis. Key industries such as metallurgy and machine-building are laying off workers, and real wages have started to fall for the first time in a decade. This makes it hard for Ukrainians to make payments on loans, many of which, especially mortgages, were issued in dollars. Since most people are paid in hryvni, they have to buy dollars with the weak hryvnia and are paying back much more on the loans than they had expected. The share of problem loans in bank portfolios grew to 10.3 per-

cent by December 11 and is continuing to grow (Kommersant-Ukraine, December 16).

Banks have all but stopped issuing loans, and their clients have hurried to withdraw deposits. In October the NBU introduced a moratorium on withdrawals ahead of schedule, which further undermined trust in banks.

Some 70 percent of Ukrainians would prefer to withdraw their deposits from banks, and 67.7 percent of them do not trust banks at all, according to a public opinion poll conducted across Ukraine at the end of November by the Kyiv-based Research and Branding Group (Ukrayinski Novyny, December 8).

The Ukrainian version of a Russian business daily quoted a source at the NBU as forecasting that over 40 banks may soon collapse (Kommersant-Ukraine, December 16). Two banks, Nadra and Prominvestbank, have apparently been the hardest hit by the crisis.

Nadra reportedly borrowed more from the NBU than any other bank over the past few months (Zerkalo Nedeli, December 13). Although Nadra was taken over in November by RosUkrEnergo gas intermediary co-owner Dmytro Firtash (www.korrespondent.net, November 7), Nadra's cash machines are empty most of the time, and it has stopped paying depositors money from their accounts. Nadra, Ukraine's seventh largest bank, is among the top five leaders of the mortgage loan market, which is a serious drawback in the current situation (Delo, December 15).

Ukraine's sixth largest bank, Prominvestbank, was the first to admit to being in trouble. The NBU has been man-

(Continued on page 22)

Russian disinformation campaign against the Orange Coalition

by Taras Kuzio
Eurasia Daily Monitor

On December 9 it was announced that a larger Orange coalition had been agreed upon in Ukraine. It was formally registered on December 16. The news came as a surprise, as it had been widely assumed that Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's bloc was close to reaching a coalition deal with its arch enemy, the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU).

Although unpalatable three months ago when Ukraine's political crisis began after the Orange coalition collapsed, the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) described the move as a short-term "coalition of national unity." The YTB, pointing to other countries rallying around to defend their national interests, considered it a marriage of convenience to cope with the global financial crisis.

The stumbling block for the formation of the coalition of national unity was the PRU's insistence on support for constitutional reforms that would transform Ukraine into a full-blown parliamentary republic. PRU, as in 2003 and 2004, when it supported the same reforms with other pro-Kuchma forces, supports the election of the president by Parliament, because it fears defeat in the forthcoming presidential elections. In 2004 the PRU lost to Viktor Yushchenko, and the party is afraid it will

lose to Ms. Tymoshenko in December 2009.

The YTB does not support the election of the president by Parliament. The consensus is to maintain the 2006 constitutional reforms that transformed Ukraine into a semi-parliamentary republic. Mr. Yushchenko is in a minority in backing a return to the presidential constitution.

The larger Orange coalition is the third attempt to establish an Orange alliance following Mr. Yushchenko's election in January 2005. The first lasted nine months and collapsed in September of that year, after the president dismissed the prime minister, as he was still able to under the 1996 Constitution.

The second Orange coalition lasted 11 months, from November 2007 to September 2008. It disintegrated after the president's faction, Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense (OU-PSD), withdrew on September 3.

The weak components of the three Orange coalitions were Mr. Yushchenko's antipathy toward Ms. Tymoshenko, which overrides other considerations, and deep internal divisions within the OU-PSD (Korrespondent, December 6, Fokus, December 12). Our Ukraine has always been undecided, like the president, about whether to establish an Orange coalition

(Continued on page 22)

NEWSBRIEFS

Government submits bailout package

KYIV – The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has submitted a number of anti-crisis bills to the Verkhovna Rada that are aimed at stabilizing the activities of various economic branches and improving the social welfare of Ukrainians. On December 22 the Parliament registered bills on the introduction of amendments to some Ukrainian laws on lessening the effects of the global economic crises on the national oil refining industry, and on minimizing the consequences of the global financial crisis in the field of public employment and obligatory state social insurance. Moreover, the government submitted bills on imposing financial sanctions against the illegal use of land plots and on the introduction of amendments to the Ukrainian law on land payment. The Parliament also received bills on amending laws on the taxation of companies' incomes as regards registration of expenditures on part of uncompensated currency funds and payments on distributed incomes involving a financial mediator. The Cabinet of Ministers is planning to amend Ukrainian laws on pension provision and social protection of servicemen. Moreover, the government is planning to introduce amendments in certain laws regarding the improved provision of education services by educational institutions. (Ukrinform)

Holodomor declaration at U.N.

KYIV – A declaration commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine has been opened for signing at the United Nations on Ukraine's initiative. The co-authors of this document are 32 countries, including Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Albania, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Georgia, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Israel, Spain, Iceland, Canada, Latvia, Lithuania, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Monaco, Norway, Germany, Poland, St. Lucia, the United States, Hungary, Sweden, Finland, France, the Czech Republic and Croatia. The declaration is open for signature by other member-states of the United Nations. The text of the declaration has been released as an official document of the 63rd session of the U.N. General Assembly. Thus, the

world's leading countries in the field of human rights protection have expressed their solidarity with Ukraine on the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor. The declaration has been drafted and presented despite serious resistance by the Russian delegation when this question was considered at the 63rd session of the General Assembly. Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry says that the position of the Russian delegation on the Ukrainian Famine is reminiscent of the behavior and phraseology of the Soviet Union's delegation during consideration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 60 years ago. Soviet diplomats at that time made all efforts to prevent the adoption of that declaration. However, the truth triumphed then and will triumph now, the Foreign Affairs Ministry commented. Ukraine will continue revealing the truth about the Holodomor to the international community, the declaration underscored. (Ukrinform)

Experts: presidential campaign has begun

KYIV – Political experts believe that the mutual accusations were made by President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko last weekend are the early start of a presidential election campaign, which will be officially launched in 2009. The director of the International Institute of Democracy, Serhii Taran, said that Ms. Tymoshenko would not leave her post as prime minister to go into a classic opposition. Her accusations against the president regarding his involvement in the hryvnia's devaluation, he said, were made with the goal of making Ukrainians remember Mr. Yushchenko as the former chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine. He added that Mr. Yushchenko's counter-accusations against Ms. Tymoshenko, that is, that she has lost control of the situation in the country, were predictable. Mr. Taran said this is typical in Ukrainian politics when the sides are seeking to blame each other instead of assuming joint responsibility. Mr. Taran commented that the president and the prime minister should ignore their personal ambitions and start working together. On December 19 Ms. Tymoshenko accused

(Continued on page 14)

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

An English-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Yearly subscription rate: \$55; for UNA members — \$45.

Periodicals postage paid at Parsippany, NJ 07054 and additional mailing offices.
(ISSN — 0273-9348)

The Weekly: UNA:
Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 644-9510 Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 292-0900

Postmaster, send address changes to:

The Ukrainian Weekly
2200 Route 10
P.O. Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
Editors: Matthew Dubas
Zenon Zawada (Kyiv)

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: www.ukrweekly.com; e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

The Ukrainian Weekly, December 28, 2008, No. 52, Vol. LXXVI
Copyright © 2008 The Ukrainian Weekly

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 Odesa Oblast

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

ODESA – With a little help from the Australian diaspora and retired New York banker Marian Kots, Odesa has become a hub of Holodomor research.

The city's Gorky State Academic Library this year published the second volume of the "Holodomor in Ukraine: 1932-1933 Bibliographical Index," considered the most comprehensive bibliography of Holodomor publications in the world.

"We know everything," said Inna Rikun, the library's chief bibliographer, invoking a tone that was both half-joking but serious too.

Working together with Larysa Burian, director of the library's bibliography division for more than 20 years, this dynamic duo of Holodomor researchers tracked down 12,409 publications written about the genocide between 1933 and 2006.

Incredibly enough, just as many publications were released on the Holodomor between 2001 and 2006, the period covered by the bibliography's second volume, as the 67-year span between 1933 to 2000 covered by the first volume.

During those five years, 6,025 Holodomor publications were released, 70 percent of which were from Ukraine-based sources, Ms. Rikun said.

"Memories were bared, people became more interested, and the topic suddenly became more open and accessible to researchers and experts," Ms. Burian said.

Inspiration for the bibliography was



Inna Rikun (left), chief bibliographer at the Gorky State Academic Library in Odesa, and Larysa Burian, director of the bibliography division, spent 14 years compiling the world's most comprehensive bibliography of the Holodomor, "Holodomor in Ukraine 1932-1933."

sparked when the Gorky Library's director, Olha Botushanska, traveled to Australia in 1994 as part of an official visit on a project, "The Ukrainians of Australia," involving the Gorky Library, the Ukrainian Studies Foundation of Australia and a state library in Sydney.

Dr. Volodymyr Motyka, the foundation's chairman, introduced Ms. Botushanska to Holodomor publications and survivors, including Evdokia

Ostrowskyj of the Ukrainian Women's Association.

"I then came to the realization that it is necessary to speak of the past for the sake of the future," Ms. Botushanska said.

Still in Australia, she called her bibliography department and told them to begin work on a Holodomor bibliography immediately.

With an undisclosed sum of financing from the Ukrainian Studies Foundation in

The Holodomor in the Odesa Oblast

37,961 known casualties *
2,542 known survivors still alive **
471 population centers affected

* This figure is a gross underestimation, according to local researchers, who cited a more accurate figure of 136,000. A 1934 decree ordered hundreds of Odesa village registration books confiscated and destroyed. Local researchers haven't yet tallied the oblast's mass graves.

** This figure will likely increase, said Lilia Bilousova, working group director of the Odesa Volume of the Holodomor Victims National Book of Memory.

Australia and Mr. Kots, an active publisher of Holodomor books in Ukraine, Ms. Burian and Ms. Rikun began combing all of Ukraine's top libraries.

Ms. Rikun even traveled abroad, spending even two weeks of "12-hour days" gathering Holodomor information from the 70,000-plus Ukrainian-language collection at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Even Ms. Rikun's daughter Paulina, who was studying for her Ph.D. in comparative literature at Harvard University in the early 2000s, contributed to the bibliography by gathering materials at the

(Continued on page 20)

FOR THE RECORD: United States-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership

Below is the text of the United States-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership signed in Washington on December 19.

Preamble

The United States of America and Ukraine:

1. Affirm the importance of our relationship as friends and strategic partners. We intend to deepen our partnership to the benefit of both nations and expand our cooperation across a broad spectrum of mutual priorities.

2. Emphasize that this cooperation between our two democracies is based on shared values and interests. These include expanding democracy and economic freedom, protecting security and territorial integrity, strengthening the rule of law, and supporting innovation and technological advances.

3. Stress our mutual desire to strengthen our relationship across the economic, political, diplomatic, cultural and security fields.

4. Confirm the importance of the security assurances described in the Trilateral Statement by the Presidents of the U.S., Russian Federation and Ukraine of January 14, 1994, and the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of December 5, 1994.

5. Affirm the Priorities for U.S.-Ukraine Cooperation (Road Map) signed on March 31, 2008, and the commitments to a strategic partnership made by Presidents Bush and Yushchenko on April 4, 2005.

Section I: Principles of Cooperation

This Charter is based on core principles and beliefs shared by both sides:

1. Support for each other's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders constitutes the foundation of our bilateral relations.

2. Our friendship comes from mutual understanding and appreciation for the shared belief that democracy is the chief guarantor of security, prosperity and freedom.

3. Cooperation between democracies on defense and security is essential to respond effectively to threats to peace and security.

4. A strong, independent and democratic Ukraine, capable of responsible self-defense, contributes to the security and prosperity not only of all the people of Ukraine, but of a Europe whole, free and at peace.

Section II: Defense and Security Cooperation

The United States and Ukraine share a vital interest in a strong, independent and democratic Ukraine. Deepening Ukraine's integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions is a mutual priority. We plan to undertake a program of enhanced security cooperation intended to increase Ukrainian capabilities and to strengthen Ukraine's candidacy for NATO membership.

1. Guided by the April 3, 2008, Bucharest Summit Declaration of the NATO North Atlantic Council and the April 4, 2008, Joint Statement of the NATO-Ukraine Commission, which affirmed that Ukraine will become a member of NATO.

2. Recognizing the persistence of threats to global peace and stability, the United States and Ukraine intend to expand the scope of their ongoing programs of cooperation and assistance on defense and security issues to defeat these threats and to promote peace and stability. A defense and security cooperation partnership between the United States and Ukraine is of benefit to both nations and the region.

3. Working within the framework of the NATO-Ukraine Commission, our goal is to gain agreement on a structured plan to increase interoperability and coordination

of capabilities between NATO and Ukraine, including via enhanced training and equipment for Ukrainian armed forces.

4. Acknowledging the growing threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the United States and Ukraine pledge to combat such proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and dangerous technologies through adherence to international nonproliferation standards and effective enforcement and strengthening of export controls.

Section III: Economic, Trade and Energy Cooperation

The United States and Ukraine intend to expand cooperation to enhance job creation and economic growth, support economic reform and liberalization, develop a business climate supportive of trade and investment and improve market access for goods and services. Recognizing that trade is essential for global economic growth, development, freedom and prosperity, the United States and Ukraine support the following initiatives:

1. Welcoming Ukraine's accession to the World Trade Organization on May 16, 2008, the parties held the first U.S.-Ukraine Trade and Investment Council meeting on October 2, 2008, in Kyiv. As discussed at the meeting, the United States continues to support Ukraine's efforts to implement its WTO commitments. Other areas in which we plan to accelerate our efforts include expanding market access, resolving outstanding disputes and promoting intellectual property rights. Acknowledging the importance of increased investment to economic growth and development, the United States supports Ukraine's efforts to enhance investor protections.

2. Recognizing the importance of a well functioning energy sector, the parties intend to work closely together on rehabilitating and modernizing the capacity of Ukraine's

gas transit infrastructure and diversify and secure Ukraine's sources of nuclear fuel, making Ukraine less dependent on foreign sources of nuclear fuel and nuclear fuel storage.

3. Following the Roadmap of Priorities for U.S.-Ukraine Cooperation, the United States and Ukraine intend to launch the work of the Bilateral Energy Security Working Group. Consistent with the U.S.-EU Summit Declaration of June 10, 2008, the United States and Ukraine intend to enhance a trilateral dialogue with the European Union on enhanced energy security.

4. Actively developing cooperation with Ukraine's regions, including Crimea, the United States supports Ukraine's plan to promote security, democracy and prosperity through expanded economic development, energy conservation, food security and good governance initiatives. The United States and Ukraine also intend to cooperate in the area of public-private partnerships in regions of Ukraine aimed at supporting small and medium enterprises.

Section IV: Strengthening Democracy

Strengthening the rule of law, promoting reform of the legal system and of law enforcement structures and combating corruption are all of key importance to the well being of Ukraine. We intend to work together to support reform, democracy, tolerance and respect for all communities.

1. The United States and Ukraine will enhance their cooperation on efforts to strengthen the judiciary, increasing professionalism, transparency and independence, as well as improving legal education and improved access to justice for all Ukrainians.

2. Through enhanced law enforcement and judicial branch relationships, the United

(Continued on page 20)

OBITUARIES

Halyna Levytska, journalist and activist, 50

by Zenon Zawada
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Halyna Levytska, an activist in the Ukrainian independence movement and a passionate journalist who brought the human, civil and cultural rights of Ukrainians to the forefront, died on December 6 following a failed brain tumor operation. She was 50 years old.

Filing stories from Kyiv for the Lviv newspaper *Za Vilnu Ukrayinu*, Ms. Levytska stung politicians with sharp questions, steadfastly holding them accountable for their indifference to cultural issues, lack of structural reforms and questionable government policies.

Amidst a relatively complacent Kyiv press corps, Ms. Levytska stood out as an unabashed truth-seeker who did not shy away from debate.

“Ukraine had a stable trajectory of economic and social payments growth, regardless of what you write in your *Vilnu Ukrayinu!*,” former Finance Minister Mykola Azarov said of the pre-Orange years, during a feisty exchange with Ms. Levytska at an October 2006 press conference.

At a press conference with President Viktor Yushchenko, Ms. Levytska placed him in an uncomfortable position, asking why the government was allowing discrimination against Ukrainian-language speakers in the Luhansk Oblast. The president had no good explanation to offer.

Her husband and fellow journalist, Myroslav Levytskyi, posted an emotional essay on the *Za Vilnu Ukrayinu* website following his wife’s unexpected death that stunned their colleagues.

“It didn’t matter to her whether you represented the government or opposition – she always called the state’s disorder



Journalist Halyna Levytska, who died on December 6, listens to President Viktor Yushchenko speak at the Presidential Secretariat’s Press Day on June 6, 2007.

for what it was,” Mr. Levytskyi wrote. State officials viewed “her values of love, faith and genuineness as those of past epochs, which don’t fit at all in a time of fierce pragmatism.”

Ms. Levytska was born on March 3, 1958, in the village of Kniselo in the Zhydachiv district of the Lviv Oblast.

She graduated the Lviv Forestry Institute in 1981 and served in 1981-1988 as an engineer in the Lviv Administration of Local Industry where Ms. Levytska was able to publish essays and news bulletins on behalf of leading independence activists like Vyacheslav Chornovil and Bohdan Horyn.

Swept into the Rukh movement for Ukrainian independence in 1988, she worked in the press service of the Ukrainian Helsinki Union (UHU) between 1988 and 1990.

“I was in the circle of those people which the official Communist Party propaganda called dissidents,” Ms. Levytska said.

“By the way, the Lviv events are now fashionably discussed by those people who, in that time, feared even uttering the initials UHU. And they constantly announced that the UHU, with its radical acts, could provoke the establishment of martial law in Lviv. That includes most of the

(Continued on page 19)

Ivaan Kotulsky, artist and photographer

by Oksana Zakydalsky

TORONTO – Metal artist and photographer Ivaan Kotulsky died on December 5 following a stroke.

An artist who worked primarily in gold, silver and bronze to create jewelry and sculpture in a flowing, organic style, his last metal arts exhibit was held at the Canadian Ukrainian Art Foundation gallery in September. Called “Sweepings: Treasures from the Atelier Floor,” it was an exhibition of unfinished pieces Mr. Kotulsky had started throughout his creative life and, as written

by his wife, Eya Donald Greenland, “swept aside and never resumed, either because the creative process that inspired the piece had been exhausted or – more often – because the partly finished work had already taken on a life of its own.”

Mr. Kotulsky was born during the last days of World War II to Ukrainian parents interned in a forced labor camp near the city of Koln, Germany. The family immigrated to Canada in 1949 and settled in the town of Smoky Lake, Alberta, small rural community north of

Edmonton. There his family lived with the family of the village blacksmith where Mr. Kotulsky first became acquainted with the qualities of molten metal.

In 1951 the Kotulsky family moved to Toronto. Mr. Kotulsky graduated from the photographic arts program at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and subsequently

(Continued on page 21)



Ivaan Kotulsky



The Scythian stag brooch designed by Ivaan Kotulsky for the Royal Ontario Museum.

Bishop Sofron Dmyterko of underground Church

IVANO-FRANKIVSK, Ukraine – Bishop-emeritus Sofron Dmyterko of the Ivano-Frankivsk Eparchy of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) died here on November 5. He was 91.

He was involved in the Soviet-era underground activities of the UGCC at the time it was known as “the Church of the catacombs.”

He was born on June 1, 1917, in the village of Bychkivtsi, Ternopil region of western Ukraine. He entered the monastery of St. Basil the Great and professed his monastic vows in 1937.

He studied in Krystynopol and Lavriv, Ukraine, as well as at Olomouc and Karl University in Czechoslovakia. He was ordained on May 14, 1942, in Prague.

He was jailed in 1944-1954 for “anti-Soviet activity.” After his release he carried on his ministry clandestinely in Kolomyia, Dolyna, Yaremche and other towns in western Ukraine.

He was secretly consecrated a bishop on November 30, 1968, by Bishop Ivan Sleziuk, one of those beatified by Pope John Paul II during his historic trip to Ukraine in 2001.

In 1973 Bishop Dmyterko was once again arrested and was sent to a forced-labor camp in Luhansk.

When the UGCC came out of the catacombs, Bishop Dmyterko was confirmed in 1991 as eparch of Ivano-Frankivsk and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1997.

The funeral was held November 7 and burial was in the crypt of the Cathedral of the Holy Resurrection in Ivano-Frankivsk.

Poet Ihor Rymaruk of the ‘Visimdesiatnyky’

KYIV – Poet Ihor Rymaruk, one of the best known poets of the 1980s, known as the “Visimdesiatnyky,” died on October 3 when he was struck by a vehicle. He had celebrated his 50th birthday just three months earlier.

He was a winner of Ukraine’s prestigious Taras Shevchenko Prize. President Viktor Yushchenko offered condolences to the poet’s family.

Mr. Rymaruk was born on July 4, 1958, in the village of Miakoty, Khmelnytskyi Oblast. He graduated from the journalism department of Kyiv University and worked on the editorial staff of *Visti z Ukrayiny* at the Molod publishing house.

He served as editor of modern Ukrainian literature at the Dnipro publishing house and was co-editor of the journal *Svito-vyd*. Since 2002 he served as editor-in-chief of the journal *Suchasnist*.

He was also vice-president of the Ukrainian Writers Association.

Mr. Rymaruk was the author of several collections of poetry, including “*Vysoka Voda*” (High Water, 1984) “*Uprodovzh Snihopadu*” (Amidst a Snowstorm, 1988) and “*Nichni Holosy*” (Night Voices, 1991). He was the author also of “*Zoloty Dosch*,” “*Diva Obyda*,” “*Bermudskiy Trykutnyk*” and “*Slioza Bohorodytsi*.”

He was also the editor of “80-ers: An Anthology of New Ukrainian Poetry” published in 1990 by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies Press.

Mr. Rymaruk’s poetry was translated into many languages, including English, Polish, Spanish, Russian, Romanian, Swedish and German.

Msgr. Stephen Chomko, priest for 62 years

SCRANTON, Pa. – The Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest-Prelate Stephen Andrew Chomko died here at the Community Medical Center on November 3. He was 86.

Msgr. Chomko was born on January 6, 1922, in Scranton. He attended St. Thomas College, St. Charles College and St. Basil College Seminary, and then continued his seminary studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

(Continued on page 21)



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Anniversaries of Svoboda and The Weekly marked at the UNA



PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Major anniversaries of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly were celebrated here at the Ukrainian National Association's Home Office on November 11 with an anniversary luncheon hosted by the UNA. As luck would have it, it was also a day during the week that Zenon Zawada of the Kyiv Press Bureau was in town. UNA executive officers greeted the staffs of Svoboda and The Weekly on their respective 115th and 75th anniversaries. Svoboda began publication on September 15, 1893, while The Weekly's first issue rolled off the presses 40 years later, on October 6, 1933. UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj greeted all UNA employees on the occasion, noting the newspapers' proud histories and accomplishments. UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich shared some excerpts of an early issue of Svoboda. The room was decorated with notable pages from Svoboda and The Weekly, as well as historic photos of their editors. To cap off the event, all enjoyed anniversary cakes prepared for the occasion. Seen above are the editorial staff and administration of Svoboda with an anniversary cake presented by the UNA, publisher of both newspapers. Below the editorial, administrative and production staffs of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda are gathered for an anniversary photo.



Northern and Central New Jersey districts hold organizing meeting

WHIPPANY, N.J. – The Northern New Jersey and Central New Jersey districts of the Ukrainian National Association held a joint organizing meeting here at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey on November 7.

Representing the UNA Executive Committee and the UNA General Assembly were Treasurer Roma Lisovich and Second Vice-President Michael Koziupa; Advisor Eugene Oscislawski.

The meeting was called to order by Stephan Welhasch, chairman of the North New Jersey District Committee, who welcomed all present and then reported on the organizing results for the state of New Jersey. He pointed out that during the past year the UNA had sold more annuities than life insurance.

Ms. Lisovich then delivered a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the UNA's activity and its outlook for the near future. She also took the time to note the UNA's top organizers and the top performing district committees.

She concluded her talk with a slide presentation about Soyuzivka, the UNA's Ukrainian heritage center located in upstate New York.

During the ensuing discussion among meeting participants, Mr. Welhasch underscored that what the UNA is trying to do is be more visible on the Ukrainian American community scene. To that end, information tables are regularly set up and manned at various festivals and other community gatherings.

The meeting concluded with a general discussion of fraternal activities and with refreshments.

**Do you have
a young UNA'er,
or potential
young UNA'er
in your family?**

**Call the UNA Home Office,
973-292-9800,
to find out how to enroll.**

Take a look at the past:

- Read The Weekly's special section about the Great Famine, or Holodomor, of 1932-1933.
- Peruse our special issues section, including The Weekly's inaugural issue of October 6, 1933.
- Enjoy our "Year in Review" issues published annually since 1976.
- Enter your search terms and find information previously accessible only in hard copy.

Log on to

www.ukrweekly.com

Our unique website also contains the full texts of all issues published between 1996 and 2007. We are working on making every single issue of our newspaper published since 1933 available online.

Also available – for a limited time only – are the full texts of all issues published in the current year. Soon to come: paid subscriptions to the online version of each week's edition of The Ukrainian Weekly. Take advantage of this opportunity to experience what an online subscription to The Ukrainian Weekly offers.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Gareth Jones, searcher of the truth

Westminster in London was the venue on November 22 for a special event commemorating the Holodomor, the premeditated Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 that killed millions in Ukraine. A most significant part of the ceremony was the honor bestowed posthumously on two correspondents who reported the truth about the genocide perpetrated by Stalin and his cohorts: Gareth Jones and Malcolm Muggeridge.

Both were awarded the Order of Freedom by President Viktor Yushchenko, acting on behalf of the ever-grateful Ukrainian nation. The presentation at Westminster was made by Ukraine's ambassador to the United Kingdom, Dr. Ihor Kharchenko, in the presence of survivors of the Holodomor, Ukrainian community members and various dignitaries who attended the event organized by the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain and the Embassy of Ukraine.

Accepting the awards were Dr. Margaret Siriol Colley, Jones' niece (and author of his biography) and Leonard Muggeridge, son of the correspondent, both of whom spoke about their relatives' roles in revealing the Famine of 1932-1933 to a disbelieving world.

Muggeridge is the more well-known of the two, and many stories appeared about him and his reporting at the time our Ukrainian community was marking the 50th anniversary of what we then referred to as the "Velykyi Holod," or Great Famine. (We refer our readers to a special section of our website dedicated to the Famine-Genocide: http://www.ukrweekly.com/old/archive/Great_Famine/index.shtml.)

Jones was the young Welsh reporter who defied the Soviet regime and traveled to Ukraine in 1933 during the Great Famine (he had traveled to Ukraine twice before, in 1930 and 1931, warning of starvation due to the Soviet authorities' policies, as well as noting political developments such as the regime's attempts to quash Ukrainian nationalism). In fact, he appears to have been the first to file reliable reports about the catastrophe taking place in Ukraine unknown to the outside world.

The Western Mail, a Welsh newspaper for which Jones reported back in the 1930s, noted in a story published this year: "When Jones announced at a press conference on March 29, 1933, that millions were starving in Ukraine as a result of Stalin's five-year plan, several foreign correspondents rushed to rubbish the story. The most vocal was Walter Duranty of The New York Times..." Duranty – himself fully aware of the enormity of the calamity in Ukraine – responded in The Times: "There is no actual starvation, but there is widespread mortality from diseases due to malnutrition."

Now, 75 years later, speaking at Westminster on November 22, Zenko Lastowiecki, president of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain, underscored: "We stand together united in the conviction that horrific events of this kind should not be forgotten and that the millions of innocent victims of the Holodomor should finally have their rightful place in 20th century history."

And so too should the courageous correspondents who, at risk to their careers at a time when the world was enamored of the Soviet "experiment," and at risk to their very lives, reported to the world the real story of what was taking place under the Stalin regime.

Young Gareth Jones, who was killed one day short of his 30th birthday while traveling in Inner Mongolia, accomplished much in his short life. It is fitting that he has been honored by Ukraine with the Order of Freedom. However, we believe that the greatest honor of all is that he is now widely known for what he was: a searcher of the truth.

Dec.
28
2007

Turning the pages back...

Last a year, on December 28, 2007, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and all 227 members of the Democratic Forces Coalition, as well as eight deputies from the Communist Party of Ukraine, passed the 2008 budget.

The passage of the budget was a victory for the coalition, but after the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc failed to support the document despite affirming it in its first reading, many coalition deputies shouted "shame" at Mr. Lytvyn.

The Lytvyn Bloc's opposition was focused on the moratorium on agricultural land sales, among other points. But the budget did call for an extension of the agricultural moratorium, Verkhovna Rada Chair Arseniy Yatsenyuk said. Prime Minister Tymoshenko said the moratorium would be extended "until we create normal legislation to secure this process and build a normal market."

Yaroslav Sukhyi, a member of the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU), claimed that only 197 coalition deputies were in the hall, and accused the majority coalition of falsifying the vote.

The 2008 budget, coalition leaders touted, was more generous in social spending than what was offered by the preceding government under Viktor Yanukovich. The 2008 budget included 40 percent higher pensions, a 37 percent to 65 percent increase in government wages and scholarships, and \$4 billion for the return of lost Soviet-era savings, which was Ms. Tymoshenko's campaign promise.

The budget planned for \$42.6 billion (U.S.) in revenues and \$46 billion in expenditures, with a deficit of \$3.4 billions, or 2.1 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

Spending for the sciences was increased by \$200 million for 2008. "I don't want our talented academics and scientists to think of how to flee to somewhere they are respected and appreciated. I want them to work here at home for their own country, so that Ukrainian golden heads return from the world's Silicon Valleys to their native land and work for Ukraine," Ms. Tymoshenko said.

In preparation for the Euro-2012 soccer tournament, the 2008 budget allowed \$2.3 billion for road improvements, which was a 60 percent increase from 2007.

Source: "Tymoshenko government's first success: a revised version of the 2008 budget," by Zenon Zawada, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, January 6, 2008.

THE HOLODOMOR

"This is not simply a case of mass murder"

Below is the text of the presentation at Pennsylvania State University's Holodomor commemoration on November 9 by Alexander J. Motyl of Rutgers University-Newark.

Raphael Lemkin, the Jewish-Polish scholar who coined the term "genocide," wrote the following about "Soviet Genocide in the Ukraine," the final chapter of his "History of Genocide:"

"This is not simply a case of mass murder. It is a case of genocide, of destruction, not of individuals only, but of a culture and a nation."

According to Lemkin, the Ukrainian genocide consisted of four components.

- "The first blow is aimed at the intelligentsia, the national brain, so as to paralyze the rest of the body."

- The second was "an offensive against the churches, priests and hierarchy, the 'soul' of Ukraine. Between 1926 and 1932, the Ukrainian Orthodox Autocephalous Church, its metropolitan [Vasyl Lypkivsky], and 10,000 clergy were liquidated."

- "The third prong of the Soviet plan was aimed at the farmers, the large mass of independent peasants who are the repository of the tradition, folklore and music, the national language and literature, the national spirit, of Ukraine. The weapon used against this body is perhaps the most terrible of all, starvation. Between 1932 and 1933, 5 million Ukrainians starved to death."

- "The fourth step in the process consisted in the fragmentation of the Ukrainian people... by the addition to the Ukraine of foreign peoples and by the dispersion of the Ukrainians throughout Eastern Europe."

Why did this genocide take place?

Lemkin's answer is worth quoting:

"As long as Ukraine retains its national unity, as long as its people continue to think of themselves as Ukrainians and to seek independence, so long does Ukraine pose a serious threat to the very heart of Sovietism. It is no wonder that the Communist leaders have attached the greatest importance to the Russification of this independent-minded member of their union of republics and have determined to remake it to fit their pattern of one Russian nation."

In other words, Ukraine was – to use the language of contemporary scholarship – the primary obstacle to Bolshevik plans of establishing a totalitarian Communist state and building a Russian empire.

To put the matter in such terms is to invite comparison with another revolutionary regime with totalitarian and imperial aspirations – Nazi Germany.

Like the Nazis, the Bolsheviks aspired radically to transform the lands they had grabbed in a series of military campaigns in 1918-1921. They got their chance in the late 1920s, when Joseph Stalin became undisputed leader and, with the support of fanatically committed true believers, embarked on a full-scale "revolution from above" that would change every dimension of life in the Soviet Union. Industry would be created from scratch, the countryside would be collectivized and empire would be consolidated.

Like the Nazis, the Bolsheviks were violent and brooked no opposition. They killed their opponents ruthlessly and unthinkingly – a practice that already started in 1918 – and packed off millions to die in concentration camps. As with the Nazis, Stalin's opponents were all those people who either actively resisted Soviet ideological goals or were incompatible with them. Democrats, socialists and national Communists resisted and had to be killed. Obstreperous classes,

such as the more prosperous peasants, had to be eliminated; obstreperous nations that stood in the way of Moscow's totalitarian ambitions and imperial rule – such as Ukrainians – had to be crushed.

Like Adolf Hitler's regime, Stalin's was genocidal: it practiced genocide as part and parcel of its policies toward its subject populations. Over 20 million non-Russians and Russians were shot, starved or worked to death.

The Ukrainian Famine-Genocide was the most devastating and most all-encompassing such mass murder. As Lemkin noted, Ukraine and Ukrainians were the primary obstacle to Bolshevik revolution, Communist totalitarianism and Russian empire. As a result, the Ukrainian political leadership had to be crushed, the Ukrainian cultural elite had to be destroyed, the Ukrainian Churches had to be eviscerated, and the Ukrainian peasantry had to be killed.

The Holodomor was the product of a collision between an irresistible Bolshevik force and an all-too-movable Ukrainian object.

Unfortunately, the Famine-Genocide was only the first of two genocides experienced by Ukraine in the 20th century. And it was only one part of the story of Ukraine's near-destruction in that century.

It's easy to forget that 100 years ago Ukraine's population consisted primarily of illiterate peasant serfs, whose lives were little different from those of American slaves. Starting in 1914, those brutalized people had to endure seven years of world war, revolution and civil war. After a brief respite in the 1920s, famine, terror and genocide devastated Soviet Ukraine, and repression and economic depression came to western Ukraine.

But the real troubles began in 1939 and 1941, when Hitler unleashed a genocidal war and transformed Ukraine into a colony whose subject populations – both Jews and Ukrainians – were slated for extermination. After peace returned in 1945, life returned to "normal" – another eight years of famine, terror and repression, this time in both east and west.

Ukraine experienced some 40 consecutive years of relentless death and destruction, starting in 1914 and ending with Stalin's death in 1953. According to a recent study of the Moscow-based Institute of Demography, Ukraine suffered close to 15 million "excess deaths" between 1914 and 1948. Consider the horrifying numbers:

- 1.3 million during World War I;
- 2.3 million during the civil war, the Polish-Soviet war, and the famine of the early 1920s;
- 4 million during the Holodomor;
- 300,000 during the Great Terror and the repressions in western Ukraine;
- 6.5 million during World War II, when Nazi Germany treated Jews, Gypsies and Slavs as brutes and subhumans; and
- 400,000 during the post-war famine and the destruction of the Ukrainian nationalist movement.

Over three decades of normal totalitarianism followed Stalin's death. Everyday violence disappeared and the death camps were disbanded, but totalitarianism as a system of rule remained.

In contrast to Nazi totalitarianism, Soviet totalitarianism actually managed to create a new type of civilization and, perhaps, a new type of human being – one who is unwilling to confront the truth, unwilling to confront the historical past, unwilling to re-imagine the present, unwilling to imagine the future.

(Continued on page 22)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A thank-you to three Welshmen

Dear Editor:

In all the commemorative events and media coverage of the Holodomor anniversary, I can't recall whether a deep thank you was extended to three specific individuals.

Three Welshmen have done so very much in documenting the Holodomor, and in informing our own community and the general public.

Morgan Williams is a business, government and public affairs consultant and president of the Ukraine Market Reform Group. He is also the publisher of the ArtUkraine.com website and the ArtUkraine.com Information Service. He has been involved in Ukrainian economic development issues for many years. His private collection of art about the Holodomor is amazing (see <http://www.artukraine.com/>).

Nigel Colley continues the work of his late great uncle Gareth Jones, the journalist who reported on the Holodomor (see <http://www.garethjones.org/index.htm>).

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Orysia Tracz
Winnipeg, Manitoba

The decline of U.S. influence

Dear Editor:

Two recent articles cut through the conventional wisdom to about the decline of American power and influence in Europe, with vexing consequences for former Soviet satellite states and more so for Ukraine.

One of these two articles appeared in The New York Times on December 2 ("Germany Aims to Protect Its Interests by Guiding the West's Ties to Russia"). The other was Zenon Zawada's "Four Years After the Orange Revolution," published in The Ukrainian Weekly on November 30. The opening paragraph in the latter article neatly encapsulates the essence of both: "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)."

While the U.S. is pinned down in Iraq and Afghanistan in pursuit of phantom objectives that seem to be at odds with its own national interest (and are formulated

in line with priorities relative to Israel and Iran), a recrudescing Germany is filling the Western power vacuum and is redefining Europe's relations with Russia (gas and all the rest).

This leaves NATO with not much more than a ceremonial role, and is quite a change from its original charter ("to keep the Germans down, the Americans in, and the Russians out").

In the new "new order" that seems to be taking hold in Europe, Ukraine is again in a tough neighborhood. The Solomonian dialectics evident at the latest meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels on December 2, announced in reference to Ukraine's vanishing chances to gain NATO membership, illustrates the obvious decline of America's European orientation, both political and cultural. This decline is paralleled by cracks within America's own fault lines of its Old Testament-articulated foreign policy, oil-inspired and deficit-financed military spending, and debt-driven lifestyles.

While President Viktor Yushchenko's failures of leadership have turned his alpha-male status into a balcony for occasional posturing, the exigency of dealing with Russia falls on Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Such a delineation of "labor" reminds one of her leadership role leadership on the Maidan, while Mr. Yushchenko was more or less getting a free ride.

Boris Danik
North Caldwell, N.J.

UWC's Lozynskyj deserves kudos

Dear Editor:

Fifteen years ago, it appeared that the Ukrainian World Congress was an organization that thought the diaspora lived only in Western Europe and North America. Then, a decade ago, Askold Lozynskyj became its president.

First he examined its finances and found different sources of income, then he changed the direction on the compass. He reached out to our communities in Siberia and the South. They were told that they were not forgotten but rather welcomed to the UWC.

Mr. Lozynskyj has brought accountability, responsibility and transparency to the Ukrainian World Congress.

John Bodnar
Windsor Locks, Conn.

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.

MAY WE HELP YOU?

To reach The Ukrainian Weekly call (973) 292-9800,
and dial the appropriate extension (as listed below).

Editorial – 3049, 3088 • Production – 3063, 3069
Administration – 3041 • Advertising – 3040 • Subscriptions – 3042

CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

Liberal elite: 1, guns and bibles: 0

Or so says Kuba, our village cynic and token leftist, commenting on the November election.

"And a good thing, too," says Boba, settling down with his plate of jelly doughnuts and a styrofoam cup of watery coffee. "We should sell those redneck states back to the French."

"And let the godless intellectuals run the country," mutters Koba, making room at the long table.

"Don't worry, the East Coast bluebloods are still in charge," says Boba. "Hey, if you had changed your name from Melnyk to Miller, added a Roman numeral, and donated a million to the right campaign fund, you could have joined the club. Literally."

"Sure," chuckles Koba. "But you're the one who supported the right campaign. Shouldn't you be getting a call from Chicago?"

"Maybe they'll make you postmaster of Peoria," taunts Kuba. "You know, it's all just a war between two elites pretending to represent the people. You have the rich Republicans pretending to support the blue-collar workers and the poor white trash, and you have the rich Democrats pretending to champion the minorities and the urban poor."

"Isn't that a bit cynical?" protests Koba, struggling to split a bagel with a little plastic knife. "There's a big difference between a cynic and a realist."

"I'm with you there," says Boba. "And with the new administration we'll have smart, educated people in charge. People who talk in complete sentences."

"What I don't understand is this connection between guns and Bibles," says Vova. He is a student from Ukraine, though no one really knows what he is studying. Some say it's etymology, or maybe it's entomology. Once when he confessed to an interest in pneumatology, he was deluged by asthmatics. "In Ukraine," continues Vova, "the people who carry guns and the people who read the Bible are two separate groups."

"It's because of our history, and history isn't always logical," explains Koba. "Out West people feel entitled to defend themselves and their families. They don't want the government to do it for them. They also happen to be a pretty God-fearing bunch."

"They also feel entitled to invade other people's countries," breaks in Kuba. "They even cite the Bible to justify it."

"So it's Christian fundamentalists versus Muslim fundamentalists?" asks Vova.

"What I don't understand," breaks in Luba, fresh from a meeting of Soyuz Ukrainok, "is how millions of Catholics could vote for a guy who supports partial-birth abortion. Where are their ethics?"

"What ethics?" says Kuba. "People vote by their pocketbooks, not their conscience. And politics trumps religion. Who was it who said that politics is the religion of the modern man?"

"I guess you're right," observes Koba, fingering a cruller. "The right-to-lifers haven't done too well lately."

"But I'm convinced that abortion is the moral issue of our day," persists Luba.

"Like slavery in the 1850s?" asks Vova. He is always making strange analogies.

"Yes, and everyone said the abolitionists were crazy."

"But the right-to-lifers – I don't mean you – are such hypocrites," protests Kuba. "They want to force a woman to die for her fetus."

"You can always make an exception for

an exceptional case," retorts Luba. "But you can't base a rule on exceptions. Hard cases make bad law."

"Maybe," says Kuba. "But those same right-to-lifers support a war that kills innocent women and children. Aren't their lives sacred too?"

"It's a war against the terrorists, who also kill the innocent, and on purpose," points out Koba.

"Terrorism is like the Hydra," observes Boba. "Kill one and two spring up. Besides, they're fighting for an idea. You can't stop an idea by force of arms, even if you kill those who fight for it. Look at the UPA."

"You're not comparing Al-Qaeda to the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, are you?" asks Koba incredulously. "The UPA fought against foreign occupants. Al-Qaeda murders civilians."

"And the other way round," says Kuba.

Reaching out for a glazed doughnut, Boba knocks over his coffee cup, sending a milky brown flood across the formica table headed straight for Koba's Armani tie. Koba starts back, his metal folding chair screeching against the linoleum. Wielding wads of paper napkins, Kuba and Luba move in like emergency-room surgeons to stanch the flow. Despite their ideological differences, they are fast friends. Must be some weird chick thing, muses Koba.

"So now that the election is over," asks Vova, "what are you politicians going to do?"

"I'm still waiting for that phone call from Chicago," says Boba. "But seriously – I plan to work with the transition team on foreign policy recommendations."

"In whose interest – America, Ukraine, or the diaspora?" interjects Kuba.

"OK, I know they don't always coincide. But I want to identify those issues where they do, and build on that."

"How about you, Koba?"

"I want to work in the Republican Party to figure out what it really stands for. We need to figure out whether we're libertarians, free-marketeters, or global warriors. Personally, I think we need to rediscover true conservatism. We need to re-read Edmund Burke."

"And Lypynsky," adds Vova. He is always coming up with obscure references. "And how about you, Kuba? You'll be on the other side of the barricades, yes?"

"Absolutely. With this economy, we're ripe for class warfare. The working poor, the unemployed and the homeless need to organize. The big parties don't care about them."

"I think the important issues cut across party lines," says Luba. "I want to mobilize Americans who care about moral and ethical issues, like abortion, capital punishment, poverty and the war. Some day the big parties will become irrelevant, and we'll have new coalitions that really stand for something."

They get up to make way for an Albanian wedding reception. But Vova sits alone for a few minutes, musing on all he has heard. If only he could apply these lessons in his own country. But there, he reflects, there is no politics – only the illusion.

Andrew Sorokowski can be reached at samboritanus@hotmail.com.

Boston remembers Holodomor via film, drama and photographs

by Peter T. Woloschuk

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI), in co-sponsorship with the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University, presented the New England premiere of the documentary “The Living” (Zhyvi) on Wednesday evening, December 3, as part of its ongoing year long commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Ukraine’s 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide.

Approximately 100 people attended the screening of the 75-minute film, which was shown in Ukrainian with English subtitles.

Michael S. Flier, HURI’s director and Oleksandr Potebnja Professor of Ukrainian Philology, opened the evening



Vsevolod Petriv

The Rev. Edward Evanko performing “Be Well and Prosper, My Beloved Ukraine.”

by welcoming everyone and then presenting Dr. Yuri Shevchuk of Columbia University, lecturer and director of the Ukrainian Film Club, who made introductory remarks about the film and introduced Serhiy Bukovsky, the film’s noted Ukrainian director, and Victoria Bodnar the film’s producer. Both spoke briefly about the film’s content and about what they were trying to convey through the film.

“The Living,” which was produced by Kyiv’s Lystopad Film Studios, opens with a montage of scenes from today’s Ukraine and of Famine-ravaged Ukraine in 1932-1933 and then switches to footage of President Viktor Yushchenko as he walks through fields and woods near his native village of Khoruzivka in the Sumy Oblast, where he shows the location of mass graves of more than half of the village’s inhabitants who perished from the Holodomor.

The film then goes on to explore elements of the Holodomor using dispatches of Welsh reporter Gareth Jones, who described his observations of the conditions in Soviet Ukraine during the fall, winter and spring of 1932-1933, as well as the diplomatic intelligence reports of German, Italian and Polish legations in the Ukrainian capital at that time, Kharkiv, who cited the massive starvation of the Ukrainian peasantry as part of a plan to remove the strongly anti-Soviet population and to replace them with loyal Russians.

The most poignant moments of the film are the interviews with senior citizens who had witnessed and survived the Holodomor as children and who had lost parents, relatives, classmates and friends during the confiscation of all foodstuffs by local Soviet functionaries. One of the survivors,

an old woman, exclaims that it would have been better if her entire generation had never been born.

Following the film, the director and producer answered questions from the audience for more than an hour.

The next day, at HURI’s Ukraine Study Group, Mr. Bukovsky and Mr. Bodnar participated in an informal public discussion on the making of “The Living,” its reception at its recent two screenings for critics and the media in Kyiv, the current state of film-making in Ukraine, the need to attract young people to the arts, and the lack of government understanding and support.

Later that evening in a related commemorative event sponsored by the Boston College Ukrainian Student Society, the Rev. Edward Evanko of Vancouver, British Columbia, a noted actor and singer, gave a solo tour de force performance of “Be Well and Prosper My Beloved Ukraine” (Buvai Zdorova, Liuba Ukraino) at St. Ignatius Church on the Boston College campus.

The 90-minute performance consisted of dramatic readings of five eyewitness accounts of the Holodomor interspersed with appropriate Ukrainian folk and religious songs.

Finally, a film and photo exhibition on the Holodomor co-sponsored by the Community College of Rhode Island and the Greater Boston Committee to



Serhiy Bukovsky, director, and Victoria Bodnar, producer, of the film “The Living.”

Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Holodomor ended its month-long run on Friday, December 5, at the school’s Knight Gallery.

The exhibit was the work of Cheryl Madden who received the Order of Princess Olha from President Yushchenko for her work compiling a bibliography of English resources on the Holodomor. The film was the result of a Fulbright grant and was done in collaboration with a theater school in Ukraine. It featured students reciting first-hand accounts and poetry written by Holodomor survivors.

Rochester community recalls victims of the Famine-Genocide

by Aleksandra Riznik

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – The Ukrainian community of Greater Rochester on Sunday, November 23, marked the 75th anniversary of Ukraine’s Holodomor at St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church and hall.

At 3 p.m. a memorial service (panakhyda) was served by the Rev. Igor Krekhovetsky (St. Mary’s); the Rev. Roman Sydorovych (Church of the Epiphany); the Very Rev. Archpriest Kiril Angelov and the Rev. John Jendrychowski (St. Josaphat’s) to commemorate the millions of men, women and children murdered by Joseph Stalin’s artificially created famine, and to honor its survivors.

The program began at the church hall with Irene Russnak’s presentation of the memorial flame, followed by a moment of silence. After the audience lit their memorial candles, “Our Father” was sung in Ukrainian by St. Mary’s Choir, followed by soloist, Tania Beghini’s performance in English, accompanied on the piano by Nickole Sleight.

Mistress of ceremonies Anna Bucierka conducted the program, which consisted of: Lidia Zacharkiw reading a poem “Children of Holodomor”; a short preview-screening of the movie, “Holodomor-Ukraine’s Genocide 1932-1933”; a “Famine dinner” (a small piece of stale bread and glass of water); Stephanie Romaniuk and Michael Kaufman (students of the Eastman School of Music) presenting the song “Psalm for Those Who Died in the Holodomor” (lyrics by Lesia Chraplyva-Schur); sisters Lydia Dzus and Zinnia Dzus-DeBole performing two songs, “Ave Maria” and “To Your Grace”; and Ms. Beghini singing “Hail Mary.”

Ms. Zacharkiw then presented a histo-



Organizers of the Holodomor commemoration and members of Rochester’s Ukrainian community.

ry of the Holodomor and Famine testimonies were read by Stephanie Wowkowych, Parania Smith, Zinnia Dzus-DeBole and Luba Bilozir-Baran.

Holodomor survivor Anna Kaczanowicz was in the audience. Her daughter, Aleksandra Riznik, read her testimony as it is still too painful, even after all these years, for her mother to recount her experience. Ms. Dzus, daughter of Maria Dzus, read her mother’s testimonial.

The commemoration concluded with

the Rev. Krekhovetsky and St. Mary’s Choir singing “Vichnaya Pamiat” (Eternal Memory).

The commemoration was organized by the Committee of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations of Rochester, which consisted of members of St. Josaphat’s Ukrainian Catholic Church Sisterhood – St. Ann’s Society; St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church Sisterhood; Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Epiphany

Sisterhood; and Ukrainian National Women’s League of America Branches 47, 46 and 120.

Ms. Russnak initiated the commemoration; co-chairs were Ms. Riznik and Stephanie Stanfield, with behind-the-scenes assistance by Daria Hanushevsky, Christine Dziuba, Maria Lylak, Kathy Sweryda and others. Wasyl Kornylo, Wolodymyr Sukhenko and George Hanushevsky also provided assistance that made the commemoration possible.

Penn State student groups commemorate the Famine-Genocide

by Andrew Leskiw

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. – On Sunday afternoon, November 9, the Penn State Ukrainian Society and the Penn State Byzantine Catholic Student Ministry jointly commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide in Ukraine (Holodomor) in the Worship Hall of the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center at the Pennsylvania State University. With over 150 people in attendance, it marked the largest Ukrainian event in the history of the university.

The commemoration began with an introduction from emcee Andrew Leskiw, president of both the Penn State Ukrainian Society and the Penn State Byzantine Catholic Student Ministry. Mr. Leskiw reminded everyone in attendance of the twofold purpose of the commemoration: to remember the lives of those who perished as a result of the Holodomor and to spread knowledge of this horrible tragedy to people who are unaware of its occurrence.

Following this introduction, a procession of students and clergy entered the room to begin the divine liturgy. Ten students walked in the procession, each holding a candle commemorating one million lives lost during the Holodomor; the candles were placed in front of the memorial created at the front of the hall.

The divine liturgy was celebrated by Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka of Philadelphia, as well as several priests and deacons from the Center County area. The

Prometheus Male Ukrainian Choir of Philadelphia (under the direction of Roman Kuczarsky) sang the responses to the liturgy in Ukrainian, while the clergy chanted mostly in English.

In his homily Archbishop Soroka emphasized the importance of commemorating such an event, noting that it is our job as Americans to speak up about global events such as the Holodomor, and more current issues such as the genocide in Darfur and the sex trade in Eastern Europe.

After the divine liturgy was celebrated, the educational program began. The first speakers were Holodomor survivors Alex and Helen Woskob, owners of the AW & Sons Co. and founders of the Woskob Center for the Study of Ukrainian Agriculture and the Endowment in Ukrainian Studies at Penn State University. The Woskobs, who spoke in Ukrainian with a translator, talked about their memories of life in Ukraine during the Holodomor.

Afterwards, Michael P. Bernosky, a professional actor from Boalsburg, Pa., read excerpts from Robert Conquest's book "The Harvest of Sorrow" as well as from "Memoirs of My Life" by Mr. Woskob.

Following the hymn "Bohorodytse do Tebe," performed by the Prometheus Choir, Woskob Family Professor of Ukrainian Studies Michael M. Naydan and visiting Fulbright scholar from Ukraine Mariya Tytarenko read several poems that were connected with the Holodomor, including Vasyl Symonenko's "Chuyu (I Hear)."



Helen (at the podium) and Alex Woskob speak about the Holodomor.

Alexander J. Motyl, professor of political science at Rutgers University-Newark, lectured about the history of the Holodomor and its effects on the land and people of Ukraine. Prof. Motyl stressed the necessity for everyone to recognize the Holodomor since the statistical and visual proof of the Holodomor is indisputable. (For the text of his remarks, see page 6.)

Father Robert F. Oravetz, advisor of the Penn State Byzantine Catholic Student Ministry and pastor of three other parishes, gave the closing remarks in which he urged everyone to learn from history and to not repeat its mistakes. The ceremony concluded

with a solemn remembrance service, or "panakhyda," in memory of the victims of the Holodomor, as well as the singing of the "Prayer for Ukraine," ("Bozhe Velykyi Yedynyi").

The event, organized by the student-members of the two sponsoring organizations (with the guidance of the advisors), was a huge success as the event carried out its twofold purpose. In addition to remembering the victims and spreading knowledge of the Holodomor, over \$500 was raised at the commemoration and will be donated to the building fund of the Ukrainian Genocide Memorial to be erected in Washington.

Solemn programs in Detroit area mourn Holodomor victims

by Marie Zarycky-Cherviovskiy

DETROIT – The Detroit community attended commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in large numbers. The solemn event took place on November 9 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren, Mich., where the public participated in a requiem service for the 10 million victims of the never-to-be-forgotten tragedy perpetrated by the Communist regime of the Soviet Union.

Nine priests representing the six local Ukrainian parishes officiated at the ecumenical panakhyda under the leadership of Holodomor survivor Archbishop Alexander Bykovets of St. Andrew's Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Cathedral, who served as honorary chairman of the commemoration. St. Andrew's Choir, under the direction of Serhij Lazurenko, sang the responses.

The event's organizing committee worked under co-chairs Lydia Wroblewski, and Zenon Wasylkewycz, presidents, respectively, of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council (UACC). Representatives of major community organizations participated: Vera Kucyj (Ukrainian Cultural Center), secretary; Serhij Lazurenko (St. Andrew's Orthodox Church) and Dr. Alexander Serafyn (Ukrainian National Association), co-treasurers. Marie Zarycky-Cherviovskiy, Daria Zawadiwskyi and Vera Andrushkiw, (Ukrainian National Women's League of America) were in charge of promotion; Borys Potapenko (Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine), Dr. Olena Palywoda and Natalia Slyz Stasiw (Nova Chylyia), Roma Dyhdalo, Olga Liskiwsky and Anna Macielinski (UNWLA), and Wolodymyr Lewenetz (Ukrainian Cultural Center), provided information and the event program. Svitlana Leheta and Chrystyna Nykorak (Detroit Ukrainian Museum and Archives) joined the Exhibit Subcommittee.

Members at large were: George Korol (St. Mary Protectress Parish, Lida



The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus performs under the direction of Adrian Bryttan.

Kolodchin (UNWLA), Oleh Cieply (Ukrainian American Veterans) and Jaroslaw Stetkewycz (ODFFU).

The program started with a respectful flag ceremony arranged by Mr. Cieply, featuring national flags and the flags of the participating organizations. Vera Kryva recited her poem titled "Ukrainian Genocide," while attendees lighted candles of remembrance.

Students Julia Bedrus, Natalia Boyko, Oksana Doubrowska, Christina Bodnarchuk, and Larysa Woryk joined Danylo Higgins in the recitation of "Holodomor in the Book of Memory of the Ukrainian Nation" accompanied by the bandura playing of Renia Cholovey. The duet of Myhailo and Victoria Voreniuk, singing Zhutkevych's "Road to God," concluded this segment.

A particularly emotional address was presented by Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), longtime friend of the Metropolitan Detroit area Ukrainian American community, whose initiative culminated in the passage of House Resolution 1314 recognizing the

Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 as genocide.

Special tributes sent from Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm, the Michigan State Legislature, Lesia Liss, state representative-elect, the City Council of Warren with Mark Liss, and Mayor James R. Fouts were then read by the co-masters of ceremonies: Dr. Palywoda and Mr. Potapenko.

It was with great pride that the audience greeted the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus under the baton of its newly selected conductor and musical director Adrian Bryttan. Their chosen selections included Stanyslav Liudkevych's "Prayer of Mercy," Alexander Koshetz's "Thrice-Holy Hymn," and Hryhory Kytasty's "Echoes of the Steppes." The religious hymn "Amazing Grace" garnered very appreciative applause, as did Bohdan Lepky's "The Cranes." The effect of lit candles held by the singing bandurists in a darkened auditorium provided a very appropriate and unifying mood.

The highlight of the commemoration was the emotional appeal of Archbishop Alexander to President Viktor Yushchenko

and the government of Ukraine to punish the perpetrators of the Famine. After the eyewitness testimonies of Olena Liskiwskyi and Bishop Alexander, other survivors were acknowledged: Dr. Raissa Schlega, Maria Halych Dutkewycz, Mykola Liskiwskyi, Kateryna Potapenko Oleksandra Misionog.

This intensely moving event came to a conclusion with the viewing of an excerpt of the film "Holodomor: Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-33" by Bobby Leigh and Marta Tomkiw.

The public was encouraged by the co-chairs of the commemoration committee, Ms. Wroblewski and Mr. Wasylkewycz (UACC) to view the very solemn and artfully presented Holodomor Pictorial Exhibition organized by Svitlana Leheta, president, and Chrystyna Nykorak, director, of the Detroit Ukrainian Museum and Archives.

The commemorative committee will relay half of the event's proceeds to the Holodomor film and the other half to the future Ukrainian Genocide Memorial in Washington.

North Port Ukrainians teach local students about the Holodomor

by Ann-Marie Susla

NORTH PORT, Fla. – Approximately 200 social studies, ESL (English as a Second Language) and Holocaust/human rights students at North Port High School sat in rapt attention on December 10 at a special program on the 75th anniversary of Holodomor – the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine that killed millions of people.

Neonilia Lechman gave a brief history of Ukraine and of the events leading up to Holodomor. She cited the United Nations' adoption of the Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide on December 9, 1948. A segment of the film "Harvest of Despair" was shown and Anastasia Chomyk, a survivor of Holodomor, gave a very moving testimony of her personal experience during that tragic time.

Doris Horbachevsky summarized the program and explained the role of Walter Duranty, a reporter for The New York

Times, in covering up the Famine and denying its existence. Today, she explained, the Holodomor has been recognized by 19 countries and a national memorial, the "Candle of Memory," has been built in Kyiv. Here in the United States, land has been donated in Washington where a monument is to be constructed to commemorate the victims of the Famine.

The program ended with a question and answer session. Students were especially intrigued by Mrs. Chomyk's personal story and asked her numerous questions about her experiences during the Famine.

The Committee of the United Ukrainian-American Organizations of North Port, Fla., implemented this program. Thanks were expressed to Carol LaVallee, teacher at North Port High School and coordinator of the program, Ryan Oliver for his technical support and Dr. George Kenney, principal of North Port High School, without whom this program would not have been possible.



At the Holodomor program at North Port High School (from left) are: Doris Horbachevsky, Neonilia Lechman, Carole LaVallee and Anastasia Chomyk.



Students during the assembly at North Port High School in Florida.

Clifton-Passaic community marks Famine anniversary



PASSAIC, N.J. – The Ukrainian community of Clifton-Passaic, N.J., commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor on December 7 at the Ukrainian Center on Hope Avenue in Passaic. The event began with a candle-lit panakhyda, or requiem service, led by the Rev. Andriy Dudkevych of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Passaic and the Rev. Oleh Zhownirovych of Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Clifton. Children from the school, the Ukrainian American Youth Association and Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization led the 150 people who attended in traditional songs. A group from Jersey City, N.J., then presented a dramatic performance of events related to the Famine. Two survivors of the Holodomor also spoke about their experiences. Nina Kowbasniuk of Jersey City told her story in Ukrainian and Rostyslav Wasylenko of Union presented his eyewitness account in English. The event was coordinated by John Burtyk.

– Tom Hawrylko

NEW BRITAIN MALANKA

ONE OF THE BEST UKRAINIAN NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS IN THE COUNTRY

Featuring
Zolota Bulava from Montreal, Quebec, CANADA
&
HRIM

Saturday, 31 January 2009
9:00 pm
St. George's Hall
301 West Main Street
New Britain, CT

Adults - \$30 Today or \$35 at the Door
Students - \$25 Today or \$30 at the Door

Raffle - Food - Table Setups
ALCOHOL WILL NOT BE SOLD-BYOB

Tickets & Table Reservations: Contact Debbie Szafran at 860-738-2303

Visit www.danceukraine.com for more information

Nearby Hotel: Extended Stay Hotel, 860-676-2790

Sponsored by Zolotyj Promin Ukrainian Dance Ensemble

PUB NIGHT
Friday, 30 Jan 2009
National Home In Hartford

Need a back issue?

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

PM demands...

(Continued from page 1)

exchange rate strengthened to about 7 hrv per \$1 in interbank trading, and has remained relatively stable since. Kiosks were buying dollars for about 7.5 hrv on December 23.

The sudden measures to strengthen the hryvnia didn't assuage Ms. Tymoshenko, who believes the exchange rate ought to be closer to 6-6.5 hrv per \$1.

The prime minister alleged the National Bank of Ukraine began printing 40 billion hrv starting October 1, under the pretext

that the extra money would allow banks to provide cash to depositors who were eligible to withdraw their money. (Banks are still forbidding Ukrainians from breaking their agreements on savings deposits, allowing withdrawals only when the deposit term is fulfilled.)

Instead of earmarking the money for withdrawals and supporting the hryvnia, Ms. Tymoshenko claimed top bankers acquired hryvni at a lower exchange rate and used their newly acquired cash to buy U.S. dollars, anticipating the hryvnia would fall even further, according to plan.

In exchange for the hryvni, the select

bankers offered the Mr. Stelmakh a bribe of 3 percent to 7 percent of the credit offered, the prime minister alleged.

Among those who most profited was Mr. Firtash, who received the biggest credit of 7.1 billion hrv, Ms. Tymoshenko charged.

In response, Mr. Firtash, who made billions from his role in the shady RosUkrEnergo natural gas intermediary, said he will sue Ms. Tymoshenko for libel in London's courts, which are notorious for their loose interpretation of libel laws that favor plaintiffs.

The prime minister wasn't alone in her calls for Mr. Stelmakh's resignation; she drew support from Arseniy Yatsenyuk, who served as the NBU's first vice-chair during the Orange Revolution.

Kyiv political insider Ivan Lozowy, president of the Institute of Statehood and Democracy, said he believes Ms. Tymoshenko's accusations are credible and accurate, considering it's unclear why the NBU chose a select group of bankers, out of 180 banks, to receive the 40 billion hrv emission.

"Stelmakh realizes he has one year left as National Bank chair and has provided for his comfortable retirement in a matter of weeks," he said, adding that the top banker also bought millions of dollars, thus undermining his nation's own currency.

For Mr. Stelmakh to engage in the scheme, the president would have had to give his approval and receive a cut of the bribes, Mr. Lozowy said. "This blatant type of corruption is unprecedented in Ukraine's history since independence," he said, adding that Yushchenko appears to be supporting it.

Though the Internal Affairs Ministry is investigating the allegations, prosecution isn't likely because the Presidential Secretariat has influence over the Procurator General's Office and its director, Oleksander Medvedko.

Ms. Tymoshenko has asked the independent Global Witness international investigations agency to review the financial transactions that occurred among Ukraine's bankers.

"I deeply regret that this person, I am referring to the nation's president, Yushchenko, with whom I stood on all the Orange 'maidany' and for whom I agitated for and convinced people that he's an honest and moral politician, and he's lowered himself to such a level today that it's shameful to even mention his name," Ms. Tymoshenko said December 20, also declaring her unequivocal opposition to the president and his entourage.

In its turn, the NBU blamed Ms. Tymoshenko's economic policies for the hryvnia's decline, and warned her against making such accusations out of concern that her remarks would further destabilize the Ukrainian economy.

"The government's activity in managing the economy has led to a situation in December in which the country could face internal default," said an NBU statement released December 19. "The government doesn't have funds today to pay wages, pensions, social payments and obligations of a foreign and domestic character."

President Yushchenko offered a similar response to the accusations, blaming the prime minister's trade policies for the country's economic troubles and accusing her of speculating on the current financial crisis in order to make political gains.

Commenting in a live national television interview on December 21, the president offered his own insults directed at the prime minister, indirectly calling her a "vorovka," or thief.

Ms. Tymoshenko's political world consists of two types of people, either "a whipped lackey or ... an enemy who will always be anathema," the president said. "There is no third position."

U.S. and Ukraine...

(Continued from page 1)

into Euro-Atlantic institutions "is a mutual priority," and that they plan to enhance their security cooperation in order to strengthen Ukraine's candidacy for NATO membership. This expanded cooperation will include "enhanced training and equipment for Ukrainian armed forces."

The charter includes expanding economic, trade and energy cooperation, developing U.S. cooperation with Ukraine's regions, "including Crimea," strengthening democratic institutions, and enhancing law enforcement against such common threats as terrorism, organized crime, trafficking, money laundering and cyber crime.

(The complete text of the United States-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership is reprinted on page 3.)

The day before his meeting with Secretary Rice, Minister Ohryzko discussed some of the elements of the document at the Ukrainian Embassy, during a meeting with representatives of Ukrainian American organizations.

The Strategic Partnership Charter they would sign is not only an important document that will deepen U.S.-Ukraine bilateral cooperation, he said. It will help quicken the pace of Ukraine's entry into NATO and the European community as well.

"This year we have made a strong surge in our bilateral relationship," Mr. Ohryzko said, and there is now "a new dynamism" in that relationship. The year also saw the establishment of a solid foundation for a pro-Western course in Ukraine's foreign policy and its goal of getting into the European Union, he added.

"Unfortunately, we were unable to make similar progress in resolving outstanding issues with the Russian Federation," he said, adding that the Kyiv-Moscow relationship had not moved forward, "practically speaking, on any of the outstanding issues."

Despite Ukraine's initiatives in numerous negotiations and meetings, Russia remains unwilling to seriously discuss bor-

der demarcation in the Azov and Black seas, the removal of its Black Sea fleet from Crimea by 2017 and other issues that remain "major irritants in our relations."

He called the presence of the Russian Black Sea Fleet a destabilizing factor in Crimea. Ukraine cannot demand its removal before 2017 because of its bilateral agreement with Russia. Earlier this year, he said, he presented the Russian foreign minister a memorandum about initiating preparatory discussions on the ultimate removal of the fleet. Russia refused to begin such discussions, Mr. Ohryzko said, possibly hoping that Ukraine will change its mind as Moscow argues for putting off the 2017 withdrawal.

"We will not agree to this," he stressed. The fleet will have to leave by May 27, 2017, he added.

The Ukrainian foreign affairs minister also discounted the economic argument made by some for keeping the Russian fleet there - because it provides employment for about 60,000 people in the area of Sevastopol. He cited the case of nearby Balaklava, which used to have a secret Soviet submarine base. After it was decommissioned and dismantled the area developed into a beautiful tourist attraction with hotels, restaurants and the like.

"We are convincing the people of Sevastopol that they would be much better off if the naval base were not there, because it is an impediment to the city's economic development," he said.

On the positive side of the Ukrainian-Russian bilateral ledger he pointed out that the two countries have learned to speak the truth to each other. Mr. Ohryzko expressed the hope that things will improve further in the coming year.

As for Ukraine's relationship with Ukrainian Americans, he expressed his country's gratitude for their efforts on behalf of Ukraine as it evolves into an influential country in Europe.

On his way to the meeting with Secretary of State Rice at the State Department, Mr. Ohryzko laid a wreath at the foot of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington.



Yaro Bihun

Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Ring in 2009 with family and friends as you are
Dancing to the music of

"CHETVERTA CHVYLYA"

Assorted Hors D'oeuvres Cocktail
hour 8pm to 9pm
Open Bar 8pm to 11pm
Cash bar to follow
BUFFET dinner 9pm to 11pm
You will Enjoy....
**Chicken Francese, Roast Beef,
Salmon with Dill Sauce**

Assorted Party Favors/ Hats
MIDNIGHT Champagne Toast
Coffee, Dessert and Bigus

Ticket Pricing:
\$105 per person, \$200 per couple.
\$45 per child ages 5 to 16, children 4 and under free

For tickets and more information, contact:
Oksana Telepko: 973-652-5389 / Zoryana Kovbasniuk: 973-884-3513
Markian Hamulak: 973-585-7175 or 862-754-6329

Seating is limited to a first come, first serve.
So reserve your tables now.
Don't be caught home alone or in the cold.
NO tickets to be sold at the door.

All outside beverages are strictly prohibited. Violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Ukrainian American Cultural Center of NJ, 60C North Jefferson Road, Whippany NJ 07981

*Retire in comfort and style,
open an IRA account at
Self Reliance New York
and relax*

4.34% APY*

IRA accounts at NCUA insured credit unions are insured separately up to \$250,000.

**SELF RELIANCE NEW YORK
Federal Credit Union**

Confidentiality, professionalism, ultimate value and service.

Main Office: 108 Second Avenue New York, NY 10003
Tel: 212 473-7310 Fax: 212 473-3251

Conveniently located Branches:

Kerhonkson:

6325 Route 209 Kerhonkson, NY 12446

Tel: 845 626-2938 Fax: 845 626-8636

Uniondale:

226 Uniondale Ave. Uniondale, NY 11553

Tel: 516 565-2393 Fax: 516 565-2097

Astoria:

32-01 31st Avenue Astoria, NY 11106

Tel: 718 626-0506 Fax: 718 626-0458

Lindenhurst:

225 N. 4th Street Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Tel: 631 867-5990 Fax: 631 867-5989

Visit our website:

www.selfreliance.ny.org

E-mail:

info@selfreliance.ny.org

Outside NYC call toll free:

1-888-735-3735

*APY - Annual Percentage Yield based on a 4.25% rate, subject to change without prior notice.

Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith of the United States government.

NCUA

National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency
U.S. Government Agency



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Something strange about Ukrainian Christmas

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Yours truly, your involuntarily appointed Ukrainian Christmas guru, was asked recently to give examples of some unusual aspects of Ukrainian Christmas. Well, to the average non-Ukrainian person, “unusual” and “Ukrainian Christmas” would be synonymous. Not that English, American or Canadian Christmas is that usual – with reindeer, and fat men in red, and cut-down trees standing indoors, and, well... you get it.

Let’s see, for Ukrainian Christmas, in plain language, we’ve got a Christmas Eve feast that has no meat and no dairy products – and yet there is very much satisfying food, your mother and other female relatives having spent the past weeks cooking and baking the most exotic comfort foods; there is an empty chair and place setting for the departed, i.e., the dead, and the food on their plate is left out all night for their enjoyment; the animals (OK, nowadays, the pets) are served

a bit of the dinner food before the family sits down to the meal; there are garlic cloves in the corners of the table under the tablecloth; the father may toss some food to the ceiling; the time to begin dinner is not indicated by the clock, but by the appearance of the first star; your Christmas Day is not complete unless at least a few groups of people have come in, sung up a storm, eaten and drunk, taken a donation from you and gone on to the next address; it was good luck if, as early as possible on New Year’s morning a boy came to your door, you let him in, and he scattered wheat kernels all over your house, tossing them at the walls and ceiling...

All this is not unusual, it is perfectly normal.

So, I began searching for the really unusual Christmas, New Year’s, and Yordan (Epiphany) traditions that have been forgotten, or were very regional. There are certainly more than enough of these.



“Christmas Is Here,” a glasspainting by Yaroslava Surmach Mills, from a card printed by the Surma Book and Music Co,



“Christmas Carolers,” a watercolor by Luba Maksymchuk, from a UNA Christmas card.

One that procrastinators will like: not only was the one place setting left for the ancestors – it was considered a sin to clear the table after the Sviata Vecheria and wash the dishes that night. All of the dishes were to be left on the table as they were until morning. The souls of the ancestors would have their fill during the night.

Men in drag were very popular, indeed mandatory, around New Year’s Eve. The Malanka character was a young man (the bigger the mustache the better) dressed up as a flirtatious young woman, Malanka. With a group of koliadnyky/schedrivnyky (carolers) he would act out the verses of the silly songs, doing everything in the opposite way. A guy dressed as a goat was also required. Other masked characters joined the merry band.

Also on New Year’s Eve, the young men would gather (OK, steal) from people’s yards anything flammable that was not tied down– such as wooden utensils and equipment, straw, corn stalks, whatever. These were piled into small bonfires at street intersections, and the guys leapt over the fire for good luck and to protect themselves from harm in the new year.

We have seen the Ukrainian version of the Polar Bear Club in news reports from Ukraine, where people from the president on down jump into the open spaces cut out of the frozen rivers after the waters have been blessed on Yordan (the Feast of Jordan – Christ’s baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist.) This newly blessed water

was believed to have healing properties and would protect you from harm (if you didn’t get a deathly chill from the freezing water).

A really strange tradition is the fisticuffs held on Yordan. Sometimes these began at Christmas and lasted to just before Lent. Yes, fisticuffs, formalized fist fights. In particular regions of central and eastern Ukraine, young men would gather to fight. The teams would be neighboring villages or, in large villages, different sections of the same village. In towns, the merchants would fight the townspeople, or the tradesmen would fight the seminarians or students. The opponents were constant, from generation to generation. There were unwritten rules – something the NHL should emulate – no hitting when someone is down and no hitting from the back. Often these fights ended in the tavern, with all the teams merrymaking together.

We can see why it is a good thing that some of these traditions are now a distant memory. They certainly would not be practical today. And yet, what we still observe during our Ukrainian Christmas season is not all that practical either. That’s just the way traditions are.

There is a saying among the old-timers about traditions: “We did not invent them, and it is not up to us to change them” (Ne my yikh pryduamy, ne nam yikh i vid-miniaty.)

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

Alberta archives/museum holds Christmas decorations workshop

EDMONTON, Alberta – The Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA) held its third folk arts and crafts workshop. In keeping with the holiday season, the theme of the workshop was decoration-making. Participants made miniature dolls and angels to use as ornaments on their Christmas trees.

Khrystyna Kohut opened the workshop by welcoming participants and introducing Natalie Kononenko from the University of Alberta Kule Centre for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore and students Genia Boivin, Svitlana Kukharenko and Yanina Vihovska.

Prof. Kononenko then spoke briefly about Ukrainian Christmas traditions. These celebrated the nativity of Christ and also helped people articulate their sense of the cycle of nature, the end of one year and hope for the year to come. Many old traditions involved crops and crop fertility, often combined with a religious meaning.

After talking about traditional celebrations, participants viewed a short film showing Ukrainian Christmas on the Canadian Prairies as it was celebrated over 50 years ago.

In all of the old traditions, Prof. Kononenko pointed out, the Christmas tree is missing. Yet it is very much a part of Christmas today, both in Canada and Ukraine. The Christmas tree, or “yalynka,” is a relatively new tradition, but one

that has been thoroughly integrated into Ukrainian life.

An interesting folktale is called “Spiders at Christmas.” It illustrates the fact that Ukrainians did not really have a traditional way of decorating their trees. Prof. Kononenko told this story, addressing it particularly to the children in the audience, and said that, as the tree has been adopted and adapted, so workshop participants were going to adapt traditional dolls to give a Ukrainian feel to their trees.

The highpoint of the workshop was the construction of three dolls, an angel made out of a square of fabric, a cotton ball and embroidery thread; a doll built around a birch bark core (substituted with a paper core for this workshop); and a doll made of rolled-up strips of fabric. Both the paper core doll and the one built on fabric strips could be dressed up in a variety of ways to reflect Ukrainian traditional clothing. The fabric doll could be made up as either a boy dressed in Hutsul trousers and a keptar, or a girl dressed in a scarf (khustka) and a skirt.

As Prof. Kononenko pointed out, once the basics of doll construction are learned, almost endless variation is possible. Sure enough, several participants made their own interpretations of the various dolls, creating little hand-made treasures.



Genia Boivin, a graduate student at the University of Alberta, shows off the angel she made during a Christmas decorations workshop.

CLASSIFIEDS

TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL MARIA OSCISLAWSKI (973) 292-9800 x 3040
OR E-MAIL ADUKR@OPTONLINE.NET

SERVICES

TRIDENT*
Associates Printing
Terre - St. Catharines
Buffalo, NY

Українська Друкарня
ТРИЗУБ
Торонто - Ст. Кетерінс
Борфало, Н.Я.

COMMERCIAL PRINTING
UNIQUE ENGRAVED INVITATIONS
WITH UKRAINIAN DESIGNS

Graphic Design • Custom Imprinting

Toll Free 1-800-216-9136
Tel. (905) 938-5050 Fax (905) 938-1003

We can also print from your camera ready copy

FIRST QUALITY
UKRAINIAN TRADITIONAL-STYLE
MONUMENTS
SERVING NY/NJ/CT REGION CEMETERIES

**OBLAST
MEMORIALS**

P.O. BOX 746
Chester, NY 10918
845-469-4247

BILINGUAL/HOME APPOINTMENTS

One-on-One
PSAT / SAT / ACT Tutoring

Foundation for Learning
Locations in Harding & Randolph
973-895-1774

Друкарня
COMPUTOPRINT Corp.
Established 1972
Clifton, New Jersey

виконує друкарські роботи:

- книжки (в твердій і м'якій обкладинці)
- журнали (з експозицією, або без)
- канцелярські друки
- весільні запрошення (в укр. і англ. мовах)

Ваші замовлення виконуємо сумлінно, скоро і на час та з 30-літнім досвідом!

973-574-8800
Факс: 973-574-8887
e-mail: computoprint@aol.com

MERCHANDISE



LvivArt.com

Ukrainian Book Store

Largest selection of Ukrainian books, dance supplies, Easter egg supplies, music, icons, greeting cards, giftwear and much more.

10215-97st
Edmonton, AB T5J 2N9
Toll free: 1-866-422-4255
www.ukrainianbookstore.com

PROFESSIONALS

ЛОНГІН СТАРУХ
Професійний продавець
забезпечення УНС

LONGIN STARUCH
Licensed Agent
Ukrainian National Assn., Inc.

312 Maple St., Kerhonkson, NY 12446
Tel.: 800-673-5150 or 845-626-2058
e-mail: LVSTARUCH@aol.com

GEORGE B. KORDUBA
Counsellor at Law

Emphasis on Real Estate, Wills, Trusts and Elder Law
Ward Witty Drive, P.O. Box 249
MONTVILLE, NJ 07045
Hours by Appointment Tel.: (973) 335-4555

**LAW OFFICES OF
ZENON B. MASNYJ, ESQ.**

In the East Village since 1983

Serious personal injury, real estate for personal and business use, representation of small and mid-size businesses, securities arbitration, divorce, wills and probate.

(By Appointment Only)

29 EAST 7th STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10003
(212) 477-3002

OPPORTUNITY

EARN EXTRA INCOME!

The Ukrainian Weekly is looking for advertising sales agents. For additional information contact Maria Oscislawski, Advertising Manager, The Ukrainian Weekly, (973) 292-9800, ext 3040.

FOR SALE

Cemetery Crypt For Sale
Venice Memorial Gardens, Venice, FL
Ukrainian Section, Top Level

Please call Irene
713.789.0239

WANT IMPACT?

Run your advertisement here, in The Ukrainian Weekly's CLASSIFIEDS section.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

Mr. Yushchenko of being involved in corrupt schemes linked to the hryvnia's devaluation and said that he must resign. Mr. Yushchenko said on TV on December 21 that the prime minister is responsible for the policies she is currently following. He described her as a "shady lady" and recalled that she "had been stealing gas." The president said that the prime minister was "standing behind his back" during the Orange Revolution on Independence Square for the sake of her own political career, rather than for the sake of the struggle for Ukrainian values. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine represented in 81 countries

KYIV – Three days before their professional holiday, which is annually marked on December 22, Ukrainian diplomats presented the ninth issue of a scholarly annual magazine titled Diplomatic Ukraine. The chairman of the International Cooperation Assistance Foundation, former Foreign Affairs Minister Anatolii Zlenko said that in 2008 the number of countries in which the Ukrainian diplomatic institutions are operating had grown to 81, and five Ukrainian diplomatic offices are represented in international organizations. A total of 103 diplomatic offices of foreign countries and international organizations are operating in Ukraine, including 69 embassies, 19 consulates general and 15 offices of international organizations. The country's legal base includes over 4,000 documents, including 360 agreements signed with Russia, 141 with the United States, and 1,094 with EU countries. (Ukrinform)

Tymoshenko most influential

KYIV – Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko is ranked atop Ukraine's 200 most influential persons, according to Focus magazine, Editor-in-Chief Mykhailo Hladkykh reported. He also said that President Viktor Yushchenko ranked the second this year, while in 2007 he was in first place. The rating of Ukraine's 200 most influential persons also includes the following: National Deputy and co-owner of the SCM-Holding Rinat Akhmetov (3), leader of the Party of Regions Viktor Yanukovich (4), co-owner of the Pryvat Group Ihor Kolomoyskyi (5), Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn (6), DF Holding owner and co-owner of RosUkrEnergo Dmytro Firtash (7), Presidential Secretariat Chief Viktor Baloha (8), Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi (9) and owner of the InterPipe Group Viktor Pinchuk (10). This year the names of 50 new most influential persons, representing the regional elite and local authorities, appeared in the ranking. (Ukrinform)

External debt grows by 7.6 percent

KYIV – Ukraine's gross external debt totaled \$105.429 billion (U.S.) in the third quarter of 2008, which is 7.6 percent or \$7.425 billion up from the level of 2007. According to the National Bank of Ukraine, bank debts grew over the period from \$38.433 billion to \$42.117 billion, while debts in other economic branches rose from \$10.681 billion to \$44.339 billion. (Ukrinform)

Akhmetov: seek experts' advice

DONETSK – Businessman and National Deputy Rinat Akhmetov commented at a news conference on December 19 on the current situation in Ukraine and suggested possible mechanisms to overcome the economic downturn. He said the country today strongly needs fast and efficient decisions. In order to assess the situation in Ukraine, without any shame, Ukraine should invite world's best experts, he said, adding everyone will then see the

correctness of the decisions taken. "You have come to an exchange office, the dollar is 10 hrv today, 8 hrv tomorrow and 6 hrv the day after tomorrow. So we are on the right path," he said. First and foremost, such fast and effective decisions must be taken by the parliamentary coalition, the businessman stated. (Ukrinform)

IMF predicts slower GDP growth

KYIV – The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on December 17 predicted that Ukraine's GDP growth would fall by 5 percent in 2009, the head of the main service for social and economic development at the Presidential Secretariat, Roman Zhukovskiy, said. He explained that the position of the Ukraine's Economy Ministry also influenced a review of the IMF's outlook for 2009. In early October the International Monetary Fund altered Ukraine's inflation forecast for 2009 from 13.4 percent to 14.7 percent, the average annual inflation from 15.7 percent to 18.8 percent, and GDP growth from 4.2 percent to 2.5 percent. In November 2008, Ukraine's real gross domestic product fell by 14.4 percent year-over-year, to 75.38 billion hrv. (Ukrinform)

265 million hrv in contraband seized

KYIV – The State Border Guard Service detained contraband valued at 265 million hrv, First Vice-Chairman of the State Border Guard Service Pavlo Shysholin reported on December 19. He said this amount had been returned to the state budget. Over the first 11 months of 2008 border guards seized 586 units of weapons, 7,316 units of ammunition, eight kilograms of explosives and 435 kilograms of narcotics. Over 83 million persons and 16.7 million vehicles have been registered at checkpoints; 52,000 persons were denied entry – 28,000 of whom were potential illegal migrants. In 2008 the number of illegal migrants primarily from Southeast Asia, who were deported out of the country, increased by 11 percent; the number of cases instituted against organizers of illegal movement of migrants grew threefold; and the number of persons imprisoned for organization of illegal migration went up sevenfold. (Ukrinform)

EC supports Ukraine's energy efficiency

KYIV – The European Commission is ready to allocate 70 million euros to development of energy efficiency in Ukraine in 2009, according to a statement issued on December 19 by the National Agency on Effective Use of Energy Resources. The funds will be allocated under the condition of fulfillment of cross obligations by the Cabinet, for instance, lowering the power intensity index for the established period. It is planned that financing will be carried out according to indices determined by a joint working group of representatives of the European Commission, the National Agency on Effective Use of Energy Resources, the Economy Ministry, the National Commission for Electric Energy Regulation and the Finance Ministry. On November 19 the Cabinet had approved a Concept of State Target Economic Energy Efficiency Program for 2010-2015. The Ukrainian economy is one of the world's most energy-intensive economies. (Ukrinform)

Redeeming Stepan Bandera's honor

KYIV – Academician Ihor Yukhnovskiy, director of the National Memory Institute, has tasked his colleagues to restore the good name of Stepan Bandera, a leader of the Ukrainian national liberation movement. The attitude to this person is contradictory, Dr. Yukhnovskiy noted on December 19. To some people he is a symbol of the strength of the Ukrainian spirit, while others say he is a bandit and terror-

(Continued on page 15)

Businessmen, politicians...

(Continued from page 1)

During his visit, Santa Claus led a charity evening with political and business leaders at Kyiv's central puppet theater, visited schoolchildren and orphans, and met with his Ukrainian counterpart, Sviatyi Mykolai (St. Nicholas), during a festive evening at Taras Shevchenko Park.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian traditions received a boost from Kyiv City Council Deputy Ivan Plachkov, who financially sponsored the monthlong "Revival of Traditions" Christmas holiday festival at the historic St. Sophia Cathedral National Museum in the heart of Kyiv.

The festivities began on St. Nicholas Feast Day on December 19, in which boys from the Rozumovskiy State Choir Academy performed in the cathedral and then gathered around the mystical visitor to receive gifts.

Other events include a December 25 "vertep" performance, traditional folk carols, or "koliady" on January 7, a January 13 "Malanka" led by pop legend Oleh Skrypka, a St. Basil (Vasyl) Feast Day children's vertep competition and the Feast of Theophany Feast on January 19.

A leader in reviving Ukrainian culture, Mr. Skrypka said he sponsors the Christmas festival at St. Sophia in order to help Ukrainians reconnect with their spiritual and cultural roots, which were ruined by the Soviets. Under their rule, New Year's Day replaced Christmas as the most festive holiday of the year.

"I only began to learn of Mykolai maybe seven years ago," said Mr. Skrypka, a Ukrainian who spent his childhood in Tajikistan and Russia. "My parents brought me (to Ukraine) only in the summer, which is why I didn't know about the Christmas holidays."

As part of tradition on St. Nicholas Feast Day, Donbas industrial king Rinat Akhmetov, accompanied by Russian composer and close friend Igor Krutoy, visited a Donetsk orphanage to distribute presents.

Mr. Akhmetov has led the "Shakhtar for Kids" campaign for eight years, and this year he and Mr. Krutoy offered financial donations to 142 children's institutions in the Donetsk Oblast.

As part of the campaign, more than 17,000 less fortunate children received gifts for Christmas, ranging from chocolates to Shakhtar Donetsk football souvenirs.



Zenon Zawada

Kyiv City Council Deputy Ivan Plachkov (right) financially sponsored the "Revival of Traditions" monthlong festival at the St. Sophia Cathedral National Museum. He is accompanied by the Rev. Archpriest Mykola Kryhin, dean of the Holy Assumption Spiritual Youth Center of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

ist. That is why it is necessary to clear Bandera's reputation from Soviet-era mythology, it was pointed out during a roundtable meeting at the institute at which scholars discussed the role and place of Bandera in the Ukrainian national liberation movement of the 1920s-1950s. Dr. Yukhnovskiy noted that Bandera was considered to be dangerous by three occupational regimes: the Polish authorities in 1936 sentenced him to death, the Nazi regime in 1941 placed him in a concentration camp for declaring Ukraine's independence in Lviv, and the Soviet regime organized his murder abroad in 1959. Historian Volodymyr Viatrovych, who has studied Bandera's life, noted that "the logical move toward recognition of Stepan Bandera as a fighter for national independence would be granting him the Hero of Ukraine title." He said that both in Ukraine and abroad certain political circles would protest such a move. Yet, in his opinion, Bandera stands in line with such leaders of the liberation movement as Roman Shukhevych, who was recently granted this honorary title, which also provoked controversy among politicians. Historian Vasyl Derevytskyi, having drawn parallels between Bandera, Poland's Jozef Pilsudski, Israel's Menachem Begin and Ireland's Michael Collins, whose names are inseparably linked with the ideas of their coun-

tries' sovereignty, stressed that there is every ground to believe Bandera's political activity to be "a foundation stone in the building of Ukraine's state sovereignty." (Ukrinform)

Lutsk designated as historical city

KYIV – Ancient Lutsk, the regional center of the Volyn region in western Ukraine, was accepted in the international organization League of Historical Cities, president of the League, Kyoto Mayor Daisaku Kadokawa informed Lutsk Mayor Bohdan Shyba, it was reported on December 18. Membership in the League of Historical Cities is proof of world recognition of the uniqueness and significance of Lutsk as one of the most ancient Ukrainian cities. The first record of the city dates to 1085, Mr. Shyba noted. The designation, he explained, will give Lutsk an opportunity to establish closer ties with most famous historical cities, and preserve and develop its own historical heritage, including over 30 architectural monuments. Among them is the almost fully preserved famous castle of Liubart of the 14th-16th centuries. In the Middle Ages Lutsk was called "Little Rome" due to the number of Roman Catholic churches located there. In the 21st century Volyn's regional center received the all-Ukrainian Best Improved City award several times. According to Mr. Shyba, the mayor of Kyoto has already invited a delegation from Lutsk to participate in the

20th world conference of historical cities, which is supposed to take place in the city of Nara, Japan, in 2010. The League of Historical Cities was established in 1987. It now includes 76 member-cities, among them Athens, Brussels, Budapest, Jerusalem, Paris and Riga. Ukraine is represented by Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa and Lutsk. (Ukrinform)

Teliha plaque unveiled near Prague

KYIV – A memorial plaque dedicated to poetess and public figure Olena Teliha of Ukraine (1906-1942) was unveiled in the Czech town of Podebrady, not far from Prague, it was reported on December 16. The plaque is set on a sanatorium building where Teliha lived with her parents in 1922-1928. The poetess was born in the Moscow region in 1906 in the family of scientist Ivan Shobgenov. The family then moved to Ukraine. Beginning in 1922 Teliha lived in Podebrady and graduated from a secondary school there. In 1926 she married Mikhail Teliha, a Kuban Cossack and a former soldier of the Ukrainian National Republic. In 1941, when the Germans occupied Kyiv, the Telihas

returned to Kyiv. Olena Teliha started to publish the anthology "Litavry" and founded the Union of Ukrainian Writers. She condemned communism and fascism, openly criticizing Stalin and Hitler. The Telihas were then imprisoned and shot at Babyn Yar in February 1942, along with representatives of the Ukrainian underground. (Ukrinform)

NOC Ukraine marks 18th anniversary

KYIV –The National Olympic Committee (NOC) of Ukraine on December 22 marked the 18th anniversary of its establishment. In September 1993, the International Olympic Committee finally approved this historical decision taken by the first general assembly of NOC founders. The National Olympic Committee of Ukraine currently unites 40 federations of Olympic sports. The committee was headed by Olympic champion Valerii Borzov (1990-1998), Ivan Fedorenko (1998-2002), Viktor Yanukovych (2002-2005). Since June 23, 2005, the committee has been headed by Olympic champion Serhii Bubka. (Ukrinform)



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що дня 16 листопада 2008 р.,
в Чикаго, Ілліной відійшла на Вічну Ватру

пл. сен. праці
МОТРІЯ СОСЕНКО з дому ЧОРНОБІЛЬ

Висловлюємо наші найщиріші співчуття мужеві ЮРКОВІ
донькам АНЕТІ, АЛАНІ та синові АДРІЯНОВІ.

Пам'ять про Неї буде завжди з нами.

40-ий Курінь УПС,
16-ий Курінь УСП
«Чорноморські Хвилі»

В ПЕРШУ РІЧНИЦЮ СМЕРТИ
(2 грудня 2008 року) нашої найдорожчої МАМИ

СВ. П.
ІЗАБЕЛЛИ ОМЕЦІНСЬКОЇ
з дому Возняк

і

В ДЕСЯТУ РІЧНИЦЮ СМЕРТИ
(22 грудня 2008 року) нашого незабутнього ТАТА

СВ. П.
ЗЕНОНА ТАРАСА ОМЕЦІНСЬКОГО

була відправлена СЛУЖБА БОЖА і ПАНАХИДА
2 грудня 2008 року

в українській католицькій церкві Богоявлення в Рочестері, Н. Й.

Залишені в смутку:

сини – ВОЛОДИМИР з дружиною МАРІЄЮ і сином МИХАСИКОМ
– РОМАН

Просимо про молитви за спокій душ Покійних.

Вічна пам'ять нашим Батькам!

SPORTSLINE

Soccer

• Ukraine's National Soccer Team was ranked 15th for its performance in 2008, FIFA announced on December 17. The Ukrainian team had its highest rating (11th place) from September 2006 to November 2007. Last year Ukraine finished in 30th place.

• Dynamo Kyiv defeated Fenerbahce SK 1-0 on December 10 in Group G of the UEFA Champions League. Dynamo's Roman Eremenko scored the lone goal in the 20th minute of play after a pass by Artem Milevskiy. Dynamo finished in Group G in third place with eight points, two wins, two draws and two losses, with four goals for and four against. Despite the win, Dynamo did not advance past the group stage, as only the top two teams in each group advance to the next round.

• Shakhtar Donetsk defeated Barcelona 3-2 in Group C of the UEFA Champions League match on December 9. Scoring for Shakhtar were Oleksandr Gladkiy with two goals, in the 31st and the 58th minutes, and Fernandinho in the 76th minute off of a cross from Razvan Rat. Shakhtar improved to three wins and three losses, 11 goals for and seven against, and after six games played, with nine points, finished in third place in Group C. The top two teams from each group advance to the next stage.

• FC Metalist Kharkiv defeated SL Benfica 1-0 on December 18 in their last match of the group stage, with substitute Olexandr Rykun scoring in the 84th minute. Metalist finished Group B in the UEFA Cup in first place with 10 points after four games played, with three wins, one draw and no losses, and three goals aggregate.

• Ukraine defeated Kazakhstan 3-0 on December 9 at the UEFA U-21 Futsal (indoor soccer) Tournament. Goals were scored by Vitaliy Gavrylenko in the second minute, Dmytro Sorokin in the 20th minute and Dmitriy Klochko in the 39th minute. Ukraine defeated the Netherlands 3-2 on December 8 with goals for Ukraine scored by Klochko in the 11th minute, and Sergiy Zhurba with two goals in the 25th and 36th minutes. Spain defeated Ukraine 2-1 on December 11 with Andrei Kolesnikov scoring the lone goal in the 14th minute for Ukraine. Ukraine suffered a second loss 1-0 in its semi-final match against Russia on December 12. Ukraine finished the group stage in second place with six points, two wins and one loss, with seven goals for and four against.

• Oleh Mkrтчian, director general of the Industrial Union of Donbas, on December 17 bought 75 percent of the stock of the FC Kuban Joint Stock Company, located in Krasnodar, Russia, Ligabusinessinform.com reported. The remaining 25 percent of the stock belongs to the administrator of the Krasnodar Territory of Russia. Mr. Mkrтчian's IUD partner Serhiy Taruta owns FC Metalurg Donetsk.

Fencing

• The Ukrainian women's fencing team won four medals at the Junior Fencing World Cup in Leszno, Poland, on December 1: one gold medal by Anastasia Moskovska and three bronze medals by Kateryna Chentsova and Klod Yunes.

• Yevgenia Sregina won a bronze medal and Yaroslav Ponomarenko won the silver medal in epee at the Junior World Cup in Laupheim, Germany.

• Ukraine's junior men's foil team of Rostislav Gertsig, Igor Revutskiy, Klod Yunes and Vladimir Koltygo won the gold medal, and Ukraine's junior men's



Wladimir Klitschko pounds Hasim Rahman during a bout in Mannheim, Germany.

epee fencing team of Denys Boreyko, Yaroslav Ponomarenko, Anatoliya Herey and Yevhen Makiyenko won the bronze medal at the Junior Fencing Championship in Amsterdam on November 10. Anastasia Moskovska won the bronze in the women's doubles event.

Chess

• The Ukrainian women's chess team won second place at the 38th Chess Olympiad Dresden 2008 on November 26. The Ukrainian team defeated its Polish challengers 2.5-1.5. The Olympiad attracted 154 men's and 116 women's teams.

• Yevhen Miroshnichenko won the 77th Ukrainian Chess Championship in Kyiv. The tournament, held according to the Swiss system, attracted 26 players, including 18 grandmasters and eight international and national masters.

• Inna Haponenko won a tournament of chess champions in Mykolaiv, Ukraine, on December 13. Haponenko, who finished with 8.5/11, won a silver medal at the 2008 World Chess Olympiad with the Ukrainian Chess Team.

Judo

• The junior Ukrainian judo team finished in fifth place at the European Judo Championship for Young Seniors, held in the city of Zagreb, Croatia, on November 23.

Viacheslav Denysov won the gold medal in the 100 kg division, and Vladislav Potapov (90 kg) won the bronze medal.

Figure skating

• Ukraine's pair skaters Tetiana Volosozhar and Stanislav Morozov won the bronze medal at the Russia's Cup, as part of the International Skating Union's Grand Prix series, on November 23. The Ukrainians finished five of the six competitions of the series with 24 points and are set to participate in the world finals in Korea.

• Alla Beknazarova and Volodymyr Zuyev won first place at the Golden Spin international figure skating competition in Zagreb, Croatia, on November 16. The young pair finished in second place in compulsory and free dance events, but won in original dance with 179.17 points. Other Ukrainian couples included Nadia Florenkova/Mykhaylo Kaslo and Alin Saprykina/Pavlo Khimich, who finished in second and third places, respectively. Kateryna Kostenko and Roman Talan won the bronze medal for Ukraine.

Cycling

Ukraine's indoor track cycling team won six medals – two gold, one silver and three bronze – at the UCI Track Cycling World Cup Classic at the Hisense Arena in Melbourne, Australia, on November 22. Liubov Shulika won the sprint event, Vitaly Shchedov won the bronze medal in the individual pursuit, Andriy Vynokurov won silver in men's keirin, a cycling sprint, and Ukraine's men's team won bronze in the team sprint.

Boxing

• Vitali Klitschko (36-2, 35 KO) is scheduled to fight British undisputed cruiserweight champion David Haye (22-1 21 KO) in London, sometime in the summer of 2009, as announced on December 13. Klitschko is the WBC super-heavyweight champion. Some pre-fight tension between the fighters came when Haye posed with a picture of Wladimir Klitschko's head in his hand for Men's Health magazine in England. Vitali made it clear that such behavior is seen as a provocation.

• Wladimir Klitschko (52-3, 46 KO) the IBF, IBO and WBO world super-heavyweight champion, retained his IBF belt with a seventh-round technical knockout (TKO) of challenger Hasim Rahman (45-6-2) in Mannheim, Germany, on December 13. Referee Tony Weeks stopped the bout 44 seconds into the seventh as Klitschko landed a barrage of left hooks. This TKO was Klitschko's sixth defense of his IBF belt (the third one this year). President Viktor Yushchenko congratulated the champion boxer on his victory. "Ukrainians are proud of you – an invincible fighter embodying the strength and glory of the nation," the president said in a letter of congratulations.

• Oleksander Usik won the silver medal at the AIBA World Cup in Moscow on December 13. An ear injury he sustained in training did not allow the boxer to continue into the finals.

• The World Boxing Council confirmed on November 6 that WBC super-heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko's (36-2, 35 KO) next mandatory fight will be against challenger Juan Carlos Gomez (44-1, 35 KO) of Cuba, held in early 2009. Other details are still in negotiations.

• Vasyl Lomachenko was declared the best boxer at the European Boxing Championship in Liverpool, England, on November 18. Lomachenko (57 kg), a 2008 Olympic gold medal winner, won the gold medal. Other Ukrainian champi-

ons included Heorhiy Chihayev (51 kg), Ia Senay (75 kg) and Oleksander Usik (81 kg).

• Viacheslav Uzelkov (20-0, 12 KO) defended his light-heavyweight WBA Inter-Continental title against Alejandro Lakatus (29-4-2, 22 KO) of Romania, who resides in Spain, by unanimous decision on November 15. The judges scored 118-112, 115-113 and 115-112.

Olympics

Uzhhorod applied for hosting the International Children's Games in 2012, said Oleh Podebriy, press secretary of the City Council. Preliminary estimates speculated that \$3 million would be needed for preparations. The games are expected to attract competitors from 60 countries.

Sambo

The Ukrainian Sambo team won nine medals at the World Sambo Championship in St. Petersburg, Russia, on November 18. Viktor Savinov won the gold medal in the 74 kg division. Ukraine's women's team finished in third place.

Tennis

• Olena and Kateryna Bondarenko were ranked 10th and 11th, respectively, in the World Tennis Association doubles. Maria Korytseva ranked 41st, Tetiana Perebyinis 66th and Olha Savchuk 84th. In singles, Olena Bondarenko is ranked 33rd by the WTA. Other Ukrainians in the top 100 include Kateryna Bondarenko (62nd), Korytseva (67th) and Perebyinis (90th).

• Ukrainian tennis player Oksana Liubtsova won her second International Tennis Federation ladies doubles title at an international tennis tournament in Germany on November 12. Liubtsova, paired with Ksenia Pervak of Russia, defeated the German doubles team of Julia Goerges and Aura Siegemund 6-2, 4-6, (10-7).

Volleyball

The Ukrainian women's team Budivelnik won first place at an international volleyball tournament in Lviv on December 9. Last year's champions, from Poland's Rzeszow University, won second place, and third place went to Prometey from Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.

Gymnastics

Oleksandr Vorbiyov won the all-around at the 14th Artistic Gymnastics World Cup in Madrid on December 13. Vorbiyov, a 2008 Olympic bronze-medal winner, won the gold medal in men's rings. Valeriy Honcharov won the bronze medal in the men's bar exercise.

Basketball

Oleksandra Horbunova, a forward on Ukraine's national basketball team, was nominated by FIBA Europe for "Player of the Year." The report, by the FIBA press service on December 15, said that Horbunova is one of 14 candidates for the honor. Voting is by the FIBA Europe website (www.fibaeurope.com), and results will be announced in February 2009.

Biathlon

Ukraine's men's biathlon team, Viacheslav Derkach, Andriy Deryzemlia, Oleh Berezhnyi and Serhiy Sedniev, won third place in the second stage relay-race at the World Cup Biathlon in Hochfilzen, Austria, on December 15. Russia won first and Austria won second place.

– compiled by Matthew Dubas

Ukrainian American Youth Association holds 25th national convention

by Oksana Bartkiv

DETROIT – The Ukrainian American Youth Association’s (UAYA) 25th national convention was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center near Detroit, on November 14-16. The event was officially opened by past UAYA past president Bohdan Harhaj, who greeted the convention’s 82 delegates from cities around the United States.

Delegates solemnly honored the victims of the 1932-1932 Holodomor and remembered those UAYA members who have passed on in the past three years with a moment of silence.

Presiding at the convention was Roman Kozicky, who expertly guided the two-day proceedings. Reports were heard from officers, who spoke in detail of the successes and challenges during the national executive’s three-year term, and answered many questions posed by delegates.

A number of committee worked throughout the day to formulate organizational, budgetary, membership, educational, and other goals, as well as plans for the next three-year term. Among the committees was one dedicated to increasing active membership of the UAYA’s “Druzhynnyky,” those age 18 and up who commonly are geographically distanced from their families and their UAYA branch while studying at university and starting out on new careers. The commission formulated a number of ideas to give young members the opportunity to remain active within the organization, and maintain contact with their friends and colleagues through organized events and through online networking resources on the Internet.

A grand banquet was held on Saturday

evening to celebrate both the triennial national convention and the 50th anniversary of the Detroit UAYA’s Kyiv Estate resort. Askold Lozynskyj, a past president of the UAYA in America, as well as former president of the Ukrainian World Congress, gave the keynote address, telling of the rich history of the Kyiv Estate, as well as reminding young UAYA members of the importance of preserving their language and heritage. Founding members of Kyiv Estate were honored with awards for their many years of dedicated service.

Sunday’s program began with liturgy at the St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Warren, Mich. The delegates then continued the work of individual committees, proposing resolutions for the plenary session of the convention to adopt.

A number of members were honored for 25 or 35 years of outstanding service, while others were honored for their work in various spheres of the youth organization’s work. The national executive’s Ceremonial Banner, which is entrusted every three years to the most outstanding UAYA branch in America, was passed on to the Yonkers, N.Y., branch for its multifaceted and exemplary work. Andriy Burchak, branch president accepted the banner with thanks to the national executive.

A new national executive was duly elected by the convention. The newly elected national president, Andriy Bihun of the UAYA branch in Goshen N.Y., was greeted with enthusiastic applause as he spoke to delegates of the importance of activism among the organization’s membership, promising three years of dedicated and enthusiastic work on the part of the national executive.




Representatives of the Yonkers, N.Y., branch receive the UAYA Ceremonial Banner in recognition of the branch’s exemplary work over the past three years.



Askold Lozynskyj delivers the keynote address.



UAYA’s former President Bohdan Harhaj and newly elected President Andriy Bihun.



HOW THE ANIMALS BUILT THEIR HOUSE AND OTHER STORIES
Children’s Folktales from Ukraine

Available at Surma in New York City, at selected bookstores in Canada, and on Amazon

Original illustrations by artists in Ukraine
winterlightbooks.com

Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year

from the enchanting **Verkhovyna Resort**

The place for your special event, party, wedding, banquets, fairs, festivals, vacations & room rentals

Home of the 34th Verkhovyna Ukrainian Festival
July 17-19, 2009

www.Verkhovyna.com MVresort.com
369 High Rd., Glen Spey, NY 12737 845 856-1105

Ruslana wows audiences in Toronto and Montreal

by Marika Sochan

MONTREAL – Popular Ukrainian singer Ruslana impressed audiences in Toronto (on November 13) and Montreal (on November 14) with an energetic program of song and dance numbers from her new album “Wild Energy” as well as her past hits and Ukrainian folk songs.

The audience was enthusiastic and joined in during the refrains of favorite songs.

At the Montreal concert, young people age 4 to their 20s came up to the front of the theater with Ukrainian flags and encouraged the group during the last portion of the concert. They were rewarded with an even more enthusiastic performance by the singer and her back-up dancers, complete with light effects, DJ, video clips and colorful costumes.

Ruslana received a standing ovation after the performance, with a good-natured greeting and thank-you from Ukraine’s Ambassador Ihor Ostash of Ottawa, and many flowers.

The concerts were coordinated through the joint efforts of Meest Corp. of Toronto and Yevshan Corp. of Montreal.

Ruslana has shown herself to be a very fine artist as well as a good organizer, who is politically savvy. Her achievements include many awards for best vocalist in Ukraine and Europe, numerous recordings, concerts and various programs.

Despite her busy and demanding schedule, and a Ukraine-wide concert tour that began on November 18, Ruslana signed autographs and spoke with fans and community members in Canada.

Before her departure she visited the Montreal Ukrainian School, where the children greeted her with a short program of song and dance to her music. She took the time to chat with all of the children, encouraged them in their studies and interests, and joined them on stage to sing Ukrainian folk songs.

For North American children, Ruslana’s performance could be summarized through the eyes of 11-year-old Cassandra, who could hardly contain her enthusiasm. When asked how she enjoyed the concert and meeting in Montreal, she replied: “It’s the best EVER!” And then, becoming serious and with a tear in her eye, added: “I want to be more Ukrainian.”



Katie Malazdrewicz

Ukrainian pop star Ruslana in concert.

Syzokryli Dance Ensemble performs at regional conference of educators

by Patricia Burak

NEW YORK – The Syzokryli Dance Ensemble of New York City brought Ukrainian folk dance to the regional conference of NAFSA: Association of International Educators at the Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge in New York on November 11. Featured as the entertainment for the conference gala, the Syzokryli performed five dances under the title, “The World Is Flat, and So We Dance!”

Patricia Burak, director of the Sutzker Center for International Services at Syracuse University and a past chair of Region X of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, served as master of ceremonies.

Sponsored by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), the Syzokryli have performed on some of the finest stages in New York, including the Alice Tully Hall and Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Performing Arts Center in Washington and the Kyiv Opera House in Ukraine.

Founded by the renowned Roma Pryma Bohachevsky, the troupe has continued to spread the beauty of Ukrainian dance and richness of Ukrainian culture under the leadership of her daughter, Anya Bohachevsky Lonkevych.

Dancers Yuriy Dobrianskyj, Jerry Dzindzio, Andrij Kyfor, Zenon Borys, Adia Hankevych, Katya Hoshowsky, Anna Chelak, Nicole Berezny, Ksenia Hentisz, Sophie Panych, Jennifer

Zanowiak, Ilene Gebuza, Marusia Drobenko and Larisa Pagan came in from all around the New York City area to perform with and under the direction of Orlando Pagan, artistic director, who organized this performance.

The audience of international educators from all over New York State and New Jersey was thrilled. The excitement and strength of the dancers infected the crowd of over 200 people as they were welcomed with a specially choreographed “Pryvit.”

Ms. Burak provided some history and context to the educational value of folk dance, citing from Thomas Friedman’s 2006 book, “The World is Flat: a Brief History of the Twenty-First Century”: “Cultures are not wired into our human DNA. They are a product of the context – geography, education level, leadership, and historical experience – of any society.”

The Syzokryli reinforced this with the presentation of dances from different regions of Ukraine: “Transcarpathian Dances,” “Arkan,” “Tropatianska” and, of course, the “Hopak.”

The conference gala was underwritten by three insurance companies which are engaged in international educational exchange: Haylor, Freyer and Coon, Inc., HTH Worldwide and MEDEX. Members of the audience remarked throughout the rest of the conference that this gala performance was the highlight of the conference.



Marika Sochan

Kids join Ruslana on stage in Montreal.

Greek Isles Cruise



See Greece the affordable way
on the beautiful
Holland America “Noordam”
May 29 – June 08, 2009

From: Rome, Italy; to Dubrovnik, Croatia; Corfu, Greece; Olympia, Greece; Santorini, Greece; Kusadasi, Turkey; Athens, Greece; Messina, Sicily; back to Rome

For a *limited time only* prices begin at \$1268.00 pp (*airfare additional)

3rd or 4th person in same cabin travels for only \$168.00

Deposit of \$600.00 due by December 30, 2008

This Christmas make it a gift of travel.



Call for details!
732-928-3792

Zenia's Travel Club LLC
ztc@earthlink.net



Lara Chelak

The Syzokryli present Ukrainian dance to a group of American educators.

MUSIC REVIEW: Pianist Nadia Shpachenko and the Biava Quartet at UIA

by Bohdan Markiw

NEW YORK – The music series of the Ukrainian Institute of America presented pianist Nadia Shpachenko in her second appearance here. On November 22 she appeared with the celebrated Biava String Quartet. Members of the quartet are: Austin Hartman and Hyunsu Ko; violins; Mary Persin, viola; and Jason Calloway, cello.

Like her previous concert four years ago, Ms. Shpachenko brought a similarly built program between two war horses of standard musical literature, including one modern piece by contemporary Ukrainian composer Alexander Shchetynsky – “Epilogue” for piano quintet.

The work received its world premiere that evening and comes from an earlier piece for clarinet, piano and string trio written in 1993. This version was modified recently (2008) for piano and string quartet. “Epilogue” is built on a variation of an ascending semitone germ exposed by viola alone. Later, the piano joins in by playing that interval simultaneously but in a distance nine steps apart and continues in using all possible variations of that germ producing new themes that emerge from it in other instruments imitating pointillist style.

Using different techniques of producing sounds and sometimes, rather, visual effects as “foamy sounds” practically inaudible, in the string instruments and delicate finger plucking of the piano strings. The entire piece is played in a soft dynamic range and creates a peaceful atmosphere. These accomplished string virtuosos played refined phrases with a remarkably sweet tone evoking an Indian summer. The composer was present and was repeatedly called to take his bow.

After the intermission Ms. Shpachenko presented Dvorak’s Piano Quintet No. 2



Volodymyr Tkachenko

Pianist Nadia Shpachenko and the Biava Quartet take a bow at the Ukrainian Institute of America.

in A Major, Op. 81. This work was completed in 1887 and epitomized the quintessential features of Dvorak’s music: melody and counter melody, vital rhythm and colorful scoring with a variety of moods ranging from sorrow to gaiety.

In this work the string instruments have a predominant role with special attention given to the lower strings. The first movement’s principal theme was beautifully exposed by Mr. Calloway, who took the opportunity to show his exquisite tone, while Ms. Persin answered with her counter melody. Ms. Persin had lots to do in this work since Dvorak played viola, thus providing the violist with a more important role. The charac-

teristic changes from major to minor showed pianist Ms. Shpachenko showing these dynamic distinctions where upper strings supported her with flair.

Character pieces were often used in the 19th century, so Dvorak called his second movement “Dumka,” which might bear some folklore material. The third movement scherzo, titled “Furiant,” is full of sharp dancing rhythms, although it has no obvious connection with that dance. The finale produced vigor and gaiety that brought the program to its conclusion.

The opening piece that evening was the Mozart Piano Quartet in G Minor K. 478 completed in 1785 in Vienna. It is said that Mozart’s original intention was

to write six piano quartets and an arrangement for their issuance was tentatively made with the publisher Hoffmeister, but the quartet in G Minor was criticized as being too difficult and only one more (in E-Flat Major) was written. It is worth mentioning that Mozart’s favored tonality was G minor and works written in this tonality might have been conceived in an almost awe-inspired mood.

The execution of this piano quartet was delivered in somber character but with sparkling transparency. The entire program was played in proper style for each composer, and all soloistic parts were executed with certain authority. The ensemble playing was outstanding.

Halyna Levytska...

(Continued from page 4)

members of the former Lev Association.”

Ms. Levytska led the press service of the Lviv Oblast organization of the Ukrainian Republican Party in 1990, which was formed on the basis of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group and nominated Ukrainian political prisoner Lev Lukianenko as its candidate in the December 1, 1991, presidential election.

Her subsequent calls for national democratic forces to consolidate got her ejected from the party, and Ms. Levytska joined the Congress of National-Democratic Forces in 1992, which was led by Mykhailo Horyn.

“We supported (Leonid) Kravchuk against (Leonid) Kuchma,” Mr. Levytskyi told The Weekly. “It represented those of us who didn’t want Rukh to become a political party.”

She directed its press service until 1996, and became a Kyiv correspondent for Za Vilnu Ukrayinu, which is published in Lviv by Bohdan Vovk.

Ms. Levytska also wrote for Chas, a newspaper financed by Chornovil until his death in 1999, when it shut down, and Vlada i Polityka, which was eventually taken over by the Party of Regions in 2001.

In her more recent articles, she addressed rising Russian chauvinism in the Donbas, the significance of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I’s visit to Ukraine, and efforts to rectify the

historical truth about the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

Ms. Levytska’s last article for Za Vilnu Ukrayinu highlighted the first anniversary of former Soviet political prisoner Nadia Svitlychna’s death.

“Amidst the Ukrainian government hierarchy, perhaps there aren’t any people like the Svitlychny family – Ivan, his wife, Leonida, and Ivan’s sister Nadia,” Ms. Levytska wrote in November. “She would have been 72 years old on November 8, if not for the harsh trial of fate.”

Ms. Levytska’s dedicated struggle to Ukrainian independence and its preservation earned her respect among top politicians, including Mr. Yushchenko, who referred to the late journalist Ms. Levytska as a true Ukrainian and sent condolences.

“Halyna was and remains in our hearts a model of a journalist with a capital letter,” Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko said. “She was not indifferent and a wonderful person who fought for our country with all her spirit.”

The funeral service for Ms. Levytska was held December 6 at the St. Basil the Great Ukrainian Catholic Church at Lviv Square in Kyiv.

She was buried in the Sykhiv Cemetery in Lviv on December 8 after Lviv national deputies told Mr. Levytskyi that Lychakiv Cemetery wasn’t an option. “To be buried in Lychakiv, you need millions, literally,” Mr. Levytskyi said. “The Lviv government didn’t take notice of Halia’s passing.”



Гурток Пласт Приятю
і
Пластова Станиця в Ньюарку

запрошують Вас з ріднею і приятелями на

ПЛАСТОВИЙ БАЛЬ

в суботу, 31 січня 2009 р.

Hanover Marriott
1401 Route 10 East, Whippany, NJ 07981

Оркестра „Темпо“

Вечірній одяг

Вступ разом з вечерею – 110.00 дол.
Вступ на забаву без вечері – 40.00 дол.
для молоді до 25 року – 30.00 дол.

Коктейль з перекусом: год. 6:00 веч.
Презентація дебютанток: год. 7:30 веч.
Опісля вечеря і забава.

Please call Irene Turynsky for information

(908) 647-0758

Місця мусять бути заплачені до 17 січня.

To subscribe to The Ukrainian Weekly: call 973-292-9800 x 3042.

The Holodomor...

(Continued from page 3)

Ukrainian Research Institute there.

The first volume was published in 2001 and was recognized as the top bibliographical index that year by the Ukrainian Library Association.

Given the limited Holodomor research and financing in Ukraine at the time, Ms. Rikun estimated about 70 percent of its 6,384 materials were published abroad.

Once Ukrainians began writing more about the Holodomor, a second volume became inevitable, Ms. Rikun said.

The bibliographies offer indices based on subjects, authors, geography, periodicals and abbreviations. The subject index consists of topics as diverse as commemorative activities in the diaspora, who the Holodomor organizers were and the postage stamp controversy of the mid-2000s.

The second volume, published in May, contains references to materials distributed at academic conferences, an index of Holodomor websites, and even the emerging publications questioning the Holodomor and its genocidal nature. The bibliography consists of works in at least 10 languages.

Top Holodomor scholar Stanislav Kulchytskyi edited both works, which were reviewed and approved by the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

Preparing such a comprehensive work wasn't easy, Ms. Rikun insisted, quite convincingly.

Russian atlases had to be translated into Ukrainian, while Ukrainian names written in English had to be transliterated back into Ukrainian.

Publications about a specific region or village are classified by oblast, which wasn't simple to compile when writers would refer to a vague village named,

say, Ivanivka or Petrivka. "And do you know how many Marianivkas there are in Ukraine?" Ms. Rikun said. "And we looked at the maps. But then we read, 'We walked eight kilometers to the district center.' Then we had to find which district center."

What researchers won't find is the vast volume of Soviet documents proving the Holodomor's genocidal nature, which are stored in state archives in various oblast centers and, therefore, are indexed separately.

Spending 14 years reading about some of the most horrifying events in recorded human history was psychologically taxing, Ms. Rikun admitted. "Cannibalism wasn't even the worst," she said. "The worst was reading about the children – how they lost their brothers and sisters, how they were naked and hungry, or how their mother left them at a train station or an orphanage. It's a horror. If someone asks us whether there was a Holodomor, we immediately throw ourselves at them."

Among the rewards for the years of research is the fact that Holodomor recognition has come a long way in Ukraine. President Viktor Yushchenko personally awarded Ms. Burian the Merited Cultural Worker Award at a November ceremony at the Presidential Secretariat.

The example set by the Ukrainian diaspora in financing the bibliography's first volume inspired support for the second volume in 2008, offered by the Odesa Oblast State Administration (led by Mykola Serdiuk), the Odesa City Council (led by Mayor Eduard Hurvits) and Oleksii Kozachenko, a national deputy from Odesa and founder of the Intellectual Cooperation – Ukraine 21st Century Fund.

"There wouldn't have been a second volume without them," said Ms. Rikun, hinting that they're already considering a third volume.

For the record...

(Continued from page 3)

States and Ukraine plan to address common transnational criminal threats such as terrorism, organized crime, trafficking in persons and narcotics, money laundering and cyber crime.

3. Recognizing the importance of combating corruption, the United States and Ukraine intend to increase cooperation that will expand media and public monitoring of anti-corruption efforts; enforce ethical standards by establishing internal investigation units; and streamline the government regulatory process.

4. The United States and Ukraine plan to work together to promote reform in Ukraine's legislative processes through increased transparency, heightened accountability through citizen and media access, and expanded public information about the work of Ukraine's Parliament.

5. Recognizing the importance of harmonizing Ukraine's criminal justice system with European and other international standards, we plan to work together more intensely on issues of key importance, including the adoption of a Criminal Procedure Code compliant with Council of Europe standards.

6. The United States plans to provide Ukraine with further technical assistance to support Ukraine's efforts through government and judicial authorities to combat human trafficking, including strengthening witness protection.

7. The United States supports increased assistance to strengthen democracy building and good governance in order to build upon Ukraine's political progress and commitment to democratic development.

Section V: Increasing People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges

The United States and Ukraine share a

desire to increase our people-to-people contacts and enhance our cultural, educational and professional exchange programs that promote democracy and democratic values and increase mutual understanding.

1. Recognizing the vital importance of increased contact between the people of the United States and Ukraine, both sides intend to promote further cultural and social exchanges and activities through initiatives such as the Fulbright program, Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX), Undergraduate Exchange (UGRAD), Legislative Education and Practice (LEAP), the International Visitor Leadership Program, the English Language Teaching and Learning Program, and the Open World Program.

2. Stressing the necessity of innovation and dynamism to the future of our two countries, the United States and Ukraine intend to promote increased cooperation in higher education and scientific research. The United States will facilitate these exchanges consistent with U.S. laws and procedures so that qualified individuals in cultural, educational and scientific activities are given the opportunity to participate.

3. Our two countries will continue to cooperate closely to promote remembrance and increased public awareness of the 1932-1933 Great Famine (Holodomor) in Ukraine.

4. Ukraine welcomes the United States' intention to establish an American diplomatic presence (American Presence Post) in Symferopol.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on December 19, 2008.

For the United States of America:
Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State

For Ukraine:
Volodymyr Ohryzko
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union

Effective
December 1, 2008

6 Month Jumbo CD
3.85% APR

12 Month Jumbo CD
4.25% APR

NCUA

** Jumbo CD minimum balance \$100,000


1-866-859-5848

215 Second Ave
New York, NY 10003
(212) 533-2980

1678 E 17th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11229
(718) 376-5057

35 Main Street
S Bound Brook, NJ 08880
(732) 469-9085

691 Roosevelt Ave
Carteret, NJ 07008
(732) 802-0480



reason # **8** EXITO. SUCCESS.
ESL AT PCCC.

APPLY NOW FOR JANUARY CLASSES.
CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 21.

Our bi-lingual Admissions counselors will help get you started. Call today to schedule a placement test that will determine your current level of English skills, so we can place you in the class that's right for you!

- Five levels of ESL from beginner to advanced
- Convenient day and evening schedules
- Financial aid for qualifying students
- Outstanding professors who provide individualized attention

PCCC100
ONE SCHOOL. 100 REASONS.

VISIT PCCC100.com OR CALL (973) 684-6868

PATERSON One College Boulevard
PASSAIC 2 Passaic Avenue

VISIT US
AT OUR NEW
PASSAIC
ACADEMIC
CENTER

Parish in Elmira Heights, N.Y., celebrates its 50th anniversary

by William J. Misnick Sr.
and Maria L'Amoreaux

ELMIRA HEIGHTS, N.Y. – St. Nicholas Church was the site of much rejoicing on November 2, as the parish celebrated the 50th anniversary of the dedication of its newly built church.

St. Nicholas has been in existence since 1895 and is the oldest parish in the Stamford Eparchy. Bishop Paul Chomnycky presided over a pontifical divine liturgy, assisted by the Rev. Vasile Godenciu and the Very Rev. Kiril Angelov of Rochester, N.Y.

Bishop Chomnycky eloquently delivered a homily congratulating parishioners on the past 50 years and inspiring them to continue God's work in the next 50.

Trustees Tom Bocon and Nick Mofte accepted a certificate of appreciation from the eparch on behalf of the parishioners.

Following divine liturgy, all were invited for an exquisite brunch at Elmira Country Club, where the festivities continued. Master of ceremonies Maria

L'Amoreaux gave a PowerPoint presentation chronicling the beginnings of St. Nicholas Parish up to the present, paying tribute to the "living stones" upon whom the foundation of the parish was built.

In recognition of the Rev. Godenciu's fifth year with St. Nicholas, and especially in appreciation of his impeccable execution of pastoral duties for the parish, Bishop Chomnycky presented him with a commendation of appreciation.

Terezia Godenciu was happily surprised with her own commendation, since the parish recognizes her hard work and dedication as well.

In honor of this occasion, the Catholic War Veterans presented a check for \$1,000, Kent's Funeral Home donated commemorative laminated icons for all parishioners, and a former trustee for 23 years, Wasył Dowzycy, made a donation of \$200.

The program ended with the lovely Ukrainian dancing of the local Verkhovyna ensemble, choreographed by Jennifer Karski.



Catholic War Veterans and altar servers with Bishop Paul Chomnycky, the Very Rev. Kiril Angelov and the Rev. Vasile Godenciu.

Ivaan Kotulsky...

(Continued from page 4)

worked for Maclean Hunter Publishing as a photographer. Although he left the publishing firm in 1969 for metal arts, he continued to enjoy photography.

In 1997 Mr. Kotulsky won both a Gold and a Silver National Magazine Award for photojournalism, for his photography essay, "No Fixed Address," which was published by Toronto Life magazine. He took part in Contact 2003, Toronto's annual photography festival with a series of photographs – "World Class City" – of people who make up Toronto's street life.

From 1969 Mr Kotulsky made metal arts his

life's work. He was a popular choice for people who wanted wedding rings or jewelry designed or remodelled. His works were regularly sold in the shop of the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). For the Scythian Gold exhibit at the ROM in 2001, Mr. Kotulsky made the iconic Scythian stag brooch.

He designed and executed The Advocates' Society Award of Justice, choosing the image of a gryphon, an offspring of a lion and an eagle, with heraldic significance and ancient connection with the law. (Examples of Mr. Kotulsky's metal arts can be found on the site <http://www.lordoftherings.tc>)

Mr. Kotulsky's funeral was held on December 13, in Toronto at the Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Volodymyr.

Msgr. Chomko...

(Continued from page 4)

He was ordained on July 12, 1946, in Philadelphia. His pastoral assignments took him to Hamtramck, Mich.; Syracuse, Auburn, Elmira Heights and Rochester, N.Y.; Cleveland; Philadelphia and Berwick, Pa.; New Haven and Hartford, Conn.; and Boston.

During his 62 years of priesthood he served as consultor of the Eparchy of Stamford, Conn., dean of the Boston, Hartford and North Anthracite district (Pennsylvania) deaneries and econome of the Stamford Eparchy. As well, he was president of the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America.

Funeral services were offered at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in Scranton, with Archbishop-Metropolitan Stefan Soroka as principal celebrant. Burial was at St. Vladimir Cemetery in West Scranton.



Christmas is just around the corner
and
what will you give this year?

Give the gift of learning Ukrainian
—
The gift that lasts a lifetime!

Check out our website for more
products, pricing,
and ordering information

www.mpue.ca

"Ukrainian Starts Here... Say 'Tak' to opportunity"

Dzvin Publishers is proud to introduce these unique products:

The "Ukrainian Language Acquisition System" interactive computer CD ROM and Ukrainian Readers series consisting of 21 individual books aimed at elementary, pre-school and young children. Adults can learn too!

TWG announces 2008 intern at Embassy of Ukraine in D.C.

WASHINGTON – Tetyana Podobinska is the new 2008 intern sponsored by The Washington Group's Fellowship Fund. Her interest in international relations and foreign policy of Ukraine led to her application for an internship at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington.

Ms. Podobinska was born in Rivne, Ukraine, and graduated from Volyn National University, Lutsk, majoring in international relations. She was selected to participate in an exchange program with the United States, which allowed her to study at Utica College, Syracuse University, N.Y., majoring in international studies.

Ms. Podobinska is now pursuing a master's degree at Leipzig (Germany) and Vienna (Austria) universities, majoring in global studies. She is a recipient of the Erasmus Mundus Program, sponsored by the European Parliament.

Ms. Podobinska has been actively involved in the work of Ukrainian NGOs, managing social, media and cultural projects. Working with international missions to Ukraine, she learned about the work of international organizations and their contribution to the democratic development of the country. Her latest experience at a consulting company provided opportunities to learn about government and public relations.

"During my entire life, I've been dreaming of working in the field of Ukrainian foreign policy and now my dream begins to come true – I have a chance to learn about



Tetyana Podobinska

the work of Ukrainian diplomatic missions from the inside," said Ms. Podobinska. She will work at the Embassy of Ukraine in February 2009.

The Washington Group, an association of Ukrainian American and other professionals based in Washington, was founded in 1984; it provides for the social, professional and cultural development of its members and the greater community.

Hard times...

(Continued from page 2)

aging it and trying to find buyers for the bank since October 7. It was announced in early November that the Klyuyev brothers, businessmen and national deputies from the Donetsk-based Party of Regions, had agreed to buy a controlling stake in Prominvestbank, but they apparently failed to come up with the necessary \$120 million. Russian multibillionaire Alisher Usmanov, who had reportedly been interested in the bank, said he would not buy into it (Interfax-Ukraine, December 10).

The NBU reportedly offered stakes in Prominvestbank to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Finance Corp. A majority stake will most probably be nationalized (Ekonomicheskoe Izvestia, December 12; Delo, December 16). The Ukrainian presidential office has urged Prominvestbank's prompt nationalization, as the bank's stabilization is one of the IMF's main conditions (Interfax-Ukraine, December 16).

The new parliamentary coalition, established on December 16 by Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's bloc, the majority of President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense (OU-PSD), and the bloc of Verkhovna Rada Chair Volodymyr Lytvyn, threatens

to remove Mr. Stelmakh. On December 8 two OU-PSD national deputies formed a parliamentary investigative commission to examine how the NBU managed its foreign exchange reserve (Zerkalo Nedeli, December 13). Addressing the nation on TV a week ago, Prime Minister Tymoshenko blamed the NBU leadership for the situation on the currency market (Inter TV, December 10). Mr. Lytvyn also is in favor of replacing Mr. Stelmakh (UNIАН, December 13).

Mr. Stelmakh was vice-chairman when Mr. Yushchenko chaired the NBU in the 1990s, and the president is now his only supporter. Mr. Yushchenko met Mr. Lytvyn after his election as Rada chair on December 9 and warned him against being hasty in ousting Mr. Stelmakh, but even Mr. Yushchenko's own trust in Mr. Stelmakh is waning. On December 1 Mr. Yushchenko's spokeswoman Iryna Vannykova warned that "the president will have to make difficult personnel decisions" if the NBU failed to stabilize the hryvnia (Zerkalo Nedeli, December 13). According to the Constitution of Ukraine, even if the president decides to dismiss the NBU head, the final decision is up to Parliament.

The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.

Russian...

(Continued from page 2)

with the YTB or a grand coalition with the PRU.

These deep divisions were evident in September and again this month. Four months ago the OU-PSD voted by a bare majority (39 of 72 deputies) to withdraw from the Orange coalition. This month it voted to join a larger Orange coalition with the YTB and the centrist Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc by a similarly slim majority of 37 deputies (the list is re-published in Zerkalo Nedeli/Dzerkalo Tyzhnia, December 13-19).

Mr. Lytvyn's election as Verkhovna Rada chairman was made possible only by the 27-member Communist Party faction, which supported the vote (www.pravda.com.ua, December 9-10). Only 40 of the 72 OU-PSD deputies supported his election. The larger Orange coalition cannot remain stable if it has to rely on the votes of the Communists, who would never support many of the anti-crisis measures that Ukraine is being forced to adopt as part of the International Monetary Fund's standby loan negotiated in October.

Of the nine parties in the OU-PSD, five did not support the OU-PSD's withdrawal in September, and this month six supported joining the larger Orange coalition. It is interesting how many of the deputies have fallen out with Mr. Yushchenko. Only 30 of the 72 OU-PSD deputies attended a meeting with the president on December 15.

The president does not favor the larger Orange coalition and holds out hope for a technocratic government (www.president.gov.ua, December 15); but this is unrealistic in a parliamentary democracy, as the position of prime minister will always go to the leader of a political party.

After much criticism from abroad and within Ukraine, Mr. Yushchenko has decided not to hold early elections. Dealing with the global crisis is now the priority. Early elections would have been the only way to remove Ms. Tymoshenko, even though this was a dangerous tactic, since the president's planned Viktor Yushchenko Bloc only has about 3 to 4 percent support. Dealing with the economic crisis will be impossible if the Verkhovna Rada remains unstable and the president continues to attempt to under-

mine the new coalition.

This domestic instability continues to give Russia opportunities to destabilize Ukraine. According to information given to the Jamestown Foundation, Russian intelligence hacked into the Presidential Secretariat during the invasion of Georgia, creating a sense of paranoia among the president's staff. An analytical wing was compromised and its staff, after being accused of "working for Russia," was released.

Russia has also returned to the old KGB "dezinformatsiya" (disinformation) tactics. Stories were planted in the provincial Ukrainian media that the coalition was created "with the support of Moscow." These stories were then reprinted by the main Kyiv media.

The Russian threat is real, as can be seen from the hacking of the Presidential Secretariat and support for Russian nationalists and separatists; but the paranoia of President Yushchenko and his staff about "Russian conspiracies" is exaggerated. Both the proposed coalition of national unity and the larger Orange coalition have been accused of being in the "pay of the Kremlin," just as unfounded accusations of "treason" were leveled against Ms. Tymoshenko in August.

The Procurator's Office declined to institute criminal charges after studying the 300-page "testimony" prepared by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) on the orders of the Presidential Secretariat. These accusations have been aimed at influencing western Ukrainians, but opinion polls and focus groups have determined that the public has not been duped by such crude propaganda, a senior YTB official told the Jamestown Foundation. Mr. Yushchenko had hoped to attract patriotic voters away from the YTB ahead of the upcoming presidential elections.

The third (larger) Orange coalition suffers from the same problem as its two predecessors: presidential antipathy and internal disunity within the pro-presidential Our Ukraine. The third Orange coalition also faces two additional new threats: the global crisis and a bellicose Russia.

The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.

"This is not..."

(Continued from page 6)

If we want to understand just why today's Ukrainians have such difficulty embarking on reform and coming to grips with their own past, we need look no further than the four decades of unremitting daily terror that brought Ukraine to the brink of extinction.

It is of course too late to save the millions of victims of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide. And it may be next to impossible to bring the perpetrators to justice. Indeed, as long as the likes of Vladimir Putin – a man who prides himself on being an officer of the Soviet secret police, an organization that, like the SS and Gestapo, committed enormous crimes against humanity – contin-

ue to be feted in Russia and the West, the Soviet Eichmanns may rest easy.

But we can make sure they don't rest too easy. We can refuse to forget. We can refuse to forget the millions who perished in the Holodomor. We can refuse to forget the millions who perished in Ukraine's second genocide during World War II.

Our refusal to forget not only serves as a reminder to the world that Ukraine will never again fall victim to genocide and that the perpetrators of genocide will one day be brought to justice. Our refusal to forget also honors the victims. Most important, our refusal to forget keeps the victims alive – in our speeches and books, of course; in our memories, of course; but, most of all, in our hearts.

ICONS

Traditional, Contemporary

Madonna and Child, Christ the Savior, Angels, Saints

For Christmas, Weddings, Baptisms, First Holy Communion

All hand-painted, mixed media with 23k gold leaf

For more information: Call (586) 751-2297
or e-mail: ikona2009@comcast.net

OUT AND ABOUT

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| December 31
Jersey City, NJ | New Year's Eve, Ukrainian Community Center, 201-982-4967 | January 15
Washington | Lecture by Olena Nikolayenko, "Youth Movement in Post-Communist Societies - A Model of Nonviolent Resistance," Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 202-691-4000 |
| December 31
Whippany, NJ | New Year's Eve, featuring music by Chetverta Chvylya, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-652-5389 or 973-585-7175 | January 16
Scranton, PA | Malanka, featuring music by Fata Morgana, St. Vladimir Parish Center, 570-563-2275 |
| December 31
Jenkintown, PA | New Year's Eve, featuring music by Tempo, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1166 or 215-663-8572 | January 17
Ottawa | Malanka, St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church hall, 613-596-5906 |
| December 31
Ottawa | New Year's Eve, Assumption Ukrainian Orthodox Auditorium, 613-521-7522 or 613-27-9760 | January 17
Ansonia, CT | Slavic New Year Dance, with music by Vox Ethnika, John A. Sullivan's, 203-235-0667 |
| December 31
Syracuse, NY | New Year's Eve, featuring music by Vorony, Syracuse Ukrainian National Home, 315-478-9272 | January 17
Baltimore, MD | Malanka, featuring music by Svitanok, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 410-248-0329 or 410-730-1245 |
| January 5
Washington | Lecture by former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine William Miller, "Priorities for U.S. Policy Toward Ukraine in the Obama Administration," Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 202-691-4000 | January 17
Carteret, NJ | Malanka, featuring music by Na Zdorov'ya, St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church and St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, St. Demetrius Banquet Center, 732-541-5452 or 732-541-6163 |
| January 7
Parma, OH | 21st annual Christmas radio program on WJMO 1300 AM, featuring divine liturgy, great complines and matins services, St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, www.stvladimirs.org or 440-885-1509 | January 17
Warners, NY | Malanka, with music by New Dimension, St. Luke Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 315-468-1981 |
| January 9
Ottawa | Piano recital by Alexander Seredenko, Le Salon, National Arts Center, 613-947-7000 or 866-850-ARTS | January 17
Jenkintown, PA | Malanka, featuring music by Hrim, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-745-9838 or 215-722-7212 |
| January 10
Hartford, CT | Malanka, featuring music by Na Zdorov'ya, Ukrainian National Home of Hartford, 860-296-6955 | January 17
San Francisco | Malanka, featuring music by Victor Nazarchuk and performance by Anitchka, St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church Hall, 680-968-6428 or 707-935-9142 |
| January 11
Toronto | Christmas Concert, featuring Levada and Orion choirs and the Vanguard Concert Band of the Ukrainian Youth Ensembles, St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, 416-239-1685 | | |

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.



SUMA Federal Credit Union
Visit us on the web at www.sumafcu.org

We Now Have Internet Banking!

Call us at 914-220-4900 to apply for **FREE Internet Banking AND Bill Pay!**

VISA Credit 1% CashBack Rewards
There is no need to sign up. CashBack is already a card feature on qualified purchases. Call us for details.

- Main Office**
125 Corporate Blvd.
Yonkers, New York 10701
Tel: 914-220-4900
Fax: 914-220-4090
1-888-644-SUMA
E-mail: memberservice@sumafcu.org
- Yonkers Branch**
301 Palisade Ave
Yonkers, NY 10703
Tel: 914-220-4900
Fax: 914-965-1936
E-mail: palisade@sumafcu.org
- Spring Valley Branch**
16 Twin Ave
Spring Valley, NY 10977
Tel: 845-356-0087
Fax: 845-356-5335
E-mail: springvalley@sumafcu.org
- Stamford Branch**
39 Clovelly Road
Stamford, CT 06902
Tel: 203-969-0498
Fax: 203-316-8246
E-mail: stamford@sumafcu.org
- New Haven Branch**
555 George St.
New Haven, CT 06511
Tel: 203-785-8805
Fax: 203-785-8677
E-mail: newhaven@sumafcu.org



Soyuzivka's Datebook

December 31 – New Year's Eve with Fata Morgana 12/31/08

January 10 – Ukrainian Engineers' Malanka with Svitanok 1/10/09

January 6 – Ukrainian Christmas Eve Supper



To book a room or event call: (845) 626-5641, ext. 140
 216 Foordmore Road P.O. Box 529
 Kerhonkson, NY 12446
 E-mail: Soyuzivka@aol.com
 Website: www.Soyuzivka.com

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, January 10

HARTFORD, Conn.: Hartford Malanka 2009 (Ukrainian New Year's Eve Dance) will be held starting at 9 p.m. at the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford, 961 Wethersfield Ave. Musical entertainment will be provided by Na Zdorovya from New York. Donation: adults, \$25; students (to age 22), \$15. For tickets and table reservations contact the Cooperative SUMA Ukrainian Gift Shop, 860-296-6955. The Malanka is sponsored by the Hartford branches of the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, the Women's Association for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine and the Ukrainian American Youth Association.

Saturday, January 17

CARTERET, N.J.: St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a Malanka (Ukrainian New Year gathering) at the St. Demetrius Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave. Music will be by Na Zdorovya. Tickets are \$55, which includes admission, choice of

sirloin beef or chicken Francaise dinner, open bar, midnight hors d'ouvres and a champagne toast. The center is located just blocks from Exit 12 of the New Jersey Turnpike; there is a Holiday Inn right off the exit. Doors open at 6 p.m.; dinner will be served at 7 p.m.; music starts at 8 p.m. For table and ticket reservations call Peter Prociuk, 732-41-5452. Tickets will not be sold at the door; outside liquor is prohibited. Deadline to purchase tickets is January 11.

JENKINTOWN, Pa.: The Ukrainian American Youth Association invites all to attend a fun-filled Malanka, a traditional Ukrainian New Year welcoming dance featuring the popular zabava band Hrim from New England at the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 700 Cedar Road. Starting time is 9 p.m. Admission is \$35 for adults in advance; \$40 at the door; \$25 for students and seniors. Admission includes delicious hot catered buffet. Champagne will be provided at midnight. For information and advance tickets call Ivan, 215-745-9838, or Olya, 215-722-7212.

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.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone.

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.**

*Wherever you are,
 The Ukrainian Weekly can be there with you*

Check out **THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY** online at
www.ukrweekly.com

HOLIDAY SPECIAL



Open a **UNA** tax-deferred annuity and earn

Tax Deferred Annuities

Add some **INTEREST** to your holidays!

10 year—5.75%	3 year—4.75%
5 year—5.50%	2 year—4.50%
	1 year—4.50%

Take advantage of **UNA's** holiday special gift rate!
 Available through **January 31, 2009.**

Call **1-800-253-9862** for your application today!



2200 Route 10
 Parsippany, NJ 07054

WWW.UkrainianNationalAssociation.org

E-mail: una@unamember.com