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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Voice of America ends radio broadcasts to Ukraine



Yaro Bihun

Anya Dydyk-Petrenko, the anchor of VOA's last Ukrainian radio program, which aired on December 31, 2008, contemplates her final farewell in the last minute of the broadcast.

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – After more than half a century of communicating with the people of Ukraine, the Voice of America ended its Ukrainian radio broadcasts on the last day of 2008.

Those broadcasts, which began in 1949, continued through the Cold War via short-wave transmissions and since Ukraine's independence over its internal radio networks, were originally scheduled to be discontinued at the end of September. At the last minute they received a three-month reprieve, which ran out on December 31.

According to Jeffrey Trimble, execu-

tive director of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), the radio broadcasts were cut in order to devote VOA's mission resources more effectively to the increasingly more popular modern means of communication in Ukraine, as they are elsewhere – television and the Internet. The BBG, the umbrella agency for all non-military U.S. international broadcasting, also oversees Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, which will continue its Ukrainian-language radio broadcasts, he said.

In an interview with *The Ukrainian Weekly*, Mr. Trimble said that the board is required to review the mission of its lan-

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Russia cuts off gas supplies to Ukraine over pricing issues

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – In their biggest conflict ever, Russian and Ukrainian natural gas officials failed to agree on prices for supplies and transport, once again disrupting the vast flow of natural gas into Europe and threatening economic crisis throughout the continent.

Gazprom, Russia's government-owned natural gas monopoly, cut off gas supplies to Ukraine the morning of January 1, setting off cycling rounds of supply threats, accusations of theft, bids, counter-bids and similar posturing as part of negotiations that, for the first time, extended beyond Christmas Day according to the Julian calendar, January 7.

State officials and independent observers cited numerous reasons why the Russian government is fomenting and prolonging the conflict – damaging Ukraine's image in Europe, gaining European support for gas pipelines circumventing Ukraine, damaging President Viktor Yushchenko's standing, as well as pressuring Ukraine.

"We believe that the price that is being proposed today, \$417 to \$450 (per 1,000 cubic meters), is economic pressure on our state that has no relation to realistic prices that exist today on the European market," said Oleksander Shlapak, the Presidential Secretariat's top economic advisor.

A joint statement issued by President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko on January 1 called for a price of \$201 per 1,000 cubic meters and a natural gas transit rate of \$2 for each 1,000 cubic meters per 100 kilometers of Ukrainian pipeline. The Russian government wants to keep the transit rate at \$1.70 for 1,000 cubic meters transported per 100 kilometers.

As Russian and Ukrainian leaders haggled over Ukraine's price for natural gas and the price to use Ukraine's pipelines – Naftohaz Ukrayiny Chair Oleh Dubyna spent several days fruitlessly negotiating with Gazprom Chair Alexey Miller – European officials complained they were already suffering from the conflict.

Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Romania, Macedonia, Croatia and Hungary reported they lost all their Russian natural gas supply by January 6, and Czech officials reported their supply declined by 75 percent.

The Bulgarian Ministry of the Economy declared a crisis in its country. Hungarian officials said their country would rely on its natural gas reserves, which could last for several weeks.

Transnistria, the separatist enclave of Moldova loyal to Moscow, reported to the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe that it

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Gazprom stops gas deliveries to Ukraine – What next?

by Roman Kupchinsky

Eurasia Daily Monitor

January 5

On the morning of January 1, OAO Gazprom, the Russian state-owned gas monopoly, in league with the Russian government, decreased the volume of gas shipped to Ukraine by 90 million cubic meters a day – the amount that Ukraine had contracted for in 2008. Gas shipments of 300 million cubic meters per day for European customers, shipped via the Ukrainian trunk pipeline, were not affected at first; but on January 2 Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland began recording drops in pipeline pressure and slight disruptions in supply, while Romania reported a gas decrease of 30 to 40 percent.

In November 2008 Gazprom announced that it would stop gas deliveries to Ukraine on January 1, 2009, unless Kyiv settled all its accounts for gas delivered in 2008, including late payment penalties. Throughout December the two sides could not reach an agreement and did not sign a contract for 2009 gas deliveries. The issues dividing the two coun-

tries were discussed in closed negotiations but with both parties resorting at the same time to public statements and threats as a means of applying pressure on each other.

Ukrainian arrears of \$2.1 billion appeared to be the primary reason for the cutoff. The Ukrainian state-owned energy company, Naftohaz Ukrayiny, claimed, however, that the money was owed to RosUkrEnergo (RUE), a Swiss-based intermediary company, 50 percent of which belongs to Gazprom and 50 percent to two Ukrainian businessmen. Gazprom insisted that the money was owed to them. On December 31, 2008, Naftohaz stated that the debt had been paid in full. Gazprom spokesman Sergey Kuprianov disputed this and claimed that the Ukrainian side still owed \$614 million dollars in late charges.

RosUkrEnergo, which was made a middleman for gas supplies to Ukraine at Gazprom's insistence in January 2006, has been the center of a continuing conflict between Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Gazprom. Ms.

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From the Stefan Maksymjuk archives

VOA's first Ukrainian radio broadcast was made from a New York studio on December 12, 1949. Shown sitting behind the small announcers' table in this historic photograph are (from left): Yevhen Prychodko, Olena Nessin and Ivan Kolos.

ANALYSIS

Russia gets a slow start into a post-prosperity year

by Pavel K. Baev

Eurasia Daily Monitor

January 5

The extra-long Christmas-New Year-Rozhdestvo (Julian calendar Christmas) celebrations in Russia have been muted this season, and unmistakable anxiety stands in stark contrast to the exuberance that greeted the arrival of the year 2008.

Just two weeks before that "best-year-ever start," President Vladimir Putin had announced the name of his successor and the Russians were preparing to vote for Dmitry Medvedev with total confidence that nothing would change in Russia's astonishing success story. Now the "tandem" system of leadership is firmly established, but the persistent pledges to "stay the course" betray only the colossal bureaucratic machine's helplessness in the face of the sudden downturn, which is expected to accelerate (Vedomosti, December 30, 2008; Kommersant-Vlast, December 22, 2008).

Opinion polls show that 40 percent of respondents now think that the country is on the wrong track (up from 24 percent in September 2008), despite non-stop reassurance from official propaganda (Levada Center, December 17, 2008).

The first half of the past year was, in fact, extraordinarily successful; and the only so slightly reshuffled government proclaimed Russia to be an "island of stability." It was not even considered necessary to find an accurate translation for the odd term "subprime." It was the meltdown of the stock market, which lost 75 percent of its capitalization from the start of June to the end of October, that manifested the arrival of the crisis; but the ruling duo mistook it for a malignant external influence caused by the banking panic in the United States. The "natural" solution was to turn Russia into an independent financial center and curtail the role of the U.S. dollar as the main international currency; Mr. Medvedev trumpeted that idea in several European capitals until the G-20 summit in Washington in mid-November 2008, where it was dismissed by the Chinese, of all partners (Ezhednevny Zhurnal, December 31, 2008).

The market catastrophe duly resulted in a credit crunch, which revealed that Russia's mushroomed corporate debt was, for the most part, "subprime" and could be covered only with the Central Bank's reserves. Mr. Putin ordered the rescue of Rosneft, Gazprom and other "champions" from the state coffers, which quickly turned into looting but did not prevent the crisis from spreading into the "real sector." The depth of industrial contraction in the last quarter of 2008 astonished the economists, who had never expected to see figures surpassing the recession of 1992-1994 and the default of 1998 (Moscow Echo, December 30, 2008).

The long holiday break enabled many enterprises that are cutting down production and have to put their employees on

In autumn 2008 Gazprom was reaping record profits from exporting gas to Europe, because the price of gas follows that of oil with a lag of six to nine months. These increased prices are set to disappear in 2009, so Gazprom wants to fix the price for Ukraine at the current European level, which Kyiv has every reason to consider too high.

unpaid leave to postpone the inevitable layoffs until the new year, when unemployment is expected to reach 2.2 million from the current 1.45 million (www.newsru.com, December 29, 2008).

The direct connection between Russia's economic fortune and the trajectory of the oil price on world markets has been demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt, and it is already clear that the great hopes about the barrel on the New Year's Eve were in vain as the price continued to slide (Vedomosti, December 30, 2008; Expert, December 15).

One direct consequence of this downfall is the new Russian-Ukrainian "gas war," which Moscow has launched this year out of desperation rather than arrogance as was the case in 2006. In autumn 2008 Gazprom was reaping record profits from exporting gas to Europe, because the price of gas follows that of oil with a lag of six to nine months. These increased prices are set to disappear in 2009, so Gazprom wants to fix the price for Ukraine at the current European level, which Kyiv has every reason to consider too high. Messrs. Putin and Medvedev staged a "discussion" in front of TV cameras before cutting the flow to Ukraine, seeking to convince the European Union that it was the "clan politics" in Kyiv that blocked the agreement. There is some truth in that; but the Czechs, who assumed the EU chairmanship on January 1, have refused to take sides and are demanding an urgent resolution of the "commercial dispute" (www.lenta.ru, January 3).

The conflict will probably be over in a few days, with Ukraine gaining a small discount and ruining its reputation as a transit country and Russia gaining new arguments for constructing the Nord

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NEWSBRIEFS

Ukrainian citizens leave Gaza

KYIV – A total of 183 citizens from countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States left the Gaza Strip on January 2. According to various estimates, those evacuated include 40 to 60 Ukrainian citizens. A motorcade carrying the evacuees headed for Jordan; from there, two aircraft of the Russian Emergencies Ministry was to transport them to Moscow. Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry said Ukrainian embassies in Egypt and Israel, Ukraine's office in the Palestinian National Authority and the ministry's consular service department are monitoring the situation in the Gaza Strip. According to Ukraine's Embassy in Israel, the number of Ukrainian citizens currently on the territory of the Gaza Strip may be around 400. As of January 6, another 65 Ukrainian citizens (22 adults and 43 children) asked for evacuation from the conflict zone. (Ukrinform)

Gas consultations with EU

KYIV – On the order of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, a delegation including Fuel and Energy Minister Yurii Prodan, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Konstantin Yeliseyev and Naftohaz Ukrayiny Vice-CEO Vadym Chuprun left on January 2 for a number of European Union member-countries to hold consultations on natural gas issues. The first country to be visited by the Ukrainian delegation is the Czech Republic, which currently presides at the EU. The main objective of the delegation's mission is to present objective explanations to EU member-countries about the transportation of Russian natural gas to Ukraine and Europe, confirm the guarantees of gas transit via Ukrainian territory, and hear the advice of European experts concerning Ukraine's gas talks with the Russian Federation. (Ukrinform)

Yushchenko writes to world leaders

KYIV – President Viktor Yushchenko on January 2 sent letters to Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Presidents

Laszlo Solyom of Hungary, Ivan Gasparovic of Slovakia, George Bush of the United States, Nicolas Sarkozy of France and Vaclav Klaus of the Czech Republic, and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso. The letter noted that throughout the year 2008 Ukraine held talks with Russia on the terms for delivery of natural gas to Ukraine and its transit across Ukraine to Europe for 2009 and the years to come. In the course of those talks, Ukraine acted in compliance with the agreements reached by the two countries' presidents on February 12, 2008, and mutual commitments sealed by the October 2, 2008, intergovernmental memorandum of cooperation in gas industry. Mr. Yushchenko noted that a memo on the establishment of direct long-term relations between Gazprom and Naftohaz on the delivery and transit of Russian natural gas provides for a gradual transfer over the course of three years to free market prices, economically sound and mutually approved, for Russian gas and tariffs on its transit via Ukraine. "On December 30, 2008, Ukraine fully paid the supplier for the natural gas it received during the past year," the president underscored. (Ukrinform)

U.S. reacts to gas conflict

WASHINGTON: On January 1, the U.S. reacted to the gas dispute between Russia and Ukraine. Gordon Duguid, acting deputy spokesman for the State Department said: "We are concerned that Gazprom has cut off gas sold to Ukraine. The U.S. encourages Gazprom and Naftohaz to resume negotiations on an agreement that will maintain the reliability of gas delivery to Ukraine and Europe. We urge Russia and Ukraine to resolve their dispute over the gas debt and the terms of their natural gas supply arrangements in a transparent, commercial manner." On January 6, with the gas conflict growing, came another statement by State Department spokesman Sean McCormack: "We regret the escalation of the gas dispute between Ukraine and Russia, which has resulted in decreased gas flows to European customers. These gas cutoffs are unacceptable.

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Correction

In the story "Youth publications about Trypillia available in Ukrainian and English" (December 14, 2008), the e-mail for the bookstore Koota Ooma was printed incorrectly due to automatic hyphenation. The correct e-mail address is: kootaooma@bellnet.ca.

The Holodomor 75 years later: The Kherson Oblast

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KHERSON, Ukraine – Among the documents tucked away in the Kherson State Archives is a desperate letter written by a peasant from the village of Kalanchak, posted before a Soviet official discovered it in January 1933.

“Fellow citizens! The Soviet government is telling us that life will be good. Don’t believe it! They are lying! They want to pack us up for 300 years. Comrades, let’s not allow it. Fight and fight. Believe my word. It’s all true.”

Two men, Ponomarchuk and Kovalenko, were convicted and promptly dispatched to labor camps for the letter, which called for a revolt against the Soviet government that was committing genocide against the Ukrainian people.

Such rare documents, revealing the moral dilemmas and desperate conflicts waged during the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, have survived three-quarters of a century and are now preserved in the State Archives Committee of Ukraine, a national network of “derzharkhiv” branches situated in the capital of every oblast.

In the Kherson Oblast, the State Archives led by its director, Viktor Borovyk, and his assistant, Olena Maruschak, played a critical role in local Holodomor research, not only because it’s the local bastion of documents, but because few academics have done any serious research on the subject.

“On a local level, our problem is our academic community hasn’t researched the Holodomor,” Ms. Maruschak said. “We have three universities which have history departments that aren’t pursuing this subject as much as we would like.”

Of the 17 present-day oblasts ravaged by the Holodomor, the genocide of millions of Ukrainians in 1932-1933, Kherson is among the least researched due to several factors.

The oblast was among the last to emerge in Soviet Ukraine, created in 1944 after the Soviets expelled the Nazis. During the Holodomor, Kherson’s territory was part of the Odesa and Dnipropetrovsk Oblasts.

The Odesa Oblast has a unique distinction in Holodomor research as the site of unparalleled destruction of birth and death registration records. An April 15, 1934, decree issued by the Odesa Oblast Executive Committee ordered all the oblast’s city councils and district executive committees to confiscate registers from village councils and transfer them for “secret storage” at the district executive committees.

Among the surviving documents in the Kherson archives is a decision by the Kherson City Council to confiscate all birth registers from 1933.

Consequently, most of the registers never survived, though Mr. Borovyk couldn’t confirm whether they were destroyed by the Soviets, the invading Germans, or both.

Of 18 districts in the Kherson Oblast, 11



Zenon Zawada

Kherson Oblast State Archives Director Viktor Burovyk (right) and Assistant Director Olena Maruschak are leading Holodomor research in the Kherson Oblast, where few scholars have taken up the cause and little information has been collected.

had registers remaining, Ms. Maruschak said. The Kherson State Archives was able to retrieve 52 registers – less than half of those that existed during the Holodomor, she said.

Thus, when editing the Kherson Oblast Volume of the National Book of Memory of Holodomor Victims, Mr. Borovyk was able to definitely report 10,452 deaths based on registers, only 3,448 of which were confirmed in the countryside. Another 982 were confirmed based on eyewitness accounts.

“Documents were confiscated, destroyed or didn’t make it to us” for some reason, Mr. Borovyk explained.

Since its establishment, the Kherson State Archives contained all government documents except those issued by the Communist Party, which it received only after the Soviet Union’s collapse. Five years later, the Security Service of Ukraine transferred KGB archives, which concentrated on persecuted and repressed Soviet citizens, and the Kherson State Archives received any materials dealing with that oblast. All these documents are now accessible to the public.

Regarding the Holodomor period, the Kherson State Archives has more than 5,000 Soviet documents dated between 1931 and 1933 – 257 of which were published in the Kherson volume of the National Book of Memory.

Though only a fraction, they amply reveal the horrors of the Holodomor as it unfolded.

The first peasant raids began as early as February 1932, causing Kherson officials to request armed guards to shield the Soyuzkhliv stocks of corn. In the following months, peasants attempted raids on bread, grain and wheat stocks.

The Holodomor in the Kherson Oblast

11,434 known casualties*

305 population centers affected*

43 known mass graves*

* These figures reflect only a fraction of the oblast’s devastation because of the extensive destruction of Soviet records and a dearth of researchers, State Archives officials said. They could not establish how many Holodomor survivors remain in the oblast.

employed by officials in confiscating food and beating starving villagers was amply documented.

Following orders from top Communist official and Holodomor organizer Stanislav Kosior, the Novotroyitskyi District Committee of the Communist Party called for “the practical application of all the party’s and government’s repressive measures to strangle the kurkul sabotage of grain collectivization within two to three days.”

“Regarding those who are conducting demoralizing, counter-revolutionary work, use the most severe measures, with them arrested through the appropriate organs,” the December 27, 1932 protocol stated.

Within four days, 75 rural Kherson families had all their property confiscated before being deported “beyond Ukraine’s borders.”

Those stating the obvious to others – that the collectivization quotas were unrealistic or that they would lead to starvation – were arrested and deported, according to the archived documents.

“The grain collectivization is such that we will be left to starve in the winter, and they will send all the bread to the city,” said Nikifor Shuma, who was deported to “the northern edge” for three years for these comments. “The Soviet government is

(Continued on page 44)

Scholar notes work accomplished in researching the Holodomor

Ukrinform

KYIV – Approximately 221,000 documents that cover the causes, course and consequences of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine have now been made public in archives, according to the acting head of the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance, Ihor Yukhnovskiy.

Speaking in late November 2008 at the conclusion of a two-day conference titled “The National Book of Memory for the Victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine: Experience and Prospects,” Dr. Yuhnovskiy said that, in order to get these materials our researchers studied such sources as the diplomatic archives of Germany, Great Britain, Poland and Italy.

He noted the significance of translating into Ukrainian and publishing the accounts of Italian diplomats in a book titled “Letters from Kharkiv” that was released last year. As well, a joint Ukrainian-Polish edition containing Polish documents about the Holodomor is of great importance for restoration of the historical truth of those times, Dr. Yuhnovskiy added. He also said he believes that archival research work in other countries should be continued.

Dr. Yuhnovskiy also stressed that eyewitness testimony is very important

for keeping alive the memory and renewing the truth about the tragic events of 1932-1933. Thus far, Ukraine has collected more than 212,000 such testimonies. The most active work in this direction is being carried out in the Sumy, Chernihiv, Vinnytsia, Kirovohrad and Mykolaiv oblasts. The institute plans to create an integrated database of testimonies to be available at the Holodomor Victims Museum and on the Internet.

Another component of Holodomor research, he said, is identification of the settlements in Ukraine affected by the Famine-Genocide. Almost 14,000 settlements have already been identified and additional work is under way. Much work has been done to reveal and develop the burial sites of Holodomor victims. As many as 3,400 sites have been found in Ukraine. More than 6,000 monuments and memorial signs to Holodomor victims have been erected – over 3,000 of them this year alone.

During Kyiv’s commemorations of the Holodomor’s 75th anniversary, the first stage of the Memorial Complex to Holodomor Victims in Ukraine was unveiled. The next phase is the opening of the Holodomor Museum. “In the future, the museum will be a place storing all Holodomor materials collected,” Dr. Yuhnovskiy said.

OSCE chairmanship calls for swift end to gas dispute

ATHENS – The chairperson-in-office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis, on January 6 expressed concern about increasingly disrupted gas supplies to parts of Europe, and urged Ukraine and Russia to settle their energy dispute as soon as possible.

“Russia as a supplier and Ukraine as a transit country each plays its own critical role in providing Europe with energy. They are also both participating states in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, along with 54

other countries, several of which are directly affected by this dispute,” said Ms. Bakoyannis.

“I am concerned about the increasing disruption to supplies, not least because of the extreme cold conditions all over Europe. All avenues for dialogue should be explored in order to find a mutually acceptable and lasting settlement as soon as possible,” she added.

The chairperson-in-office said she was liaising closely with the European Union and that the OSCE was exploring additional ways it could help defuse tensions.

Let's talk about it

BY YARO BIHUN

The least of these My brethren

St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral of Washington is not as large as its name would suggest. It's a relatively small parish located in Maryland's Silver Spring suburb north of the nation's capital. It has a beautiful church adjoined by a parish center with a large hall that serves as a venue for parish and Ukrainian community gatherings, concerts and other events. A non-parishioner, I have been there many times and have reported on some of them in *The Weekly*.

I mention the church here because of its Sisterhood of St. Olha, a small but very active group of women who over the past 10 years have been caring for "the least of these My brethren" in Ukraine in a most admirable way. As I reflected during this holiday season on the good and bad things we experienced over the past year — personally and as a community here and in our relationship with Ukraine — it was their selfless work and dedication that brought a sense of benevolence and warmth into an otherwise gloomy 2008, a year that saw devastating storms and floods in Ukraine's western oblasts, all-to-frequent mine disasters in the east, a crumbling domestic political environment, various threats from its neighbor to the north and a collapsing economy resulting from the international financial crisis.

The Sisterhood of St. Olha has been conducting its "mission of mercy" in Ukraine since its founding here in 1989. Its mission coordinator, Olha Matula, said that over the years they have collected more than \$140,000 in donations which were then disbursed in small amounts to the needy sick, orphans, students, schools, parishes and cultural activists in Ukraine as well as to cover the cost of shipping more than 800 large packages with clothing and other goods to those needy throughout Ukraine.

I happened to witness what was supposed to be the last of the semi-annual package preparation and sending sessions last June. Most of the large tables in the parish hall had mounds of donated clothing, footwear, books, toys and other treats. About 20 members of the sisterhood were sorting the donated items and selecting the appropriate pieces to be sent to each receiving individual, family or organization on its list. They packed them in large cardboard boxes that, with the help of three men, were then weighed,

sealed and prepared for shipment.

Mrs. Matula noted that previous semi-annual shipments averaged 30 to 35 packages, but because this was to be the last shipment, they packed close to 50, each weighing about 50 pounds.

Among the recipients in this shipment were: the Sonechko children's center and a church in Mykolayiv in the Volyn Oblast, the Tarasyk preschool in the village of Shevchenkove in the Cherkasy oblast, a poor family in Myrhorod in the Poltava Oblast, and a child whose mother died recently in Boryspil, near Kyiv.

After the June shipment, the sisterhood informed its church members that it would no longer accept articles for shipment to Ukraine, but that it would continue to provide financial assistance to orphans, students, the chronically ill and pensioners by sending small amounts of money to them directly or through existing aid organizations. As it turned out, however, there was yet another shipment that followed a few weeks later.

In a statement of thanks to its donors and volunteers published in the cathedral's newsletter, the sisterhood's president, Sophia Krawec, and Mrs. Matula noted that they had received hundreds of letters of thanks bearing witness "to the difference our assistance has made to people enduring the most trying times of their lives." They singled out one of the letters, from the Polishchuk family, which also thanked them for corresponding with them: "Your letters are always friendly and moving. One can feel your kindness, love and a longing for Ukraine, a caring about its future, its people. We feel all of this in our family, for which you have cared so openly and magnanimously."

The Sisterhood of St. Olha at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Washington is not alone in its endeavor. I'm sure there are other small groups that work in that vineyard, as there are the more widely known organizations like the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development and Fund, the Orphans Aid Society, among others. And we should be thankful for that — especially now, as we witnessed in a dramatic way the emergence of the other side of our human nature and the consequences of a free-market morality that places personal material gain above all else.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A new chapter in U.S. history

Dear Editor:

The election has finally ended with a victory for all Americans. Perhaps now we can return to a time when all of us actually lived freely, protected by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights; a time when the executive branch was commanded by the president rather than subordinates; a time when all people were guaranteed the right to counsel and a speedy trial without fear of cruel and unusual punishment. Maybe we can now telephone our family and friends without losing our right to privacy.

This is not the use of some "ridicule principle" of which I have been accused (*Letters*, November 2), but fact. I never knew that ridicule was socialist in origin. I thought it was a part of free speech as long as it wasn't criminally libelous in nature. It seems to me that some Americans today use the term "socialist" to condemn ideas that differ from their own, knowing that the mere mention of the word may intimidate others into their way of thinking. That sounds like "McCarthyism" to me.

This time the rhetoric failed. Now we open a new chapter in American history. Now is the time when we should stand united behind our new leadership in the hope of a resurgent United States that can be the envy of the world.

Eugene Pytel
Twin Lakes, Wis.

Myroslaw Prytulak
Windsor, Ontario

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.

Re: the number of Famine deaths

Dear Editor:

In his column "Quietly into the night" (December 7, 2008) Dr. Myron Kuropas is

IN THE PRESS: Obama and Putin

"*Mr. Obama and Mr. Putin*," editorial, *The New York Times*, December 27, 2008:

"Given all he faces, Barack Obama may be tempted to put Russia on a back burner. We hope he does not. ...

"Mr. Obama should signal to the Russians that he wants better relations. That would mean cutting back on belligerent talk and inviting the Russians to high-level consultations on areas in which the two countries can quickly achieve cooperation — say, on combating piracy. Mr. Obama should consider renewing the Start I treaty on reducing strategic nuclear forces, which expires in December 2009. He could tone down demands for NATO membership for Georgia and Ukraine, especially since neither is ready, and review plans to station defensive missiles in Poland and the Czech Republic.

"For every gesture, the United States would make clear that it expects a tangible response, starting with help in ending Iran's nuclear program and continuing with cooperation against international terrorism and a withdrawal of Russian troops from Georgia."

"*Mr. Putin's Bluff*," editorial, *The Washington Post*, December 7, 2008:

"Vladimir Putin's unsubtle campaign to intimidate President-elect Barack Obama continues apace. In a broadcast appearance Thursday [December 4], the Russian prime minister claimed to have detected some

correct in concluding that some Famine-deniers might question President Viktor Yushchenko's assertion that 10 million Ukrainians were starved to death by the evil forces of communism in 1932-1933. Apparently, the president arrived at this number after seeing the until-now-secret official USSR censuses of the years 1926 and 1937.

According to the 1926 census there were 31 million Ukrainians living in the entire Soviet Union (and not merely in the Ukrainian SSR) in 1926, and the 1937 census revealed that only 26 million of them lived there in 1937. In addition, the 1937 census indicated that the population of the whole USSR increased by 17 percent between 1926 and 1937.

Consequently, had the population of Ukrainians in the whole Soviet Union also increased during this period to the same extent (i.e., 17 percent) as the rest of its population, the number of Ukrainians in 1937 should have been 36.3 and not 26 million.

Thus, the obviously rational, credible and convincing estimate of the number of Ukrainians who were starved to death in the 1932-1933 Famine-Genocide appears to be 10 million — especially in the absence of other possible catastrophes between the censuses of 1926 and 1937 that could have resulted in such an enormous number of deaths.



Yaro Bihun

Members of the Sisterhood of St. Olha at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Washington pause to be photographed — along with a few helpful husbands and their pastor, Father Volodymyr Steliac — during a packing session of clothing and other goods for shipment to the needy in Ukraine last June.

2008: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Holodomor: 75th anniversary year

Holodomor. During 2008 the word seemed to be everywhere as Ukrainians around the globe marked the solemn 75th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 and mourned the millions deliberately killed by the Soviet regime. The true figure of deaths due to the Holodomor will never be known due to the cover-up engineered, with great success, by Soviet authorities and their collaborators. However, it has been estimated that at the height of the Famine-Genocide some 25,000 people died each day.

It was premeditated murder on the grandest scale directed from Moscow by Joseph Stalin. Indeed, the only term that can properly define what happened on Ukrainian lands in those fateful years is genocide – a word coined only in the late 1940s and a crime codified in the “Convention on Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,” adopted by the United Nations in 1948. What the Ukrainians tried to do as part of its commemorations of the Holodomor anniversary was tell the story of the Ukrainian genocide to a world that for far too long remained ignorant or has been deceived about the facts.

The major events marking the Holodomor took place in Kyiv in November 22. The day began with President Viktor Yushchenko and First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko laying flowers at the Famine monument erected in 1993 on St. Michael’s Square and a memorial service celebrated by the hierarchs of all of Ukraine’s major Christian denominations at the historic St. Sophia Cathedral.

The International Holodomor Forum, which included dramatic presentations and speeches by heads of state, followed at the Shevchenko National Opera and Ballet Theater. In attendance were official delegations representing 44 countries, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and UNESCO. The U.S. delegation was led by Ambassador to Ukraine William B. Taylor, Marilyn Ware, former U.S. ambassador to Finland, and Lorne Cramer, president of the International Republican Institute.

President Yushchenko expressed his gratitude to the 13 countries and several international organizations that had recognized the Holodomor as genocide of the Ukrainian people, and he called on all nations to condemn the crimes of the totalitarian Communist regime and all attempts to rehabilitate or justify the crimes of Joseph Stalin. He underscored: “Ukraine has withstood and persevered, and Ukraine has prevailed. Truth has overcome, and historical justice has prevailed. My people live. My people will live forever.”

Other heads of state who spoke at the ceremonial gathering were Presidents Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia, Valdis Zatlers of Latvia, Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania and Lech Kaczynski of Poland. Canada’s top representative at the Kyiv commemorations was Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney, who addressed the forum. In addition, letters from world readers were read at forum, among them messages from President George W. Bush and President-elect Barack Obama.

The day’s events concluded with the dedication of Kyiv’s new memorial to the Holodomor, called the “Candle of Memory.” Braving sub-freezing temperatures, wind, snow, sleet and rain, hundreds of onlookers gathered at the future site of the National Holodomor Memorial Historical Complex for the monument’s unveiling. Once the new memorial was blessed, Ukraine’s leaders and citizens representing every region of Ukraine placed lit candles in memory of the Holodomor’s victims.

Commenting on the dedication ceremony, Ulana Mazurkevich of Philadelphia, a member of the International Holodomor Commemorative Coordinating Committee, said: “As snowflakes and then drops of sleet were coming down, it seemed as if the sky had opened up that day and began shedding tears – as if heaven was crying for the 10 million victims.”

Also in late November, to coincide with the major commemorations in Kyiv, Ukraine’s diplomatic representations around the globe, whether in the United States or in Uzbekistan, held “Light a Candle” memorial ceremonies.

In London on November 22 the Ukrainian community of Great Britain marked the Holodomor anniversary with services at Westminster Central Hall and Westminster Abbey. As decreed by President Yushchenko, the Order of Freedom was presented posthumously to journalists Gareth Jones, a Welshman, and Malcolm Muggeridge, an Englishman, for their courageous reporting of the Famine



Official Website of Ukraine’s President

A view of the ceremony in memory of Holodomor victims at Kyiv’s St. Michael’s Square on November 22.

of 1932-1933. The ceremonies were organized by the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain and the Embassy of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, in Rome on November 23, Pope Benedict XVI prayed for the victims of the Holodomor during a noontime blessing and addressed the throng gathered on St. Peter’s Square in Ukrainian. “I express the strong hope that no longer will any political order, in the name of an ideology, deny the rights of the human person and his freedom and dignity, and I assure my prayers for all the innocent victims of this tremendous tragedy,” the pontiff said.

From Constantinople came Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I’s November message on the Holodomor. “... there was no tragedy in human history when more representatives of a single nation were destroyed in one peaceful year than during the several years of war. And no matter what anyone says or if they try to belittle the evil, this is the clear sign of genocide.”

Speaking in Kyiv on November 18 at a press briefing held just a few days before the major commemorations, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Yuri Kostenko reported that the parliaments of 14 countries had recognized the Holodomor as genocide. He listed Australia, Georgia, Estonia, Ecuador, Canada, Columbia, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, the United States and Hungary, as well as the Vatican.

It is a matter of some controversy, however, whether the United States has recognized the Famine as genocide. Although there are references to the Famine as genocide in several congressional resolutions, in fact there has not been any legislation which specifically stated that the United States recognizes the Holodomor as genocide. (On June 26, for example, Rep. Sander Levin introduced a resolution “remembering the 75th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 and extending the deepest sympathies of the House of Representatives to the victims, survivors and families of this tragedy”; the resolution was passed on September 23.) Moreover, U.S. administrations continue to avoid the term “genocide.” In his November 13 message on the occasion of the Famine’s 75th anniversary President George W. Bush did, however, refer to it as a “crime against humanity.”

Mr. Kostenko also noted that many international organizations recognized the Holodomor as genocide of the Ukrainian people. Resolutions were passed by UNESCO and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In addition, he said the Holodomor “has been qualified as a crime against humanity in a very important document adopted in October of this year by the European Parliament.” Mr. Kostenko also underscored that “Canada established a certain precedent – it became the first country in the world to adopt a law establishing a Day of Memory of the Holodomor Victims in Ukraine.”

Significantly, Canada officially recognized the Holodomor in Ukraine as an act of genocide via a bill passed by the House of Commons on May 27 and by the Senate the next day. The bill received royal assent on May 29, thus making it law. The legislation, Private Member’s

Bill C-459, was the initiative of Member of Parliament James Bezan (Selkirk-Interlake, Manitoba). It also established a “Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day” that is to be marked annually on the fourth Saturday in November, coinciding with the National Day of Remembrance observed in Ukraine in accordance with a presidential decree issued in 1998.

The bill noted that “the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide of 1932-1933 known as the Holodomor was deliberately planned and executed by the Soviet regime under Joseph Stalin to systematically destroy the Ukrainian people’s aspirations for a free and independent Ukraine, and subsequently caused the death of millions of Ukrainians in 1932 and 1933,” and points out that “information about the Ukrainian Famine and Genocide of 1932-1933 was suppressed, distorted or destroyed by Soviet authorities.”

Russia, meanwhile, continued to reject the historical truth about the Holodomor. In March, the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry condemned a statement by Russian envoy to the United Nations Valery Loshchinin in which he called on governments not to recognize Ukraine’s Great Famine of 1932-1933 as genocide. On September 26 Ukraine was once again compelled to officially respond to Russia’s efforts to undermine international recognition of the Holodomor. Ukraine’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) reacted with indignation to a statement of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs released to the media on September 24, in which it commented in a contemptuous manner on Ukraine’s aspirations to inform the international community about the Holodomor.

It is hard to believe, Ukraine’s MFA noted, that Russia “allows itself to mock Ukraine’s attempts to commemorate victims of this great tragedy in order to prevent [such a tragedy] from happening again. Instead of paying tribute to the common past of our peoples, the Russian leadership, on the contrary, is making significant efforts to discredit the Holodomor’s tragedy.” Kyiv called on Russian leaders and politicians to stop rejecting the truth and attempting to justify and whitewash the crimes of the Stalin regime.

At the same time, Sergei Lavrov, Russia’s foreign affairs minister stated: “We can hardly agree with the pseudo-historical treatment by Kyiv of the events connected with the famine of the 1930s in the USSR as some kind of ‘genocide of the Ukrainian people,’” an approach which slanders the memories of “millions of famine victims of other nationalities.”

Russian authorities also made it eminently clear they would not stand for commemorations on their territory of the Ukrainian nation’s genocide. They pressured Ukrainian communities in Russia to cancel events planned to mark the Holodomor’s 75th anniversary, including the arrival in various cities of the International Holodomor Remembrance Flame – the very same Remembrance Flame that had already traveled to 29 countries throughout the world, including those in North and South America, Europe and as Australia. As a result, the Holodomor commemorations took place in Moscow at the Embassy of

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Official Website of Ukraine's President

Kyiv's new memorial to the Holodomor, called the "Candle of Memory," which was unveiled on November 22.

Ukraine (technically, Ukrainian territory), and of necessity were scaled down in scope.

Although November was the month of the major Holodomor memorial events in Ukraine and elsewhere, the 75th anniversary commemorations actually began early in the year.

Some events – including the dedication of the site for the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide Memorial to be erected in Washington with funding by the Ukrainian government (December 2), and the presentation in Ukraine of the landmark report of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine (August 20 and November 28) – were the result of cooperation between the United States and Ukraine.

The National Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933 on October 6 announced that a site for the U.S. national memorial to the 10 million victims of the 1932-1933 Ukrainian Famine-Genocide had been approved. The memorial will be located in Washington at the intersection of North Capitol Street, Massachusetts Avenue and F Street, in the northwest quadrant of the District of Columbia, five blocks north of the U.S. Capitol. On October 13, 2006, President George W. Bush had signed into law the authorization for a Holodomor memorial in Washington. Over the next two years the national committee and the Embassy of Ukraine negotiated with the U.S. National Park Service and numerous other federal and local agencies to select a prominent site on public land on which to memorialize the Holodomor. Several public

hearings before the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission examined the suitability of 24 potential sites throughout the city before the final site was approved.

The future site of the Ukrainian Genocide Memorial was dedicated on December 2 with First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko of Ukraine as the featured speaker. The blessing of the site was conducted by Metropolitan Constantine of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Archbishop-Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, assisted by clergy. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor David Kramer noted in his remarks that the Famine was "the consequence of cruel calculation, the deliberate use of food as a tool of totalitarian oppression," and stressed that this memorial should be used as symbol that this will never be allowed to happen again and that Ukraine can honor the victims' memory by strengthening its democracy.

The Ukrainian translation of the four-volume report of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine was presented in Kyiv on August 20 and November 28. At the August event, the three-volume oral history project initiated by the Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons Association of New York and New Jersey and then taken up by the Famine Commission was presented. In November the fourth volume of the commission's report was presented at the U.S. ambassador's residence.

The Ukrainian version of the four volumes was published by the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and printed by the Kyiv Mohyla Academy publishing house with funding from both the Ukrainian and American governments.

A companion booklet to the four volumes noted the key roles played by Ukrainian American community organizations and institutions, such as Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine and The Ukrainian Weekly, and individuals, including Ihor Olshaniwsky and Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.), in securing the establishment of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine. The booklet republished Bozhena Olshaniwsky's article about the history of the commission, "The Ukraine Famine Commission: the commission that almost wasn't," which was originally published in The Weekly in 1993. Mr. Bradley was present at the November presentation of the report in Kyiv. He addressed the gathering, stating: "I have always believed that the truth will set us free. As a result, in the Senate I attached an amendment to a bill which created the commission, in order to publish what really happened. It is for me a great feeling of renewal to be able to have this document finally issued in the Ukrainian language. The Holodomor speaks to any human being. It is a terrible horror and it should never be forgotten."

The Ukrainian government also had a hand in preparing books about the Holodomor in various languages, Croatian and French among them, as well as in organizing exhibits about the Holodomor in various countries, such as Sweden, Germany and the United States.

Meanwhile, Lithuania's national film company, it was reported in October, began the filming in Ukraine of a

documentary about the Holodomor, and researchers were studying the archival materials of the Security Service of Ukraine and speaking with historians in Kyiv.

Another major accomplishment was the publication by Ukraine's Institute National of Memory of the National Book of Memory of Victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933, organized into oblast volumes.

Rutgers University in Newark, N.J., held the first scholarly conference of 2008 that was dedicated to the Holodomor. Titled "The Ukrainian Famine-Genocide: Reflections after 75 Years," the April 10 conference examined the systematic starvation of Ukrainians by the Soviet regime under Joseph Stalin in 1932-1933. The conference attracted a standing-room-only audience of students, scholars and community leaders. Dr. Alexander Hinton, associate professor of anthropology and global affairs at Rutgers University-Newark and director of the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights, gave the opening remarks; Dr. Alexander Motyl, professor of political science, was conference moderator. Historians Dr. Taras Hunczak, Dr. Frank Sysyn and Dr. Henry Huttenbach, as well as Dr. George Grabowicz, professor of literature, and Valery Kuchinsky, former ambassador of Ukraine to the United Nations, were among the speakers.

A major conference was held in Koncha Zaspa, outside of Kyiv, on September 25-26. About 50 Holodomor scholars attended the conference called "The 1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine: Reasons, Demographic Consequences and Legal Evaluation," which was hosted and financed by Ukraine's Institute of National Memory led by Dr. Ihor Yukhnovskiy. Among the leading Holodomor authorities in attendance were Drs. Stanislav Kulchytskyi and Vasyl Marochko of the Institute of Ukraine's History at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU); Dr. Ella Libanova of the Institute for Demography and Social Studies at NASU; Prof. Stephen Wheatcroft of the University of Melbourne; Dr. Roman Serbyn, professor emeritus of the University of Quebec at Montreal; and Judge Bohdan Futey of the U.S. Federal Court of Claims.

Back in the United States, Kean University in Union, N.J., hosted an educational conference on the "Ukraine Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933" that featured presentations by historians, educators and Holodomor survivors. Billed as a human rights conference, the program's stated aim was "to preserve the dignity of all human beings, to promote human rights around the world and to ensure that food is never again used as a weapon." The conference coordinator was Dr. Ruth P. Griffith, who teaches a graduate course titled "Ukrainian Famine-Genocide" and is the granddaughter of a Holodomor victim and the daughter of a survivor, Mary Horbatiuk-Demysyn Piatnochka. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Taras Hunczak. Kean University's president, Dr. Dawood Farahi, noted that the school has one of the best Holocaust resource centers in the nation and that courses in its program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies are filled through 2013. The university's goal is to educate the world about genocide, to do research to uncover the facts and to disseminate that research, Dr. Farahi explained. Middle and high school teachers attending the conference were eligible to receive professional development credits, while Kean University students could apply for co-curricular credits.

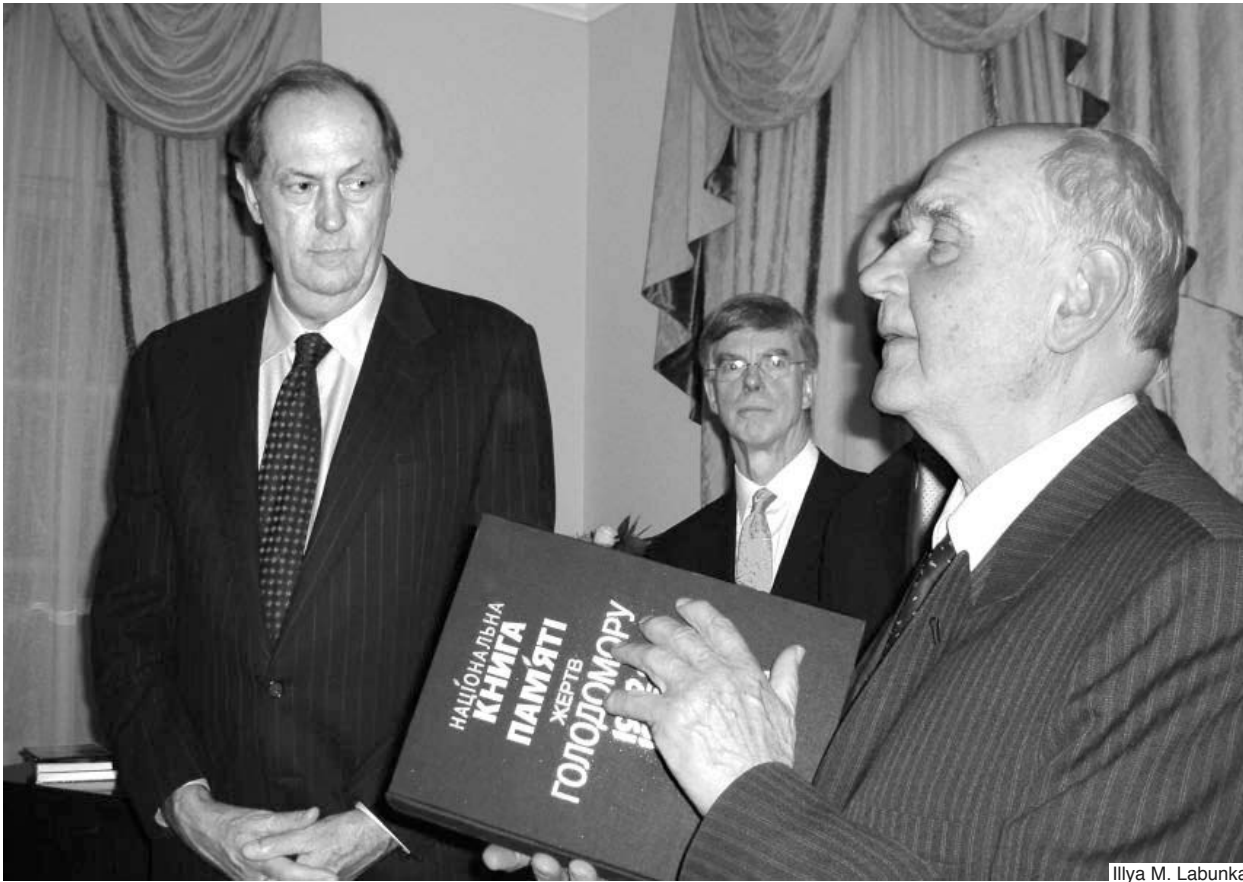
Three experts on Ukraine and the Famine spoke at the all-day symposium at the University of Denver on October 11 titled "Politics of Food: Past and Present." The speakers were Dr. Mark von Hagen, chairman of the department of history at Arizona State University and former director of the Harriman Institute at Columbia University; Dr. David Marples, director of the Stasiuk Program on Contemporary Ukraine at the University of Alberta; and Dr. Roman Serbyn of the University of Quebec at Montreal.

"The Great Famine in Ukraine: The Holodomor and its Consequences 1933 to the Present" was the title of the international conference held at Harvard University on November 17-18. The goal of the conference, according to its organizer, the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard, was to investigate the impact of the Holodomor in a framework examining its short-, mid- and long-term consequences, which continue to affect society and politics even today. Conference sessions also took a look at the dynamics of the Holodomor and its demographic impact. Speakers included scholars from Ukraine, Italy, the United States, Canada, France, Poland, the Netherlands, Austria and Russia, and the keynote address was delivered by Nicholas Werth, research director of the National Center for Scientific Research in Paris. Opening and concluding remarks were given by Andrea Graziosi, professor of history at the University of Naples "Federico II," and Harvard's Michael S. Flier, Oleksandr Potebnja



"Nobody Wanted to Die, 1932-1933" by Mykola Chervotkin (1989) was among the works on display on October 24-November 30 at the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago.

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Iliya M. Labunka

Dr. Ihor Yukhnovsky, acting director of the Institute of National Memory, presents Sen. Bill Bradley with the Poltava Oblast volume of the “Book of National Memory of the Holodomor” on November 28 in Kyiv, as U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William B. Taylor looks on.

Professor of Ukrainian Philology and director of HURI.

In conjunction with the conference, HURI hosted a preview performance of selections from “Red Earth (Hunger),” a new opera by Ukrainian American composer Virko Baley, with a libretto by Ukrainian American writer Bohdan Boychuk. The concert was held at the Cambridge Swedenborg Chapel. The full opera is slated to premiere in Boston in the spring of 2010.

Also at Harvard, the film “The Living” (Zhyvi) by Serhiy Bukovsky had its New England premiere on December 3 at an evening co-sponsored by HURI and the Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University. The screening was followed the next day by a public discussion of the film, its making and its reception by critics and the media in Kyiv.

Columbia University on December 2 was the venue for an international conference titled “Visualizing the Holodomor: The Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933 on Film” that was organized by the university’s Ukrainian Studies Program. The program included the North American premiere of “The Living,” and brought together speakers who focused on film and filmmaking as a means of understanding the Holodomor and its consequences. Speakers included filmmaker Serhiy Bukovsky, film expert Dr. Yuri Shevchuk, historian Dr. Roman Serbyn, Dr. Crispin Brooks, curator of the Visual History Archive at the Shoah Foundation Institute, as well as film student/filmmaker Natasha Mikhalchyk.

The Shevchenko Scientific Society sponsored sessions focusing on the Holodomor at the national convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies held in Philadelphia on November 20-23. Sessions dealt with “The Holodomor in Ukrainian Literature,” “The Year 1933 and Soviet Acts Regarding the Ukrainian Language” and “Soviet Famines and the Ukrainian Holodomor of 1932-1933.”

To mark the solemn anniversary the Shevchenko Society also made available to all researchers, historians and students its archive – “Collectivization Documents: Kamianskyi Region, Krynychanskyi Region, Solomianskyi Region, Vasylkivskyi Region of the Dnipropetrovsk District, 1928-1935 (Artificial Famine Documents).” This body of material was also placed on the society’s website, www.shevchenko.org. Plus, the society informed the public that its library in New York City has one of the largest collections of books and other materials dealing with the Famine-Genocide: under the subject “Famine, 1933” it lists over 240 entries in Ukrainian, English and German.

In Toronto, the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Center held an “open doors day” on October 26, inviting friends and the community to come and hear about its work in studying and disseminating information about the 1932-1933 Holodomor in Ukraine. The UCRDC’s projects comprised documentary films, books, exhibits and oral history – preserved on video and audiotape and published in Ukraine as part of a compila-

tion titled “Ukrainian Holocaust 1932-1933: Testimonies of Survivors” – as well as a website containing a variety of materials about the Holodomor.

In Kyiv, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) announced on October 2 that it had launched its Digital Archives Center, which included much information about the Holodomor. The SBU published and placed on its website the first list of high-ranking Communist Party and Soviet state officials who were heads of the punitive bodies OGPU (United State Political Department) and GPU (State Political Department) in 1932-1933, as well as the documents signed by these officials that formed a legal and organizational base for perpetrating the Holodomor and massive political repressions. The documents are conclusive evidence of the fact that the 1932-1933 Holodomor was deliberately engineered by the totalitarian Communist regime.

Several curriculum guides about the Holodomor were in the news during 2008. On September 18 the Toronto District School Board’s Program and School Services Committee voted unanimously that a secondary curriculum teaching guide and curriculum resource materials on the Holodomor be developed for use beginning in September 2009, and that this guide be made available to

every secondary school at that time. At its meeting on September 24, the Toronto District School Board unanimously approved the proposal that a teaching unit on the Holodomor be prepared for use in its schools by 2009. The Holodomor Committee at the Toronto branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress had initiated the process to include the Holodomor in the school board’s curriculum back in January.

In Pennsylvania, Ukrainians acting under the aegis of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America had succeeded in having the state’s 500 school districts receive during the 2007-2008 academic year a teacher-student workbook on the Holodomor that was titled “Genocide – Never Again.” The UCCA urged Ukrainian educators in other states to get involved in having similar curriculums adopted in the high schools of their districts. “The materials are ready and can be readily adapted to each and every state’s requirements,” wrote Larissa Kyj, the UCCA’s executive vice-president, in a commentary published in *The Weekly* on October 12.

Award-winning Montreal filmmaker Yuriy Luhovy, member of the Canadian Film and Television Academy, was at work on a new documentary about the Holodomor tentatively titled “Genocide Revealed.” The documentary is based on newly released archival material revealing the genocidal intent of the man-made Famine; interviews with various historians and specialists in Holodomor research; and survivors in Ukraine. The filmmaker noted that he intends his documentary to capture the broad scope of Stalin’s policies aimed at destroying Ukrainians as a nation.

Among other films in the news was “Holodomor: Ukraine’s Genocide of 1932-1933,” a feature-length documentary being produced by Bobby Leigh and Marta Tomkiw. Excerpts of the work in progress were shown at a number of community events as fund-raising for the venture continued. Mr. Leigh, a rock music producer, traveled to Ukraine in the spring to shoot the documentary and interview survivors in the Kyiv, Mykolayiv and Kharkiv oblasts. It had been hoped that the film would be premiered in November in Ukraine; the movie’s website indicates that a 2009 release is now planned.

During 2008 our Ukrainian community reached out to the broader public more than ever and enjoyed some measure of success in disseminating the truth about the Holodomor.

Community events commemorating the Holodomor were held, it seemed, in every Ukrainian community. Among the ones covered in stories published in *The Weekly* – events ranging from memorial services to commemorative concerts, exhibits and dramatic presentations – were those in: Chicago (September 12-13, November 15), Denver (October 10-12), Philadelphia (October 26), Whippany, N.J. (November 7-9), Detroit (November 9), Yonkers, N.Y. (November 9), Boston (November 15), New York (November 15), Winnipeg (November 16-22), Rochester, N.Y. (November 23), Houston (November 16), Clifton-Passaic, N.J. (December 7) and North Port, Fla.



Camera operator Adriana Luhova (right) with film director Yuriy Luhovy (center), and historian Nina Lapchinska (back right), film Famine-Genocide survivor Fedir Perederii in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

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(December 10).

Many communities and institutions held exhibits about the Holodomor that ran for days or weeks.

In New York City, The Ukrainian Museum put up an exhibit titled "Holodomor: Genocide by Famine," which consists of 100 panels of photographs, documents, government reports, eyewitness accounts and other archival material detailing virtually every aspect of the tragedy. The exhibit, which lasted from May 27 through November 30, was produced by the League of Ukrainian Canadians (LUC), with the assistance of the Museum of Soviet Occupation of the Kyiv Memorial Society in Ukraine and the cooperation of The Ukrainian Museum.

In Boston, the traveling poster exhibition about the Ukrainian Holodomor, which was shown in cities around the world thanks to the efforts of Ukraine's Institute of National Memory and the Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Fund, was on view in the Massachusetts State House on June 16-20.

In Washington, the U.S. Department of State's Ralph J. Bunche Library was the venue for an exhibit about the Famine-Genocide that was on view from September 16 through October 31. The exhibit was made possible by the cooperation of the State Department and the Embassy of Ukraine in the U.S. Earlier in the year, Ambassador Oleh Shamshur spoke at George Washington University on April 29 on the topic "Stalin's Policy Between the Two Wars: Genocide of Ukrainians," and the Library of Congress hosted a noted historian of the Holodomor, Stanislav Kulchitskyi, on May 30 for a lecture that was among the events associated with the Holodomor Remembrance Torch's last stop in the U.S.

The Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City hosted a Holodomor exhibit on October 4-5, during the citywide Open House New York weekend. The display was seen by more than 1,000 persons.

In Winnipeg, the Osередok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center on October 5-November 29 presented an exhibit of drawings by Olexander Wlasenko, son of a Holodomor survivor. Called "As We Slept," the exhibit consisted of six large-scale drawings of images appropriated from Soviet propaganda sources that depict Socialist images of progress, prosperity and contentment. Juxtaposing this illusion were seven intimate scaled whitewashed wall drawings of Famine victims in Soviet Ukraine in 1932-1933. These represented the horrific reality that was consistently denied by the Soviet regime and became expunged from human memory.

In Chicago, an exhibit of artworks commemorating the Holodomor, which was titled "Our Daily Bread," was on view at the Ukrainian National Museum on October 24-November 30. The 54 works displayed are only a portion of U.S. businessman Morgan Williams' collection "Holodomor: Through the Eyes of Ukrainian Artists."

In addition, Penn State University (State College, Pa.) and Boston College sponsored memorial events. Penn State's commemoration on November 9, co-sponsored by

the university's Ukrainian Society and the Byzantine Catholic Student Ministry, included a divine liturgy celebrated by Archbishop-Metropolitan Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, followed by an educational program and a panakhyda. It was the largest Ukrainian event in the university's history. BC on December 4 hosted a one-man performance by the Rev. Edward Evanko of Vancouver, British Columbia, that consisted of readings of Holodomor eyewitnesses' accounts interspersed with folk and religious songs. Father Evanko, a former actor who was ordained at the age of 66, has taken his dramatic presentation about the Famine-Genocide to cities throughout Canada and the United States.

A more unusual observance occurred in Auckland, New Zealand, where the Ukrainian community planted over 1,200 trees on May 10 in Shakespeare's Orewa National Park to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Holodomor in Ukraine.

But the event that truly united Ukrainians around the globe – while at the same time gained worldwide visibility for the 75th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide – was the journey of the International Holodomor Remembrance Torch. The torch relay, which began in Australia and ended in Ukraine, visited 33 countries. It all began on April 6 in Canberra, Australia, where the torch was blessed by local clergy and was officially lit by Stefan Romaniw, chair of the Ukrainian World Congress International Coordinating Committee of the 75th Anniversary of the Holodomor, and Ukraine's ambassador to Australia, Valentyn Adomaytis. The torch was then passed to survivors of the Famine-Genocide, and then on to youth representatives of the Ukrainian community and Sen. Gary Humphries of the Australian Parliament. From Australia the torch traveled to Canada, with Toronto as its first stop, traveling westward to Vernon, British Columbia, and then completing its tour in the east with Ottawa as its last stop during President Yushchenko's visit to the Canadian capital. The Holodomor Remembrance Torch was in the United States during the period of May 4-31, heading roughly eastward from Seattle to Washington, D.C., and visiting cities that are home to major Ukrainian communities, as well as several Ukrainian youth camps and Soyuzivka.

Along its long route, the Remembrance Torch was welcomed by Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians, Holodomor survivors and their descendants, political and religious leaders, members of Ukrainian youth organizations and students, and many, many others who came to pay homage to the Holodomor's victims.

It concluded its journey in Ukraine, visiting all 25 of its regions, before arriving in Kyiv, where the flame from the torch was used to light the "inextinguishable candle" inside the Hall of Memory that is part of the newly unveiled Holodomor memorial called the "Candle of Memory."

There its flame will continue to burn in memory of the millions killed during those fateful years of 1932-1933.

Ukraine: cold war of Viktor vs. Yulia

For those who support Ukraine's integration into Euro-Atlantic structures, the year 2008 began with renewed hope that President Viktor Yushchenko and newly appointed Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko would set aside personal differences and ambitions to work on behalf of national interests. The view was widely held that the two leaders who led Ukrainians through the Orange Revolution would recognize the opportunity that was squandered during their first term working together, and take advantage of the new chance they earned, offered by the September pre-term parliamentary elections and the emergence of the Democratic Forces Coalition.

To the disappointment of many, Ukraine's warring leaders weren't able to rise above their personal differences and ambitions, and the Presidential Secretariat, led by Viktor Baloha, spent the entire year battling with the Cabinet of Ministers, led by Ms. Tymoshenko. The two institutions undermined and sabotaged many of each other's initiatives. Although Ms. Tymoshenko's second term as prime minister offered a unique chance for Ukraine to gain a Membership Action Plan (MAP) in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the two leaders' active opposition to each other became a source of deep concern for European leaders, already worried by the Russian Federation's opposition. The lack of stability in Ukrainian politics, even with a pro-Western government, postponed any MAP for Ukraine beyond 2008.

Internal politics

For the first weeks of Ms. Tymoshenko's second term as prime minister, which began officially on December 18, 2007, it already became apparent that the Presidential Secretariat and the Cabinet of Ministers were bracing themselves for potential conflict, as reflecting in their personnel selection.

The Presidential Secretariat used the National Security and Defense Council as its counterweight to the Cabinet, appointing Party of Regions of Ukraine member Raisa Bohatyriova on December 24, 2007, as the council's secretary. Ms. Bohatyriova's appointment was intended to allow the Donetsk business clan, led by industrial king Rinat Akhmetov, to act as a formidable counterbalance to Ms. Tymoshenko's influence, experts said. (The Party of Regions expelled Ms. Bohatyriova later in the year after she said on August 29 in Washington that party leader Viktor Yanukovich's position on South Ossetia and Abkhazia is that of one individual and not the party view.)

Meanwhile as her counterpart to Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko, Ms. Tymoshenko tapped Hryhorii Nemyria as vice prime minister for Euro-integration. She immediately proposed replacing State Property Fund Chair Valentyna Semeniuk-Samsonenko with her own ally, Andrii Portnov, who served as a lawyer for Ukrainian oligarch Viktor Medvedchuk. Indeed, Ms. Tymoshenko had already been establishing relations with Mr. Medvedchuk. As the president and prime minister prepared to compete with each other, it only remained to be seen who would strike the first blow.

As her first policy decisions, Ms. Tymoshenko wasted no time in extending her pursuit of what her critics allege is a populist agenda, consisting of immediate gratification initiatives, mostly social payments, in order to secure the loyalty of voters. The day after Parliament elected her prime minister, Ms. Tymoshenko ordered Oschadbank, the state commercial bank, to begin preparing the funds to compensate Ukrainians for the millions in savings they lost during the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991 and the subsequent hyperinflation. A January 9 Cabinet resolution ordered 6 billion hrv, or \$1.2 billion (U.S.), to be distributed by Oschadbank – the first tranche of \$4 billion that was earmarked.

Indeed, the program was immensely popular, particularly among elderly citizens desperate for any additional source of income. Soon enough, thieves began stalking and attacking mail carriers delivering the payments, after which the government decided to restrict their payouts to Oschadbank outlets. Within 100 days Ms. Tymoshenko reported \$700 million was successfully distributed. Her subsequent gains in popularity, among a Ukrainian public easily swayed by government handouts, began irking the Presidential Secretariat, which began its criticisms in late January. The president repeatedly warned that the payments would increase rising inflation. While some economists supported the Presidential Secretariat's view that not only the influx of more money, but the mere perception of more money, would trigger inflation, other economists insisted



Lev Khmelkovsky

In New York on May 27, Consul General of Ukraine in New York Mykola Kyrychenko, Ira Lehun and Romanka Zajac light symbolic candles from the International Holodomor Remembrance Torch.

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the payments wouldn't significantly affect inflation.

To finance the compensation of lost bank deposits, Ms. Tymoshenko hoped to aggressively privatize many of Ukraine's largest state-owned assets, which were undervalued and lacked competitiveness. Among such assets were Ukrtelekom, the state telephone monopoly, and the Odesa Portside Plant, Ukraine's second-largest nitrogen fertilizer factory. She also proposed privatizing six "oblenergos," or regional energy distribution companies. Getting Mr. Portnov to assume the State Property Fund chairmanship would have furthered such a privatization drive, but throughout the year the Presidential Secretariat stood in obstruction, which critics alleged was to prevent financing of the prime minister's initiative. The Presidential Secretariat also attempted to replace the Oschadbank chair with its own ally. Soon enough, the battle for Oschadbank snowballed into the battle for the Ukrainian presidency.

Tensions between Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko were growing by the end of January when Dr. Taras Kuzio penned a column criticizing the Presidential Secretariat for obstructing Ms. Tymoshenko, particularly a planned visit to Moscow and her attempts to eliminate the RosUkrEnergo natural gas intermediary, widely suspected of massive corruption in the gas trade. On January 29 in Brussels, Ms. Tymoshenko presented her vice prime minister, Mr. Nemyria, before European Commission leaders, informing them that he was in charge of Ukraine's "consolidated work" on European integration. Her announcement, in which she essentially announced that she was taking a significant piece of foreign policy away from the president and the Foreign Affairs Ministry, became widely viewed as the re-ignition of conflict between the two Orange leaders.

The "cold war" became official on February 6, when Ms. Tymoshenko announced that the Cabinet decided to relieve Ms. Semeniuk-Samsonenko of her post as chair of the State Property Fund while a special group performed an official investigation to determine whether she had violated laws or the Constitution or had engaged in corruption. Within hours, Presidential Secretariat Chair Baloha said the Cabinet's decision was unconstitutional and geared toward financing the bank deposit compensation campaign, while Ms. Semeniuk-Samsonenko insisted she would remain in her job, labeling the attempt to dismiss her as a raider attack on the state organ. The next day, the president halted the Cabinet resolution with his own decree.

By mid-February the Presidential Secretariat was criticizing Ms. Tymoshenko's attempts to suppress the possible inflation caused by her compensation program, particularly restricting producers from increasing prices by more than 1 percent and proposing a stricter monetary policy to the National Bank of Ukraine.

Among the biggest battles between the Presidential Secretariat and the Cabinet was the one over the government's contract with the oil and natural gas exploration firm Vanco Energy Co. to drill in the Black Sea shelf. The Cabinet of Ministers passed a resolution on May 21 rescinding the government's agreement with Vanco to drill in the shelf. Ms. Tymoshenko alleged that her predecessors in the Yanukovich government had surrendered too much in oil and gas rights to the drillers, also alleging the business venture was set up in an opaque, corrupt manner. Vanco Chief Executive Officer Gene Van Dyke expressed outrage over Ms. Tymoshenko's decision, filing a lawsuit with the international arbitration courts in Stockholm.

The international community was surprised by Ms. Tymoshenko's action against Vanco, expecting the prime minister to fulfill promises of establishing stable and friendly business conditions. However, the prime minister insisted she was acting in Ukraine's best interests because the Vanco deal was corrupt, as the company later revealed that its partner in the joint venture was Donbas Fuel and Energy Co., owned by business kingpin Mr. Akhmetov, a close associate of former Prime Minister Yanukovich, whose government approved the deal.

Along with the Presidential Secretariat, most international investors rallied to the defense of Vanco, including the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council led by American businessman Morgan Williams, voicing their concern about once again inhospitable investment and business conditions in Ukraine.

For the first time in her political career, Ms. Tymoshenko suffered some significant embarrassments in 2008. Most notably, she forced a mayoral election in Kyiv with a March 18 parliamentary vote, without appearing to have calculated whether the candidate from her political bloc would actually have a chance at winning. Kyiv election law didn't provide for a second round in case no single candidate won 50 percent of the vote in the first round. Subsequent attempts by the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc to initiate a second round were duly blocked by President Yushchenko, who guaranteed his veto on any such legisla-



Oleksander Kosarev/UNIAN

Rada Chairman Arseniy Yatsenyuk waits for national deputies to unblock the Presidium on January 13.



The U.S. and Ukrainian presidents during their press conference in Kyiv on April 1.



Oleksander Prokopenko/Pool/UNIAN

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko talks to depositors in front of an Oschadbank branch in Dnipropetrovsk on January 14.

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Official Website of Ukraine's President

During the NATO-Ukraine Commission meeting on April 4, President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine listens as NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer speaks.

tion. The Tymoshenko Bloc didn't have enough support to override the president's veto.

The president's clear support for incumbent Mayor Leonid Chernovetskyi, as a counterbalance to Ms. Tymoshenko's attempts to widen her influence over Ukrainian politics, signaled that the battle between the Presidential Secretariat and Cabinet of Ministers was now out in the open, without any subtleties. Meanwhile, the Kyiv electorate was essentially divided into two camps – those who supported Mr. Chernovetskyi and those against. Though Mr. Chernovetskyi's name is synonymous with corruption, he managed to find significant support among three key constituencies in the capital: pensioners, the poor dependent on social payments and government workers. The incumbent rallied support among these constituencies with the same tried-and-true formula employed, ironically, by his opponent Ms. Tymoshenko – exchanging votes for favors or payments. Meanwhile, the anti-Chernovetskyi vote was split across a handful of serious candidates, including Vitali Klitschko and Ms. Tymoshenko's right-hand man, Oleksander Turchynov.

It came as no surprise then that Mr. Chernovetskyi handily won re-election with 38 percent of the vote, compared to 19 percent for Mr. Turchynov and 18 percent for Mr. Klitschko. Mr. Chernovetskyi's victory was in fact more widely viewed as a defeat for Ms. Tymoshenko, who received a barrage of criticism for wasting government funds on an election that changed nothing. Any plans to remove from office the corrupt Kharkiv Mayor Mykhailo

Dobkin, who was suspecting of drug dealing among other criminal offenses, were suddenly trashed after Mr. Chernovetskyi's handy victory.

The domestic scandal of the summer didn't involve Ms. Tymoshenko, but President Yushchenko's conflict with David Zhvania, a Georgian immigrant to Ukraine who made his millions in dealing nuclear fuel rods, among other things, as part of his business enterprise, Brinkford, with Mykola Martynenko. Mr. Zhvania was among the top financiers of Mr. Yushchenko's presidential campaign in 2004, and he earned enough of the future president's trust to become selected as godfather to the president's youngest son, Taras. Yet, Mr. Zhvania fell out of the president's favor after he dismissed the entire government in 2005, in which Mr. Zhvania had served as emergency situations minister. Eventually, Mr. Zhvania, with Yuri Lutsenko, formed the People's Self-Defense, which began to favor Ms. Tymoshenko's policies in 2008 after getting into Parliament by merging with the pro-presidential Our Ukraine in the September 2007 election. In May the Procurator General began investigating how Mr. Zhvania had gained his Ukrainian citizenship in the 1990s, and began an effort to strip him of his citizenship and deport him.

During this time, Mr. Zhvania went public to accuse President Yushchenko of persecuting him in a vengeance campaign. He also stunned the world in a sensational June 3 interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC), claiming the president wasn't poisoned by Russian agents, but merely suffered food poisoning at that fateful dinner

that resulted in an inflammation of the pancreas. His facial disfigurement, he alleged, only happened after President Yushchenko was receiving treatment at an Austrian hospital, where the pancreatic effects were removed. However, medications administered at the Austrian hospital lowered the president's immunity, resulting in shingles and the inflammation of the trigeminal nerve, "from which the facial asymmetry emerged," Mr. Zhvania said in an interview with the Russian-language tabloid newspaper, Komsomolskaya Pravda.

Whether or not Mr. Zhvania was lying, his claims drew a livid response from President Yushchenko, who in turn accused him of conspiring in the plot to poison him. The president specifically noted that it was Mr. Zhvania who organized the September 5 meeting at the home of Security Service of Ukraine Vice-Chair Volodymyr Satsiuk.

Meanwhile, as tensions mounted with Ms. Tymoshenko, Presidential Secretariat Chair Baloha was maneuvering behind the scenes to collapse the parliamentary coalition and give President Yushchenko the ability to dismiss the government and call new elections. On June 6 National Deputy Ihor Rybakov of the Tymoshenko Bloc and Yuri But of the People's Self-Defense announced they were abandoning the parliamentary majority, thus denying it the slim majority of two votes that it had and rendering it impotent. Though never proven, it's accepted that Mr. Baloha offered the two lawmakers a deal in exchange for their resignations.

What made the situation particularly tricky was that Mr. Rybakov and Mr. But stated they were leaving the coalition – not their respective factions. While the Constitution of Ukraine provides for a parliamentary faction's ability to expel and replace rogue deputies should they abandon the faction, it doesn't address declarations of leaving a coalition (as opposed to a faction). For three months, Parliament didn't have a majority coalition, giving President Yushchenko the ability to dismiss it and call new elections, which he did on October 8.

Not only was the parliamentary coalition inactive, but the Tymoshenko Bloc cast a historic vote with the Party of Regions and Communists on September 2 to strip the Ukrainian presidency of all its remaining authority over the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Defense Ministry and the Security Service of Ukraine. The possibility emerged that the Tymoshenko Bloc would try to form a coalition government with the Party of Regions in the interest of national stability, and indeed negotiations occurred.

But less than a month later, after failed negotiations with the Party of Regions, the Tymoshenko Bloc re-united with the Our Ukraine faction to entirely rescind the legislation that decimated the president's authority. But the damage was done, and President Yushchenko used it as a pretext to dismiss the government a month later.

If President Yushchenko had his way, 2008 would have featured the third parliamentary election in three years. But Ms. Tymoshenko often manages to get things her way,



UNIAN

Verkhovna Rada Chairman Arseniy Yatsenyuk attempts to open a parliamentary session on July 9 as members from the Yulia Tymoshenko faction block the rostrum.



Oleksandr Prokopenko/UNIAN

Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko led her parliamentary faction in teaming up on September 2 with the Party of Regions of Ukraine led by Viktor Yanukovich (right) in passing legislation that observers said would reduce the Ukrainian presidency to a figurehead post.

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which was the case in her desperate and rambunctious campaign to delay any parliamentary election past the New Year, and prevent it from taking place at all. Tymoshenko Bloc deputies stormed the Kyiv courts, whichever were hearing their appeals, and barged into the offices of judges, threatening and bullying them. When judges ruled in their favor to block the election, President Yushchenko responded by liquidating a court, dismissing its judges and establishing new courts, which made rulings that favored the Presidential Secretariat's position.

However, the game that the Tymoshenko Bloc succeeded in playing was creating enough chaos in the courts and confusion in the media and among government officials that the Central Election Commission would not be able to organize the parliamentary election before the holiday season. Despite repeated claims that the election would indeed occur, President Yushchenko eventually gave up after repeated statements from CEC official Andrii Mahera that the election couldn't be organized in time.

When pressed against the wall, Tymoshenko Bloc deputies proved quite willing to stoop to sinister and underhanded tactics to maintain political power. And President Yushchenko once again demonstrated he is more than willing to bend the rules, by meddling in the courts, if it means holding onto power.

Ukrainian politics had its fair share of follies, soap operas and embarrassing episodes. Newly appointed Internal Affairs Minister Yuriy Lutsenko, who is supposed to be responsible for the police force and law and order in Ukraine, attacked Kyiv Mayor Chernovetskyi following a National Security and Defense Council meeting on January 18.

At the council meeting, Mr. Chernovetskyi accused Mr. Lutsenko of threatening to arrest his son, Stefan, if he did not offer land favors, apparently drawing the minister's rage. However, Mr. Lutsenko said it was Mr. Chernovetskyi who attacked first, targeting his knee. Mr. Yushchenko said their conflict served to discredit the nation, both domestically and internationally.

At the February 5 parliamentary session, Party of Regions national deputies locked Rada Chair Arseniy Yatsenyuk in his office, partly in revenge for his signing the "Letter of Three," a document sent by Mr. Yatsenyuk, Ms. Tymoshenko and President Yushchenko to NATO requesting that it grant Ukraine a MAP. One week later, the Party of Regions deputies led by Andrii Klyuyev again locked up Mr. Yatsenyuk, this time in the hall in front of his office.

By year's end, Mr. Yatsenyuk was ousted as chairman of the Verkhovna Rada and the Rada plunged into deeper instability. During a tense November 12 session highlighted by shouting matches, fistfights and broken glass, 233 members of Parliament out of the 350 registered voted to oust Mr. Yatsenyuk. The votes came from an alliance consisting of the Party of Regions of Ukraine, the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc, the Communist Party of Ukraine and Single Center, a spin-off faction of the Our Ukraine – People's Self Defense (OU-PSD).

On December 9, Volodymyr Lytvyn of the eponymous bloc returned as Rada chair after the Tymoshenko Bloc cobbled together 244 votes to support his candidacy from a broad range of political forces, including the Lytvyn Bloc, the People's Self-Defense wing of OU-PSD and even the Communist Party.

Upon seating himself, Mr. Lytvyn immediately declared that a new government coalition agreement had emerged between the Tymoshenko, Lytvyn and OU-PSD blocs.

Foreign policy

With Ms. Tymoshenko's return as prime minister, the West had high hopes for the Ukrainian government making progress toward Euro-Atlantic integration. The vicious conflict between president and the prime minister however, ruined much of these hopes and undermined the Foreign Affairs Ministry's goals and efforts.

Initially, the Orange leaders were on the same page. On January 15 President Yushchenko, Prime Minister Tymoshenko and Verkhovna Rada Chair Yatsenyuk signed and sent the now-famous "Letter of Three" addressed to the NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer in Brussels, requesting consideration for MAP at NATO's April summit in Bucharest. The "Letter of Three" was organized and dispatched covertly, leading the Party of Regions to launch a political scandal once its lawmakers got wind of it. Many Regions lawmakers felt betrayed by Mr. Yatsenyuk, whose candidacy for the Rada chairmanship they had supported in the prior year. Its deputies began a drive to dismiss Mr. Yatsenyuk from his post.

A few weeks later, on February 12, the Party of Regions and Communists staged a creative protest against NATO inside the Verkhovna Rada, filling the session hall with dozens of blue and yellow balloons. Each was filled with



Official Website of Ukraine's President
Presidents Nicolas Sarkozy and Viktor Yushchenko in Paris on September 9.

helium and read, "NATO – No!" They also blocked the parliamentary rostrum and sounded sirens and horns, preventing Mr. Yatsenyuk from leading the session.

By the time the Bucharest summit rolled around on April 2, Ukraine's MAP denial was already foreseen. But nothing served to drive a greater wedge in Ukrainian politics, particularly between President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko, as war between Russia and Georgia erupted on August 8. Although political observers and the public alike had thought the two Orange leaders had virtually identical foreign policy positions, the war in South Ossetia proved that wasn't the case. Three foreign policy positions emerged in Ukraine as a result of the war – the Russian view held by the Party of Regions, the European view held by the Tymoshenko Bloc and the American view held by the Presidential Secretariat and Our Ukraine (People's Self-Defense at this point was entirely aligned with the Tymoshenko Bloc). Most notably, Ms. Tymoshenko didn't make a statement on the conflict until more than a week after it began.

On December 3, at the meeting of NATO foreign ministers, known collectively as the North Atlantic Council, Ukraine's and Georgia's eventual accession to the alliance was postponed yet again. NATO decided that, instead of granting the two troubled countries Membership Action Plans, it would develop Annual National Programs for each. The ANP is described as a "performance-based process"; Ukraine was told NATO would use the NATO-Ukraine Commission that has existed since 1997 as an instrument in drafting and implementing the reforms needed on the road to NATO membership (whenever that might be) and that progress would be reviewed on an annual basis.

Meanwhile, back on September 9, European Union leaders decided to delay Ukraine's integration efforts by at least half a year due to the conflict between the country's president and prime minister, as well as the expected collapse of the pro-Western coalition government (which indeed happened exactly a week later). Ukraine was to have signed an Association Agreement with the EU during the Ukraine-EU summit.

Foreign policy failures overshadowed some very significant gains, particularly Ukraine's entry in the World Trade Organization (WTO) as its 152nd member. President Yushchenko traveled to the organization's General Council headquarters in Geneva on February 5 to witness the vote and engage in a signing ceremony with WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy.

The country inherited a weighty list of requirements it had to fulfill during its five-year transition into membership. Though the Ukrainian president promised to allow free trade of Ukraine's agricultural land and a new tax code, neither was fulfilled by the year's end. Other requirements involved changes to customs policy, export subsidies, tariffs and quotas.

Soon after Ukraine's WTO membership was approved, the Yushchenko administration officially launched negotiations with the European Union on creating a deep free trade zone, which was announced on February 18 during the visit of EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson to Kyiv. "We expect that 2008 will be the most active year in conducting the negotiations to form a deep free trade zone," President

Yushchenko said.

Russian-Ukrainian relations in 2008 consisted of much of the same – threats of cuts in natural gas supplies, threats of cuts in diplomacy should Ukraine join the NATO Membership Action Plan, threats to keep the Black Sea Fleet stationed in Crimea beyond 2017, criticism of the Ukrainian recognition of the Holodomor, criticism of the Yushchenko government's pro-Ukrainian language and cultural policies, and a lack of progress in border delineation along the Kerch Strait and Azov Sea.

In mid-February, President Yushchenko and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin met for three hours in Moscow, at which time they signed a "Russia-Ukraine Plan of Action" through 2009, consisting of resolving licensing agreements and intellectual property rights and beginning "practical work" to demarcate the Russian-Ukrainian border, among many other projects.

Foreign visitors

During 2008, Ukraine was visited by several foreign leaders, among them U.S. President George W. Bush, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and United Kingdom Foreign Secretary David Miliband. Other prominent visitors included U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar and Vice-President Dick Cheney. As these Western leaders visited Ukraine in succession, the infighting in Ukraine got worse and Ukraine's chances for acceptance by the EU and NATO decreased.

Sen. Lugar, co-chairman of the powerful Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, was the first of the group to visit Kyiv, leading a U.S. delegation on January 15 to discuss key questions of bilateral relations, strengthening Ukraine's energy independence and Ukraine's membership in European and Euro-Atlantic bodies. Sen. Lugar expressed hope that U.S.-Ukraine relations would be strengthened now that the government of Yulia Tymoshenko has assumed power after months of political deadlock in Ukraine. "Relations are excellent and my guess is that they will grow even stronger," Sen. Lugar said.

President Bush and his wife, Laura, arrived in Kyiv on March 31 for a two-day visit on what was the two-term president's first official visit to Ukraine. The trip came ahead of the crucial NATO summit in Bucharest at which Ukraine's MAP was to be considered, and Mr. Bush's visit was aimed at underscoring the full support of the United States for Ukraine's next steps toward NATO. "This week Ukraine seeks to strengthen its trans-Atlantic ties through a NATO Membership Action Plan. The United States strongly supports your request. We are proud to stand with you in Bucharest and beyond," declared President Bush. He also noted that the United States and Ukraine share a common vision for the future and seek to advance the cause of freedom by helping all Europeans live together in security and peace.

The American delegation also included Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, White House Chief of Staff Joshua Bolten, U.S. National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley, Deputy White House Chief of Staff Joe Hagen, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Daniel Fried and Staff Secretary Raul F. Yanes. During the visit, Ukraine and the U.S. signed a bilateral action plan for 2008-2009, referred to as a "Roadmap," that foresees the strengthening of cooperation in trade, development of alternative sources of energy, humanitarian aid, improved weaponry utilization, aviation, nuclear energy and the implementation of joint high-tech programs.

In addition to his meetings with President Yushchenko, Mr. Bush met one-on-one with Prime Minister Tymoshenko in what was an unscheduled meeting. While Mr. Bush met with Mr. Yanukovich, leader of the opposition, Secretary Rice met with Ms. Tymoshenko.

President and Mrs. Bush later joined President and Mrs. Yushchenko for a wreath-laying ceremony at the Holodomor memorial in St. Michael's Square.

Chancellor Merkel met with Ukraine's feuding leaders on July 21. While in Kyiv she spoke of Ukraine's NATO membership and hinted at a potential future bid for entry into the European Union. She also underscored Germany's commitment to maintaining close dialogue with Ukraine, as well as its willingness to assist the country along the path to full NATO membership. "Ukraine will join NATO one day," Chancellor Merkel said during a joint press conference with President Yushchenko. "We will work out a plan according to which Germany will help Ukraine to join NATO's Membership Action Plan." Ms. Merkel and Mr. Yushchenko also discussed in further detail the increasing level of partnership between Ukraine and the European Union.

Mr. Miliband, who arrived in late August, noted: "I have come to Ukraine today for one reason above all others: in the midst of the Georgia crisis, I want to re-affirm the commitment of the United Kingdom to support the democratic

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UNIAN/ Oleksander Kosariev

Volodymyr Lytvyn, leader of the eponymous political bloc, takes his seat as the newly elected chair of the Verkhovna Rada on December 9. He previously served as Rada chair in 2002-2006.

choices of the Ukrainian people. We offer this support bilaterally, following the highly successful visit by your president to London, and his agreement with our prime minister to deepen the wide-ranging partnership between the U.K. and Ukraine, from energy to Euro 2012. An important part of the joint statement by the president and the prime minister was agreement that together we would remember the Holodomor. I am glad that today I will have had the chance to pay my respects to the millions who died in this appalling man-made tragedy." Mr. Miliband also stated that Ukraine – clearly “a European country” – should be accepted into the European Union once it fulfills the criteria for membership. As regards Ukraine’s membership in NATO, he said, “At Bucharest NATO said it would welcome you – if you want it. Now we should use the NATO-Ukraine Commission to chart the route to a choice about membership.”

The U.S. vice-president also arrived in Kyiv in the aftermath of the Russian-Georgian war as part of a four-nation tour that included Azerbaijan, Georgia and Italy. He met with both President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko on September 5, and stated publicly: “Ukraine’s support for Georgia, and especially your [President Yushchenko’s] dramatic visit to Tbilisi in the crisis’ first days, showed a courageous example for others,” adding that “The free world must follow this example decisively and patiently. Russia’s actions cast doubt on its dependability as an international partner not only for Georgia, but the whole region.” Mr. Cheney re-affirmed the U.S. government’s support for Ukraine’s Euro-Atlantic integration efforts, and stressed the importance of maintaining political stability in Ukraine. “The partners agreed in Bucharest that Ukraine will be a NATO member, and that statement remains valid today,” he said.

Other prominent visitors to Kyiv included the board of directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which held its 17th Annual Meeting and Business Forum in the Ukrainian capital on May 18-19, and a delegation of representatives of NATO member-states led by Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, who were in town on June 16-17 to assess the progress made by Ukraine since NATO’s April summit in Bucharest. The secretary general stated that he would do everything possible to

enable Ukraine to receive a NATO Membership Action Plan in December and he vowed that Russia would not influence the decision. He told an Austrian newspaper that cooperation between Ukraine’s president and prime minister would play a decisive role in NATO’s decision in December.

Economic crisis

Ukraine’s economic woes, in the view of President Yushchenko, began immediately after the New Year through Ms. Tymoshenko’s program to return \$4 billion in bank deposits lost during the Soviet collapse and subsequent hyperinflation. After repeated warnings about how the increased money supply would accelerate inflation, President Yushchenko declared on February 7 that prices rose 2.9 percent in January, or an annual inflation rate of 19.4 percent, noting “the situation, in my view, is very serious.” He blamed Ms. Tymoshenko’s compensation program, as well as rising energy prices, to which he said the Tymoshenko government offered no solution despite his requests for proposals.

By the end of the first quarter, it was clear the government was in no way going to succeed in meeting its inflation projection of about 10 percent for the year. Inflation became the biggest economic problem confronting Ukraine with, largely due to external forces, such as rising global commodity prices. Nonetheless, President Yushchenko was insisting at the end of July that it was Ms. Tymoshenko’s economic mismanagement and populist programs, not so much global tendencies, that were causing the accelerating inflation.

In the fall, with the global financial crisis hitting Ukraine hard, warring leaders each proposed their own anti-crisis measures and Ukrainian lawmakers attempted to pass legislation to deal with the economic implosion. On November 5 the IMF approved a \$16.4 billion loan to the Ukrainian government – its biggest ever credit – to stabilize Ukraine’s shaken financial system and restore public confidence in the country’s banks. The first tranche of the loan was released when the Verkhovna Rada finally approved anti-crisis legislation that was signed by President Yushchenko on November 3.

Strategic partnership of U.S. and Ukraine

Washington and Kyiv in 2008 witnessed the further strengthening of the U.S.-Ukraine relationship. It was advanced during an exchange of presidential visits and other high-level meetings on bilateral ties, Ukraine’s entry into the Euro-Atlantic community and other issues, and culminated in the signing of the United States-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership in December.

The year also saw expanding cooperation in marking the 75th anniversary of Ukraine’s 1932-1933 Holodomor which climaxed in November with the dedication of the future Ukrainian Famine-Genocide Memorial site in the U.S. capital.

U.S.-Ukrainian business and economic ties also grew in 2008, helped along with the activities and expansion of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC), as the group intensified its activities and reached its end-of-the-year goal of accepting its 100th member – the software giant Microsoft Corp.

The year concluded on a sad note, however, when on the very last day of the year, the Voice of America stopped its radio broadcasts in Ukrainian.

Presidential visits

U.S. President George W. Bush, in what was viewed as a sign that Washington was backing Ukraine’s desire to join NATO, made an overnight visit to Kyiv on March 31-April 1 on his way to the April NATO summit in Bucharest. It was his first state visit to Ukraine.

Following a one-on-one meeting with President Viktor Yushchenko, the two heads of state continued their discussions in an expanded meeting that included senior government officials of both countries, among them Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Minister of Foreign Affairs Volodymyr Ohryzko.

Afterwards, senior officials of both parties signed a bilateral Action Plan for 2008-2009 (informally referred to as the “Roadmap”) which calls for increased cooperation in such areas as trade, development of alternative sources of energy, humanitarian aid, improved weaponry utilization, aviation, nuclear energy and joint high-tech programs. They also signed a separate agreement on expanding bilateral space exploration for peaceful purposes.

During a press conference that followed, President Yushchenko said Ukraine received the “full support” of the United States to begin the process toward accession to a NATO Membership Action Plan (MAP) at the Bucharest summit. Later, during a luncheon in honor of the visiting president, he also thanked the United States for its support in getting Ukraine into the World Trade Organization.

In turn, President Bush expressed his admiration of Ukraine’s peaceful Orange Revolution and its role in contributing to every mission of the NATO alliance. “This week Ukraine seeks to strengthen its trans-Atlantic ties through a NATO Membership Action Plan,” he said, adding that the United States “strongly supports your request.”

Later that afternoon the two presidents and their wives took part in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Holodomor Monument on St. Michael’s Square in honor of the millions



Yaro Bihun

Ukraine’s Vice Prime Minister Hryhorii Nemyria, an ally of Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, spoke at the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council on January 31.

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Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox clergy offer prayers as they bless the future site of the Holodomor memorial in Washington on November 3.

Yaro Bihun

of victims of the Great Famine.

In September President Yushchenko visited the United States — twice within a week. The first visit, September 22-24, was for the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly and other meetings in New York City; the second was a one-day visit to Washington for a meeting with President Bush to discuss their countries' developing bilateral relationship and other important issues of shared concern, including Ukraine's problematic domestic political situation.

While in New York, President Yushchenko also met with the Republican Party presidential and vice-presidential candidates John McCain and Sarah Palin, as well as with representatives of the Ukrainian American community and other groups interested in Ukraine.

In Washington, he held a news conference at the National Press Club, attended a working breakfast with members of the U.S. Ukraine Business Council and laid a wreath at the monument to Taras Shevchenko.

At the Press Club, journalists asked him about Russia's military incursion and occupation of Georgian territory and its potential future affect on Ukraine, especially in such areas as Crimea. He said that, as far as Ukraine is concerned, Crimea was not a problem. Like any other area of Ukraine, Crimea "is an integral and inseparable part of Ukraine," he stressed, adding that Ukraine will not take part in any negotiations about its territorial integrity.

Among those accompanying President Yushchenko on his visit was his national security advisor, Raisa Bohatyriova, who was thrown out by the opposition Party of Regions because of her remarks about its leader, Viktor Yanukovich,

during her earlier visit to Washington on August 29-30, and Foreign Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko, who would return to Washington in mid-December to sign the United States-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership.

A strategic partnership

Foreign Minister Ohryzko and Secretary of State Rice signed the charter on December 19, following their meeting at the State Department. The document affirms the deepening of security, economic, energy and other aspects of the U.S.-Ukraine bilateral relationship and states that the parties' "support for each other's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders constitutes the foundation of our bilateral relations."

The two countries affirm that they "share a vital interest in a strong, independent and democratic Ukraine," that Ukraine's integration 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. And, in the last paragraph they note that "Ukraine welcomes the United States' intention to establish an American diplomatic presence (American Presence Post) in Symferopol" in Crimea.

State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack later explained that an American Presence Post consists of one or two diplomats working on such things as cultural exchanges and events, and political reporting, among other duties. When some of the journalists at the briefing suggested that Russia could see this as "yet another American incursion into Russia's historic sphere of influence," Mr. McCormack added that if the Russian government "chooses to be upset"

by this, "well, there's not much I can do about that."

On the eve of his meeting with Secretary Rice, Minister Ohryzko discussed some of the elements of the charter at a meeting with representatives of Ukrainian-American organizations at the Embassy of Ukraine. He told them that the presence of the Russian Black Sea Fleet is a destabilizing factor in Crimea. And while Ukraine cannot demand its removal before 2017 because of its bilateral agreement with Russia, he said, it will insist the fleet leave when the agreement expires.

NATO membership

As for the U.S. administration's backing of Ukraine's earliest entry into NATO, it has the full support of the U.S. Congress. On February 14, the U.S. Senate passed by unanimous consent Senate Resolution 439, "expressing the strong support of the Senate for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to enter into a Membership Action Plan with Georgia and Ukraine."

The resolution was introduced at the end of January by Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.). Among the co-sponsors of the resolution were the future Democratic president and vice-president of the United States, Sens. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and Joseph Biden (D-Del.), as well as their defeated Republican presidential rival, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), and one of his leading backers, Joseph I. Lieberman (I-Conn.).

A similar resolution, sponsored by Rep. Robert Wexler (D-Fla.), was passed by the House of Representatives on April 1.

It should also be noted that the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) held a hearing on NATO enlargement on March 4. The three speakers all supported a Membership Action Plan for Ukraine, albeit in varying degrees, with former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer emerging as the strongest proponent.

Holodomor commemoration

Ukraine and Ukrainians living abroad last year were marking the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. In this context, there were two successful projects involving U.S.-Ukraine cooperation during 2008.

One was the publication of the Ukrainian translation of the multi-volume Oral History Project of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine, established in the mid-1980s by the U.S. Congress. The other was the successful completion of the process of getting U.S. authorization for the construction of a monument commemorating the Holodomor and getting an appropriate site for it in the nation's capital.

In 1986, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$100,000 for the creation of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine. Its purpose was to conduct a study of the 1932-1933 Great Famine in Ukraine in order to expand the world's knowledge of the Famine and to provide the American public with a better understanding of the Soviet system by revealing the Soviet role in the Holodomor. Hundreds of survivors of the Famine testified before the governmental commission, com-



Raisa Bohatyriova with Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Oleh Shamshur in Washington on August 29.

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posed of two senators, four members of the House and six public members. The staff director of the commission was Dr. James Mace, who edited the resulting three-volume report containing the transcripts of these eyewitness accounts, which was published in 1988.

More recently, the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee, headed by Ulana Mazurkevich (who was a public member of the Famine Commission), undertook the project of having the report translated and reprinted in Ukraine. With the active support of the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv and Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.), who had served on the commission, funds were appropriated for the translation and printing of 5,000 copies of report. This was done in August by the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine as the publisher and printed by the Kyiv Mohyla Academy publishing house in Kyiv. A fourth volume, a summary addition to the report, was added in November.

November also served as a milestone in the long cooperative effort of Ukraine and the Ukrainian-American community to have a Holodomor monument erected in Washington. The site of the future Ukrainian Famine-Genocide Memorial in the center of the U.S. capital was dedicated on the brisk, sunny morning of November 2.

The ceremony was held on the grassy triangle at the intersection of two of the capital's main thoroughfares — Massachusetts Avenue and North Capitol Street — located near Union Station and a short walk from the Capitol building.

Ukraine's First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko was the featured speaker at the hourlong event, which included Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic Church leaders, Ukrainian and U.S. government and diplomatic officials, and a Holodomor survivor.

Mrs. Yushchenko described her and President Yushchenko's families' sufferings in the Famine and praised and thanked all those who worked on bringing this crime to the attention of the world, singling out U.S. Rep. Sander Levin (D-Mich.) for his hard work and "moral conscience" in this effort.

Congressman Levin, in his remarks, called on the Ukrainian American community to ensure that the monument that will be erected there "is fitting" of the tragedy it commemorates and "in terms of this location."

The Ukrainian government is responsible for selecting the monument design and erecting it on the site, for which no firm date has been set. Ukraine's Ambassador Oleh Shamsur said that it can be expected "in the nearest future," after the design competition is conducted in 2009. The National Committee to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-1933, chaired by Michael Sawkiw, the former president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, will assist in this effort, as it has in getting U.S. government approval for memorial and the site.

The USUBC's 100th

The U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC), an association devoted to enhancing trade and investment relations between the two countries, reached its goal of having 100 member-companies and institutions by the end of 2008 when it accepted into its membership the world's leading

developer and producer of computer operating systems and programs — the Microsoft Corp.

That announcement was made by USUBC President and CEO Morgan Williams during the organization's annual meeting on December 17 at Washington's Metropolitan Club. Founded in 1995, the USUBC is the largest Ukraine related business trade association outside of Ukraine. Its membership roll includes such leading companies as Boeing, Coca-Cola, General Dynamics, Halliburton, Kraft Foods, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Pratt & Whitney-Paton, Proctor and Gamble and 3M, as well as many smaller less-recognizable companies and such non-commercial institutions as the Kennan Institute, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation and the Ukrainian-American Bar Association. It has also served as a forum for discussing pressing issues on the U.S.-Ukrainian bilateral agenda, as well as a host for visiting dignitaries from Ukraine, among them President Yushchenko and other key members of the Ukrainian government, such as Vice Prime Minister Hryhorii Nemyria, who addressed an overflow crowd of USUBC members and guests on January 31.

Ukraine's highest awards

Two prominent Americans received Ukraine's highest awards for their significant contributions to strengthening and developing Ukraine-U.S. relations: Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security advisor to former President Jimmy Carter, and Steven Pifer, former ambassador to Ukraine. The awards were presented by Ambassador Shamsur during a special ceremony at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington November 8.

Dr. Brzezinski, now the chief advisor and member of board of directors of the Center for Strategic and International Studies and co-chairman of the U.S.-European Union joint committee on Ukrainian affairs, was awarded the Order of Yaroslav Mudryi, third degree.

Ambassador Pifer, now the chairman of the working group on political and economic reforms of the U.S.-EU joint committee on Ukrainian affairs, was presented the Order of Merit, second degree.

VOA broadcasts cut

One effective avenue of U.S.-Ukraine communication, albeit unidirectional, came to an end at exactly 30 minutes before 2008 gave way to 2009. It was 11:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve in Kyiv and 4:30 in the afternoon in Washington at the Voice of America's Studio 3 when Anya Dydyk-Petrenko, the anchor of the VOA's Ukrainian evening news radio program, bid her listeners "Goodnight," and Ihor Hulawj, the producer, cued the studio engineer to clip her mike.

It was for the last time. There was no "Good evening" heard on VOA's radio airwaves in Ukrainian on January 1. The Voice of America ceased its three daily Ukrainian radio broadcasts, silencing America's uninterrupted radio communication with Ukraine that began in 1949. Ukrainian television broadcasts to Ukraine, which joined the radio broadcasts in the VOA repertoire in 1993, will continue, VOA officials said, as will its reporting on the VOA Internet website (<http://www.voanews.com/ukrainian/>).

Canada's Ukrainians in the headlines

It's taken 20 years, but in 2008 the government of Canada finally settled the matter of redress for Canada's national internment operation of 1914-1920. The issue seemed to have been resolved on November 25, 2005 when the Act to acknowledge that persons of Ukrainian origin were interned in Canada during World War I and to provide for recognition of this event received royal assent. Although an agreement in principle providing for the funding of various educational and commemorative projects was signed between the Ukrainian community and the Liberal government, no restitution payments were made before the Liberal government fell.

On May 9, 2008, the problem of government redress for the internment was finally resolved. Jason Kenney, secretary of state for multiculturalism and Canadian identity, announced that the Canadian government will provide \$10 million to the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko to establish an endowment fund to support initiatives related to World War I internment operations. The fund will be available to Ukrainian and other East European ethnic communities to undertake meaningful commemorative and educational activities.

The funding is being provided under the Community Historical Recognition Program, first announced by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in June 2006. The document establishing the endowment was signed by Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk (Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association), Andrew Hladyshevsky (Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko) and Paul Grod (Ukrainian Canadian Congress).

The Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) continued its project to mark all internment sites across Canada. The 21st memorial was unveiled on October 25 at the site of the Sault Ste. Marie Museum, a location in Ontario where individuals were processed before being sent to internment camps. The plaque is inscribed in English, French and Ukrainian.

Canada-Ukraine relations

Canada-Ukraine relations during the year developed on both official government levels and between the Ukrainian Canadian community and Ukraine. On January 5, the newly elected Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) President Paul Grod met with Arseniy Yatsenyuk, chairman of Ukraine's Parliament. Mr. Grod explained the UCC's Youth Development Initiative whereby the UCC would develop a variety of internship opportunities for Canadian youth in both Canada and Ukraine to provide Canadians with domestic and international experience in government and international affairs. The Verkhovna Rada chairman made a commitment to work with the UCC to establish a parliamentary internship program for Canadian students in Ukraine's Parliament.

On April 2, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress welcomed the stand taken that day at the NATO summit in Bucharest by Prime Minister Harper, who expressed Canada's strong support for Ukraine's request to join NATO's Membership Action Plan and for Ukraine's eventual membership in the NATO alliance. UCC President Grod commended the prime minister for urging other leaders to support Ukraine's bid for membership.

The UCC has consistently presented its position to the government of Canada that bringing Ukraine into NATO would accelerate the country's pace of democratic reform and economic development, while strengthening geopolitical stability in the region. Member of Parliament Joy Smith, who chairs the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group, expressed similar praise for the prime minister's support of Ukraine.

The most important event of the year in Canada-Ukraine relations was the official state visit of President Victor Yushchenko. President Yushchenko arrived in Ottawa on May 26 to begin a three-day visit. He was welcomed to Canada by Governor General Michaëlle Jean.

At a meeting with Prime Minister Harper, President Yushchenko discussed the further development of political and commercial ties between the two countries, Ukraine's future in NATO and Canada's firm support for Ukraine's bid for a Membership Action Plan. They also agreed on cooperation in the U.N.-mandated mission in Afghanistan and signed a joint statement confirming their commitment to the active development of special partnership relations between Ukraine and Canada.

President Yushchenko addressed a joint session of the Canadian Parliament. During his well-received speech, the



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At the annual meeting of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council on December 17 (from left) are: Iryna Teluk (USUBC), Dorothy Dwoskin (Microsoft, the USUBC's 100th member) and Morgan Williams (USUBC President).

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president told both Houses of Parliament of the deep affection and respect that Ukrainians have for Canada. This is a result of the support that Canada Ukraine in the past and because of the 1.2 million strong Ukrainian Canadian community, which acts as a bridge between the two nations. He encouraged Canadians to become more active economically in Ukraine.

At a special ceremony, President Yushchenko presented the Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise to Liberal MP Borys Wrzesnewskij. Mr. Yushchenko also announced that a Consulate-General would open in Edmonton in June. (At the end of 2008, no information was available on the fate of the Consulate-General.)

President Yushchenko also participated in the International Holodomor Remembrance Torch ceremony on Parliament Hill – the culmination of a month-long relay across Canada marking the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor. At the ceremony, Secretary of State Jason Kenney announced that the government of Canada had made a decision to recognize the Holodomor as a genocide against the Ukrainian people.

UCC President Grod extended thanks to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the other party leaders for supporting the bill. Irene Mycak, chair of the UCC's National Holodomor Commemoration Committee, pointed to the coordinated efforts of UCC member-organizations, provincial councils and branches that successfully organized a series of commemorative and educational events which helped to focus parliamentarians on the need to recognize this tragedy.

A bill recognizing "the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933 as an act of genocide" was passed by the House of Commons on May 27. It establishes a "Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day" that is to be marked annually on the fourth Saturday in November. The bill then went to the Senate, where it passed all stages on May 28 and received Royal Assent on May 29, thus making it law. Significantly, the bill was passed while President Viktor Yushchenko was still in Canada.

After the official events in Ottawa, President Yushchenko flew to Winnipeg where he was welcomed by the premier of Manitoba, Gary Doer, who received him in a private audience to discuss issues of mutual benefit to Ukraine and Manitoba. There was a formal signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between Manitoba and the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast by Premier Doer and the chairman of the oblast administration, Viktor Bondar, underscoring the agricultural ties between the two provincial jurisdictions.

The president and the premier placed flowers at the statue of Taras Shevchenko, which stands in front of the Manitoba Legislature building. The premier introduced Mr. Yushchenko to the assembled crowd with the words, "You are truly a world leader of freedom and democracy in this 21st century." Mr. Yushchenko spoke about the initiatives in Ukraine to commemorate the Holodomor of 1932-1933, and to build museums of the Kozak legacy at Khortytsia and in Baturyn. Over 350 students of the Ukrainian-English Bilingual Program of Manitoba performed the national anthems of Canada and Ukraine.

At the University of Winnipeg 1,000 guests witnessed a special convocation awarding an honorary doctorate to President Yushchenko. At a UCC reception the President again acknowledged the contribution of Ukrainians to Canada and stated that "Ukrainian Canadians should also be included as builders of the new Ukraine."



Maria Sochan Tymyc

President Viktor Yushchenko addresses the Holodomor memorial ceremonies in Ottawa on May 26.



Official Website of Ukraine's President

President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine with Manitoba Premier Gary Doer on May 27 among schoolchildren from the province's Ukrainian-English Bilingual Program.

Mr. Yushchenko then flew to Toronto where his tight schedule for the one-day visit included a breakfast meeting with the Ukrainian community. About 600 persons greeted him and his wife, Kateryna. At the event Mr. Yushchenko awarded presidential honors to the following: The Order for Merit (third degree) was presented to Andriy Hladyshevsky (Winnipeg), Bohdan Medwidsky (Edmonton), Radomir Bilash (Edmonton), Ihor Bohdan (Calgary), Bohdan Onyschuk (Toronto), Petro Potichnyi (Hamilton), Yaroslav Sokolyk (Toronto). The Order of Princess Olha was awarded to Ruslana Wrzesnewsky and Marsha Skrypuch, while the Medal for Work and Success was presented to Ivan Mazurenko, Marianne Lenchak-Gross, Emilia Stelmakh,

Julia Krekhovetska and Petro Kuliya

In Toronto, the president met with leaders of the UCC as well as representatives of several Ukrainian world organizations. UCC President Grod touched upon several issues relating to the further cooperation between the Ukrainian government and the UCC, including: the need for regular consultation on joint initiatives, coordination and planning of events involving the Ukrainian Canadian community and visiting Ukrainian government officials, the awarding of Ukrainian national honors to Ukrainian Canadian community leaders, coordinating projects in the fields of education, culture, charity and social policy, as well as economic activity. He said that Ukrainian Canadians hoped for Ukrainian government support for the preservation of the Ukrainian language and culture in Canada, including support for internships, exchanges and summer youth programs. Mr. Grod went on to say that the outpouring of welcome for Mr. Yushchenko from ordinary Canadians was remarkable: "President Yushchenko has been an exceptional symbol of the new Ukraine."

The Business Forum on Ukraine, organized by the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, was held during the president's state visit, and, although Mr. Yushchenko did not take part in the forum, he was the keynote speaker at a luncheon organized by the Economic Club of Toronto, a nonpartisan organization that hosts policy announcements and important speeches by key policy-makers and business leaders. The audience of about 600 persons, which included forum participants, was also drawn from both the Ukrainian community and the business, industry and finance spheres.

The message of Mr. Yushchenko's luncheon address was: "Invest in Ukraine." The president outlined the Ukrainian government's efforts to open up Ukraine's economy. He pointed to Ukraine's emerging agricultural sector, steady economic growth, accession to the WTO and economic stability as positive indicators for investment.

At the end of his day in Toronto, Mr. Yushchenko was still able to squeeze in a tour of the Royal Ontario Museum, where exhibit of Trypillian art was scheduled to open in



At Stanley Barracks on May 9 in Toronto (from left) Andrew Griffith (Canadian Heritage), Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity Jason Kenney, Andrew Hladyshevsky and Paul Grod after signing the agreement on the establishment of a \$10 million endowment fund to support commemorative and educational programs related to World War I internment operations.

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Al Kachkowski

Canada's Riding and Dancing Kozaks ride toward the stage at Canada's National Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin, Manitoba, in August.

November.

The Business Forum on Ukraine was opened on the morning of May 28 by Volodymyr Ohryzko, foreign affairs minister of Ukraine, and David Emerson, Canadian minister of international trade. The 18-member delegation from Ukraine was headed by Valerii Bilyi, vice-president of the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The audience of about 200 included Canadian businessmen looking to learn about opportunities in Ukraine. The forum featured three plenary sessions: information on Ukraine, Ukraine in the WTO, Euro-integration and Ukraine's macroeconomic perspective; an exploration of investment and business opportunities in Ukraine; and business opportunities associated with the holding of the European soccer championships in 2012.

Natalia Boitsun, vice-minister of the economy, pointed out that Ukraine has a trade deficit and that the major part of its export trade is still confined to the traditional sectors of agriculture, metallurgy and minerals, while its imports comprise mostly high technology and machinery. Although Ukraine has science-technology potential, there is a lack of knowledge about it.

Although European integration is the No.1 strategic goal in Ukraine's foreign policy, it is internal reforms – the adoption of European standards in Ukrainian economic life – that form the government's domestic policy. Membership in the EU is a long-term goal, Ukraine is also pursuing several other integration initiatives. Foreign investment is growing at 20 percent per year but, it was noted, Canada is not among the top 10 investors.

It was also pointed out that Ukraine has a history of innovation and Canadian companies could tap into the expertise in Ukraine for subcontracting and for research and development. Ukraine's Ministry of Fuels and Energy has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Atomic Energy of Canada (AEC) to study CANDU nuclear technology.

Zenon Potichnyi, president of the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, presented some reasons energy companies should look to Ukraine for opportunities: underdeveloped gas and oil fields, good infrastructure (pipelines, refining), and ready access to the market.

In the final presentation on Euro-2012, which will take place in five Ukrainian cities – Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kyiv, Lviv and Odesa – Yevhen Chervonenko, head of the Euro-2012 agency, criticized the Ukrainian bureaucracy, which he claimed was not moving fast enough to get the projects started, but maintained that the Agency would speed things up and he outlined available business opportunities for the international event.

Intensive effort went into having the government designate the Holodomor as a genocide, and on June 19 the Ukrainian community in Canada honored James Bezan, member of Parliament for Selkirk-Interlake, Manitoba, whose Private Member's Bill started the official process whereby "The Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day Act" became law on May 29.

A special appreciation ceremony for the parliamentarian was hosted by Canadian Friends of Ukraine, the League of Ukrainian Canadians and the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women. Mr. Bezan explained that, "while the bill did not have broad support initially, it was through hard work, dedication and the support of the Canadian Ukrainian community that together we educated Parliament and endured to see this important historical legislation become a reality."

A few months after President Yushchenko's state visit, the Canadian government announced the appointment of G. Daniel Caron who, on August 18, assumed the post of Canada's ambassador to Ukraine.

Mr. Caron succeeds Ambassador Abina Dann, who became Canada's envoy to Ukraine in August 2005. He is Canada's sixth ambassador to Kyiv.

In Canadian political news, on November 14, Opposition Leader Stephane Dion named Member of Parliament Borys Wrzesnewskyj to the position of critic for citizenship, immigration and multiculturalism in the Liberal Shadow Cabinet. "I will work diligently on behalf of, and defend, the rights of those new Canadians who have come here from all over the globe wanting to become productive and fully participating members of the best country in the world, Canada," said Mr. Wrzesnewskyj. Both his extensive committee work, and more importantly, the immigration work that he has done on behalf of his constituents in the riding of Etobicoke Center in Ontario have prepared him well for his new responsibilities.

Activists honored

In the past year, several persons associated with the Ukrainian Canadian community were honored for their services to Canada and the community. On July 1 businessman and philanthropist James Temerty was appointed to the Order of Canada by the Governor General for his "contributions as an entrepreneurial leader in the clean energy sector, and for his philanthropic and volunteer leadership with several local, national and international organizations."

Mr. Temerty is the chairman and owner of Northland Power Inc., chairman of the Board of Trustees of Northland Power Income Fund, and chairman of the Board of Governors of the Royal Ontario Museum.

Mr. Temerty was born in 1941 in the Donbas region of Ukraine and, after the war, he and his family immigrated to Canada and settled in Quebec. After completing his studies at Concordia University, Mr. Temerty worked for IBM and then owned a Computerland franchise which he sold after six years, investing the money in a power plant project in Northern Ontario. It was incorporated in 1987 as Northland Power. Northland Power Inc. has power projects in Ontario, Quebec and Washington and owns windmill projects in Quebec and Germany. The company is considered a pioneer and an innovator in the clean energy sector.

Mr. Temerty is heavily involved in philanthropic work – local, national and international. He has chaired fund-raising efforts for Havergal College, Sunnybrook Hospital and the Psychiatric Research Foundation and has been a large contributor to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Last December, the ROM opened the Louise and James Temerty Dinosaur Galleries which house one of the museum's best known exhibits. At the beginning of this year the Temerty Family Foundation became a \$1 million donor to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

It is rare today to find a list of contributors to Ukrainian Canadian causes that do not have the Temerty name as a significant donor or a member, most often chair, of fund-raising activities. Many institutions and projects have been supported by Mr. Temerty: the Ukrainian Care Center nursing home, The Gryphon Trio, Pavlo Hunka's recording of Ukrainian art songs, the University of Ottawa Chair of Ukrainian Studies and others. Mr. Temerty provides significant support for democratizing initiatives in Ukraine – he headed fund-raising for the UCC 2005 election observer project in Ukraine and is the chairman of the board of the Kyiv Mohyla Business School.

But Mr. Temerty's No.1 interest at the present time is the Royal Ontario Museum, where he has been Chairman for six years. He spearheaded the "Legacy in Gold: Scythian Treasures from Ancient Ukraine" exhibit and was heavily involved in bringing to the museum the exhibit "Mysteries of Ancient Ukraine: The Remarkable Trypillian Culture (5400 - 2700 BC)" that opened on November 29.

Mr. Temerty will be presented with the Order of Canada at an award ceremony at the Governor General's residence in Ottawa sometime in 2009.

Also honored by the Canadian government in 2008 was the late Sen. Paul Yuzyk (1913-1986). On November 13, Jason Kenney, Canada's new Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, announced that the government was creating an annual Paul Yuzyk Award, to be presented to an individual or organization that has "demonstrated excellence in promoting the multiculturalism." Sen. Yuzyk's contribution to the Canadian policy of multiculturalism is signified by his designation as "father of multiculturalism."

Mr. Kenney pointed out that Canada's model of pluralism and immigration is admired around the world and is due to Canada's history of accommodating differences in culture, language and religion. This history was built by many great Canadians, he said, one of whom was Mr. Yuzyk – professor of history at the University of Manitoba, author of several books on Ukrainian history in Canada, senator and spokesman for the "third force" – Canadians who are neither British nor French.

Another significant Ukrainian philanthropist has been John Yaremko, the first Ukrainian Canadian elected to the Ontario Legislature and the first to be appointed to the Cabinet in Ontario. His tenure as a public servant lasted for 23 years. Today, 90-year-old Mr. Yaremko is a resident of the West Park Healthcare Center in Toronto. In March, a host of representatives of various organizations and institutions to which Mr. Yaremko has contributed, came to the Center to pay him tribute.

Mr. Yaremko and his late spouse, Myroslava (Mary), embarked on a philanthropic path shortly after his retirement from the Ontario Legislature in 1975. They have made important and substantial gifts to Roy Thompson Hall, the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Canadian Opera Company, the John and Myroslava Yaremko Forest on the Niagara Escarpment, Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, the Shevchenko Foundation in Winnipeg, Bellwoods Centers for Community Living in Toronto, and the Royal Ontario Museum.

More recently, with an endowment of \$600,000, the John and Mary Yaremko Program on Multiculturalism and Human Rights was established at the Faculty of Law of the University of Toronto. In February the St. Volodymyr Foundation of Toronto received a gift of \$215,000, while the Yaremko's Georgian-style home was gifted to St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral to serve as a parish residence. On April 3 Mr. Yaremko made an important pledge of \$50,000 to the John Robarts Library at the University of Toronto to preserve and make broadly accessible retrospective library materials relating to Ukrainian history, literature language and culture through digitization.

Documentary films

Two Ukrainian documentary films were in the news this year. Yuriy Luhovy's film "Bereza Kartuzka," made in 2007, premiered in Kyiv in May on the initiative of Larysa Briukhovetska, editor of the journal Kino-Teatr and sponsored by the Union of Film Directors of Ukraine. Bereza Kartuzka was a Polish concentration camp and the documentary tells the story of Ukrainians in Polish-occupied

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western Ukraine who were arrested without trial and imprisoned in the camp in the period 1934-1939. Many survivors later came to Canada and United States. The film is based on testimonies of some of the last survivors, historic documents, as well as the director's travels to the site of the camp.

Mr. Luhovy is also working on an English-language version of "Bereza Kartuzka." He announced that it will be narrated by well-known Canadian filmmaker and writer Paul Almond. Proceeds from the screenings of the Ukrainian film, which continued to be shown in Canada and the US through 2008, will go toward making the English-language version, using voice-over instead of subtitles.

A newly released Ukrainian language film, "Vohon i Zbroya: UPA na Zakerzonni" (Fire and Arms: The UPA in Zakerzonnia), which premiered in Toronto on May 25, tells the story of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) in the years 1944 to 1947 in the territories west of the Curzon Line that were inhabited by Ukrainians and, after 1947, incorporated into Communist Poland. The idea for this film was born in 2006 when the Canadian Association Zakerzonnia marked the 60th anniversary of Akcja Wisla. Mykola Zaverucha-Swystun headed the film committee and Myroslav Ivanyk became the film director.

Because of the post-war situation in Poland, the history of Ukrainians in Poland is replete with disinformation that has only recently been challenged. The UPA was demonized, portrayed as murderers, bandits and Nazis and such propaganda was widely disseminated in Poland through schools, feature films and novels.

The UPA in Zakerzonnia sprang from spontaneous units of self-defense and evolved into a military organization in several stages: self defence of the population against the armed Polish underground in 1944-1945; bloody battles with the Germans, the forces of the NKVD and the regular Polish army in 1946-1947; armed resistance against the deportation of Ukrainians of Zakerzonnia to the USSR and to the former German lands in western Poland.

The film shows and seeks to prove that the UPA in Zakerzonnia was not a gang but consisted of armed units with a well-developed leadership structure; that it was not engaged in the slaughter of Poles but protected the Ukrainian population; that it was not an army installed by foreign powers, but an armed resistance movement that engaged all the lands of Zakerzonnia and all levels of society.

Other community news

Ukrainian bloc settlements and the Ukrainian areas of cities are important components of the Ukrainian heritage in Canada, but they are disappearing. An all-day workshop titled "Sanctuary: The Spiritual Heritage Documentation Project" held at the University of Alberta on January 26 focused on the preservation of the heritage of Ukrainian sacred culture in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The project is a major collaborative effort involving digitization and the Internet. Objects to be collected and digitized include: results of all past projects that have painted or photographed the churches; historical photos and videos in private and institutional hands; photographs of all churches

(exterior and interior), chapels and sacred objects in the Ukrainian Canadian prairies; all historic recordings of church music; and video recordings of liturgical services.

Workshop presentations included a survey of existing publications and projects dealing with Ukrainian churches and other sacred monuments, a well-illustrated talk on Ukrainian graveyards, presentations on past and former projects in Manitoba, and several presentations on photography and databasing. The conference was organized by a committee consisting of Jars Balan (Kule Ukrainian Canadian Studies Center, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies), John-Paul Himka (Religion and Culture Program, CIUS) and Frances Swyripa (department of history and classics, University of Alberta).

The impetus for the of the revival of Ukrainian Canadian University Students' Union (SUSK) emerged at the 22nd triennial congress of the UCC in October 2007. Thus, SUSK held a 50th anniversary congress at McGill University in Montreal on February 22-24, 2008, with delegates representing 10 Ukrainian student clubs from across Canada. Activities were directed to forming a program for the future of SUSK. Discussions ranged around the importance of SUSK as a national coordinating student body across Canada with its potential to contribute and influence change within existing Ukrainian Canadian organizations and as the need to be active regarding issues of importance to Ukrainian Canadians and to become involved with projects in Ukraine.

Among the invited speakers were Evhen Czolij, first vice-president of the Ukrainian World Congress, and Michael Bociurkiw, former president of SUSK, now working for UNICEF in New York, who spoke about the growing AIDS epidemic in Ukraine. Zorianna Hrychenko focused on the history of SUSK and its political, community and cultural activism. The SUSK congress also celebrated the 40th anniversary of the SUSK publication Student and Roman Serbyn, the first editor of Student, outlined its origins and stressed the continuing need for such a publication. The current editor of Student, Adriana Luhovy, presented the new issue of the magazine. The 50th congress banquet featured guest speaker Prof. Radoslav Zuk who stressed the need to emphasize and expose the many exceptional accomplishments by Ukrainians in the fields of art, music, literature and film. Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada, Ihor Ostash, addressed the congress delegates and outlined a range of projects that could interest SUSK members.

And, as every year for the past 42, Canada's National Ukrainian Festival took place in August in Dauphin, Manitoba. It featured four Ukrainian dance ensembles and six dance bands, and was preceded by an all-day summer street fair and dance sponsored by the Dauphin Chamber of Commerce. There was an expanded program on Sunday, which included an evening stage show and fireworks display. Although ticket prices increased this year, festival participants saw an expanded entertainment program. Kevin Zalischuk, entertainment chairperson, stated that the festival was attracting more patrons with improved programming and promised a spectacular 45th festival in 2010.

U.S. Ukrainians focused on elections

Ukrainians in the United States, just like other Americans, saw 2008 as an all-important presidential election year. The year will long be remembered as one of the most hotly contested election years, when every United States citizen had a strong opinion about the candidates running in the presidential election. Ukrainians in the United States were no different.

Representatives of the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) – comprising 19 national membership organizations, including Ukrainian groups, that represent more than 22 million Americans who can trace their heritage to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe – met with the major contenders in the presidential race to discuss issues of concern.

Among these issues were NATO enlargement, Russia's treatment of its neighbors, the backsliding of democratic trends in Russia, energy security and Russia's use of energy supplies for political leverage, the U.S. missile shield in Eastern Europe and the U.S. visa waiver program.

On February 27 the CEEC met with Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Hillary Clinton's adviser former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and Lee Feinstein, the Clinton campaign's national security director.

The CEEC next met with Anthony Lake, Ph.D., senior foreign policy adviser for Democratic Sen. Barack Obama's presidential campaign on February 29. Joining Dr. Lake, and facilitating the meeting, was Mark Brzezinski, also a well-known foreign policy expert.

On March 13 the CEEC discussed a range of policy issues with Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain's advisors Stephen Biegun and Randy Scheunemann, director of foreign policy and national security. Sen. McCain's National Coalitions Director Aaron Manaigo also participated in the meeting.

A group of Ukrainian Americans organized Ukrainians for McCain/Palin, a community support group with members from various states. The group had state directors in Illinois, Michigan, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin. The announcement about the group's establishment was published on October 19.

The following week, readers of The Weekly learned that the Obama-Biden campaign on October 17 welcomed the formation of a dozen European and Mediterranean American national leadership committees. The Ukrainian National Leadership Committee included a former congressman, David Bonior, who is of Ukrainian descent; three current members of Congress who are active supporters of Ukrainian issues; as well as Ukrainian community representatives.

As the election drew ever nearer, Ukrainian Americans for Obama-Biden '08 and Ukrainian Americans for McCain-Palin took out full-page paid advertisements in The Weekly to promote their candidates.

The Central and East European Coalition also met during 2008 with President George W. Bush. At the October 24 meeting the president thanked the ethnic community representatives for their support of the NATO enlargement process. The meeting and a briefing by administration officials at the White House preceded a ceremony at which President Bush signed Protocols of Accession to help bring Croatia and Albania a step closer to NATO membership in 2009. The Ukrainian community was represented at the meeting and briefing by two executive board members of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America: Michael Sawkiw Jr., director of the UCCA's Washington bureau, the Ukrainian National Information Service; and Ihor Kotlarchuk, chairman of the UCCA's District of Columbia branch.

President Bush emphasized that the work of the CEEC must continue during the next presidential administration and that NATO must take in those countries that aspire to and are ready to share the burdens of membership, including Ukraine and Georgia. The president also discussed the Victims of Communism Memorial in Washington, democracy and security issues facing Ukraine and Georgia, support for democracy-building in Belarus, the upcoming 60th NATO summit in 2009 and U.S.-Russia relations.

In related news, State Sen. Andy Harris (Baltimore County), a Ukrainian American, defeated veteran U.S. Rep. Wayne Gilchrest in the 1st Congressional District, as well as State Sen. E. J. Pipkin (Queen Anne's) to become the Republican Party's candidate for Congress. Unfortunately, Dr. Harris was narrowly defeated in the



At the unveiling ceremony on October 25 in Sault Ste. Marie of a monument dedicated to the 1914-1920 internment of Ukrainian Canadians (from left) are: Olya Grod of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Veronica Refcio, Lucy Konkin, Cathy Beaudette, the Rev. Yaroslav Lazoryk, Bob Plotycia, Amelia Deplonty, Anne Logtenberg, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and Dr. Irene Oktaba.

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Delegates, UCCA officers and guests at the closing of the XX Congress of Ukrainians in America held on October 17-19 in Cleveland.

Stefan Kaczurak

November general election by Democrat Frank Kratovil, state's attorney in Queen Anne's.

Picking up the election theme, Dr. Oleh Wolowyna, a demographer, underscored that in a democracy one of the most powerful tools a citizen has is his/her vote. "Although proportionally the number of Ukrainians in the United States is relatively small, there is ample evidence that a small, but well-organized group can have a significant influence on which candidate wins the election, especially at the state and local levels. One of the main objectives of the Ukrainian diaspora in a country should be that elected officials are favorably disposed to our ethnic community, to Ukraine, and to Ukrainian culture and history," he wrote in a May 18 article.

Dr. Wolowyna noted that a very high proportion of Ukrainians in the United States are U.S. citizens. For the whole country the percentage is 85 percent. In several states 100 percent of all persons of Ukrainian ancestry are U.S. citizens, and only in six states is this percentage less than 70 percent.

"Active participation in the election process by our community leaders and by Ukrainian Americans active in politics, while taking into account our interests as Americans of Ukrainian ancestry, is not only a civic duty but should be part of our obligations as citizens and Ukrainian American community members," Dr.

Wolowyna argued. "A favorable public statement by a high-level government official in support of a Ukrainian cause or a vote by the U.S. Congress regarding issues like the World Trade Organization or favorable treatment of Ukrainian imported goods, may have the equivalent effect of many modest financial or in-kind donations to different groups in Ukraine. One thing does not exclude the other; both are needed."

Georgia on our minds

On August 9 Ukrainian Americans joined members of the Georgian community in a demonstration near the United Nations to protest the Russian invasion of Georgia. Representatives of the New York branch of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) and other community members joined the over 500 Georgians to object to Russia's escalating violence.

The following day, a protest rally was held in Washington, where approximately 100 participants, including several Ukrainians from the area, gathered at the Georgian Embassy for a march to the Russian Embassy.

In addition, the Georgian, Ukrainian, Polish and Lithuanian communities rallied on August 14 on Independence Mall in Philadelphia against Russian aggression and in support of the territorial sovereignty of Georgia. The evening demonstration, spearheaded by the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center and the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee, included over 100 demonstrators carrying national flags and placards to show their support for Georgia.

As a member of the CEEC, the UCCA worked closely with the Georgian Association in the United States. On August 13 the UCCA sent a list of recommendations to officials of the Bush administration and members of the U.S. Congress regarding the crisis in Georgia. While showing solidarity with the Georgians, the Ukrainian community also understood that if the international community was silent in response to Russia's moves, Ukraine, specifically Crimea, could be the next target.

Conventions, congresses, anniversaries

Approximately 100 students participated in the conference of the Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations in America (known by its Ukrainian acronym as SUSTA) at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia on March 29. The agenda included discussion panels, videoconferencing with a professor and student from Ukraine, and the election of officers for 2009. In addition, the students got to preview the new SUSTA website, which will include new links to various affiliated clubs, resources of different Ukrainian organizations, postings of videos from the conference, a bulletin board that will inform students about scholarships, fellowships, internships and résumé postings.

Bogdan Ignaschenko, a junior at the University of Pennsylvania, was elected as the new president of SUSTA. He noted that "SUSTA's progress is evidenced by the number of participants doubling from last year's conference." Over 2,000 members belong to the SUSTA Facebook group, Mr. Ignaschenko continued, and "we would like to convert that passive interest into active participation by providing opportunities for everyone to get involved in either political, cultural, economic or

artistic events at their school."

Members of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) convened in Troy, Mich., on Friday, May 23, for their 28th convention. The convention, which continued through Monday, May 26, elected a new national board headed by Marianna Zajac of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and adopted resolutions that will guide the work of this major Ukrainian American community organization for the next three-year term and beyond. The outgoing president, Iryna Kurovyckyj of New York, who had served in that post for nine years, was named an honorary president of the UNWLA.

During the convention Mrs. Kurovyckyj presided over the hallowed UNWLA tradition of bestowing the title honorary member on six UNWLA members, who had distinguished themselves in serving the organization. Later that evening, during the banquet, an award ceremony honored seven Young Women Achievers, who have distinguished themselves professionally and have been active members of their respective Ukrainian communities. The luncheon on Sunday included another traditional feature of UNWLA conventions – the presentation of recognition awards to regional councils and branches for meritorious service to the organization or for outstanding support for UNWLA programs. Following this, Vice-President Sophia Hewryk announced the winners of the Kovaliv Award for Literature.

The 61st National Convention of the Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV) was held in Somerset, N.J., on September 26-27 to celebrate the 60th birthday of this organization and its continuous service to its members, members' families, the Ukrainian American community and the United States. The UAV National Ladies Auxiliary held its convention concurrently. The convention was opened by National Commander Anna Krawczuk.

During the convention, a large group of delegates and guests took advantage of a guided tour of St. Andrew's Cemetery to view the location of the future UAV National Monument. The memorial will honor the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian American men and women who have honorably served and continue to serve in all branches of the U.S. armed forces.

The highlight of the convention banquet was the recognition and greeting of all veterans present from the World War II era to Operation Iraqi Freedom, including those who served in the Ukrainian military. The culmination was the presentation of certificates "for service, dedication and honor in the cause of freedom" to all Korean War-era veterans. A special certificate of merit was presented to Brig. Gen. Leonid Kondratiuk, together with a symbolic "bulava" (mace) from Ukraine. Past National Commander Dmytro Bodnarczuk was awarded a certificate for the book "Ukrainian American Veterans 1948-1998."

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) on October 17-19 held its XX Congress of Ukrainians in America, which was dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Ukraine's Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. Close to 100 delegates representing UCCA branches from around the country, as well as delegates from Ukrainian national organizations, gathered in Cleveland, to amend by-laws, hear reports and elect a new UCCA president and executive board.



At the Ukrainian National Women's League of America convention held on May 23-26, Larysa Darmochval (left) of the Ukrainian Women's League of Ukraine and Marianna Zajac, the UNWLA's newly elected president.

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For the first time in the 68-year history of the organization, a woman was elected as UCCA president. The long-time executive director of the UCCA National Office, Tamara Gallo Olexy, was unanimously chosen to lead the UCCA for the next four years.

At the conclusion of the banquet on Saturday evening, the UCCA presented its highest honor, the Shevchenko Freedom Award, to six prominent individuals within the Ukrainian community: U.S. Undersecretary of State Paula Dobriansky; Askold Lozynskyj, former president of the Ukrainian World Congress; Prof. Dmytro Shtohryn, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana; Maria Lozynskyj, former president of the Women's Association for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine (WADFFU); Julian Kulas, president of the Heritage Foundation; and Daria Stepaniak, longtime activist of the WADFFU.

Because Ms. Dobriansky but was unable to attend the congress, members of the outgoing UCCA executive board traveled to Washington on October 28 to present the award to the undersecretary at her State Department office. The Shevchenko Freedom Award was bestowed for her commitment to pursuing steadfast relations with Ukraine, in recognition of Ukraine's vital importance to the peace and security of the European continent.

Branch 1 of the Organization for the Defense of Lemko-Western Ukraine celebrated the 75th anniversary of its founding on November 8 with a banquet and dance at the Ukrainian National Home in New York City. More than 200 members and supporters attended, raising more than \$5,000 for the organization's efforts to support Lemko culture in Poland, including a \$1,000 donation presented by the New York Self Reliance Federal Credit Union. The branch of the Lemko organization in New York City is among the oldest Ukrainian diaspora organizations.

The Ukrainian American Youth Association's (UAYA) 25th national convention was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center near Detroit on November 14-16. The convention was attended by 82 delegates from cities around the United States. 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. Founding members of Kyiv Estate were honored with awards for their many years of dedicated service. Andriy Bihun of the UAYA branch in Goshen N.Y., was elected national president to serve over the next three years.

The Ukrainian library in Philadelphia celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008. It is a well-established, specialized collection of some 22,000 volumes, with over 160 periodical titles, hundreds of audio and video cassettes, and even some materials for the visually impaired. In April 1992, the library became a statutory program of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center and has since been governed by a nine-member Library Board. The Ukrainian Library provides a much-needed service to the Ukrainian community in Philadelphia, especially to the Ukrainian Heritage School. It has also been used



Students in Grades 3 to 5 of St. Josaphat School in Parma, Ohio, dazzled the audience with their Broadway-style number during the school's anniversary event in November 2007. The school was closed at the end of the 2007-2008 academic year.

in the past by American businessmen interested in investments in Ukraine, by Peace Corps volunteers and by university students and scholars researching topics related to Ukraine.

Other community news

Ukrainians of the Houston area had to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, which packed a powerful punch when it made landfall on September 13 in Galveston, Texas, just south of Houston. Luckily, no member of Houston's Ukrainian community sustained bodily injury, however, numerous members had trees fall in their yards and into their homes and garages. In addition, almost every member of the community lost power, typically for seven to 10 days. Protection of the Mother of God (Pokrova) Ukrainian Catholic Church was spared any physical damage to the church, rectory and parish hall buildings, but the 40-plus-year-old trees planted on the parish grounds by the Rev. Dmytro Blazejowskyj were nearly decimated.

St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic School of Parma, Ohio, closed its doors in July, at the end of the 2007-2008 academic year. The news was first announced to surprised parents in a letter from the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of St. Josaphat, dated January 22. The

Rev. Canon Andrew Hanowsky, administrator of both St. Josaphat School and St. Josaphat Parish, cited declining enrollment over the last three years, a "very negative response" to a proposed tuition increase, and depleted parish bank accounts as the reason for the school's closing. This announcement came on the heels of the school's 60th anniversary celebration in November 2007, which was attended by over 500 people, including alumni returning from states as far away as Florida and Arizona.

The Syzokryli Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble of New York City, pop singer Viktoriya (Vika) Vasilevich of Kyiv and Zaporizhia, and the Fata Morgana band of New York provided the draw for Boston College Ukrainian Society's first Ukrainian Cultural Day on January 26. Some 500 students, parents, members of the Greater Boston Ukrainian community, and supporters from as far away as New Hampshire, New York and New Jersey attended this event. In addition to students from Boston College, the event drew students from Harvard University Boston University, Northeastern University and Curry College. The Ukrainian Cultural Day was organized by the fledgling Ukrainian student group at Boston College, founded in March 2007. The Ukrainian Society of Boston College seeks to promote activity and education about Ukrainian history, heritage and tradition, and share this with the larger Boston College community, as well as be active in the surrounding Ukrainian community.

In other Boston news, after a four-year hiatus, the Boston "Malanka" was revived with renewed community spirit on February 2 at Moseleys on the Charles. The event was organized and sponsored by a new organization, the Ukrainian American Cultural and Religious Center of New England. The organization's mission is to establish and maintain facilities for the promulgation of Ukrainian culture, religion and heritage among individuals of Ukrainian descent and the community at large. It was founded by a group of Boston-based Ukrainian American organizations or their local branches, which provided funding to purchase two and a half acres of land located in a suburb of Boston. The goal is to build a new cultural center on this site.

"Welcome to Ukrainian New York," a new fund-raising and networking event, took place at the Ukrainian Institute of America on September 27. The inaugural "Welcome" surpassed all expectations of its organizers and was attended by several hundred individual attendees and over 25 local area businesses and organizations. The idea behind the event was to bring local Ukrainian-owned businesses and organizations together to increase the awareness of and promote their activities in the Ukrainian community in the Greater New York Metropolitan area. "Welcome to Ukrainian New York" created a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere where Ukrainians from all walks of life – business leaders, artists, students, young professionals and the members of the diplomatic community – were able to interact and discuss topics of interest over wine and cheese and



Lesia Kuropas

Some of North Dakota's youngest Ukrainian dancers perform at the Ukrainian Festival held in Dickinson, N.D., on July 18-20.

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immerse themselves in a unique cultural experience. In addition, the event was sponsored in part by Anheuser Busch, and the trendy Village Voice published an article covering the event for the general New York City audience. Representatives from New York Time Out Magazine and BBC Ukraine attended as well.

Also in New York, the Ukrainian community of the city mobilized to call for the removal of a three-story high portrait depicting Joseph Stalin on display on the southern façade of Cooper Union's Foundation Building, located at Third Avenue and Seventh Street, in the Ukrainian neighborhood of Manhattan's East Village. The banner, 40 feet wide and 52 feet high, was part of the exhibit "Stalin by Picasso, or Portrait of Woman with Mustache" and was installed on October 26. On October 31, a Ukrainian delegation met with Cooper Union officials, after staging earlier protests through e-mails and telephone calls, to explain why the banners were offensive and how it could be seen as an assault on Ukrainian community – especially as the 75th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide perpetrated by Stalin was being commemorated. Although not very receptive at first, Cooper Union removed the banners soon after this meeting, citing violations of city permit regulations.

Ukrainians in North Dakota celebrated their unique homestead heritage at a Ukrainian Festival on July 18-20 sponsored by the Ukrainian Cultural Institute in Dickinson, N.D., and Dickinson State University. The 1862 Homestead Act, signed by President Lincoln, promised 160 acres apiece to anyone willing to build a home and plant crops on the land; tens of thousands of settlers, including some 30,000 Ukrainian immigrants, came to North Dakota to take advantage of this opportunity for a new life. The first immigrants were Stundists from eastern and central Ukraine; immigrants from western Ukraine began to arrive at the turn of the century. The three-day festival, whose theme was "Legacy of the Homestead Era," included a luncheon at St. Demetrius Church, a panakhida for victims of the Holodomor, a performance by Ukrainian folk dancers and a traditional Ukrainian "zabava." The first day's program was devoted to a panel discussion at Dickinson State University about the Holodomor. Panelists included Agnes Palanuk, local historian and director of the Ukrainian Cultural Institute, Olexander Aleksandrovych of the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, Prof. Ronald Vossler of the University of South Dakota and Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, immigration historian.

Ukrainian demographics

The number of persons of Ukrainian ancestry in the United States has increased by close to 57,000 (or 6.3 percent) between 2000 and 2005, from 897,000 to 954,000. This increase is due mainly to the continuing immigration from Ukraine. Given the size of the Fourth

Wave migration to the United States, its potential impact on the Ukrainian diaspora in the U.S. is extraordinary, noted Dr. Oleh Wolowyna in his articles published on September 7 and 14 in *The Weekly*. As of 2005, they constitute 16 percent of all persons of Ukrainian ancestry in the U.S. This being mainly an economically motivated migration, there are relatively fewer children and older persons among the migrants and a high proportion in working force ages.

One of the main characteristics of the more recent migrants is family reunion. First, one or two family members migrate and, once established, they start bringing other members of the family, Dr. Wolowyna explained. The percent of close-family (children, spouses and parents) migrants increased from 31 percent for earlier migrants in 2000 to 54 percent for the more recent migrants in 2005.

Higher education and better knowledge of English among migrants arriving between 2000 and 2005 seem to have a positive implication in terms of their labor force status. For persons age 16 years and up among migrants who arrived between 1995 and 1999, only 53 percent were in the labor force according to 2000 data, while the respective percent in 2005, for migrants arriving between 2000 and 2005, was 62 percent. Thus, it seems that the more recent migrants were better able to find employment after their arrival than the earlier migrants. However, these apparent advantages do not seem to be reflected in better occupations for the more recent migrants.

A high proportion of immigrants from Ukraine who have arrived in the last five years speak Russian at home and, thus, the overall percent of all Ukrainians in the United States speaking Russian continues to be somewhat larger than the percent speaking Ukrainian – 14.9 percent and 13.7 percent, respectively. However, it is fair to assume that the great majority of the new immigrants are also fluent in Ukrainian and speak Russian at home because it is easier for them, Dr. Wolowyna pointed out.

He also reported that the process of geographical dispersion of Ukrainians in the United States continues. Most states with large communities composed of U.S.-born and members of the first three migration waves continue losing population to states without organized Ukrainian communities. This is further aggravated by the tendency of new immigrants to settle in states that have no Ukrainian organizations. In many cases, persons who were active in their communities of origin become inactive, because there are no Ukrainian churches and organizations at their new destinations.

Dr. Wolowyna concluded his articles on a hopeful note: the continuous influx of immigrants from Ukraine provides the potential for strengthening and rejuvenating current organizations or creating new ones, as well as the possibility of organizing new communities in states with originally few or no Ukrainians.

Ukrainian diaspora: expanding contacts

As president of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), Askold Lozynskyj had his finger on the pulse of the Ukrainian diaspora for a decade. He has traveled the world extensively in an attempt to incorporate isolated Ukrainian diaspora communities into the UWC. During his two terms of office he reached out to Ukrainians in 37 countries and has established a vibrant global network – including Ukrainian diaspora communities in the former Soviet republics – established monuments, financed lawsuits and worked toward improving communication between diaspora countries.

As he took leave of his position, he considered the establishment of ties between Ukraine and the new communities of the former Soviet republics as the UWC's greatest accomplishment. Nevertheless, according to him, there is still work to be done. "An area where we failed is that we have not gotten Ukraine to comprehend that they have certain obligations regarding the diaspora community," he said in an interview published on September 28. He believes there needs to be a shift in the motherland's overall view of its diaspora. Instead of trying to profit from its brethren living abroad, Ukraine should consider how it can come to their aid, he explained.

At its ninth congress on Kyiv on August 20-22, the UWC elected longtime Ukrainian community leader Eugene Czolij, as its new president. A lawyer from Montreal who has headed the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Ukrainian Youth Association's World Council, Mr. Czolij said he believes that the work of the UWC is no longer only about assistance, but of "strategically planning the activity of the global Ukrainian diaspora." He pledged to continue the development of partnerships among the world's Ukrainian communities.

Two hundred nine delegates participated in the congress; they represented 31 countries, including distant diaspora communities in Kazakhstan and Paraguay. Delegates were addressed by Ukraine's President Viktor Yushchenko, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Foreign Affairs Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko and the chair of the Ukrainians Abroad Administration, Vasyl Boyechko.

It was the second time the Ukrainian World Congress held its conclave in Kyiv. Previous congresses convened in New York City and Toronto, but shifting the meeting, which is held every five years, to Kyiv enabled more representatives from communities in the former Soviet republics to participate.

Among the UWC's accomplishments in the last five years was \$20 million in humanitarian aid – \$18 million of which was distributed in Ukraine – that was delivered by the UWC and its member-organizations. It is notable also that leaders of Fourth Wave organizations continued to play increasingly active roles within the UWC and their local communities.

The year 2008 proved to be an active year in many circles of the Ukrainian diaspora. Approximately 1,000 members of Australia's Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization started off the year by celebrating its golden jubilee, converging at its Sokil campground in Melbourne. Concurrent with Plast's



Guests at the President's Luncheon at Dickinson State University on July 18 (from left): Victor Udin, liaison with Ukrainian National Agricultural University in Kyiv; Dr. David Meier, chair, department of social sciences, DSU; Ronald Vossler, University of North Dakota; Olexandr Aleksandrovych, Embassy of Ukraine; Dr. Richard Brauhn, dean, College of Arts and Sciences, DSU; Lesia Kuropas; Dr. Myron B. Kuropas; Larry White, North Dakota Trade Commission; Iryna Balan, researcher; and Dr. Richard J. McCallum, president, DSU.



Zenon Zawada

Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskyj speaks in August to a Ukrainian television reporter at a press conference in Kyiv.

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commemoration, the Ukrainian Australian community observed the 60th anniversary of its settlement in Australia, disproving the general contention of its first-wave immigrants who did not believe that the Ukrainian community would be able to survive one or two decades on the continent.

Later in the year Plast celebrated two more events at which its global community convened. On April 13 hundreds of Plast members gathered in Lviv for the homecoming of the remains of its first chief scout, Severyn Levytsky, who died in Buffalo, N.Y., in 1962. Following a moleben service at St. George Cathedral, the scouts marched to Lychakiv Cemetery, where Bishop Hlib Lonchyna presided over a panakhyda (memorial service) for Mr. Levytsky and his wife, Vira née Sterniuk, who was buried next to him. In a sermon to the gathered crowd, the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak encouraged those present to “take leadership roles in bringing their country and Church to the next level.”

A few months later, on June 22, Plast members gathered on Kyiv’s left bank to confer on Patriarch Lubomyr Husar Plast’s highest honor, the Golden Order of the Eternal Flame, which is bestowed for extraordinary contributions to community work or scholarship. Plast leaders from several countries, including Canada, the United States, Germany and Poland, attended the event.

Volodymyr Bazarko, the current world head of Plast, commented, “The significance of this award is the fact that Plast’s membership includes not only able leaders who run the organization itself, but Plast also boasts members in good standing who are active in the community and perform good deeds in Plast’s name and in the spirit of the organization, but outside of Plast.” Petro Stawnychy, leader of Plast in the United States, pointed out that Cardinal Husar was born in Ukraine, left his native land and spent many years abroad before returning, and yet throughout his life has considered himself first and foremost a Ukrainian. He continued, “It’s a lesson that we can all learn, those in the diaspora as well as those of us in Ukraine – that it’s not geographic boundaries that determine whether or not someone is Ukrainian, but rather the feeling in our hearts and souls, which is so important.”

The year also saw the Ukrainian president traveling abroad to meet with government officials and to speak on behalf of the Ukrainian diaspora as well as meet with Ukrainians living abroad.

On June 23 President Yushchenko traveled to Lisbon to meet with Portugal’s President Anibal Cavaco Silva and discuss trade-economic cooperation, as well as cooperation in the humanitarian and social spheres, and the prospects for Ukraine’s European and Euro-Atlantic integration. In his meeting with Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates Mr. Yushchenko discussed mutual recognition of diplomas of higher education establishments and the importance of an agreement on social protection for Ukrainian labor migrants. Mr. Socrates told the Ukrainian president that his country will work toward ensuring equal opportunities for Ukrainian citizens working in Portugal. During that visit, President Yushchenko also took part in a street-naming ceremony in the Portuguese capital, proclaiming “Ukraine Street” to honor the contribution Ukrainian citizens have made to the development of Lisbon.

A week later, on June 30, President Yushchenko traveled to Baku, Azerbaijan, for the unveiling of a monument to



Zenon Zawada

Eugene Czolij, newly elected president of the Ukrainian World Congress, during the UWC conclave held in Kyiv on August 20-22.



Official Website of Ukraine's President

Presidents Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine and Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan at the unveiling of a monument to Taras Shevchenko in Baku on June 30.

Taras Shevchenko. Mr. Yushchenko thanked Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev for erecting the monument and noted that Shevchenko’s words are relevant to every nation. Mr. Aliyev commented that the monument should be evidence of the close ties that his country is trying to develop with Ukraine. He also noted the significance of the fact that the Shevchenko monument is located on Liberty Avenue in Baku.

In a similar vein, on August 11 the Polish city of Olsztyn,

acting on the initiative of the local Union of Ukrainians and the Ukrainian Embassy in Poland, named a street after Ukraine’s greatest poet, Taras Shevchenko.

Also busy this year was Ukraine’s foreign affairs minister, Mr. Ohryzhko, who traveled to Italy in July to officiate at the opening of Ukraine’s Consulate General in Naples, which he hopes will “not only represent Ukraine in the southern part of Italy, but will also become a hearth of Ukrainian diaspora life.” Officials at the opening ceremony



Hryhorij Prystaj/Ukrainian Catholic University Press Office

Bishop Hlib Lonchyna, members of Plast and clergy before the reburial site of Chief Scout Severyn Levytsky at Lychakiv Cemetery in Lviv on April 13.

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spoke of the issues facing the Ukrainian diaspora in Italy and stressed the need to ensure protection of the rights and interests of Ukrainian citizens residing in Italy. While there, Mr. Ohryzhko met with Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini, discussing issues of bilateral cooperation and of supporting Ukrainian citizens who live in Italy in terms of their educational-cultural needs. Mr. Frattini demonstrated an understanding of this issue and confirmed his readiness to work with the local Ukrainian community. The ministers signed a memorandum of mutual understanding.

Six months later, on December 16, another Ukrainian Consulate General opened, this time in Haifa, in order to provide services to Ukrainian immigrants who reside in the northern region of Israel. Haifa authorities say that in that city alone there are 40,000 Ukrainian citizens who have had the need to contact a Ukrainian consular institution.

Earlier in the year, Ukraine opened its representation in the Palestinian Authority. The first information and cultural center of Ukraine in the Middle East is slated to open in Tel-Aviv. Ukraine now has 34 Consulates General in 22 countries.

Also noteworthy in diaspora news was the Ukrainian Diaspora Congress in Kyiv on June 18 attended by representatives of 28 countries and all the regions of Ukraine. Initiated by the International Institute of Education, Culture and Diaspora Communications of the National University of the Lviv Polytechnic and the City Council, the congress addressed many issues. Among them were the diaspora's role in promoting Ukrainian national interests within the international community, recognizing the Holodomor as genocide, adopting pro-Ukrainian bills and working toward Ukraine's membership in the European Union and NATO.

On November 25 Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Ohryzhko met with the leaders of the Ukrainian World Congress and non-governmental organizations of Ukrainians living abroad in order to thank them for disseminating the historical facts about the Holodomor and remembering its victims throughout the world. The participants of the meeting in Kyiv discussed many urgent issues, among them: mechanisms of cooperation between Ukraine and its diaspora and protection of Ukraine's national minorities abroad. President Yushchenko also met with UWC leaders that day, thanking them for their participation in 75th anniversary commemorations of the Holodomor and for their efforts around the globe to secure recognition of the Famine of 1932-1933 as genocide. Prime Minister Tymoshenko met with the group on November 24, also thanking the diaspora leaders for their great work in disseminating the truth about the Holodomor.

Our Churches: news in Ukraine, diaspora

Religious life for Ukrainians in 2008 was marked with a new chapel, a newly consecrated bishop and a newly appointed bishop, two church centennials, a historic visit by the ecumenical patriarch to Ukraine and a youth mission trip to Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church marked two major milestones for its primate, Patriarch Lubomyr Husar: his 75th birthday and the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination on March 2, 2008. A liturgy of thanksgiving was served at the Church of St. Basil the Great in Kyiv.

Archbishop Ivan Jurkovic, apostolic nuncio to Ukraine, read a formal greeting from Pope Benedict XVI. The pontiff wished Cardinal Husar to continue his priestly journey, fully devoted to pastoral and apostolic service. "Your wisdom, prudence, fairness in judgment and openness to dialogue are highly recognized," the greeting stated. During a jubilee concert at the Shevchenko National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet in Kyiv, President Viktor Yushchenko awarded Cardinal Husar the Order of Yaroslav the Wise, third degree.

Catholic bishops met with Pope Benedict XVI on April 16, at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. At the meeting, the pontiff gave special recognition to the presence of bishops from all the venerable Eastern Churches in communion with the Successor of Peter. He asked the Eastern bishops "to assure your communities of my deep affection and my continued prayer, both for them and for their land of origin. Your presence here is a reminder of the courageous witness to Christ of so many members of your communities, often amid suffering, in their respective homelands." The pope's message offered encouragement to the leaders of the Ukrainian Catholic Church to continue to evangelize energetically in America and in their efforts to assist in the renewal of the Church in Ukraine.

Pope Benedict XVI on May 2 appointed the Rev. Bryan Bayda, CSSR, pastor and superior of the Redemptorist Fathers at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, as bishop of the Eparchy of Saskatoon. The Rev. Bayda succeeded Bishop Michael Wiwchar, who resigned as bishop due to age.

Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky of the Ukrainian Catholic Church was recognized by the Jewish Community



Ilyia M. Labunka

Patriarch Lubomyr Husar on March 2 during a special Liturgy of Thanksgiving on the occasion of his 75th birthday and the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination.

of Ukraine as a righteous gentile, Ukraine's Chief Rabbi Moshe Reuven Asman said on May 20. Risking his life during the German occupation of Lviv, Metropolitan Sheptytsky sheltered several hundred Jews, called on his flock to save the Jews and wrote numerous appeals to the German command, demanding a halt to attacks on the Jewish population of Halychyna. During a "Tree of Life" action outside of Kyiv's central synagogue, a tree was planted as a token of gratitude and respect. The state of Israel, Rabbi Asman said, refuses to recognize Metropolitan Sheptytsky as a righteous gentile.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. on May 10 consecrated Archimandrite Daniel (Zelinsky) as bishop at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio. More than 500 people attended the ceremony, including Metropolitan-Archbishop Constantine, eparch of the Central Eparchy, Archbishop Antony, eparch of the Eastern Eparchy, and five other Orthodox hierarchs from around the world, including 60 priests and deacons. A banquet was held following the ceremonies. Bishop Daniel was later appointed eparch of the Western Eparchy of the UOC-U.S.A.

A great part of churches today is the magnificent stained glass windows that bring one's gaze toward heaven. Many of these windows are works of art in their own right, as noted in the 112-page book "Windows to Heaven – Stained Glass Windows at St. Demetrius Great Martyr Ukrainian Catholic Church by artist Yaroslava Surmach-Mills." The book was launched on April 29 by Dr. Christine Turkewych and compiled by the Rev. Peter Shumelda. The church was built in 1970 and the first windows were installed in 1983, the second phase of installation occurred in 1998, and the final phase ended in 2006. A total of 250 pounds of hand-blown German full-antique glass was used.

St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery celebrated its 900th anniversary at the National Opera House of Ukraine in Kyiv on July 10. President Yushchenko reminded the attendees of the celebration that the story of St. Michael's personifies the history of Ukraine, that despite all obstacles, calamities and enemies, the church has been revived from the ruins to life.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I visited Kyiv on July 25-27 during the 1,020th anniversary of the Christianization of Kyivan Rus' by Grand Prince Vladimir in 988. It was hoped that the arrival of the ecumenical patriarch would foster unification dialogue between Ukraine's splintered Orthodox Churches. The majority of Ukraine's Orthodox Churches are loyal to the Moscow Patriarchate and decisions on the future of the Ukrainian Orthodox



Metropolitan Constantine presents the pastoral staff to newly consecrated Bishop Daniel on May 10.

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Church would be made jointly with the patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, the ecumenical patriarch said. During his visit to Ukraine, the ecumenical patriarch led a moleben at Pecherska Lavra and St. Michael's Square, and divine liturgies at St. Sophia Cathedral and St. Michael's Square.

The National Bank of Ukraine put into circulation a commemorative jubilee coin titled "In honor of the visit by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I to Ukraine." The coin is 85-millimeters in diameter and made from .999 silver, with a face value of 50 hryvnia.

St. Thomas Chapel, located at All Saints Camp in Emlenton, Pa., was consecrated on June 22 by Metropolitan-Archbishop Constantine, Archbishop Antony and Bishop Daniel, all representing the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. The erection of the chapel was made possible in large part by a \$500,000 donation from the estate of Thomas Tychonia, a benefactor. The consecration events, which attracted over 500 people, included seminars on iconography and sacred music, and as well as a dinner.

The 2008 Mission Team of College Age Students of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., which included nine students, returned from Ukraine in August after visiting the children at the Puhachiv and Znamianka orphanages in the Kirovohrad and Zhytomyr oblasts, respectively. Organized by the Consistory of the UOC-U.S.A., and led by Bishop Daniel of the UOC-U.S.A., participants prayed with the children, joined in arts and crafts, assisted staff with their daily responsibilities and added fresh paint to these facilities. The team learned and shared information on health-care practices, including preventive care, diet, hygiene and medication. A third orphanage, Zaluchia, located in the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, was recently added to the list of facilities that receive assistance from the UOC-U.S.A.

The Ukrainian Catholic University raised more than \$100,000 during its first fund-raising banquet in Ukraine on October 11 at the Hyatt Regency in Kyiv. The event attracted over 220 people, including First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko, Patriarch Lubomyr Husar, UCU Rector the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, Lay Pontifical Secretary Bishop Josef Clemens, Papal Nuncio to Ukraine Bishop Ivan Jurkovic, Kraft Foods Vice-President George Logush and venture capital entrepreneur Natalie Jaresko. In addition to revenues collected from ticket sales, this fundraiser employed corporate sponsors and a silent auction. Corporate sponsors included the Coca-Cola Co., the Squire, Sanders & Dempsey law firm, the PZU Ukrayina insurance

company, the IMTC-MEI project management firm and the Kyiv-based DomX real estate firm. No other higher education institution in Ukraine had ever attempted such a fundraiser, largely because most universities are state-financed.

Over 200 parishioners of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary the Protectress (Pokrova), located in Manchester, N.H., celebrated the parish's centennial on October 5. It was founded on October 17, 1908, by immigrants from Halychyna and Zakarpattia, with the blessing of Bishop Soter Ortynsky. Bishop Paul Chomnycky, eparch of Stamford, served a hierarchical divine liturgy and a gala banquet was held at the Puritan Restaurant, with a slideshow covering the past 100 years of the parish. Papal blessings were presented to Olga Senenko, the parish's oldest member, and to Jaroslaw Maksymowych, church trustee and cantor. Since its founding, the parish has served as a hub of community activity for Ukrainians.

St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, located in Woonsocket, R.I., celebrated its 100th anniversary on October 26. A hierarchical divine liturgy was celebrated by Bishop Paul Chomnycky, eparch of Stamford and more than 240 guests joined the gala banquet held at the Coachman's Lodge in Bellingham, Mass. The Woonsocket parish was canonically established by Bishop Ortynsky. The festivities, a series of anniversary events in New England, concluded the centennial of Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church in Boston, the 90th anniversary of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Salem, Mass., the 100th anniversary of the Protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Manchester, N.H., and the 100th anniversary of the Boston Deanery of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada enthroned and installed Bishop Ilarion as eparch of Edmonton and western Canada on October 26 at St. John Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Edmonton. The event attracted more than 500 people, including Metropolitan-Archbishop John, eparch of Winnipeg, Archbishop Yuriy, eparch of Toronto and eastern Canada, and Bishop Andriy, eparch-elect of Saskatoon and central Canada. Bishop Ilarion is the first Ukrainian hierarch in 300 years to have been ordained by the ecumenical patriarch, head of the worldwide Orthodox Church. Prior to his installation as eparch of Edmonton and western Canada, Bishop Ilarion served Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I in Portugal as "bishop for Ukrainian questions." Following the conclusion of the divine liturgy, a banquet was held at St. John Cathedral's Parish Community Center.

Academia: books, conferences, scholars

Perhaps we should dub the year 2008 in the Ukrainian academic world the Year of Books, as there were quite a number of notable new works in fields ranging from folklore to history.

The Kule Center for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore in Edmonton, Alberta, on March 9 celebrated the launch of "Slavic Folklore: A Handbook," written by center member and Kule Chair of Ukrainian Ethnography, Natalie Kononenko. The book begins with a discussion of the Slavs, including samples of early lore, and is followed by definitions and examples of the various forms of folklore.

Serhy Yekelchuk's "Ukraine: Birth of a Modern Nation," provides a timeline of Ukrainian history, from ancient civilizations to current times. The author explains how Ukraine's complex past, its juxtaposition between the West and Russia, strong cultural regionalism and the legacy of the Soviet regime are all factors that have contributed to the current characteristics of the country. Dr. Yekelchuk is associate professor of history and Slavic studies at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, specializing in culture and identities in Russia and Eastern Europe, Stalinism, and 20th century Ukraine.

"Heroes and Villains: Creating National History in Contemporary Ukraine," by David R. Marples was released in early 2008. Using a wide selection of newspapers, journals, monographs and school textbooks from different regions of the country, the book examines the sensitive issue of the changing perspectives – often shifting 180 degrees – on several events discussed in the new narratives of the Stalin years published in Ukraine since the late Gorbachev period until 2005. These events were pivotal to Ukrainian history in the 20th century, including the genocidal Famine of 1932-1933 and Ukrainian insurgency during the war years. Dr. Marples explains in his preface: "This book examines a question related to the concept of nation-building, namely the construction of a national history. Arguably, there are several national histories and several interpretations of the past, and it may not be possible to determine which particular version is in the ascendancy. However, in Ukraine's case, the version in place – the Soviet narrative – has clearly been superseded and is obsolete."

"Ukraine: An Illustrated History," by Paul Robert Magocsi, features more than 300 historic photographs, line drawings, portraits, and reproductions of books and art work, as well as 46 maps, around which the text of the book is constructed. The opening chapters of the book cover Ukraine's physical geography, followed by the historical narrative, starting with the "Greeks and Scythians" and concluding with the inauguration of President Viktor Yushchenko. Dr. Magocsi is a professor of history and political science at the University of Toronto, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Canadian Academies of Arts, Humanities and Sciences.

A talk and reception on April 18 at Harvard University's Center for Government and International Studies, co-sponsored by Harvard's Early Slavists Seminar and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI), marked the launch of Mykhailo S. Hrushevskyi Professor of Ukrainian History Serhii Plokhiy's book, "Ukraine and Russia: Representations of the Past." The book is a collection of 16 essays, divided into four sections, which give an overview of the way Ukrainian-Russian historiography was developed, interpreted and used from the 17th century to the present. It discusses many questions fundamental to the formation of modern Russian and Ukrainian historical identity. The book was published by the University of Toronto Press at the beginning of April.

The Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute (HUSI) kicked off its 38th season of special events on June 25, with a book launch, lecture and reception for Prof. Timothy Snyder of Yale University and his latest work "The Red Prince: The Secret Lives of a Habsburg Archduke" (Basic Books, 2008). "The Red Prince" is a biography of Wilhelm von Habsburg, cousin of the last Austro-Hungarian emperor, who adopted the cause of Ukraine and Ukrainians in the hopes of becoming king of Ukraine with Kyiv as his capital. Because he always wore a Ukrainian embroidered shirt, Wilhelm's Ukrainian troops gave him the nickname, "Ivan Vyshyvanyi," which he eventually adopted as his legal name.

The ninth volume of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's "History



Presidential Secretariat Website

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko greets Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I upon his July 25 arrival at Boryspil International Airport outside of Kyiv.

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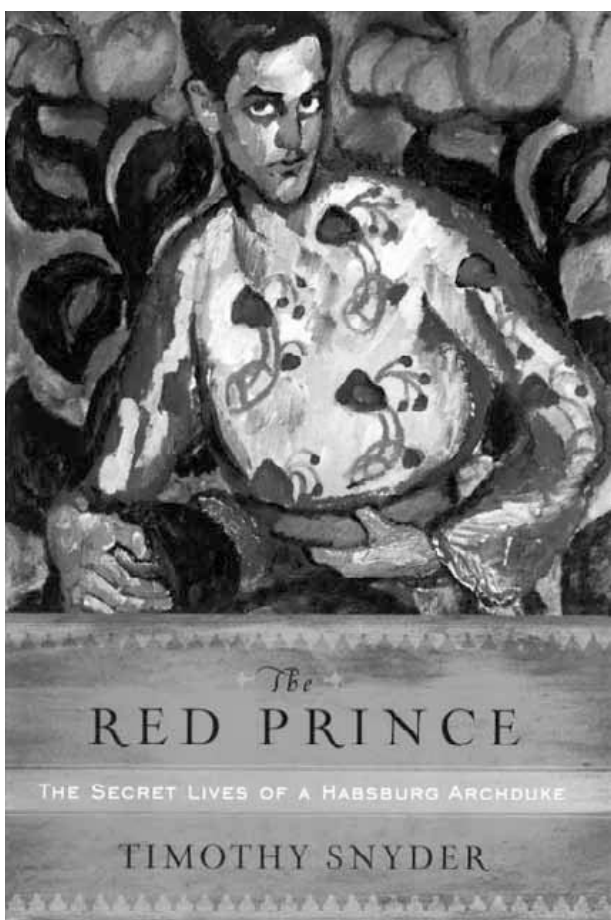
Prof. David Marples receives the University Cup from University of Alberta President Indira Samaraskera on September 26.

of Ukraine-Rus',” written in the late 1920s, covers the “Cossack Age,” encompassing years 1654-1657, with the special focus on the Pereiaslav Agreement of 1654. Unparalleled in breadth of research, Hrushevsky’s work brings to life a turbulent and politically decisive period in the life of the Ukrainian people. On the basis of the travel diary of Paul of Aleppo, a Syrian cleric, Hrushevsky gives an account of daily life in Ukraine at that time, with many details unavailable in other sources. The book is the latest volume of Hrushevsky’s monumental “History of Ukraine” being published in English translation by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

At year’s end, it was announced that the Ukrainian Historical Association had released a new edition of Taras Hunczak’s valuable book “Symon Petliura and the Jews: A Reappraisal.” This updated and substantially revised publication now contains an “Addendum” in which the author discusses recent studies on Ukrainian-Jewish relations; additional documents found in the archives of the former Soviet Union and hitherto inaccessible that expand the source base of the first edition; and an updated bibliography. The book was originally released in 1984 in the UHA series Ukrainian Jewish Studies.

Ukraine’s State Archives

Olha Ginzburg, a vocal denier of the Holodomor and an active member of the Communist Party, was appointed director general of Ukraine’s State Archives in August



“The Red Prince” by Timothy Snyder.



The centennial of the late Dr. George Shevelov was marked on December 7.

2006 under the government of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. Ukraine’s Cabinet of Ministers decided to retain Ms. Ginzburg as director general and, on March 26 of 2008, accepted the resignation of professional archivist Hennadii Boriak, who had been demoted from the director’s position in September 2006. Dr. Boriak had been voicing strong opposition to Ms. Ginzburg’s actions, including suppressing information about Communist repressions and atrocities, glorifying the Soviet way of life, and strengthening Ukraine’s archival ties to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). In addition, Ms. Ginzburg hired a group of young Communists to redesign the archival administration’s website, which in recent years had become a prime source of information on the Holodomor and Ukrainian strivings for nationhood.

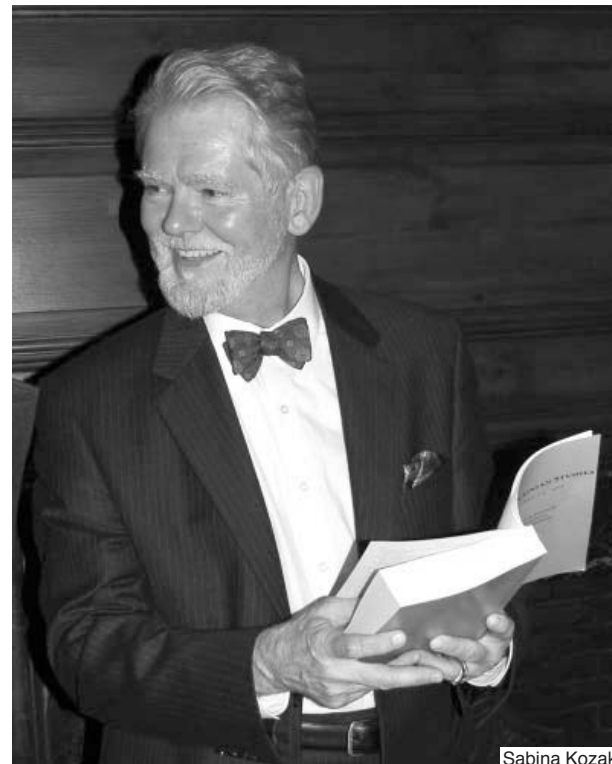
The presidential administration of Viktor Yushchenko and the government of Yulia Tymoshenko had been blaming each other for Ms. Ginzburg’s ongoing survival in office. However, on April 10 the news media in Ukraine reported that Ms. Ginzburg was fired by Prime Minister Tymoshenko, due to a decision by the coalition government that the post should be given to an appointee of the Our Ukraine – People’s Self-Defense bloc. In her place, the Cabinet of Ministers appointed Dr. Oleksander Udod.

Scholarly events, programs

More than 200 people attended an event on April 7 co-sponsored by the HURI, the Boston Map Society, Pusey Library and Harvard University’s map repository, to celebrate the completion of the Bohdan and Neonila Holovatska Krawciw Map Project. The project included the cataloguing of the collection of nearly 900 maps, books, research files and notebooks, in nine different languages, that comprise the Krawciw collection. The catalogue “Ukraine Under Western Eyes: The Bohdan and Neonila Krawciw Ukrainian Map Collection,” features a full description of the collection, as well as commentary and illustrations of the rarest and most significant maps. It is the work of Assistant Prof. Stephen Seegal of the history department of Worcester State College, who spent almost two years working on the project.

The third biennial International Graduate Student Symposium was held at the Munk Center for International Studies at the University of Toronto on January 24-26. Titled “New Perspectives on Contemporary Ukraine: Politics, History and Culture” and sponsored by the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS), and the University of Toronto, the symposium attracted a large audience of both the University of Toronto community and other interested persons.

The annual meeting of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh), took place at the society’s headquarters in New York City on May 17. During the meeting, Dr. Orest Popovych, president of NTSh, announced the election of 18 new members to the society and highlighted the two recent major achievements by NTSh: the receipt of complete galleys of the first volume (letters A-K) of the Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora and the pro-

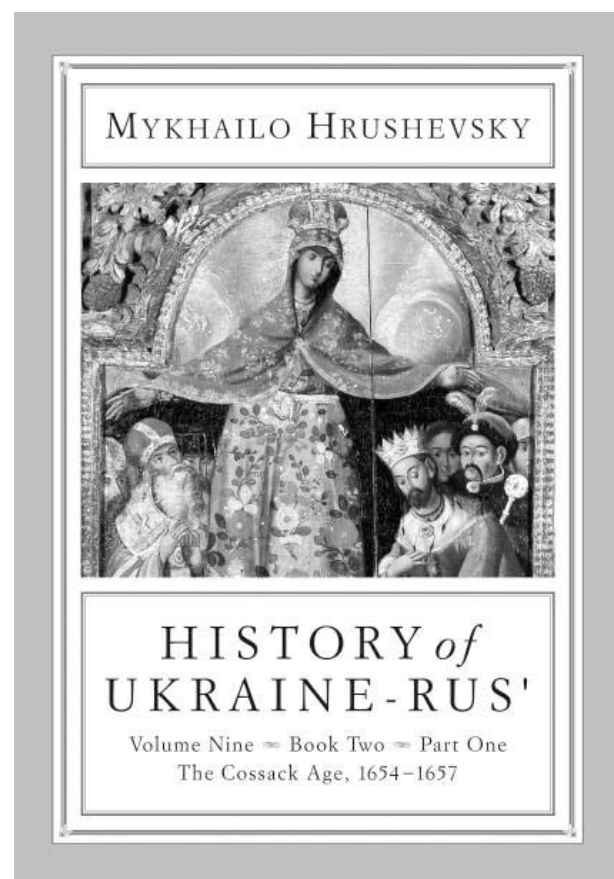


Prof. George G. Grabowicz at the celebration of his 65th birthday on October 16.

gression into the final stages of negotiations for the sale of the excess development rights of the NTSh building in New York. The day’s events at NTSh culminated in a literary evening dedicated to the 80th anniversary of Bohdan Boychuk – poet, prose writer, translator and literary critic.

The seventh congress of the International Association of Ukrainian Studies (IAUS), held on June 24-29 at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU) in Kyiv, proved far less successful than in previous years, causing a wave of dissatisfaction among participants. The primary cause was disorganization and lower attendance. Hanna Skrypnyk, director of the Institute of Arts, Folklore and Ethnology at the NASU and the newly elected president of the IAUS, defended the congress, arguing that the significant cut in funding afforded the association far less opportunity to accommodate participants than in previous years. It’s still unclear, Dr. Skrypnyk said, if there will be another IAUS conference in the future.

The National Convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies was held in Philadelphia on November 20-23. Over 1,200 Slavic studies scholars attended the conference, participating in about 586 sessions and panels. The Shevchenko Scientific Society (USA) organized and sponsored sessions focusing on the Holodomor. Participants were Slavic scholars from Canada, Italy, Ukraine and the



Book 2, Part I of the ninth volume of Mykhailo Hrushevsky’s History of Ukraine-Rus’.

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United States. Over 100 publishers exhibited their recent publications at the convention; about a third of the publishers displayed books on Ukraine and related subjects.

"Hip-hop, performed increasingly in the Ukrainian language over the last five years, is one of the primary musical genres associated with the 2004 Orange Revolution," said Adriana Helbig, visiting assistant professor of musicology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in a lecture at the Kennan Institute. Both the performers and their art show new, dynamic and diverse ways that musicians in contemporary Ukraine express claims of belonging, citizenship and equality.

The Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Modern Ukrainian History and Society was launched on September 23 in Toronto. The new program will enable the Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research at CIUS to devote part of its activity to the study of modern Ukraine, with an initial focus on key issues in 20th century. In the near term, the program will take over sponsorship of *Ukraina Moderna*, a key Ukrainian historical journal. In the intermediate and longer terms, the program will aim to foster international collaboration in scholarship and education by supporting the research work and education of promising young historians in Ukraine and Canada.

The National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy officially opened its Doctoral School on October 8, offering the country's first Western-style Ph.D. programs. The university enrolled its first 16 doctoral candidates into three Ph.D. programs and plans to launch three additional programs in 2009. The goal is to completely transform the current "aspirantura" system at Kyiv Mohyla into EHEA-compliant Ph.D. programs by September 2010. This initiative is revolutionary for Ukraine's higher education system, as it represents a radical departure from the Soviet-era system of researcher preparation that persists in Ukraine. In time, it is hoped that the Kyiv Mohyla Doctoral School will become a model for the enactment of fundamental reform within Ukraine's post-graduate education system.

In addition to the above, there were a number of scholarly conferences on Ukraine's Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933. Information about these major events appears in the separate section devoted to Holodomor.

Awards, celebrations

The American Association for Ukrainian Studies (AAUS) awards were announced on April 12 at the AAUS meeting held during the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Nationalities in New York City. The AAUS honored five scholars for their recent contributions to the field of Ukrainian studies: Vitaly Chernetsky, assistant professor of German, Russian and East Asian languages at Miami University; Catherine Wanner, associate professor of history and anthropology at the Pennsylvania State University; Alexandra Hrycak, associate professor of sociology at Reed College; Natan M. Meir, lecturer at the School of Humanities at the University of Southampton; and Michael Naydan, professor of Slavic languages and literatures at the Pennsylvania State University.

Prof. David Marples, well-known for his prolific and timely writings on contemporary Ukraine, was awarded the University Cup in a ceremony at the University of Alberta in Edmonton on September 26. The University Cup is the highest honor the U of A can bestow on a member of its academic staff and is awarded to scholars who have achieved outstanding distinction in scholarly research, teaching and service to the university and to the community at large. Dr. Marples is a University Professor in the department of history and classics and serves as director of the Stasiuk Program on Contemporary Ukraine that is affiliated with the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies.

On Sunday, December 7, the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in New York and the Ukrainian Institute of America marked the centennial of the birth of the late George Shevelov, world-renowned Slavic linguist and literary critic, with a conference devoted to his life and work. The conference was held at the Ukrainian Institute of America, on 79th Street and Fifth Avenue.

The Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) sponsored a dinner on October 16 at the Harvard Faculty Club for the first Dmytro Cyzevskyj Professor of Ukrainian Literature, George G. Grabowicz, on the occasion of his 65th birthday, with more than 70 of his colleagues and friends in attendance. During the course of the celebration Prof. Grabowicz was presented with a festschrift of 53 scholarly articles written in his honor by colleagues, friends and students that will be published by the institute.

The arts and culture: Trypillia is tops

Trypillia made the top headlines in the world of culture and the arts during the 2008, which also saw much activity in music, art, literature, folk arts, film, theater and photography. We begin this overview with a look at museums.

MUSEUMS

The "Mysteries of the Trypillian Culture" exhibition in Toronto, which opened on November 29 at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). The landmark exhibit was organized by the ROM and the National Museum of the History of Ukraine in collaboration with the Institute of Archaeology and the Archaeological Museum of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Odesa Archaeological Museum, the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Vinnytsia Regional Museum and with the collaboration of the Institute of Archaeology in Ukraine. The exhibit recreates the mysterious and largely unknown culture of the Trypillians (5400-2700 BC) through artifacts, maps, two- and three-dimensional reconstructions and video presentations.

Ukraine's First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, honorary patron of the exhibition, spoke on November 27 at the media preview and thanked the ROM for its vision and its commitment to the project. Also on the same night a formal gala helped to open the exhibit.

The idea for the exhibit at the ROM dates back to 2005 when newly inaugurated President Yushchenko suggested to Mr. Temerty, a Ukrainian Canadian who is chairman of the museum's board of governors, that he should organize a Trypillia exhibit at the ROM. The Royal Ontario Museum is a world renowned institution, with 45 galleries – the largest collection in Canada – and the fifth largest museum in North America. It is visited annually by between 750,000 and 1 million visitors.

"Ancient Ukraine: Mysteries of the Trypillian Culture" is planned as a touring exhibition and will remain at the ROM through March 22, 2009. The ROM is now seeking additional venues for the exhibition from spring 2009 through 2011.

The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art (UIMA) in Chicago has been in the vanguard in presenting new forms of artistic expression since its founding in 1978. During the first 30 years of its existence the UIMA has experienced many phases that encompassed expansion, exhibits, concerts, theatrical and literary events, discussions, film series; it has served as a magnet for new forms of expression. The UIMA also faced many challenges, as all non-profit institutions do. On March 1 a fund-raising event titled "Moving Forward Together" was convened in connection with the opening of the institute's renovated space. The highly successful occa-

sion attracted close to 200 supporters. The institute's future plans include the continuation of quality innovative exhibits and events with the participation of both Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian artists and the public.

Prof. Jaroslaw Leshko is a long time friend of The Ukrainian Museum in New York, a generous supporter, advisor and participant in its many artistic presentations and a frequent contributor to its scholarly endeavors – the museum's bilingual exhibition catalogues. Dr. Leshko was elected on June 1 to the post of board president during the 2008 annual meeting of the museum's membership, succeeding Olha Hnateyko, who held the office for 10 years. Dr. Leshko received his B.A., M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. from Columbia University, where he studied the history of art with such distinguished art historians as Rudolf Wittkower, Meyer Schapiro and H. W. Janson of the Art Institute. Dr. Leshko began his teaching career in 1968 at Smith College in Northampton, Mass., where he taught the history of 19th and 20th century art for 35 years. His current status is that of professor emeritus of Smith College. Prof. Leshko's professional accomplishments include his authorship of numerous books, catalogues and articles on art, concentrating mainly on early modernism.

Also at The Ukrainian Museum, an exhibition of antiquarian maps showing the territory of present-day Ukraine over the course of three centuries opened on April 20. "The Mapping of Ukraine: European Cartography and Maps of Early Modern Ukraine, 1550-1799," included 42 original maps published over a 250-year period. To coincide with "The Mapping of Ukraine," the museum presented an exhibition of some of the major cultural achievements of the Kozak era. "The Cossacks: Their Art and Style" used a variety of photographs, portraits, artifacts and publications to focus on what has become known as the Kozak Baroque.

MUSIC

After 12 years at the helm Oleh Mahlay stepped down as artistic director and conductor of the Ukrainian Bandurist Choir. Mr. Mahlay is credited for revitalizing the membership of the UBC through his devoted passion and great skill. A search committee was formed to seek out a new conductor and on May 31 in Cleveland the membership elected Adrian Bryttan as its seventh conductor following the committee's recommendation. A very accomplished violinist and with an extensive resume of conducting symphonic compositions and operas, Mr. Bryttan said he looks to reach mainstream audiences by widening the repertoire of the UBC.

From late January and into early February the Burdon Ukrainian Folk Band from Lviv dazzled many audiences in various venues. The highlight of the series was a production with the Rozmai Ukrainian Dance Company that combined the dancers and the talented folk band. The production has helped to energize the dance culture in Winnipeg. Playing 10 different instruments and show-



Royal Ontario Museum

Among the artifacts on display at the Royal Ontario Museum's exhibit of Trypillian culture are these "binoculars" (earthenware. 4500-4100 BC). The function of these bottomless objects is a mystery.

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casing many influences, Burdon successfully warmed up the Canadian Prairies.

The renowned bass-baritone Pavlo Hunka, whose career includes more than 70 operas, embarked on a long-term project: the documentation of all the art songs by Ukrainian composers. Mr. Hunka intends to create a complete anthology of Ukrainian art songs. This would include 15 composers and will probably take as many years to accomplish. The double-CD set of the 42 art songs of Kyrylo Stetsenko, which was released in 2006, became the first in the series. The art songs of Mykola Lysenko were in production.

The Washington Group Cultural Fund's 2007-2008 Music Series concluded on May 18 with pianist Natalya Shkoda performing "Eleven Études in the Form of Old Dances, Op. 19" by Viktor Kosenko (1896-1936). Her performance was the fourth and last concert of the annual Sunday series produced by the TWG Cultural Fund under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine. Also in the series was violinist Solomia Soroka who on April 13 performed works by Johannes Brahms, William Bolcom and Arthur Hartmann, featured the works of two Ukrainian composers: the Allegretto and Dance from "Hutsulian Triptych" by Myroslav Skoryk, a leading contemporary composer in Ukraine, and "Dumka-Shumka" by the venerable Mykola Lysenko of a century earlier.

The Ukrainian singer/songwriter Taras Chubai performed on April 8 at the Union Theological Seminary in New York City. The concert was the first in a series titled "Svitlo i Spovid: Light and Confession," which is part of a larger and ongoing Contemporary Ukrainian Literature Series sponsored by the Harriman Institute at Columbia University and the Kennan Institute. Mr. Chubai's second concert was held on April 10 at the Kennan Institute in Washington.

Over 300 people came to the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ) on April 11 to see and hear a performance by Oleh Skrypka, Ukraine's legendary rock star and front man of the Ukrainian rock group Vopli Vidopliassova (VV). The event was presented by the Ukrainian Athletic Educational Association Chornomorska Sitch. Mr. Skrypka was in the area to perform in the Kyiv-based Ivan Franko Theater's presentation of "Natalka Poltavka" at the UACCNJ.

Virko Baley was one of four composers to receive a stipend award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters at its annual Ceremonial on May 21. Upon being nominated by a fellow member, Mr. Baley submitted two compositions for review: his First Symphony "Sacred Monuments" and his "Emily Dickinson Songbook." Half of the \$15,000 from the American



Ukrainian pop star Ruslana in concert in Montreal on November 14.

Academy of Arts and Letters award is earmarked for a recording, which Mr. Baley plans to utilize in Kyiv this December to realize his "Klytemnestra" for mezzo-soprano and orchestra (text by Oksana Zabuzhko) with the National Symphony Orchestra.

The Music and Art Center of Greene County, located at the Grazhda in Jewett, N.Y., this year announced a summer program of five concerts of music, including the "Music at the Grazhda" Chamber Music Society (violinists Oleksander Abayev and Nazariy Pylatyuk, violist Borys Deviatov, cellist Natalia Khoma and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky), the Cheres folk ensemble, Mr. Pylatyuk appearing solo, and bass-baritone Taras Kulish and pianist Valentina Lisitsa. In addition, there were three monodrama performances by Halyna Stefanova of Ukraine and a series of folk art courses.

Also during the summer, music lovers in the Midwest had an opportunity to hear young mezzo-soprano Tania Mandzy, who sang the lead role in "L'Etoile," a comic opera by Emmanuel Chabrier, with the Ohio Light Opera. Ms. Mandzy spent the last three years in London, where she completed a master's degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, one of the United

Kingdom's top conservatories. She received the 2007 Susan Longfield Prize and was a 2007 Britten-Pears Young Artist.

Myroslav Skoryk, Ukraine's best known contemporary composer, was honored with a special concert in the Washington area celebrating his 70th birthday. Part of The Washington Group Cultural Fund's 2008-2009 Music Series, the concert was held on November 9 at the historic Lyceum building in Alexandria, Va. The concert featured not only a selection of Mr. Skoryk's well-known and cherished compositions, but the composer himself. He performed along with violinists Oleksander Abayev and Yuri Kharenko, violist Borys Deviatov, cellist Natalia Khoma and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky.

The Shevchenko Scientific Society on November 1 hosted a lecture-concert presentation by Dr. Victor Markiw on the theme "Solo Piano Works of Myroslav Skoryk." This lecture preceded a concert that took place later in the evening at the Ukrainian Institute of America, as part of the Music at the Institute series, honoring the composer on his 70th birthday. Dr. Victor Markiw, professor of music at the University of New Haven, is the author of a 167-page dissertation titled "Myroslav Skoryk: Life and Solo Piano Works."

The Ukrainian Institute of America also hosted concerts by pianist Nadia Shpachenko and the Biava String Quartet (November 22) and students of the Mannes College of Music (October 29), as well as a concert in memory of Roman Stecura (September 21).

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

The Social Club at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey in Whippany was packed with singers and accordionists on November 22 for the first-ever "Accordionfest." A dozen accordionists ranging in age from their early teens to early retirement were joined by George Hrab of Tempo on the drums. The event was made possible with the cooperation of accordionists Stefan Tatarenko, Michael Koziupa and Matthew Dubas, who all played at the event, and members of the Social Club Committee. The event also attracted accordionists Alex Juskin, Alex Chudolij, Peter Chudolij, Walter Syzonenko, Jim Fedorko, Slavko Kosiv, Zenon Brozyna, Gregory Fat and Andrew Lazirko.

ART

The art of Jurij Solovij (1921-2007), one of the most forceful and singular of modern art among Ukrainian artists, was presented as a retrospective at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago on January 27-March 16. Much of his work, including his famous series of



Myroslav Skoryk at a special concert celebrating his 70th birthday held on November 9 in Alexandria, Va. Joining in the singing of "Mnohaya Lita" for the composer is cellist Natalia Khoma.

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paintings, drawings and sculptures titled "1,000 Heads," was on display. Expressing existential themes such as those of birth, suffering, transience, death and motherhood; his art is cathartic in its expression of the darker and more horrific aspects of the immigrant experience dominate his work.

The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art held a showing of "Les Formes Vivantes," an exhibition of graphic work by the renowned Ukrainian artist Alexander Archipenko, who was born in Kyiv in 1887. Indeed it is often argued that he was one of the greatest sculptors of the 20th century. By exploring his career as a printmaker this exhibition served to highlight Archipenko's innovations in the two-dimensional realm. On display were 15 of Archipenko's 54 known prints.

"Futurism and After: David Burliuk, 1882-1967," a large-scale exhibition with more than 100 works of art,



"Le Groupe," a print by Alexander Archipenko.

along with photographs of the artist and some of his personal belongings, provided an overview of the most important periods in the life of the famed Futurist. The exhibition opened on October 31 at the new building of The Ukrainian Museum in Manhattan's East Village. The exhibition will be on view through March 1, 2009. Internationally renowned as the father of Futurism in his native Ukraine and Russia, Burliuk was a major contributor to the seminal period of modernism in the early decades of the 20th century.

A solo exhibition of works by Lydia Bodnar-Balahutruk was on view at Adair Margo Gallery in El Paso, Texas, on January 17-February 28. Featured was a selection of mixed media paintings from her series titled "The Innocents."

The Tori Collection in Malvern, Pa., on February 29 opened the homecoming show "Golden Illusions" featuring new paintings by Alexander Motyl.

"East Village Afternoon," an exhibit featuring paintings by Andrei Kushnir and Michele Martin Taylor, included several works highlighting the Ukrainian presence in that part of New York City, among them paintings of St. George Church and the Surma shop. The exhibit was on view at the American Painting gallery through November 2.

The Noyes Museum of Art presented a major solo exhibition by artist Ilona Sochynsky titled "Abstract Intrigue" on October 14-November 30. The exhibit featured over 26 oil paintings on canvas in varying levels of abstraction.

LITERATURE

Janice Kulyk Keefer of Guelph, Ontario won the second biennial Kobzar Literary Award for her work of fiction, "The Ladies' Lending Library." The award was presented at a ceremony and dinner held on March 6 at the Palais Royale in Toronto. The Shevchenko Foundation, initiator of the Kobzar Literary Award, provides the \$25,000 award, of which \$20,000 is awarded to the author and \$5,000 to the publisher for the promotion of the winning work.

One of the leading fiction writers in the United States, Askold Melnyczuk, author of "What Is Told" and

"Ambassador of the Dead" published a new novel "The House of Widows" (Graywolf Press). The novel deals with soldiers who are deserters, their fates and those associated with facilitating those fates.

FOLK ARTS

Sixty pysanka specialists, lobbyists and collectors from across North America gathered at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine in Washington on March 8 for the first Pysanka Symposium in the United States. Five speakers shared stories, discussions, ideas and techniques all to do with the living tradition of pysanka writing. The Pysanka Symposium also featured a three-part exhibit on themes of tradition, passion and techniques.

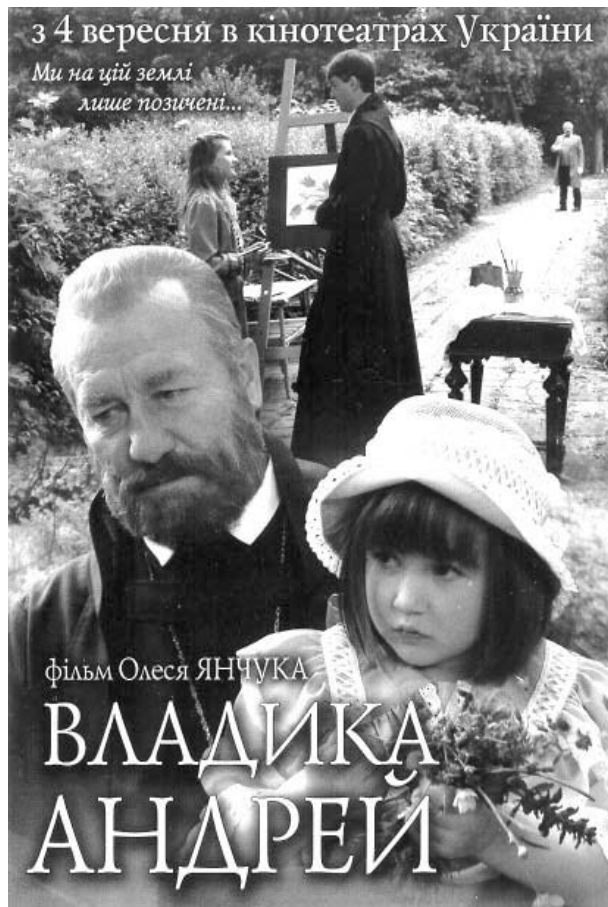
The Ukrainian Museum in New York presented its annual spring exhibition of pysanky and accompanied the pysanky with Ukrainian "rushnyky" (embroidered ritual cloths) from March 21 through August. Lubow Wolynetz was the curator of the exhibition and of the Folk Art Collection. The rushnyky on display were from a splendid grouping of embroideries recently donated to the museum's Folk Art Collection by Myroslava Stachiw.

The Yara Arts Group and the Ukrainian Institute of America presented "Winter Sun: A Festival of New Arts and Tradition" on December 19-21. The festival featured traditional "koliada," or winter song rituals, performed by the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia and the Tafiychuk family of musicians from the Carpathian Mountains. There was also exhibition of art, installations and video, as well as a reception featuring new interpretations of ritual foods. At the beginning of 2008, on January 18-19, the Yara Arts Group and the UIA presented "In a Different Light: Ukrainian Poetry, Translations, Interpretations and Revisions."

FILM

Ukraine arrived at the Cannes International Film Festival, held on May 14-25, with its own pavilion at the Village International lining the Riviera near the Palais des Festivals. It was the first time the Ukrainian flag flew over a pavilion at Cannes. The pavilion was opened under the general sponsorship of Nemiroff vodka. Ukraine's presentation at the 63rd international festival, attended by Ukraine's First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko, was unveiled by Andrii Khalpakhchi, director of the Ukrainian Film Foundation and art director of the Kyiv Youth Film Festival Molodist.

Ukrainian filmmaker Oles Yanchuk, whose directorial credits include "Famine-33" (about the Holodomor) and "The Undeclared" (about the life of the legendary leader of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army Roman Shukhevych) released his latest feature-length film, "Vladyka Andrey." The film, which had its Kyiv premier on August 23, is a cinematic attempt to portray the fascinating life of Servant of God Andrey Sheptytsky, one of the greatest Ukrainian Church leaders in the first half of the 20th



Poster for the new feature film "Vladyka Andrey" directed by Oles Yanchuk.

century and arguably one of the most influential figures in 20th century Ukrainian history. Metropolitan Sheptytsky's personal as well as his ecclesiastical and political – often very tumultuous – life is portrayed biographically throughout the movie. The movie, co-produced by Mr. Yanchuk and New Yorker Askold Lozynskyj, was released in theaters nationwide in Ukraine on September 4. The film was to be released on DVD by the end of the year and there were plans to distribute the Ukrainian-language film with subtitles throughout Europe, Russia and North America.

"A Kingdom Reborn – Treasures from Ukrainian Galicia," developed and produced by Canada's 1253 Productions, is the first western documentary to present the history of Halychyna (Galicia) and its capital city, Lviv, through rare footage of the region's still little explored art and architecture. The 57-minute film is available on a multilingual DVD in NTSC format. On the Full Release disc, there are two versions of the film – one in English and the other in Ukrainian. It was produced and directed by Dani Stodilka; the script is by Peter Bejger.

Ukraine-born Eugene Hutz (born Nikolaev), 35, of the popular Transglobal Gypsy Punk Rock band Gogol Bordello, starred in "Filth and Wisdom," a British-made film written and directed by recording artist and entertainer Madonna. Billed as a comedy-drama, the movie centers around a handful of bohemians trying hard to make a name for themselves in London, England. Mr. Hutz's previous film credits include "Everything is Illuminated" (2005). "Filth and Wisdom," which had its world premiere at the 2008 Berlin Film Festival, also features a performance by the Gogol Bordello band. The film opened in New York at the International Film Center in Greenwich Village on October 17.

James Bond's newest flame is Ukrainian beauty Olga Kurylenko, an actress/model who plays Camille in the new Bond movie "Quantum of Solace." A native of Berdiansk in southeastern Ukraine, it was revealed that her first acting role occurred in a school play in Ukraine. She started modeling at age 16. Her selection as the romantic interest in "Quantum of Solace" came after three auditions. The movie premiered on October 29 in London.

THEATER

Ukraine's acclaimed Ivan Franko Theater of Kyiv brought the musical drama "Natalka Poltavka" to the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey (UACCNJ) on April 12-13. The North American premiere of this new production of the beloved play by Ivan Kotliarevsky (1769-1838) was presented by the Arts, Culture and Education Committee of the UACCNJ, which is located in Whippany, N.J.

The Canadian Ukrainian Art Foundation was the venue on October 19 when Svitlana Vatamaniuk, a well-known actress from Ukraine, offered her one-woman musico-poetic presentation "Foreign land." The show included a theatrical rendition of the intimate love poetry of Lesia Ukrainka, selections from the letters of Olena Teliha and a montage from the play "... I will remember... Americord," which played in Kyiv at the Ivan Franko Theater at the beginning of the year.

On November 9-10 the solo drama "Sin of Starvation" (Holodnyi Hrih), based on Vasyl Stefanyk's novel "Novyna," was performed by Oleksander Formanchuk of the Ivan Franko National Academic Theater of Kyiv in Whippany, N.J. The play tells the story of Hryts Letiuchy, a poor and desperate single father of two children and the horrible consequences they suffer during extraordinarily harsh times of famine. The event was sponsored by the Arts, Culture and Education Committee of the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey.

In the realm of musicals, Kharytia Bilash received excellent reviews for her portrayal of Belle in the musical "Beauty and the Beast," staged at the Citadel Theater in Edmonton from January 19 to March 2, after which it was presented at the Epcor Center in Calgary, where it ran until April 27.

PHOTOGRAPHY

On February 7 the well-known photographer Juergen Teller opened a new personal exhibition "Ukraine" at New York's Lehmann Maupin Gallery. Mr. Teller was commissioned, along with four other artists, by the PinchukArtCentre to interpret Ukraine for the 52nd International Venice Biennale 2007, where a selection from this series was first shown. The New York exhibition marked the first time an expanded version, along with other new works, was shown in the United States.

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New beginnings, successes at the UNA

For the Ukrainian National Association, 2008 was a year of new beginnings and some notable successes.

In early February it was announced that UNA annuity sales in January has surpassed the \$1 million mark. It was the largest monthly growth in sales in a decade, announced UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj, who congratulated UNA National Secretary Christine E. Kozak and the entire UNA staff on their hard work. UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich reported that the record sales of annuities in January followed a continued trend of sales growth that had begun in the second half of 2006. She also noted, for purposes of comparison, that annuity sales for the entire year in 2006 had totaled just under \$1 million.

Annuities continued to sell well during the rest of the year, with Ms. Kozak reporting that, as of the end of the second quarter, they totaled over \$6 million. By year's end, the UNA was pleased to report that annuity sales in 2008 had topped \$10 million.

In February the UNA celebrated its 114th anniversary, and The Ukrainian Weekly wished a "Mnohaya Lita" to our publisher in a February 24 editorial that reminded readers that this newspaper and Svoboda are the best known fraternal benefits offered to UNA members and the Ukrainian community at large. The editorial also pointed to many other UNA programs that benefit the community. "The UNA, as a membership-based organization, will continue to do good as long as it is supported by its members," we wrote. "Therefore, the more dues-paying members it has, the more good this fraternal organization can do."

Later in the year, Svoboda marked the 115th anniversary of its founding. It was on September 15, 1893, that the first issue of the newspaper rolled off the presses. Today it is the oldest continuously published Ukrainian newspaper in the world. In a Ukrainian-language statement on the occasion of the anniversary, the UNA Executive Committee noted that Svoboda, "not only reflected the history of organized Ukrainian community life on the North American continent, but also created this history, serving as the initiator of beneficial community-wide actions and maintaining constant spiritual and intellectual ties with Ukraine. Svoboda continues to fulfill its national patriotic mission today, ...spiritually and intellectually uniting all waves of Ukrainians in America and steering them toward assisting Ukraine in affirming and developing its independence and democracy."

The Ukrainian Weekly celebrated its own milestone, its 75th anniversary, on October 6. In a special anniversary section of The Weekly, UNA President Kaczaraj, writing on behalf of the UNA Executive Committee, noted: "The Ukrainian Weekly has always been a powerful force in our community and among Americans. Through the decades, it has rallied our community behind Ukrainian national causes, such as the defense of human rights activists in the USSR, the ultimate goal of independence for Ukraine, the erection of a monument in Washington to Taras Shevchenko, the establishment of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine and the international recognition of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 as genocide. It can be said with-



Oksana Trytjak

Five Miss Soyuzivkas – Ania Bohachevsky-Lonkevych, Ksenia Hentisz, Alana Lenec (2008), Dianna Shmerykowsky and Lydia Kulbida – at the grand opening celebration of the Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky Dance Academy during Memorial Day weekend.

out exaggeration that The Ukrainian Weekly has played a crucial role in reporting developments in our ancestral homeland, whether that was back in the 1930s, when Ukraine was subjugated by foreign powers, or today, 17 years after Ukraine renewed its independence."

In April the UNA Home Office announced the names of the top organizers for 2007. The top producers in terms of most annual premiums for life insurance collected in 2007 were: first place – Lubov Streletsky (UNA advisor, secretary of Branch 10), second place – Myron Pylypiak (UNA advisor, secretary of Branch 496), third place – Valentina Kaploun (secretary of Branch 269, Home Office employee) and fourth place – Nicholas Fil (advisor, chairman of the Albany District Committee, secretary of Branch 13). In terms of most annual and single-premiums collected for life insurance, the champions were: first place – Eugene Oscislawski (UNA advisor, secretary of Branch 234, licensed agent), second place – Ms. Streletsky, third place – Ms. Kaploun, fourth place – Oksana Trytjak (secretary of Branch 25, licensed agent, UNA national organizer).

The UNA's General Assembly met at its annual meeting at Soyuzivka on September 12-14. Participants of the meeting were buoyed by news of the rebound in the UNA's insurance business, thanks largely to over \$6 million in annuity sales during the first half of 2008, plus an overall increase in the sales of life insurance policies during the past year.

President Kaczaraj began his report by underscoring that "the UNA is definitely moving in the right direction," as the past year has been notable for improvements in the

association's operations, sales of annuities and investment income, as well as in the operations of Soyuzivka and the UNA's two newspapers, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly. He said that the UNA's sale of its headquarters building had increased its surplus by \$4,627,000, that both newspapers had redesigned their websites and that Soyuzivka had held yet another successful Ukrainian Cultural Festival. Treasurer Lisovich added that "the financial position of the UNA has seen a marked improvement over this past year."

Among the General Assembly's resolutions, adopted on the recommendations of separate committees charged with examining various aspects of the UNA's activity, were the following: to schedule a mandatory meeting of all Canadian branch secretaries in Toronto in order to determine a new direction for the UNA in Canada; to cross-promote the UNA with other Ukrainian organizations; to hold Ukrainian Cultural Courses for high school students during the summer at Soyuzivka; to contract a marketing consultant specifically for advertising in the UNA's newspapers, both print and online, as well as for promoting subscriptions; and to continue to promote a strong cultural program at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center. The budget adopted for 2009 is based on a modest net profit for the year, with annuity sales continuing to act as the engine for growth. Annuities are projected to exceed \$10 million and investment income is budgeted to increase to \$4 million in 2009.

Shortly after that, with the volatility of financial markets in the headlines, the UNA Home Office released a statement telling members and the public that the UNA's



Christine Syzonenko



Christine Syzonenko

The Dumka Choir of New York, and Oleh Sozansky and Taras Lazurkevych of Bandurna Rozmova at Soyuzivka's Ukrainian Cultural Festival on July 10-13.

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Russ Chelak



Oksana Trytyak



Russ Chelak

Violinist Inessa Tymochko-Dekajlo, pop star Vitaliy Kozlovsky and the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Workshop perform at Soyuzivka's second annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival held July 10-13.

investments remain sound. "We are happy to report that the UNA investment portfolio remains a healthy one – currently maintaining a yield of over 6 percent through the second quarter of 2008. In order to mitigate the risk, we subscribe to a policy of broad portfolio diversification. As of today, our investment in any single U.S. corporation is less than 2 percent. Our portfolio holds fixed income securities from 118 unique issuers; 96 percent of the portfolio is invested in Agency and AAA to BBB investment grade securities according to Standard and Poors designations. All these safeguards have been consciously developed over time – some from our own experience, some from the experience of others. ... We are happy to report that, to date, our portfolio remains in a solid position," wrote Treasurer Lisovich on behalf of the UNA Executive Committee.

In other news at the UNA, the Auditing Committee – Slavko Tysiak (chairman), Vasyl Luchkiw and Wasyl Szeremeta – in June reported on its recently concluded review of the Ukrainian National Foundation (UNF), which distributed about \$350,000 in donor funds during 2007. The audit found that donor funds are properly accounted for and management oversight is appropriate. The UNF was founded by the UNA to support charitable, religious, educational and scientific endeavors.

At Soyuzivka, the Ukrainian National Association's Ukrainian heritage center in Kerhonkson, N.Y., the biggest news was the establishment of the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Academy. The Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Foundation and the Ukrainian National Association on March 12 announced their partnership in forming the dance academy. To mark the event, Soyuzivka hosted a reception, a cultural program and opening ceremony during Memorial Day weekend.

Ms. Bohachevsky was remembered as world-renowned prima ballerina, choreographer and teacher and for all her contributions to Ukrainian dance and the education of young generations. Her daughter, Ania Bohachevsky-Lonkevych, and granddaughter Roma Lonkevych, officially opened the academy with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting. A plaque, blessed by local clergy, was erected at the entrance to the Veselka pavilion. In addition, Soyuzivka became the summer home of the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of New York, which in 2008 celebrated its 30th anniversary. A sign was erected at the entrance to Soyuzivka informing guests of the dance ensemble's new summer home.

Soyuzivka may have been closed to guests during the off-season in early 2008, but it was the scene of much activity as the resort was being upgraded to better serve guests. The focal point of the upgrades was the Veselka pavilion, where a top-to-bottom renovation was implemented, beginning with a new air conditioning system and refurbished bathrooms, and ending with a state-of-the-art dance floor suitable for use by the dance camps and dance workshops run by the Ukrainian Dance Foundation. In addition, a tent was erected over the roller rink in order to provide another venue for Soyuzivka's growing list of youth camps, including camps for pre-schoolers (Plast's "Tabir Ptashat" and Soyuzivka's Ukrainian Heritage Day Camp), Exploration Day Camp, Tennis Camp, Discovery Camp and Sitch Sports Camp, in addition to the aforementioned Roma Pryma Bohachevsky

Ukrainian dance programs.

In an interview with The Ukrainian Weekly in February, Soyuzivka General Manager Nestor Paslawsky reported that the co-op project at Soyuzivka was moving forward, with attorneys being brought on, land and water surveys being conducted, and site plans and drawings being prepared for presentation to the appropriate authorities. In addition, there was some movement on the purchase of a piece of Soyuzivka land by the Open Space Institute, whose goal is to preserve land in perpetuity by buying undeveloped tracts.

Soyuzivka reopened over Memorial Day weekend, with the Kino-Q Film Festival, a pub night, a "zabava" (dance) and entertainment at the Tiki bar. The films shown included features, documentaries, shorts and animations, and festival-goers had an opportunity to speak with young filmmakers. The film festival's director was Christina Kotlar.

Soon afterwards, the UNA Seniors' Conference took place on June 8-13, with 106 participants from as far away as California, but also from Florida, Virginia, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Ontario. From all accounts, a fun time was had by all and the seniors of all ages enjoyed a variety of activities and presentations by guest speakers. Oksana Trytyak was re-elected president of the UNA Seniors. Also re-elected

were: Ihor Hayda, vice-president; Olha Trytyak, secretary; and Ija Wasylenko, treasurer.

The summer quickly followed, with the usual complement of holiday weekend special events and camps – attended by over 500 children during the summer of 2008. The last weekend of July brought the fifth annual Adoptive Parents Weekend, an event sponsored by Ukraine's Embassy in Washington and Consulate General in New York, with the collaboration of the UNA and Soyuzivka. The goal of these weekends is to keep parents who adopt children from Ukraine in touch with the Ukrainian heritage.

The highlight of the 2008 summer was Soyuzivka's second annual Ukrainian Cultural Festival, held on July 10-13 under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine in the United States and the Ukrainian National Foundation, the charitable arm of the UNA. The festival's headliner was the energetic Vitaliy Kozlovsky, a pop rock sensation from Ukraine. Also featured were: the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Workshop; the young Vohon dance ensemble from Edmonton, Alberta; the bandura duo Bandurna Rozmova; the Klooch rock band from Toronto; xylophonist Roman Lankios; violinist Inessa Tymochko-Dekajlo; the cabaret show of Ron Cahute and Ihor Bachinsky; and singers Liliya Ostapenko, Maryna



Olena Brezhnieva of the Embassy of Ukraine with Ukrainian children during the Adoptive Parents Weekend held at the Soyuzivka Heritage Center on July 27-30.

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Valia Kaploun

UNA executives and employees with the Rev. Roman Mirchuk, who came to bless the UNA's new offices in December.

Skliarova and Tetiana Chorniy from Ukraine. The bands Hrim and Zahrava played during the evening dances, and the Dumka Chorus of New York presented a stand-alone concert of traditional folk songs. For the younger set, there was the Barabolya show presented by Mr. Cahute. Of course, there was a food court and a vendors' marketplace, plus cultural exhibits. And, oh yes, there was the popular varenyky-eating championship and a new feature: the Guitar Hero playoff.

Nearly 5,000 guests arrived at Soyuzivka over the course of the four-day festival. Among them were Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Oleh Shamshur, Ukraine's Consul General in New York Mykola Kyrychenko and Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.), who spoke of his Ukrainian roots to the TV crew from Ukraine's Channel 1 that spent the entire long weekend at Soyuzivka to film a report on the festival, Soyuzivka and the Ukrainian American community.

The annual Miss Soyuzivka contest was held over the weekend of August 9-10. Diana Dekajlo of East Meadow, N.Y., was named Miss Soyuzivka 2009, and Zirca Godenciuc of New Haven, Conn., was selected as the runner-up. Miss Soyuzivka 2008 Alana Lenec gave her farewell speech to cheers and applause from the appreciative crowd.

In other news, a 2008 Soyuzivka calendar was released as a fund-raiser. It was the second such calendar prepared jointly by the Brooklyn Ukrainian Group and the UNA to support the Soyuzivka Heritage Center. Among the key people involved in the project is UNA Advisor Maya Lew, whose sister Ruta came up with the idea of a fund-raising calendar.

The 2008 Almanac of the Ukrainian National Association was released by the Svoboda Press in January and sent to all subscribers of Svoboda. The almanac was dedicated first and foremost to the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Kruty, where a contingent of several hundred young men led by Capt. Ahapii Honcharenko attempted to check the advance on Kyiv of a 4,000-strong Bolshevik unit led by Mikhail Muraviev. The almanac's editor was Petro Chasto, a member of the Svoboda editorial staff.

In March, the Ukrainian National Association's scholarship and awards recipients were featured in four-page pull-out sections in both The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda. Eighty-one undergraduate students who are UNA members received \$17,525 in scholarships and awards for academic year 2007-2008.

During the summer, UNA President Kaczaraj visited the National University of Ostroh Academy, one of the beneficiaries of the UNA's Ukrainian National Foundation. Nearly 60 graduates of village schools who needed special preparation in order to pursue university studies have benefited from grants that allowed them to enroll in preparatory courses. Most of them later attended Ostroh Academy. The UNA's cooperation with the

National University of Ostroh Academy on such educational endeavors has been ongoing for six years, and through the Ukrainian National Foundation some \$60,000 has been allocated for the education of students from Ukraine's villages, as well as orphans, invalids and other needy students. During his visit on August 28 Mr. Kaczaraj was honored by the university's rector, Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk, who bestowed on him the title of honorary academician of the Ostroh Academic Brotherhood. The executive director of the international Fund for the Rebirth of Ostroh Academy, Ruslana Kalamazh, presented the UNA president with a certificate of appreciation for the UNA's financial assistance.

In the fall, it was announced that the Svoboda Book Store would be closing, and the Svoboda administration announced a major sale of books in order to clear its inventory. Thankfully, there were many eager buyers for the books, many of them significant publications chronicling the history of Ukraine and the Ukrainian diaspora.

The book store's closing came as the UNA and its publications moved into newly renovated offices in the space they occupy on the second floor at 2200 Route 10 in Parsippany, N.J., at the end of November. Thus, the UNA, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly will get a fresh start in 2009 in their new office space.



Cover of the 2008 Almanac of the Ukrainian National Association.

Congratulations, UNA scholarship and award recipients of 2007-2008!

By Marieluk
 The highest award, the Knight and Order of St. George Scholarship, is the highest of \$2,000 was awarded to Yulia Hryshchuk of UNA Branch 177, a student at the National University of Ostroh Academy in Ukraine. She is studying in the Department of Philosophy at the university and also has an excellent record in her studies. She is a member of the Ukrainian National Association in America (UNA) and is active in the organization's activities. She is also a member of the Ukrainian National Association in America (UNA) and is active in the organization's activities. She is also a member of the Ukrainian National Association in America (UNA) and is active in the organization's activities.

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Front page of The Ukrainian Weekly's special section on the UNA's scholarship recipients for academic year 2007-2008.



Oksana Tryjak

Participants of the UNA Seniors' Conference held June 8-13 exercise under the supervision of Myrosia Hrab.

2008: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The world of sports: an Olympic year

Sports in 2008 was marked by the Summer Olympic Games, the Summer Paralympic Games and the Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad. Other annual tournaments included soccer, tennis and swimming. Wladimir Klitschko picked up another belt (WBO) and Vitali came out of retirement and picked up his old WBC belt.

Sportsline this year was filled with a great variety of sports from all over the world. Ukraine is beginning to adopt American sports such as gaming and extreme sports. Poker was made an official sport in Ukraine in 2008. Ukrainians had solid performances in cycling, swimming, amateur and professional boxing, gymnastics, tennis and soccer. Some of the unexpected achievements in sports for Ukrainians included those in table tennis, rugby, motorsports and ball-room dancing.

Following is a chronological review of the top Ukrainian sports stories of 2008.

The second-annual International Ukrainian Football Tournament (IUFT) was held on January 13-19 in Adelaide, Australia. The tournament attracted teams from Ivano-Frankivsk (FSC Prykarpattia), Great Britain, Adelaide (USC Lions Adelaide), Melbourne-Victoria (USC Lions Victoria) and Sydney (Sydney Trident FC). FSC Prykarpattia, which was favored to win, won the tournament without a single loss. Sydney finished in second place and Great Britain won third. A team representing the United States and Canada was unable to participate due to commitments for the Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad, but Gene Chyzowych, USCAK's soccer director, said that USCAK would definitely participate in the tournament of 2009, to be held in Nottingham, England.

The first time a Ukrainian team played former NHLers was when the New Jersey Devils Alumni faced off against the New York Kozaks in a benefit game at Richard J. Codey Arena on January 19. The event, which attracted over 650 attendees, raised over \$22,800 that was shared by the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund and the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey. The event attracted performances by Olympic champion figure-skater Viktor Petrenko, along with his daughter, Viktoria, and two other students. The idea for the event came from Myron and Christina Bytz, who are both active with the UACCNJ and the New Jersey Devils Alumni Association, after they read an article in *The Weekly* about the New York Kozaks' win in the Chelsea Piers Sky Rink league in 2007. Three of the Devils Alumni were of Ukrainian descent, including Ken Daneyko, Bruce Driver and Rob Skrlac. The Kozaks' club was founded in the 1980s by Ukrainian American hockey players from the Ukrainian neighborhood of New York's East Village. Losing 13-4 to the Devils, the Kozaks admitted it was a humbling experience to play against such world-class athletes. After the game, an informal reception was held at the UACCNJ's social club.

The Bondarenko sisters, Kateryna and Alona, won the women's doubles event 2-6, 6-1, 6-4, at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, on January 25. This was their first Grand Slam title. The Bondarenko sisters followed in the footsteps of the Williams sisters, Venus and Serena, who accomplished the feat in 2003.

Wladimir Klitschko (53-3, 44 KO) added Sultan Ibragimov's (22-1-1, 17 KO) WBO belt to his collection of three titles with a unanimous decision win on February 23 at Madison Square Garden in New York. The fight was lackluster, due to Klitschko's cautious, methodical jabbing, but garnered cheers when Klitschko unleashed his right hand in the fourth round. Klitschko now holds the WBO, IBO and IBF titles. Klitschko dedicated the fight to the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation.

Wladimir Klitschko, the IBF, IBO and WBO heavy-weight champion, defended his IBF title against Hasim Rahman on December 13 in Mannheim, Germany, with a seventh round TKO. Referee Tony Weeks stopped the bout 44 seconds into the seventh round after Klitschko landed a series of unanswered left hooks.

There is a Ukrainian in the NFL: Nick Kaczur, No. 77, starting right offensive tackle for the New England Patriots. Kaczur, 29, has played for the Pats since 2005, his rookie season, and filled in for Matt Light, left offensive tackle, after Light broke his leg. Kaczur was a four-time Mid-American Conference selection at the University of Toledo at left offensive tackle, and having to switch from left to right, when he joined the Pats, required some work on Kaczur's part.

The Carpathian Ski Club (known by its Ukrainian acronym KLK) hosted its 54th annual ski races at Hunter Mountain, in New York on March 8. The event attracted 77



Phil Walter/ Getty Images

Ukraine's women's saber fencing team (from left): Olha Zhovnir, Olha Kharlan, Halyna Pundyk and Olena Khomrova at the Summer Olympic Games held in Beijing in August.



Gesang Dawa/Xinhua

Viktor Ruban aims for gold at the Summer Olympic Games.



Jang Enyu/Xinhua

Inna Osypenko-Radomska finishes strong to capture an Olympic gold in the 500-meter kayak event.

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Chornomorska Sitch soccer players, swimmers, and track and field athletes at the Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad held over the Fourth of July weekend.



All clubs' swimming medalists at the Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad.



Girls' under-18 group: gold medalist Olenka Olesnycky (center) flanked by silver medalist Marta Cherpak (left) and bronze medalist Anissa Boyko at the Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad.

skiers and one lone snowboarder with events for each age group from under 4 to over 60. The races were sanctioned by NASTAR (National Standard Race). Over 130 persons, including Ukraine's ambassador to the United Nations Yuriy Sergeyev, and his wife, Nataliya, attended the awards dinner. Erko Palydowycz, president of the KKK, on the occasion of his 70th birthday received a letter of congratulations and an award from President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine.

Tennis players Julia Vakulenko and Tatiana Perebyinis were highlighted in Ihor Stelmach's Pro Sports Update in our March 30 issue. Vakulenko, who went from 120th to 31st since 2006, turned her life around after experiencing a series of setbacks, including two relocations, parental separation and two nervous breakdowns. Having played professionally since the age of 15 in 1998, Vakulenko now has career earnings that approached \$600,000 in 2008. Perebyinis, who plays both singles and doubles, has never won a Women's Tennis Association singles title, but several doubles titles including the 2005 and 2007 J&S Cup in Warsaw, Poland. Perebyinis made the finals of mixed doubles at Wimbledon in 2005 and straight doubles at Wimbledon in 2006. Perebyinis was ranked 97th in the world in singles.

Wally Szczerbiak, guard-forward for the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers, was profiled in the April 13 issue. His NBA career began in 1999 with the Minnesota Timberwolves and the 2008-2009 season will pay him \$13 million. Szczerbiak signed a six-year contract for \$63 million, and in his final contract year will be the third highest paid Cavalier. Szczerbiak is known for his determination and powerful playing style, but during the time of the profile, he was in a shooting slump that, as his college record shows, is only a temporary setback that he can get himself out of. Having graduated from Miami University of Ohio, Szczerbiak still has fans in Cleveland.

Another NBA star, Oleksiy Pecherov, in his rookie year with the Washington Wizards at center and power forward, was profiled on the pages of Ukelodeon in April. Pecherov, not only a force on the court, shows his Ukrainian pride by attending festivals and taking time out to join local Plast activities. In an interview with a Ukelodeon reader, Dmytro Deychakiwsky, Pecherov explained what it's like to play in the NBA, basketball in Ukraine and how he is adjusting to life in the United States.

The Yonkers Branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association hosted its fourth annual volleyball tournament on April 15, which attracted 17 teams and more than 115 players. In the men's division, SIN Catering won first place, followed by Team A of Lys Sports Academy in second place and PK/Sammy in third. In the boys' division, UAYA Yonkers won first, and second place went to Team A of Sitch Sports Club. In the girls' division, UAYA Yonkers won first place, and Sitch won second place. A dinner was held at the Ukrainian Youth Center in Yonkers for all of the participants.

Tryzub Ukrainian American Sports Center hosted its seventh annual Ukrainian Nationals invitational soccer tournament on Memorial Day weekend, May 23-25. The tournament attracted over 160 teams, including one from Bermuda. The Ukrainian Nationals won three championships and reached the finals nine additional times.

In Mr. Stelmach's recap of the 2007-2008 NHL season, 25 players of Ukrainian descent skate among the best in the NHL. Included in the recap performance list were Zenon Konopka, Nikolai Zherdev (Columbus/Rangers), Keith Tkachuk, Lee Stempniak, Jeff Woywitka (St. Louis), Glen Metropolit (Boston), Kyle Brodzak (Edmonton), Daniel Winnik (Phoenix), Matt Stajan, Alexei Ponikarovsky (Toronto), Jordin Tootoo (Nashville), Darryl Sydor, Jonathan Filewich (Pittsburgh), Todd Fedoruk (Minnesota), Ryan Bayda (Carolina), Travis Zajac, Vitaly Vishnevski (New Jersey), Ruslan Fedotenko (N.Y. Islanders), Brad Lukowich (Tampa Bay), Darcy Hordichuk (Nashville), Ryan Potulny (Philadelphia), Johnny Boychuk (Colorado), and Joe Motzko, Daren Haydar, Alexei Zhitnik (Atlanta).

Ukraine's and Poland's chances of hosting the UEFA Euro Cup in 2012 were questionable when it was revealed that the government was getting bogged down trying to make the necessary improvements. Michel Platini, president of the Union of European Football Associations, during a visit to Ukraine on July 3, urged Ukraine to take steps to get on schedule. Both President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko assured Mr. Platini that Ukraine would be ready.

Our readers were informed on July 20 about the rise of the Ottawa Ukraina Royals, the first all-Ukrainian soccer team in Ottawa, founded in 2005. From the humble beginnings of joining the Ottawa Carleton League and starting at the bottom, the Ottawa Royals have progressed to the upper tiers and hope to someday play in the top division.

Andriy Shevchenko, the world-renowned Ukrainian soc-

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Wladimir Klitschko pounds Hasim Rahman during a bout in Mannheim, Germany, on December 13.

cer star, was the focus of Mr. Stelmach's column in our July 20 and 27 issues. Starting from his early youth in Ukraine, he played for Dynamo Kyiv's junior team, the senior team, the national team, and then the European clubs AC Milan and Chelsea. Despite a poor showing with Chelsea and his return to Milan, Sheva is still considered a force in soccer.

Ukraine's showing at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games was the largest ever, with 254 athletes in Beijing, China. President Viktor Yushchenko wished the athletes many victories during a send-off ceremony on July 27. Ukraine won 27 medals and finished in 10th place, having won seven gold, five silver and 15 bronze medals. Ukraine was expected to win only 15 medals.

The fourth Ukrainian Diaspora Olympiad was held during the Fourth of July weekend at Tryzub Ukrainian American Sports Center, located just north of Philadelphia, with more than 620 participants. Youth organizations and sports clubs from as far as Chicago competed in soccer, volleyball, swimming, chess and track and field events. The Olympiad was organized by the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK).

USCAK held its 53rd national tennis championship on August 30-31 at Soyuzivka and attracted 57 participants. Denis Chorny won the men's title and the Bohdan Rak Trophy, while 15-year-old Olenka Olesnycky emerged as the women's champion. Olesia Foty won the Mary Dushnyck Sportsmanship Trophy,

Soyuzivka hosted USCAK's 52nd swim meet on Labor Day weekend with 47 participants. The Ukrainian Athletic Educational Association Chornomorska Sitch won first place with 219 points, the Ukrainian American Youth Association won second place with 92 points, the Ukrainian Sports Club Tryzub took third place with 47 points and Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization placed fourth with 30 points.

Ukraine's 125 athletes finished in fourth place with 74 medals at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing on September 6-17. Among the 74 medals, Ukraine won 24 gold, 18 silver and 32 bronze medals. Most notable was Ukraine's gold medal finish in 7-a-side soccer.

In his first fight since 2004, Vitali Klitschko (36-2, 35 KO) defeated Samuel Peter (30-2) on October 11 in Berlin to reclaim the World Boxing Council title. Peter retired after the eighth round.

Serhiy Bubka, an Olympic medalist pole vaulter, with 35 world records, was named an honorary citizen of Rio de Janeiro on October 30. Bubka is president of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, a member of the International Olympic Committee's executive board and vice-president of the International Association of Athletic Federations. Bubka is recognized by several countries as an honorary citizen for his contributions to the development of international sports and the Olympic movement.



The New Jersey Devils on the attack against the New York Kozaks during their game on January 19.

The noteworthy: events and people

Noteworthy – that's the category of all categories, or is it the category of no categories? In this section readers will find items that really defy categorization according to our scheme of things. Here are the noteworthy events and people of 2008.

- Kyiv was among 68 international cities nominated to fill 22 spaces on a new edition of Monopoly called "Monopoly Here & Now: World Edition." For five weeks in January in February, voters were invited to log onto the monopoly.com website and cast their ballots. Among the enthusiastic Kyiv boosters was Dirk Lustig, general manager of TOY-TOY Accent Toys based in Kyiv, a toy distributor for several companies, including Hasbro. The Geneva native has lived and worked in Kyiv for the past 15 years, and personally promoted his adopted city through an e-mail campaign. The results were announced on August 20, and after 5.6 million votes were cast Kyiv secured a magenta-colored spot next to Toronto and Istanbul.

- On January 30 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit ruled that a U.S. immigration judge had the authority to deport John Demjanjuk. In December 2005 the 88-year-old Demjanjuk was ordered to be deported following a ruling that he had been a guard at the Sobibor, Majdanek and Flossenberg Nazi concentration camps. His defense team appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, but on May 19 it turned down a request to hear his appeal. Demjanjuk may be deported to Ukraine, or to Germany or Poland if Ukraine refuses to accept him. By year's end it appeared that Mr. Demjanjuk might stand trial in Germany, as Germany's highest criminal court must decide whether he can be prosecuted for alleged crimes as a Nazi prison guard.

- Leonard Mazur, vice-chairman of Akrimax Pharmaceuticals, and Chairman Josep Krivulka (an American of Hungarian descent) made headlines and were hailed as saviors in January when their prescription dermatological company acquired a facility in Rouses Point, N.Y. that was on the verge of closure. Wyeth Pharmaceuticals announced in 2005 their intentions to shut down the facility and move operations overseas by 2009, cutting hundreds of jobs in a village of 2,500. However, after two years of talks, Akrimax reached an agreement on January 11 to take over the Rouses Point plant, literally saving Clinton County's single largest private employer.

- In January, President-elect Barack Obama won Ukraine in the Democrats Abroad primary, gaining 62.5 percent of the vote, or 25 votes, from the 40 American Democrats in Ukraine who participated. A total of 164 countries took part in the Democrats Abroad primary, which sent 14 pledged delegates to the national convention.

- In March the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) reported a record 514 active members in the United States and Canada as of the end of 2007 – a positive trend that was part of six consecutive years of membership growth for the organization.

- The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) informed the National Organization of Scouts in Ukraine (NOSU) in March that Ukraine's scouting groups could anticipate full membership shortly. NOSU was created in March 2007 and includes Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, SPOK (Spilna Pionerskoi Orhanizatsii Kyieva, or Pioneer Movement Organization of Kyiv, a Russian-language civic youth organization) and Sich (a Ukrainian children's association emphasizing Kozak traditions). According to WOSM regulations, Plast did not qualify as the sole scouting entity in Ukraine seeking international recognition; therefore, NOSU was created to form a single, national scouting organization. On July 1, the NOSU was formally admitted into the WOSM.

- On April 13 three Ukrainian political prisoners who successfully escaped from the notorious Brygidky prison on June 16, 1939, during the Polish occupation were honored at a ceremony At the site of the prison in Lviv, a sculpture titled "Freedom has No Price," depicting three falcons breaking through iron bars and flying towards the heavens, was dedicated to the memory of the nationalist trio: Petro Bashuk, Yaroslav Haywas and Petro Kaniuka. The heroic escape came as the Polish authorities had stepped up their repression of the inmates, and news of their successful defiance raised the morale of Ukrainians throughout western Ukraine.

- Melanne Verveer, co-founder and chairman of the board of Vital Voices Global Partnership, received Ukraine's Princess Olha Award on April 16 in a ceremony at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington. Ambassador Oleh Shamshur, presenting the award on behalf of President Viktor Yushchenko, cited Ms. Verveer's work in "promot-

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Kateryna Kornijenko/Хайвей (www.h.ua)

Music icon Oleh Skrypka among children attired in traditional Ukrainian embroidery during the "Vyshyvanka" Parade in Kyiv on May 3.

ing the equality of women, combating such things as trafficking of women and promoting many other very noble causes" such as her work on the board of directors of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF). Before her work with Vital Voices Global Partnership, an international non-profit organization that supports emerging women leaders in building democracies, Ms. Vermeer served as assistant to the president and chief of staff to the first lady in the Clinton administration.

• Kyiv was treated on May 3 to the first-ever "Vyshyvanka" Parade, in which approximately 1,000 people of all ages came out to show off their finest Ukrainian embroidered wardrobe. Organized by renowned Ukrainian rock musician Oleh Skrypka, the festive parade was meant to not only reintroduce people to native dress in all its beauty and intricacy, but to celebrate Ukrainian traditions and patriotism. Ukrainian costumes from all corners of the country were represented in the stunning visual display as the crowd marched from Andriyivsky Uzviz to Contract Square.

• The world's first statue honoring aviation giant Ihor

Sikorsky was unveiled on May 14 on the grounds of the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. Then-mayoral candidate Vitali Klitschko and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani were among the dignitaries present at the ceremony in tribute to the designer of many of the world's most significant aircraft, including the first prototype helicopters and multi-engine airplanes. Sikorsky studied at the Kyiv Polytechnic institute in 1907-1911, and on the base of the statue are the words of gratitude the engineer had for the Institute: "I take my hat off to the alma mater that trained me to conquer the skies."

• On May 24 Ukrainian pop singer Ani Lorak took second place at the 2008 Eurovision Song Contest, scoring 230 points to Russian Dima Bilan's 272 points. She was considered a favorite and easily made it to the finals. President Viktor Yushchenko commended her talent and congratulated her on her success, saying her "sweet voice, unique charm and masterly performance" helped "strengthen the international image of our motherland."

• Famed Beatle guitarist Paul McCartney performed at what was believed to be the largest free concert in Ukraine to date in front of hundreds of thousands on Kyiv's Independence Square. Ukrainians in Lviv, Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk were also able to enjoy the concert via live feed to large screens in their respective cities. Despite a torrential downpour, McCartney and the Ukrainian crowd thoroughly enjoyed the two-hour performance, which was only the second concert Mr. McCartney or any of the Beatles had performed in a venue in the former Soviet bloc. In exchange for the free concert, paid for by wealthy Ukrainian businessman Viktor Pinchuk, 41 pieces of McCartney's artwork were showcased in a free exhibit at the PinchukArtCentre in Kyiv. Though free to the public, the concert was a charity event to support the children's department of Ukraine's National Cancer Institute, and some \$600,000 (U.S.) was raised through Ukraine's business community and other benefactors.

• Lions Clubs in both Ukraine and Poland joined forces to help save and restore the numerous beautifully crafted stone lions that adorn Lviv's parks and buildings. Some of the lions are over 750 years old, and many are in desperate need of repair. The Lions Club, an organization of volunteers dedicated to improving life in their communities, decided to take on the challenge. The first project, with \$2,000 raised by the Polish Lions, was to restore a two-headed stone sculpture representing the unity of the Ukrainian and Polish people. News of the project was published in The Weekly on June 15.

• In its August 31 issue The Weekly reported the fascinating story of Paul Poberezny, one of the most famous names in the world of experimental aircraft. When not flying combat missions for the U.S. Air Force in World War II,



Ilyia M. Labunka

The statue of Ihor Sikorsky that was unveiled on May 14 on the grounds of the National University of Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, Sikorsky's alma mater.

Korea and Vietnam, Mr. Poberezny was the founder and head of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), a group for airplane enthusiasts of all backgrounds. Two years after forming the EAA, he wrote an article for *Mechanix Illustrated* in 1955 on how to build a full-size functioning airplane for \$700, after which EAA took off, so to speak. The group began conducting air shows where both amateur and professional aviators could come together to discuss and demonstrate their planes for the public. During these shows, the air traffic control towers would become the busiest in the world, regularly recording more traffic than both Chicago's O'Hare and New York's JFK airports combined. The exposition, called *Airventure*, grew so rapidly that Mr. Poberezny became compelled to purchase 900 acres of land on Lake Winnebago near Oshkosh, Wis., to accommodate the guests and airplanes from far and wide. In 2008 *Airventure* drew some 60,000 people and over 15,000 airplanes.

• The 2008 Narbut Prize in philately was won by artists Vasyl Vasylenko and Svitlana Bondar, for a set of 12 stamps released in 2007 depicting "Traditional Ukrainian Wedding Headdresses." The nine ladies' headpieces and three men's decorated hats, festooned with a combination of flowers, ribbons, embroidery, and/or feathers, are of the kind worn by newlyweds in the western and central regions of Ukraine. The Heorhiy Narbut Prize, now won by Ms. Bondar three years running, is sponsored by the U.S.-based Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society (UPNS) and is recognized as the premier philatelic art award in Ukraine. The winners were announced in the September 21 issue of The Weekly.

• The Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor honored Anna Macielinski as Ukrainian of the Year for 2008 at their 69th anniversary gala banquet on October 12. The honor is bestowed annually upon an individual who has been particularly active in and made special contributions to the Ukrainian community in North America. Ms. Macielinski recently retired after 34 years of work in the State of Michigan's field of human services. Perhaps her most satisfying achievement was the founding of Angel House: Children's Emergency Shelter and Assessment Center. Ms. Macielinski has also served as vice-president of the Detroit Regional Council of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA), and in May was the chair of the UNWLA's 28th national convention, where she was elected to the national executive board.

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



Darko Bushnell

Memorial organizer Oleksander Kryskiv speaks on April 13 at the unveiling of the tribute to political prisoners Petro Bashuk, Yaroslav Haywas and Petro Kaniuka outside Brygidky Prison, from which the trio escaped in 1939.

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Winner of the 2008 Narbut Prize for philately: the miniature sheet depicting "Traditional Ukrainian Wedding Headdresses."

Schwetzingen, Germany. He assumed command of Army Reserve Soldiers who are trained for deployable contingencies and events sponsored by U.S. Army Europe. Col. Komichak is active with the Ukrainian Orthodox League, is a parishioner at Holy Ascension Ukrainian Church in Maplewood, N.J., and performs with the Promin Choir of New York along with his wife, Daria.

- The Ukrainian Technological Society presented its 2008 Ukrainian of the Year Award to Daniel Pituch, D.M.D., M.D., at its 39th annual award ceremony and dinner-dance on November 1 in Pittsburgh. Dr. Pituch, a Pittsburgh native, was honored for his professional achievements as an internationally recognized oral and maxillofacial surgeon, known also for his humanitarian efforts in providing state-of-the-art, life-altering corrective surgeries to needy individuals. He currently holds the unique position of chief of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at three Pittsburgh-area hospitals.

- On November 15 Ukrainian American NASA astronaut Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper began her second trip into space on the space shuttle Endeavour. The 14-day mission (STS-126) was tasked with rendezvousing with the International Space Station (ISS) and modifying it to sustain a crew of six for longer tours of duty. As part of the crew, U.S. Navy captain Stefanyshyn-Peiper participated in several space walks. On November 18 the Ukrainian American encountered some bad luck when her grease gun began leaking in her tool bag. While attempting to clean out the bag and tools inside, the bag drifted out of her reach and into the cosmos.

- On November 22 the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum of Detroit celebrated its 50th anniversary with a jubilee banquet ball at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren, Mich. Founded by Roman Dacko, an avid collector, and his wife, Ivanka, the museum is located in Hamtramck, Mich., where Mr. Dacko bought a historic building (formerly a Detroit bank that was moved from the city to Hamtramck) to house his collection of Ukrainian folk art, painting, ceramics, historical documents, books and photographs. The jubilee banquet featured the musical trio Polyanytsi of Kyiv, dressed in ancient Ukrainian warrior women's costumes, who performed folk songs on violin, flute and bandura.

- On December 2, First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko presented the "Hero of Ukraine" award posthumously to Hryhory Kytasty, noted bandurist, composer and conductor, at a ceremony at the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington. The award was received by Andriy Kytasty and other members of the family. President Viktor Yushchenko's citation praised Maestro Kytasty's "personal contribution to the national and spiritual rebirth of Ukraine, his promulgation of Ukrainian culture and the art of the kobzars throughout the world." Following the presentation the guests were treated to a concert of several of the honoree's songs, performed by the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus from Detroit and conducted by Adrian Bryttan.

Our community mourns their passing

During 2008 we mourned the passing of many important members of our Ukrainian community. Among them were the following, listed in chronological order.

- Dr. Volodymyr Trembicky, 88, noted author, former professor of international economics and the history of Central and Eastern Europe, expert in national heraldic insignia and participant in the 1918 Ukrainian struggle for independence – New York, January 3.

- The Rev. Mitred Ivan Hawryluk, 95, priest ordained by Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, pastor to Ukrainian Catholic faithful in Ukraine, Slovakia, Austria, France and Canada – Montreal, January 12.

- Mary Bayrak, 92, last known survivor of Canada's internment of Ukrainian immigrants as enemy aliens during World War I – Edmonton, January 14.

- Boris Baczynskyj, 62, internationally known (FIDE) World Chess Federation Master, journalist for UPI, Far Eastern Economic Review and other publications – Philadelphia, January 16.

- Dr. Lev Dobriansky, 89, longtime former president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), retired professor of economics at Georgetown University, former chairman of the Captive Nations Committee, U.S. ambassador to the Bahamas, and staunch anti-Communist activist – Springfield, Va., January 30.

- Dr. Bohdan Burachinsky, well-known community activist, a leader of the Coordinating Committee to Aid Ukraine and its first president – Florham Park, N.J., February 5.

- Ivan Nynka, 91, veteran of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, political prisoner, longtime teacher of Ukrainian studies in Jersey City, N.J., former member of the National Plast Command in the U.S. – Randolph, N.J., February 15.

- Dr. Julian Pawlyszyn, 99, noted physician and active member and benefactor of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in Minneapolis, who spent most of his retirement years as a volunteer physician at various Plast summer camps – Abington, Pa., February 23.

- Natalia Zakydalsky, 94, active member and youth counselor of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, director of the Plast cooperative Plai, initiator of the Aid to Ukraine Section of the Plast branch in Toronto – Toronto, February 23.

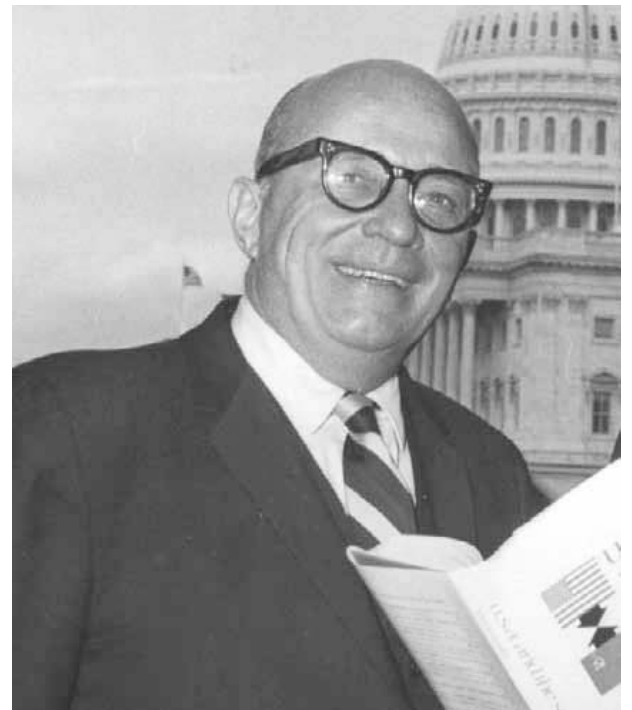
- Dr. Omelan Antonovych, 94, widely respected community philanthropist, supporter of literature, art and scholarship through the Antonovych Foundation, former president of the Ukrainian Association of Washington, veteran of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, survivor of both Polish and Nazi imprisonment – Lviv, February 28.

- Dr. Alexandra Pawlowsky, 55, specialist in Slavic studies who held positions at the Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies and the "Ukrainian One" program at the University of Manitoba, Ukrainian Canadian pop culture specialist – March 29.

- Olga Paproski, 89, longtime treasurer of the Ukrainian National Association Seniors, activist of Branch 73 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America – Newtown, Conn., May 1.

- Estelle Woloshyn, 87, longtime president of Ukrainian National Association Branch 348, a UNA Fraternalist of the Year, president of the chair of the UNA's Youngstown District, co-founder of the Ukrainian Heritage Foundation of North America – Akron, Ohio, May 2.

- Stefan Hawrysz, 88, auditor and advisor on the Ukrainian National Association's General Assembly, former supreme organizer of the UNA, tireless advocate who personally enrolled over 2,500 UNA members and established 16 branches, secretary of UNA Branch 23, chairman of the UNA's Philadelphia District Committee, veteran of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and liaison to the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) – Philadelphia, May 4.



Dr. Lev E. Dobriansky in 1971.



Omelan Antonovych in 1988.



Stefan W. Hawrysz

- Kyrylo Hryhorowycz, 87, former officer in the 1st Division of the Ukrainian National Army during the second world war – May 7.

- The Rev. Dr. Ivan Bilanych, 94, who held doctorates in theology, canon law and civil law, assistant to Bishop Ivan Buchko in Rome, dean at St. Basil's Seminary, pastor in Berwick, Pa., for 31 years, and in Philadelphia for two decades – Berwick, Pa., June 12.

- Dr. Alexander Sokolyszyn, librarian, researcher and author, leading member of the Ukrainian Librarians Association, former columnist ("Eye on Books") of The Ukrainian Weekly – New York, June 21.

2008: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

• Peter Pankow, 88, self-made businessman and co-founder of Pankow Associates, U.S. Navy pilot during the World War II – Park Ridge, Ill., August 5.

• Alexander Slobodyanik, 66, world-renowned master pianist with a career spanning five decades on six continents, founder and director of the Morris International Festival of the Arts – Morristown, N.J., August 10.



Alexander Slobodyanik



Yaroslava Surmach Mills in her youth.



Bishop Michael Kuchmiak, CSsR

• Bishop Walter Paska, 84, bishop-emeritus of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Philadelphia, professor of canon law at the Catholic University of America, former rector of the Ukrainian Catholic Seminary of St. Josaphat in Washington – Philadelphia, August 16.

• Lev Bodnar, 87, member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, activist of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, Ukrainian American Youth Association and Ukrainian National Association, radio program host – Chicago, August 24.

• Mykhailo Syrota, national deputy of Ukraine, vice-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada's Legal Policies Committee, a key author of the Constitution of Ukraine adopted in 1996, often referred to as the father of Ukraine's Constitution – Kyiv Oblast, August 25.

• Bishop Michael Kuchmiak, 85, veteran of the 1st Division of the Ukrainian National Army, former auxiliary bishop for Philadelphia, former apostolic exarch in Great Britain – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, August 26.

• Yaroslava Surmach Mills, 83, folk art painter, iconographer, children's book illustrator, calligrapher, teacher, artist, stained-glass window designer – Denver, September 17.

• Ihor Rymaruk, 50, one of the best known Ukrainian poets of the 1980s whose poetry was translated into many languages, winner of Ukraine's prestigious Taras Shevchenko Prize – Kyiv, October 3.

• Basil (Vasyl) Tershakovec, 70, longtime teacher in Schools of Ukrainian Studies in New York City, Newark, N.J., and Morris County, N.J., member and soloist in the Dumka Choir of New York, script writer for the Ukrainian division of Radio Liberty, former editor of Svoboda – October 17.

• Dr. Danylo Husiak, 61, U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Sierra Leone, Ph.D. in chemical physics, co-founder of Strativa Inc., a business management consulting firm in Irvine, Calif. – Newport Beach, Calif., October 18.

• The Rt. Rev Mitred Archbishop Stephen Chomko, 86, pastor in many parishes in New York state, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, former president of the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics – Scranton, Pa., November 3.

• Bishop Sofron Dmyterko, 91, retired bishop of the Ivano-Frankivsk Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, leader of the underground Church during the Soviet era, secretary consecrated a bishop in 1968, former Soviet political prisoner – Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, November 5.

• Dr. Daria Markus, 73, educator, researcher, co-author of the ongoing Encyclopedia of the Ukrainian Diaspora project, founder of Club 500, which raised funds for the establishment of a Ukrainian Consulate in Chicago, first in-country director in Kyiv for the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) – Chicago, November 17.

• Ivaan Kotulsky, metal artist who worked primarily in gold, silver and bronze, photographer, designer of the iconic Scythian stag brooch for the Royal Ontario Museum's exhibit of Scythian gold – Toronto, December 5.

• Halyna Levytska, 50, journalist for the newspaper Za Vilnu Ukrainu, activist in the Ukrainian independence movement Rukh, reporter for the press service of the Ukrainian Helsinki Union – Kyiv, December 6.

• Pavlyna Danchuk, noted educator, longtime member of the Women's Auxiliary of the Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, teacher and director of the Ukrainian American Youth Association's School of Ukrainian Studies in New York – Jersey City, N.J., December 7.

During 2008 we also learned of the death of a notorious KGB official. Vitaly Fedorchuk, 89, KGB chief in Ukraine from 1970 to 1982, died in Moscow on February 29. He was known as the "butcher of Ukraine" for his violent crackdown on dissidents during the Brezhnev era, and he participated in the liquidation of the Ukrainian Catholic Church as an NKVD officer in the 1940s. He later served as director of the KGB and then internal affairs minister under Soviet leader Yuri Andropov.

Meanwhile, here at The Weekly...

We at The Ukrainian Weekly had a roller coaster of a year as we had staff changes in Kyiv and a move of our offices to contend with at home in Parsippany, N.J.

In our first issue of 2008 we welcomed a new staffer: layout artist David (Darko) Bushnell who officially joined the staff on January 1. (He had been working at The Weekly since October 1, 2007, during what our publisher calls a three-month trial period.) Mr. Bushnell arrived with layout experience at two university newspapers, as well as experience in radio production and a B.S. in computer science. He and typesetter/layout person Awilda Rolon comprise our two-person production staff.

Also in January, on the 11th to be precise, Editor Zenon Zawada of our Kyiv Press Bureau left The Weekly's staff to serve as chief editor of the Kyiv Post (a post he held between January and May). Illya M. Labunka, who had free-lanced admirably for us in the past, filled in. Mr. Labunka ("Iko") continues to file stories for The Weekly on a free-lance basis, for which we are always grateful.

Then, during the summer months, The Weekly's Kyiv presence was bolstered by summer intern Danylo Peleschuk, a senior majoring in journalism at Northeastern University in Boston, who had been an intern for us here in Parsippany during the summer of 2005. His first story from Kyiv was about Paul McCartney's free concert on the "maidan" – Independence Square. The concert was dubbed the "Paul McCartney Independence Concert." Our Kyiv intern also wrote a five-part column about his experiences in Ukraine called "Notes from the Homeland." Mr. Peleschuk served in Kyiv from late June through late August, and then returned to Boston to complete his final semester of studies. (Incidentally, he earned college credits for his Kyiv stint with The Weekly.)

Meanwhile, Mr. Zawada left the Kyiv Post and began writing some free-lance articles for our newspaper. He opted to return to The Weekly full-time in August. Needless to say, we were pleased to welcome back our veteran Kyiv correspondent, who had joined our staff in February of 2005.

Back home in Parsippany, our staff of two (count 'em) editors, Roma Hadzewycz and Matthew Dubas, carried on. We also had a summer intern, Tyrssa Korduba, a student at the University of Virginia who is majoring in Eastern European studies, worked on rewrites, copy-editing and proofreading, as well as some original reporting. She also was involved in contacts with readers and writers, and helped organize the joint library of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda that was set up in a new space in anticipation of the physical reorganization and move of our editorial, production and administrative offices.

Right after Thanksgiving we began work in our new offices, still located on the second floor of 2200 Route 10 in Parsippany, N.J., but completely redesigned. Our offices have moved just down the hall and our space, thankfully, has been upgraded and renovated for the first time since we moved into this building in 1997.

There was some really great news for us in January 2008: the Shevchenko Scientific Society awarded a grant of \$15,000 to The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda for their project to digitize the full complement of their issues released since their founding in, respectively, 1933 and 1893. It was an auspicious start to The Weekly's 75th anniversary year and Svoboda's 115th. The grant came from the George Kusiw Fund, which supports publishing activity and grants, and the notification came in a letter signed by Dr. Orest Popovych, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, and Dr. Olexa Bilaniuk, chair of the society's Scholarship and Grants Committee. A front page story about this strong support of the newspapers' archives project appeared in the January 20 issue.

Later in the year, the really great news became even better. Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union donated \$50,000 for our digital archives project. The donation was presented at the newspapers' editorial offices on April 15 by Bohdan Kurczak, president and chief executive officer, and Bohdan S. Sawycky, chief financial officer, to the editor-in-chief of both papers, Ms. Hadzewycz. Mr. Kurczak noted: "This is a very important project and, because we are a Ukrainian American credit union, we want to see this history of our community documented from the 1890s. We see this as an opportunity to give back to the community." Mr. Sawycky added: "The UNA can make these digital archives available to the gen-

2008: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

eral public. This is significant for scholars and for history, as these archives – which will be easily accessible – will be viewed by Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians alike.” We couldn’t have said it better ourselves.

We released several special issues during 2008, beginning with our 48-page edition of January 13, which featured “2007: The Year in Review,” and continuing with our Ukrainian Debutante Balls issue (March 9), “A Ukrainian Summer” (May 4), Ukrainian Independence Day issues (August 24 and 31), and our own 75th anniversary issue (October 5).

Other noteworthy offerings specific to the year 2008 included Mr. Zawada’s multi-part oblast-by-oblast series “The Holodomor: 75 years later” and countless news items about community events marking the solemn anniversary, plus news items related to the U.S. presidential election published under the heading “On the campaign trail.”

Returning to our jubilee, the Ukrainian National Association on November 11 hosted a luncheon for the staffers of the two papers and the employees of the UNA to celebrate Svoboda’s 115th and The Weekly’s 75th anniversaries. As luck would have it, the festive event was held during the week that Mr. Zawada of the Kyiv Press Bureau was in town. UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj greeted all employees on the occasion, noting the two newspapers’ proud histories and accomplishments, UNA Treasurer Roma Lisovich shared some excerpts of an early issue of Svoboda, and UNA National Secretary Christine Kozak offered congratulations and wishes for continued success. 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 decorated for the occasion.

During the year, The Ukrainian Weekly several times “spoke” to its readers about news at the papers, as well as its mission and goals.

“Our (new and improved) website” was the title of our March 2 editorial, which noted that The Ukrainian Weekly online now had a new look. It also noted that, in keeping with tradition, the full texts of all Weekly issues for the previous year were released to the public on the UNA’s anniversary date. In case you’re counting, the 2007 issues encompass 1,392 pages.

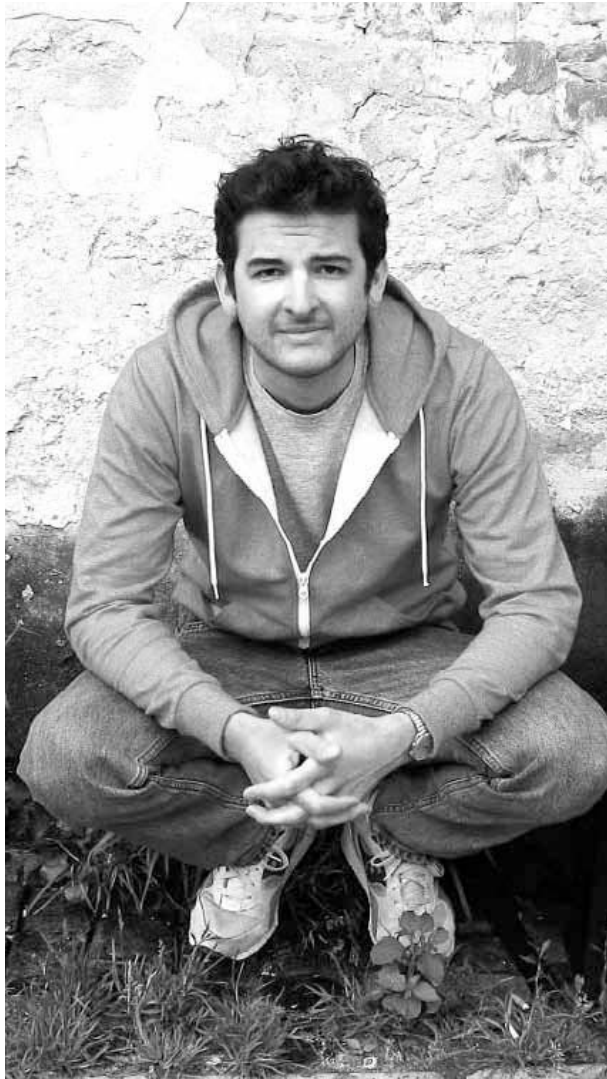
On July 13 our editorial titled “Check us out online” explained what The Weekly’s website has to offer and invited readers to visit and spend some time at www.ukrweekly.com. It also noted that our goal, via our digital archives project, is to have all our issues from 1933 to the present digitized and accessible to the public.

Our October 12 editorial, “More where this came from,” referred to the historic materials published in the previous week’s 75th anniversary issue and noted that there is so much more to offer. Some of the best, most significant and most historic stories published in The Weekly appear in three books published by the newspaper: “The Ukrainian Weekly 2000” (Volume I covering the years 1933-1969, and Volume II, 1970-1999) and “Ukraine Lives!” (dedicated to the 10th anniversary of Ukraine’s independence). In addition, we pointed out to readers that our website is constantly being expanded, providing a good read for anyone who logs on.

“Our partnership” was the title and subject of our March 30 editorial, which we called a “letter FROM the editor.” Its aim was to renew and strengthen our partnership with our readers and activists who send in news from their communities. You may have noticed, we wrote, “that certain groups or communities regularly have information published about them. You may wonder: What is their secret? Why do they get published? And why isn’t there information about (fill in the blank)? The answer is really quite simple. These groups or communities generally send information to our newspaper. Yep. That’s all there is to it.” (We should add that, while we appreciate the advance items that many of our correspondents send, we also like to receive news about the events once they’ve actually taken place...)

The Ukrainian Weekly, we noted, “can best be viewed as a network that connects our community members far and wide, that lets readers in, say, the Boston area, know what their fellow Ukrainians are up to in Edmonton and vice versa. We pride ourselves on our role as an intermediary in uniting disparate and distant elements of our community. In fact, we like to think of The Ukrainian Weekly as being in partnership with our community.”

“Why a partnership? Because for decades this paper has worked with our community activists by providing a forum for their ideas and opinions, serving as a venue where various concerns and causes could be addressed,



Danylo Peleschuk, our summer intern at the Kyiv Press Bureau.

and galvanizing community action on issues of the day,” the editorial explained. “Here in Parsippany, N.J., our staff of two editors (we have a third editor in Kyiv), works with community activists’ submissions and suggestions in order to better present information for the benefit of all our readers. We field countless e-mail messages and phone calls in the course of preparing each week’s issue of this newspaper.”

And that, Dear Readers, is what we do, day in and day out, in an effort to serve our community and keep true to our founding mission.

We do what we do thanks to our publisher, the Ukrainian National Association, our subscribers and our advertisers. We also benefit greatly from donations to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund, which this year brought in a total of \$29,153.80. Our sincere thanks to all of our benefactors. We really can’t do it without you.

Credits, disclaimers

The articles in our “2008: The Year in Review” were prepared on the basis of materials published in The



Matthew Dubas

Tyrssa Korduba at The Ukrainian Weekly’s editorial offices in Parsippany, N.J.

Weekly and written by numerous authors. (If it wasn’t reported in The Weekly, you won’t see it in our year in review.) Our team for this issue was composed of: Roma Hadzewycz, Matthew Dubas, Zenon Zawada, Yaro Bihun, Oksana Zakydalsky, Yarema Belej, Markian Hadzewycz, Deanna Yurchuk and Lesia Lebed.

Our annual “to be sure clause”: of necessity, our year-end cannot contain information about ALL the events that took place during the year. Thus, what appears herein is a matter of the editors’ choices given space constraints and judgment calls. So, yes, some events are sure to have been missed in this compilation. We direct our readers to our website, www.ukrweekly.com, where they can read all the archived issues of our newspaper for the years 1977-2008 and special issues, as well as (for the time being) the current year’s issues.

Finally, as we begin 2009, we wish all our loyal subscribers a happy and healthy new year filled with good fortune and much success.



Lev Khmelkovsky

The editorial, production and administrative staffs of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda mark the newspapers’ anniversaries.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Use her, refuse her

by Oksana Bashuk Hepburn

It's regrettable that once again the marriage between Ukraine and NATO failed to take place. Russia snickered with satisfaction that neither its nemesis, the United States, nor NATO's other member-states, nor Ukraine together with its patriotic diaspora managed to pull it off. Russia won again: it decides who becomes a NATO member, while Ukraine, despite its significance as the largest country in Europe and after some 20 years of nurturing democracy against great odds, once again gets a "harbuz" – a pumpkin, Ukrainian vernacular for a marriage refusal.

Why again? The bureaucratise mumbo-jumbo about "not meeting standards" simply doesn't stand up as others join in. Was it because of Russia's Goliathan response to Georgia's legitimate claims to protect its territory? Fear of military engagement should Russia pursue other illegal land grabs like Ukraine's Crimea? Threats of energy cut-offs to Europe?

Are longer-term contacts with Russia – trade, space or power-sharing – influencing the two perennial opponents to Ukraine's entry reducing France and Germany to placating Russia even while the United States (to whom France and Germany owe post-war peace) supported Ukraine's entry?

Was it Ukraine's own lack of determination coupled with the dysfunctionality of President Viktor Yushchenko, with a dismal 3 percent rating, that prevented the union?

What about Ukraine's diaspora? Was its absence of pressure in NATO members' corridors of power a factor that turned former supporters, chiefly the United States, ultimately into non-supporters?

The answer lies in all of the above.

Following Russia's over-the-top response in Georgia last summer, most members favored Ukraine's admission. To counter, Russia revved up its aggression. It refused to withdraw from occupied territory, threatened Ukraine with nuclear attacks, and distributed newly issued Russian passports to Ukraine's citizens. Instead of standing firm against increased bullying, some NATO members caved while Ukraine's international diaspora failed to mount any significant support. The diaspora in Canada, for instance, couldn't tear itself away from summer holidays long enough to protest Russia's aggression, let alone muster a vigorous political campaign to ensure Canada's ongoing support of Ukraine's membership. Elsewhere, members found little incentive to follow through when confronted with the gargantuan pressures from Russia to halt Ukraine's entry.

Furthermore, Germany and France appear to have their own agenda in appeasing Russia. Perhaps Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel aspires to a more serious entente. Recently she's been leading Europe's rapprochement with Russia, support-

Oksana Bashuk Hepburn is a political commentator and editor of a bilingual English-Ukrainian quarterly.

ed by President Nicholas Sarkozy of France, clearly at Ukraine's expense.

Sacrificing Ukraine is not a new phenomenon. Consider the following.

Since Prussian Catherine the Great ascended Russia's throne in the 18th century, Germany has had hopes of ruling up to the Urals. To this end, she destroyed the Ukrainian Kozak military formation that had defended Europe from the Ottoman Empire for some 300 years. The rest of Europe said nothing.

After World War I, when Ukraine sought recognition of its sovereignty over its newly reunited eastern and western lands, Britain's Prime Minister Lloyd George et al killed this aspiration via the Treaty of Versailles. Ukraine was again to be divided – this time between Russia and Poland. But Poland was determined to Polonize it, while Russia, de facto the USSR, starved some 10 million to ensure Russification and Communism's dominance.

There was more of the same after World War II, when most of Ukraine was reunited but handed over to "friend and ally" Russia. The West made little of the fact that it was Ukraine, with yet another 10 million dead, that won the war against Hitler.

And, most recently, the U.S., a staunch supporter of Ukraine backed away from seeking its NATO membership in exchange for support for the missile defense system.

Unfortunately for both Ukraine and others, most attempts to appease Russia have brought agonizingly painful consequences. In the last century alone tsarist abuses precipitated the Communist era with its staggering 80 million victims in the USSR alone. The post-World War appeasement gave the world some 50 years of the Cold War.

Returning to NATO's latest rejection, much of the blame also rests with President Yushchenko. His pro-NATO rhetoric over his four-year presidency did not translate into action. He failed to mount a robust public education campaign to increase support; there was no NATO ambassador in place months to the lead-up to the critical April 2008 talks in Bucharest; he failed, again, to hold support among NATO members. By default, the president – directly responsible for foreign affairs under Ukraine's Constitution – has worked Russia's rather than Ukraine's agenda.

For over two centuries the West, ignorant and acquiescing, has appeared Russia at the expense of Ukraine. Each time Russia turned into a monster that ultimately turned on the West.

Following NATO's December meeting, Russia's envoy to NATO snickered. NATO, he said, "pomatosyla i brosyly Ukrainynu." In genteel vernacular this means NATO used her and refused her. The expression is cruder in Russian. It is obvious to all what happened, pretty rhetoric and promises of future membership in NATO notwithstanding.

Perhaps next time NATO will get the point: its best interests lie with Ukraine inside NATO, not aligned with Russia.



The things we do...

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

Thoughts after the Holodomor commemorations

(Warning: caustic, bitter, politically incorrect. Reader discretion is advised.)

He should have just shot them all. It would have been faster and more humane. The residents of each village could have been lined up and then shot, to fall into the mass grave they themselves had dug just before. This was done quite efficiently later, during World War II. So why would Joseph Stalin, Lazar Kaganovich, and the rest of the Soviet monsters of the 1930s not exterminate Ukrainians that way? Even the horrid gas chambers of another monster were a quicker death.

As Nikita Khrushchev later wrote, after World War II Stalin had wanted to deport all Ukrainians to Siberia or Central Asia, but there were "too many of them." He hadn't gotten rid of them all earlier. More than enough Ukrainians were sent to the gulags both there and north of the Arctic Circle to Solovky. He could have saved on transportation at least.

No, a slow painful death by starvation – with the victims knowing that food was there but deliberately taken away – was a "better" way of intimidation and execution. It was sadistic and inhumane to let people starve, while having them helplessly watch as their children, elderly parents and other close relatives lingered, bloated and no longer on this side of the living. During these hungry years, the refusals of donations from the West, the defamation of those foreigners who spoke out about what they witnessed, the in-your-face lies and Potemkin villages of the "glorious Soviet life" are well-documented. The will, the back and backbone of the Ukrainians was broken, and this was followed by the rest of the terror-filled 1930s, when the clergy and the intelligentsia were exterminated. Yuriy Lavrinenko called this the "Rozstriliane Vidrodzhennia" – The Executed Renaissance.

Russian machinations about various aspects of the Holodomor are getting more and more bizarre. At the same time, they clearly show that the whole issue of the Holodomor and its commemoration bothers them to an extreme. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's refusal to come to Ukraine for the Holodomor commemoration is most telling. No, officially the Russian Federation is not responsible for the deeds of the Soviet Union, but All the action and reaction of the Russians about this commemoration speaks volumes. "Na zlodiy shapka horyt" – they do protest too much. They know their own legacy.

First – there was no Holodomor. No, wait, there was one, and it included Russian territory and Russian victims – not just Ukrainians. With such an "admission," would not a humanitarian President of a large country also hold commemorative services in his own land to mourn its victims? And then, would he not attend the services to mourn victims in neighboring lands? After all, the Famine "did not happen only in Ukraine," as he argues. The logic, or lack of it, is mind-boggling.

Add to this that Viktor Yanukovich did not attend any of the commemorative services – in his own country. This is beyond human comprehension. But during that same week he attended a meeting of Vladimir Putin's One Russia Party in Moscow, where he is quoted as saying "meni sertse t'okhnulo" (my heart palpitated) as he listened to Mr. Putin's speech. Why is the leader of a major Ukrainian party attending a session of a foreign political party, of a country that oppressed Ukraine and still wants to? Is this treason, or what? The Maidan website reported that the Party of Regions behaved dismissively and disrespectfully in ignoring commemorations of the Famine-Genocide. The

party uses the word "Holodomor" in quotes.

One writer to the Maidan forum commented that this report should be published in Russian-language papers in Ukraine. She noted that the mother of a friend in Donetsk said the attitude towards the Party of Regions essentially has changed, it has "spoiled." She wrote that eastern and central Ukraine suffered the most from the Holodomor, and the population should see and understand the "essence of 'Yanuk' and the Party of Regions."

The articles about the Holodomor on the UNIAN, Maidan, Ukraiynska Pravda and other websites are most informative. The commentaries to the articles are also substantive. The ones in Russian but in a very patriotic Ukrainian vein are remarkable.

Then there are the anti-Ukrainian ones, both from within Ukraine and from Russia. There is no more hiding it. The Russian government of today is clearly the same as the previous Soviet one. The dominance of everything Russian, the chauvinism, the xenophobia, and the denial of history are a direct continuation of the policies of the Soviet government, and the tsarist one before that. The absolute permeating hatred of Ukraine and Ukrainians, as spewed on the various websites and in comments to the posted news, show that this Russian anti-Ukrainianism is very much alive. One commenter, in replying to a very loquacious but poorly informed anti-Ukrainian Russian (from Russia) writer on a site, asks why she is not participating in a site that is concerned about Russian issues. Other frequent contributors unmask Russian contributors who use many "nicks," but yet toe the same line. At times, very little separates these spammers and the official Russian line on Ukraine.

The Holodomor commemorations definitely raised awareness. I am sure that I am not the only one approached by friends and colleagues commenting on the news and asking more questions. And the word "Holodomor" is now part of the general vocabulary. This is due primarily to Peter Borisow of Los Angeles, who in 1993 wrote in the special Holodomor edition of Canadian American Slavic Studies (Cheryl A. Madin, guest editor; Charles Schlacks, Jr., publisher): "... We should use 'Holodomor' as the stand-alone English word to name the unique genocide that was inflicted upon Ukrainians in 1932-1933. It should always be capitalized the same way you would capitalize WW II or Holocaust. Its impact should not be diluted with any hyphenation..."

(<http://www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=132440>)

The International Holodomor Committee, led by Stefan Romaniw of Australia, truly was international and did a colossal job. The Holodomor Remembrance Torch went around the world, but encountered obstacles in Russia (were we surprised?).

There was much international coverage in the media. But The New York Times must have not gotten that memo.

A book on the 75th commemoration of the Holodomor around the world would be a worthy record of this event.

On the Maidan site, Viktor Roh wrote about a found document. It is the death certificate of 19-year-old Andrii Ostapenko who died in the Sumy region on May 13, 1933. Oksana Kovalenko, an archivist in the provincial archives discovered it and made it public. Mr. Roh wrote: "The evil ones say that there was no Holodomor-genocide, that all suffered... There was famine in Russia, the Caucasus and

(Continued on page 44)

Mannes College performs at the Ukrainian Institute of America

by Adrian Bryttan

NEW YORK – “It was like being in another world, like a dream.” Young German soprano Katharina Hagopian was reflecting on her performance in the sumptuous chambers of the Ukrainian Institute of America (UIA) in New York. She had just sung three Wadym Kipa songs at an evening recital presented there by the Mannes College of Music. “All the other students loved performing here tonight and talking to the audience afterwards. They were amazed I had learned all the songs in Ukrainian,” Ms. Hagopian said.

Behind the small stage, scattered points of light from the chandeliers in the concert hall cast reflections onto the three arched windows, through which Central Park could be seen in the darkening twilight and in the distance, the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Five days later, Ms. Hagopian (along with Emily Duncan-Brown, another Mannes student vocalist who also appeared with her that evening) would be back on stage singing before almost 3,000 people in Carnegie Hall. But on October 29, 2008, this concert at the Ukrainian Institute was a very special experience for all the talented young musicians from Mannes and their appreciative audience.

Because of its intimate nature, chamber music has been described as “the language of friends.” Chopin attracted wealthy patrons by performing in small venues; Schubert was the darling of Viennese society and starred in soirees called “Schubertiades.” The Ukrainian Institute’s magnificent French Renaissance-style mansion provided a suitably warm and atmospheric setting for this recital titled “The Pianist as Composer.”

Mannes College is one of America’s leading conservatories. A comparatively small school (with less than 300 students enrolled in degree programs), its outstanding faculty is devoted to providing individual attention to its students. Distinguished alumni include Frederica von Stade, Richard Goode, Murray Perahia, Julius Rudel and JoAnn Falletta. For these free and open festival concerts, presented by the college, Mannes donors provide scholarship funds and each host institution contributes its facilities.

Mannes Piano Department Chair Pavlina Dokovska has been the inspiration and guiding force behind this unique festival for 10 years. As artistic director, she has developed previous themes centering on Bach, Schubert, Beethoven and, in one notable year, the complete works of Chopin. This season, over 20 concerts were scheduled throughout New York, co-produced with such prestigious cultural venues as the Instituto Cervantes, the Polish, French and German Consulates, Scandinavia House, Steinway Hall and the Ukrainian Institute.

For this recital, Ms. Hagopian sang all three songs in the original Ukrainian set by Wadym Kipa in 1967 to the haunting poetry of Lesia Ukrainka (“Song,” “Evening Time,” “Do Not Sing Me This Song”). A native of Mainz, Germany, she is studying in the United States as a Fulbright scholar. Ms. Hagopian already has a host of significant appearances and awards to her credit, including first prize in the European Lieder-Competition. The New York Times praised her performance of Madame Lidoine as “radiating dignified piety” in this year’s Mannes production of Poulenc’s “Dialogues of the Carmelites.”

One of the missions of the festival is to always include music of the culture where the students are performing, and to perform songs in their original language. Over the past four seasons, Mannes students have performed works by Viktor Kosenko,

Valentin Silvestrov, Leonid Hrabovsky, Myroslav Skoryk and Virko Baley. UIA artistic director Mykola Suk is also a member of the International Keyboard Institute at Mannes and has helped launch these recitals at the institute.

The intent of the festival is to create cooperative programs with the ethnically and culturally rich New York communities and to provide valuable performance opportunities for the young artists. This experience exposes students to different cultures as they explore music of various ethnic origins.

Speaking about Ukrainian composer Wadym Kipa, Ms. Dokovska said “The idea that someone who has lived and contributed but is now forgotten is something that bothers me. I learned what a wonderful musician and pianist he was.”

Born in Kharkiv, Kipa was a finalist in the first All-Soviet Piano Competition in Moscow in 1937. His promising concert career interrupted by the war, Kipa immigrated to the United States, where he continued to give recitals, resumed his pedagogical activities and devoted time to composition. The three Lesia Ukrainka songs displayed the composer’s sensitive late-Romantic style setting of the words. They are part of his cycle of 17 art songs published in 1998 by Muzychna Ukraina.

The composer’s son and daughter, Dr. Albert Kipa and Irena Kipa-Daigle, congratulated Ms. Hagopian on her musicianship and Ukrainian diction. Also in attendance was a former student of Wadym Kipa, Frances Barulich, who is now music archivist at the Morgan Library.

According to the composer’s descendants, music was the essence of our his life and sustained him throughout it. “For him, music was the universal language that transcended all cultural, social and political barriers. Thus it was a special experience for us to witness his creative spirit so positively affirmed in the year of the 40th anniversary of his death,” said Ms. Kipa-Daigle.

Dr. Kipa was especially impressed by the enthusiasm with which the young German soprano approached this project and was pleased that Ms. Hagopian expressed an interest to learn more of his father’s art-songs. “The interpretation of both young performers from Mannes achieved exactly the right balance between text and musical elements, as envisioned by our father,” he commented.

Each performance on the varied program at the Ukrainian Institute was of professional caliber and very enjoyable. Following Ms. Hagopian’s opening rendition of the Kipa art songs, her accompanist Dimitry Glivinski (a native of Ukraine) expressively performed a Frederic Chopin “Scherzo,” Bela Bartok’s “Two Romanian Dances” were treated to a piquant and stylish performance by Bogdan-Claudiu Dulu, and Evi Jundt revealed a lyrical and poetic sensibility in the “Petrarch Sonnet” by Franz Liszt. The first half of the program closed with a virtuoso rendering of a Liszt Ballade by Maria Togawa.

At the start of the second half, Emily Duncan-Brown entertained the audience with her well-sung and humorous interpretation of Leonard Bernstein’s “I Hate Music” – A Cycle of Five Kid Songs. The final group of performers tackled the difficult Sextet in C major by Francis Poulenc. The impeccable intonation, tight ensemble and spirited musical performance by Jonathan Engle, Ryan Walsh, Mara Plotkin, Thomas Fleming, Audrey Flores and Nimrod David Pfeffer earned the young musicians well-deserved overwhelming applause.

Writing in 1829, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe described string quartet music as



Soprano Katharina Hagopian with Dimitry Glivinski at the piano.



At the Ukrainian Institute of America (from left) are: Dimitry Glivinski, Katharina Hagopian, Irena Kipa-Daigle, Pavlina Dokovska, Frances Barulich and Dr. Albert Kipa.

“four rational people conversing.” In bygone days, people often played and sang for each other in homes and private salons. In the early 19th century in New York City, chamber music thrived in the small halls, salons and music gardens that abounded near Union Square.

Mannes College and host institutions like the Ukrainian Institute transport us

back to a better former time, inviting us all to experience and enjoy music in the manner so beautifully expressed by Richard Wagner over a century ago: “The musician casts the meshwork of his tones to ensnare us, so to speak; with his wonder-drops of sound he dews our brain as if by magic, and robs it of the power of seeing anything other than our own inner world.”

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

We welcome the announcement that Gazprom and Naftohaz will restart negotiations on January 8 and call on both sides to engage in a good faith effort to resolve their dispute in a transparent, commercial manner. This episode underscores the critical need to diversify sources of natural gas, as well as other energy supplies." (U.S. Department of State)

Yevpatoriya blast's cause

KYIV – The explosion at an apartment block in Yevpatoriya, Crimea, on December 24, 2008, occurred due to contact between gas and combustible-lubricating materials, the head of the governmental commission investigating the blast, First Vice Prime Minister Oleksander Turchynov, said on December 29, 2008. He explained that 12 cylinders containing oxygen, acetylene and gas used for welding were found in the basement of the destroyed building. As a result of the cylinders' depressurization, the basement became filled with a highly explosive gas mixture that reacted with combustible-lubrication materials and blew up. Twenty-seven people died in the blast and 21 were saved. Meanwhile, authorities have detained three suspects in the case: the director of the Communal Enterprise Zhytlovyk-1, the chief of a technical sector and a gas-electric welder. (Ukrinform)

Rada approves 2009 jubilees

KYIV – According to resolution passed by the Verkhovna Rada, during 2009 Ukraine will celebrate the 990th anniversary of the beginning of the reign of Kyivan Rus' Prince Yaroslav the Wise, the 435th anniversary of the printing of the Gospel by Ivan Fedorov and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists leader Stepan Bandera. Ukraine will also celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava, the 70th anniversary of events related to the proclamation and defense of Carpathian Ukraine, and the 65th anniversary of Stalin's deportation of the Crimean Tatars and people of other nationalities from Crimea. Other memorable dates include the 85th anniversary of the birth of film director Sergei Paradzhanov, the 170th anniversary of the birth of the author of Ukraine's national anthem Pavlo Chubynskyi, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Jewish writer Sholom Aleichem and the 200th anniversary of the birth of Mykola Hohol. A resolution on celebrating the 125th anniversary of the National Technical University Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute also was adopted. (Ukrinform)

Pravda party is registered

KYIV – Ukraine's Justice Ministry registered the country's 160th political party called Pravda (Truth), the ministry press-service reported on December 30, 2008. The decision on the party's establishment was made at its constituent congress and first rally, which were held, respectively, on June 20, 2008, and November 17, 2008. (Ukrinform)

Lytvyn meets Russian counterpart

KYIV – Verkhovna Rada Chairman Lytvyn and the chairman of the Russian Federal Assembly's State Duma, Boris Gryzlov, spoke during their meeting in Moscow on December 29, 2008, about how to combat economic turmoil at the legislative level. Mr. Lytvyn noted that, despite the worsening of bilateral relations on the political level, bilateral cooperation in the economic area is progressing. He stressed that relations between the two countries are a key issue that worries the Ukrainian society, and he expressed his opinion that normalization of relations "will calm people" both

in Ukraine and Russia. The first step to move bilateral relations forward, according to Mr. Lytvyn, should be resuming the work of the Interparliamentary Commission for Cooperation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. (Ukrinform)

Most see unstable relations with Russia

KYIV – A total of 57.7 percent of respondents surveyed by the Oleksander Razumkov Ukrainian Center for Economic and Political Studies believe that current relations between Ukraine and Russia are unstable. A total of 35.2 percent said relations are bad, while 3.1 percent said they are good. At the same time, 4.1 percent of respondents could not answer. The respondents were also asked to assess the prospects of relations between these two countries in the near future. Some 30.6 percent believe that the relations will remain unchanged, 27 percent say that they will improve, 15.7 percent said they will worsen, and 26.7 percent failed to answer. Asked about what direction should be a priority for Ukraine's foreign policy, 51.1 percent respondents see relations with Russia as a priority direction for national foreign policy. At the same time, 27.5 percent named relations with the European Union as a top priority and 6.5 percent cited relations with countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, 2.6 percent with other countries, 0.6 percent with the United States; 11.8 percent of respondents did not answer. The study was conducted on December 17-24, 2008; a total of 2,017 citizens above the age of 18 in various regions were polled. (Ukrinform)

Number of unemployed grows

KYIV – Every day between 9,000 and 11,000 persons approach the employment service, while the number of jobs decreases by 2,000, said the director of the State Employment Center, Volodymyr Halytskyi, on December 29, 2008. He specified that as of December 22, 2008, the number of job seekers at the State Employment Center was 842,300 – 147,500 more than at the beginning of the month. The largest number of unemployed is in the Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Kharkiv oblasts. In November 2008 the State Statistics Committee registered 639,900 jobless. (Ukrinform)

"Green cards" for Ukrainian migrants

KYIV – As of January 1, the Czech Republic has introduced "green cards" for citizens of a number of foreign states, including Ukraine. The card is formal permission for work and residence for over three years. (Ukrinform)

Violations found in NBU's actions

KYIV – The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) granted stabilization credits to Nadra Bank and Rodovid Bank in violation of its own resolutions, according to the interim report of the Verkhovna Rada committee charged with investigating NBU activities during the financial crisis. According to information received from unofficial sources, since the NBU refused to present official information, Nadra received 20 percent of stabilization credits issued as of December 15, 2008 (7.1 billion hrv) and Rodovid received 5 percent of this amount (2.2 billion hrv). Meanwhile, the state UkrExImBank got refinancing in the amount of 1.4 billion hrv and OshchadBank received 4 billion hrv. PromInvestBank, which for a long time was on the verge of bankruptcy, also got an amount less than Nadra Bank - 6.03 billion hrv. The Verkhovna Rada committee's report drew attention to the fact that a mandatory condition for refinancing provided for in the NBU letter of October 22, 2008, is a requirement that refinancing credits to support liquidity be granted to a bank in the

(Continued on page 41)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 40)

amount of up to 60 percent of the bank's statutory capital and within 90 percent of the nominal value of shares presented by the bank as a credit security. The refinancing volume presented to Nadra Bank exceeded by 20 times the volume of its statutory capital. Rodovid Bank, the statutory capital of which is 350 million hrv, got refinancing of 2.2 billion hrv. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine, U.S. to cooperate in space

KYIV - President Viktor Yushchenko on December 26, 2008, signed the law On Ratification of the Agreement between Governments of Ukraine and the U.S. on cooperation in research and using space for peaceful aims. The agreement creates legal conditions for cooperation between Ukraine and the United States in the sphere of research and using space in spheres of mutual interest, such as monitoring the Earth and aeronautics. (Ukrinform)

Experts cite politicians of the year

KYIV - Experts polled in the last days of 2008 believe that Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn are the most successful politicians of the year, according to an opinion poll conducted by Democratic Initiatives Foundation (DIF). Iryna Bekeshkina, DIF research advisor, said that, although Ms. Tymoshenko is one of the politicians of the year, experts predict an early resignation for the prime minister in 2009. Most experts also believe that the Cabinet will not succeed in curbing the economic turmoil affecting Ukraine. Political scientists were also pessimistic about the existence of the current parliamentary coalition and forecast its collapse in the first half of 2009. Furthermore, they anticipate that the "cold war" between President Viktor

Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko will continue. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine, Lithuania cite partnership

KYIV - Ukraine appreciates the development of a strategic partnership between Ukraine and Lithuania, in particular the implementation of the "Roadmap" between Ukraine and Lithuania for 2009-2010 signed on December 9, 2008, President Viktor Yushchenko said at a December 27, 2008, meeting with Lithuanian Foreign Minister Vygaudas Usackas. The two leaders discussed bilateral cooperation, especially in the realms of trade, regional cooperation and energy. The president noted among the latter topics was supplies of Ukrainian electrical energy to Lithuania, Ukraine's involvement in the construction of a new nuclear power plant on Lithuanian territory, and supplies of Caspian oil to Lithuania through the Odesa-Brody-Plotsk-Gdansk pipeline. Mr. Yushchenko also noted that Ukraine counts on Lithuania's support in organizing and holding a presentation of the technical and economic assessment of the Odesa-Brody-Plotsk-Gdansk project for heads of state in Brussels in February. Mr. Yushchenko also thanked Lithuania and the Lithuanian people for their solidarity with the Ukrainian people in commemorating the victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. The Lithuanian foreign affairs minister also met with his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Ohryzko. Mr. Ohryzko thanked Mr. Usackas for supporting Ukraine's European aspirations. The Lithuanian minister said that Ukraine and Lithuania are connected by deep historical and cultural ties. He noted that there are good prospects for the development of trade and economic cooperation between the two states. (Ukrinform)

111-year-old dies in Donetsk

KYIV - Donetsk resident Mykhailo

Krychevskiy, who remembered the tsar, the revolution and the civil war, died at the age of 111, as reported on December 31. He would have celebrated his 112th birthday in two months. Mr. Krychevskiy died at home, where he lived with his daughter-in-law, grandson and, until recently, a son. In August 2008 he was in good spirits and had a clear memory. But in October his only son suddenly died at the age of 82 and this significantly affected the elder Mr. Krychevskiy. "Since then he practically did not get up from bed, he became weak and communicated very little; over the last three days he did not regain consciousness," his grandson Volodymyr Krychevskiy said. (Ukrinform)

Cabinet approves nationality policy

KYIV - The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers on December 29, 2008, approved a bill on the concept of the country's ethnic-nationality policy. According to the government's press service, the concept developed by the government should become a guideline for state authorities in ethnic and nationality development and regulating interethnic relations. The document envisages improving the regulatory and legal framework in the area of interethnic and interreligious relations, and studying the ethnogeny process and resettlement history of representatives of the Ukrainian nation and national minorities. It also ensures equality of all citizens, whether of Ukrainian background or national minorities, and increases responsibility for stirring up interethnic, racial or religious hatred. The document also provides for developing and implementing state target programs on resettlement, social adaptation and integration into Ukrainian society of people forcibly displaced because of nationality and of those who returned to Ukraine for permanent residency, including ethnic Ukrainians

subjected to repressions due to their ideological beliefs. Representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers noted that the concept anticipates the approval and functioning of the state language in all spheres of public life. But, at the same time, the document guarantees the preservation and development of the languages of national minorities, including native-language education in areas of national minorities' compact settlement. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine issues Chornovil stamp

KYIV - A new stamp in memory of Ukrainian political leader and human rights advocate Vyacheslav Chornovil (1937-1999) was issued in Ukraine in late 2008. According to the press-service of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the stamp is 40x28 mm and its nominal value is 1 hrv. The new postal issue is available on sheets of 12 stamps. The stamp's designer is Vasyl Lopata. The stamps are protected with the micro text V. Lopata; UV-rays reveal a duplicated facsimile of the signature and emblem of Rukh, the People's Movement of Ukraine. (Ukrinform)

Register of organizations to be created

KYIV - A single state register of citizens' groups and charitable organizations will appear in Ukraine in 2009. Justice Minister Mykola Onyshchuk signed the relevant agreement on December 30, 2008. The register will contain complete information about all registered public organizations and their branches. Data on political parties, NGOs, trade unions, employers' organizations, credit union associations, charitable organizations, chambers of commerce and industry, and courts of arbitration will be included in the register. Information from the register is supposed to become publicly available on October 1. (Ukrinform)



Bohdan Hurko

died December 11, 2008.

He was born March 21, 1916, in Krakivets, Ukraine, to Roman and Elizabeth Hurko.

Mr. Hurko was a retired senior research engineer with General Electric. Before being at G.E., he was an engineer at American standard. He had also taught at Speed School of engineering at the University of Louisville and the Polytechnic Institute of Austria. After his retirement he worked for a number of international research engineering companies as a consultant. Over his career he had over 60 patents. In 1977 he received the Steinmetz Award from G.E. for his work in the development of the self-cleaning oven.

In other work he was a translator in the Ukrainian, Polish, German and Russian languages for the American Red Cross in Louisville. He was a long-time member of the American Business Club, a charitable service organization for handicapped children and adults. He also worked as a coordinator for the Ukrainian heritage weekends held in Louisville.

The son of an Orthodox priest, he was a devout Catholic and was a member of St. Agnes Catholic Church and its choir.

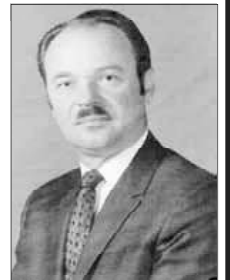
He is survived by his wife of 62 years, the former Marta Szaryj; two daughters, Lydia and Elizabeth Hurko; son, Dr. Orest Hurko and his wife Vicki; and grandson, Alexander Hurko.

The funeral was held at St. Agnes Church with burial at St. Michael Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to the American Business Club.



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Пером тобі лежить

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Як ще в рядах УПА боровся
І волю добував!
Та хоч Ти вже від нас полетів,
Будь гордий, що боровсь! –
І бачив вільну Україну,
Бо в славі розійшовсь!
Прощай же Друже в путь далеку:
У вічність ген лети
І про Твої рідні Груники
У чужині все сни...

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Minneapolis community continues tradition honoring St. Nicholas

by Dr. Michael J. Kozak

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – In Byzantine rite Churches, St. Nicholas is one of the most popular saints and the devotion to him is very deep.

The cult of St. Nicholas came to Ukraine with the Christian faith in the 10th century. Throughout the centuries many churches were erected in his honor in Ukraine and abroad wherever Ukrainian people settled. He is considered a protector of children and the poor. St. Nicholas Day is celebrated by attending a church service, entertaining relatives and friends, and giving gifts to children and loved ones. Often gifts are given during a special play in which St. Nicholas is the main character.

In Minneapolis, this tradition has been maintained for the past 50 years by the Ukrainian Saturday School of St. Constantine Parish, where the Rev. Canon Michael Stelmach is now pastor. Thanks to the efforts of Dmytro Tataryn, school principal, and teachers Volodymyra Kramarczuk, Dr. Bohdan Kramarczuk and Halyna Tataryn, an impressive program in honor of St. Nicholas was staged by the schoolchildren on Sunday, December 14, 2008, in the school auditorium.

The program was prepared by Svitlana Uniyat and Yuri Ivan, conductor of the school choir.

The following children participated in the program: Julia Cournoyer, Marianna Cournoyer, Bohdan Dujoux, Sofia Hutsal, Taras Hutsal, Alex Johnson, Sammy Johnson, Chloe Kramarczuk, Coltin Mak, Natalka Mak, Natalie Medvetski, Sophia Medvetski, Anna Nesteruk, Julianna Pawluk, Taurus Pawluk, Michael Phillipi, Nykola Phillipi, Pavlo Potepencko, Quin Ramos, Danylko Ripeckyj, Aleksa Tataryn, Taras Tataryn, Lesia Uniyat, Masha Volkova, Rostyk Volkova, Halia Voronchak, Nazar Voronchak and Olha Voronchak.

After opening remarks were given by Svitlana Uniyat, there were recitations, musical solos, dancing around the Christmas tree and the singing of Ukrainian Christmas carols. At the closing of the program St. Nicholas came on stage. He delivered a short message to the children and distributed gifts to the happy crowd.

Since this celebration commenced at noon, after divine liturgy, all who attended the program were able to partake of a special lunch prepared and served by the parents of the schoolchildren.



A scene from the St. Nicholas play.

Parma parish's choir performs at annual Christmas concert



PARMA, Ohio – The annual Christmas concert sponsored by the Orthodox Clergy Association of Greater Cleveland was held at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church on Sunday, December 14, 2008. Participating were eight parish choirs representing the local Serbian, Romanian, Ukrainian, Greek, Russian and American Orthodox parishes. Seen above, the 30-voice St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral Choir of Parma, Ohio, directed by Markian Komichak, sang a medley of traditional Ukrainian carols.



The young performers with St. Nicholas in Minneapolis.

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Gazprom stops...

(Continued from page 1)

Tymoshenko has called the Swiss company a "criminal scheme" (Interfax Ukraine, December 27, 2007) and vowed to force it out of the Ukrainian market.

Gazprom's price for gas to Ukraine in 2009 is the second major conflict between the two sides. Gazprom management has quoted several possible prices. CEO Alexei Miller said in December that Ukraine would pay \$450 per 1,000 cubic meters in 2009. During the unsuccessful negotiations, Gazprom demanded \$250, which the Ukrainians rejected, making a counteroffer of \$208. Mr. Miller responded that since they had rejected \$250, they would pay \$418.

On January 1 Oleh Dubyna, the head of Naftohaz Ukrayiny, offered to buy Russian gas for \$235 contingent on a price increase for transporting Russian gas to Europe from the current \$1.70 per 1,000 cubic meters per 100 kilometers to \$1.80 (RIA Novosti, January 1). Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin rejected this increase and insisted that transit fees were locked into a

contract that is due to expire in 2010 (UNIAN press agency, January 1).

The next day Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko made a joint public statement on the crisis in which they upped the proposed transit price to "not less than \$2" (Ukrayinska Pravda, January 3).

Hidden behind the posturing and threats made by each side in the dispute are issues that deserve to be examined.

One of the long-standing points of contention in the Ukrainian-Russian gas trade is the use of intermediary companies such as Eural Trans Gas and its successor, RosUkrEnergo. These highly lucrative opaque companies, alleged to be the brainchild of former Gazprom deputy CEO Yuriy Komarov, do not own any gas fields or pipelines, yet Gazprom has insisted on their inclusion in the Ukrainian market since 2002, despite the fact that their role as intermediaries has never been clearly explained and the people involved in these schemes have admitted to ties with Russian organized crime figures. Some suspect that the money earned by RUE goes to line the pockets

of high Gazprom and Kremlin officials.

The Tymoshenko faction in the Ukrainian Parliament has vowed to rid the market of RosUkrEnergo, yet the company seems to enjoy the highest levels of protection in the Kremlin and, some speculate, has close relations with Mr. Yushchenko. Ms. Tymoshenko fears that Gazprom, by claiming that the Ukrainian debt has not been paid in full, is seeking a way to keep RosUkrEnergo in place. Her concerns might well be justified.

A second hidden factor is the Kremlin's dislike for both Mr. Yushchenko and Ms. Tymoshenko and their pro-Western agenda. By cutting off gas the Kremlin might be attempting to show Ukrainians that their quarrelsome leadership is incapable of dealing with Russia on such a critical question as energy supplies. If the gas shutoff succeeds in discrediting the Tymoshenko government (President Yushchenko's approval ratings are so low that the gas situation would have no impact on him) then the pro-Russian opposition Party of Regions could find itself getting a needed boost in popularity.

The third aspect of the conflict is the struggle by the Kremlin clan for popularity among Europeans – as well as Russians. With the price of oil and gas dropping and

the Russian budget predicted to have a deficit in 2009, the Kremlin would dearly love to pin the blame for its woes on Kyiv. Gazprom emissaries and Western PR companies hired by Gazprom have been ordered to explain Russia's side of the conflict and to demonize the Ukrainian leadership, while Russian media reports continuously repeat unsubstantiated reports that Ukraine is once again stealing Russian gas.

What can happen next? The Ukrainian side has more than enough gas in storage to weather out the storm of non-supply and make the case that they are being victimized by Mr. Putin and Gazprom. Gazprom, on the other hand, stands to lose billions of dollars in potential revenue by not selling to Ukraine and placing supplies to Europe in jeopardy. If the Russian strategy is both to discredit the Tymoshenko government and to keep RUE in place, the European outcry might be loud and bitterly anti-Russian as was the case in January 2006 when Gazprom cut off gas to Ukraine for the same alleged reasons as in January 2009.

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Thoughts after...

(Continued from page 38)

in Kazakhstan, say those who want to avoid responsibility for the crimes of their predecessors. In the line "reason for death" it is carefully written in a calligraphic hand, 'a Ukrainian.' Roh writes that in death certificates for Ukrainian peasants of that period, the reasons for death were given as "weakness, not eating, problems with digestion, exhaustion, weakened organism, from famine..." But in this case, the reason for death is so clear ... "[being] a Ukrainian."

Below are some sites on the Holodomor (most have English sections). Do check the commentaries to each article. You may have to go to the archives to see the material on the Holodomor events:

<http://www.maidan.org.ua/>
<http://www2.pravda.com.ua/>
<http://www.unian.net>
<http://www.infoukes.com/history/famine/>

Orysia Tracz may be contacted at ory-sia.tracz@gmail.com.

The Holodomor...

(Continued from page 3)

engaged in robbery and can create a second famine."

As early as September, it was obvious to Semen Fedko, an 18-year-old Communist Party member, that the grain collectivization quotas were unrealistic. The party kicked "the kurkul agent" out of its ranks for "voting and agitating against the grain collectivization, falling under kurkul influence and completely submitting to kurkul attitudes." ("Kurkul" was the Ukrainian term for "kulak," equivalent of kulaks, or well-to-do peasants.)

As the Holodomor accelerated, more government officials either resigned their posts, or tacitly helped the targeted villagers.

Kolhosp head Pavlo Yarotskyi was arrested for hiding bread for his family, while another kolhosp leader, Stepan Fil, was prosecuted for anti-Soviet agitation for storing more bread than he indicated in records, in order to distribute to fellow kolhosp workers.

Soon enough, schoolchildren in the village of Samiyivka were recruited to execute the Holodomor.

"We promise the party and government to conduct massive expository work among our parents, and also to expose criminals, who stole that same kolhosp bread with which they indulged the kurkul, ruining the collectivization plan, and to expose bread pits," read a pledge signed by schoolchildren on February 1, 1933.

With their parents being murdered, by March of that year orphans began overwhelming Kherson's orphanages which reported to officials that they couldn't handle all the children coming to them.

As the starvation became rampant, Soviet officials became more candid in their observations when reporting to each other.

"In the last few days, nine people died, and there are very, very many swollen children," an official named Afanasiev observed in early March in the village of Ahaimany. "They ate all the dogs and cats. Tovarysh Valov, don't consider me a coward or opportunist."

Russia gets...

(Continued from page 2)

Stream pipeline across the Baltic Sea (www.rbc.ru, December 3, 2008; Moscow Echo, January 2).

This petty but emotional bargaining cannot disguise the sudden deflation of Russia's self-perception of "restoring the greatness" and "innovative breakthrough," since the inglorious dependency on oil prices is too obvious to deny (Moscow Echo, January 3).

Mr. Putin is trying to manage this crisis in his ideology of "raising the country from its knees" by promising to deliver on all the scheduled pension and salary increases and maintain the socially oriented national projects in health care and education. The result is an unnaturally high inflation rate that reached 13.3 percent in 2008 (up from the anticipated level of 8.5 percent) and is expected to stay at this level in 2009 (RIA-Novosti, December 31, 2008).

Messrs. Putin and Medvedev make a show of standing shoulder to shoulder against the hardships, even going skiing together on New Year's Day (www.newsru.com, January 3). The dual leadership was not, however, designed to withstand a crisis of such proportions; for that matter, the

president cannot even criticize the prime minister or the government, so blame for the crisis remains unassigned (Nezavisimaya gazeta, December 30, 2008).

Experts keep arguing that Mr. Putin intends to escape from the unenviable position of prime minister, with its excessive responsibility for impossible tasks, and return to the Kremlin for six years, as permitted by the newly amended Constitution (The New Times, December 22, 2008).

Far more important, however, is the question about discontent within the ruling elite, which has lost a colossal amount of money in Russia's suddenly shrinking economy and senses the confusion of the ruling pair. It was exactly such a loss of control that prompted top officials to stage a putsch in August 1991; and Mr. Putin, who resembles Mikhail Gorbachev only in his inability to comprehend the reality of crisis, could face a mutiny of disgruntled "siloviki." That old farce may be replayed, perhaps as a tragedy, since Russia traditionally goes against the logic of history.

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Voice of America...

(Continued from page 1)

guage broadcasts annually, assessing their quality, effectiveness and professional integrity, and to make its recommendations about adding or deleting languages, and refining their "platforms in delivery."

He pointed out that earlier in the year, VOA also dropped its radio broadcasts in Russian, Serbian, Bosnian and Macedonian.

"We try to reach people on the medium that they prefer to use for news and information, which is logical," Mr. Trimble said. "And in Ukraine, as is the case with most places where we broadcast, television is far and away the preferred source of news and information." Ninety-six percent of Ukrainians watch television weekly, he said.

He pointed out that audience analyses have shown that during the last two-years Ukraine's weekly VOA television audience (people who tune in at least once a week) increased significantly – from 9.3 to 11.9 percent of the TV viewing public – while the radio audience, some of which also watches VOA TV programs, remained at a stagnant 2.3 percent.

VOA's television programming in Ukraine, which began in 1993 and is carried by local television outlets, includes "Chas/Time," a 15-minute weekday newscast, and "Window on America," a 20-minute Sunday feature program.

As for the personnel working for the Ukrainian Service of VOA, Mr. Trimble said, there will be no reduction in force.

Ukrainian American reaction

Two Ukrainian American community leaders offered a different assessment of VOA's decision in interviews aired on that very last VOA Ukrainian program.

Ihor Gawdiak, president of the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, said that he, his board and the entire Ukrainian American community "are disturbed by this painful event."

He said VOA radio broadcasts have played an important role in informing the Ukrainian people about world events and, more recently, in helping develop democracy in Ukraine. For this, Ukrainian Americans are grateful to VOA, he added. He expressed the hope that President-elect Barack Obama's administration will reverse this "unfortunate decision."

Michael Sawkiw, the director of the Ukrainian National Information Service and until recently the president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, said he was shocked and saddened – personally and as a community leader who had worked to help VOA-Ukrainian broadcasts get adequate U.S. government funding.

He said that VOA has performed an

admirable service with its factual reporting to the Ukrainian people under the Soviet Union and, more recently, as one of many alternative sources of information in the years following Ukraine's independence.

"I'm convinced that today, when Ukraine is striving to improve its democracy, it would be better to continue Ukrainian radio broadcasting," he said.

First broadcasts in 1949

VOA's first Ukrainian-language broadcast was aired on December 12, 1949. Over time, the number of hours increased, reaching five hours a day in the 1970s. Before 1992, when Ukraine allowed VOA programs to be carried on local radio outlets, the programs were transmitted in the short-wave radio spectrum.

As VOA Ukrainian television programming and its Internet presence increased in recent years, its radio programming was cut back, ultimately to two 15-minute newscasts in the early evening and a half-hour news program at 11 p.m. Ukraine time (4:30 p.m. in Washington), which was the very last program to be aired on December 31.

The last show

The first 20 minutes of this final broadcast covered the top world news events of that day: the gas dispute between Russia and Ukraine, Israeli attacks in Gaza, fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, Azerbaijan banning foreign media broadcasts, as well as a Kyiv man-in-street feature on the past year and a New Year's greeting from Marianna Zajac, president of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

With eight minutes left on the clock, program anchor Anya Dydyk-Petrenko reminded the audience that this would be the last VOA radio broadcast in Ukrainian. She thanked them and their predecessors for listening to the Voice over the past 59 years and called on them to continue watching VOA-Ukrainian television programs and checking for the latest news on the VOA website.

Her reaction interviews with Messrs. Gawdiak and Sawkiw followed, which left less than a minute for the final goodbye. She wished her listeners all the best in the coming year and bid them farewell from the staff responsible for this last program: editor Volodymyr Zvighyanich, producer Ihor Hulawyj, studio engineer Lee Dravis and herself, the news editor and anchor.

The 24-year veteran of VOA kept her emotions in check until the very last few seconds of the show, when visibly moved – at least as seen by those present in VOA's Studio 3 – she concluded, with a slight quiver in her voice, for the very last time: "All the best. Good night."

Russia cuts off...

(Continued from page 1)

could face a humanitarian catastrophe, as the entire region lacked hot water and suffered colder temperatures indoors.

Gazprom officials never confirmed whether the company reduced supplies to Europe, instead blaming the Ukrainian government for failing to uphold its responsibility as a gas transit country by shutting its own pipelines.

"Russia, Bulgaria and other Balkan nations became hostages to Ukraine's unreasonable behavior," Aleksandr Medvedyev, a top Gazprom official, said on the evening of January 6 after meeting with German diplomats in Berlin.

Russian officials have also laced their attacks with accusations that Ukrainian officials were stealing natural gas targeted for Europe. They duly reduced gas supplies by the amount they claimed Ukrainians stole.

Observers described such statements as part of a crafted public relations offensive meant to avenge the natural gas dispute two years ago, when the global community accused the Russians of using gas as political leverage against Ukraine. Then, in response, Gazprom resumed the gas flow within two days.

European television networks have been repeating sound bytes about Ukraine's undependability as a gas transit state, as well as the prospect of alternative natural gas routes between Russia and Europe, said Gennadii Kurochka, the managing partner in CFC Consulting, a strategic communications and government consulting firm based in Kyiv.

"Even if the gas problem is resolved in the nearest future, without serious consequences for Europe, the slogan 'Ukraine – thief' will settle in the subconscious of average Europeans for a long time," Mr. Kurochka said.

In fact, Russia is currently constructing two natural gas pipelines – Nord (North) Stream to Germany and South Stream to

Bulgaria – to bypass Ukraine entirely, and is seeking European support. Currently about 80 percent of the gas exported from Russia to Europe crosses Ukrainian territory.

In spite of the negative publicity being showered upon Ukraine, political observers noted some gains.

Most notably, President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko set aside their vicious political rivalry to form a united front against the Russians, as demonstrated in a January 1 joint statement.

Their unity prevents the Russian government from exploiting one leader against the other or blaming the conflict on a lack of consensus within Ukraine's leadership, said Bohdan Chervak, a Kyiv political observer and writer.

"Finally, the head of state and government leader were imbued with responsibility for the fate of the nation, which Gazprom is trying to bring to its knees," he said.

Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidential Secretariat have asked European officials to intervene and assist in the negotiations. Both Ukrainian and Russian officials have traveled extensively to Europe to present their respective arguments.

On January 6, Mr. Dubyna met with six foreign ambassadors in Kyiv, including the Polish and Romanian envoys, assuring them that Ukraine was doing its best to maintain gas supplies despite Russian cutbacks.

The same evening, Gazprom maintained its public attacks against the Ukrainian government. "Events happened last night which have no precedent in the world gas market," Mr. Medvedyev told a Moscow press conference. "The Ukrainian side, in a unilateral manner, shut down its three main export pipelines to supply gas to Western and Central Europe."

"As a result, regardless of our desire to supply gas to European consumers, we are deprived of the physical ability to supply gas to Europe in full capacity," Mr. Medvedev charged.

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Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia announces spring semester courses and events

NEW YORK – After a busy autumn for Ukrainian studies at Columbia University, the upcoming semester is shaping up to be equally eventful. This winter and spring, the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute of Columbia University will offer a diverse series of courses and events.

For the spring 2009 semester, the program will be augmented by the visit of one of today's most promising young scholars in Ukrainian history, Dr. Serhiy Bilenyk. Dr. Bilenyk received a Candidate of Historical Sciences degree at Kyiv University in 2001 and a Ph.D. in history at the University of Toronto in 2007. His research interests include the making and unmaking of national communities in Eastern Europe.

Dr. Bilenyk will be at Columbia to teach two history courses. "The History of Modern Ukraine" concentrates on the evolution of Ukrainian identity, culture and political aspirations, within the context of the states that ruled Ukrainian lands and the diverse populations and non-Ukrainian cultures and political movements on these territories. The class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:10-5:25 p.m. The other course, "Nationalities in the Russian Empire," will deal with nationalist challenges and nationality politics in imperial Russia, with particular attention being paid to

Russia's national peripheries (such as Ukraine and Poland) and their role in the collapse of the tsarist empire. The seminar will meet on Mondays at 11 a.m.-12:50 p.m.

During the spring semester at Columbia students will also have the opportunity to discover new facets of the life and work of several major Ukrainian literary figures. Dr. Mark Andryczyk will teach a course titled "Early Modernism in Ukrainian Literature," in which students will read literary works by Ivan Franko, Lesia Ukrainka, Olha Kobylanska, Vasyl Stefanyk, Volodymyr Vynnychenko and Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky, among others. The course will focus on the ways that modernism was introduced into Ukrainian literature a century ago and will examine the polemic that ensued among Ukrainian cultural leaders as they worked toward developing the modern Ukrainian identity. The course will be taught on Wednesdays at 4:10-6 p.m.

On Wednesdays at 11 a.m.- 12:50 p.m. Ambassador Valerii Kuchinsky will teach the course "Ukrainian Foreign Policy: Russia, Europe and the U.S." The course will provide a historical perspective on Ukraine's foreign relations and examine its foreign policy since independence in 1991, through the Orange Revolution and beyond. The course will focus on Ukraine's relationship with its major part-

ners and its role at the United Nations. The course delivers first-hand insight by a career diplomat who for decades has been actively involved in the implementation of Ukraine's foreign policy.

Three levels of Ukrainian language instruction will continue to be taught by Dr. Yuri Shevchuk, lecturer of Ukrainian language and culture at Columbia: Elementary on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:10-10:25 a.m.; Intermediate on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:35-11:50 a.m.; and Advanced on Mondays and Wednesdays (time to be determined).

Two Fulbright scholars from two different corners of Ukraine are also visiting Columbia University for the 2008-2009 academic year; both are at the Harriman Institute studying American periods of life of major Ukrainian cultural and academic figures.

Dr. Vita Susak of the Lviv Art Gallery is studying American aspects of Alexander Archipenko's work. Dr. Tetiana Stepykina of the Luhansk State Pedagogical University is focusing on the North American life and work of Ukrainian intellectuals from eastern and southern Ukraine, particularly that of writer and scholar Vasyl Chaplenko. Both scholars are conducting their research while taking advantage of the extensive holdings of the Ukrainian diaspora intellectual heritage at Columbia's Bakhmeteff Archive of Russian and East European Culture.

The Contemporary Ukrainian Literature Series, co-sponsored by the Kennan Institute, continues to provide audiences in the U.S. with the opportunity to meet with those at the forefront of Ukrainian culture today. On January 27 at Columbia, legendary writer Viktor Neborak will hold his first ever literary

evening in the United States. Respectably declining invitations to visit the U.S. for years, Mr. Neborak of the Bu-Ba-Bu literary group will finally present his poetry here and discuss cultural affairs in Ukraine today. This English-language event is free and open to the public and will take place in the Harriman Atrium (12th floor, International Affairs Building) at 6:30 p.m.

The Ukrainian Film Club of Columbia University will co-sponsor, together with the Polish Studies Program and the Harriman Institute, the visit to Columbia of the internationally renowned Polish film director Krzysztof Zanussi (the tentative date of his visit is February 18). Mr. Zanussi is well-known and respected in Ukraine as a person who has helped numerous Ukrainian filmmakers by training them and inviting them to participate in his films. He has also produced theater plays in Ukraine. His latest film, "Heart on the Palm," features the leading Ukrainian actor Bohdan Stupka in a starring role. The Columbia event will feature a screening of his film "Persona Non-Grata," followed by a discussion with the filmmaker.

Courses at Columbia are open to students from other universities in the New York metropolitan area seeking credit, as well as to outside individuals interested in non-credit continuing studies. Additionally, through the Lifelong Learners program, individuals over age 65 who are interested in auditing courses may enroll at a discount rate.

January 30 is the final day to register for a spring semester class. For more information about courses or the Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University readers may contact Dr. Mark Andryczyk at ukrainianstudies@columbia.edu or 212-854-4697.

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*Tatiana Natalia Mirutenko
Hawthorn Woods, Illinois*



*Adriana Maria Orland
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OUT AND ABOUT

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 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 | Warners, NY

January 17
Philadelphia | Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 315-468-1981

Concert featuring Peter Ostroushko and Svitanya Eastern European Women's Vocal Ensemble, Crossroads Music, 215-729-1028 |
| January 15-16
Stanford, CA | Ukrainian Film Festival, moderated by Yuri Shevchuk, Stanford University, http://creees.stanford.edu | January 17
Yardville, NJ | Malanka, featuring music by Fata Morgana, St. George Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 609-585-1935 |
| January 16
Scranton, PA | Malanka, featuring music by Fata Morgana, St. Vladimir Parish Center, 570-563-2275 | January 18 and 25
Alexandria, VA | Concert by Paul Stetsenko, featuring organ music of J.S. Bach, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 703-655-2301 |
| January 17
Ottawa | Malanka, St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church hall, 613-596-5906 | January 24
Washington | Concert by Vitaly Samoshko, featuring piano works of Scarlatti, Schubert, Beethoven and Chopin, Embassy of Austria, 202-625-2361 |
| January 17
Jenkintown, PA | Malanka, featuring music by Hrim, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1166 | January 24
Warren, MI | Malanka, featuring music by Zahrava, Ukrainian Youth Organizations of Metro Detroit, Ukrainian Cultural Center, 586-757-1980 or 586-558-8508 |
| January 17
Whippany, NJ | Malanka, featuring music by Luna, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-585-7175 | January 24
Montreal | Malanka, Ukrainian American Youth Association and Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 514-409-0179 |
| January 17
San Francisco | Malanka, featuring music by Victor Nazarchuk and performance by Anitchka, St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church Hall, 650-968-6425 or 707-935-9142 | January 24
Bethesda, MD | Malanka, featuring music by Svitank, Ukrainian Association of Washington, Marriott Bethesda, 240-426-053 or 410-696-2464 |
| January 17
Ansonia, CT | Slavic New Year Dance, with music by Vox Ethnika, John A. Sullivan's, 203-235-0667 | January 24
Dedham, MA | Malanka, featuring music by Na Zdorov'ya, Ukrainian American Educational Center of Boston, Church of St. John Demascus, 508-245-1890 or skostecki@comcast.net |
| January 17
Baltimore, MD | Malanka, featuring music by Svitank, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 410-248-0329 or 410-730-1245 | January 27
New York | Literary evening with Viktor Neborak, "The Flying Head and Other Poems," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 |
| 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 | <p><i>Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.</i></p> | |
| January 17 | Malanka, with music by New Dimension, St. Luke | | |

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Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund

would like to thank all of our generous
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We wish you and your families
good health and happiness in the New Year.

Children of Chernobyl
Relief and Development Fund's

Board of Directors

Executive Board

Medical Advisory Committee

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

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 Zdrovya. Tickets are \$55, which includes admission, choice of sirloin beef or chicken Francaise dinner, open bar, midnight hors d'oeuvres 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,

732-541-5452. Tickets will not be sold at the door; outside liquor is prohibited.

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.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, senders are asked to include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours, as well as their complete mailing address.

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

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