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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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

Vol. LXXVIII

No. 50

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2010

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

At UNA General Assembly meeting, executives report another good year



Roma Hadzewycz

UNA General Assembly members during the opening ceremonies of their meeting.

by Roma Hadzewycz

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Members of the Ukrainian National Association's General Assembly gathered at their special meeting here over the weekend of December 4-5 heard the good news from

the UNA's full-time executive officers that the UNA's financial condition continues to improve.

They also participated in planning sessions related to the UNA's core business,

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A letter from the UNA's president

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Ukrainian National Association's Executive Committee, I had the honor and the privilege of welcoming the newly elected and returning board members of the UNA, on the occasion of our first post-convention General Assembly meeting, which was held at Soyuzivka on December 4-5.

My colleagues on the Executive Committee and I are so pleased with the spirit of cooperation and teamwork that were exhibited by this new General Assembly. The sessions were productive and fruitful, and we look forward to working together with each and every member of the board. Each member's knowledge, expertise and vision will be an invaluable contribution in helping us define our organization and achieve success.

I was equally pleased to report to the General Assembly on the financial performance of the Ukrainian National Association for the nine months ending September 30, 2010. I would like to take this opportunity to share these highlights with you, our loyal members, via the pages of our UNA publications.

Despite the languishing economy, 2010 is proving to be a banner year. Growth continues as net admitted assets as of September 30 reached \$144 million and have surpassed the

\$110 million milestone achieved as of December 31, 2009, by \$35 million. Asset growth has been spurred on by a strong performance in sales. Premium income surged to \$40.531 million for the nine months ending September 30, outperforming the impressive premium income level achieved for the year ending December 31, 2009, which reached \$35.917 million.

Despite lower yields, investment income continues to exhibit a solid performance, as net investment income reached \$4.823 million for the nine months ended September 30, in comparison with the \$4.924 million reported for the year ended December 31, 2009. The UNA's investment portfolio remains solid and the credit quality excellent. Surplus continues to maintain its stability and stands at \$4.881 million.

We are very pleased with these accomplishments. Much progress has been made, and with this new General Assembly we will continue to serve our members and work toward developing and growing our fraternal organization.

Thank you for placing your trust in us. Sincerely,

Stefan Kaczaraj
President

Ukrainian National Association

Kyiv Mohyla Academy reports new government restrictions

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – Ukraine's Ministry of Education and Science, led by the controversial Dmytro Tabachnyk, has begun a campaign to restrict the autonomy of the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy and halt its progressive reforms in higher education, the university's president, Serhiy Kvit, said at a December 9 press conference.

The ministry wants to eliminate the university's English language requirement, its pioneering Ph.D. programs, and unique admission standards for its master's degree programs, which require passing five exams, he said. Minister Tabachnyk even seeks to forbid students from freely attending lectures.

"The minister wants to cancel in our statutes and rights precisely that which in Western Europe is the foundation of the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)," Dr. Kvit stated.

Kyiv Mohyla Academy has been at the forefront of reforming Ukraine's anachronistic system of higher education, which doesn't conform to the standards of the Western world and is replete with corruption, which has reportedly been re-invigorated by Mr. Tabachnyk.

It's precisely these reasons – the university's spirit of independence and its fight against corruption – that Kyiv Mohyla Academy is being targeted by the ministry, said Dr. Kvit, whose statements were a reaction to the ministry's recent legislative proposals and its reassessment of the university's charter.

"The goal of the reconfirmation of our charter is to take away everything that gave us the possibility during the last 20 years to achieve those successes that we currently have," he said.

The National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NUKMA) is considered among Ukraine's top universities, offering six Ph.D. programs, the only such school in Ukraine. It has been at the forefront of educational reform in Ukraine, launching the first bachelor's and master's degree programs when many other universities were laughing off such attempts.

The Education Ministry has submitted legislation for review by the Verkhovna Rada that claims to introduce reforms in higher education. However, Dr. Kvit alleged these changes are largely formal so that the government can claim it's taking steps to integrate with European standards.

For example, Ukrainian universities would begin adapting to the three levels of higher education – bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. Yet they would still maintain the outdated Soviet degrees of specialist (five years), candidate of sciences (three years) and doctor of sciences.

Those students earning a candidate of



Zenon Zawada

National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy President Serhiy Kvit.

sciences degree would automatically qualify for a Ph.D., according to the legislation, without creating any structured doctoral programs. This is when no system of preparing candidate of science scholars exists either. Nobody needs such Ph.D.s, he said.

"As typical in the former Soviet Union, this law changes something formally without changing its essence," Dr. Kvit said. "If we change education in its essence, then we have to take responsibility upon ourselves."

Universities need autonomy in order to be competitive on an international level, Dr. Kvit said, yet the legislation further restricts NUKMA's autonomy, a process that began in 2008 under the prior education minister, Ivan Vakarchuk.

The next year, he forced NUKMA to abandon its sole reliance on its unique entrance exam in favor of standardized admissions testing that was implemented nationally. The NUKMA tests became part of several criteria.

This time around, the university's 12 to 15 interdisciplinary programs would be eliminated by the legislation, which denies students any freedom in deciding their course curriculum – another holdover from the Soviet era.

NUKMA students currently have the luxury of pursuing a double major and a minor in undergraduate studies, another option not offered by most universities in Ukraine. Students can also pursue a master's degree in a field different than their bachelor's studies.

The legislation also seeks to eliminate the university's English language requirement for admissions, citing discrimination. Dr. Kvit said that requirement is legal and con-

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ANALYSIS

Ukraine achieves limited progress in European Union integration

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

In November the European Union offered Kyiv a plan for visa-free travel and the European Parliament recognized that Ukraine has a right to apply for EU membership. Previous Ukrainian governments, perceived in Europe as more pro-European than the current one, could not boast of such achievements.

At the same time, it was made clear to Kyiv that if the situation with democracy continued to deteriorate, Brussels might change its stance. Also, Kyiv failed to complete Association Agreement talks by the end of 2010 as it had hoped.

The next two years will show whether the government of President Viktor Yanukovich is serious about EU integration. Kyiv plans to sign an Association Agreement with the EU and meet the EU's conditions for visa-free travel in 2011, and in 2012 Ukraine will have to demonstrate adherence to European values by holding free and fair parliamentary elections.

On November 22 President Yanukovich paid his third visit to Brussels in 2010, this time for a EU-Ukraine summit. As expected, the EU offered Ukraine an action plan towards establishing a visa-free regime for short stays.

Europeans, along with other Western nations, have been traveling to Ukraine without visas since 2005. Mr. Yanukovich's predecessors hoped that the EU would soften its visa rules in response, but this did not occur. In order to qualify for visa-free travel for its citizens, Ukraine must introduce biometric passports, curb illegal migration and step up its fight against organized crime, drug trafficking and human trade.

Mr. Yanukovich said Ukraine would meet all the conditions next year, although he admitted this would be a formidable task (Kommersant-Ukraine, November 23).

Unlike what Mr. Yanukovich had hoped earlier in the year, no Association Agreement on deepening Ukraine's political association and economic integration with the EU was signed. The two sides failed to agree on trade quotas and duties, although they did concur that respective talks should be completed next year.

European leaders did not conceal that problems with democracy in Ukraine may stand in the way of signing the agreement. EU Council President Herman Van Rompuy told Mr. Yanukovich that Ukraine should share the values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights if it wanted to join the European family. He expressed concern over reports of unfair play by Mr. Yanukovich's ruling Party of Regions (PRU) in the October 31 local elections (Ukrayinska Pravda, November 22).

The European Parliament was even more outspoken in its assessment of the current situation in Ukraine, as its resolution on Ukraine passed on November 25 expressed concern over reported pressure on the media, politicization of its Security Service (SBU), and the government's failure to guarantee the opposition parties' rights in the October 31 elections.

Moreover, the EU suggested that the SBU's activities should be investigated. SBU chief Valerii Khoroshkovsky is reportedly linked to the oligarch Dmytro Firtash and controls the country's most popular TV channel, Inter. Hence a conflict of interests exists and accusations abound of violations of media freedoms at home and abroad (EDM, June 24).

The resolution could have been even tougher on the Yanukovich administration's

attitude to democratic values but for the partnership relations established between the PRU and the Socialists in the European Parliament. The Socialists blocked an earlier, tougher version of the resolution which was backed by the right-of-center People's Party (Kommersant-Ukraine, November 26).

On the positive side, the European Parliament welcomed the visa liberalization plan offered by the EU and urged its members to abolish visa fees for Ukrainians, as well as declared that Ukraine has the right to apply for EU membership (Kommersant-Ukraine, November 26).

This was unusual, as European bodies usually deliberately avoid any mention of possible EU membership for Kyiv. That is why, despite all the criticism contained in the resolution, the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry welcomed the document. It stressed that the European Parliament had for the first time recognized Ukraine's right to join the EU.

The ministry's spokesman, Oleg Voloshyn, said that Kyiv would address the concerns raised by Brussels and "take all the necessary measures to bring national legislation and law enforcement practices into full correspondence with the highest European standards" (Ukrayinska Pravda, November 25).

While actively negotiating with the EU, the Yanukovich administration has abandoned the NATO integration strategy that was pursued by its predecessors, which suits Moscow. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said after meeting President Yanukovich on November 26 that Ukraine's membership in NATO would upset the security balance in Europe (UNIAN, November 26).

President Yanukovich ignored the November 19-20 NATO summit in Lisbon. Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko explained his absence in Lisbon by the need to thoroughly prepare for the EU-Ukraine Summit on November 22 (Interfax-Ukraine, November 20).

Nevertheless, NATO said in a resolution

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Court dismisses suit against Yanukovich for denying genocide

RFE/RL

KYIV – A court in Ukraine has dismissed a lawsuit against President Viktor Yanukovich for saying the famine that killed millions of Ukrainians in the 1930s should not be called genocide, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on December 8.

A Ukrainian citizen, Volodymyr Volosiuk, had sued Mr. Yanukovich for saying in April that the Holodomor of 1932-1933 could not be called a genocide against the Ukrainian people, as it affected other ethnic groups in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Volosiuk was seeking an apology from Mr. Yanukovich for the statement, which he said dishonored the memory of the millions of Ukrainians who died in the famine.

The Svoboda party informed RFE/RL that the Court of Appeals rejected his lawsuit, upholding a previous ruling by Kyiv's Pechersk District Court.

NEWSBRIEFS

Ukraine to miss Nobel ceremony

KYIV – Ukraine's Ambassador to Norway Oleksander Tsvetkov will not attend the Nobel Prize award ceremony for China's jailed dissident Liu Xiaobo, as Mr. Tsvetkov will be in Kyiv on December 10 at a meeting of ambassadors. Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry does not see any political implications here, Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Oleh Voloshyn told Ukrayinska Pravda on December 7. The official website of the Nobel Prize notes that Ukraine is among 19 states (China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Colombia, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Serbia, Iraq, Iran, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Philippines, Egypt, Sudan, Cuba and Morocco) that refused to participate in the award ceremony. A total of 44 states confirmed their attendance. (Ukrinform)

Svoboda summoned for questioning

KYIV – Svoboda Party leader Oleh Tiahnybok said he had received a summons for questioning on December 6. The party's press service reported on December 5 that Mr. Tiahnybok had been summoned for questioning to the investigative department of the Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry's main office in Kyiv "in a case regarding the protests against the tax code." Summons were also issued to the deputy head of the party, Andrii Mokhnyk; the chairman of the Kyiv city branch of the Svoboda Party, Andrii Ilyenko; and the deputy chairman of the Kyiv branch of the party, Ruslan Andriyko. Svoboda described the Interior ministry's actions as the "continuation of political repression" by the current authorities. In addition, one of the coordinators of the protest by entrepreneurs on Independence Square in Kyiv, Oleksander Danyliuk, wrote in his blog that he had been summoned for questioning to the department for combating organized crime of the Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry's main office in Kyiv on December 6. Mr. Danyliuk earlier called on members of political parties to come to Independence Square in Kyiv on December 6 to continue the protest.

"What happened during the night [the dismantling of the tent city of protesters on Independence Square early on December 3] was a ticket to a war. We've accepted this invitation, and we announced a 'general mobilization' for Monday," he said at a briefing in Kyiv on December 3. He also noted that businessmen were "standing on the maidan [Independence Square] for the sake of democracy in our country, rather than for the sake of selfish interests." (Interfax-Ukraine)

Tax protesters face charges

KYIV – Police in Kyiv have launched an investigation into the alleged destruction of city property by protesters, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on December 6. Thousands of small and medium-sized business owners and opposition activists protested on Kyiv's Independence Square from November 22 until December 3, with many of them camping on the square. They were challenging Ukraine's new tax code, which was adopted by the parliament in mid-November. The protesters set up a tent camp on the square, which was forcibly closed by police on December 3. Police say that when the tents were removed they discovered that protesters had hammered iron spikes into the paving stones and caused significant damage. Kyiv's city administration is currently calculating the damages, with a preliminary figure of some \$25,000 being mentioned. An investigation was officially launched into the "premeditated destruction of city property." One of the coordinators of the demonstration, Oleksander Danyliuk, was summoned to police and questioned about the damage. Demonstrations against the tax code have been held in many cities and towns. Last week, President Viktor Yanukovich vetoed the legislation and proposed amendments to it. On December 2, Parliament adopted the amended tax code – but the entrepreneurs are also opposed to the amended version. On December 5, Kyiv officials started erecting a temporary children's

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY FOUNDED 1933

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

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

Periodicals postage paid at Caldwell, NJ 07006 and additional mailing offices.
(ISSN 0273-9348)

The Weekly: UNA:

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

Postmaster, send address changes to:

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

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

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

The Ukrainian Weekly, December 12, 2010, No. 50, Vol. LXXVIII

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Ukraine says it will fulfill OSCE's election recommendations by 2013

RFE/RL

KYIV – Ukrainian officials say they will adopt recommendations of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on its election system before it becomes the chairman of the organization in about two years, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on November 25.

Stepan Havrysh, deputy secretary of the National Defense and Security Council, told RFE/RL that Ukraine is working on a new electoral code and planning to change from closed voting lists to a mixed-party system.

The OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights representative has called on Ukrainian officials to improve its election laws.

On November 23 foreign ministers from the 56 OSCE member-states decided that Ukraine will hold the one-year-long OSCE chairmanship in 2013.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich welcomed the decision, calling it a recognition of Ukraine's achievements in building a democratic society.

But Borys Tarasyuk, opposition national deputy and former foreign affairs minister, who chairs the Verkhovna Rada's Committee on European

Integration, told RFE/RL on November 24 that the Yanukovich administration cannot claim responsibility for garnering the OSCE chairmanship.

"The current authorities are lucky that this decision was announced now, but it has nothing to do with democracy flourishing in Ukraine," said Mr. Tarasyuk, who five years ago submitted Ukraine's application for the OSCE chairmanship.

Mr. Tarasyuk said he hopes the European Parliament, which is to vote on a resolution about the political situation in Ukraine, will condemn what he calls "a curbing of democracy" in the country.

Former Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister and ex-National Security and Defense Council Secretary Petro Poroshenko told RFE/RL that he also disagrees with Mr. Yanukovich's assessment of democracy in Ukraine.

"Certainly, the president has the right to say that [the OSCE decision] was an important recognition, but the achievements are not in the democratization of society but in the consolidation of authority, an increase in the manageability of the government and the elimination of conflicts within the government. Certainly, the OSCE community values these things," Mr. Poroshenko said.

European Parliament adopts resolution on situation in Ukraine

Ukrinform

KYIV – The European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation in Ukraine at its plenary session in Strasbourg on November 25. The document contains critical remarks and support for democratic changes and reforms in Ukraine, as well as the country's EU membership aspirations.

In particular, the document takes into account the results of the EU-Ukraine summit on November 22 and other important events in bilateral relations, as well as the legal framework for such cooperation worked out over the last few years.

The resolution recognizes Ukraine as a European country and as a key regional actor of strategic importance to the European Union. It also says that President Viktor Yanukovich and the Verkhovna Rada have confirmed Ukraine's intention to join the European Union.

The resolution also points to a Ukrainian Constitutional Court ruling of October 1 re-establishing a presidential system of governance in the country. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) called on Ukrainian authorities to conduct an open and substantive constitutional process with the participation of all political parties.

The document acknowledges that local and regional elections that took place in Ukraine on October 31 were held in a calm atmosphere and without incident, although criticism has been expressed about some aspects of the organization of these elections, in particular with regard to the electoral law.

The document emphasizes that, pursuant to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, Ukraine may apply for membership in the EU like any European state that adheres to the principles of freedom, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. It also reads that Ukraine has a European perspective and strong historical, cultural and economic links to the European Union and that it is one of the EU's key partners in its Eastern neighborhood, exerting a significant

influence on the security, stability and prosperity of the whole continent.

The European Parliament endorsed the need to improve the electoral framework and said it is encouraged by the work done in cooperation with experts of the EU and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in developing a new draft electoral code. The Europarliament's resolution calls on Ukrainian authorities to ensure that the legislation is finalized in good time, well ahead of the parliamentary elections in 2012.

MEPs also emphasized the need to strengthen the credibility, stability, independence and effectiveness of institutions, thereby guaranteeing democracy and the rule of law, and promoting a consensual constitutional reform process based on the clear separation of powers and effective checks and balances between state institutions.

As for freedom of speech, the resolution called on the Ukrainian government to refrain from any attempt to influence or censor media content and to comply with its international media freedom standards and OSCE media freedom commitments; investigate the disappearance of Vasyl Klymentyev, the editor-in-chief of a Kharkiv-based newspaper; and investigate all reports of infringements of rights and freedoms.

The document highlights Ukraine's pivotal role in the European Union's energy security and calls on Ukraine to implement its commitments arising out of the Joint Declaration of the EU-Ukraine International Investment Conference on the Modernization of Ukraine's Gas Transit System.

"[The European Parliament] is encouraged by the progress in the negotiations on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, in particular its deep and comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) aspects; notes that the conclusion of the negotiations on the agreement depend on the ability and willingness

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Saving Zaruddia: A historian's fight to defend her native village



Zenon Zawada

Valentyn Vlasov, Communist Party candidate for the Bondari Village Council chair, and Dr. Hanna Kapustian, Front for Change candidate for the Kremenchuk District Council, attempt to observe the October 31 elections amidst intimidation by the election commission chair.

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

Saving Zaruddia: The following is the third and last part in a series examining the efforts of Dr. Hanna Kapustian, a professor of history at Mykhailo Ostrohradskyi Kremenchuk National University, to defend her native village of Zaruddia against corporate interests that seek to raze it.

BONDARI, Ukraine – That there was going to be trouble on election day was immediately apparent upon entering the polling station in the Bondari Village Council building, which also served as the headquarters for the district election commission (DEC) and the higher territorial election commission (TEC), both of which tally votes.

Nina Nerivna, the DEC chair, announced before the polls opened that no plastic ballot box seals had been delivered. Instead, commissioners suggested using four red plastic seals from the prior election to fasten the two mobile boxes. The thinnest of string was all they had to use for the three remaining stationary boxes.

Independent observers, including the Opora citizens network, reported nationwide trends in the October 31 vote that reflected a de facto policy of "managed chaos" implemented by the government, as an alarming number of polling stations lacked basic election supplies like ballot box seals and voting booths.

"The inappropriate organization of the elections wasn't a result of carelessness, but the government's maliciousness in not organizing the election process properly," said Dmytro Hnap, the Opora spokesman.

The situation was not much different in Bondari, a village that once thrived on its rich "chornozem" (black earth) soil but whose 1,000 residents are now considering plans by the Ferrexpo company, controlled by billionaire Kostiantyn Zhevago, to raze it in order to dig for hundreds of tons of iron ore believed to lie underground.

The contest for its Village Council chair – who governs not only Bondari but the surrounding seven villages – pitted the incumbent Leonid Zayichenko, a career politician who is suspected of cutting backroom deals with Ferrexpo executives, against Yurii Petrenko, his cousin, who's fighting to save the villages.

"There might be jobs created, but not for the villagers," said Mr. Petrenko, a soy farmer with 74 acres of chornozem. "This is where they lived all their lives, and their parents, grandparents and great grandpar-

ents before them. Now they want to tear them from their roots and resettle them in the city, which is a tragedy for a villager. It's a way of life that would be lost."

Mr. Petrenko and his campaign ally, Dr. Hanna Kapustian, a professor running for the Kremenchuk District Council, had enough reason to believe that the DEC led by Ms. Nerivna would engage in violations.

Experts agree the local election law of 2010 was written to tilt the scales in favor of incumbent candidates, many of whom switched to the Party of Regions – whether voluntarily or forcibly – after Viktor Yanukovich became president in February.

Parties that make up Ukraine's coalition government were awarded at least nine seats on any commission, but often gained more.

In the case of Bondari, the opposition parties were too disorganized to claim all the seats earmarked for them. That made them available to Mr. Zayichenko and his allies, who stacked the Bondari TEC and DEC with government workers who were dependent on the incumbent as a supervisor, as well as relatives and friends.

More cause for concern emerged during the campaign.

The Bondari TEC had violated election law by arranging for an October 25 political rally featuring politicians from the Party of Regions, while excluding of all other political forces. The law stipulates that any meetings organized by the TEC must offer equal access to all parties.

The backhanded way in which the TEC refused to allow Dr. Kapustian and Mr. Petrenko to participate equally – in which lies and excuses were offered, and written documentation was denied – left them deeply concerned about how election day would play out.

Before the polls opened at 7 a.m., Dr. Kapustian and Mr. Petrenko were allowed into the polling station, where they planned to spend much of the day and night.

Dr. Kapustian wasn't given an observer by her party, the Front for Change, which left her alone in attempting to defend her rights against a DEC that later proved hostile and intent on committing election fraud.

Among the first things the professor did was to test the pens in the voting booths for invisible ink by doodling in her memo pad. Part of that involved making sure the ink was legitimate, but her doodling was aimed at showing the DEC commissioners that her team would be on guard for any falsifications.

The atmosphere was tense from the

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At UNA...

(Continued from page 1)

as well as its fraternal activities, including the Soyuzivka Heritage Center and its two newspapers, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly.

"The UNA continues to head in the right direction," noted President Stefan Kaczaraj, pointing to increasing sales of insurance products and higher incomes from investments, plus a significant increase in the UNA's assets during the first nine months of 2010.

The deliberations focused on the UNA's activity for the first three quarters of 2010, with reports delivered by Mr. Kaczaraj, National Secretary Christine E. Kozak and Treasurer Roma Lisovich.

In addition, the meeting was the occasion for the introduction of the UNA's newly redesigned website, located at www.UkrainianNationalAssociation.org.

The meeting was the first of the new General Assembly elected at the fraternal organization's 37th Convention in May. Because the meeting took place during a convention year, it was not a regular annu-

al meeting of the General Assembly – the organization's executive officers, auditors and advisors – but an abbreviated one-and-a-half-day special meeting.

Present at the meeting in addition to the full-time executive officers were three other executive officers, First Vice-President Michael Koziupa, Second Vice-President Eugene Oscislawski and Director for Canada Myron Groch; Auditing Committee members Slavko Tysiak (chairman), Eugene Serba and Dr. Wasyl Szeremeta; and Advisors Maya Lew, Nicholas Fil, Stephanie Hawryluk, Gloria Horbaty, Lubov Streletsky, Andrij Szul, Olya Czerkas and Luba Poniatyszyn Keske. Unable to attend the special meeting were three newly elected advisors, Andrew Futey, Ewhen Osidacz and Oleh Palaschenko.

Also in attendance was the editor-in-chief of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, Roma Hadzewycz.

The Saturday agenda for the special meeting included reports by the UNA's president, secretary and treasurer, discussions of those reports, and an introduction for new members of the General Assembly to the duties and responsibilities of advisors and the role of General Assembly committees.

Mr. Kaczaraj focused on the UNA's financial status, reporting in detail on the factors contributing to the organization's improved bottom line, including sales of life insurance policies and annuities, as well as investments. He also detailed the UNA's expenditures, including its substantial support for the Soyuzivka Heritage Center and UNA publications, as well as other expenses for fraternal activities, such as UNA scholarships.

The UNA president reported on the increase in online subscribers to The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda, and noted the upsurge in hits on the newspapers' websites, with The Weekly reporting nearly 1.5 million hits since December 2008 and Svoboda over 915,000. Visitors to the websites hailed from the United States, Ukraine, Canada, the United Kingdom,



Roma Hadzewycz

The women of the General Assembly before the statue of the Rev. Hryhory Hrushka, the founder of Svoboda (1893), which gave birth to the UNA (1894).

Poland, other European countries, Russia, Australia and South America.

Ms. Kozak reported on the UNA's new updated look: its logo (unveiled before the convention in May), its completely redesigned website (presented at this meeting of the General Assembly) and its new brochures, stationery, business cards, etc. The UNA website, in particular, is evidence of this "rebranding." The site, she said, is at once the electronic face of the UNA and a resource center for UNA secretaries, organizers and field agents.

The national secretary also reported that premium income from life insurance and annuity sales had doubled when comparing the first three quarters of 2009 and 2010. She explained that the UNA's goal

is to reach \$10 million in annual new life insurance issued; thus far this year, \$5.79 million in life insurance was purchased. She also noted that the UNA continues to recruit independent agents to sell its products and that it is having much success with the over 200 contracted agents it is now working with. Contracted field agents, she continued, account for 90 percent of the UNA's annuities sold, while branch secretaries, organizers and Home Office staff account for 10 percent of such sales. As regards life insurance policies, however, those percentages are reversed.

As of September 30 of this year, Ms. Kozak reported, the UNA has 158 branch-

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National Secretary Christine E. Kozak delivers her report.



Advisors Luba Poniatyszyn Keske (left) and Stephanie Hawryluk.



Advisors Gloria Horbaty and Nicholas Fil.



UNA Vice-Presidents Michael Koziupa and Eugene Oscislawski.



Auditing Committee Chair Slavko Tysiak and Treasurer Roma Lisovich.

WikiLeaks confirms role played by Firtash in Ukrainian politics

by Pavel Korduban
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Unlike in the case of several regional neighbors, including Russia, the recent WikiLeaks transcripts hardly carry the potential of spoiling relations between Washington and the current administration in Kyiv. However, WikiLeaks has shed new light on the role of energy businessman Dmytro Firtash as a powerbroker in Ukrainian politics and on his links to the alleged Russian crime boss, Semion Mogilevich.

Although Mr. Firtash has denied much of what the documents made public by WikiLeaks revealed about him, it is difficult to deny the role that he played in destroying post-Orange Revolution alliances, thereby helping Viktor Yanukovich win the Ukrainian presidency earlier this year.

According to a cable allegedly written by William Taylor, who served as U.S. ambassador to Ukraine in 2006-2009, Mr. Firtash spoke in detail about his role in domestic politics and the gas trade with Russia, as well as his relationship with Mr. Mogilevich at a meeting with the ambassador in December 2008. The meeting took place several weeks before the energy intermediary RosUkrEnergo (RUE), which Mr. Firtash co-owns with Gazprom, and which would have been banished from the Ukrainian market according to agreements between Ukraine Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

Mr. Firtash expressed support for President Viktor Yushchenko but spoke contemptuously of Ms. Tymoshenko, according to the text of the cable. Mr. Firtash allegedly told Ambassador Taylor

that he worked to build a coalition comprising Messrs. Yushchenko and Yanukovich, who was the opposition leader at the time.

Furthermore, Mr. Firtash allegedly boasted that he, jointly with the Donetsk-based oligarch Rinat Akhmetov, thwarted a Tymoshenko-Yanukovich coalition which, he claimed, had been supported by Russia. Mr. Firtash also claimed that Ms. Tymoshenko's deals with Russia would leave Ukraine vulnerable to Russian oligarchs in the future.

Moreover, Mr. Firtash, according to the cable, boasted of his friendship with Mr. Yushchenko, claiming that he had advised him ever since his election as president in 2004 (Kyiv Post, December 3). Mr. Yushchenko vehemently denied any association with Mr. Firtash when he was president.

Mr. Firtash was correct in that Ms. Tymoshenko's agreements with Mr. Putin eventually increased Ukraine's dependence on Moscow. While RUE was indeed removed from Ukraine's energy market, as Ms. Tymoshenko had promised, that was a Pyrrhic victory. Moscow increased its gas price for Ukraine, and lured Ms. Tymoshenko into a dubious deal with Gazprom, whereby Kyiv seized RUE's gas kept in Ukrainian storage.

Consequently, in 2010 Kyiv – in exchange for a gas price discount – was pressured into extending the presence of the Russian navy in Sevastopol by 25 years. In 2011 it will have to return the gas seized from RUE in 2009 plus damages in accordance with a Stockholm arbitration verdict (Zerkalo Nedeli, December 3).

According to WikiLeaks, Mr. Firtash told Mr. Taylor about his ties to Mr. Mogilevich, saying that he had needed Mr. Mogilevich's approval to secure his entry

into business (Kyiv Post, December 3). It had long been rumored that Mr. Mogilevich, and not Mr. Firtash, was the real founder of RUE and of its predecessor, Eural Trans Gas, so WikiLeaks did not add anything new to the picture.

Mr. Firtash's press service denied any partnership between Messrs. Firtash and Mogilevich, as well as the allegation that he needed permission from Mr. Mogilevich to do business. However, the press service confirmed that Mr. Firtash met with Ambassador Taylor at the end of 2008 and that he had been acquainted with Mr. Mogilevich (Ukrainski Novyny, December 3).

Asked by the Kommersant-Ukraine daily to comment on his alleged role in domestic politics, Mr. Firtash's press service said only that he did not want to reveal confidential information about the topics discussed during his meeting with the U.S. envoy (Kommersant-Ukraine, December 3).

Ambassador Taylor, according to WikiLeaks, also reported to Washington that Mr. Firtash owned 61 percent of Inter, arguably Ukraine's most popular TV channel, which is staunchly pro-government. Inter is known to be controlled by Valeriy Khoroshkovsky, the chief of the Security of Ukraine (SBU). Mr. Khoroshkovsky has on several occasions denied the reports that he is a business partner of Mr. Firtash.

The Russian TV anchor Yevgeny Kiselev, who hosts the flagship political talk show "Big Politics" on Inter said he knew for certain that Mr. Firtash did not control Inter. Mr. Kiselev confirmed Mr. Khoroshkovsky's earlier statement that Mr. Firtash had an option to buy 50 percent of Inter shares, but had not used it (Inter, December 3).

Official reaction to WikiLeaks' publications related to Ukraine has so far been subdued, probably because nothing damaging has thus far emerged personally about President Yanukovich and his political team.

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov was the only Ukrainian official who reacted to WikiLeaks' publications last week. Speaking on Mr. Kiselev's talk show, Mr. Azarov predicted that since Ukrainians have become accustomed to political scandals nothing in WikiLeaks would astonish them.

Mr. Azarov also said he was not afraid of any future publications of his own conversations by WikiLeaks. However, he added that, in his opinion, the publication of secret analytical papers is inadmissible (Inter, December 3).

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UCC representatives confer with international trade minister



At a meeting of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress with Canada's minister of international trade (from left) are: Taras Zalusky, Borys Potapenko, Chrystyna Bidiak, Minister Peter Van Loan, UCC National President Paul Grod, John Iwaniura and Taras Pidzamecky.

OTTAWA – Representatives of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) met on November 30 with Canadian Minister of International Trade Peter Van Loan to discuss a number of issues regarding Canada-Ukraine relations and issues of concern to the Ukrainian Canadian community.

The UCC delegation that met with Minister Van Loan included representatives from the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women, the Ukrainian National Federation and the League of Ukrainian Canadians.

"We had an open and frank discussion with Minister Van Loan on key issues relating to bilateral relations between Canada and Ukraine," stated UCC National President Paul Grod. "We thanked the government on behalf of the community for Prime Minister Stephen Harper's recent historic trip to Ukraine and for Canada's strong support for Ukraine's further democratic development. We encouraged the government to continue its policy of constructive

engagement and remain vigilant in monitoring ongoing rights issues in Ukraine."

Specific subjects addressed at the meeting included: the negotiations of a Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement; increasing bilateral trade, as well as person to person contact; and the implementation of the Canada-Ukraine Youth Mobility Agreement in 2011. The UCC delegation raised the importance of the rule of law, rights issues and transparency in the context of Canada-Ukraine trade relations.

In addition, the fact that the Canadian Museum of Human Rights has not confirmed a permanent and prominent exhibit on the Holodomor, Ukraine's Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, or Canada's First National Internment Operations, was raised by the Ukrainian delegation.

"This is a national, federally funded museum, and it is incumbent upon the government to ensure that it is open, transparent and representative in both its governance and operations," Mr. Grod underscored.

Ambassador Shamshur joins PBN Company as senior counselor

KYIV – Ukraine's former Ambassador to the United States Oleh Shamshur has joined The PBN Company as a senior counselor for investment and public affairs.

Dr. Shamshur will lead the firm's business practice advising investors entering the Ukrainian market and counsel those already invested to meet government and regulatory challenges. The PBN Company's public affairs and lobbying practice includes major investors in the agriculture, energy, banking and financial services, fast-moving consumer goods, metals, mining, telecommunications and technology industries.

"Ambassador Shamshur's unique



Dr. Oleh Shamshur

experiences in Washington, Brussels and Geneva, combined with his knowledge of what it takes to secure and sustain international investment will be a tremendous asset to PBN and its clients in Russia, Ukraine and throughout the CIS," said Peter Necarsulmer, chairman and CEO of The PBN Company.

Dr. Shamshur has a distinguished diplomatic and academic career. In March the Kyiv-based Institute of Global Politics named him Ukraine's Best Ambassador for his achievements in Washington, on behalf of Ukraine. He was ambassador there from 2005 to 2010. In 2004 he was vice-minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine and head of the European Union Department in 2003-2004.

Prior to that he was awarded the rank of minister-counselor and served at Ukraine's Mission to the European Union in Brussels in 1998-2003 and at Ukraine's Mission to the United Nations in Geneva in 1993-1996.

In 1982 he earned his Ph.D. in history after graduating cum laude from the Department of International Relations and Law at Taras Shevchenko University in 1978.

"Oleh Shamshur is well-versed in many public policy areas ranging from privatization and regulatory affairs to energy and national security issues," said Myron Wasyluk, PBN's senior vice-president and managing director for Ukraine. "He will strengthen our public affairs practice and, personally, I'm glad to see another top notch policy expert transition to business consulting," he added.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The UNA's new General Assembly

The Ukrainian National Association's General Assembly last weekend held its first meeting since the UNA Convention conducted earlier this year, on May 20-23. This special meeting of the General Assembly is a significant milestone in the activity of the oldest and largest Ukrainian fraternal organization as it signals both the beginning of work by the newly elected (and newly re-elected) officers, auditors and advisors, whose term formally began on July 1, and the continuation of efforts begun during the previous term of office.

Among the General Assembly members elected in May were five newcomers: advisors from California (Luba Poniatyszyn Keske), Ohio (Andrew Futey and Oleh Palaschenko), New York (Andrij Szul) and Quebec (Ewen Osidacz). Thus, a quarter of the 20-member assembly was renewed, bringing new blood and fresh ideas to the leadership of the 116-year-old UNA. Two assembly members moved up in the ranks: one from second vice-president to first VP (Michael Koziupa) and the other from advisor to second VP (Eugene Oscislowski) – also a good omen for the organization.

Most of the members of the newly elected General Assembly were able to attend the first post-convention meeting of the entire body. (Three of the advisors, unfortunately, were unable to attend, and honorary members of the assembly are invited to annual meetings, but not to special meetings held during a convention year.) The combination of newcomers and experienced members of the General Assembly – the UNA's highest decision-making body between quadrennial conventions – present at the special meeting proved to be a good fit. The evidence was seen in the discussions and recommendations resulting from the sessions.

All present participated, and all were comfortable in sharing their opinions and ideas. UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj commented in a letter to UNA members that appears on the front page of this issue that the Executive Committee was "so pleased with the spirit of cooperation and teamwork that were exhibited by this new General Assembly." He added, "The sessions were productive and fruitful, and we look forward to working together with each and every member of the board."

The only drawback was the lack of time (special meetings tend to be an abbreviated one and a half days). Nonetheless, a good start was made: the newcomers learned about their duties and responsibilities, the General Assembly's standing committees (Organizing/Fraternal, Financial, Canada, Publications and Soyuzivka) were struck, and committee reports constituted a plan of action for the coming year and years.

And thus, the newly constituted General Assembly has begun its work, all the while keeping in mind the UNA's mission statement: "In accordance with its Charter, The Ukrainian National Association exists: to promote the principles of fraternalism; to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and to provide quality financial services and products to its members. As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community."

We wish them all the best as they lead the UNA into the next decade and beyond.

Dec.
14
2007

Turning the pages back...

Three years ago, on December 14, 2007, Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) issued a strongly worded statement complaining of "open nationalist, anti-Russian and Russophobic feelings and developments in Ukraine." Attempts are being made, the statement claimed, to "use difficult periods in our joint history to receive brief political rewards based on doubtful ideological pretensions."

Both countries exchanged diplomatic notes in November 2007 after the Eurasian Union of Youth (EUY), a Russian nationalist group proscribed in Ukraine, destroyed an exhibition on the Holodomor at the Embassy of Ukraine in Moscow.

The Ukrainians described the vandalism as "provocative and anti-Ukrainian." This came one month after the EUY destroyed Ukrainian national symbols on Mount Hoverlia in western Ukraine and launched cyber attacks that shut down the presidential website. The Orange youth NGO (www.maidan.org.ua), the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (www.khpg.org) and the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (www.helsinki.org.ua) all sustained cyber attacks as well.

Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, chairman of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), called upon his Russian counterparts to "not permit on each other's territories extremist and, God forbid, terrorist actions, which are undertaken by such structures."

Officials reportedly foiled a terrorist plot by Proryv, a group with pan-Slavic and extreme leftist views, that would have disrupted a "Russian march" in Symferopol, Crimea, which authorities said would have been blamed on "Ukrainian nationalists."

Other areas of tension surrounded the erection of monuments, including one to Empress Catherine II of Russia in Odesa. Monuments to Ukrainian heroes Symon Petliura, leader of the Ukrainian independence movement after the Russian Revolution in Poltava (Petliura's home region), and Stepan Bandera, leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, were vandalized. Other areas of contention included presidential decrees in commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the formation of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) and in honor of UPA Commander-in-Chief Roman Shukhevych, who was awarded the distinction "Hero of Ukraine."

Kyiv's efforts to honor the victims of Soviet crimes have also irritated Moscow, with the opening of the Museum of Soviet Occupation in Kyiv, which Moscow said attempted to "nationalize" the suffering experienced by all Soviet peoples in the 1932-1933 Famine.

Ukraine's MFA responded by advising its Russian counterparts that it was too late to discuss whether the Famine was "genocide," as Ukraine had already taken this step, and recommending that its Russian colleagues read historical books and on this basis reach a conclusion.

Source: "Russia, Ukraine trade harsh words over divergent historical memory," by Taras Kuzio (*Eurasia Daily Monitor*), *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 30, 2007.

DEVELOPMENTS IN D.C.

How did members of the CUC fare in congressional elections?

by Michael Sawkiw Jr.

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – This year's historic midterm elections in the United States will soon bring a dramatic change to the congressional establishment. The new framework in the House of Representatives, with the Republicans' impressive 60 seat midterm gain, will consist of a change of leadership with Rep. John Boehner (R-Ohio) most likely taking over as the new speaker in January 2011. Though the House leadership will change in the new 112th Congress, the

Senate remains in the Democrats' control with a slim one-vote majority.

In the congressional races, friends of Ukraine in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives fared very well. In fact, about 90 percent of the members of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus maintained their seats and will continue to represent the concerns of the Ukrainian American community in the halls of Congress.

One of the caucus members, Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), won a bid for election as

(Continued on page 24)

Congressional Ukrainian Caucus

(as of September 1, 2010)

Co-Chairs:

Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)
Sander Levin (D-MI)
Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD)
Jim Gerlach (R-PA)

Members:

Robert Andrews (D-NJ)
Howard Berman (D-CA)
Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)
Corrine Brown (D-FL)
Joseph Crowley (D-NY)
Danny Davis (D-IL)
Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL)
Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)
Eliot Engel (D-NY)
Luis Guterrez (D-IL)
Alcee Hastings (D-FL)
Maurice Hinchey (D-NY)
Tim Holden (D-PA)
Darrell Issa (R-CA)
Dale Kildee (D-MI)
Mark Kirk (R-IL)

Dennis Kucinich (D-OH)
James Langevin (D-RI)
Dan Lipinski (D-IL)
Nita Lowey (D-NY)
Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI)
Candice Miller (R-MI)
Frank Pallone (D-NJ)
William Pascrell (D-NJ)
Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)
David Price (D-NC)
Mike Quigley (D-IL)
Charles Rangel (D-NY)
Steven Rothman (D-NJ)
Janice Schakowsky (D-IL)
Allyson Schwartz (D-PA)
Joe Sestak (D-PA)
Brad Sherman (D-CA)
Bill Shuster (R-PA)
Louise Slaughter (D-NY)
Chris Smith (R-NJ)
Henry Waxman (D-CA)
Anthony Weiner (D-NY)
Joe Wilson (R-SC)

Ukrainian American elected to Congress

BALTIMORE – Republican Andy Harris won the race for the U.S. House of Representatives in Maryland's 1st Congressional District by a margin of 54 percent to 42 percent over Democratic freshman Congressman Frank Kratovil.

Libertarian Richard Davis received 4 percent of the vote. The November 2 race was a rematch of the 2008 election.

The 2010 contest was a reversal of Dr. Harris's defeat two years ago, when he lost by 2,500 votes.

Dr. Harris traces his roots to Ukraine. His mother was born and raised in Ivano-Frankivsk, and his grandfather was a Ukrainian Catholic priest and a chaplain in Ukrainian Insurgent Army, according to Ukrainian American attorney Bohdan Shandor.

Dr. Harris, a conservative state senator for 12 years in the Maryland General Assembly, is an obstetric anesthesiologist and teaches at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

He served 17 years in the United States Naval Reserve, including active duty during Operation Desert Storm. He was commanding officer of the Johns Hopkins Naval Reserve Medical Unit, and is a member of the American Legion.

He and his wife, Cookie, have been married for 30 years and have five children.

According to the Associated Press, he told supporters on election night: "We're



Newly elected U.S. Congressman Andy Harris of Maryland.

going to make sure that America remains a land of opportunity."

Dr. Harris will not be the first Ukrainian American to serve in Congress. Members of Congress who have cited their Ukrainian ancestry include: Rep. David Bonior (D-Mich.), who served in the House of Representatives in 1977-2003; Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.), a member of Congress since 1993; and Rep. Bob Schaffer (R-Colo.), who served in 1997-2003.

COMMENTARY

More on the Holodomor at the United Nations

by Askold S. Lozynskyj

For the last few years in the pre-Yanukovich period of Ukraine's history, the Holodomor has become a vibrant, albeit sometimes controversial subject at the United Nations in New York.

Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the U.N., with such Ukrainian community organizations as the Ukrainian World Congress, the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, over the years has conducted commemorative programs, issued statements and initiated the collection of signatures on Statements of member-states – all regarding the Holodomor.

The thrust of these activities has been to educate the international community about the Holodomor, in particular, to advance the thesis that the Holodomor was a genocide of the Ukrainian nation and to honor the memory of its victims.

Throughout the proceedings, the Russian Federation has never been accused of this crime, yet Russia has protested, undermined and threatened. Russian reaction could be construed as some sense of guilt, but certainly not remorse. Russia chose to fight recognition of the Holodomor by challenging its characterization as a Ukrainian genocide and undermining the suggested number of victims. Predicated on Soviet censuses and estimations from such varied sources as Joseph Stalin and Dr. Robert Conquest, the number proffered has been 7 million to 10 million.

The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies based in Edmonton, Alberta, recently issued a press release about a lecture delivered at the University of Toronto by a Ukrainian demographer on the subject of

Askold S. Lozynskyj is an attorney based in New York City. He is a former president of the Ukrainian World Congress.

the Holodomor. The demographer prefaced his conclusions with a statement about the need for an exact calculation of the number of victims of the Holodomor, arguing that excessive estimations undermine the credibility of the evidence supporting the tragedy. As an example, he suggested the difficulty experienced by the Ukrainian World Congress at the United Nations when it suggested a figure of 7 million to 10 million. He then went on to estimate that some 4 million perished in the Ukrainian SSR. The support for his conclusion was the Soviet censuses in 1926 and 1939.

My initial problem with this exercise is that I question why it is necessary to conclude an exact number. After all, the generally accepted number of victims during the Holocaust was arrived at 6 million and, frankly, not debated very much. Whether the number of Ukrainian victims in the Holodomor was 4 million in the Ukrainian SSR or 7 million-10 million Ukrainians throughout the USSR does not detract from the fact that it was a Ukrainian genocide.

Furthermore, why is a demographer, insisting on accuracy, not taking into account Ukrainians who died in the Kuban region or those Ukrainians who perished in the Russian SFSR while in transit to Siberia or in gulags and camps? Why does he not consider the nationalities breakdown provided in the Stalin-purged but recently exhumed census of 1937, which shows that the Ukrainian population in the USSR actually decreased by 5 million from 1926 to 1937 without even considering a customary growth rate?

The only other population in the USSR which actually declined during that period of time was the Kazakhs. However, some 1.5 million Kazakhs fled Kazakhstan for China.

Ukrainians could not flee because, by decree of January 22, 1933, Stalin shut the

(Continued on page 24)

CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

Russians for Ukraine

Some time in the 1870s or 1880s Ivan Kosmin Shipovalov, a provincial secretary and schoolteacher from Siberia, married Varvara Ivanovna Sipailo. She was the daughter of a town official from a Russified Polish-Lithuanian family in Bykhov on the Dnipro, in present-day Belarus. In the 1890s, under the government's Russification program, the family was resettled in Ovruch in Volyn, northern Ukraine. It seems they had two sons, as well as three daughters – Ksenia, Vera and Valentina.

The Ukrainian national movement was in full bloom, particularly after the liberal reforms of 1905-1906. The three daughters supported it enthusiastically. In August 1914 war broke out between Russia and the Central Powers. One brother, it seems, was mobilized and never returned. The other brother later emigrated to Germany and played banjo in a jazz band in Berlin in the 1920s. Meanwhile, the Bolsheviks seized power. Soon, the Ukrainian National Republic (UNR) was struggling against Reds, Whites and Poles.

In the midst of war and revolution, all three sisters married Ukrainians. Ksenia wedded a painter named Bohdanovych and settled in Bucharest. In April 1920 Vera married Oleksa, who had fought for the UNR, served in Petliura's administration in Kamianets-Podilsky, and was studying to be a judge. Under Polish rule he was not allowed to hear cases in Ukrainian-populated Halychyna, but was assigned to courts deep in ethnic Poland.

The third sister, Valentina, married Mykhailo Prokopovych Kurylenko, a teacher from the Chernihiv region. He had served as a school principal in Kamianets-Podilsky and as a provincial official in the UNR government. They had a son, Iurii, and a daughter, Iryna. But with the Bolshevik conquest of Greater Ukraine, the family left for the lands now held by Poland. They settled in the village of Kosiv in the Carpathian Mountains.

The Hutsul region was a land of contrasts: on the one hand, endemic poverty and disease; on the other hand, a breathtaking mountain landscape and an elaborate folk culture particularly rich in music, legend, wooden church architecture and handicrafts.

In Kosiv, Kurylenko and several social, cultural and political activists, including the ethnographer Volodymyr Hnatiuk, founded the folk art cooperative Hutsulske Mystetstvo (Hutsul Art) in September 1922. There was not one businessman among them, for this was not a money-making enterprise. It was a patriotic, as well as an ethnographic, project that enabled the talented but impoverished Hutsuls to make a living from their artistic labor. (Ihor Pelypeiko, "Fenomen 'Hutsulskoho Mystetstva,'" *Literaturnyi Almanakh Alkos*, no. 2-3, 2005, web publication March 7, 2009: <http://kosivart.if.ua/2009/03/07/1002/>).

The folk art cooperative attracted various members of the émigré intelligentsia from Greater as well as Western Ukraine. Professional artists like Olena Kulchytska, Pavlo Kovzhun, Robert Lisovsky, Petro Kholodny Jr., Mykola Butovych, Sviatoslav Hordynsky and Iaroslava Muzyka visited the enterprise. Among the folk artists connected with Hutsulske Mystetstvo were the woodcarver Iurii Korpaniuk, the embroiderer Hanna Herasymovych and the ceramic artist Pavlyna Tsvilyk, whose yellow, green and brown floral and geometric designs

have graced albums and museum exhibitions. No doubt these folk and professional artists influenced each other in myriad ways. Hutsulske Mystetstvo earned special renown for its kylyms, made from local wool, linen and hemp, and colored with natural dyes. Featured in a 1924 exhibition in Lviv, they were sold throughout Poland and exported abroad.

In the summer, Valentina's sister Vera and her family would visit. Their sons would go cycling along the steep mountain paths. Naturally, the cousins were brought up as Ukrainians.

With the arrival of the Red Army in the fall of 1939, Hutsulske Mystetstvo was nationalized and turned into an ordinary workshop. The Soviet authorities razed the cooperative building, as well as the exhibition hall, planting a T-34 tank in its place.

They evicted the Kurylenko family from their quarters. Before long, the secret police arrested Mykhailo. According to one account, he perished in the local detention facility in 1940. His wife Valentina was deported with her daughter to Siberia, returned, was deported again and died there. Iryna, who preserved her mother's collection of Hutsul embroidery, returned to Ukraine. Her brother, who had been studying engineering in Graz, Austria, during the war, never saw his parents or sister again. He eventually emigrated to the United States and practiced architecture in Los Angeles.

As the Red Army overran Poland, Vera and Oleksa joined their son, who was studying medicine in Vienna. After the war they emigrated to the United States. The couple settled in the small northern California town of Los Gatos. They lived in a one-story house with a view of the gentle, bluish Santa Cruz Mountains, which reminded Oleksa of his beloved Carpathians. Around 1960, the widowed Ksenia left Romania to join her sister. In a living room where stags pranced in staggered rows across a kylym from Hutsulske Mystetstvo, Vera and her husband taught their only grandchild to read and write Ukrainian. He is writing these lines today.

Several waves of Russian settlers have entered Ukraine since the 1890s. The industrial workers drawn to burgeoning Donbas factory towns were joined after the Revolution by the Bolshevized proletariat from Soviet Russia, then by the Sovietized, Russian-speaking peasants brought in to replace the Ukrainian victims of the Holodomor. The post-war policy of ethnic melding brought further Russification. Countless Russian-speaking military officers and Party bureaucrats retired in a Crimea "cleansed" of its Tatar population. While some Russians have become ardent supporters of independent Ukraine – an attitude that does not require anyone to renounce his or her cultural heritage – too many have nothing but contempt for the Ukrainian language, culture and spirituality. Current policies in Moscow and Kyiv only encourage them.

Is there no place, then, in today's Ukraine for such as the daughters of Ivan Kosmin Shipovalov? It is ironic that Russians should be less likely to become Ukrainian patriots in these first decades of independence than in the last decades of tsarism. There were such Russians once. Could not there be such Russians once again?

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Memorial park project needs votes

Dear Editor:

On April 3, 2009, 13 individuals were massacred at the American Civic Association in Binghamton, N.Y. Among the victims was my wife, Maria (Mima) Koropey Zobniw, whose life was devoted to our family and our Ukrainian community.

The families of those who were killed organized and developed a plan to build a distinctive memorial near the location of the tragedy. Total funds raised and pledged to date are \$125,000 of the \$200,000 needed for the construction and the trust fund. No taxpayer funds are being provided to the memorial.

Our ACA Memorial Park project coordinator managed to get the ACA Memorial Project submitted to the Pepsi Refresh Everything grant competition in the \$50,000 category. Pepsi will donate funds to the top 10 vote-getters.

I ask readers of The Ukrainian Weekly to please consider helping to build the ACA Memorial Park in Binghamton by voting for our project at www.refresheverything.com/acamemorial. By logging on to this site you can also see the design for the memorial park.

Get a sign-in and click on the "Vote for

this idea" memorial page. You can also vote from your mobile phone by texting *104461 to Pepsi (73774). Please vote every day until December 31.

I thank you in advance for your vote. This means a lot to our family and our Ukrainian community.

Lubomyr Zobniw
Binghamton, N.Y.

P.S. Also, please pass on the word, so that Ukrainian organizations could monitor this Pepsi project as a case study for their needs.

Column recalls unity for a cause

Dear Editor:

Andrew Fedynsky's column (November 7) "Encyclopedia of the resistance movement" recalled for me numerous events organized in the 1960s and the 1970s by the Ukrainian student clubs and societies in the U.S. and Canadian colleges and universities to draw public attention to the plight of dissidents in Ukraine. In that cause we could not have been more united.

Chrystyna Prynada
Gaithersburg, Md.

Ukrainian Catholic University and Fordham agree to academic exchange

NEW YORK – Fordham University of New York and the Ukrainian Catholic University of Lviv have agreed to a formal academic exchange.

The Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), met with the president of Fordham University, the Rev. Dr. Joseph McShane, S.J., on November 9 at Rose Hill, Fordham's main campus in New York City, in the Bronx.

The occasion was the formal presentation to Fordham University of the official coat of arms of Major Archbishop and Cardinal Lubomyr Husar, head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, and the grand chancellor of the Ukrainian Catholic University. Cardinal Husar, who was named a cardinal in 2001 along with Avery Dulles Cardinal, S.J., of Fordham University, is currently major archbishop of the Kyivan-Halych Eparchy in Ukraine, and is a master's program graduate of Fordham University. His coat of arms will now hang alongside four other cardinals affiliated with the university, including Cardinal Dulles.

The official presentation took place in the office of the university's president. However, the coat of arms, when completed, will hang alongside the others in the university's chapel. Taking part in the presentation were Bishop Paul Chomnycky and clergy of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, Conn.

On this occasion, the Ukrainian Catholic University and Fordham University also signed a historic memorandum of understanding between the two universities regarding international collaboration, with areas of future cooperation contemplated to include an exchange of information and scholarly and pedagogical materials; exchange of

students, faculty and staff; joint academic and research programs; and coordination of other joint projects.

At the signing of the memorandum, the Revs. Gudziak and McShane expressed their hope and expectation that both universities and communities would benefit and be enriched greatly by this endeavor of mutual exchange and cooperation.

The two university presidents, Bishop Chomnycky, Msgr. Joseph G. Quinn, Fordham's vice-president of University Mission and Ministry, and Fordham alumnus Roman Kzyk, a principal organizer of the event and a member of the New York Committee of Friends of the Ukrainian Catholic University, also extended words of welcome.

The Rev. Gudziak, a native of Syracuse, N.Y., and a graduate of Harvard University, was in the United States on a three-week tour in November of cities in the Northeast and Midwest, where he met with various communities and individuals who have supported the Ukrainian Catholic University since its re-establishment by the Rev. Gudziak in 1994 as the Lviv Theological Academy.

A venerable institution originally founded in 1928 by the late Servant of God Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, then forcibly closed under Soviet Communist rule in 1945, the long-term goal for the original Lviv Theological Academy was to develop the academy into a full Catholic university. Under the leadership of the Rev. Gudziak in 2002, this goal was attained.

Following the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the two universities, the Rev. Gudziak and UCU representatives met with Fordham University Provost Dr. Stephen



Dima Sokolic

At Fordham University (from left) are: Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford; the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, rector, Ukrainian Catholic University; the Rev. Dr. Joseph Michael McShane, S.J., president, Fordham University; and Msgr. Joseph G. Quinn, vice-president, University Mission and Ministry, Fordham University.

Freedman, and other university officials to discuss further details of future cooperation. It is currently contemplated that among the first areas of exchange will be between Fordham University's Orthodox Christian Studies Program, co-chaired by Drs. George Demacopoulos and Aristotle Papanikolaou, and the Ukrainian Catholic University's Institute of Ecumenical Studies, led by Dr. Antoine Arjakovsky.

Attending the presentation of the coat of arms and ceremonial signing of the agreement on mutual cooperation were members of the staffs of the Ukrainian Catholic University and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, including UCEF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma, representatives of Fordham University, including Dr. Freedman, Msgr. Quinn and Dr. Demacopolous, members of the New York Committee of the Friends of UCU, Ukrainian Catholic students currently attending Fordham University, as well as members of the local Ukrainian American community who are Fordham University graduates.



The official charter accompanying the presentation of Major Archbishop Lubomyr Cardinal Husar's coat of arms to Fordham University.

The Revs. McShane and Quinn led the visiting group on a most informative and enjoyable tour of the Fordham University Chapel, among other things pointing out where Cardinal Husar's coat of arms will be displayed. The guests then expressed their gratitude by singing a hymn to the Mother of God in Ukrainian, filling the chapel with this ancient prayer of mutual thanksgiving.



Representatives from the Ukrainian Catholic University, the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation and the New York Committee of the Friends of UCU at Fordham University.

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OPINION

The Ukrainian press in North America: Is there a future?

The following paper was presented by Dr. Myron B. Kuropas on October 30 during the 80th jubilee anniversary celebration of the newspaper Novyi Shliakh (The New Pathway) in Toronto.

The title of my presentation tonight is: "The Ukrainian press in North America: Is there a future?" I will begin by very briefly reviewing the history of our press, focusing on Canada. Next I will take a look at the current Ukrainian press scene in North America. I will conclude by presenting my humble suggestions on what has to be done if the Ukrainian press is to endure.

The first Ukrainian-language newspaper to be read by Ukrainian Canadians was Svoboda, published in the United States by the Ruskyi Narodnyi Soyuz, today known as the Ukrainian National Association on UNA. First published in 1893, Svoboda is today the oldest continuously published Ukrainian-language newspaper in the world.

By 1896 Svoboda was publishing a regular column titled "Kanadiyska Rus'." Of special significance were the reports of the Revs. Nestor Dmytriv and Pavlo Tymkevych, two Ukrainian Catholic priests who were among the founding fathers of the UNA. Both lived for a time in western Canada, working with Ukrainians there. It is important to note in this context, that it was Father Dmytriv who in 1897 celebrated the first Ukrainian divine liturgy on Canadian soil at Terebowla, near Dauphin, Manitoba.

Following much discussion in Svoboda about the need for a Ukrainian newspaper in Canada, Kanadiyskyi Farmer made its debut in 1903. By 1908 the newspaper had some 3,000 subscribers and enjoyed financial support from Canada's Liberal Party and the Winnipeg Star. A second Ukrainian Canadian newspaper, Slovo, appeared in 1904. It had a religious orientation and enjoyed the support of Canada's Conservative Party. As Canada's Rusyn/Ukrainian population increased, other newspapers emerged. It was not until the appearance of Ukrayinske Slovo in 1910, however, that Canada had an independent periodical. Slovo was also the first newspaper to use the word "Ukrainian" in its title.

As in the United States, the first Ukrainian political party to emerge in Canada was the Ukrainian Socialist Party, which published a number of periodicals in western Canada prior to World War I, including Robytnychiy Narod in 1909. Soon after the Bolsheviks shanghaied the Russian Revolution, however, most of these socialist organizations joined the Communist front, leading to the establishment of the Ukrainian Labor Farmer Temple Association known, since 1946, as the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians.

With financial support from the Comintern and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ukrainian Canadian Communists enjoyed a dominant press presence in Canada's Ukrainian community for decades. The only viable counters to Ukrainian Communists during the 1920s were the Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and the United Hetman Association, all with vigorous newspapers in the community.

It was against this background that the first issue of Novyi Shliakh appeared on October 30, 1930, exactly 80 years ago today. The founding editor was the visionary Mykhailo Pohorecky, who in a 1936 interview explained that the purpose of the newspaper was to propagate "the ideal of maximal Ukrainian nationalism, the expression of which is the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, OUN." Novyi Shliakh and the Ukrainian National Federation (known by its Ukrainian acronym as UNO) its parent organization, remained the voice of OUN in Canada until the end of World War II and the arrival of the Third Wave of immigrants.

I might add that in view of the way Stalin was being romanced by the Western powers during World War II, being a supporter of OUN was not exactly the way to enter the winner's circle in mainstream Canada. Fortunately, UNO and Novyi Shliakh weathered the many scurrilous attacks against them launched by the Communists.

The third immigration brought much ideological baggage with it and OUN was soon divided into Melnykivtsi and Banderivtsi. UNO and Novyi Shliakh became associated with the Melnykivtsi. Following a series of ups and downs over the last 50 years, Novyi Shliakh now appears to be flourishing under a dynamic, younger, less ideologically oriented leadership. My father was a contributor and, I am proud to say, so am I.

Today, the Ukrainian press in North America is at a crossroads. The older organizations that sponsored Ukrainian newspapers in the past are no longer in a position to do so. Many older newspapers have disappeared. The latest victim is Narodna Volya, the proud flagship of the Ukrainian Fraternal Association – UFA, a progressive mutual benefit society that ceased to exist recently after 100 years on the scene. The UFA also published Forum, edited by long-time MUNO (UNO's youth wing) activist, Andrew Gregorovich. The future of Forum at the moment is uncertain.

Today, America, published by the Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics since 1912, as well as Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, both published by the UNA, are still standing. With so many Ukrainian-language newspapers now available free of charge, however, these three remaining fraternal benefit national newspapers in the United States are hard-pressed to compete.

The Ukrainian-language press faces other problems as well. The Fourth Wave is an economic immigration, largely indifferent to local Ukrainian issues of concern to older immigrants and their children. Most Fourth Wavers are loath to join existing organizations and to read the old-line newspapers. Their children, moreover, are assimilating faster than the children of any other immigration. At the same time, the children and grandchildren of the older immigrants are not too keen to read texts in the Ukrainian language. Nor are they enamored of the OUN battles that energized their parents. A final problem of course, is the Internet explosion, which is fast making some hard-copy periodicals obsolete.

So what is the future of the Ukrainian press in North America? In the past, our newspapers have admirably informed, educated and created Ukrainian public opinion. As the official website of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress explains: "Apart from education, the print media have been a major vehicle of cultural continuity." The question remains: Will our print media endure?

My answer in a nutshell is this. They must. They must because there is no alternative. We need a visible and vigorous press in North America now more than ever. The Ukrainian identity is at risk – in Ukraine as well as here.

Today Ukraine has once again fallen under the thumb of a Russian puppet. Ukraine's minister of education and science is a Ukrainophobe who is happily rewriting the history curriculum used in Ukraine's lower grades. Opposition to President Viktor Yanukovich is being suppressed by the SBU (Security Service of Ukraine.) The press in Ukraine is no longer as free as it was in the era of Viktor Yushchenko and, as in Leonid Kuchma's time, a journalist has gone missing.

The North American Ukrainian press must continue to write the truth and be a sounding board of public opinion both here and in

Today, the Ukrainian press in North America is at a crossroads. The older organizations that sponsored Ukrainian newspapers in the past are no longer in a position to do so. Many older newspapers have disappeared.

Ukraine. A debate is raging over Ukraine's future, and the print media in North America must participate.

More important in my opinion, however, is the need for a similar debate regarding the future of the diaspora in North America. This is not a new idea.

In the year 1998 Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky organized The 2020 Conference in the United States. He chose the year 2020 because he believed that that was the year by which most of the Third Wave immigrants would have passed on.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Vitvitsky stated that there were three basic attitudes prevalent in our community. The first belonged to the "automatic pilot" crowd, which said in effect: "Just let things be. All is well, thank you." The second perspective reflected the beliefs of those who took the position that the sole purpose of the diaspora had been to fight for an independent Ukraine. "Now that Ukraine was moving toward independence," they argued, "our work here is done." The third view was the gloom-and-doom perspective which adopted the stance that "Assimilation is inevitable. So why fight it?" Although remnants of all three perspectives still exist in the United States none of them has prevailed. Yet.

It is interesting to note that, also in 1998 Prof. Yaroslav Rozumyj of the University of Manitoba presented a paper at the University of Illinois in which he agonized about the slowly eroding Ukrainian community in Canada. He called for a task force of intellectual and civic leaders to address the issue. I spoke with Prof. Rozumyj a few weeks ago and asked if such a task force was ever established. No, he told me sadly. No.

So where do we go from here? I suggest a paradigm shift, a change in focus. We've devoted 20 years to Ukraine. Much time and treasure has been spent and that is good. In 2010, I believe we will help Ukraine best by helping ourselves here.

It was here, not Ukraine, that the Ukrainian identity was developed and preserved. It is here, not Ukraine, that the Ukrainian national anthem was sung and Ukrainian independence days were celebrated for over 90 years. And it is here that Ukraine will continue to live regardless of what happens in Dnipropetrovsk. Our future and, paradoxically, Ukraine's future, depends on what we do here.

But what does this have to do with the future of the Ukrainian press? The future of the Ukrainian press on these shores, ladies and gentlemen, is inexorably tied to the future of the Ukrainian community here. No community, no press.

Here's what I believe needs to be done.

First, we need to focus on strengthening our societal foundations. We can begin with our churches, institutions which our parents and grandparents loved and cherished. It was the churches that maintained our traditions and helped form our national identity in North America. This is something that the people of Ukraine seem to appreciate intuitively, even if we don't. It is our churches in Ukraine, moreover, that are currently in the forefront of the opposition to the Yanukovich regime. Our secular institutions also need our attention, perhaps more than the churches. They also have played a vital role in our development as a uniquely rich and dynamic people.

Second, let's begin an outreach effort to the Fourth Wave and their disenfranchised youth. Let's be patient here as well. They're not like us because their formation process was very, very different. They lived under the Soviets, who created the most toxic regime in the history of the world. Let's be realistic, however, and reconcile ourselves to the fact that some Fourth Wavers will join us in our efforts to build a stronger community, but most will not. That's the reality.

Finally, we need to examine ourselves, our hearts, our minds and our souls. Some of us are still too ideologically constipated, too stubborn to change. Others of us are weary, worn-out, simply tired of being Ukrainian. It's not easy being Ukrainian, and not everybody can cut it, as my father used to say. Still others of us are too gloomy and pessimistic. I hear it all the time. Ukraine is lost. Our community is lost. Has the world passed us by? I think not.

Yes, I know, there are too few of us to make a difference. I hear that all the time. Really? I ask you, when in our entire history in North America have there ever been too many of us? Every community, every organization has always relied on a handful of people to carry the load. That's the way it has always been, and that's the way it always will be.

We need to remember that every Ukrainian generation has played a role in developing, enriching and preserving our community here. Past generations have had it a lot tougher than anything we have to contend with today. Just think: They weathered two world wars, an economic depression and an environment that was not always conducive to Ukrainian ideals. Ukrainians were interned in concentration camps and condemned for their love of Ukraine. There were no Ukrainian studies chairs, no Ukrainians in Parliament. Multiculturalism wasn't even discussed.

And yet, UNO members were able to build UNO halls all across Canada. They developed a significant organizational structure for men and women, created a vibrant youth program, published Novyi Shliakh, as well as numerous books, and sent the first president of MUNO to the Canadian Senate. UNO in Canada has a proud and glorious history, a tradition of excellence. It remains a model to be emulated by other Ukrainian organizations, especially in the United States.

Ukrainian Canadians are blessed. Ukrainian Canadians, especially UNO, therefore, have a moral obligation to take the lead in revitalizing Ukrainian institutions and the press in North America. You have political power we can only dream about in the United States. You have a prime minister who went to Ukraine and had the courage to openly and unabashedly stand up for freedom of the press there. "Mnohaya lita yomu."

Novyi Shliakh will prosper as long as UNO is alive and vibrant. Today, UNO is making a dramatic comeback. In 2010 UNO has a golden opportunity to move to the next

(Continued on page 24)

UTS honors Natalie Kapeluck Nixon as "Ukrainian of the Year"

by **Roksana Korchynsky**
and **Marina Korchynsky Morari**

PITTSBURGH – The Ukrainian Technological Society (UTS) of Pittsburgh presented its 2010 Ukrainian of the Year Award to Natalie Kapeluck Nixon at its 41st annual award ceremony and dinner-dance, held on Saturday, November 27 at The Club at Nevillewood in Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon was honored for her contributions to the perpetuation of Ukrainian heritage through her lengthy involvement with the Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and School, her professional accomplishments in the world of dance, and her humanitarian achievements through her work as director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

For over 20 years, Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon has nurtured and grown the Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble and School, first as a dancer in the ensemble starting in 1986 and, since 1992, as the artistic director and head of the school.

To appreciate the significance of this accomplishment, it is important to know the history of the present-day ensemble and school. Vasil Avramenko, considered the "Father of Ukrainian Dance" in North America, introduced Ukrainian folk dance in Carnegie, Pa., more than 70 years ago. Though the original group of dancers was inactive during World War II, they reformed in the early 1950s under the tutorship of Mr. Avramenko.

They formally reactivated in the early 1960s under the directorship of Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon's mother, Beverly Kapeluck. Over the next few decades, the ensemble reached out to include many new dancers in the greater

Pittsburgh area and began making public appearances.

The Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble has always been a training ground for young dancers. In 1994 Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon inaugurated the formal dance school, which combines Ukrainian folk dance and ballet technique. She has inspired countless young dancers to love and continue this centuries-old cultural art form.

Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon is an accomplished dancer in her own right. She has trained and performed extensively in ballet, modern dance, jazz, character and folk dance. In 2003 Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon founded, and is the artistic director of, Slava Modern Dance Company.

Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon has also distinguished herself through her spiritual and humanitarian work. Since 2000 she has been the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. In this capacity, she has provided guidance to young people across the country, organized conferences and camps to promote unity, and has organized mission trips for young people to serve those in need.

Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon is a lifelong resident of Carnegie, Pa. She received her bachelor of arts degree cum laude in dance, with a concentration in Ballet, from Point Park College in Pittsburgh in 1994 and is a former UTS Scholarship recipient.

In her welcoming remarks, Roksana Korchynsky, Ph.D., president of the UTS executive board, provided a brief history of the society – now in its 41st year and one of the longest continuously active Ukrainian organizations in the tri-state area.

She also highlighted the meaning of



Ethan Nixon

At the Ukrainian of the Year ceremony (from left) are: **Nicholas C. Kotow, Michael Towstopiat, Dr. Roksana Korchynsky, Natalie Kapeluck Nixon, Motria Hodowanec and George Honchar.**

the society's Ukrainian of the Year Award, which recognizes people of local, national and international stature who have contributed to the Ukrainian community or Ukrainian scholarship, or who have demonstrated significant achievement which brings recognition and prestige to the Ukrainian community. These individuals are exemplary role models, chosen not for their popularity or current appeal but for the contributions they have made through sacrifice, dedication, perseverance and faith; and for the ideals they embody and reflect that make the community strong.

Previous Award recipients include Ukrainian leaders, scholars, artists and clergy, and men and women with distinguished careers in medicine, law, science and technology.

Dr. Korchynsky made the nomination address honoring Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon as the 2010 Ukrainian of the Year. She stated that presenting the award to Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon was a personal honor with special meaning for her and her family because the idea to do so was suggested by her father, Michael Korchynsky, who passed away on August 5, at the age of 92.



Beverly Kapeluck and Natalie Kapeluck Nixon with her award.

Mr. Korchynsky was one of the founders of the Ukrainian Technological Society, served as its president from 1978 through 1979, and was recognized as the Ukrainian of the Year in 1983. Dr. Korchynsky said that her father had been impressed by Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon's understated determination and commitment to maintaining the tradition of Ukrainian folk dance and inspiring young dancers of all ages to love and appreciate this art form.

Michael Towstopiat and Motria Hodowanec, UTS executive board members, read the award proclamation in English and in Ukrainian, respectively. Nicholas C. Kotow, UTS executive board secretary and treasurer, read a congratulatory message from Luba Hlutkowsky, director of the Poltava Dance Ensemble of Pittsburgh. George Honchar, UTS Executive board vice-president, invited all present to join in a celebratory "Mnohaya Lita."

Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon graciously accepted the award "on behalf of all the dancers, teachers and parents that have passed through the Kyiv Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, as well as those who have supported Kyiv and me in countless ways."

She said she was accepting the honor most especially on behalf of her parents, Stephen and Beverly Kapeluck, who instilled in her the love for her Ukrainian heritage, and noted that it was her mother "who taught me everything I truly know about Ukrainian dance."

Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon shared some reflections on her work within the world of Ukrainian dance; her personal growth and development as a student, dancer, teacher, choreographer and director; and her work with the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which has included aiding children with special needs in orphanages in Ukraine.

Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon started teaching and choreographing Ukrainian dances in her late teens and 20s. But it was during her college years and later

(Continued on page 22)



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Zaruddia...

(Continued from page 3)

moment the polls opened. Opposition candidates were present, and two observers from the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) arrived, including The Ukrainian Weekly's correspondent.

It was the first time since Ukraine's 1991 independence that foreign election observers had arrived in this town, and the commissioners weren't used to such scrutiny. Dr. Kapustian and Mr. Petrenko alleged they had gotten away with extensive falsifications in prior years, without having to deal with watchful eyes.

Moreover district and territorial election commissioners throughout Ukraine were well aware that President Yanukovich – in keeping with Soviet tradition – set vote quotas that they were expected to achieve for the Party of Regions, regardless of whether they stayed within the rules or strayed beyond.

Although such quotas weren't announced officially, political experts confirmed they were made known through the oblast and district state administrations, which are the president's national network of government organs responsible for implementing his policies in the regions.

Knowledge of these quotas made commissioners especially tense in trying to achieve them. Dozens of foreign and domestic observers, as well as journalists, felt this pressure in the form of open hostility when they were illegally denied entry into election bodies or polling stations, or were evicted, as The Weekly's correspondent was.

These incidents were extensively documented by the Opora citizens network, Ukraine's leading independent election monitor, and were outlined in the November 3 statement issued by 10 Ukrainian opposition parties.

Shortly after the polls opened, Ms. Nerivna wasted no time in throwing her weight around. Well aware of Dr. Kapustian's extended arguments with Liudmyla Zayichenko the prior weekend, she made sure the professor was in put in her place, literally this time around.

Ms. Nerivna declared she didn't like where Dr. Kapustian was sitting, in the corner of the room closer to the DEC, and insisted that she move to the opposite end of the room, accusing her of "interfering with the election process."

She lobbed this accusation at least half a dozen times throughout the day as a means of intimidating anyone who raised even a whimper about the DEC's activity. Even the slightest concern raised drew the accusation.

Ms. Nerivna also voiced the first of several threats to bar the history professor from the polling station, which had the intended effect of making Dr. Kapustian hesitate in asserting herself for concern she'd lose the ability to witness the all-night vote count.

At-home voting

The two mobile ballot boxes were soon dispatched to enable the elderly and disabled to vote. The Weekly accompanied one box for several hours, while Mr. Petrenko's Agrarian Party observer, Ivan Reka, traveled with the other.

Village elections typically have a certain degree of informality, given that everyone knows each other. They also involve many family members, since large family networks remain in place in many of Ukraine's villages.

Yet the Bondari DEC stretched the ethical bounds to violate the election law and universal ethical standards. First, both candidates for the Village Council chair – Messrs. Zayichenko and Petrenko – accompanied the ballot box along with The Weekly.

Not only did they enter homes and speak with voters, but Mr. Zayichenko often stood within a few feet of the elderly or disabled

as they cast their ballots, looking on intently. The election law clearly states that only DEC members, as well as reporters and observers, could travel with the mobile boxes.

The Weekly saw no evidence of either candidate making any voting "recommendations," yet one can imagine what words might have been exchanged without the presence of such observers.

The three DEC members accompanying the ballot box raised no issue about the candidates' presence, and reflected the approach taken by the rest of their colleagues in being largely compliant with whatever Mr. Zayichenko and the Party of Regions desired.

Meanwhile, the other ballot box was being transported in a car driven by Mr. Zayichenko's son-in-law, Oleh Pinchuk, and his daughter through his second marriage, Maryna Bihdan. Mr. Zayichenko's first daughter, Liudmyla, served as the secretary of the Bondari TEC.

The direct involvement of such close relatives didn't violate election law, but did violate universal election ethics, Mr. Hnap said.

The Weekly accompanied the ballot box to more than a dozen village homes, all of which lacked indoor plumbing and required going to an outhouse. A few homes were in particularly horrible shape, with dilapidated doors and cracked ceilings.

Evidence abounded that the elderly were unable to adapt to the new way of life in Ukraine – its brutal, anarchic form of capitalism – and had fallen by the wayside, with no government organ or private organization offering help.

A handful had Yanukovich posters, even fewer had Yulia Tymoshenko posters.

Nadiya Karabash, 83, echoed the sentiment among many of the older villagers in Ostaptsi, who resented the Soviet Union's collapse because it brought them poverty without the respectable pensions, minimum health care and social services that used to be provided by the state for free.

"The Communists built it up, and then it was all torn down," said Ms. Karabash, who hung up a Yanukovich poster. "We should've kept it together. What can they build now? We ought to line them all up and shoot them!"

Indeed some of the elderly showed they couldn't adapt to democracy either. Whether out of ignorance or limited mental agility, a handful had no idea whom to vote for and asked the commissioners for advice, who in turn stressed they couldn't break the rules and suggest anyone.

"Who should I vote for?" asked an elderly man in the village of Bondari.

"I can't help you," replied Vira Radko, an election commissioner. After leaving his home, she remarked humorously, "He watches 'Shuster Live' and doesn't know who to vote for." She was referring to the Friday night political talk show in which politicians debate each other, often irreverently.

Back at the polling station

Meanwhile, a nasty falsification attempt was brewing at the Bondari polling station. Ms. Nerivna bears the appearance of an average Ukrainian housewife with a short-trim haircut and sizable waistline. She had in her power a shrill voice and ruthlessness in dealing with opponents of the Party of Regions.

The DEC organized a bus to transport 80 voters from Zaruddia, Dr. Kapustian's native village, to the polls at 10 a.m. The overwhelming majority were expected to cast their ballots in favor of Dr. Kapustian and Mr. Petrenko.

Among the voters was Alla Shevchenko, who waved to Dr. Kapustian to show her a ballot she had obtained without the commission's official stamp. Ms. Nerivna swiped it from her hands before Dr. Kapustian could view it and immediately stamped it, along with several others.



Bondari District Election Commission Chair Nina Nerivna (center) leads her commissioners in counting ballots during the October 31 local elections.

"I thought it was just a few, yet I saw a whole pile and grabbed my camera," Dr. Kapustian said. "I counted and counted, and I estimated 80 or 90 ballots. And the DEC suddenly became heroes and declared the mistake was corrected, without giving me a chance to count them."

Illya Labunka, an observer with the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), interviewed voters who saw the unstamped ballots. Ms. Nerivna claimed the missing stamps were a simple mistake. Yet they all could have been disqualified during the count had Zaruddia voters cast their votes using them.

"She repeated her phrase, 'You're interfering with the election process and could be expelled,' when I asked her to explain what truly happened," Dr. Kapustian said. "She didn't answer Illya's request to explain what happened on video."

The local election law – recognized by the international community as substandard – allowed Dr. Kapustian to file a complaint, but only with the very same DEC against which the complaint was filed.

Therefore, Ms. Nerivna led her commissioners in rejecting Dr. Kapustian's complaint, which couldn't be recorded elsewhere. A serious election violation had occurred without any official registration of the crime, which observers said was the aim of the election legislation drafted by the Party of Regions.

"The complaints usually 'perished' in the DEC since the commission typically doesn't vote against its own members and complaints often weren't considered," said Opora Board Chairman Olha Aivazovska, acknowledging the severe flaws in the rules.

Ms. Nerivna intensified the intimidation as the voting progressed.

The two challengers for Bondari Village Council chair – Mr. Petrenko and Valentyn Vlasov of the Communist Party – also became targets. In the evening, Mr. Vlasov mentioned that he believed a voter who wasn't supposed to had cast a ballot at home.

Ms. Nerivna responded by pointing to the voter's written statement requesting home-voting, which was held from the January presidential election. The DEC didn't need written statements for these elections if they were submitted for the prior vote, she claimed.

Mr. Petrenko didn't agree, arguing that the written statements for home-voting were supposed to have been written and submitted specifically for the October 31 vote.

Yet another conflict emerged regarding disabled voters. The election law doesn't require disabled voters to submit statements if they are officially classified in the state register as "unable to independently move," yet it was unclear whether the voters being complained about had that status and could indeed vote at home.

Ms. Nerivna led the DEC in issuing a

warning to Messrs. Petrenko and Vlasov for interfering with its work and creating "terror," and threatened to evict them from the polling station. That served to neutralize their ability to raise further complaints throughout the night.

When the mobile boxes returned, Ms. Nerivna committed an undoubted violation in placing them behind a thin, white curtain, instead of within full view of the public as the law required.

"Everything hung on what Nerivna decided, and no one attempted to question her, even on the DEC," Dr. Kapustian said.

Information blockade

That same evening, Ms. Nerivna thwarted The Weekly's attempts to gain even the most basic information – the protocol confirming how many ballots the commission had received in the morning, as well as the book containing all the letters of those voters requesting to vote at home.

In past elections during the Orange era, such materials were immediately provided to observers without any hesitation. Yet, in her knee-jerk reaction, Ms. Nerivna alleged The Weekly had no right to view them.

She proceeded to call an unidentified election official in Kremenchuk to back her claim. Ms. Nerivna seemed to get that backing, yet allowed The Weekly to speak with the woman, who could have been a Party of Regions official.

The correspondent pointed out that the 2010 vote was his third election-observing mission and had never before had trouble in obtaining this simple information. That led the woman to grant permission, yet only until after the polls closed at 10 p.m.

Such a condition had no basis in election law, and was reflective of the authoritarian atmosphere established throughout Ukraine under President Yanukovich. Soon Ms. Nerivna called up a lawyer who confirmed that The Weekly had the right to see the information. [Editor's note: It was unclear whether this was a lawyer at the Kremenchuk election commission, or with the Party of Regions.]

The atmosphere of intimidation created by Ms. Nerivna made gaining even the most basic information a strenuous task.

The Weekly asked later for the names of the election commissioners and the parties they represented, which was provided late in the vote count, after midnight, and only for several seconds, which didn't allow for copying the information.

By the time the polling station closed at 10 p.m., all three election candidates, afraid of being evicted from the polling station, were bullied into silence by Ms. Nerivna. It was apparent that the night would be long and arduous.

The count begins

The secretive DEC members were whis-

(Continued on page 16)

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PHOTO FOLLOW-UP: Holodomor commemoration in Kyiv



Serhij Marchenko



KYIV – A committee of civic and cultural leaders organized a Holodomor commemoration separate from the official one held by the government of Ukraine. On this page are scenes from the unofficial solemn ceremonies held on November 27 at the Holodomor Memorial and the Holodomor monument. Photos (clockwise, from the photo above) show: Major Archbishop Lubomyr Husar of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate; Yulia Tymoshenko; Viktor Yushchenko and his family; the crowd gathered at the foot of the memorial; Dr. Ihor Yukhnovsky at the podium; a banner reading “We didn’t forget. We remember”; and memorial candles being lit in central Kyiv at the Holodomor monument near St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral.



Zaruddia...

(Continued from page 13)

pering to each other, which persisted through the night. Vote-counting was organized in one corner of the polling station, while the various observers were seated on the far opposite end.

The vote count consisted of two parts: separating the ballots by candidate and party, and then counting each separate pile.

While the first part could be viewed by standing and approaching the table that had been set up (though the opposition candidates were too intimidated to do so), the second part of the count was conducted in the far corner of the room that was largely inaccessible.

To reach it, only a narrow corridor was allowed, which consisted of a table with stacks of uncounted ballots on one side, and the vote-counting table on the other side, where several DEC members were seated.

Ballots were dumped onto the wide table from all five urns, after which they were separated based on the different contests – the Poltava Oblast Council single-mandate seat and closed party list, the Kremenchuk District Council single-mandate seat and closed party list, and the Bondari Village Council single-mandate seats.

This last category proved unusually difficult for the DEC members, requiring more than an hour and a half of sorting and re-sorting, which further irritated the already anxious Ms. Nerivna. Often the results didn't conform to the prior counting, which required more rounds of counting.

The Party of Regions cited the professionalism of its ranks in justifying the heavy presence of its representatives on election commissions. Yet that notion was disproved

in Bondari and hundreds of other commissions during the early morning hours of November 1.

It was only at 1 a.m. that the tally began for the first race, the closed party lists for Poltava Oblast Council. (Editor's note: The 2010 local election law designated half of council seats to be determined by closed party lists, and the other half by single-mandate, single-winner districts.)

Whether this was intentional or not, the commissioners didn't bother counting aloud for numerous tallies throughout the night, in violation of election law.

Only when The Weekly asked repeatedly for results did the commissioners revert back to counting out loud, as required. Messrs. Petrenko and Vlasov, and Dr. Kapustian were too intimidated to complain.

The Oblast Council contest served as a good indicator for how much support the Party of Regions had among the villagers. It was about 24 percent, below its national poll standings of about 28 percent. The Front for Change finished second with 13 percent and Batkivschyna earned 11 percent.

About 18 percent of the voters chose "Don't support anyone," reflective of the nation's high dissatisfaction with the political process.

Certainly it was the widespread support for Dr. Kapustian that boosted the popularity of the Front for Change in the Bondari region. Meanwhile Mr. Petrenko's Agrarian Party earned only 15 votes, or about 3 percent, a poor omen for his own candidacy.

The Party of Regions fared worse in the District Council closed party list race, earning only 18 percent. About 17 percent said they didn't support anyone, 15 percent sup-

ported Batkivschyna, and 11 percent each voted for the Front for Change and Agrarian Party.

It was slightly after 5 a.m. when the tally began for the Kremenchuk District Council single-mandate seat, in which Dr. Kapustian was running against Yurii Matiukha of the Party of Regions and Viacheslav Pedai of the Agrarian Party of Ukraine.

The Weekly began to videorecord the first tally and attempted to gain a better view of how the ballots were sorted in stacks by squeezing through the narrow aisle created by the DEC, between the table with stacked ballots on one side and on the other, seating commissioners counting ballots.

In the process, the correspondent accidentally brushed against no more than a dozen ballots, which became slightly displaced and were quickly returned to their respective piles by the commissioners.

Yet the attempt drew Ms. Nerivna's outrage, particularly since no observer had dared to come close to the vote tally the entire night. The tables were arranged to prevent anyone from drawing close, and The Weekly had crossed the barrier she had set.

Having returned to observation zone designated by the DEC, The Weekly observed five ballots placed face down by one commissioner and sorted into the pile for Regions candidate Matiukha by another commissioner.

The Weekly also observed a ballot checked for Dr. Kapustian which was placed into the pile for invalid ballots, or those improperly or unclearly marked.

The typically youthful Dr. Kapustian looked exhausted and helpless at this point. So The Weekly's correspondent approached Mr. Petrenko during the break and alerted him to the suspicious ballot-counting.

With his support, The Weekly correspondent made his second attempt to cross the narrow aisle towards the far corner of the room, where the tally was about to begin for the separated stacks.

Ms. Nerivna's familiar shrill voice pierced through the room, berating The Weekly for "interfering with the committee's work" by scattering ballots and "climbing onto tables." She frantically called upon the DEC to vote on whether to expel The Weekly from the polling station.

The motion to expel was supported by 11 of 18 commissioners, opposed by three, with others abstaining. Dr. Kapustian was stunned to see her own Front for Change commissioner, Serhii Fesianov, support The Weekly's expulsion.

"What does Front for Change have to do with this?" he reportedly told Mr. Petrenko when questioned about his decision. "We are listening to the DEC leadership."

The room of more than 40 people was largely silent, as no one was particularly interested in standing up to the Regions clan that was in control.

Only Mr. Petrenko reacted with outrage, shouting that no one had been able to see the vote tally the entire night, with even international observers being denied that right. He demonstratively stormed out of the polling station shouting that the DEC had breached standards for holding a clean election.

The Weekly left without complaint at about 5:30 a.m. Mr. Labunka of the UCCA remained for the key remaining counts – the second part of the count to determine the Kremenchuk District Council single-mandate winter, and the tally for Village Council chair.

Dr. Kapustian won her seat with 162 votes in favor, or 36 percent; Mr. Pedai had 115 votes, or 26 percent; and Mr. Matiukha had 87 votes, or 20 percent.

Yet Mr. Zayichenko won re-election for Village Council chair, with the shocking result of 254 votes, or 57 percent. Mr. Petrenko earned 127 votes, or 29 percent, and Mr. Vlasov had 35 votes.

The residents of Bondari and its surrounding villages placed enough trust in Dr. Kapustian to fight plans to raze their land, yet hadn't mustered the courage to oust Mr. Zayichenko, who was widely accused of collaborating with the Ferrexpo executives.

It was equally likely that Mr. Petrenko hadn't done enough as a Kremenchuk District councilman to earn their trust, while Dr. Kapustian's campaign to provide natural gas offered tangible evidence that she was committed to helping the people of her native lands.

Although she'd secured a hard-fought victory, Dr. Kapustian wasn't satisfied with the election results. She remains convinced the Bondari DEC falsified the vote in favor of the Party of Regions, particularly in stealing votes from Mr. Petrenko in favor of Mr. Zayichenko.

"This was clear falsification because it's impossible for him to have gained so many votes," Dr. Kapustian said, pointing out that no candidate gained so many votes, more than 50 percent of the total, in any single race.

Moreover, Mr. Zayichenko was quite unpopular in the villages of Ostaptsi, Zaruddia and even Bondari, which Mr. Petrenko was aware of before the vote. In fact, that's what had motivated him to try and compete against his cousin.

Among the possibilities Dr. Kapustian considered was that the second car transporting the mobile ballot box had tinted windows, and was parked on side of the road for extended periods – an election violation.

Dr. Kapustian believes Mr. Zayichenko's daughter and son-in-law used a metal wire to remove ballots – without breaking the plastic seals – and replace them with their own pre-marked ballots. That would also explain why Ms. Nerivna placed the mobile boxes behind a curtain when they returned.

Another possibility is no one was able to come close to the vote tally to confirm whether the ballots counted for Mr. Zayichenko were truly marked on his behalf. By the time the count for Village Council chair came around, The Weekly had already been expelled and no one dared to approach.

As a result, Dr. Kapustian has no hard evidence to back her falsification claims. Moreover Mr. Petrenko's observer from the Agrarian Party, Mr. Reka, traveled in the car with the second box and reported seeing no violations. Had they taken place, he would have had to betray Mr. Petrenko and side with his opponent.

Dr. Kapustian missed the first session of the Kremenchuk District Council on November 17, as she was attending an academic conference in Egypt at the time.

Front for Change District Organization Chair Vasyl Kravchenko earned the position of council chair. But Dr. Kapustian was disappointed to observe that her party had struck a deal with the Party of Regions, giving it the chairman's seat. She said she would oppose any deals with the Party of Regions, even if her entire faction worked with them.

Dr. Kapustian said she will use her seat on the District Council to find out more information about Ferrexpo's drilling plans in the Bondari region. From what she knows already, about a fifth of the land of the Kremenchuk District, and about 1,675 homes in some 10 villages, are under direct threat.

"The world is undergoing increasing desertification, yet we're destroying the Poltava chornozem given to us by God," Dr. Kapustian said. "We can reorient our direction, but that requires will."

Time will tell whether her will – and those of her allies – will be enough to save Zaruddia, Ostaptsi and the rest of the withering villages of the Bondari region. Or whether they become the latest casualty of Ukraine's unique brand of vicious, unrestrained capitalism that doesn't seem to know any bounds.

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SPORTSLINE

Soccer

• Shakhtar Donetsk leads Group H of the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Champions League with 12 points after defeating Partizan 3-0 on November 23 in Belgrade, Serbia. After a scoreless first half, Taras Stepanenko scored in the 52nd minute, Jadsen in the 59th minute and Eduardo in the 68th minute. Shakhtar (12 points) plays against Braga (nine points, third place) on December 8 at Donbas Arena in Donetsk. Other teams in Group H include England's Arsenal, in second place with nine points. After five games played, Shakhtar's record stands at two wins at home, two wins away and one loss away, with 10 total goals for and six against, for a +4 on aggregate.

• In the UEFA Europa League, Dynamo Kyiv leads Group E with 10 points, followed by BATE Borisov (10 points), AZ Alkmaar (four points) and FC Sheriff (four points). Dynamo defeated BATE Borisov of Belarus 4-1 at Dinamo Stadium in Minsk, Belarus. Scoring for Dynamo were Ognien Vukojvic (16th), Andriy Yarmolenko (43rd), Oleh Husyev (50th), and Artem Milevsky (68th). BATE scored a late goal in the 84th minute, but it was not enough. Dynamo's record stands at three wins, one draw and one loss, with 10 goals for and six against, for a +4 on aggregate. Dynamo's next match will be on December 15 against Sheriff in Kyiv.

In Group I, Metalist Kharkiv defeated Hungary's Debreceni 2-1 at Metalist Stadium in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on December 1. The Hungarian club opened the scoring in the 48th minute with a shot from Peter Czvitkovics, followed by midfielder Adam Bodi, who scored an own goal in the 52nd minute to tie the match, and Denys Oliinyk, who secured the win for Metalist in the 88th minute. The Kharkiv team is in second place in Group I with three wins, one draw and one loss, scoring nine goals and allowing four, for 10 points total. Metalist's next match is against the Dutch team PSV Eindhoven in the Netherlands on December 16.

In Group J, Karpaty Lviv lost to Germany's Borussia Dortmund 0-3 at BVB Stadium in Dortmund, Germany, on December 2. Karpaty's next match is against Paris Saint-Germain FC in Lviv, Ukraine. Karpaty trail Group J with five losses, three goals for and 14 against, with -11 on aggregate and zero points.

• The draw for the UEFA European Under-17 Championship was announced on November 30 in Nyon, Switzerland. Ukraine, in Group 7, will play matches against Belgium, Croatia and Azerbaijan. The tournament is to be held in May 2012 in Slovenia, with the final match to be played in Slovakia in 2013. The tournament is expected to attract teams from 52 countries, with 13 groups of four, to be played in the autumn of next year.

• An official fan zone, located on Independence Square in Kyiv, will be created for the Euro-2012 soccer championship. The complex will stretch along the Khreshchatyk from Instytutska Street to Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street and will accommodate 70,000 fans and up to 100,000 fans on match days. It is expected that the Khreshchatyk will become a pedestrian street during the tournament.

• Ukraine tied Switzerland 2-2 in an international friendly match in Geneva on November 17. Ukraine is ranked in eighth place by UEFA and the ranking is based on Ukraine's club performance in the Champions League and the Europa League



The twin mascots of the Euro-2012, Slavek and Slavko.

over the past five years. Ukraine is ranked 35th according to FIFA/Coca-Cola world rankings, having dropped nine spots since last year.

• The Euro-2012 soccer championship mascots were unveiled on November 16 at Warsaw's Polish Theater. The twin mascots, each wearing the colors of their national flag – Poland, red and white, and Ukraine, blue and yellow – were created by Warner Brothers Studios and are to be named, based on results from a poll that ended on December 3, Slavek and Slavko, as announced in Warsaw on December 4. Other choices included Siemko and Strimko or Klemek and Ladko. The twins have visited eight of the host cities for the final matches.

• Anatolii Tymoshchuk, who plays for Bayern Munich, was named among the Bundesliga Team of the Week, according to Kicker magazine. Kicker gave Tymoshchuk two points, one of the highest scores according to Germany's Bundesliga scale. "It was another classy display by Tymoshchuk," said Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, chairman of Bayern Munich. "I like his approach. He gets stuck in and plays like a man. I think that's terrific."

• The draw was announced for the Euro-2011 Under-21 soccer championship, to be held in Denmark on June 11, 2011, through June 25, 2011. Ukraine, in Group B, will face England, Spain and the Czech Republic.

Boxing

• Serhiy Fedchenko (21-1, 13 KO) defeated American DeMarcus Corley (37-15-1, 22 KO) by unanimous decision, 120-110, 119-110, 117-113, to win the WBO European junior welterweight (super lightweight, 140 lbs.) title in Kharkiv on November 13.

• Alexander Dimitrenko (30-1, 20 KO), who was to face Poland's Albert Sosnowski (46-3-1, 28 KO), collapsed in his dressing room one hour prior to the fight. The fight, which was scheduled for December 4 at Schwerin Sport and Congress Hall in Germany, has been cancelled. Ring physician Dr. Christopher Goetz said: "He had a very low blood pressure and was hyperventilating. His hands were clenched tight. Even though his condition stabilized, there was no chance that he could step into the ring. It's necessary that he now go to the hospital to find out the cause of his condition."

Martial arts

• Volodymyr Soroka (73 kg) won the silver medal, and Vitaliy Dudchuk (81 kg) and Artem Vasylenko (81 kg) tied for the bronze medal at the Judo Grand Prix in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on November 22-24. Serhiy Drebot (81 kg) also won a bronze medal.

• Mykhailo Korobko, a kickboxer from Chernihiv, Ukraine, won the World Kickboxing Championship in Edinburgh, Scotland, on October 23-30. The tournament attracted 2,000 athletes.

• Ukraine's martial artists won the World Traditional Wushu Tournament held in Zhengzhou, China, on October 22-28. The tournament was organized by the International Wushu Federation. Students from the Lviv Academy of Kung Fu won two gold and two silver medals, and the representatives from the Wing Chun Federation won three gold and four silver medals.

• Ukraine's judo team won 14 medals – a gold medal in each of the 14 weight divisions – at the 17th Yuriy Zuser International Judo Tournament, held in Donetsk, Ukraine, on October 26. The tournament attracted 215 judokas, age 16-23, from Russia, Armenia and Tajikistan.

• Serhiy Drebor (66 kg) and Stanislav Bondarenko (100 kg) won bronze medals at the Judo Grand Prix held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on October 15-17. The international competition featured competitions in 14 weight divisions.

• The Ukrainian Judo Federation and the International Judo Federation signed a contract on October 25 to hold the second Cadet World Judo Championship in Kyiv, on August 11-14, 2011. The ceremony was held during the Junior World Judo Championship in Agadir, Morocco. Ukraine did not compete in the event.

Handball

Ukraine hosted the Turchyn Cup international women's friendly tournament in Brovary, Kyiv Oblast, on November 23-25. Teams from Lithuania, Azerbaijan and Belarus participated. Ukraine defeated the Azeris 26-21 in the first day.

Motorsports

• Ukraine is set to compete in the 2011 Dakar rally, which begins on January 1 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and ends on January 16. The race is expected to attract 430 race crews.

• A motor race, dedicated to the UEFA European Soccer Championship 2012, began in Donetsk with stops in host cities – Kharkiv, Kyiv and Lviv. The race ended on December 2.

Sport dance

• Yaroslav Brovasky and Yelyzaveta Ghyzhko won four medals at the 2010 International Dance Sport Federation's World Cup Ten Dance and the Austrian Open Championships in Vienna on November 19-21. The Ukrainian pair won gold in the Junior I + II Dance event and gold in the Junior I Latin, the silver in the Junior II Latin and the bronze medal in the Youth I Standard.

• Kyiv hosted the 15th annual International Sport Dance Competition on November 27-28. The competition attracted dance pairs from England, Denmark, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Russia.

Swimming

Andriy Hovorov won the bronze medal in the men's 50-meter freestyle event (21.32 seconds) at the European Short Course Championship in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, on November 25-28.

Tennis

• Kateryna Bondarenko won the International Tennis Federation tournament in Bratislava, Slovakia, on November 15-21. In the final match, Bondarenko defeated Evgenia Rodina of Russia, 7-6, 6-2, and in the semifinal, Bondarenko defeated Mona Barthel of Germany 7-5, 7-5.

• Lesya Tsurenko (ranked 164th) defeated Richel Hogenkamp of the Netherlands (ranked 237th), 6-3, 6-2 at the ITF tennis tournament in Minsk, Belarus, on November 8.

• Illya Marchenko advanced to the semifinals of the ATP St. Petersburg Open on October 23-31 in Russia. Marchenko was defeated 3-6, 4-6 by the champion of the tournament, Michael Kukushkin.

• Oleksandr Dolhopolov was eliminated from the Kremlin Cup international tennis tournament after losing in the quarterfinals match (2-6, 6-7, 7-9) to Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus on October 16-24.

Gymnastics

• Anasasia Koval won the silver medal in the women's beam exercise at the 28th DTB-Pokal EnBW Artistic Gymnastics FIG World Championship in Stuttgart, Germany, on November 12-13. Andriy Isayev won the bronze medal in the men's vault event.

• Dmytro Bedevkin and Oleksandr Satin won the bronze medal in the under-18 synchronized event at the 20th World Age Group Competition in trampoline, tumbling and double mini-trampoline in Metz, France, on November 17-19. The competition was held under the aegis of the International Gymnastics Federation.

Chess

Vasyl Ivanchuk won the rapid chess tournament in Cap d'Agde, France, on November 1. In the final match, Ivanchuk defeated American Hikaru Nakamura.

Hockey

Ukraine won third place in the European Ice Hockey Challenge tournament, held in Sanok, Poland, on November 11-13. Ukraine lost against Russia (0-7) and Poland

(Continued on page 24)

USCAK sports federation holds convention at Soyuzivka

by Omelan Twardowsky
and Matthew Dubas

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – Members of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada (USCAK) gathered at Soyuzivka on November 6-7 for a two-day general meeting, this year called a convention. The schedule of events opened with roundtable panel discussions on various sports themes, "USCAK sports disciplines" by Orest Lesiuk from Philadelphia; "The History of USCAK" by Omelan Twardowsky; USCAK tennis, by George Sawchak; volleyball, by Myron Bytz; finances, led by Jaroslaw Kozak and panelled by Eugene Luciw; the formation of an USCAK Foundation, by Roman Hirniak; and language, communication and the press, by Irenaeus Isajiw, with panelists Andrew Bartuch, Roman Hirniak and Bohdan Porytko.

This initiative featured well-prepared panelists prior to the traditional meeting and election of USCAK's new leadership. Longtime leaders of USCAK Roman Kucil and Myron Stebelsky and many of the delegates from USCAK-affiliated individual sports clubs were in attendance. After a

short recess, Mr. Stebelsky opened the general meeting and welcomed the delegates and guests, and thanked the sponsors of the event, including Ukrainian credit unions in New York, Newark, Whippany and Bound Brook, N.J., and the Ukrainian National Association.

Prior to getting down to business, Mr. Stebelsky called for the assembly to observe a minute of silence for members of the USCAK leadership who had passed away since the previous general meeting: Oles Napora (financial secretary), Roman Pyndus (secretary), Volodymyr Pavelchak (vice-president), Peter Bezpalko (Ukrainian sports historian) and Volodymyr Kulyk (a founding member of Ukraine's National Olympic Committee).

After the agenda and the Nominating Committee were approved, the meeting was led by a presidium comprising Mr. Kozak, chairman; Mr. Kucil, vice-chairman; and Mr. Hirniak, secretary. Reports on individual sports were presented by the outgoing leadership of USCAK: Mr. Isajiw (vice president), Mr. Twardowsky (press secretary), and Gene Chyzowych (soccer), Marika Bokalo (swimming), Mr. Sawchak (tennis), and were included in the handout



The new board members of the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada.

material.

Championships and tournaments in various sports are held annually by USCAK and among those tournaments was the international soccer tournaments held in Australia and England. USCAK teams won bronze

and gold medals at the most recent soccer tournament held in Nottingham, England. The Ukrainian Youth Games, conducted under the patronage of USCAK, are held annually during Chornomorska Sitch's Sports School and the Ukrainian American Youth Association's Sports Camp.

A report by the Nominating Committee, read by Mr. Bytz, listed the names of the members who were nominated to the new board. Unanimously elected were:

Mr. Isajiw, president; Volodymyr Arendacz, vice-president (Karpaty Toronto); Mr. Bytz, second vice-president (Lys Academy, Whippany, N.J.); Taras Javorsky, third vice-president (UAYA Kryla, Chicago); Mr. Hirniak (Sitch, Whippany, N.J.); Walter Honcharyk, financial secretary (UAYA, Whippany); Mr. Twardowsky, Ukrainian-language, and Matthew Dubas, English-language press secretaries (both Sitch, Whippany); Ihor Duda, press secretary for Canada (Karpaty, Toronto); Mr. Porytko, USCAK organizer (Lys Academy); and Serhij Raiko, board member (UAYA Krylati, Yonkers, N.Y.).

Directors of individual sports include: soccer – Mr. Chyzowych (New Jersey), Andrew Panas (Sitch); volleyball – Walter Syzonenko (Lys Academy), Taras Borisiuk, Roman Bulavski (Lys Academy); tennis – Mr. Sawchak (Tryzub, Philadelphia); swimming – Marika Bokalo, Taissa Bokalo (Sitch); chess – the Rev. Marian Procyk (Popel Chess Club, Buffalo, NY.); skiing – Dr. Yuriy Fotiy; hockey – Mark Howansky (UAYA Krylati); baseball – Basil Tarasko (Ukrainian Sports Club of New York); golf – Bohdan Kushnir (Karpaty, Toronto); table tennis – Jaroslaw Marchuk; Teodor Bodnar (UAYA); karate – Mykola Shypko (Karpaty, Toronto).

The Auditing Committee includes Yaroslav Zaviyskyj (New Jersey); Stepan Mazur (Karpaty, Toronto) and Serhij Fedorov.

The organization's arbitration board members include: Jaroslaw Kozak (Tryzub), Roman Los and Volodymyr Mamuz.

At the conclusion of the election, Mr. Isajiw thanked the participants and, at the recommendation of the panelists, presented his plan for the work of his term, among them: the creation of an USCAK website; developing a working strategy to assist USCAK sports clubs; organizing and conducting clinics or "day camps" for specific sports and supporting the continuation of summer sports camps and schools; strengthening USCAK's visibility in the press; and coordinating sports publications to support various sports tournaments in countries where the Ukrainian diaspora is active.

At the conclusion of the general meeting, a banquet was held with musical entertainment provided by Mr. Syzonenko on accord. Mr. Stebelsky, a longtime activist in Ukrainian sports, was recognized for his work with a plaque presented by Mr. Isajiw.



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

amusement park on Independence Square for Christmas celebrations. (RFE/RL)

Armenians concerned about textbooks

KYIV – The National Congress of Armenians of Ukraine appealed to Ukraine's Education and Science Minister Dmitry Tabachnyk, expressing concern over publication of a joint Ukrainian-Turkish manual for history teachers, Analitika.at.ua reported on December 4. "The Armenian diaspora of Ukraine is seriously concerned about the possibility of creating a joint Ukrainian-Turkish manual for history teachers. The denial concept of official Turkish historiography regarding the Armenian Genocide in 1915-1922, as well as the falsification of the approach to the history of Armenia and Armenian colonies, raises concern about a reliable interpretation of historical processes," the statement reads. Congress members recalled that during the Genocide about 50,000 Armenian refugees escaped from Turkey and found shelter in Kharkiv, Odesa, Feodosiya and other Ukrainian cities. These facts are irrefutable evidence of the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Empire. (News from Armenia, news.am)

Food poisoning sparks probe

KHARKIV, Ukraine – Authorities in eastern Ukraine have launched a criminal investigation into a large-scale outbreak of food poisoning at the Kharkiv Air Force University, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on December 7. Ninety-six cadets were hospitalized with severe food poisoning in mid-November. The Procurator General's Office announced that the mass poisoning has been officially classified as "dereliction of duty" and "dereliction of military duty." An inspection after the outbreak of poisoning revealed numerous problems at the university cafeteria, including poor sanitary and technical conditions, outdated equipment, and failure by the university authorities to monitor the quality of the food. (RFE/RL)

Visa rules for Georgian citizens

KYIV – Ukraine is considering prolonging the no-visa period for Georgian nationals living in the country, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on December 6. Meeting with a visiting delegation from Georgia's Finance Ministry that day, Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said it was necessary to allow Georgian citizens to stay in Ukraine for one year without a visa. He said the change was necessary to equate the rights of Georgians and Ukrainians, who were allowed to stay in Georgia without a visa for one year. Georgians can currently stay in Ukraine without a visa for only 90 days. In some cases they can prolong their stay in Ukraine without a visa for up to 180 days. (RFE/RL)

SBU issues handbook on Holodomor

KYIV – The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), with the assistance of Ukrainian institutions and civil society organizations, in late November issued a scholarly handbook titled "The Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine According to the Documents of the Branch State Archive of the Security Service of Ukraine: An Annotated Handbook." The SBU's press service reported that "The book is the first edition of the complete list of all declassified documents of the SBU's Branch State Archive on the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, which cover the causes and consequences of this tragedy." In general, the handbook includes annota-

tions to 420 documents, names and geographical directories pointing to people, villages and regions mentioned in the archival documents. The book also contains the signatures on secret documents, regulatory and administrative documents, archival materials of criminal cases, agent documents, personal documents, postcards, and the memories of witnesses and their descendants. "The handbook is a joint project of the Branch State Archive of the SBU, the Institute of History of Ukraine of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Hrushevsky Institute of Archeography and Source Study of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Center for Liberation Movement Research. This project was implemented with the assistance of the Ukrainian World Congress, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations and other unions, the SBU said. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine prepares for OSCE presidency

KYIV – Ukraine will prepare with high responsibility for its presidency of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2013, President Viktor Yanukovich said during his meeting with OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut in Astana on December 1. "We have a professional team with a high level of discipline. We have already started to prepare people and units for OSCE chairmanship," Mr. Yanukovich said. He added that in 2012 Ukraine will host the finals of the UEFA European Football Championship. And the infrastructure that is being prepared for this event can be used also for OSCE activities. The president also stated that Ukraine could be a unifying force in the OSCE. Mr. Yanukovich noted that the recent decision on Ukraine's chairmanship of the OSCE in 2013 was "a significant stimulus for self-improvement, the continuation of systemic reform and the development of a rich democratic society." He added: "I am confident that Ukraine is able to unite and be a unifying force in the OSCE. Due to our non-aligned status, we will be an 'honest broker' and will make every effort to strengthen the effectiveness of the organization in the interests of all of its members." According to Mr. Yanukovich, unresolved conflicts currently pose the most serious challenge for the OSCE and the greatest threat to regional security and stability, and he noted that Ukraine supports the strengthening and more effective application of OSCE's mechanisms in the early warning and prevention of conflicts. Mr. Yanukovich also said that Ukraine supports the strengthening of the OSCE's role in assessing and countering transnational threats and challenges, in particular, those related to international terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, organized crime, human trafficking, illegal drug trade and cyber crime. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine, Spain agree on labor migration

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has ratified an agreement between Ukraine and Spain on the regulation of labor migration flows, it was reported on December 1. The agreement foresees, in particular, the creation of legal guarantees for the effective realization of the rights of migrant workers and the prevention of illegal labor migration. The document identifies categories of workers who are eligible for employment, the selection and hiring of such workers, the receipt by them of required visa documents, residence permits and employment, working conditions and

social guarantees, and the procedure for their return to their country of origin. The agreement also contains special provisions concerning seasonal workers. According to the Ukrainian Embassy in Spain, the number of Ukrainians who work legally in that country is 150,000-300,000. (Ukrinform)

Ukraine to ban cigarette advertising

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada has approved in principle a bill to ban advertising, sponsorship and promotion of sale of tobacco products, it was reported on November 30. The bill is aimed at bringing the law "On Advertising" and "On Measures to Prevent and Reduce Tobacco Use and its Harmful Effects on Human Health" and the Code of Administrative Offenses in line with the Framework Convention of the World Health Organization on Tobacco Control, ratified by the Ukrainian Parliament on March 15, 2006. National deputies propose a ban on all tobacco advertising, and advertising of signs for the goods and services, and other objects of intellectual property law under which these products are produced. Also expected is a ban on sponsorship of television and radio programs, theater and concert events, sports and other activities using signs for goods and services, and other objects of intellectual property law under which tobacco products are manufactured, except for advertising in specialized publications and special exhibitions. The lawmakers also want no images of tobacco products or the act of smoking to appear in advertisements of any goods or services. According to the World Health Organization, at least one person dies due to smoking every day in Ukraine. Back in 2008, Ukraine was seventh in the world on the prevalence of this harmful habit. Meanwhile, according to surveys con-

ducted this autumn, Ukrainians have been giving up smoking. In 2005 62 percent of men smoked daily, and in 2010 that number has declined to 45 percent, while the number of female smokers in those years decreased by almost half – from 17 percent to 9 percent. (Ukrinform)

New rules for Ukraine's civil servants

KYIV – The Main Directorate of the Civil Service approved general rules of conduct for civil servants, providing a model for settlement of conflicts of interests and prevention of corruption. An order dated August 4 and registered with the Ministry of Justice on November 11, came into force on the day of its official publication. A text of the order is appears on the Verkhovna Rada's official website, it was reported on November 27. According to the document, government officials must refrain from revealing their own political views and their relationship to political forces, parties and blocs, and prevent their influence on the performance of official duties. Clothing worn by officials should be of a business style and should not be contrary to generally accepted requirements of decency. State employees are prohibited from disclosing state secrets entrusted to them, including after the completion of their civil service; at the same time, officials should not hide from citizens facts constituting a threat to life, health and safety. Civil servants should take measures to prevent conflicts of interests, the presence of which could affect the objectivity of decision-making. The section of the rules on "Prevention of Corruption" prohibits state employees directly or through other people from receiving gifts from entities or persons for the decision or failure to act on their behalf, and from receiving gifts from subordinates and for reasons related to his/her position. (Ukrinform)


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Kyiv Mohyla...

(Continued from page 1)

forms to European standards, which stipulate instruction in the state language and English.

Removing the English requirement would eliminate courses taught in English by foreigners, as well as student exchange programs with universities throughout the world, Dr. Kvit said.

"Other than this formal step, we don't see any changes that would realistically bring us closer to the EHEA," he said. "Moreover, this law throws us back, though it's unclear where. Returning to the Soviet system is

impossible. It doesn't exist and can't be renewed. In reality, this law distances Ukraine from the EHEA."

Dr. Kvit excluded geopolitics as a factor in the Education Ministry's policies.

Yet since taking office, Mr. Tabachnyk has taken radical steps to integrate Ukrainian education with the Russian Federation.

More notably, he eliminated the 12-grade education system – which most of the Western world employs – and re-implemented the 11-grade system, employed only by Russia and Belarus. Mr. Tabachnyk also said the Ukrainian and Russian education ministries would jointly draft a common history curriculum for students.

At UNA...

(Continued from page 4)

es (139 in the U.S. and 16 in Canada) and 23 districts (19 in the U.S. and four in Canada).

Ms. Lisovich reported that the UNA's investment portfolio continues to perform well despite the economic downturn affecting the United States and the world. She pointed out that net admitted assets as of September 30 stand at \$144.3 million; total investment income during the first nine months of this year stands at \$4.8 million (which is on par with the total reported for the entire year in 2009). Total premium income was \$40.5 million, which surpassed the UNA's target.

The treasurer also noted that, in an ever more demanding regulatory environment, the UNA is bombarded with new reporting requirements and compliance issues, which pose challenges to the small UNA staff.

Ms. Lisovich also delivered separate detailed reports on Soyuzivka and the Ukrainian Cultural Festival, which drew 3,000 people in 2010.

Five committees were established during the Saturday session: Financial, Organizing/Fraternal, Soyuzivka, Canada

and Publications. General Assembly members who volunteered for these committees held committee meetings later that day and early Sunday morning.

Sunday's agenda was largely devoted to reports by General Assembly committees.

The Soyuzivka Committee, comprising Mmes. Lisovich, Horbaty, Hawryluk, Czerkas and Lew (with the latter serving as both chairperson and secretary), proposed several fund-raising initiatives for the Soyuzivka Heritage Center. It also recommended improvements to Soyuzivka's housekeeping and general upkeep, pointed to several capital improvement projects completed in 2010 and called for continued upgrades. Also encompassed in the committee's report were proposals for energy cost-savings measures, a customer service liaison for the summer season, regular Ukrainian menu selections in the snack bar and a "Welcome to Soyuzivka" packet for guests. It was also noted that the UNA's role as sponsor of Soyuzivka should be more prominently promoted in advertisements as well as during Soyuzivka events.

There was also a discussion on the status of the UNA in Canada, with the General Assembly's Canada Committee reporting that the preferred course of action – to convert Canadian members' UNA policies to U.S. policies and to sell future policies out of the U.S. – cannot be pursued due to regulatory issues. The Canada Committee is now examining alternative courses of action, with the best interests of Canadian policyholders in mind. The members of the Canada Committee were: Messrs. Groch (chair), Tysiak (secretary), Kaczaraj and Koziupa, and Mmes. Kozak and Streletsky.

The Organizing/Fraternal Committee was chaired by Ms. Kozak; other members of the committee were: Ms. Horbaty (secretary), Messrs. Oscislawski, Koziupa, Szul and Groch, and Mmes. Lew, Hawryluk, Streletsky and Keske. Among the committee's recommendations were: that the UNA continue to be showcased at Ukrainian festivals, that new Ukrainian heritage programs geared to young adults be developed, and that a photo and art contest be initiated among UNA members. In addition, the committee recommended the creation of a Western District of the UNA to cover such states as California, Arizona, New Mexico, Washington and Colorado, and suggested that new UNA pins reflecting the organization's recently unveiled new logo be produced.

The Publications Committee, which was chaired by Mr. Koziupa, with Ms. Hadzewycz serving as secretary, included Mmes. Lisovich, Czerkas, Horbaty and Keske and Messrs. Serba and Szul. The committee recommended a new marketing strategy for the UNA's publications which would sell subscriptions to both the print and online editions of Svoboda or The Ukrainian Weekly at a price of \$60 for UNA members and \$70 for non-members. In addition, the Publications Committee recommended a modest increase in the price of print-only subscriptions: \$55 for members and \$65 for non-members. The committee also proposed that the UNA's marketing specialist make special efforts in the coming year to promote the UNA's publications and that the newspapers work on developing advertising on their websites.

The Finance Committee proposed the UNA budget for 2011, with total income projected at nearly \$56.2 million, with significant increases foreseen in premium income. The budget was unanimously approved by the entire General Assembly.

The General Assembly meeting was opened, in accordance with longstanding UNA tradition, with a brief ceremony at Soyuzivka's monument to Taras Shevchenko.

The date of the next annual meeting was set for November 4-6, 2011, at Soyuzivka.

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Podolanka I 12 Days Hosted by: Dr. Walter Karpinich	May 13 - 24 \$3150	L'viv, Music Festival , Krakow and Budapest plus: Wieliczka Salt Mines, Auschwitz, Szentandre Artisan Village
Slidamy Mazepy 10 Days	Jun 24 - July 03 \$2990	Kyiv, Poltava, Nizhyn, Chernyiv, Kyiv plus: Pryluky, Opishnia, Myrhorod, Kruty, Baturyn, Novhorod Siversky
Dnipro Cruise 13 Days	Jun 16 - 28 \$2950	Kyiv, Zaporizhia, Kherson, Sevastopol, Vilko, Odessa MS Dnipro Princess - Main deck
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Mini Ukraine II 12 Days	Jun 29 - Jul 10 \$3600	Kyiv, L'viv, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky plus: Iv. Frankivsk, Bukovel, Kolomyia, Chernivtsi, Zarnytsia
Podolanka II 12 Days	July 01-12 \$3550	L'viv, Krakow and Budapest plus: Wieliczka Salt Mines, Auschwitz, Szentandre Artisan Village
Best of Ukraine 16 Days	Jul 24 - Aug 07 \$4600	Crimea: Yalta, Bakhchysarai, Chersonesus, Sevastopol Kyiv, L'viv, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky plus: Iv. Frankivsk, Bukovel, Kolomyia, Chernivtsi, Zarnytsia
Two Capitals III 9 days	Jul 27 - Aug 4 \$2950	Kyiv and L'viv
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Ukraine Festival Tour 15 Days	Aug 16 - 30 \$3950	Kyiv, Poltava - Sorochynskyi Yarmarok , L'viv, Yaremche, Kosiv - Independence Day Celebrations and Hutsul Festival plus: Opishnia, Reshetylivka, Iv. Frankivsk, Kolomyia, Bukovel, Chernivtsi and Zarnytsia
Two Capitals IV 9 days	Sep 14 - 22 \$2500	Kyiv and L'viv
Mini Ukraine IV 12 Days	Sep 14 - 25 \$3200	Kyiv, L'viv, Yaremche, Kamianets Podilsky plus: Iv. Frankivsk, Bukovel, Kolomyia, Chernivtsi, Zarnytsia
Podolanka III 12 Days	Sep 16 - 27 \$3000	L'viv, Krakow and Budapest plus: Wieliczka Salt Mines, Auschwitz, Szentandre Artisan Village
Bulgaria (Opera Tour) 13 Days Hosted by: Marijka Helbig	Sep 18 - 30 \$3000	Romania - Bucharest George Enescu Music Festival Rami Kalif (Piano) and Romeo and Juliet (Opera by Gounod) Bulgaria: Veliko Tarnovo, Sozopol (Black Sea Beach Resort) Plovdiv, Sofia plus: Laskovets, Arbanassi, Ethura, Shipka, Nessebar and Rila Monastery

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NOTES ON PEOPLE

Film producer noted in NY Times

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Film producer Basil Iwanyk, 40, was profiled in The New York Times (October 6) for his successes in three No.1 films over six months.

The films include: “Clash of the Titans,” which earned \$490 million at the global box office; “The Expendables,” starring Sylvester Stallone, which earned \$250 million; and “The Town,” which partnered the producer with Ben Affleck, cost \$37 million to make and earned \$64 million in its first three weeks in its domestic release.

“Basil has great commercial instincts and a deep understanding of how the Warner Brothers system works, and those things have given him a great deal of momentum,” said Jeff Robinov, the studio’s president of motion pictures.

“I ended up a producer because I don’t have the self-discipline to be a writer or the attention to detail to be a director,” said Mr. Iwanyk.

The article noted Mr. Iwanyk’s other traits, which have afforded him success in the industry, such as hustle, ambition, a lot of industry friends and an eye for movie projects that studios want to make.

“Basil isn’t one of these producers who you can never find because they’re sleeping or off getting a massage. He



Basil Iwanyk

rolls up his sleeves and digs in deep,” said Joseph McGinty Nichol, director of film “We Are Marshall,” produced by Mr. Iwanyk.

Film production has grown difficult as studios, feeling the pinch from plummeting DVD sales. Warner Bros. has reduced the number of producers it carries by 20 percent over the last two years. Studios have begun to favor producers who come with their own financial backing, like Thomas Tull, whose Legendary Pictures joined Warner to float the cost of “The Town” and provide creative input.

Mr. Iwanyk, who is a Ukrainian American, grew up in Spring Lake, N.J., graduated from Villanova University, and started his Hollywood career working in the mailroom of United Talent Agency. Warner hired him in 1995 as a low-level development executive, promoting him two years later to vice-president for production, where he helped on films such as “Ocean’s Eleven.”

Five years after joining Warner Mr. Iwanyk took a job as president of production

at Intermedia Films, but returned to Warner with a producer’s deal in 2003, naming his production company Thunder Road Pictures, after the Bruce Springsteen song.

Other projects in the works for Mr. Iwanyk include a possible remake of “A Star is Born.”

“There’s a space to be filled in the marketplace for a classic love story,” Mr. Iwanyk said. “Besides, I’m a sucker for doomed love.” Mr. Iwanyk said that his favorite film is “Doctor Zhivago.”

Scientist inducted into Hall of Fame

PARIS – Alcatel-Lucent on October 15 announced that a number of current and former scientists from its research arm Bell Labs have been honored for their inventions by the New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame.

Among them were researchers Andrew Chraplyvy (a Ukrainian American), Robert Tkach and Kenneth Walker, who were inducted into the Hall of Fame for significant contributions they have made to optical networking technology and, in particular, for their invention of a high-capacity optical fiber for Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM). The fiber, now called Non-Zero Dispersion Fiber

(NZDF), dramatically increases the capacity of optical networks by supporting concurrent transmission of large numbers of wavelengths that carry high-speed optical signals.

This invention laid the foundation for recent breakthroughs in optical networking such as the 100 Gigabit per second system Alcatel-Lucent introduced to the market earlier this year and the 100 Petabit per second world record transmission data rate Bell Labs achieved in lab demonstrations at the end of 2009.

The New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame promotes the role of invention in the state’s development and the role of inventors in improving society and honors inventors, organizations and others who have contributed to innovation in the state.

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“Notes on People” is a feature geared toward reporting on the achievements of members of the Ukrainian National Association and the Ukrainian community. All submissions should be concise due to space limitations and must include the person’s UNA branch number (if applicable). Items will be published as soon as possible after their receipt.

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UTS honors...

(Continued from page 10)

that she began intensively studying the works of "the great minds of Ukrainian dance" including Vasyl Verkhovynets, whose seminal work "Theory of Ukrainian Dance," published in 1919, codified the terminology of movement and choreographic patterns used to this day; Mr. Avramenko and Pavlo Virsky.

Virsky's melding of classical and folk elements seemed like "the ultimate form of folk dance" and the "epitome of Ukrainian dance" to Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon, a trained classical dancer. "I began to mold my dancers and dances to emulate this formula, thus bringing my own artistic aesthetic to the form," she recalled.

At the same time, she ventured into new artistic territory and worked with another artist on a show combining Ukrainian folklore, poetry, music and modern dance. This led to further exploration of the rich history of Ukrainian folk dances and the growing realization that there was more than one way to do Ukrainian dance.

"Granted, we all want to learn and emulate the best, but not all groups have the same ability to exactly copy such a refined mentor," said Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon. "So I began delving into what is considered ethnographic folk dance – what was done in the villages. I began utilizing my outlets in my professional career to choreograph ballet and modern works using Ukrainian folk music."

This process of discovery led to a new direction for the Kyiv dance ensemble. "For the past five years we have evolved in a way in which we can honor the soul of Ukrainian dance by learning from the masters such as Virsky and Avramenko, blending in the ethnograph-

ic movement of the villages, and pushing ourselves in new directions by once a year creating a performance incorporating dance, music and story to bring a broader picture of Ukrainian culture to a more expansive American public," said Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon. "This is where I feel that the future of Ukrainian dance lies."

Throughout her life and in her work, Mrs. Kapeluck Nixon has been guided by her faith. "I believe that God has given me my love of dance and heritage so that I might help others come to a fuller potential in their own talents and to provide audiences with beauty through dance and in particular Ukrainian dance," she said.

She urged the college students present to take advantage of all opportunities presented to them, to stay centered in their faith, and to utilize their gifts – whatever they may be – to benefit others.

The Ukrainian of the Year commemorative award plaque for Kapeluck Nixon was created by Pittsburgh graphic artist Kathy Boykowycz.

The Very Rev. Stephen Repa, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, gave the invocation. The Rev. Vladimir Ivashchenko, Minister of the Slavic Baptist Church, gave the benediction. Music for the evening was provided by The Continental Dukes ensemble of Pittsburgh.

To learn more about the Ukrainian Technological Society (UTS) of Pittsburgh, the Ukrainian of the Year Award, the UTS annual scholarship program for students and other UTS activities, readers may visit the UTS website at www.utsphg.org, send an e-mail to uts@utsphg.org, or become a friend on Facebook.

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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Pennsylvania lecture recalls Ukrainian immigration to coal regions

by Bohdan Pastuszak

LEHIGHGTON, Pa. – Within the activity of Pennsylvania Humanities Council's Commonwealth Speakers Program, there was a lecture on "Ukrainian Immigration to the Anthracite Coal Regions" in the state of Pennsylvania presented by Dr. Paula A. Holoviak. Appearing along with her was the Kazka Ukrainian Folk Ensemble.

The event took place on the grounds of Ukrainian Homestead in Lehighton, Pa., on Sunday, November 7.

Within the course of Dr. Holoviak's informative talk, there was an echo of Ukrainian emigration, which began in the years of 1895 to the United States,

Canada, Brazil and Argentina mostly from eastern Halychyna, the Lemko region and Zakarpattia, which were then under the rule of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The causes of that emigration were: rural overpopulation, small farms, and lack of jobs in eastern and western Halychyna at that time. The region was industrially underdeveloped and could not provide work for so many people; migration for seasonal work provided only partial solutions. Much of the population lived in poverty and suffered from malnutrition and a high mortality rate, and the government made little effort to overcome the people's basic economic and social evils. Under such conditions

emigration was about the only solution.

The emigrants were usually impoverished peasants, young people without families. Their goal was to earn enough money to pay for the voyage and any existing debts and to save enough to return to Ukraine, buy some land and establish themselves as farmers. Later, most emigrants expected to settle permanently in the new land, yet, a significant number of them returned.

Dr. Holoviak also focused attention on the immigration of her own ancestors from the Lemko region to the state of Pennsylvania and became employed in Pennsylvania coal mining.

Adjusting to their new life style was the most difficult for these immigrants, but thanks to their diligence and sharp

minds, they managed to overcome not only the challenges of their new environment, but also to maintain renew their cultural roots, establishing Byzantine Rite churches and parochial schools.

It should be noted that Dr. Holoviak is a member of the fourth generation of descendants of the first immigrants to the U.S. and she introduced her children to the Ukrainian heritage and language. In addition, she is a member of the Ensemble Kazka Ukrainian Folk which has gained fame not only among Ukrainians, but also among other nations worldwide.

Shortly after the lecture, Kazka, in which Dr. Holoviak participates, entertained guests with melodies of the Lemko region.

Steeple cross erected in memory of Ukrainian Catholic faithful

by Veronica Tokash

WARWICK, Md. – Ukrainian Catholic parishioners worshipped at the 300 year-old St. Francis Xavier Church in Old Bohemia, Warwick, Md., before a permanent pastor was assigned to St. Basil Parish in Chesapeake City, Md.

St. Francis Xavier Church was founded by the Jesuit Fathers in 1704 together with an academy that was attended by historical figures such as: Daniel Carroll, an author writer of the U.S. Constitution; John Carroll, the first American bishop; and Charles Carroll, the only Catholic

signer of the Declaration of Independence.

In memory of her parents, Josef and Alexandra Kostela, and the Ukrainian Catholics who worshipped here, Lilia Kostela Chaika recently purchased the gilded steeple cross that will remain a perpetual memorial.

Many parishioners still recall their participation in services and processions during many historical events and Bishop Basil Losten, a parishioner of St. Basil's, also attended many of these and offered Ukrainian Catholic divine liturgy for the faithful attendants.

N.J. veterans remember comrades

by Bozhena Olshaniwsky

UNION, N.J. – November flew in on strong winds carrying multicolored autumn leaves and bringing back memories – the most poignant of them are about wars, soldiers, veterans and their participation in the history of the 20th century.

The most memorable events are the historical facts of Sichovi Striltsi, their battles in Lviv, which were left for us in the songs and poems of very talented and creative striltsi (i.e. Kupchynsky, Hayvoronsky, Lepky, etc.) But in the American veterans' memories, events

from World War II, which engaged many Americans, are the strongest. The local veterans of Ukrainian American Veterans organized in Post 6, traditionally commemorate the Veterans Day attending a program at the monument erected by the post.

On November 14, at 11 a.m., a small group of veterans of UAV and their auxiliary members gathered at the Hollywood Cemetery in Union, N.J. They observed the traditional points of the program, read all the names written on the monument and, at the end, gathered in a nearby restaurant for a luncheon and reminiscences.



At the veterans monument in Union, N.J., (from left) are: Dana Bekesewycz, Marie Marchiskin, Bozhena Olshaniwsky, Michael Fedirko (commander of Post 6 of UAV), Robert Doll, Walter Bodnar and Danylo Marchishin.

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Sportsline...

(Continued from page 17)

(3-6) and won against the Netherlands (3-0). The next leg of the tournament, on December 13-19, will be held in Ukraine and will host teams from Kazakhstan, Poland and Romania. The final leg of the tournament on February 7-13, 2011, will be held in Norway, where Ukraine will play against Italy, Latvia and Norway. Ukraine's hockey team is coached by Canadian Dave Lewis, assisted by Dmytro Hrystych, Yuriy Shundrov and Mikhail Zakharov. Lewis was on the coaching staff of the Detroit Red Wings and was manager of the Boston Bruins before taking the reins in Kyiv on November 7.

War games

A team representing the Armed Forces of Ukraine took second place in team classification at the Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM) World Cadet Games in Ankara, Turkey, on October 17-24. The tournament attracted 430 teams from 27 countries. Ukraine's team collected 10 gold and four silver medals in air-gun shooting and athletics (short and long distance courses, high and long jumps, and shot put).

Cycling

Lubov Shulika won the bronze medal in the women's keirin (paced start, sprint) event and Mykhailo Radionov and Serhiy Lahkuti won the bronze medals in the men's Madison (doubles) event at the European Track Championships in Pruszkow, Poland, on November 5-7.

Wrestling

• Olena Sayko (60 kg) won the silver medal at the 34th World Amateur Sambo Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on November 4-8. Maria Semeniuk (68 kg)

and Tetiana Savenko (80 kg) won bronze medals.

• Ukraine won third place in the team competition among adults and juniors at the Sumo World Championships in Warsaw, Poland, on October 14-17. Ukraine won two gold, two silver and four bronze medals. The tournament attracted 245 athletes from 27 countries.

Fencing

• Ukraine's women's fencing team of Olha Kharlan, Olena Khomrova, Olha Zhovnir and Halyna Pundyk won the silver medal in the saber team competition at the World Fencing Championships held in Paris on November 4-13. Kharlan and Khomrova won silver and bronze medals, respectively, in the individual saber competition.

• Anastasia Moskovska won the bronze medal in the women's epee event at the European Juniors Fencing Championship in Lobno, Russia, on October 25-30. Olena Kravatska won a bronze medal in the women's junior saber event.

Gaming

Alexander Dovzhenko beat Gutkin Maksim of Russia at the Mediterranean Poker Cup held in Crystal Cove, Cyprus, at the five-star Hotel Merit Girne on November 26-30. The tournament featured a \$2,500 buy-in and attracted 153 players for the 104,700 euro prize. In the final hand, after a 10 of clubs, six of clubs and three of hearts on the flop, Gutkin checked, while Dovzhenko bet 60,000 euro and Gutkin moved all in. Dovzhenko revealed an eight and seven of clubs, suited, to Gutkin's pocket tens of hearts and diamonds, giving Gutkin the lead with triple tens. A non-club ace on the turn and a five of clubs on the river gave Dovzhenko his flush.

Ukraine achieves...

(Continued from page 2)

adopted at its summit that it respects Kyiv's policy of non-bloc status and that NATO's doors would remain open to Ukraine as

decided at the 2008 NATO summit in Bucharest.

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

How did members...

(Continued from page 6)

Illinois' next senator to Washington. Another member of the caucus, Rep. Joe Sestak (D-Pa.), lost his bid for a senatorial seat in Pennsylvania. Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart did not seek re-election; however, his brother Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Fla.) won Florida's 21st Congressional District seat.

Inasmuch as the Ukrainian American community is concerned about many aspects of current U.S.-Ukraine relations, as well as the internal domestic politics and the backsliding of democratic trends in Ukraine, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington bureau of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), will be working diligently with the newly elected members of 112th Congress, informing them about our concerns and providing informational material.

More on Holodomor...

(Continued from page 7)

borders of the Ukrainian SSR and the Kuban, heavily populated by Ukrainians. No other region of the USSR was affected. What about the growth rate of the other nationalities in the USSR with Russians at a dominant 23 percent?

On the positive side, Ukraine's Permanent Mission to the U.N. held its annual Holodomor commemoration on December 3. I had written about this in the beginning of November, (The Ukrainian Weekly, November 7) concerned that no preparations for a commemorative event this year were known to me or to Ukrainian community organizations. Cynically, I concluded that hope springs eternal.

Well hope became reality.

Ukraine's Ambassador Yuriy Sergeev convened a meeting, put together an evocative program with speeches, singing and bells.

Of utmost importance will be a re-examination of the U.S. "reset" policy with Russia and how that affects U.S.-Ukraine relations; maintaining levels of sustained foreign assistance to Ukraine; promoting an active U.S. foreign policy agenda with Ukraine, especially with Ukraine's civil society; advocating recognition of the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933; and requesting additional Members of Congress to join the ranks of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus.

UNIS recommends that all Ukrainian communities contact their Members of Congress and request that they join the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus in the new congressional session.

For further information on UNIS' work in Washington, readers may contact the Ukrainian National Information Service at 202-547-0018, or unis@ucca.org. Information is available on the website at: www.ucca.org/unis.

At the event he skirted around the term "genocide," in deference to his oppressive superiors President Viktor Yanukovich and Foreign Affairs Minister Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, but did say: "In the '30s of the last century the world was not able to stop the criminal Stalin regime, which was cynically and heartlessly destroying its political opposition and the insubordinate but peaceful peoples with the most brutal weapon – hunger. The people of Ukraine were being exterminated most severely: 25,000 a day. As a result of the Holodomor, from 20 to 25 percent of the population of Soviet Ukraine was wiped out in 18 months, one third of them – children... Only decades later, when the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court were adopted, was such a mass murder defined as a crime against humanity."

I am glad I was wrong when I wrote my earlier article.

European Parliament...

(Continued from page 3)

of the Ukrainian side to approximate its laws and regulations with those of the European Union; calls on the commission to negotiate the DCFTA with Ukraine in such a way that its provisions not only open up EU and Ukrainian markets for mutual beneficial trade, but also support the modernization of the Ukrainian economy; stresses that the DCFTA should make for Ukraine's gradual integration into the EU internal market, including the extension of the four freedoms to the country; urges the Commission and Ukraine to make rapid progress in this field, on the basis of Ukraine's achieve-

ments as a member of the WTO; urges both parties to do everything needed to achieve final agreement in the first half of next year," reads the resolution.

The resolution also welcomes the action plan towards visa liberalization for Ukraine as agreed at the 14th EU-Ukraine Summit on November 22 and considers the action plan to be a practical tool to drive forward essential reforms in the relevant areas.

The resolution is to be forwarded to the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the governments of the EU member-states, the president, government and parliament of Ukraine, and the Parliamentary Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

The Ukrainian press...

(Continued from page 9)

level. UNO must take the lead in the sorely needed revitalization effort in Canada and the United States. It is UNO and Novyi Shliakh that can put together the task force that Prof. Rozumyj talked about some 12 years ago.

It's not too late, ladies and gentlemen. You know what needs to be done far better than I can possibly tell you. You have the talent. You have the resources. You have the expertise. So, dear friends, go out there and show

us how its done. I have faith in you, in your leadership, in your people, in your know-how. You've done it before. You will do it again. We in the United States are counting on you to show us the way. God bless you for all that you do.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, for the two words you've been waiting for: "In conclusion." In conclusion, let me say that my wife thanks you. My son Stefko thanks you. But most of all, I thank you for inviting me here for this very special occasion and for your kind attention.

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OUT AND ABOUT

December 18 Washington	St. Nicholas program and holiday bazaar, Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies, Ukrainian National Shrine of the Holy Family, 410-730-8108 or lada2@verizon.net	December 31 Montreal	New Year's Eve celebration, featuring music by Zirka, St. Mary Banquet Hall, 514-679-8578
December 18 New York	Christmas party, "Yalynka," Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-729-9824	December 31 Buena, NJ	New Year's Eve party, featuring buffet, champagne toast and live music, New Kuban Free Kozak Community, New Kuban Free Kozak Cultural Center, 856-697-2255
December 18 Lehighton, PA	Christmas bazaar, Ukrainian Homestead, 610-377-4621 or www.ukrhomestead.com	December 31 Perth Amboy, NJ	New Year's Eve dance, featuring music by Halychany, Assumption Ukrainian Catholic Church, 732-826-0767
December 18 Chicago	Concert featuring Nazar Dzhuryn and Mikhail Yanovitsky, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522	December 31 Jenkintown, PA	New Year's Eve celebration, featuring music by Zahrava, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1166
December 18 New York	Literary evening, "Literary Bazaar: A Female Strategy," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130	December 31 Whippany, NJ	New Year's Eve gala, featuring music by Tempo, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 862-754-6329 or mhamul@aol.com
December 19 New York	Christmas workshop, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110	January 14 Scranton, PA	Malanka, St. Vladimir Parish Center, 570-383-9487
December 19 Ottawa	Dinner and concert, "Pyrohy and Koliady," Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church hall, 613-728-4923	January 15 Mississauga, ON	Malanka, Mississauga Branch of the Ukrainian Youth Association, Mississauga Convention Center, www.cymmissmalanka.com
December 19 Stamford, CT	St. Nicholas program, School of Ukrainian Studies, St. Basil College hall, 203-550-3542	January 15 Yonkers, NY	Malanka, featuring music by Svitanok, Ukrainian Youth Center, 914-746-6781
December 26 New York	Performance, "Winter Sun: A Celebration of Traditions from the Carpathians," Yara Arts Group, La Mama Experimental Theater, 212-475-7710	January 15 Ottawa	Malanka, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 613-728-0856
December 31 Stamford, CT	New Year's Eve gala, featuring music by Svitanok, St. Vladimir's Organization of Young Adults, St. Basil College, 203-329-8693 or UkiMandM@aol.com	<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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UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Ridna Shkola students help celebrate St. Michael's feast day



Sisters Stepahnia and Melania Korenovsky sing during the program.

by Halia Lodynsky

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – On Sunday, November 14, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church here celebrated the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel. The divine liturgy started at 10:30 a.m. and afterwards there was a program and a delicious luncheon in the church auditorium.

New Haven's Ridna Shkola (School of Ukrainian Studies) students started the short program with a prayer to St. Michael. Daniel Centore and Marysia Zyla read about the Archangel. The entertainment program included a popular Ukrainian recording artist from Guilford, Conn., Valentina Dotsenko; two flutists, Mariana Dumalska and Kayla Dolishny;



"Ridna Shkola" students with Halia Lodynsky, one of the event's organizers.

and Hannah Trojanowski, violinist.

Father Iura Godenciuc is the parish priest. The announcer for the

parish celebration was Halia Lodynsky, who organized the event along with Luba Dubno.

Youth-filled "Maskarada" held by UAYA Passaic chapter

by Lillianna Chudolij

PASSAIC, N.J. – As they gathered for their weekly meeting on October 22, the "starshe yunatstvo" (members age 13-17) of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA) chapter in Passaic N.J., decided that it would be fun to plan and produce a "Maskarada" for younger members to enjoy. Many of them only know about Halloween and had never experienced a Ukrainian-themed masquerade.

The organizers intertwined Ukrainian traditions with harvest themes, as well as familiar spiritual folklore. The younger members were all asked to come in any costumes; however, the "starshi" all had to come up with Ukrainian-themed costumes.

Having a small budget, the starshe yunatstvo used mostly what they could find and recycle, adapt from what they already had in the headquarters, or could easily get

from home and bring for the event. The room was decorated with colorful streamers, the lights were all covered with colored tissue paper, the walls covered with forest tapestry, and a small dark forest and hut were created from a box, crepe paper and cardboard spruce trees.

On October 29 we welcomed our guests as the royi (groups) came in one after another. The room was sectioned by activities, which included jumping over a "vohnyk" (small bonfire), crawling through the dark forest, meeting "lisovi mavky" (woodland dwellers) who helped them escape from Baba Yaga's hut, participating in story-time and reciting an old favorite "Khodyt Harbuz Po Horodi" (The Pumpkin Strolls through his Garden), during which the children put the characters of the story into the right (or wrong) spaces.

There was an egg-toss station, a pin-the-moustache-on-the-Kozak and create-the-harbuz-face areas,



The hosts of the festivities – the "starshe yunatstvo" of the Ukrainian American Youth Association branch in Passaic, N.J.

where the participants were blindfolded and spun around. There were two who's who quiz stations, a find-the-hidden-pea challenge, as well as bottled-potion bowling.

One final journey was taken by all who visited. A ghostly Kozak met each group and guided them on a spirited tour to visit the eerie "koyal" (blacksmith) hard at work in his blackened haunted shed along with his wife, a "vorozhka" (fortune-teller), as well as some other unfortunate troubled souls.

UAYA parents donated various sandwiches, deserts and beverages that were set up along the room adjacent to the Maskarada. After the merriment, every riy had a chance to relax and enjoy some tasty treats.

Children and adults enjoyed an evening of hauntingly good fun plus unexpected surprises and games. The evening was a huge success and encouragement for next year's Maskarada to be even bigger and better.

Let us hear from you!

The next edition of Ukelodeon will be published on January 9, 2011.
Please send in your submissions by December 31, 2010.
to staff@ukrweekly.com.

Plast scouts gather at Soyuzivka for Orlykiada competition

by Olesia Bilash

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The 49th annual Plast competition known as Orlykiada was held here at the Ukrainian National Association’s Ukrainian Heritage Center, Soyuzivka, during the week-end of November 12-14.

Every year, the Orlykivtsi, a fraternity of senior scouts, organize this weekend-long event for the Plast youth age 12-18 (called “yunatstvo”). Groups of scouts come from cities all over the United States and gather at Soyuzivka to participate in this competition.

The competition is based on a specific historical or cultural theme, and consists of four parts: a question-answer session, a one-act play or skit, an exhibit, and a general assessment of each group’s overall performance.

Each competing group receives a packet of information outlining the theme in the beginning of the school year and then the Plast scouts spend the next two months learning the information and preparing their presentations. Each group’s performance is then judged during the Orlykiada, and the winners are announced on Sunday afternoon.

This year’s theme focused on Hetmans Ivan Mazepa and Pylyp Orlyk, as well as the democratic constitution that was written by Orlyk in Ukraine in the 18th century. Eleven groups of Scouts from Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Newark and Passaic, N.J., Philadelphia, New York, Syracuse, Buffalo and Rochester, N.Y., as well as an individual from Seattle

Olesia Bilash, 16, is a member of the Newark, N.J., branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization. She is a junior at Millburn High School in Millburn, N.J.

participated. Together there were more than 150 competitors, counselors and senior scout judges.

The first event of Orlykiada began on Saturday morning. It consisted of a question-answer session on stage, during which each group chose two questions and then prepared responses to present before the judges. The co-ed group from Chicago received first place in this division.

Later that day, each group presented their skit. People sang, danced and narrated the life of the hetmans and talked about Orlyk’s constitution. Meanwhile, those in the audience were all dressed up in preparation for their own skits. Some were dressed as Kozaks, hetmans and gypsies, while others were dressed as presidents, politicians, American actors, Ukrainian singers, and other such characters. The co-ed group from Philadelphia won first place in this event.

While the skits were being presented on stage, two representatives from each group were asked to explain their exhibits to a group of judges. One exhibit, for example, consisted of a series of greeting cards about Orlyk’s life, while another was created in a style of a gift shop. There was also a general diorama that explained the history behind Orlyk and his constitution. The Newark girls’ group won first place for their exhibit – a diorama of an archaeological dig.

On Sunday, four boys and four girls competed for the title of “hetmanyeh” and “hetmanivna” – titles analogous to king and queen of the competition. These eight were required to learn about Pylyp Orlyk’s son, Hryhor; they participated in a separate, individual competition. On stage, the contestants described the life of Hryhor Orlyk and answered questions about the principles of Plast and about lead-



Plast Scouts stand at attention at the closing ceremony as newly appointed “hetmanyeh” and “hetmanivna” give commands.

ership, while their supporters cheered them on from the audience.

Finally, at the closing ceremony, the judges announced the winners of each category. The co-ed group from Chicago won first place for their overall performance. Detroit’s co-ed group won second place, Philadelphia’s co-ed group won third place, Cleveland’s co-ed

group won fourth place, and the Newark girls won fifth place. Theodore Kuchar of Detroit was named hetmanyeh and Katria Tomko of Newark was named hetmanivna.

All had a great time and are eagerly awaiting next year’s 50th Orlykiada, which will be on the theme “Ukrainian Ambassadors.”

Mishanyna

This month’s Mishanyna focuses on the foods you will find during a traditional dinner on Ukrainian Christmas Eve, or “Sviat Vechir.” (They are all meatless dishes.) Search the Mishanyna grid to find the words capitalized below.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------|
| BORSCH | HRYBY | RYBA |
| FASOLIA | KOLACH | USHKA |
| HOLUBTSI | KUTIA | UZVAR |
| HOROKH
z kapustoyu | OSELEDTSI
PAMPUSHKY | VARENYKY |



Newly appointed Hetmanivna Katria Tomko and Hetmanyeh Theodore Kuchar stand proudly as their supporters applaud them.

H	O	L	U	B	C	A	B	B	A	G	E	O	R	O
O	R	K	O	L	A	C	H	P	M	K	L	A	T	A
L	Z	O	R	R	O	H	K	I	U	A	F	I	S	H
U	Z	V	A	R	D	R	S	E	S	B	I	T	R	M
S	N	E	A	K	I	Y	H	R	H	A	L	U	L	I
H	Y	P	A	R	S	B	Y	O	R	N	T	K	O	L
K	M	A	R	K	E	Y	N	G	O	O	E	R	S	K
A	K	M	A	K	L	N	O	I	O	S	M	E	E	N
S	A	P	A	D	A	R	Y	O	M	Y	K	H	L	H
K	N	U	T	A	N	B	O	K	S	N	C	O	E	O
F	A	S	O	L	I	A	Y	A	Y	S	O	R	D	R
R	Y	H	B	U	T	T	E	R	R	I	N	O	T	O
O	A	K	T	R	E	E	A	O	R	I	C	K	S	D
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, December 17

NEW YORK: Yara Arts Group and the Ukrainian Institute of America present "Twelve Dishes/Sviat Vechir: A Festival of Traditional Winter Songs and New Interpretations of Ritual Food." The Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia will perform along with the "troista" instrumental music ensemble of Mykhailo Ilyuk, Vasyl Tymchuk and Ostap Kostyuk. Food artist Olesia Lew will serve new interpretations of the ritual dishes. The event begins at 8 p.m. at the Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 E. 79th St. at Fifth Avenue; phone, 212-288-8660. Admission is \$25.

p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Sunday, December 26

NEW YORK: "Winter Sun: A Celebration of Traditions from the Carpathians" is a new show featuring Yara Arts Group, Julian Kytasty, Kat Yew and special guests with winter songs from around the world. The event includes samples of the traditional ritual dish kutia. The event takes place at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at La MaMa Experimental Theater, 74 E. Fourth St.; phone: 212-475-7710. Admission is \$25; \$10 for children.

Friday, December 31

Saturday, December 18

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a "Literary Bazaar: A Female Strategy," with readings by: Olena Haleta (Lviv), Zirka Derlycia (New York), Olena Jennings (New York), Oksana Lutsyshyna (Tampa, Fla.) and Maria Shun (New York). The poetry will be recited in Ukrainian and English. The program will be emceed by Vasyl Makhno. It will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5

BUENA, N.J.: A New Year's Eve Party organized by the New Kuban Free Kozak Community of Buena, N.J., will feature dinner, champagne at midnight, entertainment (live music and dancing). Admission: \$45 (includes all-you-can-eat-and-drink buffet/bar); free for children age 10 and under. The event will take place at the New Kuban Free Kozak Cultural Center, 228 Don Road, Buena, NJ 08310, beginning at 9 p.m.. For additional information call 856-697-2255.

PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

To have an event listed in Preview of Events please send information, in English, written in Preview format, i.e., in a brief paragraph that includes the date, place, type of event, sponsor, admission, full names of persons and/or organizations involved, and a phone number to be published for readers who may require additional information. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**; longer submissions are subject to editing. Items not written in Preview format or submitted without all required information will not be published.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, senders are asked to include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours, as well as their complete mailing address.

Information should be sent to: preview@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.**

Being Ukrainian means:

- "Malanka" in January.
- Deb in February.
- Two Easters in springtime.
- "Zlet" and "Sviato Vesny" in May.
- Soyuzivka's Ukrainian Cultural Festival in July.
- "Uke Week" at Wildwood in August.
- Back to Ukrainian school in September.
- "Morska Zabava" in New Jersey in November.
- "Koliada" in December.
- A subscription to The Ukrainian Weekly ALL YEAR ROUND.

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