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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Students, educators protest appointment of Tabachnyk as education minister

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

LVIV – With no connection and little money, second-year student Olha Kviatkovska said she could have been denied admission into the well-regarded Ivan Franko National University in Lviv if not for the standardized admissions testing introduced during the Orange era.

“I’m just a simple girl from a far-off village who came to Lviv with my test certificate of a [perfect] score of 12 in history and language,” said Ms. Kviatkovska, who said she was relieved that she didn’t have to pay bribes.

Yet, she believes the widespread bribery of Ukraine’s pre-Orange era will return to college admissions if the role of standardized testing is reduced – a plan already adopted by newly appointed Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Volodymyr Semynozhenko and Dmytro Tabachnyk, a scandalous politician who opposes Orange reforms and is known for his anti-Ukrainian positions, who has been tapped as minister of education in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Mykola Azarov.

The emergence of such a divisive figure in a key government post has ignited a fierce conflict within Ukrainian academia, with European-oriented authorities warning that any gains achieved during the Orange era in adopting Western standards could be decimated under Minister



Education Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk in a photo from October 2009.

Tabachnyk’s leadership.

“Before the introduction of the system of standardized testing, we were witnesses, according to the accounts of many people who went through it, that college admissions to universities could be resolved with money,” said Dr. Taras Dobko, the first vice-rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University.



Lviv university students – with a banner reading “Out with Tabachnyk!” – march through the city center on March 17 to demand the dismissal of newly appointed Education Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk.

“The problem existed, it’s begun to be resolved, we’re on the right path, so why take a turn back to the way things were before? It has started to work in Ukraine, and I am simply afraid there will be a radical turn backwards,” he commented.

Top universities have already taken sides: Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv and Kyiv Polytechnic

University support Mr. Tabachnyk and his neo-Soviet policies, while the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and the Ukrainian Catholic University have called for his dismissal.

“Sensitivity to a lack of tolerance differentiates the entire post-war world, par-

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Exhibit at Ukrainian Museum to focus on Ukraine-Sweden relations of 17th-18th centuries

by Roma Hadzewycz

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Beginning on April 25, The Ukrainian Museum in New York will present an unprecedented exhibit that highlights the relations between Ukraine and Sweden in the 17th and 18th centuries, with a special focus on their alliance and the Battle of Poltava that changed the course of history in Europe.

Titled “Ukraine-Sweden: At the Crossroads of History,” the exhibit encompasses historical artifacts from Ukraine and Sweden. It was originally on view in Kyiv at the National Museum of Ukrainian History in 2008-2009 to mark the 300th anniversaries of the Battle of Poltava, which pitted Hetman Ivan Mazepa and Sweden’s King Charles XII against Tsar Peter the Great of Russia, and the subsequent death of Mazepa.

Significantly, the exhibit in New York will include artifacts not displayed in Kyiv, among them many rare items on loan from half a dozen Swedish museums, as well as items from 17 institutions in Ukraine and three private collections. Among the artifacts will be items related to Hetmans Mazepa, Bohdan



Flag with the coat of arms of Hetman Ivan Mazepa and Starodub Col. Mykhailo Myklashevsky (1690-1696; silk; needlework, painted decoration; 176 by 264 centimeters), on loan from the Army Museum (Armémuseum), Swedish State Trophy Collection, in Stockholm.

Khmelnitsky, Ivan Vyhovsky and Pylyp Orlyk, as well as the Kozak capital of Baturyn.

Indeed, as noted by Maria Shust, director of The Ukrainian Museum, this is the New York institution’s first cooperation

on this level with Ukrainian and Swedish museums. And, it is quite a feat, given the complexity of arrangements that had to be made with museums and other institutions in both countries.

The Ukrainian Museum realized that the message of such an exhibit – that Ukraine was a powerful state that had relations in the 17th and 18th centuries with other major powers – transcends the effort and cost of bringing it to New York, Ms. Shust noted.

Thankfully Self Reliance (New York) Federal Credit Union came on board as the major sponsor.

It all began with a telephone call to Jaroslaw Leshko, president of The Ukrainian Museum’s board of trustees, from Yuriy Savchuk, curator of the Kyiv exhibit, who spoke about the landmark exhibition that had been opened in Kyiv by President Viktor Yushchenko and King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden. Prof. Leshko said, “we discussed bringing the exhibit of rarities here – things that people would not be able to see otherwise.”

In the planning since December of 2008, the New York exhibit was expanded

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ANALYSIS

Yanukovich expected to ignore Russian espionage against Ukraine

by **Taras Kuzio**

Eurasia Daily Monitor

The election of Party of Regions leader Viktor Yanukovich as Ukraine's president presents a fundamental shift in the country's national security culture as outlined by his three presidential predecessors. The most important revision will be Mr. Yanukovich's, and the Party of Regions', view of Russia as not constituting a threat to Ukraine's national security, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

There are no national security experts advising Mr. Yanukovich of the caliber of Volodymyr Horbulin and Yevhen Marchuk, who headed the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) in 1994-1999 and 1999-2003, respectively, under President Leonid Kuchma. Mr. Horbulin is the co-author of numerous legislative acts pertaining to Ukraine's national security that are pro-NATO and see Russia as a potential threat, including the 2003 law "On Fundamentals of National Security of Ukraine."

Following the 2008 Russian invasion of Georgia, Mr. Horbulin continued to warn about the growing Russian threat to Ukraine, threats which Mr. Yanukovich and Prime Minister Mykola Azarov dismiss. The two approaches reflect different regional political cultures (Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk, respectively), social classes and educational levels (Soviet nomenclatura, working class) and competing ethnocultural allegiances (Ukrainian, neo-Soviet).

One case in point is their different approaches to Russian espionage and subversion in Ukraine. Commonwealth of

Independent States agreements in 1992 banned conducting espionage between member-states, an agreement that, like most CIS agreements, is not adhered to. Unlike Ukraine's three former presidents, President Yanukovich and his prime minister will likely downplay and ignore Russian espionage activities.

An additional factor is Russian military bases. Former President Viktor Yushchenko unequivocally saw the Black Sea Fleet (BSF) as a source of destabilization in Ukraine (Ukrayinska Pravda, December 1, 2009). In 2005, Mr. Yushchenko and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko sought negotiations with Russia to prepare for the withdrawal of the BSF in 2017 (Eurasia Daily Monitor, April 19, 2005).

A recent espionage scandal in Ukraine, and the expulsion of two Russian diplomats last summer (EDM, July 31, August 17, 2009), proved Mr. Yushchenko's point and, as the Ukrainian newspaper Chas Rukhu noted, it "should lead us to think again about whether it is prudent to have Russian military forces on the territory of Ukraine" (Chas Rukhu, February 23).

Messrs. Yanukovich and Azarov do not view the BSF as a source of destabilization, and Mr. Yanukovich has repeatedly said over the past five years that he supports the extension of the BSF base in Sevastopol. That this would contradict his 2010 election program of seeking Ukraine's neutrality is presumably, as with Russia violating CIS agreements, nothing new as Mr. Yanukovich's foreign policy has always been duplicitous

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President Yanukovich in Moscow: First round of tough talks?

by **Pavel Korduban**

Eurasia Daily Monitor

Viktor Yanukovich's first visit to Russia as Ukrainian president on March 5 showed that he is no more prone to making concessions to Moscow than any of his predecessors.

Mr. Yanukovich quickly came to an agreement with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on humanitarian issues, but that was natural, as Mr. Yanukovich and his voters in eastern and southern Ukraine share with Russia the same post-Soviet mentality and share views on their common history.

However, on economic matters, the Russian duumvirate will have to brace themselves for tough negotiations with Mr. Yanukovich on matters ranging from gas to customs regulations.

This was Mr. Yanukovich's second foreign visit as head of state. Unlike President Viktor Yushchenko, who in 2005 paid his first foreign visit to Moscow, Mr. Yanukovich first traveled to Brussels to meet with European Union officials on March 1. In response, Moscow reportedly considered lowering the status of his visit from official to working (Den, March 4). Mr. Yanukovich tried to downplay this, saying that "all roads lead to Moscow," and that his choice of Brussels simply reflected it being the first invitation (UNIAN, March 5).

This was not a comfortable start with a strong neighbor that easily takes offense. In any case, Mr. Medvedev told Mr.

Yanukovich that he hoped that "a black streak" in relations would be over (www.kremlin.ru, March 5). Mr. Medvedev had shunned Mr. Yanukovich's predecessor, Mr. Yushchenko, after August 2008, when President Yushchenko had backed Georgia in its war with Russia.

Much was said in Moscow about the need to "turn a new leaf" in relations. Mr. Medvedev signaled his readiness to meet with Mr. Yanukovich at least twice more this year. Mr. Yanukovich said he would visit Russia in early May, and Mr. Medvedev stated that he would visit Ukraine in the first half of 2010. The Russian president suggested that he thought about Ukraine every morning (UNIAN, March 5). Boris Yeltsin once also urged Russian officials to think about Ukraine every morning.

Presidents Yanukovich and Medvedev agreed to jointly honor Red Army veterans and to celebrate the Victory Day in May together. Mr. Yanukovich promised to cancel Mr. Yushchenko's decision to award the Hero of Ukraine honor to World War II nationalist leader Stepan Bandera. Mr. Yanukovich also reiterated that he would push through Parliament the legislation needed to raise the status of the Russian language (Interfax-Ukraine, March 5).

These promises cost Mr. Yanukovich nothing, being in no way contradictory with his team's views and his election promises. Regarding Bandera, not only Russia but also the European Parliament condemned Mr.

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NEWSBRIEFS

U.S. ready for cooperation

KYIV – The United States is ready to cooperate with the new Cabinet of Ministers that has been appointed today, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Tefft said in Symferopol on March 11. "We are ready to cooperate with the new government, and we hope for the further carrying out of reforms that will be to the benefit of Ukraine, its economy and society," Mr. Tefft said. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich on foreign policy guidelines

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovich, introducing Ukraine's new minister of foreign affairs, Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, on March 11 underlined that this diplomat is well-known not only in Ukraine, but also worldwide. "He has recently worked in Moscow, and before that in Washington and Brussels." The president also outlined guidelines for the activity of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. "These are national interests, the priority of political-economic issues and pragmatic policy that would defend national interests," he stressed. According to Mr. Yanukovich, relations with Russia, the European Union and the United States will always be the focus of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. (Ukrinform)

President delivers address to nation

KYIV – Addressing the nation on March 11, President Viktor Yanukovich said he would spare no effort to prove to the people of Ukraine that they did not make a mistake in their choice. "After five years of fruitless discussions and destructive confrontation, which cost Ukraine the loss of almost all economic and social achievements seen in the Soviet era and during the period of independence, we face a perspective to return to the path of development and progress," he said. "Poverty and debts, a ruined economy and financial system, a split society and complete disappointment – this is the landscape that opened before us after five years of wanderings in the desert, where we were guided by false prophets," said Mr. Yanukovich. "Empowered by the people to use all the institutions of governance for the sake of Ukraine's said prosperity, possessing the appropriate mandate of trust, we are

ready to report to Ukrainian citizens that the time of ruin is going into history," he noted. "As the president, I assume responsibility for decisions that gave us the opportunity to begin work as soon as possible," Mr. Yanukovich said, adding that he will be guided "only by national interests." (Ukrinform)

Foreign affairs minister in Moscow

KYIV – Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko on March 16 left for a two-day working visit to the Russian Federation, the MFA reported. At a press conference in Moscow that day, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov said Russia would like to sign the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) with the United States in Kyiv. Mr. Gryshchenko noted that Ukraine played a crucial role in achieving progress on reducing nuclear arsenals at a time when there were very serious risks for international politics and security. He said that Kyiv is interested in drawing attention to this experience and encouraging those countries that are now the subject of serious debates in the United Nations Security Council, and during international conferences to look at the real balance of their interests. "We believe that the very fact of signing the agreement in Kyiv could be an important signal to countries that today are still at the crossroads, it would strengthen the nuclear nonproliferation regime in the world," Mr. Gryshchenko emphasized. In turn, Mr. Lavrov said that after the rejection of nuclear weapons, Ukraine received security assurances from the United States and Russia in 1992. "We appreciate the stance taken by Ukraine, together with Kazakhstan and Belarus after the collapse of the Soviet Union, having given up nuclear weapons," he said. The minister also promised that guarantees for Ukraine in the new treaty between Moscow and Washington would be confirmed in full. "We would be comfortable in signing the treaty in the capital of Ukraine," Mr. Lavrov added. The next day, the two foreign affairs ministers

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NEWS ANALYSIS: Salient issues in Ukraine-Russia relations

by Vladimir Socor
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's visit to Moscow on March 5 (see "Yanukovich in Moscow: More than balancing the Brussels visit," Eurasia Daily Monitor, March 10) focused almost entirely on bilateral relations, practically overlooking or avoiding international issues. The following issues were discussed in public.

- **Governance model:** Mr. Yanukovich praised Moscow's handling of the financial-economic crisis as a worthy example for Ukraine to follow. Political stability has helped Russia to cope better than Ukraine did with the crisis, he observed. "My task is now to catch up with Russia, bring our living standards, pensions and social assistance up to Russian levels," the gaffe-prone Mr. Yanukovich pledged. Sarcastically he offered to send some Ukrainian "demagogues" (politikany) to Russia, so that the Russian people could even better appreciate the stability they enjoy. When Mr. Yanukovich said at one point that he must await the formation of a new coalition, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev retorted: "I do not need to form a coalition to resolve any problems" (BBC Monitoring, March 9).

According to the Levada Center's latest surveys of Russian public opinion, only 8 percent believe that Ukraine is more democratic than Russia. Conversely, between 50 percent to 65 percent believe that Russia is more democratic than Ukraine and feel compassion for the country because it must live with uncertainty about election results (Vedomosti, March 9). Such findings spell the end of Western assumptions, and Moscow's fears, that the Orange Revolution might have provided a democratic example to Russia.

- **Language policy:** Responding to the Russian media's leading questions, Mr. Yanukovich assured Moscow that he would keep his presidential campaign promise to implement the European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages. This will result in conferring official status to the Russian language (apparently on par with Ukrainian) in many of Ukraine's regions, particularly in the Party of Regions' strongholds.

Following his return from Moscow, Mr. Yanukovich made an appearance at the shrine to Ukrainian national poet Taras Shevchenko, assuring Ukrainians that their language would alone retain the status of the state language on a country-wide basis, while Russian would receive official status in certain regions (Interfax, March 9). This will, however, not allay concerns about linguistic de-Ukrainization and re-Russification in Ukraine's east and south, resulting from this measure. As a sop, Messrs. Medvedev and Yanukovich have decided to hold a joint Taras Shevchenko Year in Ukraine and Russia.

- **Russia-Ukraine Interstate Commission:** created and co-chaired by Vladimir Putin and Viktor Yushchenko while presidents, the commission has remained inactive. Some of the subcommissions have met periodically, however, notably the one tasked to delimit the maritime border and discuss contentious issues related to the Russian Black Sea Fleet based on Ukraine's territory.

Both sides now intend to hold a full meeting of the Interstate Commission during the first half of this year in Kyiv, in connection with Mr. Medvedev's planned visit there. Ahead of that event, the new Ukrainian government will prepare an action plan for the commission's consideration.

- **Black Sea Fleet:** Messrs. Medvedev and Yanukovich agreed that bilateral consultations should continue as before, based on the 1997 agreements on the temporary stationing of the Russian Black Sea Fleet on

Ukrainian territory. Characterizing this as a very difficult and complicated problem, Mr. Yanukovich implied that it can ultimately be settled by the two presidents among themselves. At the news conference, he promised to help resolve the issue "in a way that would satisfy both Ukraine and Russia," and even "very soon."

The first part of the answer merely echoes Mr. Yanukovich's campaign rhetoric, when he suggested prolonging the basing agreement beyond the 2017 deadline. The "very soon," however, is a disconcerting addendum, possibly presaging a quick deal to Ukraine's detriment.

- **NATO:** Russian leaders had apparently hoped for an explicit Mr. Yanukovich statement that Ukraine will not seek NATO membership (Rossiyskaya Gazeta, March 9). At the press conference, a planted question attempted to goad Mr. Yanukovich into endorsing an anti-NATO referendum, signatures for which are currently being collected in Ukraine. Instead, Mr. Yanukovich merely declared that "Ukraine will develop its relations with NATO as a non-bloc state and in accordance with its national interests" (Interfax, March 5).

- **Soviet legacy preservation:** Messrs. Medvedev and Yanukovich agreed to celebrate the Soviet "Great Patriotic War" together in Moscow on May 8, and to "synchronize" the celebrations on May 9 with Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka on a tripartite basis. This configuration was the only hint at a post-Soviet "Eastern Slavic solidarity" during Mr. Yanukovich's visit.

Mr. Yanukovich promised to revoke, before the May celebrations, the Hero of Ukraine titles that President Yushchenko had awarded to Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych, the leaders, respectively of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA).

- **Natural gas:** Mr. Yanukovich announced on the visit's eve that he would urgently raise the issues of Russian gas supplies and transit (Russia-24 TV, March 4), meaning price cuts for Russian gas sup-

plies, in return for sharing control of Ukraine's transit system with Gazprom in a consortium. The current price is said to be \$305 per 1,000 cubic meters, with Mr. Yanukovich seeking a reduction to \$210 (Kommersant, March 5).

Key industrialists behind Mr. Yanukovich and his Party of Regions need discounted gas to maintain their competitive position internationally. The party itself would promise cheap gas to the populace, if snap parliamentary elections are held in Ukraine this year, as seems distinctly possible. Gazprom control of Ukraine's transit system would be the price for cheap gas.

Ironically, Mr. Yanukovich accused the outgoing Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko of "destroying the contractual basis" of the Russian-Ukrainian gas trade. However, it was Mr. Putin who signed the contract with Ms. Tymoshenko in January 2009, and Moscow declares itself satisfied with its commercial terms to this day. According to Russian Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko, the gas price and gas transport consortium were not discussed with Mr. Yanukovich. Moscow will discuss this issue after the formation of a new Ukrainian government, and as part of preparations for Mr. Medvedev's planned visit to Kyiv in the first half of the year (RIA Novosti, March 6).

- **Steel:** Mr. Yanukovich solicited lower tariff barriers and higher quantitative quotas for Russian imports of Ukrainian steel products (Interfax, March 7). This remains a contentious issue in bilateral relations at the state level from the mid-1990s to date. Former president Leonid Kuchma and his governments (including the Yanukovich-led cabinet) perennially raised this grievance with their Russian counterparts.

Leading Ukrainian steel producers expanded into European markets in recent years, reducing their interests in ties with Russia. The economic crisis, however, has again increased the importance of the Russian market to the Donetsk steel industry. It seeks not only to return there but also to bid for contracts to supply steel pipes for Russia's Nord Stream and South Stream pipeline projects.

- **Customs Union:** Russian leaders had expected Mr. Yanukovich to consent, at least in principle, to join the Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan Customs Union and, in a follow-up stage, the Single Economic Space planned by those countries (Rossiyskaya Gazeta, March 9). Mr. Yanukovich demurred twice, citing Ukraine's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) as its overriding choice. This must have irritated the Russian leaders. When Mr. Yanukovich spoke afterward of a "complete turnaround in Ukrainian-Russian relations," Prime Minister Putin retorted curtly: "Then join the Customs Union" (Interfax, March 5, 7).

That remark displays Moscow's approach to the Customs Union as a Russian-owned project, participation in it being a function of each country's bilateral relations with Russia.

The relevant paragraph in the joint concluding declaration, however, reads: "Respecting the freedom of choice, mechanisms and forms of the countries' participation in economic integration processes, Russia and Ukraine will strive to ensure that this participation does not harm the interests of their bilateral cooperation." Thus, Moscow desists, at least for now, from asking Ukraine to choose between the WTO and the Russian-led Customs Union.

- **Agriculture:** A cryptic remark by Mr. Yanukovich in Moscow seemed to allude to a Russian-Ukrainian grain cartel. This idea has tentatively been broached earlier, but was not developed. Mr. Yanukovich said in Moscow that Ukraine, always a great breadbasket, "must use the huge potential of our agricultural sector" together with Russia. He suggested that "joint actions in the grain market" be included in the action plan, which is to be prepared for the meeting of the Russia-Ukraine Interstate Commission in the first half of this year (Interfax, March 5).

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Ukrainian school in Crimea in high demand

RFE/RL

SYMFEROPOL, Ukraine – The only school in Symferopol where all subjects are taught in Ukrainian is seeking to offer new classes to meet high demand, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported.

Crimea is a predominantly Russian-speaking part of southern Ukraine. The Symferopol Ukrainian Gymnasium was established in the Crimean capital in 1997 on the model of a European high school, based on 11 grades. It has more than 800 students.

It began accepting applications for the 2010-2011 academic year on March 6 and in one day had more prospective students than seats in its classrooms.

The Symferopol Board of Education has thus far allowed the school to have only two classes of 30 first-grade students every year. The school has asked for an additional 30 slots for first-graders due to the increased demand.

"This is really a referendum on Ukrainian education in a Ukrainian environment," school principal Natalia Rudenko told RFE/RL, adding that "people are voting [on the language issue] with their feet."

Ms. Rudenko said the best way to satisfy the demand for Ukrainian-language schools in Symferopol would be to open such schools in each of the city's three districts.

But Irina Shykhorieva, the director of



The Ukrainian-language high school in Symferopol, Crimea.

the Symferopol Board of Education, said that Ukrainian-language education needs are being satisfied by Ukrainian-language classes taught in mainly Russian-language schools on an "as-needed" basis.

The school's administration told RFE/RL that the majority of the students do not come from ethnic Ukrainian families but are mostly from Russian, Tatar or ethnically mixed backgrounds. Many of the students are from wealthy families.

Ms. Rudenko said the admissions pro-

cess will continue until September 1. She said they might even ask the city's Board of Education for permission to put together a fourth first-grade class of 30 students.

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U.S. Helsinki Commission hearing focuses on Ukraine

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON – The new government of Ukraine, which came into power with the election in February of President Viktor Yanukovich, should concentrate on conducting some basic domestic reforms if it wants to succeed as an independent nation and continue expanding its relationship with the West, and the U.S. government should continue to help Ukraine in this effort.

Those were some of the major recommendations oft repeated during the first Congressional hearing devoted exclusively to Ukraine since the 2010 presidential election. The hearing, held by the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission, was held on March 16 in the Capitol Building.

Titled “Ukraine: Moving Beyond Stalemate?” the session examined the scope of new challenges faced by Ukraine and their implications for U.S. policy. It was chaired by Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.) and Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (D-Fla.), who heard expert testimony from Daniel A. Russell, deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs; Damon Wilson, vice-president and director of the International Security Program at the Atlantic Council; and Anders Aslund, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

“President Yanukovich will need to accelerate economic and political reforms, tackle systemic corruption and overcome the rule of law deficit, including building up an underdeveloped judiciary to strengthen [Ukraine’s] independence,” Committee Chairman Cardin said in his opening remarks. “Such reforms will reduce its vulnerability to outside pressures and bring it closer to its stated goals of European integration.”

Rep. Hastings, the commission co-chairman, noted that Ukraine “has developed an open and pluralistic political system and media freedoms have expanded.” Having served as deputy head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly election observation mission in February and observed two other national elections in Ukraine as well, he added, “Although Ukraine has had good elections now for the last five years, I can tell you that you need more than good elections to make a functioning democracy.”

Presenting the U.S. government’s point of view, Deputy Assistant Secretary Russell stressed that Ukraine matters to the United States and to Europe; it has a leadership role in building democracy in that region. And, while the election was a defeat for the Orange Revolution’s leaders, it was not a defeat of the Orange Revolution’s ideals.

“The peaceful expression of the political will of the Ukrainian voters would be viewed as another step in strengthening democracy in Ukraine,” he said.

As for the future development of U.S.-Ukraine relations, Mr. Russell stressed that Washington “will not waiver in its support of a strong and independent Ukraine.” The Obama administration’s efforts to improve its ties with Russia, he added, do not threaten its relationship with Ukraine.

Among the U.S. policy priorities with respect to Ukraine, Mr. Russell noted that the United States stands ready to help it reach an assistance agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), reform its energy sector, strengthen bilateral business ties, continue cooperating in the area of nuclear non-proliferation, and strengthen bilateral security and defense cooperation, which would be enhanced by the Ukrainian Parliament passing legislation allowing joint military exercises and training activities on its territory.

Some of these recommendations were



Dr. Anders Aslund speaks at the Helsinki Commission’s March 16 hearing on Ukraine.

echoed by Mr. Wilson of the Atlantic Council, who also pointed to what one should look out for in Ukraine’s regional relations. Among them: “Does Ukraine use its regional weight to support Moldova and a resolution of Transdnistria? How Mr. Yanukovich handles ties with Belarusian leader [Alyaksandr] Lukashenka and Georgian President [Mikheil] Saakashvili will offer insights into the regional role that Ukraine will play, as well as the role that it wants to assume within GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova).”

Nonetheless, the most important factor by which President Yanukovich will be judged domestically and internationally, he added, will be what he achieves domestically: “Mr. Yanukovich’s reception in Western capitals will be determined by whether he governs effectively, protects democratic advances, stabilizes and grows the economy and ensures

Ukraine is a reliable energy partner.”

Dr. Aslund recently chaired an international experts commission that looked into the problems Ukraine now faces. Its report, “Proposals for Ukraine 2010: Time for Reforms,” makes a number of recommendations.

“And our contention is that Ukraine today has a unique possibility to move ahead because a new presidential election, with a new government, it’s always a good time to make reform. And on top of that,” Dr. Aslund added, “if you have been badly beaten by an economic crisis and are coming out of it, then you can act.”

He said the Kyiv government should prioritize its reforms and implement them with the help of the IMF and other relevant international organizations, as well as the United States. On top of that list

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Exhibit...

(Continued from page 1)

to include more artifacts from Stockholm, where Mr. Savchuk was working on a Swedish grant and was able to identify many previously unidentified items, such as the flag of Hetman Khmelnytsky.

The first issue faced by The Ukrainian Museum was how to cover the expenses for this ambitious undertaking, including costly insurance for the rarities to be transported and displayed.

Enter Self Reliance (New York) Federal Credit Union.

The credit union provided a generous donation of \$75,000. Self Reliance President and CEO Bohdan Kurczak underlined the credit union’s “pleasure and responsibility to bring an exhibit of this stature to New York.” He explained:

“Nine months ago talks about funding began with Self Reliance. As caretakers of our community’s money, we had to understand how costly this venture is and what was required.”

Mr. Kurczak related that the credit union – which has already donated more than \$1 million to The Ukrainian Museum, including funds for its new state-of-the-art building, as well as several exhibits – “was interested in partnering once again with the museum.”

“It was a very easy decision for us to make to be able to bring something this significant to the museum,” Mr. Kurczak continued. “What better way to thank our members than to bring to the New York area an exhibit of artifacts that no one here has ever seen or will see again!”

Also playing a key role in bringing this unique exhibit to New York is AeroSvit airlines, which has agreed to provide free transport of artifacts from Ukraine.

Included in the exhibit, which is designed by Volodymyr Taran of Kyiv, will be such historic items as hetmans’ flags, maces and other regalia; correspondence and maps; and religious artifacts owned and/or funded by Ukraine’s hetmans.

In addition, The Ukrainian Museum exhibit will show how the Ukrainian diaspora marked anniversaries of the Kozak state and how it revered its leaders. Among the items on display will be various stamps, banners, flags and memorabilia related to anniversary commemorations and the Hetman state.

Readers may ask: Why this attention on Ukraine and Sweden of the 17th-18th centuries?

The exhibit’s curator, Mr. Savchuk,



Prof. Jaroslaw Leshko (right), president of the board of trustees of The Ukrainian Museum, and Maria Shust, the museum’s director, with President and CEO Bohdan Kurczak of Self Reliance (New York) Federal Credit Union, the major sponsor of the exhibit “Ukraine and Sweden: At the Crossroads of History.”

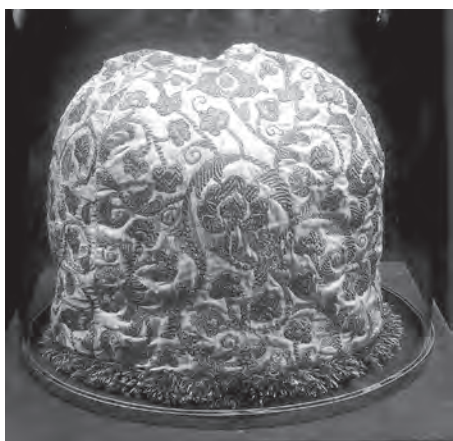
explains: “October 2007 marked the 350th anniversary of the signing of the 1657 Treaty of Korsun, in which Sweden recognized Ukraine as ‘a free people, subject to no one.’ March 2009 saw the 300th commemoration of a 1709 treaty that sealed their military-political union and included Sweden’s agreement not to accept peace with Moscow until Ukraine was freed from Russian rule.” The two agreements, he underscores, “were defining moments in Ukraine’s development as a modern sovereign state.”

And, as Prof. Leshko writes in a letter to museum supporters, “‘Ukraine-

Sweden: At the Crossroads of History’ will become a living historical document demonstrating to the American public and the younger generation of Ukrainian Americans that the battle to preserve Ukraine’s independence was already being fought, by Hetman Mazepa and his troops, 300 years ago.”

The exhibit will be on view through October 31.

NEXT WEEK: Curator Yuriy Savchuk provides a closer look at the exhibit “Ukraine-Sweden: At the Crossroads of History.”



Hat of Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky (17th century; silk, satin, silver thread, embroidery), on loan from the National Museum of History of Ukraine in Kyiv.



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Local Ukrainians clean up park at Troy's Shevchenko monument



Cleaning up the urban park that is home to Troy's monument to Taras Shevchenko, (from left) are: Slavko Tysiak (Bratstvo president and chairman of UNA's Auditing Committee), Mykola Fil (UNA Branch 13 secretary and UNA advisor), Taras V. Myshchuk (Bratstvo secretary and president of the Ukrainian-American Citizens Club in Watervliet) and two of the Bratstvo's newest members, Boris Matviyiv and Roman Povorosnyk.

TROY, N.Y. – Several members of the St. Nicholas Brotherhood Society/UNA Branch 13 (Bratstvo) gathered on March 5 to clean-up the small urban park where a monument dedicated to Taras Shevchenko was erected in 1988.

Shevchenko (March 9, 1814 - March 10, 1861) is an iconic figure with unmatched significance for the Ukrainian nation. A poet, artist and humanist who awakened the national consciousness of his people, Shevchenko is known as Ukraine's national bard. He was also a member of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius Brotherhood, a loosely organized society whose aim was to transform the social order of that time according to the Christian principles of justice, freedom, equality and brotherhood.

On March 9, the Ukrainian community living in New York State's Capital District joined others around the globe in celebrating Shevchenko's birthday.

Troy, N.Y., located within New York State's Capital District, is one of the early communities settled by Ukrainians in this country in the 1880s. In 1895, through the initiative of several energetic men, the Bratstvo was organized. This Bratstvo, which marks its 115th anniversary on December 5, 2010, has the distinction of being the first Ukrainian organization in the Troy area.

Today, the Bratstvo has 50 members and meets regularly in the neighboring city of Watervliet, N.Y., continuing to fulfill a relevant role in the area's Ukrainian community.

Re: Proposals to the UNA Convention

In accordance with the UNA By-Laws, Article 17, all branches, district committees and individual members are invited to submit their proposals for the good and welfare of the association to the UNA Executive Committee. These proposals will be reviewed, and approved or revised, by the Executive Committee, which will then recommend them to the UNA Convention's Committee on Revisions of By-Laws for its consideration. That committee will then recommend to the convention what action should be taken. Please address such proposals to the Ukrainian National Association, Att'n: Executive Committee, 2200 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Tabachnyk in charge

Throughout his presidential campaign, Viktor Yanukovich accused his Orange opponents of dividing Ukraine by exacerbating ethnic and linguistic tensions and mishandling sensitive issues of language and history. Yet, in appointing Dmytro Tabachnyk as minister of education and science, the newly elected president did more to exacerbate tensions and divide the country than any of his Orange predecessors.

The Education Ministry is among the most critical government bodies in any state, with unparalleled power in influencing a nation's next generation of citizens. With Mr. Tabachnyk in charge, we can expect a generation of self-loathing Ukrainians with no sense of self-respect or self-identity.

While eastern and southern Ukrainians may not have appreciated Mr. Tabachnyk's predecessor, Ivan Vakarchuk, former rector of Ivan Franko National University, this experienced and respected pedagogue never made defamatory or derogatory comments about his own country or people. Mr. Tabachnyk, on the other hand, is openly contemptuous of ethnically conscious Ukrainians and the people of Ukraine's Halychyna region, whom he disparaged as lackeys who barely learned how to wash their hands.

The new education minister's contempt for Halychany knows no bounds, and his remarks indicate that he fantasizes, and perhaps even plots, the separation of this region from "greater Ukraine." He insults the "greater Ukrainians" as well – they were dreaming of selling salo (pork fat) when voting for independence in 1991, only to become disappointed when it turned out that Russian oil and natural gas were more valuable.

These are the valuable insights of a doctor of history, who somehow earned his degree in 1995 while serving as the Presidential Administration chair for Leonid Kuchma. A hanger-on to Ukraine's most corrupt politicians, he has never held a teaching position.

Dr. Tabachnyk isn't a loose-lipped fool. In the last five years, a deliberate strategy has emerged in Ukraine to demonize western Ukrainians, and ethnically conscious Ukrainians, as radicals and extremists who speak an outdated peasant tongue and consider fascists and Nazis their heroes. This strategy is aimed at keeping the majority of Ukrainians thinking in Russian and identifying themselves with the Russian Federation as part of the Kremlin's goal of building a Eurasian empire.

Ukrainian intellectuals, such as Dr. Oleh Soskin of the Institute of Society Transformation and Dr. Myroslav Marynovych of the Ukrainian Catholic University, believe Mr. Tabachnyk's appointment is the launch of the Kremlin plot to retake Ukraine, once and for all, and keep it in its sphere of influence. Assaults on Ukrainian identity, ethnicity, language and culture will only grow fiercer, in their view.

That Mr. Yanukovich has placed this hate-monger in a position of high authority only serves to further discredit his illegally formed government.

Mr. Tabachnyk's proposal to reduce the role of standardized testing in college admissions eliminates one of the few areas of progress achieved during the Orange era and sets Ukraine back to the post-Soviet era of corruption in higher education. For all his pro-Russian leanings, Mr. Vakarchuk's predecessor, Stanislav Nikolayenko of the Socialist Party of Ukraine, never went so far as to derail the Western-oriented reforms being introduced in Ukrainian education. Yet Mr. Tabachnyk has the gall to scrap seven years of work, disregarding widespread support for standardized testing among students and parents alike.

Meanwhile, proposals to allow students to take the exams in Russian only ensures that another generation of Ukrainians will be incapable of speaking, reading and communicating in the Ukrainian language, which suits the Kremlin just fine.

Perhaps the most disturbing development in this episode is the decision by more than 15 university rectors in Kyiv to sign a letter released on March 18 in support of Mr. Tabachnyk, among them the leaders of the (previously) well-regarded Shevchenko National University and Kyiv Polytechnic University. Instead of using their international prestige to protest Mr. Tabachnyk's appointment, the decision of Rectors Leonid Huberskyi and Mykhailo Zhurovskyi to sign this letter is a complete capitulation of academic values.

NEWS AND VIEWS

A journey to Ukraine, and a promise kept

In November of last year, Executive Producer Luba Poniatyszyn Keske and Co-Producer Maya Lew, who are part of the production team for the documentary film "Holodomor: Ukraine's Genocide," flew to Ukraine to screen the final version of the 90-minute film to audiences there. (The film has English narration, which was dubbed in the Ukrainian language.)

The documentary, which utilizes archival footage taken from the regions in Ukraine most devastated by the Holodomor – Kyiv, Cherkasy, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and Dnipropetrovsk – was shown in Ukraine under the patronage of the Institute of National Memory of Ukraine.

The film's strength lies in the interviews and stories of survivors and those who witnessed the genocide, film and photo documentation from the 1930s, as well as commentaries from historians and Holodomor experts in Ukraine, the United States and Canada, including Prof. Taras Hunczak, professor emeritus of Rutgers University.

"Holodomor: Ukraine's Genocide" is now in its post-production phase, which involves completing finishing touches that will bring the film up to a production value that is acceptable for theaters and distribution. The producers are actively seeking worldwide theatrical, television and DVD distribution. The goal of the film-makers is to make the documentary available to libraries, high schools and universities, along with an accompanying curriculum.

Screenings of the film are to be held at Cleveland State University on Thursday, March 25, at 2 p.m. and Saturday, March 27, at 7 p.m. in the MC Auditorium. The screenings are being co-sponsored by the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio and the CSU Michael Schwartz Library. (For more information readers may call 216-875-9734 or e-mail Maria Kvit Flynn at mariaflynnohio@aol.com.)

Ms. Lew noted that, within the next three months, producers hope to show the film in major U.S. cities to Ukrainian communities as a thank-you to all donors and supporters of the film.

What follows is an account of the production team's experiences in Ukraine in November 2009.

by Walter Keske

LOS ANGELES – A promise made in 2008 to the people of Ukraine was kept by film-makers of the feature-length doc-

umentary film "Holodomor: Ukraine's Genocide." The film, directed by Bobby Leigh, was produced in Hollywood to educate the Western world and in memory of the innocent millions who were deliberately starved to death, for those never born and in honor of the survivors.

Executive Producer Luba Poniatyszyn Keske and Co-Producer Maya Lew flew to Ukraine the week of the Holodomor commemoration in November of 2009 to make good on the team's promise to survivors to screen this dynamic and moving documentary for them.

Arriving in Kyiv on Monday, November 23, 2009, Ms. Lew and Mrs. Keske were joined by Viktoriya Hubska, the film's in-country production coordinator whose offices are located in the center of Ukraine's capital, and her colleague and co-production coordinator Iryna Mykolayenko.

Mrs. Hubska has worked closely with the film-makers since 2008 in connecting them with Ukraine's Ministry of Culture and Institute of National Memory to secure locations of villages devastated by the genocide, locate names of survivors and organize access to the Holodomor archives in Ukraine. She also assisted Mr. Leigh, Ms. Lew, Marta Tomkiw, producer of the documentary, and their crew during the filming of "Holodomor" at various locations in Ukraine in the spring of 2008.

Appropriately, the first showing of the documentary was scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2009, at the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy. Arriving at the prestigious university, the four women were ushered into a large hall where preparations for a memorial table with flowers and candles in memory of the victims had begun. Shortly thereafter, several camera crews arrived along with the press, followed by historians who appear in the documentary, survivors and guests. Within a half hour the hall was filled to capacity.

Mrs. Keske and Ms. Lew welcomed the audience and extended warm greetings on behalf of Mr. Leigh, Ms. Tomkiw and Executive Producer Nestor Popowych. And then, the lights were dimmed and the film lit up the large screen.

The audience sat in silence through the film even as the end credits rolled by. When the lights went on, Mrs. Keske broke the silence by inviting several of

(Continued on page 27)

March
23
2009

Turning the pages back...

Last year, on March 23, 2009, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America released a statement on the eve of the NATO summit, held on April 3-4, 2009, in Baden-Baden and Kehl, Germany, and Strasbourg, France.

President George H.W. Bush's description of a "Europe, whole and free," the statement claimed, should include Ukraine, "for without it, Europe could once again be riddled with divisions and unnecessary dilemmas."

The statement recalled Ukraine's record as a staunch ally of the West and the United States, in particular, by participating in NATO-led peacekeeping operations. Ukraine was one of the first post-Soviet republics to voluntarily relinquish its nuclear arsenal, the world's third largest stockpile, and joined the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon state.

In 2008, then presidential candidate Barack Obama wrote: "I fully support the efforts of Ukraine's citizens to build a stable, independent and democratic Ukraine, integrated into Europe and contributing to trans-Atlantic security. The United States must work closely with our European allies to accelerate and deepen Ukraine's integration into the West. Ukraine is ready for a NATO Membership Action Plan [MAP]; I pledge to work with America's allies to build agreement among them for taking this next key step in Ukraine's efforts to earn its

(Continued on page 30)



In Kyiv, Holodomor survivor Tetiana Opanasyvna Karpenko is flanked by Luba Keske (left) and Maya Lew, executive producer and co-producer, respectively, of the documentary film "Holodomor: Ukraine's Genocide."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Of oligarchs and patriots

Dear Editor:

The February 21, issue of The Ukrainian Weekly arrived when I was reading a new (and very good) book by Anders Aslund, "Ukraine: How Ukraine Became a Market Economy and Democracy" (Washington: Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2009).

In that issue of The Weekly, Canadian columnist Oksana Bashuk Hepburn bashes Ukrainian oligarchs in general, and Viktor Pinchuk in particular. After reading Ms. Bashuk I went back to the Aslund book, whose author has had a close-up, professional view of the Ukrainian economy since before independence. Dr. Aslund contends that only the oligarchs could have pulled the Ukrainian economy out of the Soviet debacle.

"Only Ukrainian and Russian oligarchs," he writes, "appear able to restructure large Soviet industrial enterprises, which requires peculiar skills" (p. 111). Ukrainian oligarchs bought up these destroyed assets cheap and, unlike the foreign businessmen, knew how to make them go again, without state support. Dr. Aslund admits that it was the absence of strong legal institutions in Ukraine, that required oligarchs (p.110). And, during the 1998 economic crisis, Ukraine fared better than Russia. Today, notes Dr. Aslund, "Ukrainian oligarchic corporations EastOne and SCM (that's Mr. Pinchuk and Rinat Akhmetov) have excelled in buying international services of all kinds, notably auditing and management services, while the state companies resisted doing so." (Russia, on the other hand, destroyed the Western-style Yukos energy corporation and put its founder, oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky, in prison.)

Since Ms. Hepburn writes "From a Canadian angle" I am surprised at her disdain for oligarchs. Maybe she is not old enough to remember, but the building of Trans-Canada Pipeline in the 1950s was a major oligarchic operation. People in the know bought shares of this enterprise for pennies and, when construction started, sold them for big dollars. The benefit was that eastern Canada received cheap natural gas from western Canada. The main manager of this undertaking, the man who rounded up the oligarchic investors and pushed through construction, was a great Canadian statesman, C.D. Howe (incidentally, a native of the United States). Canadian Pacific Railway? Ahem – oligarch-built.

Ms. Hepburn seems to begrudge Mr. Pinchuk's \$120 million home in London, and I ask why? If a Ukrainian can afford to live like that, let's all be proud of it. As far as I know Mr. Pinchuk pays regular salaries to his employees and pays for serious international conferences on

Ukraine.

Igor Kolomoysky is a buddy of our own former ambassador and media mogul Ronald Lauder. Good for him. Today Mr. Lauder knows what Ukraine is all about and has serious investments there.

Mr. Akhmetov may be a Russian-speaking Tatar, but Ukraine's interests are close to his heart. All of these oligarchs have contributed to the market economy and democracy in Ukraine.

"True" Ukrainian patriots are just not good businesspeople – as we have seen all over Ukraine where true patriots took charge. (Lviv's Elektron enterprise and LAZ – the Lviv bus plant – always come to mind).

R.L. Chomiak
Washington

Good questions for the oligarchs

Dear Editor:

Kudos to Oksana Bashuk Hepburn for the very informative and courageous "hard questions" she leveled at Ukrainian oligarchs (February 21).

I know of no "oligarchs" who have earned their huge fortunes by investing and earning it through honest means. They have all become wealthy by picking up assets belonging to the Ukrainian people at ridiculously low prices (with the aid of Western financiers), or who bribed and strong-armed their way to fame and fortune. Many are little more than thugs and thieves wrapped in "silk stockings."

Ms. Hepburn is insisting on their accountability - not only through some self-serving "philanthropic" gimmickry - but in direct support to Ukrainians who have been dispossessed of these assets. My hope is that Ukrainians in Ukraine will begin raising the same "hard questions" that Ms. Hepburn does.

George Woloshyn
Linden, Va.

We welcome your opinion

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

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

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

Quotable notes

"We need to create a united, integrated nation, and that means we must have one common language. Everyone must speak the state language, Ukrainian."

"The Ukrainian state must use the powers of central government to promote the primacy of Ukrainian through the education system, the media, courts, culture and so on. All states do this, and for us it's a matter of national urgency."

– Pavlo Movchan, head of the Prosvita Society, as quoted on March 15 by the Christian Science Monitor in a story headlined "Ukrainian vs. Russian language: two tongues divide former Soviet republic."

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Obama's "perfect" year

The "perfect" candidate who became the "perfect" president has now completed a "perfect" year.

President Barack Obama's first year was perfect, an A, not a B plus effort as he told Oprah Winfrey. I give him an A because he has been open and honest about his plans. He promised to "transform" America, and during his first year he has tried mightily.

President Obama unveiled his agenda openly and courageously in his address to Congress on February 24, 2009. According to Charles Krauthammer, his remarks suggested the fundamental restructuring of health care.

Despite dozens of TV appearances, pleas, explanations by the president, as well as a summit with Republicans – all controlled, along with the Congress – by our president, some 60 percent of the American polity still oppose the health bill. To his credit, Mr. Obama pushes on. Some have called him Captain Ahab. What's wrong with that? The skipper of the Pequod persevered, and that is Mr. Obama in a nutshell.

The bill mandates a \$400 million cut in Medicare. So it's bye-bye, Baba, and dump Dido too. How else are we to control costs? It doesn't matter. Canada has become our model and, as Ukrainian Canadians have explained to us on the pages of The Weekly, Canadians live longer than Americans and their health care is the best in the world. Never mind that last year some 33,000 Canadians with serious ailments came to the United States for treatment because they couldn't wait. This does not include the Canadian prime minister, of course. He did wait – until 2010 – to come here for heart surgery.

If Canada is not your choice, there's always Cuba. Katie Couric, Eleanor Clift and Barbara Walters all praised Castro's health program in 1992, 2000 and 2002, respectively. And those of you who are worried about abortion being out, don't be. It's in!

The bill will help the uninsured, you say, the 46 million Americans who the Census Bureau tells us are uninsured on a typical day. Right. According to the Business and Media Institute, 10 million of them are non-citizens. Also, millions of that number earn enough to be able to afford health insurance: some 17 million make at least \$50,000 a year; 8.4 million made up to \$74,000 and 9.1 million made more than \$75,000. That leaves 2 million uninsured who cannot afford health insurance out of a population of some 315 million Americans. They need help so let's put the federal government in charge.

In 2008, Big Labor invested half a billion dollars in electing Mr. Obama and the current Congressional leadership. The pay-off is on the way in the form of the soon-to-be enacted Employee Free Choice Act. No more secret ballots regarding unionization of the workplace. It's time for the private sector, only 7.2 percent unionized, to match the 40 percent plus unionization mark reached by government employees. We all know that unionization has resulted in better government productivity as well as lower taxes. Just look at how much the UAW has done for the U.S. auto industry.

And then there's the budget. According to the Congressional Budget Office, Mr. Obama's proposed budget would leave us

with a deficit of \$1.5 trillion this year alone. During the next 10 years deficits would add some \$8.5 trillion to the national debt. Interest payments alone would amount to \$800 billion during this same period. As soon as the \$787 billion stimulus package kicks in, all will be well. Sure. Where did the money go? No one knows exactly. Mr. Obama basically took over GM a year ago and the automaker is still in trouble. Forget Chrysler, another Obama takeover that has yet to work.

A few more stimulus packages, similar to the first \$787 billion stimulus, will put everything back on track. Forget unemployment figures.

President Obama is one politician who keeps his promises. He promised to close Gitmo and he's ready to do so. He's also ready to bring terrorists to justice on American soil, in New York City, for example. Personally, I would have preferred the Detroit area, which has a large Islamic population. Jury selection would have included co-religionists, guaranteeing a fair trial by one's peers. The Islamic world would have seen how fair we really are and Jihad would end.

Mr. Obama's first foreign trips were barn burners. He broke bread with fellow "progressives" right here in our hemisphere. During the Summit of the Americas last April, Mr. Obama hugged Hugo Chavez, who is busily transforming Venezuela, and later thanked him for the book "Open Veins of Latin America" by Eduardo Galeano, a progressive writer from Uruguay. His book outlined South American "suffering" as a result of rapacious American colonialist policies. Our president promised to read the book and then hugged that Sandinista progressive Daniel Ortega, who is still trying to transform Nicaragua.

What does all of this have to do with our community? Lots. Ukrainian Americans spent much time and treasure to support Mr. Obama, and that was good. We should be visible in America's political arena. Unfortunately, no Ukrainians have been appointed to significant posts in the Obama administration. No Ukrainian Americans, moreover, were appointed by President Obama to the U.S. delegation attending the recent inauguration of Viktor Yanukovich. Nor was Secretary of State Hillary Clinton a member. She did, however, manage to recently attend the inauguration of the new president of Uruguay, a man who was once "commandante" of a leftist guerrilla group. Perhaps there was a State Department miscue. Ukraine and Uruguay both begin with the letter "U," so maybe Secretary Clinton was really supposed to go to Ukraine.

I hate to bring this up, but five years ago I had the honor and privilege to be a member of the U.S. delegation to the presidential inauguration of Viktor Yushchenko. The delegation, appointed by President George W. Bush, was headed by then-Secretary of State Colin Powell and included two other members of the Ukrainian American community. But that was during the bad Bush years, so it doesn't count.

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

Unloved but unbowed, Viktor Yushchenko leaves office

by Gregory Feifer
RFE/RL

PART II

Anger in Moscow

By 2006, President Viktor Yushchenko had lost a large amount of power to constitutional reforms he'd accepted during negotiations to settle the political crisis of 2004. But he maintained control over foreign policy, and with it Ukraine's drive to join NATO.

Most Ukrainians opposed the NATO effort, especially in the industrial, Russian-speaking east of the country that had backed Viktor Yanukovich and wanted closer ties with Russia.

Moscow also vehemently objected to policies it saw as giving the West influence over former Soviet territory in its own backyard. The Kremlin feared the Orange Revolution would provide a model to those Russians chafing under its own authoritarian rule.

Russia had awarded Ukraine a five-year, highly subsidized natural gas contract in 2004 meant to boost then-Prime Minister Yanukovich's presidential bid. But after the pro-Western opposition came to power, Moscow issued a fourfold price increase. When Kyiv balked and last-minute negotiations broke down, Russia cut off supplies during a bitterly cold winter. A second shut-off last year lasted three weeks, disrupting supplies to millions in other European countries.

President Yushchenko's championing of the Ukrainian language and historical revisionism further taxed Ukraine's deeply strained relations with its centuries-long former imperial master. Chief among controversial topics was a calamitous 1932 Famine that Ukrainians call the Holodomor – partly

brought on by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin's collectivization of agriculture across the USSR – that Mr. Yushchenko called a genocide against Ukrainians.

Sociologist Iryna Bekeshkina says Mr. Yushchenko believes Ukrainians' most important task is to learn values from their own history.

"He believes nation-building is the main thing, the formation of the Ukrainian nation based on the past," Mr. Bekeshkina says. "But most people haven't accepted that, they want to live for today and tomorrow."

Nationalism controversy

President Yushchenko stirred controversy again in January by bestowing the title Hero of Ukraine on an insurgent army leader who fought against the Soviets before his assassination by the KGB in Munich in 1959.

But many in eastern Ukraine denounce Stepan Bandera for collaborating with the Nazis during World War II. The Simon Wiesenthal Center, a U.S. Jewish human rights group, criticized Mr. Yushchenko, saying Bandera's followers were linked to the deaths of thousands of Jews.

Mr. Yushchenko's move also caused an outcry in Poland, which has done much to repair traditionally antagonistic relations with Kyiv. Polish President Lech Kaczynski, who says Bandera is responsible for the mass killing of Poles, criticized Mr. Yushchenko for putting "current political interests" over "historical truth."

Mr. Yushchenko dismisses the criticism against him. In a characteristically unbending assessment last month, he defended his presidency in an interview with RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service.

"I'll never bow my head and say I failed in some way during these past five years," he said. "I gave this nation what it needs. If

it can understand that, it will be its salvation. If it can't, we'll have to spend another 15 to 20 years under Mr. Yanukoviches and Ms. Tymoshenkos, under a Kremlin project, just like under Kuchma."

Orange Revolution repudiation

It was one of President Yushchenko's final decisions in office that his burgeoning number of critics say drove the final nail into the coffin of his moribund reputation as a reformer.

Eliminated from Ukraine's presidential election after winning just 5 percent of the vote in the first round, Mr. Yushchenko signed a law changing the voting rules three days before the runoff between Yulia Tymoshenko and Mr. Yanukovich. The new rules, initiated by Mr. Yanukovich's Party of Regions, scrapped the requirement for a quorum of observers from all sides to approve counts at each polling station. Ms. Tymoshenko called the legislation a "death warrant" for Ukrainian democracy.

It was one of several last-minute moves that were seen to hurt Ms. Tymoshenko's chances and that prompted rumors Mr. Yushchenko had forged a secret agreement with Mr. Yanukovich to undermine Ms. Tymoshenko at any cost.

But it was Mr. Yushchenko's instruction to his supporters to vote "against all" instead of for Ms. Tymoshenko that many believe tipped the election to Mr. Yanukovich, who won by less than 4 percent.

However expected, Mr. Yanukovich's victory was a jarring repudiation of the pro-Western movement Mr. Yushchenko once led, exposing a country fundamentally split between its east and west.

Few in Kyiv can explain the apparently self-defeating actions of a politician who carried off his previous roles as prime minister and opposition leader with aplomb. There are rumors, none proven, of an affair with Ms. Tymoshenko that ended badly. Others say Mr. Yushchenko was motivated simply by the envy of a man who couldn't stomach being bested in politics by a strong woman.

Mr. Oleh Rybachuk, Mr. Yushchenko's former aide, says he and others told Mr. Yushchenko that fighting with Ms. Tymoshenko would surely end his political career. He also says the president's family members and others in his inner circle contributed to a "vicious circle" of rumors that Ms. Tymoshenko was plotting against him.

Disillusioned Ukrainians

Mr. Yushchenko leaves office with corruption booming, Ukrainians suffering the effects of a devastating economic crisis and the political leadership still in deadlock. Mr. Yanukovich was inaugurated on February 25 with Ms. Tymoshenko accusing him of stealing the election and vowing to fight his promise to remove her as prime

minister.

The state of affairs has left many Ukrainians disillusioned, saying they have almost no trust in politicians or their government and don't believe the Orange Revolution did much beyond offer broken promises.

Even in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv – one of Mr. Yushchenko's biggest support bases – resident Pavel Tereshchuk echoes common opinion, saying he's been severely disappointed by the man he supported in 2004.

"Mr. Yushchenko's ideas and intentions were good, but he wasn't able to accomplish anything," Mr. Tereshchuk says. "Most important, he wasn't able to unite the country and create effective authority. Now there's conflict and complete chaos in Ukraine."

Uncertain future

What place will Mr. Yushchenko occupy in Ukrainian history? Mr. Rybachuk says his legacy was to temporarily unite the opposition and "break down the wall" of the old Kuchma administration.

"He was probably the only chance for us to break down that wall," Mr. Rybachuk says, "because if the result [of the Orange Revolution] were to have been the opposite, we would already be cemented in a Belarusian type of country."

But Rybachuk says Mr. Yushchenko failed to replace the old administration with a new model.

Mr. Yanukovich visited Brussels on his first foreign trip as president, a signal he wants to continue improving relations with the European Union. But Mr. Rybachuk says the Yushchenko presidency has left Ukraine further from achieving his major promise of European integration than it stood immediately after the Orange Revolution.

For his part, Mr. Yushchenko – who during the election appeared to be doing everything possible to make sure Ms. Tymoshenko lost – bitterly complained after casting his ballot in the runoff that Ukrainians would regret any outcome without him as leader.

"I think Ukrainians will be ashamed of their choice," Mr. Yushchenko said, "but that's also democracy."

The president made a quick exit from the ballot station without answering reporters' questions. It was a hasty, dour affair for the man once cheered by hundreds of thousands, and to whom he bequeaths a very uncertain future.

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IN THE PRESS: A controversial coalition

"Caretakers," *The Economist*,
March 12:

"... The process of forming this coalition [in Ukraine's Parliament] was controversial, bordering on bending the Constitution. Having failed to form a conventional coalition with other parties, Mr. [Viktor] Yanukovich [sic] signed a law to allow a coalition to be formed by individual MPs, rather than by factions only, as the Constitution demands. After a few days of busy trading, Mr. Yanukovich's Party of Regions has won over 235 members to its side.

"Under the Constitution the prime minister is nominated by Parliament and then forms a government. But Mr. Yanukovich

has circumvented this 'formality' and de facto appointed his own prime minister and Cabinet. In effect, he has reinstated the presidential power enjoyed by a former president, Leonid Kuchma. And he has managed it without scrapping the constitutional amendment in 2004 that split executive power between the president and the prime minister. The constitutional court is yet to rule on the legitimacy of the coalition, but expectations in Kiev [sic] are that the timing and outcome of its decision will lean towards Mr. Yanukovich. Yet if Mr. Yanukovich decides he wants new parliamentary elections after all, the court may find the coalition illegitimate. ..."

Ukrainian Debutante Balls

Washington School of Ukrainian Studies presents seven debutantes

by Olena Shevchenko

WASHINGTON – The local Ukrainian community gathered on Saturday, February 13, for a traditional celebration of welcoming young ladies into society – a debutante ball. This year, the ball was organized by the Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies of Washington.

The organizing committee was headed by Bohdan Shevchik, who had previously served as the School's treasurer for three years and Oleh Voloshyn, who for several years has been an event organizer. As a result of their vision, excellent organizational skills and successful marketing campaign, the main banquet hall at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel was completely filled. Over 400 persons attended the ball, including seven debutantes and escorts, their families and friends, and members and friends of the Ukrainian community from near and far.

In accordance with tradition, the formal portion of the evening began with a prayer, led by the pastors of several Ukrainian churches in the Washington area: the revs. Robert Hitchens, Taras Lonchyna and Wasyl Kharuk.

The highlight of the evening of course was the presentation of the debutantes. The lovely young ladies, dressed in white gowns and carrying bouquets of red roses, circled the dance floor with their proud fathers, greeting the guests with lovely smiles, while masters of ceremonies Halyna Voloshyn and Roman Ponos introduced them: Maria Hewko, daughter of Margarita and John Hewko, an active Plast member, captain of her school field hockey team; Andrea Hetmansky, daughter of Vanessa and Bohdan Hetmansky



Sandy Wright

Debutantes and their escorts at Washington's debutante ball (from left): Alex Mosko with Lala Chopivsky-Benson, Orest Michel with Maria Hewko, Zenon Smith with Andrea Hetmansky, Dmitri Deychakiwsky with Julianna Romaniuk, Erko Palydowycz with Lesya Chopivsky, Andrew Zwarych with Lialia Szyszka, and Eric Sopko with Tanya Kolybabiuk.

ter of Vanessa and Bohdan Hetmansky (both retired lieutenant colonels of the U.S. Army), accomplished clarinetist and tennis player, member of her school's Christ in Action club; Tatianna Kolybabiuk, daughter of Julia and Orest Kolybabiuk, twice a delegate to the Model United Nations at The Hague, Netherlands, an accomplished athlete; Julianna Romaniuk, daughter of Julia and the late Demetrius Romaniuk, a member

of Plast and St. John's High School Diversity and Mixed Cultures Club, an accomplished athlete; Alexandra Chopivsky, daughter of Anne and Dr. Peter Chopivsky, an active member of Plast, captain of her school basketball team; Lida Chopivsky-Benson, daughter of Lydia and Dr. Randall Benson, an award-winning dancer and SCUBA diving enthusiast, AP and National Merit scholar; Larissa Szyszka, daughter of

Julia and Capt. Stephen Szyszka (U.S. Navy retired), an active member of Plast, accomplished singer.

After the ceremonial presentation, the debutantes danced their first waltz with their escorts, and subsequently with their fathers. The guests, enjoying the beauty of the girls and the dance, exchanged their impressions and socialized. A deli-

(Continued on page 15)

Detroit chapter of Engineers' Society sponsors 46th Winter Ball



Dennis Elliott Photography

Debutantes and their escorts at the Winter Ball sponsored by the Detroit chapter of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America.

by Natalia Lewyckyj

WARREN, Mich. – The 46th Winter Ball and presentation of debutantes, organized by the Detroit chapter of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA), was held on Saturday, February 13, at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren, Mich.

Eleven debutantes were presented to the Ukrainian society: Roxolyana Olya Duzey escorted by Nicholas C. Buhay, Arianna

Katrina Szkilnyk escorted by Nicholas Siokalo, Deanna Andrea Lawrin escorted by Curtis Mann, Ivanna Olena Murskyj escorted by Orest Danylewycz, Justine Dominique Marie Nestorowich escorted by Michael Hnatiuk, Larissa Ivana Taras escorted by Adam Cole, Natalia Sachovska escorted by Bogdan Belei, Natalie Serdiuk escorted by Gregory Markiw, Maria Nadia Klepach escorted by Michael Olshansky, Alexandra

Maria Fedorak escorted by Seamus Kelleher, and Hannah Marie Soroka escorted by Brandon Friant.

Natalia Lewyckyj, president of the Detroit chapter of the UESA, welcomed the guests and presided as the mistress of ceremonies for the evening's events. Mrs. Lewyckyj began her opening remarks by sharing the historic role of the Detroit Winter Ball in the local Ukrainian American com-

munity. She stated that it is noteworthy that over 400 debutantes have been presented to the Ukrainian community in Detroit by UESA since 1959. She then took the occasion to honor past Detroit chapter presidents, of which five were present that evening.

The Winter Ball and presentation of debutantes continues to be an opportunity to bring the community together and to

(Continued on page 14)

Ukrainian Debutante Balls

Philadelphia Ukrainian Engineers' Society hosts its 56th annual ball



Frank Barbera Photography

Debutantes and their escorts (from left) at the Philadelphia's Engineers' Ball: Oksana Vovchuk and Stefan Lesiuk; Alexa Marie Watters and Andrij Wirstiuk; Krystyna Maria Kupicha and Mychaylo Gopka; Oresta Victoria Borodevyc and Nestor Biletsky; Sofiya Mariya Sydoryak and Evan McIntyre; Sandra Zarichny and Nicholas Steven Kuzyk; Xenia Marta Kryluk and Oleh Kramar; Christina Zalucky and Christopher Krochak; Julianna Kateryna Petryk and Alexander Kozak; Yuliya Stupen and Yaroslav Sokolovsky; Nadia Eugenia Korsun and Nicholas Stephen Siokalo; Diana Rozumov and Rostyslav Bukachevskyy, Anastasia Chervonyak and Bohdan Torkit.

by Metodij Boretsky

PHILADELPHIA – The 56th Engineers' Ball of the Philadelphia Branch of the Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America (UESA) was held here on Saturday, February 6, at the Park Hyatt Hotel.

This year's Engineers' Ball, held on the occasion of the 61st anniversary of the Engineers' Society, included the presentation of debutantes, a banquet and ball. The Fata Morgana orchestra provided music for the entertainment of guests.

After the cocktail hour, Dr. Petro

Hewka, head of the Philadelphia Branch of the UESA, opened the event and greeted the guests gathered for this occasion in the Hotel's Grand Ballroom. He also introduced the masters of ceremonies, Danylo Bojcun and Taisa Hewka.

After the formal opening, the dinner and an invocation delivered by the Rev. Ivan Demkiv, 13 debutantes and their escorts were presented.

They were as follows: Oresta Victoria Borodevyc (escorted by Nestor Biletsky), Oksana Vovchuk (Stefan Lesiuk), Alexa Marie Watters (Andrij Wirstiuk), Christina Zalucky (Christopher Krochak), Sandra

Zarichny (Nicholas Steven Kuzyk), Nadia Eugenia Korsun (Nicholas Stephen Siokalo), Xenia Marta Kryluk (Oleh Kramar), Krystyna Maria Kupicha (Mychaylo Gopka), Julianna Kateryna Petryk (Alexander Kozak), Diana Razumov (Rostyslav Bukachevskyy), Sofiya Mariya Sydoryak (Evan McIntyre), Yuliya Stupen (Yaroslav Sokolovsky), and Anastasia Chervonyak (Bohdan Torkit).

The debutantes and their escorts were greeted by Dr. Hewka and introduced by the masters of ceremonies. Dr. Hewka congratulated each debutante and placed sashes on them with the assistance of his

wife, Orysia. Halia Wirstiuk and Ania Bohachevsky-Lonkevych prepared the debutantes for the presentation ceremony.

Debutantes and their escorts began the grand "zabava" with their first dance. Then the parents of the debutantes danced with their daughters and their escorts.

Over 200 people attended the dinner, and more than 100 persons joined them for the dance held afterwards.

The committee that organized the 2010 Engineers' Ball was composed of Dr. Hewka, Metodij Boretsky, Larysa Zayika, Ihor Kovaliv, Orest Shwed, Marko Yarymovych and Myron Bilas.

Pittsburgh UNWLA evening features presentation of debutantes

by Luba Hlutkowsky

PITTSBURGH – It was during a magical evening on Saturday, September 13, in Pittsburgh that five young women were presented to the Ukrainian community at the annual "Vyshyvani Vechornytsi," or an "Evening of Embroidery" sponsored by Branch 27 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America.

The ballroom was adorned with embroidery of many regions of Ukraine and family and friends of the debutantes anxiously awaited the start of the festivities. President Marika Zaliszcuk greeted everyone and congratulated the debutantes, their parents and all those present and wished everyone a great time.

Luba Hlutkowsky, who was in charge of the debutante presentation, called the members of the executive committee to help introduce the debutantes. The young ladies entered the ballroom as their names were called in alphabetical order.

The first to enter the ballroom was Larisa K. Bodnarchuk and her escort, Justin Cole, both students at Shadyside Academy. She is the daughter of Paul and Lesley Bodnarchuk of Ross Township, Pa.

Chrystyna O. Hlutkowsky, a student at Upper St. Clair High School, was escorted by Antony Chirovsky, a student at Central Catholic High School. She is the daughter of Roman Hlutkowsky and Shari Adams Hlutkowsky.

(Continued on page 12)



Kevin Hall

Pittsburgh's debutantes (from left): Olia R. Lysak with Andrij Lasiychuk, Halyna Smereka with Frank Napolitano, Larissa M. Spak with John Harbist, Chrystyna O. Hlutkowsky with Antony Chirovsky and Larisa K. Bodnarchuk with Justin Cole.

Ukrainian Debutante Balls

Rochester ball introduces 10 debutantes to Ukrainian community



Chris Langer

The debutantes and their escorts at the Chervona Kalyna Debutante Ball in Rochester, N.Y.

by Christine Hoshowsky

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Young ladies dressed in white gowns and long gloves, and young men decked out in starched collars, black bow ties and tuxedo jackets, waited to be presented to the Ukrainian American community at the Chervona Kalyna Debutante Ball in the Grand Ballroom of the Radisson Hotel Riverside in Rochester, N.Y., on Saturday, February 6.

The debutantes and their respective escorts were: Shannon Adamczuk with Nicholas Serediuk, Nadia Wallace with Andrew Puhacz, Chrystyna Vysochan with Orest Omelyan, Katya Haiduczok with Dima Shcherbenko, Maria Daniels with Zachary Buniak, Nina Daniels with Oleksander Syzonenko, Khrystyna Dilai with Alec Ulici, Larysa Drocak with Vasili Bushunow, Tatiana Luczyn with William Serediuk Jr. and Oleksandra Sokolova with Paul Klisz.

The evening started with George Hanushevsky welcoming the assembled guests with a brief recollection of the 90-year history – 52 years of which transpired in Rochester – of the traditions of the ball. At the conclusion of his presentation he asked everyone to stand and join in singing “Oy U Luzi Chervona Kalyna.”

The debutantes were beautiful and their escorts were handsome. Each debutante carried a red rose and walked arm in arm with her escort around the dance floor. They bowed politely to the guests as Bohdanna Snihur, the presenter of debutantes, introduced them individually.

Following this, the Very Rev. Archpriest Kiril Angelov, pastor of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Rochester, led the guests in the Lord’s Prayer.

Once the debutantes and their escorts were seated at two head tables, one on either side of the speaker’s podium, the banquet commenced.

Before dessert was served, master of ceremonies Ihor Hoshowsky, a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War, called on the debutantes and their escorts to assume the challenges of life with courage and honor.

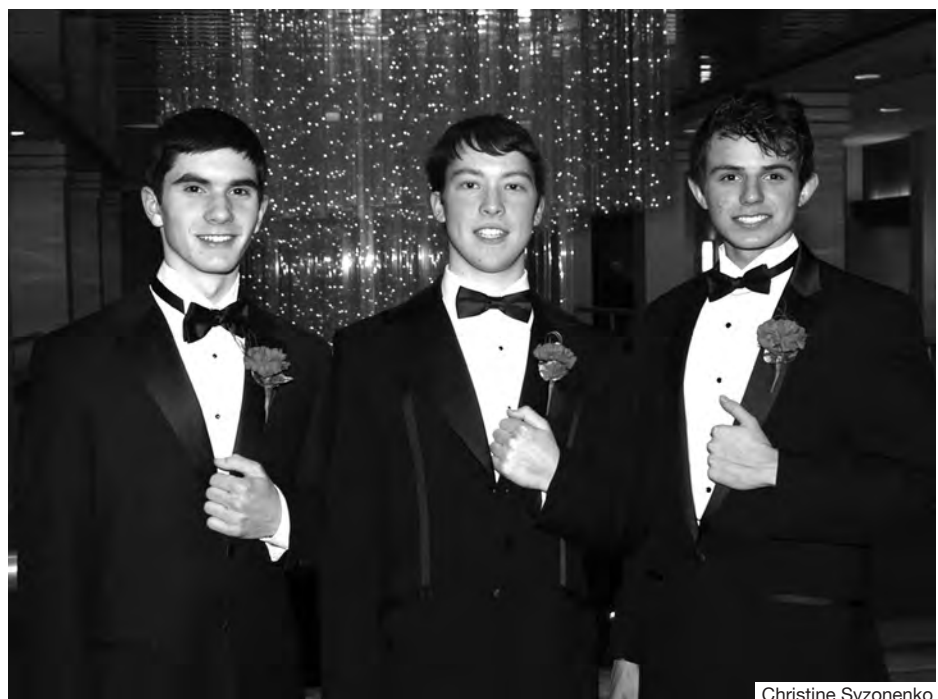
The Chervona Kalyna Debutante Ball in Rochester is co-sponsored by the Ukrainian American Veterans of the Vietnam War, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization,

Ukrainian National Women’s League of America Branch 120 and, with “posthumous representation,” the Rochester Branch of the Brotherhood of Ukrainian Sich Riflemen (Ukrainski Sichovi Striltsi).

The debutantes’ waltz commenced with the father-daughter and mother-escort dance, which was quickly followed by the debutante-escort dance. Soon everyone joined in, dancing to the melodies played by the Fourth Wave Band from Philadelphia.

A special thank you was offered to each of the individuals who made the festive event possible. Among them are: George Hanushevsky, Chair of the Coordinating Committee; Daria Hanushevsky, banquet coordinator; and Helene Snihur, debutante coordinator.

The ball came to an end on a high note with the last dance – the traditional’s “Kolomyika.” To the admiration of their parents, friends, and honored guests, these young Ukrainians of the diaspora stepped out with poise and elegance.



Christine Syzonenko

Three escorts at the deb, Oleksander Syzonenko, Vasili Bushunow and Zachary Buniak, stand ready for their duties.



Christine Syzonenko

A view of the dancing during the “kolomyika.”

Ukrainian Debutante Balls

Chicago branch of UAYA hosts "Malanka" with deb presentation

by Heather Baranivsky
and Kristin Chylak

CHICAGO – The American Ukrainian Youth Association (UAYA), Mykola Pavlushkov Branch in Chicago hosted its annual New Year's Ball, "Malanka" on Saturday, January 23, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile.

Guests arrived for delicious hors d'oeuvres and cocktails in the foyer of the Grand Ballroom. The atmosphere was joyous and friendly, as old and new friends greeted each other throughout the hour. Guests entered the lovely gilded hall and were seated at elegantly set tables. Beautiful commemorative booklets created by Heather Baranivsky and Jaro Chylak were included in the table settings.

The celebration was opened by Irene Czerniuk, master of ceremonies, who greeted the 400 plus guests present.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of 13 lovely debutantes from both the Chicago and Palatine branches of the UAYA. The presentation was choreographed and conducted by Adriana Karawan who also serves as co-choreographer for the Iskra Dance Ensemble of the Dmytro Vitovskyj Branch (Palatine, Ill.), to which many of the debutantes belong.

Each debutante was introduced, receiving a traditional sash and being congratulated by Yarka Abramiuk, President of the Mykola Pavlushkov Branch (Chicago), as well as by Michael Osyka, a leader of the Chicago branch, and Deanna Fedaj, counselor over many years for most of the debutantes of the branch. The debutantes'



2010 debutantes and escorts of the Ukrainian American Youth Association in Chicago.

individual presentations ended with each of them greeting the guests with a deep and graceful bow as their parents looked on, beaming with pride.

The debutantes were: Olenka Berezecky (escort Vasyl Ilchyshyn), Tamara Bozio (escort Jarema Pylypczak), Sophia Fedachtchin (escort Alexander

Ralko), Roxolana Horajsky (escort Michael Olshansky), Orysia Lawrin (escort Vasyl Dobrianski), Victoria Lewytskyj (escort Oles Wasiunec), Hanna Mendyuk (escort Ivan Horajsky), Danielle Owerko (escort Nick Kulas), Tanya Skworch (escort Daniel Wereminsky), Olga Tymouch (escort Markian Popowycz), Areta Wasiunec (escort Marc Zaparaniuk), Roksanna Wasiunec (escort Markian Pylypczak), Natalia Woodbine (escort Alexander Magera).

Ms. Abramiuk greeted all of the guests and their families with warmest wishes for the coming New Year. Congratulating the debutantes, she wished them success as they embark on their path into adulthood. She encouraged them to follow the UAYA's motto for 2010: "As long as you live, dream and search." She encouraged the debutantes to never forget who they are or where they came from, to remember that they are Ukrainian first and always be proud of that.

Ms. Karawan continued with the presentation, calling upon the fathers to lead their daughters in a waltz. The beautifully choreographed dance, ended with a kiss from the fathers on the foreheads of their daughters. The mothers were honored next with each of the debutantes presenting a long-stemmed rose to their mothers.

The spotlight was then on the debutantes and their escorts. They delighted the guests with another wonderfully cho-

reographed dance, interweaving traditional and Ukrainian flavors. Throughout a spirited series of dips, twirls and bows, they covered the entire large dance floor. Their radiance, grace, beauty, elegance and charm were rewarded with extended applause from the guests.

Before dinner, guests were led in prayer by the Very Rev. Bohdan Nalysnyk of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Chicago.

After dinner, guests enjoyed the rest of the evening, by dancing to the sounds of the Hrim band from New York.

At the stroke of midnight, party favors were brought out and friends and acquaintances embraced each other, welcoming the New Year. The Malanka Committee was composed of: Ms. Chylak (chair), members Ms. Baranivsky, Ms. Czerniuk, Nadya Dudycz-DiBartolo, Ms. Karawan, Andrea Mulyk and Deanna Wruskyj.

The American Ukrainian Youth Association, Mykola Pavlushkov Branch, thanked its members for their commitment and hard work throughout the year. Thanks also went out to parents, for their cooperation and for bringing their children to weekly meetings and activities; to its benefactors, for their enthusiastic support and belief in the organization; and to spiritual fathers, for their continued prayers and guidance.

Pittsburgh...

(Continued from page 10)

Olia R. Lysak and her escort, Andriy Lasiychuk, both attend Carlynton High School and both were born in Ukraine. She is the daughter of Roman and Tatyana Lysak of Carnegie, Pa.

Halya Smereka, a student of Chatham University, was escorted by Frank Napolitano. She is the daughter of the Rev. Ivan and Oksana Smereka of Carnegie.

Larissa M. Spak is a student at Chartiers Valley High school. Her escort, John Harbist, attends Duquesne University. She is the daughter of Myron and Barbara Spak of Scott Township, Pa.

After the introductions, each debutant presented her mother with a red rose and spoke a personal message of love and gratitude.

Msgr. George Appleyard, dean of the Central Deanery of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma, delivered the invocation, and the Rev. Father Timothy Tomson, pastor of St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church in McKees Rocks, Pa., delivered the benediction.

After the singing of "Mnohaya Lita" for the debutantes, their escorts and their parents, the debutantes began the "Zabava" with a choreographed waltz and guests danced to the music of the Ostap Stakhiv Orchestra.

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Ukrainian Debutante Balls

California debutante ball raises funds to aid children in Ukraine

by Anne Kokawa Prokopovych

LOS ANGELES – On a clear and balmy evening on Saturday, February 13, in the beach community of Marina del Rey, the CAAU Ball and Presentation of Debutantes featured the formal introduction of four young ladies to the community, as well as honored guests from Ukraine representing the International Charitable Fund Ukraine 3000.

The evening organized by the California Association to Aid Ukraine (CAAU) featured a lively mix of traditional and innovative entertainment and social activities, with the charitable goal to raise funds for programs to aid needy children in Ukraine.

Helping needy children in Ukraine

Nearly 20 years ago, the democratic movements that led to Ukraine's independence from the Soviet Union stirred the local community of Ukrainian American immigrants and descendants to form the California Association to Aid Ukraine. CAAU initially focused on channeling humanitarian relief aid to address critical needs that were basic and immediate.

Over the years, as the nation of Ukraine has evolved, CAAU's efforts have expanded to include projects that leverage modest investments from the local community into lasting positive results for the people of Ukraine. CAAU has also focused on collaborations with partner organizations to combine resources and talents, as exemplified in this year's four featured projects for needy children.

- The Children's Hospital of the Future in Kyiv – First Lady of Ukraine Kateryna Yushchenko served as Honorary Chair of CAAU Ball 2007 to highlight the importance of the Children's Hospital of the Future in Kyiv. In her role as chair of the Supervisory Committee for the International Charitable Fund Ukraine 3000, the first lady articulated her vision to build a state-of-the-art institution that will be a central source of medical assistance to critically ill infants and children in all regions of Ukraine.

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles has responded through its interest in international collaboration and technology transfer to develop the International Healthcare Fellowship Program, in conjunction with Ukraine 3000 and support from CAAU, to provide training that will benefit



California debutantes (bottom row, from left) Bianca Makara, Andrea Natalia Kusina, Marisa Blumer and Alexandra Halyna Korol, and escorts (top row) Esau Huerta, Justin Stasiuk, Bohdan Kosenko and Andrij Soluk.

the Children's Hospital of the Future in Kyiv and improve maternal and child healthcare outcomes. After months of planning and coordination, the first two-week training session was held at CSMC in November 2008 with five Ukrainian physicians in attendance. Other sessions were held in August 2009 and February 15-26 of this year.

- Wheelchairs for Ukraine – Another successful CAAU collaboration has been the partnership of more than 12 years with UCP/Wheels for Humanity to bring mobility, dignity and independence to needy adults and children with disabilities in Ukraine. Deliveries have reached hundreds of needy people in Lviv, Rivne, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, Khmelnytskyi, Volyn, Uzhhorod, Chernivtsi and Kharkiv.

The most recent delivery to Chernivtsi in 2008 was witness to the inadequacy of the medical system in Ukraine to provide adequate mobility assistance to children with special needs. CAAU plans to address the needs of children with physical challenges such as cerebral palsy during the upcoming delivery to Ukraine.

The longer-term vision for the program will establish an anchor location in a major city to expand the partnership to include hospitals and civic leaders to develop a more lasting and integrated presence. During the upcoming delivery in late 2010 or early 2011, these local institutions in Ukraine will take a more active role in coordinating the logistics and preparing to evolve into an on-going program.

CAAU has also initiated a "sponsor a wheelchair" fund-raising initiative. For a minimum contribution of \$75, donors will receive a photograph of the recipient as well as recognition in CAAU publications.

- Ukrainian Little League – In October 2009, CAAU sponsored the housing and awards for the second annual Ukrainian Little League Championships for children age 11-12 in Kremenets. Orphans from regions throughout Ukraine participated in training and competition, as well as travel to local cultural sites.

Founded by Basil Tarasko, scout for the San Diego Padres professional baseball team and coach for the National Baseball Teams of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Little

League is dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged youth in Ukraine through the sport of baseball.

- Orphans in Ukraine – CAAU continues to provide support to orphans in Ukraine with targeted funding for specific projects. For over a decade, most of CAAU's projects for orphans have been made possible with the collaboration with the Committee to Assist Ukrainian Orphans and Children without Parental Care. The committee's founder, Col. John Kark, Ph.D., was orphaned during World War II and was brought to the United States in 1946 by the American Committee to Help European War Orphans. After a distinguished career in the military and education, he has dedicated himself to helping as many orphans in Ukraine as possible, including distributing eyeglasses to orphans in all regions of Ukraine.

Col. Kark, with the Committee to Assist Ukrainian Orphans and Children without Parental Care, has personally delivered CAAU support to orphanages – from school supplies to lavatory facilities. In recent years, CAAU projects have emphasized education, especially the education that can lead to higher education or training in practical skills that can lead to jobs and self-sufficiency after the children graduate from the orphanage.

Program book greetings

The CAAU Ball program book begins with greetings from Mrs. Yushchenko, expressing her appreciation for CAAU's "dedicated efforts and deep commitment to help Ukraine in so many vital areas."

"From teaching orphans to providing wheelchairs to the disabled, from supporting the Kyiv Mohyla Academy to publishing children's books, the California Association to Aid Ukraine has taken on projects that truly make a difference in the lives of Ukrainian citizens. Moreover, your activities provide an excellent example of effective community involvement, and I am certain your association will serve as a role model for Ukrainian grassroots organizations for many years to come. By the way, my children love the book 'Ukrayinske Doshkillia' that you helped Smoloskyp to publish!"

Mrs. Yushchenko specifically commends the "fruitful cooperation that has developed into the International Fellowship Program of Training of Specialists at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and video conferences that will greatly improve the knowledge and skills of Ukrainian doctors and allow them to provide better health care to our neediest children. My foundation and I look forward to working with you on worthwhile projects in the future."

Silent auction

Guests arriving at the 2010 debutante ball enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres as they greeted friends in the silent auction gallery. The silent auction has become an outstanding feature at the annual event, with items ranging from handcrafted pysanky to movie DVDs. Good-natured bidding enlivens the festivities and helps to raise additional funds for the charitable cause.

One of the featured items in the 2010 silent auction was the "Ukrainian Cuisine and Folk Traditions" cookbook, courtesy of the International Charitable Foundation Ukraine 3000, with signed greetings by Mrs. Yushchenko.

Presentation of debutantes

After guests were seated for dinner, CAAU Chair Luba Keske opened the program with introductory remarks before turn-



CAAU board of directors and committees with International Healthcare Fellowship Program participants (first row from left, beginning with second from left) Dr. Vira Pavliuk, Dr. Olena Kreminska, Dr. Tamara Smolenska, Dr. Taras Tkachuk.

(Continued on page 14)

Ukrainian Debutante Balls

Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization introduces its debutantes

by Daria Semanyshyn

WHIPPANY, N.J. – On Saturday, January 30, the Newark branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and its Parents Committee held the traditional Plast Debutante Ball at the Hanover Marriott in Whippany, N.J.

The black-tie event began with a cocktail and hors d'oeuvre reception followed by the presentation ceremony in the hotel's Grand Ballroom.

The evening began with an invocation by the Rev. Leonid Malkov, CSsR, pastor of the St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J. Following opening remarks, masters of ceremonies Lida Moczula and Nestor Olesnycky had the pleasure of introducing into Ukrainian society the 10 young ladies from the Newark Plast branch and Plast members from surrounding areas.

As family, friends and guests anxiously awaited, a graceful promenade began the presentation. The debutantes and their escorts were welcomed by all, as each young lady was introduced by the masters of ceremonies, who highlighted her achievements and interests in the Ukrainian and American communities.

The program included a warming and inspiring welcome from Chrystya Kochan, the head of the Newark Plast branch, as well as a welcome from Olenka Olesnycky, speaking on behalf of the local Plast troop's as their "hurtkova."

Miss Olesnycky fondly reflected on the girls' years together and their true appreciation for being part of this Ukrainian community. On behalf of the debutantes, she graciously thanked their parents and guardians, who raised them to become successful young ladies.

A special thank-you was extended to all the troop counselors who dedicated their time and helped educate the debutantes in the true spirit of the Plast organization, as well as to Dr. Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky and Dr. Lev and Maria Wolansky for their role as dance instructors. Oksana Bauer was also thanked for her dedicated work as choreographer of the promenade and presentation.

The ceremony concluded with the debutantes dancing a traditional waltz with their fathers as the escorts danced with the debutantes' mothers.

The 10 debutantes were: Natalia Hryhorowych with escort Markian Boyko, Nina Zwarycz with escort Stefan Lesiuk, Marta Lewko with escort



Rob Kneller

The 2010 Plast debutantes and their escorts.

Alexander Charchalis, Ivanka Misilo with escort Maksym Kostryk, Katherine Mulyk with escort Toma Mandicz, Olenka Olesnycky with escort Alexander Martynetz, Olya Rozvadovsky with escort Chris Krochak, Alana Smetaniuk with escort Danylo Maksymowych, Christina Temnycky with escort Stephan Kanarsky and Andriy Cybriwsky and escort Paul Tershakovec.

Over 440 guests enjoyed the dinner and over 100 additional guests arrived to dance to the music of Tempo. It was an elegant and magical evening that will leave everlasting memories for the debutantes and their families.

The 2010 Debutante Ball Committee members included Irka Turynsky, Zenia Olesnycky, Laryssa Nahnybida, Ms. Moczula and Daria Semanyshyn.

As in the past, the committee members thanked the Self Reliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union of Newark for its continued support, and funding all printing and advertising costs for the event.



Debutantes and escorts take a break on the dance floor.

Detroit chapter...

(Continued from page 9)

show our youth that we welcome their role within the Ukrainian community, Mrs. Lewyckyj noted.

Over 200 guests were gathered at the Ukrainian Cultural Center. All attention was focused as the debutantes were introduced and their achievements, talents and life goals were shared with the attendees.

Following the formal introductions, the evening's festivities began with the debutantes' first dance with their escorts. The elegant presentation, choreographed by Laryssa Kozak-Letarte and Zina Kozak-Zachary, continued as the debutantes danced with their fathers. The debutantes then presented their mothers with a long-stemmed roses as an expression of love and gratitude.

The formal presentation portion of the evening's events concluded with a toast to the debutantes. Mrs. Lewyckyj addressed the debutantes with an emotional congratulatory message that noted the importance

of the debutantes assuming leadership roles in the Ukrainian community. The debutantes were then congratulated by all with a champagne toast and a resounding "Mnohaya Lita."

Mrs. Lewyckyj then invited the Rev. Daniel Schacoski, pastor and superior of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church, to lead the prayer before dinner.

The festivities continued after dinner, as guests danced to the music of the famed Veseli Chasy of Chicago. The evening was enjoyed by all, with many attendees sharing stories of the numerous Winter Balls the Detroit community has hosted.

The familiar music of this renowned band kept the dance floor busy up to the very last dance, and the success of this evening imparted a certainty that this local Ukrainian tradition will continue well into the future.

The Winter Ball Committee comprised: Dianna Korduba-Sawicky, Mrs. Lewyckyj, Dr. Ksenia Kozak, Ms. Kozak-Letarte, Ms. Kozak-Zachary, Ihor Senyk, and Myron and Vera Senyk.

California...

(Continued from page 13)

ing the program over to Paul Micevych, Ph.D., a member of the CAAU board of directors who served as the master of ceremonies.

Dr. Micevych introduced the four participants in the current session of the International Healthcare Fellowship Program, and welcomed Dr. Vira Pavliuk to narrate a slide show presentation with an update on the Children's Hospital of the Future in Kyiv. The slides highlighted the technologically advanced design features incorporating "green" environmental elements and accommodations that are comfortable and cheerful for the patients. The final slides showed recently taken photographs of the concrete building foundations covered in snow, evidence of the progress being made. Dr. Pavliuk echoed gratitude to Cedars-Sinai and CAAU for collaborating with Ukraine 3000 in the International Healthcare Fellowship Program.

The master of ceremonies was assisted by Marta Mykytyn-Hill, secretary of the CAAU board of directors, with the introduction of each of the four young ladies – Bianca Makara, Andrea Natalia Kusina,

Marisa Blumer and Alexandra Halyna Korol – and their escorts during the presentation of debutantes.

Before dinner, Zakhid band leader Markian Fedorowycz led the guests in the singing of "God Bless America" and the Ukrainian national anthem. The invocation was led by the pastors of the local parishes, the Rev. Myron Mykyta of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Rev. Vasyl Sauciur of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the Rev. Vasyl Shtelen of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

The final segment of the evening included dancing to the music of Zakhid from California, which played traditional and contemporary Ukrainian and American favorites, including a selection originally sung by artist Lady Gaga.

An extended set with the lively "kolo-myika" Ukrainian folk dance brought all the guests into a handclapping circle to enjoy and encourage the spontaneous medley of graceful and acrobatic steps by individuals in the center.

CAAU is a non-profit 501 (3) (c) corporation. Contributions and inquiries may be addressed to CAAU, c/o Roman Wasylyn, 4645 Noeline Ave., Encino, CA 91436, or by e-mail to caaukraine@gmail.com.

Ukrainian Debutante Balls

Ukrainian American Youth Association holds 46th debutante ball



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Debutantes and their escorts at the Ukrainian American Youth Association's ball in Parsippany, N.J.

by **Natalka Horbachevsky**

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – On February 6 in a ballroom filled with family and friends, the Ukrainian American Youth Association welcomed 14 young women as new debutantes at its 46th UAYA Debutante Ball. The traditional event, held this year in the Sheraton Parsippany Hotel, is a formal presentation of the debutantes to society after their 16th birthdays.

The night began with a cocktail hour before guests were ushered into the ballroom for the presentation. Over 450 people attended dinner and the presentations of the debutantes.

The debutantes, along with their escorts, had practiced for over 10 hours for this evening and they lined up outside the ballroom in their elegant white dresses, sashes and gloves.

After an address by Debutante Ball Committee Chairwoman Larisa Blahy-Tatarenko, the girls entered the room one by one. The emcees for the evening, Andriy Burchak and Olya Figol, read out the debutantes' names and achievements as the girls slowly walked across the floor to their parents. They exchanged greetings with their families, received bouquets and, escorted by young men of the community, gracefully performed the ceremonial curtsy.

The debutantes and their escorts this year were: Anna Romaniw (UAYA branch

in Yonkers, N.Y.), escorted by Roman Kukil; Oksana Mayovska (Whippany, N.J.), escorted by Yuriy Kavatsiuk; Nadia Szpyhulsky (Irvington, N.J.), escorted by Justyn Pyz; Oksana Melnychuk (Yonkers, N.Y.), escorted by David Demianicz; Olya Dumyak (Philadelphia), escorted by Danylo Kobylecky; Natalie Vergara (New York, N.Y.), escorted by Nicholas Medwid; Erin Niedzwiecki (Jersey City, N.J.), escorted by Mykola Hlushko; Michelle Podberezniak (Passaic, N.J.), escorted by Adrian Teniuch; Bohdanna Stolar (Baltimore), escorted by Nicholas Balko; Adriana Kohut (Irvington, N.J.), escorted by Andrew Filewicz; Lydia Dzwonczyk (Yonkers, N.Y.), escorted by Danylo Kuzemczak; Christina Dubenko (Philadelphia), escorted by Stephan Dubenko standing in for Roman Mykijewycz; Taisa Krysina (Whippany, N.J.), escorted by Matthew Betley; and Katryna Midzak (Philadelphia), escorted by Matthew Skalski.

After the presentation, Miss Romaniw read the traditional debutantes' "pryrechnya," or pledge, to the guests. Next, Andriy Bihun, president of the UAYA national executive board, congratulated the debutantes and their families on this milestone occasion.

The debutantes and their escorts then lined up for a dance, choreographed by Hryhorii Momot. To the delight of the audience and much applause, the debutantes twirled and spun in a waltz. After



Debutantes dance the traditional waltz taught by Hryhorii Momot.

the dance with their escorts, the debutantes were joined by their fathers or male relatives for the traditional first dance.

Before guests sat down for dinner, Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, eparch of Stamford led the room in a prayer. Also in attendance was the Very Rev. Mitred Archbishop Ihor Midzak.

The "zabava" dance began after dinner and two bands, Hrim from New York and Vorony from Syracuse, N.Y., traded off playing throughout the night, combining for a "kolomyika" that lasted over half an hour and brought out dancers from many ensembles throughout the Northeast.

The bands played until 2 a.m. and were even joined onstage by the debutantes

acting as back-up singers for some songs. Over 600 people attended the zabava.

Guests received program booklets that summarized the debutantes' accomplishments and aspirations.

The UAYA Debutante Ball is one of the biggest events on the organization's social calendar and an important fundraiser for the organization. UAYA's female members upon turning 16 are eligible for participation in this special affair and rite of passage.

The organizing committee for the event included: Ms. Blahy-Tatarenko, Genya Kuzmowycz-Blahy, Daria Horbachevsky, Olia Zahnijnyj and Myron Pryjmak.

Washington...

(Continued from page 9)

cious and elegant dinner service followed.

Then the dance began. To a perfect mix of traditional Ukrainian "zabava" music and current popular songs, the popular band Hrim from New York, had the dance floor filled to overflowing all evening.

The highlight of the dance was the ever-anticipated "kolomyika," in which a majority of the debutantes participated. The presence of a large number of youths from several accomplished dance companies, including Syzokryli of New York and the local ensemble Fantasia, led to a truly professional-looking "Hopak," which included the artistic directors of both ensembles, Anya Bohachevska-Lonkevych and Lev Ivashko.

Observing the fervor of the youths in performing these Ukrainian folk dances left no doubt that the Ukrainian spirit remains strong and vibrant, while the Ukrainian school and community of Washington can be proud of the patriotic and dedicated youth raised in this community.

All proceeds from the ball will be used to support the Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies. In particular, the school will now be able to adopt a long-overdue and well-deserved increase in teachers' salaries, as well as take the first steps toward creating an electronic library.

But most importantly, a wonderful time was had by all at this celebration of youth, community and joie de vivre.

– Translated by Stephen Szyszka

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Ukrainian Debutante Balls

UMANA Illinois Branch holds annual traditional debutante ball

by Maria Hrycelak

CHICAGO – The Illinois Branch of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA-Illinois) hosted its traditional annual Banquet and Charity Ball with Presentation of Debutantes on Saturday, January 30, at Chicago's historic Palmer House in the heart of the downtown "Loop" area. Planning and preparation for this annual event began months ago, leading to a memorable event for all.

Guests and friends greeted each other warmly throughout the cocktail hour to the relaxing melodies of the Wheaton Warrenville South String Ensemble. Over 300 guests were seated in the stunningly ornamental and uniquely decorated ballroom. White hydrangeas and roses in tall vases graced the tables seemingly reaching for the stars.

The debutantes, their parents and escorts opened the formal program with a grand entrance into the main hall. Dr. Peter Liber, president of UMANA-Illinois, presented the 10 debutantes to Chicago's Ukrainian community. The debutantes, bowing charmingly and gracefully, were introduced along with their proud parents and escorts.

The young ladies and their escorts, who begun practicing their waltz months in advance, performed an intricate and beautiful dance program under the expert choreography of Roxana Dykyj-Pylypczak with help from Adriana Striltschuk-Karawan. In their flowing white gowns and holding their pink bouquets, the debutantes danced elegantly and effortlessly to the sounds of Strauss waltzes, first with their fathers, and then with their escorts.

Dr. Liber welcomed the debutantes, their parents, escorts and guests, who came from all over the United States and Canada for this charity ball. Ruta Ripecky and Dr. Marko Gudziak, speaking on behalf of the proud parents, warmly addressed the debutantes and wished them well in their future endeavors.

More guests arrived after the delicious dinner and danced the night away to the music of Chicago's renowned Good Times band. One "kolomyika" lasted over 20 minutes, with guests, debutantes and escorts participating in the traditional folk dance. This year, Klopit, a new band in the Chicago area, also entertained the guests. The debutantes and their families celebrated well into the night amidst fine music and friends.

Traditionally, debutante balls help raise



MVP Studios Photography

Chicago debutantes and their escorts: (front row, from left) Julian Chernyk, Kateryna Gudziak, Daniel Sambirsky, Olena Stasula, Roma Mirutenko, Paul Derkach, Ulana Zwarycz, Markian Dziuk, (middle row) Julian Hayda, Adriana Saldan, Mark Stankevych, Arianna Rudawski, Solomia Grushchak, Seamus Kelleher, Zoe Ripecky, Mark O'Connell, (back row) Joseph Belkairous, Marianne Seneczko, Andrea Marushka and Nicholas Kuzyk.

funds for charity. The proceeds from this year's ball will benefit the Foundation of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America. In addition to the major donors, the debutantes personally raised over \$500.

The foundation, which awards scholarships to medical students, also sponsored First Aid and CPR Certification courses for counselors of Ukrainian youth camps. Such courses were recently held in Chicago and Whippany, N.J., and this spring will be offered in three new U.S. cities.

The 2010 organizing committee for the debutante ball included Dr. and Mrs. Peter Liber, Dr. Maria Hrycelak, Larissa Iwanetz and Kathryn Hrynewycz.



Debutantes dance a graceful waltz.



Debutantes await their presentation.

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Odesa Philharmonic and Krysa/Tchekina perform in D.C. area

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON – Classical music lovers in the greater Washington area, and especially those of Ukrainian descent, were twice blessed in the second week of March when a prominent Ukrainian orchestra and an admired violin-piano duo they had not seen for some time returned to this area's concert and recital halls.

On Tuesday, March 10, it was the Odesa Philharmonic Orchestra at the Montgomery College Performing Arts Center in Rockville, Md., and on Sunday the 14th, the Ukrainian American violinist Oleh Krysa and pianist Tatiana Tchekina returned to the historic Lyceum building in Old Town Alexandria, Va., where they last performed in 2003.

The Odesa Philharmonic made its U.S. debut and last performed here in 1996. It was a special memorial concert marking the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine and held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. There they introduced themselves, as well as the works of a few Ukrainian composers, to Washington's classical music audience.

Their return performance, now as then under the baton of Hobart Earle, focused on compositions more familiar to the American audience, beginning with Franz Peter Schubert's "Suite of Waltzes" and his "Unfinished Symphony," and concluding after intermission with a selection of waltzes, marches and polkas by Johann Strauss Jr.

Mr. Krysa and Ms. Tchekina presented an equally satisfying and uplifting pro-

gram at the Lyceum – from Johannes Brahms' "Sonatensatz" to Henryk Wieniawski's "Scherzo-Tarantella." Their concert, like their last performance here in 2003, was organized by The Washington Group Cultural Fund as part of the Sunday music series it conducts under the patronage of the Embassy of Ukraine.

For the Odesa Philharmonic, it was the eighth of 11 performances on its two-week tour of the eastern United States, which began on March 1 in Naples, Fla., and concluded March 13 at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts in New York. In between, they also performed in Sarasota, Gainesville and Panama City, Fla.; Opelika, Ala.; Morgantown, W.Va.; Johnstown and Hazleton, Pa.; and Worcester, Mass.

While the Washington press did not review the concert here, the philharmonic's performances were reviewed very favorably by the music critics in Sarasota and Worcester.

"Who'd have thought that the most brilliant performance of Strauss waltzes and such we've heard in some time would come from a group of Ukrainians led by a Venezuelan-born American conductor!" was how the Sarasota Herald Tribune critic Gayle Williams began her review.

The Worcester Telegram's music critic John Zeugner underscored the philharmonic's "blisteringly paced, wondrously energetic performance of Beethoven's 7th, (which) transformed a routine, competent concert into an amazing and joyous experience."

Mr. Zeugner also focused special attention on Mr. Earle's string section, which "made up of mostly female musicians,



Joe Bangay

Hobart Earle conducts the Odesa Philharmonic Orchestra during a 2003 performance on Prymorsky Boulevard in Odesa.

melded perfectly into that subterranean, throbbing energy that drives Beethoven's music into ever deeper emotions." He added: "One wonders whether the Vienna Philharmonic, that bastion of male music-making, will begin to rethink its gender bias as heat from Odessa [sic] streams in."

Hobart Earle joined the Odesa Philharmonic soon after Ukraine's independence, and as its music director and principal conductor has raised it to a position of international prominence. It has traveled widely, performing not only throughout Ukraine and its neighboring countries, but in major Western European capitals as well. It also prides itself in being the first Ukrainian orchestra to cross both the Atlantic Ocean – to Canada and the United States – and the Equator.

The Krysa-Tchekina program, titled "Great Violin Miniatures," was a potpourri of memorable short compositions, beginning with Brahms, Richard Wagner, Franz Schubert, Fritz Kreisler, Pablo Sarasate, Claude Debussy and Nicolo Paganini. Yevhen Stankovych's Triptych "Na Verkhovyni" followed after intermission, along with "Melody and "Waltz-Scherzo" by Piotr Tchaikovsky, Four Preludes by Dmitri Shostakovich, "The Fountain of Arethusa" by Karol Szymanowski, "Romance" by Reingold Gliere and "Scherzo-Tarantella" by Henryk Wieniawski.

In response to the audience's enthusiastic reception, they returned to the stage for an encore: Andriy Shtoharenko's "A Song."

Mr. Krysa, a student of David Oistrakh, and Ms. Tchekina are married and have been performing together since 1967, as well as teaching music in Kyiv, Moscow and, since moving to the United States in the late 1980s, at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y.

They have performed solo and chamber music recitals in major concert halls throughout the former Soviet Union, Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, China, Korea, Japan and the United States, including Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall in New York, and The Kennedy Center in Washington.

Just two days before their performance here on March 14, they had returned from a trip to Ukraine, where they had a recital in Lviv, and Japan, where Mr. Krysa is visiting professor at the Tokyo University of the Arts.

Mr. Krysa first performed in the United States in 1971, when he joined Ukraine's very popular opera star, baritone Dmytro Hnatiuk, on his U.S. tour. His first appearance in Washington, accompanied by Ms. Tchekina, came 20 years later – in a solo recital at the Kennedy Center. They returned here in 1999 as the featured artists in the prestigious Sunday concert series at the National Gallery of Art, and again in 2003 with the Leontovych String Quartet at the Lyceum.

The next concert in the TWG Cultural Fund's Sunday music series, on May 2, will feature the collaboration of pianist Toma Hrynkiw and cellist Nestor Cybriwsky on Ukrainian composers.



Yaro Bihun

Oleh Krysa and Tatiana Tchekina play Andriy Shtoharenko's "The Song" as an encore to their recent recital at the Lyceum in Alexandria, Va.

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Questions? ~ Contact Christa Kozak ~ 781.575.9934 ~

A poet on the shore of the eternal river: Lina Kostenko at 80

by Michael M. Naydan

Lina Kostenko the poet

The poet Lina Kostenko turned 80 on March 19. It is an appropriate time to reflect on her enormous contributions to Ukrainian culture. Ms. Kostenko is an icon larger than life for Ukrainian culture, a Poet with a capital "P" in the rarified company of such luminaries as Taras Shevchenko, Lesia Ukrainka, and Ivan Franko.

Virtually everyone in Ukraine and throughout the diaspora has read her poetry, her intimate lyrical works, her long poems such as "A Scythian Odyssey," and her novels in verse. Schoolchildren in Ukraine today read her works as a seminal part of the school curriculum and know her as one of the leading representatives of the "Writers of the Sixties" (Shistdesiatnyky) phenomenon. These were mostly poets, who strove for the freedom to write openly and without censorship in the dismal times of Soviet repression in the 1960s. By virtue of the reception Ms. Kostenko received from her reading public she virtually instantaneously became a cult figure and a living classic in her own time.

Ms. Kostenko published her first book in 1957 and became an immediate sensation at the very beginning of Khrushchev's Thaw when, after the death of Stalin, writers were allowed once again to write about their personal lives instead of kowtowing to the collective and the Communist Party.

Ms. Kostenko published three collections of poetry at that time: "Earthly Rays" (1957), "Sails" (1958), and "Wanderings of the Heart" (1961). Her poetry was a breath of fresh air with its simple yet beautiful style and aphoristic grace. This was for a Soviet Ukrainian reading public that had been coercively nourished on the dull drabness of socialist realism for nearly three decades.

Even though there was not even a hint of anything political in her poetry, which consisted mostly of nature lyrics and love poems, Ms. Kostenko was vehemently attacked in the press on fabricated charges such as "modernism," "formalism" and "sickly hazy philosophizing." It was perhaps her very popularity and the fact that she wrote in Ukrainian instead of Russian that made Soviet authorities put pressure on her to conform. They started to clamp down on what they perceived as the excesses of the Thaw and began to arrest Ukrainian intellectuals in the mid-to-late 1960s.

Ms. Kostenko courageously signed petitions and letters defending her colleagues against the authorities. She was particularly vocal in the defense of Vyacheslav Chornovil at his trial in Lviv in 1965. While she herself was not arrested and imprisoned

like many of her colleagues, she eventually reacted to pressure from the Soviet government with a self-imposed hiatus (we might also call it internal exile) from publishing for 16 years. Her collection "The Starry Integral" (1962) was rejected by the censorship and 10 years later her collection "Prince Mountain" (1972) was also banned from publication. The poet protested with her silence rather than submit to the wishes of the authorities.

Ms. Kostenko's prominent absence from the official literary scene ended in 1977. Her collection "On the Shore of the Eternal River" (1977) appeared that year and censors relaxed their pressure on Ukrainian writers somewhat.

Her later major publications included: her exquisite novel in verse "Marusia Chural" (1979) about the legendary Ukrainian song writer, the poetry collections "Originality" (1980) and "The Garden of Unmelting Sculptures" (1987), a children's book "The Elderberry King" (1987), a "Selected Works" (1989) edition of her poetry that came out in an edition of 60,000 copies, the historical novel in verse "Berestechko" (1999), and the soon-to-be-published novel "Notes of a Ukrainian Madaloman" (Zapysky Ukrainskoho Samashedshoho), which, according to the well-known publisher Ivan Malkovych's assessment, is an impressive hybrid prose work written from the point of view of a male narrator.

Over the last decade Ms. Kostenko has also been intensively engaged in civic-minded environmental issues, calling attention to the Chernobyl tragedy by leading expeditions to the dead zone.

Why did Ms. Kostenko become so popular? Her poetry was direct. It spoke right to the heart of the Ukrainian people in a conversational, natural and beautiful style; it was readily accessible and without the complexity that sometimes can obscure meaning in poetry. Her poetry spoke to everyone in the way that she garnered life lessons from her personal experiences. While she often wrote of sadness in her lyric works, she virtually always ended her poems on a positive, life-affirming note.

When she was at her best, Ms. Kostenko fused sound with meaning in a stunning mellifluousness that showcased the quintessential beauty of the Ukrainian language. Some of the best of her poems include the dream-like meeting with Ukrainian poet Maksym Rylsky in "Landscape from my Memory," the exquisite ecologically oriented elegy "A shady spot, twilight, a golden day..." the poetic return to a paradisaical past in "Fields of My Childhood," and the exploration of freedom, art and madness in "Van Gogh."

Lina Kostenko the person

I personally became enamored of Ms. Kostenko's poetry during my undergraduate and graduate studies, voraciously reading



Lina Kostenko with Vasyl Barka at Verkhovyna in Glen Spey, N.Y., spring 1990.

anything of hers I could find. I was particularly grateful for the Smoloskyp Publishers volume of her works "Poetry" (Poezii) that Osyf Zinkevych published in 1969.

My translations of her poems were among my very first publications in the journal Hyperion in 1975. And I eventually published two books of her poetry in translation: "Selected Poetry of Ms. Lina Kostenko: Wanderings of the Heart" (Garland Publishers, 1990) and a bilingual edition edited by Olha Luchuk, "Landscapes of Memory" (Litopys Publishers, 2001).

I had the opportunity to interact with Lina

Kostenko the person for five months when I invited her to be a writer-in-residence at Penn State University for the spring semester of 1990. She was one of the first Ukrainian writers allowed to leave the Soviet Union for an extended period of time.

Through my contact with the poet, I learned that the personality of Ms. Kostenko the human being sometimes coincided with the beautiful image of the sensitive, caring persona one finds in her poetry. It may be a biographical fallacy for us as readers to draw that connection too closely. The lyrical

(Continued on page 30)

From "Earthly Rays" (1957)

I grew up in orchards
where warm pears ripened,
where a leaf was covered with dust,
and juicy stalks were fragrant.

I grew up in fields
where the sunrise was like a flare,
where disturbed tillage
softly steamed at noon.

I grew up in forests,
where pines like slender waists grew pink,
where dew fell heavily
on light blue sylvan glades.

I grew up on the River Dnipro,
where blue slopes tower above,
where fishermen—a not very talkative people—
set out their nets for the night.

And the hues of those distant years—
wherever I may go,
whatever I may write, lie like a reflection
on white paper.

When wind is born
I do not call it a storm.
So what if it does not break branches,
but only raises dust?

Leaves sprinkle the grasses with dust,
this way it will be hard to wash away,
and afterwards a clear downpour
will run from them like a dirty torrent.

When wind is born
I do not call it a storm.
I look at how the branches come alive
and simply listen to the grass.

A quivering, a rustle, a swelling—
and wind already has become a storm...
And I will be the last to believe this—
after the gardens and after the grasses.

From "Garden of Unmelting Sculptures" (1987)

A shady spot, twilight, a golden day.
White roses cry and pray.
Perhaps it's me, or someone else, or you
sitting over there in a corner of the veranda.

Perhaps he's crying, or waiting—
he heard footsteps, or the wicket gate
squeaked.
Perhaps he'll get up, and press his head,
there, on the veranda, against the door.

Where are you, people, who used to live in
this house?
My wide world, what flat lands lie here all
around!
The sadness of posterity—like the dance
of a bee,
the dance of the bee to the immortal field.

Perhaps after a thousand years—
I will not be me, but awakened in genes,
here on the earth I will seek out the trace
of my lineage at least in laments and legends!

Voice of the well, why have you gone
silent?
Arms of mulberry trees, why have you
grown stiff?
Windows nailed shut, and the lock hanging—
a rusty ring above the claw of the knob.

Rainy weather beats the white side of the
building.
Who is wailing there in this house every
night?
Perhaps loneliness lives there alone,
stuffing the emptiness into the oven with
tongs.

Perhaps this is our pain, perhaps our guilt,
perhaps a balsam for neglected souls—
memory of a well and memory of a window,
memory of a path and a wild pear...



Lina Kostenko with Michael Naydan in Glen Spey, N.Y., spring 1990.

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

announced a Plan of Cooperation between their two ministries for 2010. Mr. Gryshchenko noted that, through the end of the first half of 2010, he expects to conduct a number of negotiations on the bilateral issues that are most important for the development of the economies and the future of both countries. Mr. Lavrov emphasized that the signed plan provides a clear schedule of work by diplomats of both countries, including preparations for a meeting of the Ukraine-Russia Commission headed by presidents of the two countries that is to take place during Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's upcoming visit to Kyiv. (Ukrinform)

Russian president to visit in May

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and his Russian counterpart, Dmitry Medvedev, agreed on the date of the Russian president's official visit to Kyiv in a phone conversation on March 17. Mr. Medvedev will visit Ukraine on May 17-18. (Ukrinform)

Renewal of cooperation with IMF

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovich said during a meeting with the new Cabinet of Ministers that he wants an immediate renewal of cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, it was reported on March 12. He said the government, jointly with the National Bank of Ukraine, should do their best so that this cooperation is renewed, adding, "I am ready to be your partner." In November 2008 the IMF approved a two-year stand-by arrangement with Ukraine totaling \$16.4 billion (U.S.). To date, the IMF has allocated three tranches of funds totaling \$10.9 billion. In December 2009 the IMF turned down Ukraine's request for additional financing in the amount of \$2 billion, pointing out that Ukraine's authorities had failed to fulfill obligations taken within the framework of the program and that the country's leaders were in confrontation on the eve of the presidential election. A technical mission of the IMF arrived in Ukraine on March 15 for consultations on budget issues. Max Alier, resident representative of the IMF in Ukraine, had said at a meeting with Ukraine's Vice Prime Minister Sergey Tigipko on March 13 that the IMF stands ready to support Ukraine in its endeavor to return to a sustainable growth path. (Ukrinform)

Azarov on cooperation with EU

KYIV – Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said at a meeting with the head of the EU delegation to Ukraine, Jose Manuel Pinto Teixeira, that he is counting on active and effective cooperation with the European Union in all areas of activity. News media reported on March 16 that Mr. Teixeira said that the Ukrainian government could fully count on support and cooperation from the EU. Mr. Azarov also noted that the government had started to stabilize the economic situation. He said about 6 billion hrv will have to be paid to service the domestic debt in April this year, which is half of the revenue of the state budget's general fund. About \$700 million (U.S.) will have to be paid for Russian gas, he added. Mr. Azarov noted that the priority tasks for the government are the adoption of a realistic budget and the reduction of its deficit. (Ukrinform)

NATO to further support Ukraine

KYIV – NATO is going to further support Ukraine in implementing domestic reforms, the Ukrainian Mission to NATO reported on March 17. The statement was made in Brussels during a meeting of the Ukraine-NATO Commission under the chairmanship of NATO Deputy Secretary

General Claudio Bisogniero. The main topic of discussion was the priorities of Ukraine's foreign policy after the presidential election, as well as the development of political dialogue and practical cooperation between NATO and Ukraine as part of the Annual National Program for 2010. Ukraine's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Kostiantyn Yeliseyev pointed to the coherence of Ukraine's foreign policy. In particular, he confirmed the inviolability of the main priorities of foreign policy: European integration, consolidation of a strategic partnership with Russia in all spheres, development of a partnership with the United States, pragmatic cooperation with NATO, good-neighborly relations with surrounding countries, and a broad and open cooperation in the field of international security. Mr. Yeliseyev stressed that the main task is to ensure the sustainable and steady democratic development of the Ukrainian state through wide-ranging reforms to achieve high socio-economic living standards. The meeting welcomed the first foreign policy moves of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, namely, a visit to Brussels and restoration of strategic partnership with Russia. (Ukrinform)

Semynozhenko on Holodomor...

KYIV – Volodymyr Semynozhenko, Ukraine's new vice prime minister for humanitarian policy, said on March 11 that the issue of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 will not be a key point in humanitarian policy. Speaking in the Verkhovna Rada, he said, "Everything will now fall right into place. Ukraine is different, so mutual respect is needed. The problem of Ukraine's integration will be one of the most important. That is why the new president does not escalate the issue of the Holodomor in order not to repeat the mistakes of the ex-president. And we shouldn't defile this issue. We need the spirit of winners and this spirit will be brought into humanitarian policy," Mr. Semynozhenko explained. (Ukrinform)

... and on the Ukrainian language

KYIV – Vice Prime Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Volodymyr Semynozhenko believes that the Ukrainian language is a must for officials, he told the TVi TV channel. At the same time, he said that television should more closely consider issues of the Ukrainian language. He said that news on state TV channels and radio stations should be broadcast in Ukrainian, however, Russian-speaking citizens should also have access to information. (Ukrinform)

OU-PSD faction in opposition

KYIV – The Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc's faction will form an opposition to the ruling coalition created in the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine, faction leader Mykola Martynenko said on March 11. Mr. Martynenko did not say whether this was the position of all 72 members of the faction. He noted that the OU-PSD would fight against privatization of the opposition by political forces that have already declared their oppositional activity. "Our purpose is the development of Ukraine rather than a revenge by any politician," Mr. Martynenko said. He declined to answer a question about whether the OU-PSD might cooperate with the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc's faction, which earlier declared itself to be in the opposition. (Ukrinform)

Union of opposition forces formed

KYIV – A union of opposition forces has been formed in the Verkhovna Rada, Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the eponymous bloc, has said on March 16. "Eight opposition forces in Parliament today

(Continued on page 21)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 20)

signed a statement on unification and a clause on the creation of a coordinating council of the united parliamentary opposition," she said. The statement and the clause were signed by Borys Tarasyuk (People's Movement of Ukraine), Yurii Lutsenko (People's Self-Defense), Serhii Sobolev (Reforms and Order Party), Volodymyr Stretovych (Christian and Democratic Union), Yurii Karmazin (Motherland Defenders Party), Mykola Katerynchuk (European Party of Ukraine), Olena Shustyk (Ukrainian Social and Democratic Party) and Ms. Tymoshenko (Batkivschyna Party). (Ukrinform)

Victory Day to be marked jointly

KYIV – Ukraine and Russia have agreed to celebrate Victory Day jointly, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich said during a press conference with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on March 5. "We have a joint understanding of Victory Day celebrations being one of the steps we are to do together," Mr. Yanukovich said. He also discussed a joint solution to social issues related to the veterans of the Great Patriotic War (World War II). Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said he likes Mr. Yanukovich's idea of arranging a train for veterans to go to Moscow for the festivities. (Ukrinform)

Communists want probe

KYIV – The Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) is planning to initiate an investigation into Viktor Yushchenko's activities as president, the party's press service quoted CPU leader Petro Symonenko as saying in late February. "We'll raise the question of an immediate and comprehensive investigation into the abuse of office and criminal abuse of power by citizen Yushchenko when he held the presidential post," he said. Mr. Symonenko accused the ex-president of tolerating an illegal trade in weapons, the privatization of enterprises with the help of raiders and the seizure of land plots. "While holding the presidential post, citizen Yushchenko conducted a criminal policy of destroying state institutions and usurping power, the policy of neo-fascism in Ukraine, and imposed the ideas of cave nationalism, xenophobia and religious discord," the party said. Mr. Symonenko said that earlier it was impossible to bring

Mr. Yushchenko "to account" due to his presidential immunity. "Now there are no obstacles to calling citizen Yushchenko to account," he added. (Ukrinform)

Tatars protest minister's comments

SYMFEROPOL, Ukraine – Crimean Tatars have protested what they say are inflammatory comments by Ukraine's new internal affairs minister, Anatolii Mohiliov, RFE/RL's Tatar-Bashkir Service reported on March 16. The Crimean Tatar Mejlis, the unofficial national Parliament of the peninsula's indigenous Tatar population, wants the Ukrainian Procurator General's Office to open a criminal case against Mr. Mohiliov. Mejlis leader Mustafa Dzhemilev told RFE/RL that the Mejlis's legal experts are drafting a request for an expert evaluation of statements and articles by Mr. Mohiliov. Mr. Dzhemilev said those statements incite hatred against Crimean Tatars and undermine political stability in Crimea. Mr. Mohiliov has claimed in public statements and published articles that Western powers are inciting a repeat of the Kosovo scenario in Crimea and thus endangering the local Russian population. He also said Crimean Tatars collaborated with Nazi leader Adolf Hitler during World War II. Soviet leader Joseph Stalin used that very charge as grounds for deporting the Crimean Tatars to Central Asia in May 1944. "Not only Crimean Tatars, but all people of good will, should protest the promotion of such chauvinism," Mr. Dzhemilev said. "The future of a state where such fascists are named to top state posts is quite clear." Mr. Dzhemilev added that if courts fail to condemn Mr. Mohiliov's statements, the Crimean Tatar Mejlis will consider filing a complaint with the European Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. Mr. Mohiliov served briefly as head of the Crimean police force. He was dismissed from that post in 2007 by then-Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Tatar activists say that as police chief he condoned the use of excessive force by police against Tatar protesters. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovich spent more on campaign

KYIV – A report on the formation of Viktor Yanukovich's electoral fund, which was published in the Uriadovi Kurier newspaper on February 23, said that the presidential candidate spent 322.546 million hrv on his election campaign. Presidential candidate Yulia Tymoshenko spent 289.93 million hrv on her campaign. (Ukrinform)



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BOOK NOTES

Collection of articles reflects Ukraine's road to independence

"The Road to Ukraine's Independence," by Eugene Melnitchenko and Helena Mann-Melnitchenko. West Conshohocken, Pa.: Infinity Publishing, 2010, 157 pp., paperback, \$12.99.

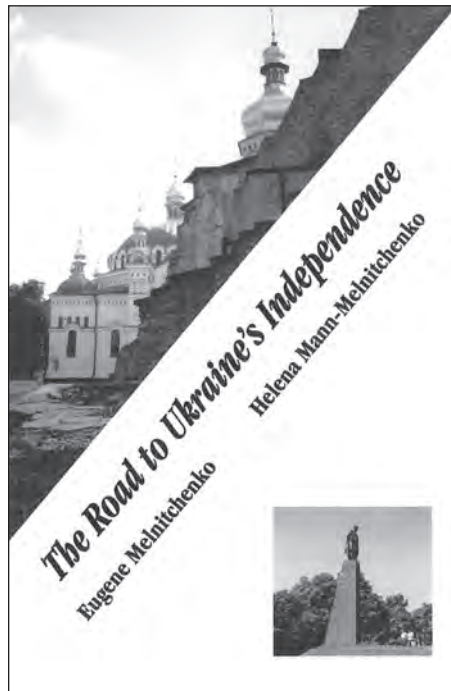
by Ihor Lysyj

"The Road to Ukraine's Independence" is a collection of articles by Eugene Melnitchenko and Helena Mann-Melnitchenko, some published in The Ukrainian Weekly. Their writings shed light on the long history of Ukraine through the eyes of the World War II refugees who carried on their shoulders the preservation of the national identity, traditions, culture and history of Ukraine for more than 50 years. Those were the torturous years of Soviet occupation and eradication of Ukrainian national identity in their homeland.

While Russia was an enigma to Winston Churchill in the 1950s, Ukraine was an even greater mystery to Margaret Thatcher in the 1990s. To her Ukraine was a province of Russia, like Quebec in Canada, or California in United States. The prime minister of Britain was not alone. That is how the Western world saw Ukraine before the proclamation of its independence in 1991. Just read "The Ukrainians: Unexpected Nation" by Andrew Wilson (Yale University Press, 2000). Ukrainian independence was indeed unexpected to many in the academic and political elites of the Western world.

Such observers could not have been more wrong as subsequent events demonstrated.

The Melnitchenkos describe, in an accurate and concise manner, Ukraine as a country with more than a millennium-long history. Located on the open steppes of Europe



and without natural borders to protect it, the country was subject to endless invasions and occupations by foreign marauders from east, west, north and south. These invasions and occupations date well before Christian era. The latest occupier was Russia.

"The Road to Ukraine's Independence" unveils some of the mysteries of this unprotected borderland. Ukraine is hardly monolithic, and its people are highly independent in thought and action, and resilient in times of adversity. About 46 million Ukrainians reside in their home country and over 20 million live in the diaspora – some in the former republics of Soviet Union and others in the West.

The authors describe in some detail the nature and character of Ukrainians residing in the United States. They are ambitious, hard-working, and generally try to stay out of trouble. They are hard to stereotype, because there are three distinct groups of Ukrainian immigrants in United States: those who emigrated before the second world war were mainly driven here by economic necessity, those who immigrated after the second world war were largely political refugees, and those who immigrated after the collapse of Soviet Union are primarily searching for a better life in the West. While all of them refer to themselves as Ukrainians, there is little commonality in their world view or culture. The book characterizes this diversity in an accurate and concise manner, and should be a good source of information for those in the United States who try to understand this diverse ethnic group residing in our country.

The book also describes the torturous road to Ukrainian independence that was finally realized in 1991, after centuries of suffering and conflicts, through hard work and the leadership of Ukrainian intellectuals, writers, poets and artists (with brief synopses of their contributions to the Ukrainian national identity and the intellectual and emotional impacts they had on the life of book's authors).

While many patriots paid the ultimate price on Ukraine's road to independence and

freedom, those were achieved peacefully, rather than by military means. And the road to the independence of Ukraine started long time before 1991; it began in the late 18th and early 19th centuries thanks to intellectuals and writers. These activists defined Ukrainian national identity and the Ukrainian nation's desire for independence during the long and brutal period of Russian occupation. Among them, the authors highlight early native philosophers, such as Hryhori Skovoroda, and writers who dared to write in Ukrainian, such as Ivan Kotliarevsky and Taras Shevchenko. This intellectual road to defining Ukrainian national identity continued with such writers and poets as Ivan Franko, Lesia Ukrainka, Volodymyr Vynnychenko, Mykola Khvylioviy, Ivan Bahriany, Oleh (Kandyba) Olzhych and, closer to the present time, Ania Savage. We owe them our national identity.

The authors also describe what life was like for the children of World War II though their own experience: German occupation of their land, life in German concentration camps, slave labor, escape from the advancing and marauding Red Army of the Soviet Union, and finally the first rays of freedom experienced in the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) displaced persons camps across the western part of Germany.

A guide to Ukrainians' contributions to the world

"Ukrainian Contributions to the World," compiled by Volodymyr Serhiychuk, translated by George Zahaykevich, edited by Vadym Schaldenko, Kyiv: Volodymyr Serhiychuk, 2009. ISBN: 978-966-2911-25-1. 480 pp. \$25.00 (add \$4.95 S+H)

A new resource, "Ukrainian Contributions to the World," highlights the biographies of Ukrainians. From famous celebrities and athletes, to scientists and artists, the book proves that Ukrainians have left their mark on the world.

Originally written in Ukrainian by Volodymyr Serhiychuk, a professor at the Kyiv National University of Taras Shevchenko, the book highlights the achievements of Ukrainians in all spheres of activity. The book was translated into English by George Zahaykevich and edited by Vadim Schaldenko, M.D. From an original text of 2,200 pages, the book was scaled down to a finished version of 453 pages and was translated and edited over the course of approximately six months.

This reference book is a handy resource for scholars and researchers, or the curious. Copies have been sent to all the U.S. and foreign embassies, and the Library of Congress; a copy was given to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Prof. Serhiychuk is the author of many books and articles on Ukrainian history, with a specialization in Kozak history, the dispersal of the Ukrainian diaspora and minorities in Ukraine. His previous book, released in 2008, was "Ethnic Boundaries and the



Borders of Ukraine."

(Dr. Schaldenko noted that Prof. Serhiychuk took it upon himself to redo some spellings, therefore the editor could not take responsibility for some of the spelling substitutions, lack of italics, misspellings and deletion of punctuation.)

Readers may obtain copies by contacting Mr. Zahaykevich by mail, 1860 N. Atlantic Ave. B 703, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931; e-mail, gz@tavexamerica.com; or telephone, 321-784-6987.

Debut novel is inspired by historical events, challenges

"House of Bears," by Orysia Dawydiak, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island: Acorn Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-1-894838-34-4. 320 pp. \$22.95.

A debut novel by Orysia Dawydiak, "House of Bears," tells of the conflict when Luba Kassim returns home to a strained relationship with her mother and a family crisis that brings the ghosts of the past to the present. From the turbulence Luba realizes that she is not so different from her mother.

Inspired by historical events and the accounts of relatives who survived the second world war, Ms. Dawydiak recounted her own experience during her book launch on December 3, 2009. In trying to understand her mother, she said: "I kept returning to her childhood, to her survival of the Nazi occupation and the war. I tried to be empathetic and wondered if I could have endured what she had, and still emerged with my sanity intact."

She further recalled how award-winning Canadian journalist, broadcaster and novelist Linden MacIntyre commented that traumas suffered by one generation can affect the next generation.

Ms. Dawydiak was born to Ukrainian immigrants who settled in Northern Ontario. When not writing, she works at Atlantic Veterinary College in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, and she resides on a small farm on the island's northern shore where she raises Shetland sheep and Akbash dogs. She has also written "Livestock Protection Dogs: Selection, Care and Training," and has published short stories of fiction for chil-



dren and young adults.

She received the Joyce Barkhouse Writing for Children Prize honorable mention from the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia for her fictional work "Oksana."

Readers can obtain copies of "House of Bears" by contacting Nimbus Publishing, 3731 MacKintosh St., P.O. Box 9166, Halifax, NS, B3K 5MB; telephone, 800-646-2879; e-mail, customerservice@nimbus.ca; or website, www.acornpresscanada.com. The book is also available online at Amazon.com and Amazon.ca.

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U.S. Helsinki...

(Continued from page 4)

would be the creation of a high-level governmental reform commission with an adequate budget to implement reforms.

His commission listed 10 priorities that Ukraine should pursue this year. They are: gas reform; making the National Bank of Ukraine independent so as to give a proper basis for the banking system; moving toward inflation targeting with a floating exchange rate to stop future high inflation; cutting public expenditures; undertaking comprehensive deregulation of enterprise capital and cut red tape; concluding a European association agreement, which would include a deep and comprehensive free trade agreement; getting privatization going again; legalizing private sales of agricultural land; adopting a law on the public information to fight corruption; and completing modern commercial legislation.

"All these measures are truly vital," Dr. Aslund said, "and they can be implemented within a year." As for the U.S. role in this, he added, as the biggest shareholder in the IMF, Washington can "push the IMF into

action," help Ukraine engage in gas reform and, since Ukraine needs a new broader-educated elite, the United States should offer hundreds of student scholarships for Ukrainian scholars to come to this country.

Responding to a question near the end of the 90-minute hearing, Mr. Wilson returned to the issue of Russia's growing influence on Ukraine under President Yanukovich.

"I think he certainly has adopted a much softer position towards Russia – he wants to pursue positive relations," Mr. Wilson said. "But he hasn't turned his back on Europe," he added, even though he has "pressed back" on a NATO agenda, which "obviously pleases many in Moscow."

"But I think once you become president of Ukraine, it's, kind of, nice to be president of an independent, sovereign country," he said. "And I would hope that this position of responsibility would make him think more about the benefits to Ukraine of an independent streak, of an independent decision-making process."

Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Dr. Oleh Shamshur, was scheduled to appear at the hearing but could not



Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (left) and Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin chair the hearing titled "Ukraine: Moving Beyond Stalemate?"

attend because of illness. In a written statement forwarded to the commission, he noted that "substantial attention" of Ukraine's new leadership will focus on

developing "friendly, mutually beneficial and pragmatic relations between Ukraine and the Russian Federation in all spheres, including the sphere of energy."

He added, however – noting the post-election telephone conversation between the President Yanukovich and President Barack Obama – that "there is no doubt that relations with the United States will remain in the center of the foreign policy of Ukraine" and that Ukraine "is ready to enhance the positive dynamic acquired by bilateral cooperation" between the two countries in the past.

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Ukrainian pro sports update: Hockey history

by Ihor Stelmach

Terry Sawchuk still the best goalie ever in the NHL

When seemingly unsurpassable career marks are broken, it is appropriate to salute not only the new record holder, but also the previous one.

As Barry Bonds came upon Hank Aaron's career home run total, the baseball world remembered to celebrate Hammerin' Hank's slugging accomplishments.

When Brett Favre was getting close to eclipsing Dan Marino's career touchdown pass record, the Dolphin great was in the news almost as much as when he was hooking up with Duper, Clayton and those other Miami receivers.

On December 21, 2009, when New Jersey Devils' goaltender-extraordinaire Martin Brodeur blanked the Penguins, 4-0, to notch his 104th NHL shutout, joining him in the spotlight was Terry Sawchuk. For it was the "King of Pain," the Ukrainian Sawchuk, that Brodeur finally passed to become the league's new No. 1 ranking netminder. Sawchuk's 103 career NHL shutouts had stood atop the list for 39 years.

It's a shame Sawchuk is not alive to comment about Brodeur's exploits. He passed away in 1970 at the young age of 40, a mere couple of months following his last NHL game with the New York Rangers. Sawchuk's last breaths of life were in the spring, the part of the hockey season during which he excelled. His death mirrored his hard life – Sawchuk was a tormented soul, a big drinker who was clinically depressed.

In the late 1960s when his marriage ended, he often worried about taking care of his seven children, who lived in Detroit with their mother.

"When he was sober, he wouldn't fight anyone," former Toronto Maple Leafs captain George Armstrong said of Sawchuk in the book "67: The Maple Leafs, Their Sensational Victory and the End of an Empire." "When he was drunk, he wanted to fight everyone all the time." All of 37 and considered old for a goalie back then, Sawchuk tended the nets brilliantly in those 1967 playoffs.

In today's world of interventions and players association-sponsored rehabs, Sawchuk would have had an easier time. His personal story would have played well in the press, on talk shows and perhaps even in a reality series. However, back in the 1950s and 1960s, hockey players were supposed to be tough, suck it up and move on. This is how Sawchuk lived his life both on and off the ice. On the ice, he played goalie without a mask and in equipment no one would use in today's game.

Sawchuk once estimated he had some 400 stitches in his facial area prior to finally succumbing to a mask in the late 1960s. An insecure person by nature, he was always worried he'd lose his starting position. Although there weren't many back-up netminders in the NHL back then, there were prospects in the minors who dreamed of stealing one of the NHL's six starting goalie slots. The result was tight-checking, hard-hitting defensive play, usually low-scoring, creating tremendous pressure on goaltenders.

"He'd get hurt, and have aches and pains, but he'd say: 'There's no way I'm going to sit out because these guys will take my job,'" recalled Alex Delvecchio, longtime Detroit captain and one of Sawchuk's closest friends on the Red Wings. (Quote from interview with Wayne Scanlan of Canwest News Service.)

Sawchuk's death itself was mysterious – a liquor-induced battle with Rangers teammate Ron Stewart left Terry's internal organs so damaged he passed away within a month.

Greatness transcends eras

Where did he rank among all-time NHL goalies? For those younger hockey fans out there who equate the art of goaltending with the butterfly style of Patrick Roy and later Brodeur, let us introduce you to the original "Golden Era of Goaltending" and its class of Glenn Hall, Jacques Plante, Johnny Bower and, yes, Terry Sawchuk.

The general opinion among the sport's pundits is that Sawchuk was at the head of this 1950s-1960s goalie class. Gordie Howe referred to him as "the best goalie I ever saw," at the ceremony to retire Sawchuk's No. 1 jersey in Detroit, only a few months after his death. (Having played over 30 seasons in the NHL and WHA, Howe, it is safe say, is a goalie expert.)

His career totals withstand all comparisons: a 2.52 goals-against average over 21 seasons with 447 wins, 103 shutouts and 971 games played.

Sawchuk's first five NHL seasons with Detroit were arguably the best ever: in 1950-1955 his goals-against average was unbelievably under 2.00 (at 1.93), he averaged 39 wins per season (the league played a 70-game schedule), won three Vezina Trophies and three Stanley Cups (1952, 1954 and 1955).

He was the heart of one of the league's greatest teams, the 1951-1952 Red Wings squad, which won 44 games, finished a whopping 22 points ahead of second-place Montreal and swept the Maple Leafs and Canadiens in the playoffs. Perhaps the most amazing 1952 Stanley Cup playoffs statistic was Sawchuk's four straight shutouts in the four Detroit home games – a pair over each opponent.

"He was our mainstay," Delvecchio said. "You could tell in the warm-up when he was going to have a hot night. We'd say, 'They're not going to get a pea by him.'"

Brotherly love

Ironically, Sawchuk would never have become a goaltender if not for a tragic family death. At age 12, growing up in Winnipeg, Terry was a smooth-skating forward who could pass and shoot the puck. He had a close bond with his older brother, Mitch, who was a goalie. Mitch Sawchuk died of a heart ailment at 17 and it was then that younger brother Terry decided he would continue in Mitch's footsteps and be a goaltender.

At first, the position switch didn't take, as Terry tried out for goalie and didn't make it. He was assigned to the center position and went on to win the Winnipeg scoring title. This translated into his future development as a great goalie – his agility, vision and thinking allowed him to revolutionize playing goal by playing angles.

How athletic was Sawchuk? He also played a bit of football, where he perfected the crouch of a three-point stance. In football and hockey he was always prepared to pounce: either to tackle an opposing running back or to capture a flying puck. Athletic? There's an old photo of Sawchuk leaping over the top of his net to play a puck behind the goal. Have Patrick Roy or Martin Brodeur ever done that?

As a youngster, he incurred a bad fracture of his right arm from a football injury. When it healed, his right (blocker arm) was a few inches shorter than his left arm, one of the first scars for the "King of Pain," an early hurdle to overcome.

Adapting to trades

If hockey lore is accurate in stating that Howie Morenz died of a broken heart after

being traded by the Canadiens, Sawchuk's depression may certainly have begun when he was traded by the Red Wings.

In 1955, after Detroit's Stanley Cup victory celebration, General Manager Jack Adams dispatched Sawchuk to the Boston Bruins in order to make room for a young goalie prospect named Glenn Hall. Adams was an old-school general manager, showing little loyalty to his players, not afraid to shoot from the hip with the media. Reportedly he thought Sawchuk was getting a bit overweight.

"He used to weigh 220, 230, maybe, in 1951 or 1952," said Delvecchio, "but Adams told him to lose weight and he came back next year and he looked like a skeleton. All his bones were showing."

Fighting his personal demons did not prevent the dedicated netminder from continued excellent performance. His new team in Boston was not exactly a Stanley Cup contender, but Sawchuk nonetheless was a candidate for the league's Hart Trophy (MVP) in the 1956-1957 season. At the midway point of the campaign, the Ukrainian was diagnosed with mononucleosis. Taking still another one for the team, Sawchuk hurried back from his illness, like always. It was later suspected his playing through the mono worsened the clinical depression that went on to darken the last 13 years of his short life.

There were several more highlights. Sawchuk had an opportunity to return to his beloved Detroit as part of another Red Wings-Bruins trade. It was a swap of Ukrain-

ians: the veteran Sawchuk back to Detroit for a young forward and future fellow Hall of Famer, Johnny Bucyk. Although the Red Wings were no longer a perennial Cup contender, Sawchuk did his part to return them to the finals in 1961, 1963 and 1964.

Alas, the Red Wings again dispatched the venerable netminder, this time through waivers. At 34, Sawchuk found himself in Toronto, mostly playing back-up to Johnny Bower. Yet again the Ukie backstopper rose to the occasion, when in 1967 he proved to be the difference maker in the Leafs' sprint to the Stanley Cup.

Finishing up the Sawchuk-Brodeur comparison, we should not be at all surprised the current Devils' goalie is the one who broke the old Ukrainian's shutout record. Analyzing technique, the two tend goal in a very similar manner. Brodeur happens to be one of the few contemporary goaltenders who has not completely adopted the strict butterfly style, sometimes standing up to block shots.

As unfair as it is to attempt goalie comparisons in vastly different eras (consider present-day equipment innovations and modern training regimens), Delvecchio echoes the sentiment of his era's greatest players in suggesting Terry Sawchuk deserves a revered spot in hockey history.

"I've seen a lot of goaltenders," Delvecchio told Canwest News Service. "And I'd say he was probably the greatest of them all."



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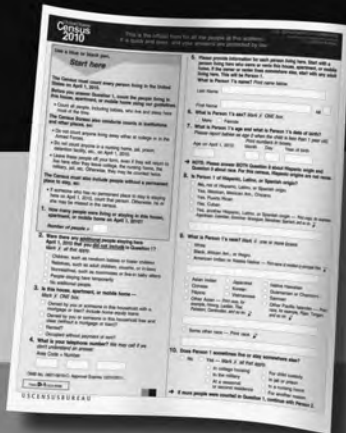
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Усе в наших руках

A journey...

(Continued from page 6)

the survivors to the microphone. Although frail in appearance, their voices were strong as they extended their deepest thanks to the film-makers for accurately portraying the horrors of the Holodomor that they were fortunate to survive. Ms. Lew presented each survivor with flowers as a remembrance of the special evening.

The next speaker, Natalia Dziubenko Mace, who is interviewed in the documentary, spoke about her late husband, Dr. James E. Mace, the prominent researcher on the Holodomor and former executive director of the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine. She underlined the importance of having documentaries on the Holodomor.

Several more prominent speakers extended their thanks, including Prof. Vasyl Marochko, director of the Center for Research of the Genocide of the Ukrainian People.

Observations and a short discussion followed on the causes and effects of the genocide brought about by the Soviet Communist regime against the Ukrainian people in the early 1930s. The program concluded with a moment of silence in memory of the 10 million victims.

That evening the four ladies boarded the overnight express train to Lviv where the second screening was to be held the following day at the Ukrainian Catholic University. Arriving on Wednesday, November 25, they were driven to the campus of the university located in the heart of this historic city.

Upon entering the University's lecture hall they were greeted warmly by the rector of the university, the Rev. Dr. Father Boris Gudziak. The room, already buzzing with expectation, was filled with TV cameras, students, seminarians and guests, many of whom were seated in the balcony as the main floor had filled up quickly. A small memorial altar with an icon and lit candles stood in the right-hand corner. The Rev. Gudziak introduced the guests and following a brief but sincere welcome by Ms. Lew and Mrs. Keske, the "Holodomor" screening began.

Following the preview, the Rev. Gudziak addressed the audience. He first expressed his thanks to those who contributed to the making of the documentary and pointed out to everyone that even though western Ukraine was not directly affected by the Holodomor, it is a legacy of Ukraine's history. He went on to stress that all Ukrainians, as well as the international community, should be educated about this crime against humanity that took millions of innocent lives to ensure that history does not repeat itself in any part of the world. In conclusion, the Rev. Gudziak conducted a panakhyda (memorial service) for those who died during this man-made famine.

That night, the small group once again boarded the overnight train and returned to Kyiv. The next morning, Thursday, November 26, they drove on to their next destination, Pereyaslav-Khmelnytskyi University for the third screening.

To the group's pleasant surprise, the university, or pedagogical institute, named after Hryhorii Skovoroda, housed a full-fledged theater seating approximately 500 people. As the group was dealing with the final details of the screening, students were scurrying into the theater to grab any empty seat still available.

Ms. Lew and Mrs. Keske welcomed the director of the university, administrative staff, students and guests to the special screening. Ms. Lew and Mrs. Keske were then presented with official certificates of acknowledgement and appreciation for the entire production team of

"Holodomor" from the Kyiv City Administration. The two ladies accepted these certificates with thanks and humility.

Prior to screening the documentary, the audience was addressed by a survivor who relayed her experience of the horrors she saw and lived through during those dark times. Immediately following the screening, a panakhyda was held in the large theater with the audience's participation. No one left the hall until the final note of "Vichnaya Pamyat" had faded away.

On Friday morning, November 27, the group got an early start, knowing that the drive to Chernihiv would be much longer than the previous day's trip. The van arrived, with time to spare, at the city's theater, an interesting circular building boasting tall columns on either side of the entrance, where Serhiy Butko, head of the Chernihiv Region Information Bureau and the local representative of the Institute of National Memory was waiting to greet the group.

Inside the theater, on the small stage, an oblong table covered with a Ukrainian embroidered tablecloth had been placed in front of the large screen. Ms. Lew and Mrs. Keske were seated for the introduction and press conference along with Mr. Butko and Nadiya Molochko, the representative from the Chernihiv Regional Administration Offices.

The theater was filled to capacity and there were several TV crew members with their cameras off to the side taping the session. As the press conference came to a close, the room went dark, and the only glimmer of light remaining as "Holodomor" appeared on the screen came from five votive candles flickering on the table in front of the screen.

When the lights were turned back on, many in the audience were wiping tears from their faces. Before the panakhyda commenced, the local priest spoke to the audience and, on behalf of those in attendance he extended his heartfelt thanks to the Ukrainian diaspora, the four women for bringing the film to Chernihiv and all those who had contributed to the making of the documentary.

To the group's surprise, Mr. Butko had arranged to give them a walking tour of this very important and historical city dating back to the ninth century – the city of Ukraine's "Kniazzi" (princes). The group was fortunate to see, among other historical buildings, Ukraine's oldest cathedral dating back to 1030 A.D.

Saturday, November 28, was a bleak day with light rain falling steadily. Perhaps the skies were weeping along with so many in Ukraine who on this day were commemorating the 76th anniversary of the Famine that slowly, painfully and brutally took the lives of 10 million men, women and children. Later that day, President Viktor Yushchenko was to lead an official commemoration in Kyiv at the memorial to the victims of the Holodomor.

The group started out at 8 a.m. for the ride to the Children's Art Institute and School located in Yahotin, a small city southeast of Kyiv, whose beginnings as a flourishing city date back to the mid-16th century. This would be the last "road trip" and the final screening in Ukraine.

Arriving at the school, they were welcomed by members of Yahotin's Regional Administration and the director of the institute. The screening room had already filled up and, again, there was a camera crew set up to film the proceedings. Following brief introductions, the screening commenced.

As the lights returned, candles were distributed to the audience and lit along with the lone candle next to the Icon of Mother and Child which stood on a small low table on the left side of the screen. As in previous cities, the audience participat-



In Lviv (from left) are: Luba Keske, the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic University, Maya Lew, and Viktoriya Hubska and Iryna Mykolayenko, production coordinators in Ukraine for the Holodomor documentary.

ed in a panakhyda in memory of all those who perished in 1932-1933.

Following the panakhyda, the priest thanked Mr. Leigh, the production team, the Ukrainian diaspora in the U.S. and all who helped to make this documentary a reality. A lone survivor who was brought to the screening by her daughter was presented a round loaf of bread on a beautifully embroidered Ukrainian ceremonial "rushnyk." She slowly stood up with her daughter's help and, although unable to speak at length to the audience, her face showed gratitude and her eyes held back tears as she reflected on the suffering that she and millions of Ukrainians had endured.

Likewise, to show Yahotin's gratitude for bringing "Holodomor: Ukraine's Genocide" to Ukraine, the members of the "Holodomor" film team were presented a round bread. It was a touching moment for the foursome.

That same afternoon the group returned to Kyiv, where they attended the commemoration of the Holodomor at the city's memorial built to the victims. It was a fitting end to their road trip in Ukraine.

Despite the chilly weather, thousands of people had gathered on the grounds of the memorial. The group watched as representatives from various oblasts dressed

in their traditional local folk costumes made their way to place candles at the foot of the memorial from each oblast, representatives were led by an elderly person along with a child, representing the future of Ukraine. During this silent procession, the only sound that was heard was the mournful music of the bandurist capella.

The most touching moment came when, led by a child, President Yushchenko, Kateryna Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko, who were walking side by side carrying identical arrangements with memorial candles in the middle, made their way slowly toward the large Cande of Memory. On the hillsides on either side of the memorial, 25,000 red candles burned representing the 25,000 men, women and children who died each day during the Holodomor.

After Mr. Yushchenko's moving speech, the group, along with thousands of others who had gathered, approached the memorial to pay their respects by placing yet another candle in memory of the victims of the genocide.

Later that evening everyone met to say farewell, as the time had come for Ms. Lew and Mrs. Keske to return to the U.S. Through tears and hugs they expressed their gratitude and thanks to each other for "a job well done – a promise kept."

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Students, educators...

(Continued from page 1)

ticularly Europe." Kyiv-Mohyla President Serhiy Kvit wrote in his statement. "Which is why such a minister can't sit at the table of negotiations with the ministers of civilized states, can't be held responsible for academia and the education of our country."

Indeed, Mr. Tabachnyk is a lifelong bureaucrat and politician, with no experience teaching at a university. He earned a doctorate in history in 1995, accomplishing this feat while simultaneously chairing the Presidential Administration of former President Leonid Kuchma.

Ms. Kviatkovska and her classmates ignored frigid weather to join a protest on March 17 of more than 2,500 demonstrators outside the Lviv Oblast Council building to protest Mr. Tabachnyk's appointment and demand his dismissal.

A similar protest was held outside the Education Ministry in Kyiv on that day, but nowhere was the outrage greater than in the Halychyna region and its central city of Lviv, whose ethnically conscious residents have been the target of a slew of vicious, derogatory remarks made by Mr. Tabachnyk in recent years.

Halychyna residents are backwards herdsmen with a justified inferiority complex, who have practically nothing in common with the residents of Greater Ukraine, Mr. Tabachnyk has said.

During World War II, Halychyna comprised the majority of Nazi auxiliary police, Abwehr intelligence gatherers and SS (Schutzstaffel) formations, and were the motivating force of the 2004 maidan revolt, he said.

Such statements are gross exaggerations, typical of Mr. Tabachnyk, who also engaged in outright slander. In 2008, he falsely claimed that Ukrainian Insurgent

Army Commander-in-Chief Roman Shukhevych was a Nazi officer who received high awards from Adolf Hitler.

Yet it's Mr. Tabachnyk's proposed retrograde education reforms, which involve eliminating the reforms of the Orange era and returning Soviet practices, that have sparked outrage throughout Ukraine, even among students in the Russophile eastern oblasts.

Mr. Tabachnyk has called for canceling standardized admissions testing altogether, making Ukrainian-language testing optional and even returning the 10 elementary grades of the Soviet system to replace the current 12-grade system that conforms with Western standards.

Some of Mr. Tabachnyk's proposals have already been endorsed by Mr. Semynozhenko, who served as a close advisor to former President Kuchma as his vice prime minister for humanitarian affairs for three years.

For instance, Ukraine's standardized testing for college admissions will be conducted in several languages this year, Mr. Semynozhenko announced at a March 17 press conference.

"Inequality and unequal competition was allowed for college applicants regarding the language of independent testing," he said. "Our principle, which will be laid down, is the language in which he finished school – for example, completed a Hungarian school in Mukachiv, completed school with the Bulgarian language of study, Russian schools, Ukrainian – they will take the test in the language in which they studied."

Yet, educational authorities said the measure is clearly aimed at allowing Ukraine's Russian-language speakers to avoid taking the test in the Ukrainian language.

In addition, standardized testing will no longer be the single determining factor in college admissions, as it had been for the

last two years.

Out of a 1,000-point scale system of evaluation for admissions, standardized testing scores will count for 600 points, school grades will count for 200 points and a university's own admissions exam and interview will count for 200 points, Mr. Semynozhenko said on March 17.

In the view of educators and students alike who support standardized testing, while allowing for different factors to be considered in college admissions makes sense in developed societies, re-introducing interviews merely re-opens the door to corruption, namely paying bribes for admissions.

An education system that was so rife with corruption by the end of the Kuchma era needed strict admission rules that don't offer even the smallest opening for bending the rules, authorities said.

"Ideally, in the absence of corruption in admissions, a different system could work," said Rostyslav Paranko, a lecturer at the Ukrainian Catholic University. "But in the current situation of Ukraine, with exceptional corruption in admissions to higher educational institutions, it's a compelled step which is effective in at least significantly reducing the level of corruption at the current stage."

Allowing other factors to be considered in admissions, besides exclusively relying on standardized testing, is merely a tactic intended to eventually phase out the whole practice, suspected Dr. Dobko.

While state universities are fearful of losing state funds, it's the most financially independent universities – the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) – that have most vocally protested Mr. Tabachnyk's appointment.

Both Kyiv Mohyla and UCU receive significant financing from the West, particularly the Ukrainian diaspora, which has given their respective leadership enough

independence to take moral positions.

They have also been leaders in supporting higher education reforms to enable Ukraine's universities to move closer to Western standards.

Meanwhile, those universities entirely dependent on state funding have either remained silent, or voiced support for the new government.

More than 20 Kharkiv Oblast university rectors on March 15 issued a statement supporting Mr. Tabachnyk, deeming him "a highly intellectual, experienced leader, a principled person with high moral qualities, capable of resolving urgent problems of reforming the educational sphere."

Another letter surfaced on March 18, declaring that "thanks to the positions of Mr. Tabachnyk, education was free from totalitarian ideologization, which is incompatible with the norms of the existence of a democratic society and its declared course of Euro-integration."

This letter was signed by Shevchenko National University Rector Leonid Huberskyi, National University of Kyiv Polytechnic Institute Rector Mykhailo Zhurovskyi, Bohomolets National Medical University Rector Anatolii Moskalenko, Kyiv National Economic University Rector Anatolii Mazaraki, among more than 15 rectors in Kyiv.

Most disturbingly, they supported Mr. Tabachnyk's call for a "free choice" of language in instruction and examinations, which refers exclusively to allowing instruction in the Russian language instead of Ukrainian.

Franko National University in Lviv hasn't issued a statement, but Vice-Rector Maria Zubrytska told The Ukrainian Weekly she personally condemns the plans to undermine progressive reforms in education.

(Continued on page 29)



Summer Courses in Ukraine for Ukrainian-American Youth

Dates: July 24 – August 29, 2010

Locations: four weeks at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine plus one week (optional) in Western Ukraine (Trans-Carpathian)

Eligible Age: ages 14 – 18

Size of group: 22 persons, including two or three adult group leaders/counselors (teachers and parents)

Who is eligible: higher class pupils of Ukrainian schools and members of Ukrainian-American youth organizations

School Credits Available: Students will receive 6 (six) college credits upon completing a final examination (optional)

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2. to help participants improve their speaking, reading & writing abilities through intensive classroom studies and immersion in Ukrainian society,
3. to acquaint participants with their historical motherland by exposing them to Ukraine's history & culture in the classroom and field trip excursions,
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Cost per capita: Registration fee (\$100 per person), four weeks room/board (breakfast & lunch), classes, excursions to museums, theaters, cultural centers in Kyiv (\$2140), one week recreation in Western Ukraine with excursions and room/board (\$435), group counselors cost (\$350), round trip airline ticket to Kyiv (\$1000-\$1200), Registration Fee: \$100 per person. Total cost: approximately \$4345

For basic information visit www.sdinstitute.org. For more information, visit the KMA main site at <http://summerschool.ukma.kiev.ua/>

For residents of the greater Washington DC and Baltimore MD area, please contact 2009 Participant Marta Kowalczyk – Teacher of Ukrainian as a 2nd Language, (Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies, Bethesda MD), martreut@gmail.com, (703) 533-9879

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Students, educators...

(Continued from page 28)

Plans to introduce standardized aptitude tests in 2011, parallel with achievement tests, are under threat of derailment, she said. "I am scared of the absence of succession of government policy," said Ms. Zubrytska. "No country can allow this. The absence of succession is a sign of the political culture and stability in a state's management."

Standardized testing has a seven-year history in Ukraine, which has been consistently upheld by every education minister since 2003 – Vasyl Kremen, Stanislav Nikolayenko and Ivan Vakarchuk.

"There was a certain succession, regardless of the frequent changes in governments, which happened often," Ms. Zubrytska said. "But consistency and succession is a guarantee of stability and success of reforms. To move toward the future by returning to the past is irresponsible."

Opponents to Western educational standards have various motivations, most of which are grounded more in power and money than ideological issues, authorities said. They want to return to the pre-Orange ways because they earned money from admissions bribes, as well as extensive tutoring fees.

"The absence of standardized testing gave enormous structural and financial powers to university leaders," Dr. Marynovych said. "Corrupt schemes concluded with the rector, who could accordingly support his favorites, or easily ruin teachers he didn't favor. It was a well-developed system of influence and control. Standardized testing partly reduced this power."

Among the leaders in the campaign for Mr. Tabachnyk's dismissal has been Viacheslav Kyrlylenko, the 41-year-old



Olha Kviatkovska (center) and fellow second-year students at Ivan Franko National University in Lviv said they could have been denied admission if not for standardized testing, which has eliminated bribery in the admissions process.

chairman of the For Ukraine party who is positioning himself to succeed Viktor Yushchenko as the leader of Ukraine's national democratic movement.

He registered a bill in Parliament on March 12 calling for Mr. Tabachnyk's dismissal, which has gained the support of the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc. Mykola Tomenko, one of Ms. Tymoshenko's top advisors, called on the Volodymyr Lytvyn Bloc to support Mr. Tabachnyk's dismissal, but its national deputies declined.

In response to the dismissal calls, Presidential Administration Vice-Chair Hanna Herman said Mr. Tabachnyk's voluntary resignation would be "honest" and benefit the administration of President Viktor Yanukovich. Yet she said she didn't expect that would happen.

Ms. Herman has a history of expressing her own viewpoint, which conforms

to the views held in her native Halychyna but is rarely reflective of the policies of the Party of Regions of Ukraine.

She also has a history of issuing conflicting statements. In the case of Mr. Tabachnyk, she said there weren't any "realistic pre-conditions" on which to base his dismissal, two days before stating he ought to resign. Then, on March 18, she said she would defend Mr. Tabachnyk.

Mr. Tabachnyk said he isn't concerned about his critics, claiming he's become the target of "McCarthyism or a witch hunt." He said his statements made during political campaigning shouldn't be confused with his actions as minister. "No one today can place blame for any bad decision of mine during my three working days in the position of education minister," he said.

Dmytro Tabachnyk in his own words

- "Halychany practically have nothing in common with the people of greater Ukraine, not in mentality, not in confession, not linguistically nor politically. We have different enemies and different allies. Moreover, our allies and even brothers are their enemies, and their 'heroes' to us are killers, traitors and accomplices to Hitlerite executioners."

- "Halychany supplied the larger part of personnel in the Hitler auxiliary police, the formation of Abwehr and the SS. It's they who made up the motivational force of the maidan putsch. Only with a miracle, thanks to the self-restraint of the government at the time, did it not spill over into a civil war."

- "The last 20 years of co-existence of Ukrainians and Halychany have shown that the government, forcibly elevating imposed Halychyna ideologues and values alien to Ukrainians which aren't held by the majority of the population, isn't viable. The last five years of Halychyna dominance have brought the government so close to the edge of crash, collapse and civil conflict that Halychany should themselves be interested in leaving if not Ukraine, then at least its government institutions."

- "In 1991, Ukrainians in the second referendum voted for independence, dreaming of how they would begin selling to the Muscovites pork fat [salou] at global prices. They still get offended, that as it turns out, global prices for oil and natural gas are constantly rising, while no one needs pork fat."

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Yanukovych will...

(Continued from page 2)

(EDM, November 12, 2004).

Implementing stricter security policies ordered by President Yushchenko, the Security Service of Ukraine (known by its Ukrainian-based acronym as SBU) began adopting a tougher approach toward Russian intelligence activities in Crimea and Sevastopol. Responding to these clandestine activities in southern Ukraine, Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) in the BSF was ordered to leave Ukraine by December 2009, an order with which it complied (EDM, July 14, 2009). Moscow has demanded that the new Ukrainian president re-admit the FSB to the BSF and "end all cooperation with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)" (Kommersant Vlast, February 22).

Russian intelligence activities against Ukraine have continued from bases located near Ukraine's borders. On January 27 four FSB officers were detained in Odesa by the SBU after they attempted to obtain secret military information from a Ukrainian citizen. Another three FSB officers provided support to the operation, while a fourth was an officer from the Operational Group of Russian Forces in Moldova (OGRF). One FSB officer was subsequently charged with espionage, while the remainder were deported on January 30 (www.sbu.gov.ua, February 3).

The Ukrainian citizen ("Ruslan Pylypenko") was an undercover officer in Ukrainian military intelligence who was forcibly recruited during an October 29, 2009, visit to Tiraspol in the Transnistria enclave where the FSB claimed he had been undertaking an intelligence mission. Mr. "Pylypenko" was illegally arrested, hooded and taken to a Russian base, where his life was threatened in order to compel his cooperation with the FSB (www.ukranews.com, February 3). The threat was accompanied by Mr. "Pylypenko" being shown FSB photographs of his family and himself in Odesa taken by Russian intelligence.

Mr. "Pylypenko," an officer of Ukrainian military intelligence, had played along and arranged a meeting in Odesa on January 27 to hand over secret materials of Ukrainian intelligence operations against Russia (Radio Ukraine, February 3). How seriously Moscow considered the operation was evident when it dispatched the head of the FSB in the OGRF, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, to personally oversee the Odesa operation. After the SBU arrested the Russian

officers, he fled to the Transnistria.

Another senior FSB officer, "Vladimir Alexandrov," had flown in from Moscow to help coordinate the operation. During the arrest the SBU found "a whole arsenal of espionage equipment" that included digital microphones, a mini video camera built inside a pen, a miniature container for storing digital data with instructions for Mr. "Pylypenko," a holder for flash drives and \$2,000 (Infotag, February 4). A mobile telephone memory card belonging to Lt. Andriy Khort of the FSB contained photocopies of classified Russian instructions for informants.

The reaction of the Party of Regions to the espionage scandal was the same as when President Dmitry Medvedev sent an inflammatory letter to President Yushchenko in August 2009; on both occasions it supported Russia and blamed the Ukrainian side. Prime Minister Azarov accused President Yushchenko of provoking the scandal and thereby adding to the already poor state of Ukrainian-Russian relations (Ukrayinska Pravda, February 2, 4). "We categorically condemn such unfounded accusations," Mr. Azarov said (www.proua.com, February 3).

The deported FSB officers were banned from entering Ukraine for five years. This followed the practice of placing civilian Russians, such as Moscow's Mayor Yury Luzkov, who has been banned from entering Ukraine since May 2008, on blacklists because of their subversive activities directed against Ukraine's territorial integrity.

A senior deputy of the Party of Regions, Aleksandr Yefremov, described this as a "stupid practice" and vouched for Mr. Luzkov as someone whom "I respect very much" (www.ukranews.com, February 17). Mr. Luzkov has been the most vocal Russian supporter of Russian sovereignty over Sevastopol and he attended and gave a keynote speech in support of eastern Ukrainian separatism at a rally organized by presidential candidate Mr. Yanukovych in Severodonetsk in November 2004 (EDM, November 29, 2004 and June 24, 2005).

Mr. Yanukovych's election signifies a fundamental revision of how Ukraine defines its national security. An unwillingness to see Russia as any form of threat will have profound implications for Ukraine's foreign policy and could undermine its territorial integrity.

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Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

rightful place as a member of the Euro-Atlantic community."

Ukraine and the United States signed a Charter on Strategic Partnership in December 2008, which indicated their "mutual desire to strengthen our relationship across the economic, diplomatic, cultural and security fields." During Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's trip to Brussels in 2009, she proclaimed, "We [Western allies] should continue to open NATO's door to European countries such as Georgia and Ukraine."

The UCCA statement urged U.S. officials to reaffirm the NATO Bucharest summit's language, when it stated: "NATO welcomes Ukraine's and Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations for membership in

NATO. We agreed today that these countries will become members of NATO... MAP is the next step for Ukraine and Georgia on their direct way to membership. Today we make clear that we support these countries' applications for MAP."

Many Ukrainians felt that, if NATO wavered in its stance, it would send the wrong message to Russia: that it had veto power in the Alliance, of which it was not a member. Other concerns included NATO's affirmation of a Russian sphere of influence, giving Russia permission to dictate the foreign policy choices of its neighbors, and Ukraine's and other former Soviet states' further isolation from the West.

Source: "UCCA statement on Ukraine and its application for a MAP," The Ukrainian Weekly, March 29, 2009.

President...

(Continued from page 2)

Yushchenko's decision as several EU members including Poland, view Bandera as a Nazi collaborator (www.europarl.europa.eu, February 25).

There was little progress reached beyond humanitarian issues. Commenting on the Russian Black Sea Fleet base in Sevastopol, Mr. Yanukovych said that consultations would continue and that Mr. Medvedev shared his view: "this issue is complicated" (Interfax-Ukraine, March 5). Moscow wants to extend its navy's stationing in Sevastopol beyond 2017, as agreed in 1997, but this would contradict the Constitution of Ukraine.

The Kremlin duumvirate was reluctant to discuss gas with Mr. Yanukovych, who is determined to revise the January 2009 gas contract with Gazprom. Ahead of his visit, Mr. Yanukovych had signaled that gas would be among the main issues on his agenda. He said in an interview with the BBC Ukrainian Service on March 1 that he would push for a revision of the contract with Russia, which was concluded by Mr. Yanukovych's archrival Yulia Tymoshenko, who was ousted as prime minister on March 3. Mr. Yanukovych said the price for Ukraine was not fair.

Ahead of the Yanukovych visit, the Kommersant-Ukraine daily said on March 5, citing sources on Mr. Yanukovych's team, that his main task in Moscow would be to lower the gas price for Ukraine from the current \$305 per 1,000 cubic meters to as low as \$205. The daily also predicted that Mr. Yanukovych would try to persuade

Moscow to either abandon the South Stream gas pipeline project, or correct it to allow the participation of Ukrainian companies.

If no agreement was reached, the daily's sources on the Yanukovych team said, Kyiv might consider resuming gas exports to central Europe, which were abandoned in the mid-2000s at Moscow's insistence, and importing liquefied natural gas from Algeria or Qatar in order to lessen dependence on Russian gas.

Despite Mr. Yanukovych's determination, Russian Energy Minister Sergei Shmatko said the gas price issue was not discussed during Mr. Yanukovych's meeting with Mr. Medvedev. Mr. Shmatko suggested it might be raised once a new Ukrainian Cabinet is formed (Interfax-Ukraine, March 5).

Prime Minister Putin invited President Yanukovych to join the customs union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. However, Mr. Yanukovych told the Russian Vesti TV on March 6 that Ukraine as a World Trade Organization (WTO) member could only join the union on WTO conditions. Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan are only in talks to join the WTO, while Ukraine joined in 2008.

In an interview with Euronews, Mr. Yanukovych said he could not see a clear picture of what Ukraine would be doing in the customs union and how it might benefit from membership. He also ruled out recognition of the Georgian breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia (www.euronews.net, March 5).

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A poet...

(Continued from page 19)

"I" of poems, of course, comprises a mask that shows a part, a projection of an author's self and not the complete person.

In the time I interacted with Ms. Kostenko, she proved to be an iron-willed individual who could quickly change her mood from an ecstatic high to a profound low. Perhaps that was part of the creative personality that she writes about in her poem "Van Gogh." In that poem the artist psychologically abides on the edge of madness while he tries to achieve both personal and creative freedom. I noticed that Ms. Kostenko's reaction to people often hinged on her visceral response to a single word that someone would utter, often in passing. Yet when Ms. Kostenko enjoyed someone's company, she exuded great affability and charm.

It was almost as if there were two Ms. Kostenkos, one of whom would invariably emerge, depending on the situation or her reaction to the person interacting with her. One was delightfully open and sociable, the other closed and contrarian.

Two events particularly struck me during her visit. One occurred while I was bringing back Ms. Kostenko and her son Vasyl to Penn State from Washington, where she had just received the Antonovych Prize for her collection "The Garden of Unmelting Sculptures." I also was giving a ride in the same car to Russian writer Tatyana Tolstaya, who was coming to my university for a lecture. Vasyl sat quietly in the front seat with me for the four-hour drive, while Ms. Kostenko and Ms. Tolstaya sat in the back.

The two writers at first exchanged pleasantries and discussed mutual friends and figures in the Union of Writers. But then the conversation turned to the "natsionalnyi vopros" – the nationality question in the USSR. This was in the spring of 1990, a year before Ukrainian independence. During the conversation Ms. Tolstaya took the tact that Ukraine needed to remain in close alliance with Russia, and Ms. Kostenko argued for the absolute necessity for Ukrainian

independence.

The more heated the discussion became, the more Ms. Tolstaya raised her voice – and the more Ms. Kostenko answered in a quieter and quieter whisper. At the height of the argument I recall Ms. Tolstaya shouting out, "That's MY Kyiv. That's MY Odesa. That's the Odesa of my childhood!" The argument ended in a deflating silence shortly after the outburst, just about when I stopped for gas near the Pennsylvania border. The final hour or so of our drive continued on without another word being said.

The other event of particular note for me was a meeting with Ukrainian poet Vasyl Barka. I had told Ms. Kostenko about the writer's nearly monastic life as a kind of present-day Hryhorii Skovoroda in the woods of Verkhovyna in Glen Spey, N.Y., and she took a particular interest in visiting him. My in-laws Bohdan and Maria Robak owned a vacation home in Glen Spey, and they were kind enough to give us their comfortable place to stay just a short walk from Mr. Barka's one-room abode in the small caretaker's house at the entrance to Verkhovyna.

Since he had no phone, we just dropped by at his second-floor room, which was, as usual, scattered with loose-leaf papers filled with his pencil script and piled high with books. His room was spartan, with only a bed, a small wobbly table, a few wooden chairs and a hot plate. In the winter months Mr. Barka lived in the heated room, while during the summer he lived in the "vezha," the unheated tower just past the Ardmore Mansion.

Mr. Barka had read virtually everything of Ms. Kostenko's and had high praise for her works, but Ms. Kostenko only had heard legends about Mr. Barka since he had been declared an "enemy of the people" by the Soviet government for his novel on the Holodomor "The Yellow Prince" and for his religious poetry. The conversation lasted about an hour between the two poets. Ms. Kostenko treated Mr. Barka with great awe and reverence, hanging in anticipation on every word he said.

It was an extraordinary meeting between the two poets that day.

OUT AND ABOUT

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| March 23
New York | Lecture by Ihor Poshyvailo, "The Ecology of the Museum Sphere in Ukraine," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 | March 28
New York | Period and their Sources," Ukrainian Youth Center, 514-481-5871 |
| March 25
New York | Film screening, "Evilenko" by David Grieco, Columbia University, 212-854-5627 | March 29
Cambridge, MA | 60th anniversary concert, Dumka Chorus of New York, Merkin Concert Hall, 212-501-3330 |
| March 25, 27
Cleveland, OH | Film screening, "Holodomor: Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933" by Bobby Leigh, Cleveland State University, 216-875-9734 | March 30
Toronto | Seminar by Oksana Kis, "Women's Participation in the National Liberation Movement in Western Ukraine Region in the 1930s-1950s," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 |
| March 27
New York | Ukrainian Easter Traditions workshop, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or edu@ukrainianmuseum.org | April 1
New York | Concert, featuring pianist Marianna Humetska, Gallery 345, www.gallery345.com or 416-822-9781 |
| March 27
New York | Concert, featuring pianist Angelina Gadeliya and the Lviv Duo of violinist Solomiya Ivakhiv and pianist Marianna Humetska, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660 | April 5
Cambridge, MA | Lecture by Taras Koznarsky, "Late Imperial Kyiv and Its 'Others'," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 |
| March 27
Montreal | Fund-raiser, "Hip-Hop Hopak," Concordia Ukrainian Students' Union and the McGill Ukrainian Students' Association, Ukrainian National Federation hall, Cusu.mtl@gmail.com | April 8
Stanford, CA | Seminar by Ivan Katchanovski, "Political Regionalism in 'Orange' Ukraine," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 |
| March 27
Ottawa | Pysanka demonstration, Alta Vista Branch Library, 613-737-2837 | April 11
Passaic, NJ | Lecture by Adriana Helbig, "Brains, Means, Lyrical Ammunition: Hip-Hop as Empowerment Among African Students in Kharkiv, Ukraine," Stanford University, 650-723-3562 |
| March 27
New York | Lecture by Alexander Lushnycky, "The History of Ukrainian Emigration in America: Stereotypes and Myths," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130 | April 17
Baltimore, MD | Church dinner, "Sviachene," St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 973-779-0249 |
| March 28
Baltimore, MD | Easter Bazaar, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 410-870-1720 | April 17
Passaic, NJ | Spring Flea Market, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 410-870-1720 |
| March 28
Lehigh, PA | Easter Bazaar, Ukrainian Homestead, 610-377-4621 | Fund-raiser, "Casino Royale," St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School, 973-471-0303 | |
| March 28
Montreal | Lecture by Prof. Radoslav Zuk, "Key Characteristics of Ukrainian Church Architecture of the Mazepa | <p><i>Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.</i></p> | |



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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Tuesday, March 23

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University will host a presentation by Dr. Ihor Poshyvailo titled "The Ecology of the Museum Sphere in Ukraine." Dr. Poshyvailo is deputy director of the National Center of Folk Culture, Ivan Honchar Museum. Presently, he is a Fulbright Scholar at the Smithsonian Center for Folklore and Cultural Heritage. The lecture will be held at noon in Room 1219, International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St. The event is free and open to the public. For additional information call 212-854-4697.

Saturday, March 27

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Dr. Alexander Lushnycky titled "The History of Ukrainian Emigration in America: Stereotypes and Myths," with an introduction by Dr. Andriy V.R. Szul. The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Sunday, March 28-Sunday, April 4

APOPKA, Fla: Holy Week and Easter services in Central Florida will be held at St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Catholic Church, Apopka, Fla. (near Orlando) as follows: Sunday, March 28, 11 a.m., Palm Sunday liturgy and willow blessing; Thursday, April 1, 10 a.m., divine liturgy, and 5 p.m., reading of 12 Gospels; Friday, April 2, 10 a.m., Holy Sepulcher Service; Saturday, April 3, 10 a.m., divine liturgy; Sunday, April 4, 10 a.m. Paschal Matins and 11 a.m. Easter divine liturgy. St. Mary Protectress is located at 245 Lake McCoy Drive.

Thursday, April 1

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Studies Program at Columbia University will host a presentation by Dr. Taras Koznarsky titled "Late Imperial Kyiv and its 'Others.'" Dr. Koznarsky is an associate professor at the University of Toronto, where he teaches Ukrainian, Russian and comparative Slavic literatures, as well as culture courses. The lecture will be held at noon in Room 1219, International Affairs Building, 420 W. 118th St. The event is free and open to the public. For additional information call 212-854-4697.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

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