

INSIDE:

- About "stability" and "order" in Ukraine - page 3.
- Holodomor commemorations on Parliament Hill in Ottawa - page 4.
- Ukrainian weddings: new exhibit at The Ukrainian Museum - centerfold.

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Yanukovich administration intensifies campaign against opposition

by Zenon Zawada

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – The administration of President Viktor Yanukovich has intensified its campaign against opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko in recent weeks, filing criminal charges against the former prime minister and employing both violent methods to intimidate her allies.

The conflict turned bloody when about 40 national deputies of the Party of Regions staged a December 16 attack in the Verkhovna Rada against deputies loyal to Ms. Tymoshenko, who were blocking the parliamentary rostrum and tribune in protest against the criminal charges filed against their leader.

To add insult to injury, the Procurator General of Ukraine filed criminal charges against the attacked deputies – not those who threw the punches and flung chairs. The Yanukovich administration is prosecuting the misdemeanors of its opponents while ignoring its own hefty crimes, political observers said.

"The prosecution is very selective and precise, with the political purpose of putting pressure on Tymoshenko and removing her from the scene," said Ivan Lozowy, a lawyer

and veteran Kyiv political observer.

"There's no intention to clean up government or corruption. It's purely political actions. If not, a thousand people would be arrested for much more serious corruption," he added.

Procurator General Viktor Pshonka, a Donbas native, filed criminal charges on December 15 against Ms. Tymoshenko, who was prime minister between December 2007 and March, alleging she inappropriately transferred funds in July 2009 gained from sales of Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gas quotas to Japanese corporations to cover state pension debts.

The same day charges were brought, prosecutors also denied Ms. Tymoshenko the right to leave Ukraine. They changed her status from suspected of criminal activity to accused on December 20.

Prosecutors indicated that they aren't pursuing evidence that the prime minister transferred the funds secretly or used them to pay state pension debts, in violation of Kyoto Protocol rules that require putting these funds toward environmental projects. Instead, they're emphasizing that the payment required a currency conversion of 180 million euros into hryvni, which cost the

(Continued on page 10)



Aleksandr Prokopenko/UNIAN

Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the Batkivshchyna party, waves to supporters on December 20 before she enters the Procurator General's Office, which has opened a criminal case against her.

Self Reliance New York donates \$100,000 to Plast U.S.A.

by Roma Hadzewycz

NEW YORK – When does 100 years translate into \$100,000? When a generous credit union decides to honor a respected community organization for a century of service.

On Friday, December 12, officers of Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union presented a check for \$100,000 to Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization in the United States as it prepares to mark the centennial of the organization's founding in 1911 in Lviv, Ukraine.

The presentation was made by Bohdan Kurczak, president and chief executive officer; Bohdan S. Sawycky, treasurer and chief financial officer; Lubomyr Zielyk, chairman of the board of directors; and Stefan Kaczaraj, a member of the board.

The munificent and magnanimous donation was gratefully accepted by Petro R. Stawnychy, chairman, and Marta Liscynsky-Kelleher, vice-president and corporate secretary, of the National Executive Board of Plast U.S.A.

Speaking first, Mr. Zielyk underscored, "our best dividend is our youth" and that is why Self Reliance New York supports the work of Ukrainian youth organizations. "Plast educates our youth in a Ukrainian and Christian spirit," he noted.

In a similar vein, Mr. Kurczak stated, "our credit union is involved in several types of businesses, including investments, and we are constantly looking for new investments that pay better dividends."

"Today," he continued, "we are investing in Plast and the dividends will be in the form of potential new leaders for our community."

Mr. Stawnychy expressed thanks to Self Reliance for its donation: "The National Executive Board, speaking for the entire Plast family in the United States, is very grate-

(Continued on page 4)



Roma Hadzewycz

During the presentation of a \$100,000 donation from Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union to Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization (from left) are: Marta Liscynsky-Kelleher and Petro R. Stawnychy of Plast, and Lubomyr Zielyk, Bohdan Kurczak, Bohdan S. Sawycky and Stefan Kaczaraj of Self Reliance.

ANALYSIS

Lukashenka claims victory amid mounting criticism

RFE/RL

Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has won a fourth term in office in an election marred by violence and claims of massive falsification.

The head of the Central Election Commission, Lidiya Yermoshina, announced that Mr. Lukashenka won a decisive first-round victory with nearly 80 percent of the vote.

But the sweeping official victory was accompanied by brutal violence, as police and security forces clashed with opposition demonstrators, beating and arresting hundreds of people, including seven of the nine presidential candidates facing off against Lukashenka.

Speaking at a news conference in Minsk, Mr. Lukashenka said more than 600 people had been arrested and declared the clashes over.

"I state here authoritatively: The wars in our country ended yesterday," he said. "There will not be any more tolerance of attempts to destabilize the situation in the country."

RFE/RL's Belarus Service reported that there was a small demonstration in the capital's Independence Square on December 20, with some 20 to 30 young protesters gathering. Within a few minutes, police disbanded the gathering, beating and pushing the activists into police vans.

On December 19, one of the presidential candidates, 64-year-old Uladzimer Nyaklyaeu, was arrested while lying in a hospital bed after being beaten unconscious by security forces during the protests.

Mr. Nyaklyaeu's wife, Volha, said men in civilian clothes later entered her husband's hospital room and forcibly carried him out without identifying themselves.

Concerning Mr. Nyaklyaeu's current whereabouts, Mr. Lukashenka said: "Should a current president know where a former presidential candidate is? Excuse me, but if you want to see him – he is in the detention center."

RFE/RL's Belarus Service reported late on December 20 that two of the seven presidential candidates arrested on December 19 – Rygor Katsusyau and Dzmitry Us – had been released.

Foreign officials' condemnation

The unrest has sparked angry condemnations from foreign officials. In Brussels, a statement by the European Union's foreign-policy chief, Catherine Ashton, condemned the beatings and arrests, "in particular the beating and detention of several opposition leaders, including a number of presidential candidates." Ms. Ashton called on the authorities to release those arrested.

The U.S. Embassy in Belarus and the Lithuanian and Polish foreign ministries also criticized the violence. Jerzy Buzek, the president of the European Parliament, demanded that President Lukashenka punish those responsible, saying it "casts a shadow over the presidential election."

Western election observers from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly were likewise critical, saying that while actual voting on election day had passed relatively smoothly, the vote-counting process was suspect and the government reaction to the protests "heavy-handed."

"I had very much hoped that this time we would be able to make a more positive assessment," said Ambassador Geert-Hinrich Ahrens, head of the OSCE/ODIHR

long-term election observation mission. "Unfortunately, this is not possible in light of the flawed vote count and the authorities' heavy-handed response to yesterday's demonstrations."

Tony Lloyd, the head of the short-term observer mission, said the brutal crackdown during the protests "swept away" the incremental reforms that had been witnessed before the election.

"The violent attacks and arrests of most of the presidential candidates, as well as hundreds of activists, journalists and civil society representatives, is the backdrop against which this election will now be judged," he said. "The people of Belarus deserved better."

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Philip Crowley called on authorities in Minsk to "release immediately those detained." He added, "We caution authorities to use restraint in the coming days and not to harm, threaten or further detain those exercising their basic rights."

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said, "The actions taken over the last 24 hours... are a clear step backwards on issues central to our relationship with Belarus."

Meanwhile, Russian news agencies reported that President Lukashenka has vowed to release secret documents proving that the Belarusian opposition was supported by "Western partners."

He said the release of the classified documents would be "historic," and would be published in the coming days on a "Belarusian WikiLeaks site."

Moscow's favorable assessment

Moscow's assessment of the vote was favorable. An observer mission from the Russian-led Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) said the conduct of the election was legitimate. And President Dmitry Medvedev said the vote was an "internal matter" for Belarus and a potential step forward in its development.

"I hope that as a result of these elections, Belarus will be a modern state, will continue to develop along the path of building a modern state based on democracy and friendship with its neighbors," Mr. Medvedev said.

Nevertheless, Russia's RIA Novosti news agency quoted an unnamed official from the Russian Embassy in Minsk as saying that attacks on accredited Russian journalists covering the election were "not always justified."

The Embassy has also requested a list of Russian citizens detained during the post-election protests.

Mr. Lukashenka said that Belarus had moved past recent tensions in relations with Russia and vowed to "endure all hardships so that we do not split with Russia."

The post-election violence surprised many Belarus-watchers, coming as it did after a relatively quiet campaign season with a long and diverse candidate list. It is certain to dampen hopes for closer ties between Mr. Lukashenka and the EU, which sees Belarus as an important buffer against Russia and had offered Minsk a \$3 billion aid package in return for a clean vote.

President Lukashenka, whose relations with both the West and Russia are chronically fractious, is seen as frequently playing each side against the other. In this instance, a last-minute deal with Moscow overturning a crippling \$4 billion energy export tax may be seen as Mr. Lukashenka putting himself in Moscow's corner, possibly relieving him of obligations to provide a free and fair vote to the West.

(Continued on page 22)

NEWSBRIEFS

Ukraine on Belarus election

KYIV – Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry is concerned about the use of force against the opposition during protests against the presidential election in Belarus, the director of the ministry's information policy department, Oleh Voloshyn, told reporters on December 21. He noted that the Foreign Affairs Ministry is closely monitoring the situation in Belarus and that in its assessments of the election campaign Ukraine will be guided by the conclusions of the mission of international observers, which includes representatives of Ukraine. Mr. Voloshyn also said that diplomats are now verifying information about the presence of Ukrainian citizens among the detainees in Belarus. The United States and Europe have already strongly criticized the suppression of protests in Belarus. (Ukrinform)

University rector's wife beaten

DONETSK, Ukraine – Authorities in Donetsk have launched an investigation into the beating of the wife of the local university's de facto rector, Yurii Lysenko, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reported on December 20. On December 17, unknown assailants beat Tetiana Lev, who works as an accountant at Donetsk National University. Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs Vasyl Farynyk said the local prosecutor's office is investigating the attack. Ms. Lev suffered a concussion and is recuperating at home. Her husband, Mr. Lysenko, was elected university rector by faculty members earlier this month. The Education Ministry, which had proposed its own candidate, has refused to confirm Mr. Lysenko in that post. (Ukrinform)

Update on floods in Transcarpathia

KYIV – The situation was under control as of the morning of December 20 in the districts of Zakarpattia region affected by the floods. The press service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Ukraine reported that 35 hectares of agricultural land and 99 wells remained flooded in the region. Utility services and emergency teams drained water from all residential buildings, cellars, farms and gardens. Because of heavy rainfalls in early December, water

inundated dozens of villages in Transcarpathia. Most affected by the disaster were the Tiachiv, Vynohradiv, Irshava and Khust districts. The December 7-10 flooding affected 42 localities. According to preliminary estimates, the floods caused more than 61 million hrv in damage to the region's infrastructure. (Ukrinform)

Kyiv lights Christmas tree

KYIV – Ukraine's main Christmas tree was lit up on Independence Square in Kyiv on December 17. The lighting ceremony was attended by President Viktor Yanukovich, the leader of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate, Metropolitan Volodymyr, and the chairman of the Kyiv City Administration, Oleksander Popov. In his address to the nation, the president extended best wishes for St. Nicholas feast day, Christmas and the New Year. The Christmas tree's height is 35 meters. It is decorated with 160 toys and a garland consisting of 1,600 bulbs of five colors. (Ukrinform)

UN adopts resolution on Chernobyl

KYIV – The United Nations General Assembly, at a plenary meeting in New York on December 15, adopted a draft resolution on the strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, the press service of the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry reported. A draft resolution presented by Ukraine on behalf of the three states hardest hit by the Chernobyl disaster – Ukraine, Belarus and Russia – was adopted by consensus. The co-authors of the document were 74 member-states of the organization. The resolution foresees the holding in Kyiv in April 2011 of an international conference titled "Twenty-Five Years after the Chernobyl Accident. Safety for the Future," with the participation of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon. On April 26, 2011, the U.N. headquarters in New York will host a meeting of the General Assembly. The document welcomes the activities of the international community aimed at recovery of the affected area and the affected public,

(Continued on page 14)

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NEWS ANALYSIS: On “stability” and “reforms”

by Mykola Riabchuk

“Stability and Reforms” was the official name of the ruling coalition created in March by the Party of Regions with two minor satellites – the Communists and the Lytvyn Bloc. The name featured two major issues on the national agenda that hardly anyone would dismiss as marginal and non-urgent. “Stability” had to come first – to facilitate the “reforms” – and for this sacred goal, arguably, some constitutional subtleties could be ignored, procedural norms violated, and many civic rights and freedoms curtailed.

The first part of the program has been fulfilled rather successfully, bringing Ukraine closer to a police state than it has ever been since independence. The second part has proved to be much more difficult to accomplish.

So far, all the measures announced and, in some cases, introduced by the government appear to have been either superficial or incoherent or both.

The tax reform that targeted primarily small and medium-size enterprises provoked mass protests – the biggest ones since the Orange Revolution – and forced the president to veto the law and suggest some cosmetic changes. The entire philosophy of taxation, however, was not reconsidered. And the main loopholes that enable the richest businessmen to channel their profits offshore have not been blocked.

This is likely to mean that the tiny island of Cyprus will remain the No. 1 “foreign” investor of the Ukrainian economy, and that the list of the top 10 or 20 corporate taxpayers into the Ukrainian state budget consist mostly of international companies like Coca-Cola or Kraft or Tuborg, and not local metallurgical and chemical oligarchs

Mykola Riabchuk is an author and journalist from Ukraine, and a leading intellectual who is affiliated with the journal Krytyka.

friendly to the government.

The administrative reform launched recently has resulted, so far, in the reshuffling of some government agencies and personnel, but no serious cuts in the bureaucracy, let alone an increase in its efficiency, accountability, or much-needed decentralization. In fact, the experts believe that the only noticeable result of this reform will be a further concentration of power in the president’s hands and strengthening of the Russian-style “vertical of power.”

Not a single official implicated in a serious conflict of interests or covert corruption has lost his job. Even though it might have been a good opportunity for the president, if he was serious about reforms, to get rid of the notorious chief of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) Valeriy Khoroshkovsky, who is also a major media tycoon, or the even more scandalous Internal Affairs Minister Anatoly Mogilov, who received a \$200,000 Cadillac as a “gift” from an unspecified benefactor – later revealed to appear to be an unknown person who owned no property, and was virtually homeless.

The pension reform elaborated under pressure from the International Monetary Fund supports primarily a gradual increase of the age of retirees (first, women, from 55 to 60; then, men, from 60 to 65). But it does not address the relevant and equally critical issue: the huge discrepancy in the size of pensions, from \$100 a month at the lower end (and the most widespread) to \$5,000 at the top. This gap also means that the privileged 10 percent of Ukrainian pensioners – top officials, KGB veterans, and the like – get nearly as much money from the pension fund as the rest of the people.

The reform of pricing for communal services and utilities however much-needed, is also aimed at extracting more money from the common people and not at restructuring and better management of the entire system. Still worse, no real taxation is imposed on real estate, luxury cars

and other extravagant possessions that may harm the interests of Ukrainian nouveau-riche. The price hikes and austerity measures affect primarily the lower stratum of population and not those at the top who run both the country and their own private businesses, without any real separation of these two activities.

And this poses a serious dilemma for both the president and his government.

On the one hand, they really have to carry out painful reforms – not only because the IMF loans are conditioned by tough requirements, but also because the country will go bankrupt if nothing is done.

Yet, on the other hand, all the genuine reforms run counter to the deepest interests of the ruling class, of which the president and his government are just a part.

No real reforms are possible in a systemically corrupt country without a radical clean-up of the entire environment, rebuilding of institutions and firm introduction of the rule of law. Thus far, not a single step has been taken in that direction in Ukraine.

As the watch group Transparency International reveals in its recent report, Ukrainians rate their judiciary at 4.4 (where 5 points is the worst, and 1 is the best), police at 4.3, public officials and national deputies at 4.1, the system of education at 4.0, and business at 3.7. One-third of respondents (34 percent) confessed they had paid a bribe at least once over the past year. This is about the average for the post-Soviet countries (32 percent) but much worse than the average in the European Union and North America (5 percent), or even in Latin America (23 percent) and the western Balkans (19 percent).

The situation may look really hopeless as long as the main institutions in charge of eradicating corruption – the judiciary and the police – are perceived as (and probably are) the most corrupt.

But the same situation had been in place in Georgia under the post-Soviet

regime of Eduard Shevardnadze. Today Georgia is ranked as one of the least corrupt countries in the world, with only 3 percent of its citizens confessing to paying a bribe last year. Appropriate policies, institutional reforms and mass support of the population are certainly crucial factors in this success story. But the political will of the leadership, in this case of President Mikheil Saakashvili, is probably of paramount importance.

The most difficult task in any anti-corruption campaign is not to combat corruption in some remote customs, or police units, or provincial courts; it is, rather, as everyone knows from personal experience, to say “no” to one’s closest friends and relatives. This is where the “vertical of justice” begins and rule of law is actually enforced.

If after the Orange Revolution Viktor Yushchenko had rewarded his cronies with state orders and decorations but not ministerial positions, we may have been living today in a very different country.

Today Ukrainians’ hopes dwell not so much on Mr. Yanukovich’s presumed patriotism and even less on the very doubtful civic responsibility of his oligarchic associates. The major hope, however slim, stems from the fact that they cannot manage the country any longer in their preferred soft-authoritarian style – like their Russian, Kazakh or Azeri counterparts.

The Ukrainian oligarchy has to choose – either to introduce radical reforms in the country, despite their short-term interests but with some hope for long-term rewards, or to establish a genuine dictatorship as the only way to vouchsafe their current parasitic interests for another decade or two.

The article above is reprinted from the blog “Current Politics in Ukraine” (<http://ukrainiananalysis.wordpress.com/>) created by the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine, a program of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta.

NEWS ANALYSIS: White House-connected think-tank reframes U.S. policy toward Georgia

by Vladimir Socor

Eurasia Daily Monitor

PART I

Former U.S. administrations of both parties formulated their policies toward Georgia in a context of European and Euro-Atlantic interests. Viewing Georgia (along with Azerbaijan) as a strategic asset for energy transit to Europe and for Allied outreach to Asia, those U.S. administrations led the way in anchoring Georgia to the West, in preparation for integration.

“Georgia on our mind” became an overused cliché describing U.S. engagement with that country under past U.S. administrations. For its part, the Obama administration seems to have changed that motto to “Russia on our mind,” shaping its Georgia policy mainly as a derivative of its Russia policy.

A study just released by the Center for American Progress (CAP), a think-tank closely linked with the Obama White House, reflects the current policy toward Georgia (Samuel Charap and Cory Welt, “A New Approach to the Russia-Georgia Conflict,” October 2010, www.americanprogress.org). It seems to view it through the prism of U.S.-Russia bilateral relations, without a guiding U.S. strategic purpose toward Georgia or the South Caucasus region, and lacking any contextual references to European energy interests, the implications for Turkey and

NATO, the supply corridor to Afghanistan, or Georgia’s own contributions to U.S.-led operations there.

The authors accurately describe Moscow’s case for violating the 2008 armistice agreement: “Russians say that they fulfilled the agreement. The forces that fought did withdraw, it’s just that new ones took their places. And they say that the document was signed in a world where the ‘independent states’ of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which now have basing agreements with Russia, did not exist. That world, they explain, is no more.”

This being Russia’s position, “the Obama administration has made a conscious decision to not condition other aspects of the U.S.-Russia relationship on progress on the conflicts – a sensible policy, given the multitude of critical security issues on the bilateral agenda.” Apparently, Russia faces no consequences for breaking agreements, while no lessons were learned about the credibility of the Kremlin’s signature on new agreements with this administration.

CAP’s study lists “four key [U.S.] policy objectives [regarding Georgia]: preventing a future outbreak of violence, managing the humanitarian situation on the ground, reducing the conflict’s role as a roadblock to cooperation with Russia on other critical security issues, and facilitating the reunification of Abkhazia and South Ossetia with Georgia in the long run.”

The first three of these goals imply conserving the existing situation, and are

backed up with specific recommendations in the study. The fourth objective is not accompanied by policy recommendations, other than those derived from the three status-quo-oriented goals.

On the first and foremost goal, preventing renewed conflict, the study seems to regard both Georgia and Russia as possible sources of new hostilities. Georgia gets the greater emphasis in this regard. “Russian tanks are firmly ensconced in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which are not pulling back anytime soon and will deter any rash Georgian efforts to take back the territories by force.” This appears to be the same rationale for Russia’s stationing of “peacekeeping” troops there from 1994 to 2008.

Without discussing Russia’s own responsibility for the 2008 war, the study brings up Georgia’s presumed co-responsibility for it. This leads the authors to reject out of hand the idea of supplying defensive arms (anti-tank, air defense) to Georgia. While Tbilisi has submitted such requests through regular diplomatic procedures, only CAP seems to be hearing the Georgian government “become more and more vociferous” on this issue. It is true to say that Washington’s “unspoken policy” of non-approval continues the preceding administration’s policy. However, the threat calculus has changed radically since then, while the policy has been maintained.

To stabilize the situation, the study recommends U.S. support for: returning

South Ossetia’s authorities to the existing Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism, from which Tskhinvali walked out; a monitoring visit to South Ossetia by international representatives, “preferably” [i.e., not necessarily] from the existing European Union Monitoring Mission; possibly leading to periodic, scheduled visits, potentially to be followed by regular monitoring access to South Ossetia and Abkhazia as “the ultimate aim” in this context. Freezing the existing situation would be the undeclared net result for the foreseeable future, reflecting an overriding concern with long-term stability.

Emanating as it does from a think-tank linked with the White House, this study takes exception to some State Department positions. Thus, the “U.S. declaration that the Russian military presence constitutes an occupation under international law,” or “sternly repeating to Russia the mantra of abiding by its international commitments,” are described as ineffective and counterproductive in this study.

The State Department, however, does cite that “mantra” to Moscow, while Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has in fact introduced the terms “Russian occupation” and “occupied Georgian territories” to official usage since July of this year.

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

National Holodomor commemoration held on Parliament Hill

OTTAWA – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress joined the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group, the Embassy of Ukraine, parliamentarians, clergy, foreign diplomats and over 200 guests on Parliament Hill for the National Holodomor Commemoration on November 30.

The ceremony commemorating the 77th anniversary of the Holodomor was held at the Government of Canada Conference Center.

“The Ukrainian Canadian Congress thanks His Excellency Dr. Ihor Ostash, ambassador of Ukraine to Canada, and Mark Warawa, MP, for their work in organizing the event,” stated Paul Grod, national president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

“In addition, we were reminded of the human element of the tragedy by Holodomor survivor Mykola Latyshko. May God inspire us to do good and may the memory of the victims of the Holodomor be eternal – Vichna yim pamiat.”

Speakers included: Minister of Immigration, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney, Ambassador Ostash, Opposition Leader Michael Ignatieff, Sen. Raynell Andreychuk, MP Bernard Bigras of the Bloc Québécois and Peggy Nash, president of the NDP Party.

Ukrainian World Congress President Eugene Czolij also addressed the gathering.

Metropolitan Yuriy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada participated in the commemoration.

A display about the Holodomor was set up in the conference center by the League of Ukrainian Canadians.

UCC National President Paul Grod spoke about the harm done to the Ukrainian nation as a result of Soviet policies intended to “denationalize Ukraine.”

“It is this loss of memory and this denationalization which remains a significant problem for many Ukrainians, even its current president, Viktor Yanukovich, who has unfortunately bowed to Russia’s current interpretation of Ukraine’s history,” stated Mr. Grod. “On behalf of the Ukrainian Canadian community, I congratulate Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his resolve in bringing the issue of Holodomor recognition to the forefront during his recent visit to Ukraine. I thank Canada’s members of Parliament, senators together with their political parties, and the members of the Legislative Assemblies of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec for your struggle against Holodomor denial.”

“Canadians have concluded Holodomor Awareness week with a number of national initiatives including the lighting of the International Remembrance Candle – Svichka Molinnia – which is lit before us



National President Paul Grod of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress addresses the Holodomor commemoration on Parliament Hill.

this evening. Despite our best efforts to raise awareness about arguably one of the greatest genocides in the history of mankind, it is ironic that Canada’s newest museum and the first national museum outside of Ottawa, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, has unfortunately decided to bury the Holodomor along with Canada’s First National Internment Operations into obscure catch-all sections of the Museum with titles

such as ‘The Canadian Human Rights Journey (Unfinished Business),’ stated Mr. Grod.

“Canada has an opportunity as a world leader in human rights to ensure that relatively unknown or underappreciated tragedies in Canada and around the world such as the Holodomor, to address these tragedies and to make the world a better place for all its citizens,” he underscored.

FOR THE RECORD: Harper’s statement on the Holodomor

Following is the full text of the statement by Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada issued on the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the Holodomor.

I am honored to join Canadians in the solemn commemoration of the 77th anniversary of the Holodomor. On this day, we remember the millions of Ukrainians who suffered and perished during one of the most terrible crimes in history. Millions of men, women and children – predominantly Ukrainian – died of starvation under Joseph Stalin’s oppressive regime.

Canada’s heritage is forever connected to this unimaginable tragedy through the more than 1 million Canadians of Ukrainian descent, many of whom lost loved ones in that time of horror. The Holodomor is a part of the past that we as Canadians must never forget. Two years ago, our government was proud to lead an effort in Parliament to officially recognize the Holodomor as a genocide and establish an annual day of commemoration on the fourth Saturday of each November.

I was deeply moved by the vivid depictions and sad memories of this humanitarian catastrophe preserved at the National Holodomor Memorial, when I visited Kyiv this October. I was reminded of the Ukrainian communities back home that honor the memory of victims of the Holodomor with monuments in parks and public squares.

During my visit to Ukraine, I was impressed by the profound friendship our two countries share. Canada stood against the oppression of Ukraine during the two world wars and the Cold War, and was the first Western country to formally recognize its independence from Soviet communism.

As our friendship grows, Canada will continue to support Ukraine in its journey toward strengthening freedom, democracy, justice and human rights. As Canadians, we admire and respect Ukrainians’ pursuit of liberty and freedom, their spirit of independence, and their courage and determination.

UCC calls on President Yanukovich to recognize Holodomor as genocide

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress marked Holodomor Commemoration Week by calling upon President Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine to respect the law and declare the Holodomor a genocide against the Ukrainian people.

“We ask President Yanukovich to abide by the laws of Ukraine and respect the memory of the millions of victims who perished in the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, the Holodomor, by abiding by the law of Ukraine and by recognizing it as a genocide against the Ukrainian people,” stated Ukrainian Canadian Congress National President Paul Grod. “Canada and five of its provinces have all recognized the genocidal nature of the Holodomor following the release of Soviet archival records. Ukraine must not move to diminish the memory of those who died.”

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress wrote a letter last month to inform all members of the Verkhovna Rada of international support for Ukraine in acknowledging the Holodomor as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people and to

inform them that the world is watching the actions of the Ukrainian Parliament, where legislation has been introduced to diminish the tragedy of the Holodomor by removing any references to its genocidal nature.

“We must never waiver in our commitment to the memory of the millions of victims of Stalin’s campaign of terror and the deliberate attempt to destroy the Ukrainian nation,” stated Mr. Grod. “What Ukraine, Canada and many other governments around the world have recognized in legislation is intended to ensure no one forgets.”

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress observed the 77th anniversary of the Holodomor with several initiatives, including by urging Canadians to participate in Holodomor commemoration activities in their communities and to sign the petition addressed to President Yanukovich that was launched by the Ukrainian World Congress and is available online at http://www.ukrainian-worldcongress.org/signature.php/signature_id/1.

Self Reliance N.Y....

(Continued from page 1)

ful to the board of directors for their very generous donation. Thanks to your donation, we believe that we will be able to provide an opportunity for the maximum number of young ‘plastuny’ to be part of the centennial celebrations of Plast at the 2011 jamboree.”

“For us, this act of the board of directors of Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union in support of youth organizations is the best example of their generosity and selflessness, as well as their recognition of the important work that these organizations accomplish in educating future leaders of our community and informed citizens,” the Plast leader commented.

He recalled that the credit union two years earlier had presented a donation of \$40,000 to Plast in support of a campaign to promote

its activity and enroll new members, especially among newcomers to the United States. Plast, he said, is reaching out to members of the Fourth Wave of immigrants and encouraging them to become members of the oldest Ukrainian youth organization, which is based on principles of scouting but is imbued with Ukrainian content.

Mr. Kurczak also noted that the New York credit union has donated more than \$6 million during the past six years to Ukrainian community groups in support of their diverse activities. “That’s \$1 million annually returned to our community – a very significant sum.”

The credit union’s past donations have included more than \$1 million to The Ukrainian Museum and \$500,000 to the St. George Ukrainian Catholic Schools Foundation. During 2010, among the major contributions were over \$100,000 to the Ukrainian American Youth Association and \$50,000 to the Ukrainian National Women’s

League of America.

Mr. Stawnychy said that Plast will hold a jubilee jamboree in August 2011 in the U.S. to mark its centennial; Plast worldwide will celebrate with an international jamboree in Ukraine in August of 2012, marking 100 years since the first troop of scouts took the Plast oath.

The donation from Self Reliance will be used, he explained, “to help finance necessary capital improvements at Plast’s three campgrounds in the United States [Novyi Sokil in North Collins, N.Y., Vovcha Tropa in East Chatham, N.Y., and Pysanyi Kamin in Middlefield, Ohio] and to create a fund to cover expenses connected with the 2011 jamboree.”

The 2011 jamboree will be based at the Vovcha Tropa campground, with specialized hikes and outdoor activities such as canoeing and bicycling trips at other venues. The Plast leader invited Self Reliance board members to pay a visit to the jamboree.

Mr. Stawnychy added that it is important for the improvements at Plast campgrounds to begin as soon as possible “in order to guarantee that our camps will be usable by future generations.”

Furthermore, he said, “The Plast National Executive Board is convinced that it is essential to apply principles of land resource management. The generous gift we received today from Self Reliance will go a long way toward helping us achieve this goal.”

The credit union’s CEO took the opportunity to point out that Self Reliance is able to support the activity of such organizations as Plast because “we have very good earnings from our members and we give these funds back to our community.”

Mr. Kurczak concluded the meeting by extending Self Reliance New York’s best wishes: “We wish Plast a great celebration next year and in 2012. And, if you need something, remember to turn to our credit unions.”



THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Connecticut UNA district meets



BRIDGEPORT, Conn. – The fall organizing meeting of the Connecticut UNA District of the Ukrainian National Association was held here on Saturday, October 30, with UNA President Stefan Kaczaraj in attendance. Topics covered included details from the most recent UNA Convention, organizing reports for the Connecticut District and discussions regarding a district-sponsored bus trip to Soyuzivka for the Ukrainian Cultural Festival on July 16, 2011. Seen above are participants of the district meeting. The district's chairman is Myron Kolinsky. Ihor Hayda is vice-chairman, Bohdan Doboszczak is secretary, and UNA Advisor Gloria Horbaty is treasurer.

To subscribe to The Ukrainian Weekly, call 973-292-9800, ext. 3042

NFCA to adopt new name: American Fraternal Alliance

OAK BROOK, Ill. – Delegates to the 124th annual meeting of the National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA) voted unanimously to adopt a new name: American Fraternal Alliance. The vote was held during the closing general session at the association's meeting in Chicago on Saturday, September 11.

The change to the new name is targeted for January 1, 2011.

"We believe that the American Fraternal Alliance name can help us build a stronger and more respected brand with our key audience of public policy-makers, where we would be known as the 'fraternal alliance' rather than as a set of initials," said Teresa J. Rasmussen, immediate past chair of the NFCA board of directors. "Most importantly, we believe that now is the right time to make this change."

"The new name does not change who we are and what we do," said NFCA President and CEO Joseph J. Annotti. "After all, it's what's under the hood – not the hood ornament – that's important."

"The American Fraternal Alliance name does give us the opportunity to create a brand awareness for the fraternal system that does not currently exist," Mr. Annotti added. "Our challenge is to make sure our new name carries with it the brand identity that say fraternalists are credible, trustworthy and relevant financial services providers, and that our non-prof-

it, mutual aid charter delivers a valuable and irreplaceable return on investment to taxpayers through our charitable and volunteer activities, and by building social capital that strengthens communities across the country. Your association will lead this ambitious effort; but we need the support of every member society to accomplish our objective."

The 124-year-old NFCA unites 69 not-for-profit fraternal benefit societies, including the Ukrainian National Association, that operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. The association represents nearly 9 million fraternalists in 32,000 local chapters, making it one of America's largest member-volunteer networks.

Fraternal benefit societies provide their members with leadership, social, educational, spiritual, patriotic, scholarship, financial and volunteer-service opportunities. Combined, the NFCA's member societies maintain more than \$363 billion of life insurance in force and, in 2009 alone, contributed almost \$402 million to charitable and fraternal programs, and volunteered nearly 108 million hours for community-service projects.

These statistics demonstrate the commitment that fraternalists make to those in need and exemplify the true meaning of the NFCA signature phrase: "Joining Hands to Touch Lives."

The UNA would like to wish you
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and a happy New Year!

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Who runs Ukraine

For anyone who doubts that Ukraine is being governed by criminal thugs who are reviving the most heinous practices of Soviet society, let the events of the last week offer more than enough evidence.

The scene of Party of Regions national deputies storming into the parliamentary session hall, swinging chairs and bashing faces, is enough to indicate that there's a serious problem in the Ukrainian government. The governing coalition is not only refusing to listen to the opposition, but it's engaged in a campaign to eliminate the most viable political challenger, the *Batkivshchyna* party and its leader, Yulia Tymoshenko.

The notorious December 16 brawl, among the most violent scenes in the already raucous history of Ukraine's Parliament, erupted after Tymoshenko Bloc deputies staged a day-long blockade of the parliamentary rostrum and tribune, which infuriated the Party of Regions.

The Tymoshenko supporters were protesting the criminal charges filed against their leader, as well as the restriction on international travel imposed on her. More than that, they were putting their foot down after at least eight of her allies have been arrested and imprisoned – some for half a year now.

It was a desperate move in desperate times. Yet the Party of Regions wasn't interested. In all its political maneuvering, the coalition government has demonstrated that the opposition – which represents at least half the nation's population and its interests – is of no consequence. Rather than negotiating, they took the authoritarian approach and tore into a bloody brawl that left six Tymoshenko Bloc deputies hospitalized.

In standard Soviet fashion, the Procurator General's Office is pressing criminal charges against the injured deputies of the Tymoshenko Bloc – not the Regions thugs who inflicted wounds and concussions.

Its handling of the December 16 brawl and criminal prosecutions of Ms. Tymoshenko's allies demonstrates that the Yanukovich administration has no interest in establishing rule of law in Ukraine, or integrating Ukraine with Western civilization. Their way is the Eurasian, neo-Soviet, authoritarian model of managed democracy offered by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and embraced by Belarusian dictator Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

However, it's not just the traditional enemies that are being targeted. The Party of Regions and the Cabinet of Ministers led by Prime Minister Mykola Azarov are maintaining their rule of terror in their home base in the Donbas. The latest victim was Tetiana Lev, who was beaten outside her Donetsk home on December 17 after her husband, Yuri Lysenko, was elected rector of Donetsk National University. "That's for your husband," they reportedly told Ms. Lev.

Mr. Lysenko's fair election reportedly infuriated Education Minister Dmytro Tabachnyk. The way things work under authoritarianism, it was his man, Petro Yegorov, who was supposed to win the vote. Yet, sometimes people follow their consciences and don't comply with the authorities, as happened in Donetsk. The result was police searches of the offices and homes of Mr. Lysenko and his colleagues, as the authorities searched for any hook to nullify the election results. That's when the Ukrainian courts come in handy. Sure enough, the Kyiv District Administrative Court issued the necessary ruling, declaring the vote illegal and forbidding the Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sports from recognizing it.

All the while corruption is running rampant. A new metro station was opened in Kharkiv on December 21, equipped with 10 simple, wooden benches that cost the government \$7,875 a pop, reported *Ukrayinska Pravda*. You can thank Vice Prime Minister Borys Kolesnikov for that K-Mart "Blue Light Special." Meanwhile Mr. Yanukovich has nominated his eldest son's close buddy Serhii Arbuzov to become the next chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine.

All these examples are just the tip of the iceberg. The Yanukovich government has demolished any hope that it will support Ukraine becoming a modern, European state that recognizes rule of law and individual rights.

Dec.
29
1985

Turning the pages back...

Fifteen years ago, the December 1985 issue of the London-based *Islamic World Review*, the largest English-language Arabic journal, carried an article by Taras Kuzio titled "Some Lessons For Teacher?" which analyzed the relationship

between the Soviets and the Afghan people after five years of Soviet occupation.

The article stated that the Soviets' aim in the war was to buy more time, with Mr. Kuzio arguing, "the Soviet Union appears to be thinking in terms of decades ahead and not in terms of annual military campaigns."

Education campaigns launched by the Soviets have attempted to instill Communist ideology and loyalty to the Soviet government. The model for this was Soviet Central Asia and, as in that region, Afghan children were taught the Russian language in schools, Afghan teachers were sent to the Soviet Union annually to study communism and were taught how to apply it. This was all part of a scheme to quickly assimilate and eventually incorporate Afghanistan into the Soviet Union.

Mr. Kuzio noted the lack of support for the war in Afghanistan among Ukrainians, quoting people from various regions of Ukraine. A man from Lutsk retold a soldier's story of how people from an entire village were killed by being thrown off a precipice, so that the Soviet Army could save ammunition. Another Ukrainian described how parents with sons who were called to enlist offered bribes to have them exempted from military service.

Mr. Kuzio also cited a poll conducted in the Soviet Union by Radio Liberty, which

(Continued on page 21)

FOR THE RECORD

UCC calls for inclusiveness at Museum for Human Rights

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights, scheduled to open in Winnipeg in 2013, is slighting the sufferings of Ukrainians here and in the former Soviet Union and needs a "reconstituted" board of trustees and content advisory committee to help set matters right, according to a report prepared by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Titled "Canadian Museum for Human Rights – A Call for Inclusiveness, Equity and Fairness," the report was sent to The Globe and Mail after being submitted to Canadian Heritage Minister James Moore, Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney and the Prime Minister's Office.

In 2007, the Harper government announced that the CMHR, originally a private initiative of the late media mogul Israel Asper, would be a national museum, and committed \$100 million for its construction, plus \$22 million annually for operations.

Following is the text of the UCC's report.

Ukrainian Canadians have a particular interest in the stories that will be presented in the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR).

Soviet Ukraine was subjected to one of the 20th century's greatest atrocities, the genocidal Great Famine of 1932-1933, the Holodomor. Furthermore, during the Nazi occupation Ukrainian lands suffered greater destruction and more casualties than any other country in Europe.

In Canada, thousands of Ukrainians were victims of state-sanctioned indignities, in particular during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920, when they were branded as "enemy aliens," lost what little wealth they had, were forced to do heavy labor for the profit of their jailers, disenfranchised and subjected to other discriminatory measures, not because of anything they had done but only because of who they were, where they had come from.

These stories are not yet widely known or understood, in part because Ukraine was not free until 1991 and because, here in Canada, a focus on the discrimination experienced by "visible minorities" and indigenous peoples has often obfuscated by the fact that Ukrainians and other Eastern European communities were also targets of racist, xenophobic and prejudicial sentiments, in the media, government and throughout the public arena.

While the Ukrainian Canadian community was willing to support public funding for a national museum dedicated to human rights, we are now deeply concerned about how the contents of that museum are being established, particularly since the various committees and groups established to advise on what this museum will exhibit were not representative of the Canadian population, nor have they apparently given serious attention to the many submissions made by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association and other groups who insisted that any such national museum must be focused on Canadian issues and be inclusive, without elevating the suffering or wrongs experienced by any one community over all others.

A review of the "Content Advisory Committee Final Report to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights," dated May 25 makes only one minor, passing reference to Canada's first national internment operations and only one reference to the "Holodomor" (sic). Further articles and

information about the museum evidence that the Holodomor will not have a permanent and prominent position in the Museum.

The importance of a Holodomor gallery

The Holodomor should be provided no less coverage in this publicly-funded museum than the Holocaust for the following reasons:

1. It is a genocide recently recognized (May 2008) by the Parliament of Canada and one which is relatively unknown.

2. Its geographical focus and intensity make it one of the greatest genocides in human history;

3. It is an example of the human rights violations suffered by the victims of communism around the world (the crimes of communism receive no mention in the Content Advisory report).

4. It highlights the crimes of the communist dictatorship of Joseph Stalin and the Soviet regime.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress has always maintained that any publicly funded institution or museum should be governed by the principles and objectives of the Museums Act and should be inclusive and reflective of the experience and concerns of all Canadians.

Representations made to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress

Following discussions with Dr. Israel Asper and representatives of the Asper Foundation the UCC received assurances from the Asper Foundation in April 2003 that:

1. The Ukrainian Famine/Genocide (Holodomor) of 1932-1933 would be featured very clearly, distinctly and permanently in the CMHR.

2. The Internment of Ukrainian Canadians during World War I would be included as part of "The Canadian Stories Gallery."

3. There would be a recognition that the Ukrainian people were victims of the Nazis during World War II and that this would be portrayed as an historical fact in any discussion about the Holocaust.

4. Mr. Asper and the Asper Foundation would continue to work with the UCC in telling its history of human rights abuses in Canada and Ukraine and to work with our representatives towards this objective.

On the basis of these representations, that the UCC publicly expressed its support for the CMHR project.

Governance

Since 2003, the UCC has been concerned about the governance of the CMHR. We have expressed concerns that its various structures lacked objectivity and did not represent Canadian society, including the initial advisory board, the board of trustees, content advisory council, employees, advisors and consultants. In this regard we had proposed a number of qualified persons to serve in these various roles without any response from either the CMHR or the Government of Canada.

The UCC has consistently maintained that the governing body of the CMHR must be representative of all Canadians. Unfortunately the composition of the boards and advisory bodies of the CMHR has been dominated by friends and supporters of the Asper Foundation. This unfortunately brings into question the

(Continued on page 21)

COMMENTARY

Won't get fooled again

by Lubomyr Luciuk

Two songs keep coming to mind. The first is by Buffalo Springfield, "For What It's Worth." I've always liked its haunting refrain: "There's something happening here. What it is ain't exactly clear." That ditty describes precisely my take on what's happening with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

In the beginning it was all about Israel Asper, a media magnate from Manitoba. He wanted a public space for a Holocaust gallery in the nation's capital, specifically in the Canadian War Museum. Since CanWest's conductor once enjoyed the ear of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, the trade seemed certain. But after Canadian veterans objected, and Liberal fortunes fell, those best-laid plans of the mice and the men were prostrated.

Showing chutzpah, the project's boosters regrouped, launching a well-financed campaign promoting a museum for Winnipeg, not un-coincidentally the home of the Asper Foundation. Since CanWest outlets obligingly tooted a pro-Conservative lullaby, and we all know that he who pays the piper calls the tune, this artifice worked. Mr. Harper's team rewarded their

Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk is director of research for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (www.ucccla.ca)

fealty by funding this Canadian Museum for Human Rights, permanently attached to the public teat.

If this national museum was really committed to telling human rights stories, particularly Canadian ones or those less well known, it might be worth it. But it's not. The final report of its Content Advisory Committee confirms that a disproportionate share of the museum's permanent exhibit space will emphasize Jewish suffering during World War II, elevating that horror above all other crimes against humanity. That partiality is demonstrated by 48 references to the Holocaust compared to one about the genocidal Great Famine of 1932-1933 in Soviet Ukraine. Adding insult to injury, Holodomor is misspelled as "Holodomar." Just a typo? Perhaps.

There is no principled reason for opposing a human rights museum. But why not create something truly unique and Canadian by allocating an entire floor to internment operations? They harmed Ukrainians and other Europeans in 1914-1920, Japanese, Italian and German Canadians in the second world war, then Quebecois in 1970. Explaining how The War Measures Act allowed such injustices to happen to several different Canadian communities several times over the course

(Continued on page 22)

ACTION ITEM

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) is calling upon all Canadians to voice their concern over the content and layout proposed for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

Specifically, the UCC is concerned about the objectivity of the museum's governance bodies and the fact that neither Canada's first national internment operations nor the Holodomor have permanent and prominent galleries in the museum.

Background

The Canadian Museum of Human Rights, at the suggestion of its content advisory committee, is proceeding at present with only two permanent galleries: one on the Holocaust and one on the indigenous population.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress politically supported this government-funded museum, and members of our community donated millions of dollars, on the basis that it would be reflective of the broader Canadian experience and that the Holodomor and Canada's first national internment operations would be given a permanent and prominent place in the Canadian Museum of Human Rights.

At present, the museum has begun construction and is planning to lump these two tragedies in with other issues.

Why the internment operations?

The experience of Ukrainians and other Europeans unjustly imprisoned during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920 should be included in a permanent gallery exhibit. During this tragic period thousands of Ukrainians and other East Europeans were unjustly imprisoned and disenfranchised only because of where they had come from. Furthermore, this event gave precedence to other well-known human rights abuses in Canada, including the Chinese head tax and the internment of Japanese and

Italians during World War II.

Why the Holodomor?

The Holodomor should be provided equal prominence in this publicly-funded museum to the Holocaust for the following reasons:

1. It is a genocide recently recognized (May 2008) by the Parliament of Canada and one which is relatively unknown.

2. By its geographical focus and intensity it is arguably one of the greatest genocides in human history.

3. It is an example of the human rights violations suffered by the victims of communism around the world (the crimes of communism receive no mention in the Content Advisory report).

4. It highlights the crimes of the Communist dictatorship of Joseph Stalin and the Soviet regime.

The UCC calls upon all Canadians to:

1. Write and call their members of Parliament to voice their concerns.

2. Write and/or call Minister of Canadian Heritage, James Moore at 819-997-7788; Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6; or send him an e-mail via the website <http://www.pch.gc.ca/>.

UCC branches and provincial councils, together with their member-organizations will be meeting with federal ministers during the Christmas Parliamentary break (December 16-January 30, 2011) to address these concerns.

UCC National has begun discussions and will be meeting with the CEO of the museum and key federal ministers to find a resolution to our concerns.

Editor's note: The UCC document "Canadian Museum for Human Rights – A Call for Inclusiveness, Equity and Fairness," which appears on page 6 of this issue.

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Irish parallels

"The Year of the French" by Thomas Flanagan – what a terrific novel! I bought a paperback version at the Shakespeare and Company Bookstore on the Left Bank in Paris when my wife and I were on our honeymoon 22 years ago. This year for Thanksgiving, we were back in France along with our 16-year-old daughter to visit our son who's on his junior year abroad at the Catholic University in Angers. Knowing we'd be spending a lot of time on airplanes and trains, I looked for a suitable book and thought that rereading the Flanagan novel might be a good choice.

It was. The author weaves accounts by Irish rebels, Protestant yeomen, military men, poets and politicians to tell the story of the doomed 1798 uprising against British rule. It begins with St. John's Eve celebrations where young people, reveling in rituals going back to pagan times, leap through bonfires. There's merriment, drinking, courtship... and angry talk about resistance to the power that controls the land and with it grain, which agents ship from Dublin to London and then to global markets, financing the empire.

Most of the native Irish are landless, their homeland having been conquered two centuries earlier by Oliver Cromwell who rewarded his soldiers with confiscated farms and estates. Descendants of the original owners hold on to ancient deeds rendered worthless by imperial law. In town squares and taverns, blind minstrels who wander the countryside sing of ancient glory and failed uprisings, their language suitable for poetry and little more. As a bitter Irish patriot puts it, English is for counting money and measuring fields. You learn it to succeed, but in doing so, you lose a part of who you are.

The few Irish families which prosper have invariably renounced their Catholic faith and sworn allegiance to the British crown and the Church of England. It all flares up into an uprising led by Irish idealists spouting slogans about the Rights of Man, supported by the French who had recently deposed their own monarch.

Flanagan followed "The Year of the French" with two other novels about Irish republicanism: "The Tenants of Time" about the failed Fenian Uprising of 1867 and "The End of the Hunt" about Michael Collins, the Irish Republican Army and independence in 1922. I also read those many years ago and remember them as page-turners.

But this is a column about Ukrainians, so you can guess where I'm taking it: to the obvious parallels between the Irish and Ukrainians. Both peoples were victimized by an imperial power contemptuous of their traditions, language and sovereignty, enforcing its rule with the lash, torture and gallows. Like the Irish, Ukrainian peasants rose up as regularly as the tides: every generation or so, rebels dubbed "Haidamaky" took scythes and torches to kill oppressors and burn down their estate houses. Like Irish songs and novels celebrating revolutionaries, Ukrainian dmy and literary works celebrate their own rebels who fought for freedom and then invariably died violently: Ivan Gonta, Maksym Zaliziak, Ustym Karmeliuk, Nestor Makhno, Roman Shukhevych and so many others.

There are other parallels: Like Ukrainians, the Irish endured a famine that killed a large portion of their population; their language has been crippled from a

concerted campaign to destroy it; in the 20th century, they both had an underground paramilitary organization that played a critical role in the movement for independence; large numbers of their people emigrated to other countries seeking a more promising destiny; and so on.

In the case of the Irish, discrimination followed them to America, where disdain for their religion and identity often barred them from employment and education – "No Irish Need Apply" (NINA). In response, they established a parallel network of hospitals, schools and universities to serve their community.

Resourceful, energetic and assertive of their identity, the Irish have been spectacularly successful in American politics. In virtually every city, Irish for the past century have been winning elections from mayor to councilman to municipal judge. They have scores of governors and members of Congress; more than 20 presidents, from Andrew Jackson to Ronald Reagan to Barack Obama claim Irish ancestry. Irish have had leading roles in Hollywood, Broadway, sports, music and literature. St. Patrick's Day is an unofficial holiday.

That said, there's a striking and very telling disconnect between the population of the Irish diaspora and the homeland. According to the U. S. Census, more than 36 million Americans report Irish ancestry. Yet Ireland itself has just over 4 million people, about the same number as Canadians who claim Irish heritage. You can't help but be astounded by the massive drain of talent and energy from the homeland this reflects.

Which brings us to the most recent events: while re-reading "The Year of the French," I was also following the news about Ireland's economic problems where a huge real estate bubble burst, forcing the government to make good on a guarantee for tens of billions of dollars in bad bank loans. As a result, public finances have been destroyed, and Dublin has been forced to ask for a \$100 billion bailout from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. Now taxes are going up and so is unemployment. Social programs will be cut, and the emigration rate, which had been reversed, is once again rising.

Is there a lesson there for Ukraine? Of course, but I'm not an economist, so don't look to me to prescribe what Ukraine (or the U. S., for that matter) should do to ensure prosperity. The IMF is already doing that: like Ireland, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Romania and other countries, Ukraine has had to ask for and accept international assistance to keep its economy from tanking. With that assistance come strict conditions that restrict a country's ability to make sovereign decisions for a generation or more.

Ireland's current predicament should teach us that the independence which previous generations fought so hard to achieve is not an end in itself, but rather a beginning. Culture, language, security are basic and must be assured, but it's all tied to the economy. I'm confident Ireland will survive (and so will Ukraine), but still we live in precarious economic times and need to understand that a country can lose its independence to economic forces just as easily as it can to an invading army.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is fedynsky@sbcglobal.net.

REMEMBERING THE HOLODOMOR

Statement by World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations

Following is the statement by Mary Szkambara, president of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, delivered on December 3 at the Holodomor commemorative event held at the United Nations under the theme "Food Security for All Generations, Lessons of the Past."

Since ancient times wars have been made by nations and peoples upon other nations and peoples. Wars have been fought to attain democracy, freedom and independence. They have been fought over land, power to control, supremacy, revenge, religion, desire for attribution and class struggles. Wars, however, require an immense amount of money for the acquisition of arms, machines and manpower.

In the 20th and 21st centuries, governments discovered a new method of overpowering or defeating their enemy: using "Food as a Weapon." Why waste money on bullets when you can bring the nation to its knees by depriving the people of food?

Food as a political weapon was used in Zimbabwe, where authorities discriminated against perceived political opponents by denying them access to food programs. One-half of Zimbabwe's population of nearly 14 million was considered "food insecure."

Hitler also used food to destroy internal opposition. In Germany, the "warrior caste" of the armed forces received the best ration cards, then came the skilled and essential workers, and down at the bottom were the prisoners and the Jewish people. To the Nazis, food was a "beautiful instrument for maneuvering and disciplining the masses."

Food as a weapon was an instrument of control in Ethiopia – a country that saw more than a million of its people starve to death in the famine of 1984.

In countries such as Sudan, acts of providing food to both sides have contributed to prolonging the conflict. The conflict in Sudan has claimed nearly 2 million victims.

Food as a weapon was also used by Stalin against the people in Ukraine in the years 1921-1923, in 1932-1933 and in 1946-1947.

The famine of 1921-1923, which claimed the lives of nearly 3 million Ukrainians, was provoked not only by the poor harvest of 1921, but also by the Bolshevik policy of "food allotment" that was destructive to the nth degree.

It is interesting to note that at this time the Volga region was also experiencing a famine and Moscow sent an appeal for food to Churches, the League of Nations and humanitarian aid organizations. With Ukraine, however, the case was different. No humanitarian aid organizations were called, nothing appeared in the Soviet press to suggest that a famine crisis was also happening there. Any collection of foodstuffs for the starving Ukrainian population was discouraged.

Furthermore, the Moscow government was adamant that Ukraine fulfill its grain delivery obligations to Russia. An undisputed fact is that by enforcing the exportation of grain to Russia over 2 million Ukrainians died of starvation in 1922-1923. By allowing the famine to develop and by hindering relief from abroad, the Moscow government was able to strike a blow against the Ukrainian farmers.

In 1946-1947, the famine began with a drought that devastated the southern oblasts of Ukraine. However, instead of organizing aid to this region, Stalin immediately attributed this famine to manifestations of Ukrainian "bourgeois nationalism" and categorically forbade any assistance to Ukraine. At the time that Ukraine was starving, the USSR was exporting Ukrainian grain to Czechoslovakia, Poland and France. During the famine of 1946-1947 Ukraine lost over 1 million people.

No human tragedy of the 20th century can so appall one's innermost instincts as the event that so brutally annihilated millions of men, women and children 77 years ago, and from which the Ukrainian population, even to this day, has not fully recovered both physically and psychologically. As to the number of casualties in this planned annihilation of the Ukrainian people in 1932-1933, one can only estimate. Historians lay claim that at least 7 million and perhaps 10 million fell victim to the consolidation of communism in Ukraine.

During 1932-1933, Ukraine was the only country in Europe where the population declined by 15 percent from 33 million to 28 million. And, if we are to include natural population growth of about 5 percent per year, then one can readily deduce that in the space of a little more than one year Ukraine's population declined by some 20 percent or about 8 million souls.

Stalin's murder of millions by a man-made famine in Ukraine was a concealed conspiracy of silence; the Holodomor has been suppressed, ignored and denied.

There was hardly a home in eastern Ukraine where no one had died of starvation. The death rate was unbelievable. Even Stalin when he was asked by Winston Churchill if the stresses of war were as bad for him as carrying through the policy of collective farms, replied, "Oh, no! The collective farm policy was a terrible struggle. Ten million..." he said, holding up both of his hands.

At the peak of the Famine in March 1933, according to Dr. Robert Conquest, Ukrainians were dying at the rate of 25,000 per day, 1,000 per hour or 17 every minute. This was almost a quarter of the population of Ukraine.

The ones to suffer the most during the Famine were the innocent children. Many of the survivors of the Holodomor talk of their lost childhood, of their fears and the hunger they experienced. They remember "the cold, stiff bodies of children still cuddled by their mothers long after death." At night they saw the piles of frozen corpses lying by the railroad tracks, in the ditches or by the roads. There was no one to bury them, there was no one to say a prayer over them.

Many witnesses recall the grotesque and horrible images that they were exposed to, during the Famine:

"I watched the babies, the old and the sick die first, then the others and then everybody. Those of us who could, tried to hide, but they found us. Some they killed, some were exiled to Russia. We were nothing to them. They killed entire families. We saw the corpses all in a pile, with fathers on top of the heap as they tried to protect their children from bullets of the Communists."

Children comprised one-third of the Holodomor victims in Ukraine. Large numbers of children were orphaned and became homeless. In 1933 over 300,000 homeless children were recorded in the Kyiv region. Since orphanages and children's shelters were overcrowded, most of these children were left in the streets and most of them died of starvation or disease.

Stories told by survivors paint a grim picture:

"My father died on the road, his body lay there for 10 days. My mother could not bury him because she too had become swollen with hunger. I don't know where or when my father was buried. After his death, one day my mother and three sisters joined him. All of us were small, we could not bury our mother and sisters and their bodies lay in the house a long, long time. We would crawl to our dead mother and lie besides her begging for food. Soon our mother's body began to move with a mass of maggots. It was then we realized that we were alone and had to fend for ourselves."

James Mace, a Ukrainian historian of American-Irish ancestry, wrote: "For the Ukrainians, the Famine must be understood as the most terrible part of a consistent policy carried out against them: the destruction of their cultural and spiritual elite. The Famine seems to have been designed as part of a campaign to destroy them as a political factor and as a social organism."

Stalin had no illusion that he would exterminate all the Ukrainians at once, but by killing them intermittently he would turn them into a more submissive, denationalized people – that is, they would become "sowers of millet" and "hewers of wood." However, the time has come when Ukrainian must proclaim the truth. The truth of Ukrainian history is the memory of a nation. If this memory is not restored, Ukrainian's shall never be able to rise to their feet.

The restoration of memory is a painful and difficult process. Let us find in ourselves the will to live and to remember, for only memory will preserve us as a nation, a people, a country. Let us not allow others to distort, falsify and conceal our truth and our history from the world.

There are many historical interpretations of the events that happened in Ukraine in 1932-1933. However, it should be noted that Raphael Lemkin, who developed the concept and coined the term "genocide," applies it to the destruction of the Ukrainian nation and not just the destruction of Ukrainian landowners and farmers.

Lemkin speaks of: a) the decimation of the Ukrainian political and cultural elites; b) the destruction of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church; c) the starvation of the Ukrainian farming population; d) its replacement with non-Ukrainian population from the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic].

Lemkin's perception of the Ukrainian Famine as a genocide is a solid recommendation to the U.N. Assembly and to the government of Ukraine to finally recognize the Ukrainian tragedy for what it was: a case of genocide, the destruction of people, the destruction of a nation.

I was especially moved by the words of Archbishop Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. at the 70th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide commemoration at St. Patrick's Cathedral:

"If we permit ourselves the luxury of letting history be history, then we are doomed. If we force the memory of those millions who died – out of our minds because it makes us uncomfortable, then we fail them. If we ignore our responsibility to assist in correcting the history books and educating present and future generations of young children in Ukraine and the diaspora and building a proper memorial, then we will be participating in the creation of all the necessary circumstances for the tragedy to occur again."

Every year on November 27 Ukrainians say "Let us never forget." We must remember so that "food as a weapon" will never again be used against the people of Ukraine or any other nation.

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Yuri Shcherbak delivers strong criticism of Yanukovych regime

EDMONTON, Alberta – From October 23 to November 7, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, who served as Ukraine's ambassador to Israel, the United States and Canada, was in Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Edmonton for a series of speaking engagements and meetings sponsored and organized by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) in partnership with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

During the two-week stay, Dr. Shcherbak made many presentations focused on or deriving from two topics. The first, titled "Ukraine: Dreams and Realities," dealt largely with domestic developments and policies of Ukraine's four presidents since independence, with much attention paid to the current Yanukovych regime and its policies. The second, titled "Ukraine's Geopolitical Role Today," focused more on Ukraine's foreign policy choices and orientations in relation to the policies of its neighbours and world powers.

Dr. Shcherbak began his tour in Toronto on October 23, where he first spoke before a Ukrainian community audience at the Plast Building (Huculak Center) on "Ukraine: Dreams and Realities." During the presentation he warned that Ukraine under President Viktor Yanukovych is sliding down the slippery slope toward dictatorship. Freedom of the press, human rights, personal freedoms and a Ukraine where the Ukrainian language and identity would be firmly entrenched, are in danger of slowly disappearing.

A lively discussion followed, which continued afterward at the Golden Lion Restaurant, where 43 Ukrainian community leaders joined Dr. Shcherbak for supper.

The next day, the former ambassador attended a dinner to honor the Rev. Bohdan Sencio at St. Volodymyr Center and was later interviewed by Luba Matvios for live broadcast on the radio program "Post-up."

On Monday, October 25, Dr. Shcherbak met with Nadia Jacyk, president of the Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation, to discuss, among many issues, the Petro Jacyk Ukrainian Language Scholarships given to students in Ukraine.

That afternoon he spoke at the University of Toronto's Munk Center on "Contemporary Ukraine: Dreams and Realities," sponsored by the Petro Jacyk Program for the Study of Ukraine.

Later, Dr. Shcherbak met with Fourth Wave immigrants from Ukraine who shared with him the many problems they face in Canada: lack of job opportunities, language barriers, homesickness and loss of identity. Many stated that they would

not have left Ukraine or their families if the economic situation in Ukraine had been more stable and secure.

The next day Dr. Shcherbak met with Toronto businessman Erast Huculak.

During his stay in Toronto, he was hosted by Marika Szkambara on behalf of UCC Toronto.

On October 27, Dr. Shcherbak left Toronto for Ottawa, where he was hosted by Taras Zalusky of UCC National. On October 28 he met with Etobicoke Centre Member of Parliament Borys Wrzesnewskyj, and later met briefly with MPs David McGuinty, Justin Trudeau, Bonnie Crombie and Speaker of the House Peter Milliken.

That evening he attended the opening reception of the Danyliw Seminar at the University of Ottawa, hosted by Prof. Dominique Arel, holder of the Chair of Ukrainian Studies.

The following morning Dr. Shcherbak met with Foreign Affairs Canada officials John Kur (director general of the Europe Division), Allison Grant (deputy director general) and Madelaine Johnson, (responsible for the Ukraine desk). During the meeting, Dr. Shcherbak encouraged Canada to remain engaged with Ukraine, but vigilant because of the troubling developments under the Yanukovych presidency.

He continued that since assuming power in March 2010, Mr. Yanukovych has concentrated much power in his hands and now could be said to exercise control over the other branches of government. In regard to Ukraine's strategic interests, Mr. Yanukovych was aligning these to serve Russian interests.

In the cultural area, the Yanukovych administration's policies challenge Ukrainian national views of history and pose a threat to Ukrainian national identity. Dr. Shcherbak also stressed that Ukrainians now face the danger of losing fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of speech, press and assembly.

Later that afternoon Dr. Shcherbak spoke at the Danyliw Seminar panel "Ukraine since Yushchenko" on the topic "Ukraine under Yanukovych." Following the Danyliw Seminar presentation he spoke before a Ukrainian community audience sponsored by UCC National and UCC Ottawa.

Irena Bell, producer and host of "The Ukrainian Hour" radio program on Radio CHIN in Ottawa, interviewed Dr. Shcherbak for the program's November 7 broadcast. The interview is currently accessible on the CHIN podcast page at <http://chinradioottawaukraine.podbean.com>.

On October 30 Dr. Shcherbak left for Winnipeg, where he was hosted by Dr. Roman Yereniuk, acting director of the



Dr. Yuri Shcherbak, former ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, Canada and Israel.



Derek Fraser, a former Canadian ambassador to Ukraine.

Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies at the University of Manitoba. Here, he spoke at the University of Manitoba (to the university community), Oseredok (to the Ukrainian community), visited two classes – one of Ukrainian language and the other in political studies at the University of Manitoba, and was hosted at a UCC supper. He also met with Lloyd Axworthy, president of the University of Winnipeg. Mr. Axworthy served as Canada's minister of foreign affairs when Dr. Shcherbak was Ukraine's ambassador to Canada. He also met two ministers of the Manitoba Provincial Government, Hon. Rosann Wowchuk and Christine Melnick.

In his Winnipeg presentations Dr. Shcherbak gave historical background on the political and social developments in Ukraine since 1991, analyzed the presidencies of the first three presidents of Ukraine (Leonid Kravchuk, Leonid Kuchma and Viktor Yushchenko) and then critiqued the first eight months of the Yanukovych presidency.

Dr. Shcherbak emphasized that the gains made in democratizing the country since Ukraine's independence were now being rolled back by the Yanukovych administration. Asked to comment on Prime Minister Stephen Harper's recent visit to Ukraine (in late October), Dr. Shcherbak praised Canada's leader for challenging Mr. Yanukovych to continue working for democratic principles in Ukraine. Dr. Shcherbak also called on members of the Ukrainian Canadian community to not abandon Ukraine, but to raise their voices during this time of major changes in Ukraine. He especially emphasized the need to continue supporting projects in the areas of civil society building as well as youth and women's exchanges.

In his meetings with Mr. Axworthy and the Manitoba government ministers, he requested partnership in promoting sustainable development in Ukraine.

The Winnipeg visit was coordinated by the Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies and assisted by the Department of German and Slavic Studies, as well as the Office of International Relations at the University of Manitoba, Oseredok and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Manitoba Provincial Council.

Dr. Shcherbak's final stop in Canada was Edmonton. Here he was hosted by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) with the support of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council. Dr. Shcherbak spoke twice at the University of Alberta, co-hosted by CIUS and the Department of Political Science at the University of Alberta.

He was joined by Derek Fraser,

Canada's former ambassador to Ukraine and now senior research fellow at the Institute for Global Studies, University of Victoria in British Columbia. The two complemented each other's presentations well, with both pointing to the danger that the Yanukovych regime's policies pose to Ukraine's fledgling democracy and ultimately to its status as a sovereign country. In his presentation, Mr. Fraser pointed to the Russian state's influence in the choosing of some of Yanukovych's cabinet ministers.

On Saturday, November 6, both former ambassadors, joined by Canada's current ambassador to Ukraine, Daniel Carron, and Ukraine's current ambassador to Canada, Ihor Ostash, spoke before delegates and guests of the XXII Congress of Ukrainian Canadians at a plenary session. In his speech, Dr. Shcherbak reiterated many of the concerns he had relayed earlier and also called on Ukrainian Canadians to not succumb to fatigue over Ukraine, but to remain engaged, vigilant and vocal.

While in Edmonton, Dr. Shcherbak and Derek Fraser also attended the general meeting of the Canada Ukraine Foundation (CUF), a meeting at which Mr. Fraser agreed to join the CUF board of directors.

Dr. Shcherbak left for Ukraine on November 7, following a grueling schedule of speaking engagements and meetings. During his tour he continuously sounded the alarm at the threat of Ukraine's slide to authoritarian rule and its transformation into a Russian protectorate under the Yanukovych presidency. But he also stressed the need to remain engaged with Ukraine, and to continue dialogues with scholars, civil society groups and government officials from Ukraine to see what relationships could be developed to support and strengthen Ukraine's still fragile democracy.

Finally, Dr. Shcherbak expressed optimism that, although currently the situation is bleak, Ukrainians would emerge to once more steer the country back to a democratic path and continue building a strong democratic and independent country.

Dr. Shcherbak was Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S. in 1994-1998, and to Canada in 2000-2003. A medical doctor, he is also a well-known writer and former political activist, whose documentary novel "Chornobyl" was published in several languages, including in English in 1989. His most recent book, "Ukraina v Zoni Turbulentnosti: Demy Mynuloho iTryvohy XXI Stolittia" [Ukraine in the Zone of Turbulence: Demons of the Past and Fears of the XXI Century] was published in 2010.



At the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (from left) are: Bohdan Klid, Derek Fraser, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak and Dr. Zenon Kohut.

Yanukovych...

(Continued from page 1)

state budget a \$120,000 commission that was paid to the National Bank of Ukraine.

It's that \$120,000 loss that prosecutors allege caused serious harm to the state budget, for which Ms. Tymoshenko could face up to five years in prison.

"Yulia Volodymyrivna Tymoshenko, irresponsibly handling the management of state funds, as prime minister required the Finance Ministry and State Treasury to convert 180 million euros into the national currency, realizing the consequences of such material losses to the state since the National Bank of Ukraine keeps a commission of 0.05 percent from the sale's execution," the criminal complaint stated.

Investigative journalist Serhii Leshchenko of the Ukrayinska Pravda website concluded the charges are political persecution, given evidence that officials in the current Yanukovych government indulge in blatant theft, while the charges against Ms. Tymoshenko don't allege mishandling of funds or even their theft.

Moreover the law allows the Ukrainian government to use the National Bank for its currency exchanges, regardless of the commissions incurred, he reported. Ukrainian law also provides for government actions performed in "conditions of extreme necessity," which could also be argued in that instance. Finally, any profit earned by the National Bank is returned to the state budget anyway.

"Considering the stormy and often inadequate activity of Tymoshenko as prime minister, she'd better pray that this criminal case becomes the only one pursued against her," Mr. Leshchenko wrote on December 22.

About 30 national deputies of the Tymoshenko Bloc rallied to her defense on December 16, forming a blockade of the Verkhovna Rada tribune and rostrum in

order to prevent prosecutors from showing up the next day and reading the criminal charges against Ms. Tymoshenko.

They planned to stay through the night and maintain the blockade through the next day. Their standoff lasted until about 7 p.m. that day, when the Party of Regions deputies decided they'd had enough.

About 40 Regions deputies – led by Oleh Tsariov, Dmytro Salamatin, Petro Tsiurko, Elbrus Tedeyev, Vladyslav Lukianov and Oleksander Volkov – stormed the Tymoshenko Bloc deputies, throwing fierce punches and swinging chairs.

The bloody brawl was recorded by two television cameras and eventually broadcast throughout the world, becoming Ukraine's latest international embarrassment.

"We had to unblock the Parliament for normal work because the country can't live without a budget," Mr. Tsariov explained afterwards. Yet, most observers saw no need for the brawl, considering the 2011 budget had yet to be voted on a week later.

"The desire for revenge, the desire to show how strong they are, the desire to frighten society can provoke very irrational decisions," said Oleksander Paliy, a political expert at the Diplomatic Academy of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The Regions deputies took control of the Parliament after only a few minutes, but not without injuries.

Deputy Vasyl Kravchuk was carried away on a stretcher after four blows to his head delivered by Mr. Tsiurko. Yuri Hnatkevych, 70, suffered hypertension and also needed a stretcher, while Volodymyr Bondarenko received a massive bruise on his right hand, which he said was inflicted with a chair.

"Salamatin tried hitting me on the head with a chair," he reported afterwards. "The only thing that saved me was that I managed to block the strike with my arm, which left me with sharp pain."

Perhaps the worst injured was Mykhailo Volynets, who suffered a concussion and a



Aleksandr Senko/UNIAN

National deputies from the Party of Regions try to forcibly remove deputies from the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc-Batkivshyna faction from the Verkhovna Rada presidium on the evening of December 16. The Regions deputies assaulted opposition deputies, who were blocking the work of the Rada to protest the criminal charges filed against their leader.

1.4-inch wound after Mr. Tsariov smashed a chair over his head. "He took a heavy chair, raised it at a full height and planted it in my head with all his might," he told reporters, speaking from his hospital bed.

Tymoshenko Bloc Faction Chair Ivan Kyrylenko declared the next day that "The remnants of Ukrainian democracy were killed brutally, fiercely and with unprecedented cynicism. There has never been in this sacred building such an inhuman face of hate and unrestrained fury, and burning to not only maim, but kill."

But the real shock came six days later, when Deputy Procurator General Yevhen Blazhivskyi announced in Parliament on December 22 that criminal charges were filed against the Tymoshenko Bloc deputies for their daylong blockade of the Verkhovna Rada.

Prosecutors ignored the violence inflicted by the Regions deputies.

"Taking into account enough pretexts and foundations, criminal charges have been filed based on interference with the activity of state officials with the goal of obstructing their official responsibilities," Mr. Blazhivskyi announced.

Following the report, Mr. Bondarenko said no law enforcement authorities had recorded the testimonies of the injured Tymoshenko Bloc deputies, and he accused Mr. Blazhivskyi of lying when he claimed that the deputies had declined to testify.

The Yanukovych administration is targeting the opposition in selective criminal pros-

ecution, said the Ukrainian Helsinki Union on Human Rights in a December 22 statement.

"In certain cases representatives of the opposition are incriminated in actions which are now being done by representatives of the current government without punishment," the statement said. "For example, one case incriminates them for not returning the security deposit given for the privatization of the Odesa Portside Plant, yet that deposit hasn't been returned to this day, which is the responsibility of officials currently in office."

Meanwhile former Environmental Defense Minister Heorhii Filipchuk, who served in the Tymoshenko Cabinet, was arrested on December 14 and held on bail four days later for abuse of office that caused serious consequences.

He became the eighth government official who served in the Tymoshenko government to be arrested, including former Economy Minister Bohdan Danylyshyn, who is in the Czech Republic and has applied for political asylum.

Meanwhile the Procurator General's Office has repeatedly called in for questioning former Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko, former Vice Prime Minister Oleksander Turchynov and Ms. Tymoshenko herself.

"She's the enemy, and they're putting the pressure on her," Mr. Lozowy said of the Yanukovych government. "They're men of direct action – sometimes crude action."

Kyivans protest against Putin's remarks about World War II



Olena Bilozerska

KYIV – Ukrainians protested outside the Russian Embassy in Ukraine on December 22 following Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's statement that Russia would have won the Great Patriotic War (as World War II is known in Soviet parlance) even if Ukraine was not a part of the USSR. He made his comments during a live TV broadcast on December 16 as he was answering a question from the audience. Mr. Putin claimed that more than 70 percent of the casualties of World War II were suffered by the Russian SFSR. According to the "Istorychna Pamiat" section of the Ukrayinska Pravda website, Ukraine lost 13 million people, both civilians and soldiers, during the war. Other sources put the number at over 10 million. Above, the protesters' signs read: "Putin, don't speak for all of Russia!" and "Ten million Ukrainians died so you could be born!"

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Fund-raiser hosted by Chicago Friends of UCU raises over \$325,000

Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation

CHICAGO – Engulfed by an atmosphere of Midwestern friendliness and inspired by “generosity, warmth and hospitality,” the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak greeted 300 guests at the annual Chicago Friends of the Ukrainian Catholic University fund-raiser on Sunday afternoon, November 14, which raised more than \$325,000 for the needs of the university based in Lviv.

This was the UCU rector’s third stop in a three-week fund-raising tour that took him to New York City, the suburbs of New Jersey, Chicago, Washington, and his hometown of Syracuse, N.Y. It was also a walk down memory lane and a time of reflection, as he caught up with old friends and visited familiar places.



Members of Plast sing the scouting organization’s rendition of “Our Father” (Otche Nash) at the beginning of the banquet.

Father Gudziak also had the opportunity to talk about recent challenges in Ukraine, such as the May visit from an agent of the Security Service of Ukraine and what this showed him about the effects of the legacy of a totalitarian regime, where fear is embedded so deeply in society that few individuals live with a sense of human dignity.

He spoke of the need for independent Ukraine to have an independent university that fosters excellence, integrity and faith, and revealed plans for the building of a new Western-style campus on the edge of Stryiskyi Park in Lviv, which will serve as a sanctuary not only for the mind, but also for the spirit.

The afternoon banquet, which celebrated the 15th anniversary of the rebirth of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, as well as the 50th birthday of its rector, was emceed by the Rev. Dr. Peter Galadza, an old friend and colleague. It also underscored the vital role Chicago has played, as the home of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, the U.S. fund-raising arm for this private, Catholic institution of higher learning. The event was organized by the Chicago Friends of UCU Committee, which this year was chaired by Adriana Pilecky-Dekajlo and Olya Popil-Bozior.

On November 14 the Rev. Gudziak became an adopted son of the Windy City, as he was showered with gifts that symbolize Chicago. Sporadically throughout the afternoon of warm wishes and good cheer, representatives from youth groups bestowed upon him gifts such as a Chicago Bulls autographed basketball. (Two young



A member of Chicago’s Hromovytsia dance ensemble offers the traditional bread and salt greeting to the Rev. Borys Gudziak.

students from St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School dribbled the ball down the banquet hall.)

As was revealed in a documentary film about his life shown that afternoon, in high school Father Borys had aspirations of becoming a basketball player and to this day likes to shoot a few hoops on the grounds of the university he runs.

Members of Chicago’s premier dance group, Hromovytsia, presented Father Gudziak with a framed photograph of the Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church against the Chicago skyline. The ensemble also greeted him with a traditional dance, called “Pryvit” (Welcome).

Members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association gave Father Gudziak a basket of Chicago comfort foods, including hand-made chocolates, teas and jams, as well as CDs from Chicago-based Ukrainian choirs and bands. Rounding out the basket was a pair of warm and fuzzy slippers to



A Chicago Blackhawks jersey with his name and the number 50 written on it was one of the many birthday gifts that the Rev. Borys Gudziak happily received.

Fight for Sight, serving Ukraine’s visually impaired, ceases activities

by Christine Hirniak-Rakowsky

CLEVELAND – Following the November 10 general meeting of Fight For Sight, its president, Myroslawa Oryshkewych, announced that, after more than 20 years of service to Ukraine’s visually impaired children, the Cleveland-based non profit is shutting down all operations.

Having evolved from the Social Services Committee of the United Ukrainian Organizations of Greater Cleveland, Fight For Sight was the brainchild of Mrs. Oryshkewych, who was internationally recognized for her work with the visually impaired.

The mission of Fight for Sight was to provide students of Ukraine’s special schools for the visually impaired a state-of-the-art education and rehabilitation, and to enable the school’s graduates to lead independent, productive, professional lives mainstreamed into society at large.

To this end, Fight For Sight continued to provide Ukraine’s special schools for the visually impaired with instruments, electronics and paraphernalia indispensable to a well-rounded modern education of a special-needs population. Schools received computers, Aladdin electronic magnifiers, Braille duplicators, and an endless supply of Braille paper and duplicating tapes. Individual students were afforded tape recorders, canes, magnifiers and other personal resources.

Eventually, Fight for Sight extended particular patronage to Ukraine’s oldest



A school for the visually impaired in Ukraine.

school for the visually impaired, School No. 100 in Lviv, launching there a general capital improvement project: a new roof, a new sanitation system and all amenities, an additional floor to expand dormitory space and, most recently, new windows.

Now, Special School No. 100 has modern facilities and technology. Its graduates are mainstreaming into various professions. Victor Tsaran – its most famous graduate and a Fight for Sight scholarship recipient to the Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia – is a world authority

on computer accessibility. Currently, he is senior manager of the Accessibility Project at Yahoo! Fight for Sight is delighted with his success and hopes many others will follow his example, Mrs. Oryshkewych noted.

“Our job is done,” said Mrs. Oryshkewych. “The mission of Fight for Sight has been fulfilled. But we could not have done this without the constant, generous support of the entire Ukrainian American diaspora. For this, with sincere humility, we express our deepest, heart-felt gratitude.”

help the rector “ease into his 50s.”

Members of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization decided that the rector needed to feel the spirit of victory, and ordered a Blackhawks 2010 Stanley Cup hockey jersey with the number 50 and the name Gudziak on the back. (They themselves felt victorious that day, as an announcement was made that members of the the Chicago Plast team had been awarded first place that day at the “Orlykiada” competition at Soyuzivka.)

The last gift of the afternoon was presented by alumni of UCU summer schools in Rome in the 1970s-1980s, summer school attendees from the Lviv program, as well as theology graduates of UCU in Rome and Lviv. These gifts included liturgical vestments and a pectoral cross.

Between gift presentations, the audience enjoyed a video clip, produced by a participant of the 2010 UCU summer school icon workshop, Julian Hayda, which featured interviews with summer school students and their impressions of Ukraine. A 22-minute documentary film about Father Borys’ life featured interviews with his late father, his mother and brother, Patriarch Lubomyr Husar, as well as friends from Syracuse, Plast camps, Harvard, Rome and Ukraine, allowing banquet-goers a glimpse into episodes and moments that shaped the Rev. Gudziak’s life.

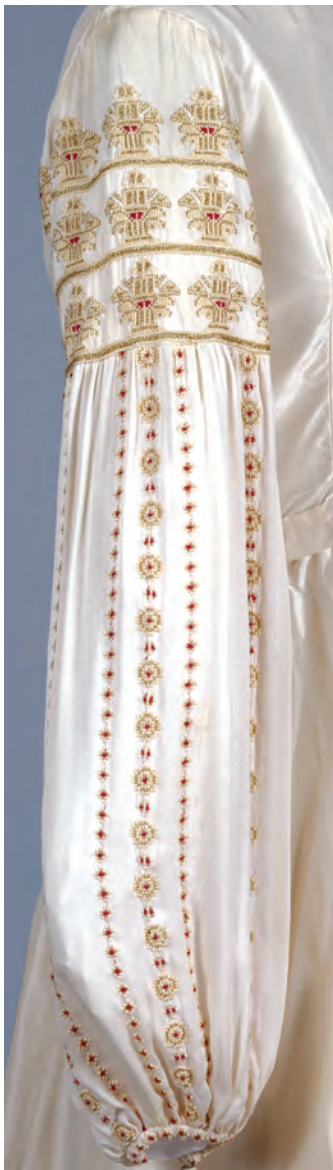
Guests at the event were also presented with a commemorative book of greetings from the Friends of UCU of St. Nicholas Eparchy. This 108-page book of greetings and tidings included notes from Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, Cardinal

(Continued on page 22)

Ancient wedding rituals, modern interpretations presented at The Ukrainian Museum



The wedding dress of Marta Kichorowska Kebalo, designed and embroidered by Stefania Cherkhavska-Iwaskiw and embroidered by her mother, Maria Cherkhavska. The embroidery design on the dress was copied and adapted from a traditional wedding blouse, which has been in the groom's family.



A bride's costume from the village of Cherniatyn, Horodenka district, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, Pokuttia region, western Ukraine, first quarter of 20th century.



The wedding dress (front and back) of Mary-Ellen Skenyon, designed and embroidered by Iwanna Martynets.

NEW YORK – The ancient rituals associated with traditional Ukrainian weddings, and their unique interpretation in today's "traditional" weddings, are presented in an expansive exhibition at The Ukrainian Museum in New York.

"Invitation to a Wedding: Ukrainian Wedding Textiles and Traditions" describes the various components of the traditional Ukrainian wedding – an event known for its rich symbolism and extensive use of opulently hand-embroidered fabrics – and shows how they have been adapted to contemporary weddings, both in Ukraine and in the United States.

Visitors are invited to explore the progression of a traditional Ukrainian wedding, a multi-stage "event" that begins with the matchmaking process, continues with the betrothal and blessing, and ultimately concludes with the ceremony and reception.

The prescribed rituals associated with each stage come to life through the more than 150 items on exhibition, including:

- An extensive selection of ritual cloths (rushnyky), described by exhibition curator Lubow Wolynetz as the "common thread in the road of life." A rushnyk is embroidered when a child is born, and one is used at every milestone in a person's life, most notably at the time of marriage.

- Embroidered shirts, both men's and women's, representing many regions of Ukraine, each with distinct coloration and symbolic motifs.

- Elaborate headdresses, made of fabrics, flowers, feathers, ribbons, coins – the precursor of today's tiara and veil.

- A total of 24 complete, traditional wedding outfits, outstanding in their level of detail and craftsmanship, and striking in their design.

- Several traditional Ukrainian wedding breads (korovayi), from various regions of Ukraine – a staple at every traditional Ukrainian wedding. This display is supplemented by a video demonstration of the art

(Continued on page 13)



A bride's costume from the Poltava Oblast, eastern Ukraine, early 20th century.



Volodymyr Gritsik

A flower girl's dress, designed and embroidered by Larysa Zielyk. (On loan from Larysa Zielyk.)

The wedding wreath (front and back) to a bride's costume from the Bukovyna region, Chernivtsi Oblast, southwestern Ukraine, early 20th century. (Reproduction from the original.)

Ancient wedding...

(Continued from page 12)

of baking and decorating a korovai.

The exhibition concludes with a display of contemporary Ukrainian wedding finery, with many elements, motifs and techniques that hark back to the traditions of the past.

The items on exhibit are drawn primarily from The Ukrainian Museum's own collection of folk art – one of the most important collections outside Ukraine – with the addition of a number of exquisite pieces from public and private collections in Ukraine and the U.S.

Ms. Wolynetz, the curator of the exhibition and of the museum's folk art collection, is an educator, researcher and embroiderer, well-known for her devotion to, and passion for, Ukrainian folk art.

"Invitation to a Wedding: Ukrainian Wedding Textiles and Traditions" will be on view through September 18, 2011. The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated, color, 224-page catalogue, available

from the museum gift shop. It includes Ms. Wolynetz's study, "Ukrainian Wedding Textiles and Traditions: Then and There, Here and Now," and an essay by Prof. Natalie Kononenko, an ethnographer at the University of Alberta at Edmonton, titled "Ukrainian Weddings Since the Soviet Period."

Major funding both for planning and implementation of this exhibition was provided by The Coby Foundation, Ltd. Funding was also provided in part by the

New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; the Peter and Doris Kule Center for Ukrainian and Canadian

Folklore; Self Reliance (New York) Federal Credit Union; and individual sponsors.



A "peremitka" (woman's head wrap) from the Horodenka region, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, western Ukraine, 1920s.



A wedding wreath from the village of Kosmach, Hutsul region, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, western Ukraine, early 20th century.



A wedding wreath from the village of Zhabie (now Verkhovyna), Hutsul region, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast, western Ukraine. (Contemporary reproduction of a traditional wedding wreath. On loan from Vira Nakonechna.)

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

and also notes efforts to complete the construction of a shelter around the destroyed fourth reactor of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and to convert it into an environmentally safe system. (Ukrinform)

Kharkiv transport workers strike

KHARKIV, Ukraine – Public transportation workers in Kharkiv held a one-day strike on December 20 to protest overdue wages, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reports. The strike affected trolleybuses and trams in the city, which is Ukraine's second largest with almost 1.5 million residents. The protesting workers say the strike is just a one-day warning and that the objective is to compel the authorities to pay the wages they are owed. A representative of Kharkiv's Electrical Transportation Company told journalists that 162 trams and 196 trolleybuses remained in depots. On a normal day, up to 600,000 passengers use trams and trolleybuses. Andriy Ilhov, head of the We Shall Get Through human rights organization, told journalists that the workers have not been paid since July. Transport workers in the city are owed about \$3.8 million in back wages. (RFE/RL)

Calls for Rada chair's dismissal

KYIV – The two opposition factions in Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada have called for the dismissal of the Parliament chairman and an investigation by the Procurator General's Office (PGO) after a bloody brawl that erupted in the Parliament chamber on December 16. The opposition deputies made their appeal on December 17 before walking

out of the parliament session. The brawl saw lawmakers from President Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions storm the Parliament podium, which was blocked by deputies from former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's Batkivschyna party. The pro-Tymoshenko national deputies had been protesting a criminal probe against her on suspicion of abuse of office. According to the Batkivschyna faction press service, six opposition deputies were injured in the ensuing fight, five of whom had to remain in the hospital overnight. One of those injured was Mykhailo Volynets, who was carried out of the building on a stretcher with head injuries. "First, they punched me in the face," Mr. Volynets said in a telephone interview with RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service from his hospital bed. "I walked away because my face was streaming with blood. Deputy [Petro] Tsurko from the Party of Regions grabbed a chair. He was standing above me, one meter higher. He is big, tall, with long arms, and took this heavy chair and then smashed it over my head with all his might, breaking the chair." But Mr. Tsurko told journalists that he did not intend to injure Mr. Volynets. He said he simply took the chair away from somebody who wanted to hit him and threw it aside. Mr. Tsurko blamed the opposition for triggering the fight. PGO spokesman Yuriy Boichenko told RFE/RL that the Kyiv city prosecutor has launched an investigation. (RFE/RL)

New Peace Corps volunteers sworn in

KYIV – Seventy-nine Americans have been sworn in as Peace Corps volunteers in Ukraine under the project Teaching English as a Foreign Language, it was reported on December 9. U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Tefft administered their oath. "We can

be proud of the Peace Corps in Ukraine – the biggest one in the world," he said. The new volunteers promised to work toward the strengthening of respect and friendship between people of various nationalities and cultures. The volunteers went through a 10-week preparatory training program in the Kyiv and Chernihiv regions. In Ukraine, the Peace Corps works in three areas: teaching English, developing communities, and developing youth. (Ukrainian News-on-line)

Bukovel opens 10th season

KYIV – The Bukovel ski resort has inaugurated its 10th season. The administration of the resort prepared a concert of local performers and a cake weighing 50 kilograms as a surprise for skiers. On the first day of the winter season in early December, nearly 7,000 people arrived in Bukovel. Five lifts have begun working. If necessary, snow-making machines will be used. Among the plans of resort workers is opening a new road, Yablunytzia-Bukovel; today there is only one route, Palianytza-Bukovel. The Bukovel resort has 16 modern lifts and 53 kilometers of equipped ski slopes. The resort is located 30 kilometers from Yaremche and 110 kilometers from Ivano-

Frankivsk. The closest airports and railway stations are in Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Chernivtsi. Regular bus routes to and from Kyiv and Ivano-Frankivsk have been established. (Ukrinform)

Russia holds art belonging to Ukraine

KYIV – It is estimated by Ukrainian historians and critics that Russian museums hold about 30,000 works of art once exported from Ukraine. The mutual exchange of exhibits is disproportionate: Russia returned to Ukraine a few dozen items, while hundreds of cultural values were sent in the opposite direction, it was reported on November 25. Recently, a 19th century vase stolen from the Hermitage in 2005 was handed over to the Russia at Kyiv's Bohdan and Varvara Khanenko Museum of Arts. The vase was discovered in Ukraine a year after the theft. In turn, the museum would like to have back the paintings now stored in the Hermitage. "In the 1920s and 1930s, exhibits were taken from museums and sold abroad through Gostorg. But some things have not been sold and have been settled in central museums, including more than six of our works. The most valuable things are: a

(Continued on page 18)

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With great sorrow we announce that our
Dearest Tato, Beloved Didi, Cherished
Brother, Loving Uncle,
and Lifelong Plastun



Ostap Wynnyk

passed onto Heaven on December 5, 2010 at the age of 80. He was born on February 27, 1930 in Senevtske Nyzhne, Boykivshchyna, Ukraine.

Ostap Wynnyk was predeceased by wife Bohdanna Krywenchuk Wynnyk, parents Iwan and Maria(Mycyk) Wynnyk, brother-in-law Volodymor Myskiw, cousin Roman Wynnyk, uncle H. Rudnyckyj, cousin Z. Rudnyckyj, and Marta Kushnir.

He was a lifelong member of PLAST - Chervona Kalyna, recipient of PLAST pl. sen. kep. Honors, former Stanychnyi of Plast Oseredok in Yonkers, former officer of a UNA Branch, US Army Veteran - Korean War, Hell on Wheels 2nd Armored Division, Awarded US Army Medal of Occupation, member of Ukrainian American Veterans.

In Deep Sorrow:

- Children - Chrystyna and Myhajlo Wynnyk
- Grandchildren - Craig and Brian Wynnyk-Wilson
- Wife - Vira Kushnir with daughter Lesia and Tad Sendzimir with Family
- Sister - Oksana Myskiw
- Nephew - Petro and Genia Myskiw with Family
- Niece - Roksolana and Miroslav Hill with Family
- Nephew - Walter Myskiw Jr. and Vira with Family
- Niece - Nadia and Paul Mallegol with Family
- Aunt - Julia Rudnyckyj
- Cousin - Slava and Myron Bisyk with Family
- Cousins - Orysa Wynnyk, Renata Wynnyk Ockerby with Family and Bohdan Wynnyk with Family

Cherished members of PLAST and Kurin Chervona Kalyna (CK)

Roman Komarnyckyj, lifelong druh from Senevtske Nyzhne
Extended Family in Austin, TX, Canada, London, UK, Australia and Ukraine

Visitations were held on December 9 and December 10 at Whalen & Ball Yonkers, NY. Funeral Mass was held on December 11 at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Yonkers NY, followed by burial Services at Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery, Campbell Hall, NY. Pomyanky were held at Limoncello's, Goshen, NY.

Sincerest thanks and gratitude to:

The entire Myskiw family for their deeply appreciated love, support and caring that have provided us with so much comfort at this time of profound sorrow; Fr. Roman Badiak from St. Michaels Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yonkers, NY, for his hospital visitations, anointments, last rites and officiating at the funeral; Fr. Ivan Kaszczak, a Plastyn, from Stamford, CT, for funeral officiating and his moving, thoughtful and loving eulogy at the funeral mass; Very Rev. Yaroslav Kostyk, Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetary, Campbell Hall, NY; Rev. Dr. A.. Chirovsky, Chervona Kalyna, from Rome, Italy for saying a mass in Rome in Ostap's memory on December 11, 2010; Bohdan Tytla and PLAST Kyryn Chervona Kalyna; US Army for the grave site US flag ceremony for US Veterans; Marty Ball, Whalen & Ball Funeral Parlor Yonkers, NY; Limoncello's Restaurant, Goshen, NY; All of our lifelong family friends whose support means the world to us.

In lieu of flowers Ostap had requested that donations in his memory be made to Vovcha Tropa Plast Summer Camp and can be sent to: Frank Salek, 10 Ledgerock Ct., Morris Plains, NJ 07950. Please make checks out to PLAST Summer Camp. On the check please note IMO Ostap Wynnyk Vovcha Tropa Summer Camp

Вічна Память!

...Тихо спи без тривоги... тут є Бог... тут є Бог...



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що в середу, 1 грудня 2010 року на 55-му році життя відійшов у вічність наш найдорожчий муж, син і брат

СВ. П.
Юрій Орест Джуль
іміграційний адвокат, письменник.

Похоронні відправи відбулися 13 грудня 2010 року в Українській католицькій церкві Непорочного Зачаття ПДМ у Сан Франціско, Каліфорнія.

В глибокому смутку залишилися:

- дружина – Лена Джуль зі синами Максимом і Павлом
- батьки – Павло й Ірина Джулі
- брат – Андрій з дружиною Христиною і дітьми Марією, Степаном і Лізою
- та ближча родина в Україні

Поминальна Служба Божа в пам'ять Покійного Юрія

буде відправлена в Церкві Непорочного Зачаття в місті Гемтремк, Мишиґен,
10 січня 2011 року о год. 8:30 ранку

Просимо о молитви за упокій душі Покійного.

Вічна Йому Пам'ять!



З глибоким жалем і великим смутком ділимося з українською громадою, що 29 листопада 2010 р. прийнявши Найсвятіші Тайни, упокоїлася в Бозі наша найдорожча і невіджалувана Мама, Бабуня і Тета

СВ. П.
інженер
ЛІДІЯ ТЕОДОРА ДЯЧЕНКО
з роду КОЛТОНЮК

нар. у Львові, Україна, за професією Інженер Аґрикультури.

Покійна була діяльна у громадському житті Філадельфії будучи співосновником Товариства Українських Інженерів. Була діяльним членом Українського Жіночого Руху: як голова 20-го Відділу Союзу Українок Америки ім. Олени Теліги у Філадельфії, голова Окружної Ради СУА і член Екзекутиви СФУЖО. Була віддана українській справі і щира українська патріотка.

Похоронні відправи відбулися 3 грудня 2010 р. в Українській католицькій церкві Св. Архистратига Михаїла в Елкінс Парк, Пенсильвенія а відтак на цвинтарі Св. Марії у Факс-Чейс, Пенсильвенія, де її тлінні останки спочивають біля її найдорожчих батьків Ярослава і Марії Колтонюків.

Залишила в глибокому смутку люблячих її:

- сина – Петра Дяченка з дружиною Френі
- доню – Зорянну Дяченко Шуль
- онуків – Андрія Шуля з дружиною Анею
- Ксеню Шуль
- Юрія Дяченка
- Петра Дяченка, мол.
- Наталю Пачел
- племінника – Олеса Тарнавського з дружиною Адою і дітьми.

“Зі святими упокой, Христе, душу раби Твоєї Лідії, де нема слабування, ані смутку, ані зітхання, але є життя вічне.”

Замість квітів на могилу просимо складати пожертви для сиріток в Україні через СУА: Ukrainian National Women's League of America Headquarters, 203 2nd Avenue, New York, NY 10003.



Ділимося сумною вісткою з родиною та знайомими, що 10 грудня 2010 р. упокоївся наш дорогий муж, батько та дідо

СВ. П.
СТЕФАН ЯРОСЛАВ ГАРАСИМІВ

Похорон відбувся 17 грудня 2010 р. в Конкорд, Масс.

Горем прибиті:

- дружина – Роксоляна
- син – Лев з дружиною Катлін
- внуки – Айден Ярослав
- Галина Еленор
- брат – Роман з дружиною Конні
- братанки – Стефан Йосиф з дружиною Гейлі та сином Романом Марком з дружиною Тересою
- Григорій
- Ірена і д-р Герент
- Дарія Латик з донями Андрією і Христиною
- шваґер – Тарас Филипович

Вічна Йому пам'ять!



Ділимося сумною вісткою, що 24 листопада 2010 р. відійшов у вічність наш дорогий і незабутній

СВ. П.
АНДРІЙ ШОХ

Нар. 22 квітня 1930 р. у Тисмениці.

ПОХОРОННІ ВІДПРАВИ відбулися 4 грудня 2010 р. в церкві св. Миколая в Danbury, Connecticut.

Інженер електронік, спеціаліст від ультразвуку, винахідник у ділянці індустриїних застосувань ультразвуку великих амплітуд. Працював 16 років як віце-президент дослідів (R&D) у Branson Ultrasonic Corporation, а від 1988 р. як президент і власник Powersonics, Inc.

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Власник 21 патентів та 2-ох нагород I-R 100 за „Developing one of the most significant industrial products of the year“. Автор багатьох статей та доповідей на численних міжнародних ультрасонічних конференціях.

Залишилися у глибокому смутку:

- дружина – ХРИСТИНА з дому ЖАРСЬКА
 - доньки – ОЛЕНКА ШОХ
 - АЛЕКСАНДРА ҐАНС з чоловіком ТИМОМ
 - внучки – АНЯ і НІНА ҐАНС
 - сестра – ІЯ ВІЛСОН з чоловіком НОРИСОМ і родиною
 - брат – ТИМІШ ШОХ з дружиною КАРЛОЮ
 - кузинка – д-р ТЕТЯНА ЗІНЧУК і сини:
ЮРІЙ ЗІНЧУК з дружиною
АНДРІЙ ЗІНЧУК з дружиною
 - кузини – ЯРЕМА, РОКСАНА, ІГОР ВОЛОСЕНКО з родинами
 - МОТРЕА БЕНСОН з родиною
 - ЮРІЙ, МАРУСЯ, ІГОР КІНАЛЬ з родинами
- та ближча і дальша родина в Америці, Україні і Німеччині.

ВІЧНА ЙОМУ ПАМ'ЯТЬ!

В пам'ять Покійного можна складати пожертви на:

Ukrainian Institute of America, 2 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10021.
або на

The Ukrainian Museum, 222 East 6th Street, New York, NY 10003.

Opera "Zaporozhets za Dunayem" presented in Sacramento

by Motria Tomkiw

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The state capital of California is now also home to many families of the Fourth Wave of immigration from Ukraine. The Ukrainian Heritage Club of Northern California has been active in organizing the Ukrainian American community in the Sacramento area since 1983 and was very welcoming to the new immigrants.

The club is active year-round, championing Ukrainian causes at community-wide activities, and organizing lectures, concerts and film screenings. This fall the club, under direction of its president, Dr. Lubow Jowa, undertook its most ambitious project: producing the opera "Zaporozhets za Dynaem" – "Zaporozhian Beyond the Danube."

The local Ukrainian American community includes many professional and amateur musicians and artists, and it was felt that such a production could be successfully mounted.

On October 9, in the Theater of the Sierra 2 Center, the opera was performed in front of an enthusiastic audience numbering over 250. The production was a unique event for the Ukrainian Heritage Club and most likely the first time this opera was performed in the western United States. Many members of the club and of the local community donated their time, efforts and financial support to stage this production.

The director, Oksana Sitnitska, with the help of stage managers Mira Veligan and Gennadiy Sitnitsky assembled a unique working cast. A very creative and



The finale of the performance.

talented artist, Margarita Chaplinska, organized the stage design, lighting and decorations. Sets were designed and made by Edward Tyshkevich and Ivan Lorchak. Costumes were provided by Oksana Stus and Ola Oliynyk.

A live chamber orchestra under the baton of Ola Herasymenko-Oliynyk performed the delightful score, while choir-master Tatyana Scott (also the pianist) directed the 20-member choir and dance masters George and Irina Arabagi choreographed the young dance troupe that performed several dance numbers in the pro-

duction.

Professional singers trained in Ukraine and now residing in the Sacramento and the San Francisco area sang the major roles: Sergey Zadvornyy in the role of Ivan Karas, Oksana Sitnitska as Odarka and Svetlana Merlichenko as Oksana. The role of Andriy was sung by Andrew Nickell, a student in vocal performance at Sacramento State University. Other performers included Alexandr Paripa, Serhiy Kybych, Yaroslav Drozdovskiy, Yustyna Drozdovska, Roman Ritachka and Sviatoslav Stus.

A past president of the Ukrainian Heritage Club, Yuriy Oliynyk, who is a member of the Ukrainian Union of Composers, introduced the performance and provided historical background information and a synopsis of the plot to help the American speakers in the audience fully appreciate the performance.

The opera ended with a long and appreciative round of applause. Afterwards, members of the audience had the opportunity to mingle with the cast members during a post-production reception.



Karas and Odarka speak with the Imam.



Oksana and Odarka hear the Sultan's proclamation.

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Ukrainian display wins first place at holiday festival

by Chrystyna Prokopovych

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – Manor College and Branch 88 of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) were awarded first place in the 32nd annual Festival of Trees Display at the Pearl S. Buck House in Perkasie, Pa.

The Ukrainian Heritage Studies Center (UHSC) at Manor College, together with members of UNWLA Branch 88 Philadelphia Regional Council, decorated the dining area with Ukrainian folk art items: embroidery, straw angels, hand-painted ornaments and "Ukrainian teddy bears."

The Christmas tree is decorated with hand-crafted beaded ornaments made by members of the Manorly Bead Club, which meets once a month at the UHSC.

This exhibit runs through December 31. Tours of the exhibits are conducted Tuesdays through Sundays.

Additional information is available by calling 215-249-0100 or logging on to www.pearlsbuck.org.

The Pearl S. Buck House is located at 520 Dublin Road, Perkasie, PA 18944.



A view of the Ukrainian Christmas display at the Pearl S. Buck House.

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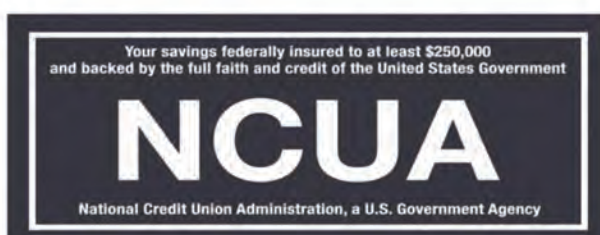
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DEFENSE OF FOUR FREEDOMS
FOR UKRAINE, INC.**

sends

Christmas and New Year's greetings

to

the Ukrainian nation, to Ukrainians in the Diaspora, to the hierarchy of the Ukrainian Churches in Ukraine and in the world, to the Executive of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (r) and its president Stefan Romaniw, all fellow organizations of the International Conference in Support of Ukraine, the Ukrainian World Congress, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the executives of all the ODFFU branches, all of our members and their families, and all Ukrainian-American communities and patriotic supporters of the OUN Fund.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year !

CHRIST IS BORN! LET US PRAISE HIM !

President: **MICHAEL KOZIUPA** Secretary: **JOHN YAWORSKY**



NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

Persian aquamanale, approximately of the 13th century, an extremely rare thing; the painting by a French artist, 'Cupid Sharpening his Arrow,' and a few more French landscapes," said Vira Vinogradova, the museum director. (Ukrinform)

Rare Shevchenko stamp discovered

KYIV – A unique postage stamp from the first series of stamps of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic of 1923 has been discovered by Yevhen Hryshenko, a researcher, writer and collector from Bilhorod-Dnistrovsky in Odesa region. The stamp depicting Ukrainian writer Taras Shevchenko is one of the four in the first series of postage stamps of the USSR. "I received this rare stamp by the right of succession from my great-grandfather. I came

to take a great interest in philately, at the age of 9. Gradually I expanded my collection. It took me a few years to study this stamp. However, only recently, as a result of long-term work, have I managed to collect all of the necessary evidence about the fact that this rarity is the world's only copy," Mr. Hryshenko said. In 1923 the USSR government ordered in Germany a series of four stamps for postal and charitable purposes. Part of the funds received from the sale of stamps was to be spent to tackle the consequences of famine in Ukraine. The method of offset printing was used to produce the stamps. A total of 1 million stamps were sent from Berlin to Kharkiv, and from June 25 to August 11, 1923, they were sold in nine cities across the country to pay for domestic and international mail. A November 1 news story reported that Mr. Hryshenko is planning to organize an exhibition to display his rare find. (Ukrinform)



**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
to our family and friends**

**Dr. Borys and Miriasia Mychalczak
With their children Sofia and Nicolas**



ПЛАСТ – УКРАЇНСЬКА СКАВТСЬКА ОРГАНІЗАЦІЯ В США

З радісним празником Різдва Христового
Крайова Пластова Старшина в Америці вітає
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Начального Пластуна,
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КРАЙОВА ПЛАСТОВА СТАРШИНА США

NOTES ON PEOPLE

Temerty named Entrepreneur of Year

WINNIPEG – On November 17 at a banquet held in Toronto, Ernst & Young honored Ukrainian Canadian James Temerty of Northland Power Income Fund for his significant contributions to Canadian business by presenting him with the Canada's Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2010 Award.

“By anticipating future trends and responding quickly to changing needs, James epitomizes the ability of entrepreneurs to transform industries and move the economy forward,” said Colleen McMorrow, national and Ontario director of Entrepreneur of the year. “With an eye for opportunity and an unsurpassed drive to succeed, James has made what is sure to be a lasting impact on the Canadian power industry.”

Mr. Temerty has built a reputation across Canada for both financial and technical innovation. Recognizing an opportunity to develop a new industry within the power sector, he founded Canada's first independent power producer in 1987.

Putting a considerable amount of his own resources at risk in pursuit of development opportunities, Mr. Temerty has led Northland Power to impressive growth. After more than 20 years, Northland Power maintains investments in operating biomass, natural gas and wind power projects, with wind solar and waterpower ventures under development.

A news release from Ernst & Young noted: With the same passion he devotes to Northland Power, Mr. Temerty volunteers his time and financial support to numerous organizations in and outside of his community. As chair of the Royal Ontario Museum Governors Board, he was responsible for raising \$250 million, the largest sum of funds raised by a charitable organization in Canada.

He also supports a variety of local projects in Ukraine. His recent contributions include the establishment of a business school in Kyiv and ongoing support of local orphanages.

“James represents the fearless ambition it takes to build a successful business from the bottom up,” said Mr. McMorrow. “By embracing risk and



James Temerty

paving the way for groundbreaking ideas, Canadian entrepreneurs continue to restore the economy and inspire future generations of talent. We congratulate and honor this year's Canadian Entrepreneur of the year, James Temerty, and all of our regional winners, who truly embody the entrepreneurial spirit.”

“It is outstanding to see Mr. James Temerty being recognized and awarded by Ernst and Young Canada's Entrepreneur of the Year for 2010,” stated the national president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Paul Grod. “In addition to his strong business acumen, Jim continues to be actively involved in the Ukrainian Canadian community, serving as chair of the UCC Advisory Council and as leader of the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter initiative. On behalf of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, I would like to offer heartfelt congratulations to Jim for being so deservedly recognized.”

Mr. Temerty is a recipient of many honors including membership in the Order of Canada and the UCC's Shevchenko Medal.

The UCC Advisory Council comprises of prominent and exemplary supporters of the Ukrainian Canadian community who provide ongoing advice and support to help the congress and by extension the community to realize its potential and ensure its future success.

Physician addresses NTSh in Canada

by Olessia Czechut

MONTREAL – Dr. Yury Monczak is director of the Molecular Pathology Unit at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal, and assistant professor of medicine at McGill University. He has completed his Ph.D. in Molecular Biology at the University of Montreal, and finished post-doctoral studies in gene regulation at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Md. (USA).

Dr. Monczak is a member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (known by its Ukrainian acronym as NTSh) of Canada and during this year's spring session of lectures on various topics organized by the society's Montreal Chapter he spoke about new developments in molecular diagnostics and its application in fighting cancer. His May 2 presentation focused primarily on human cancer and how modern molecular diagnostic tests are used in detecting, treating and monitoring novel anti-cancer therapies.

In his PowerPoint presentation Dr. Monczak explained how human cancers arise when normal cells acquire a series of mutations in their genetic chromosomes. When such mutations confer growth advantage to the affected cells, these expand into tumors, invade adjacent tissue and finally spread to unrelated sites in the body, giving rise to metastases. He pointed out that classical therapeutic treatment relies mostly on medication that has a broad effect on the human body, often with negative side effects. This is especially dramatic in cancer treatment, where traditional chemo- and radiotherapy uses toxic substances that do not discriminate between cancer cells and normal healthy tissue and can affect both equally.

With the advent of molecular characterization of human cancers, a new phase in therapeutics has recently been reached, continued Dr. Monczak. Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML) was the first malignant disease in which a specific causative genetic mutation was identified. In this translocation, genetic information on one chromosome gets transferred to another one, and results in a novel “fusion” gene, in this case called BCR/ABL. This hybrid gene provides a growth advantage to the affected cell, which starts to grow uncontrollably and soon invades the patient's bone marrow. This results in an effacement of other vital cells produced by the bone marrow, and a dramatic increase in cancer cells in the circulating blood (leukemia). An untreated patient soon dies of this disease.

Although in the past there existed a therapeutic treatment of this disease, but it was time-consuming, non-specific and very costly, noted Dr. Monczak. However, molecular diagnostics developed in the 1990s gave rise to rapid and inexpensive methods for the detection of various mutations. Modern diagnosis of CML relies on technology to detect the presence of the cancer-causing BCR/ABL gene in a few hours and to provide information as to the amount of cancer cells circulating in the patient's blood. It also allows the prediction of a possible



Dr. Yury Monczak addresses the Montreal chapter of the Shevchenko Scientific Society.

relapse.

Soon after the discovery of the BCR/ABL gene, researchers began analyzing the structure of this gene's product. It became evident that a synthetic molecule could be created in the lab that would specifically interfere with the activity of BCR/ABL. This approach to drug development was coined “designer drugs for targeted therapy.”

The first such “designer drug” was Imatinib, which revolutionized the anti-cancer therapy. The vast majority of patients receiving this drug were “cured” of CML as long as they continued taking the drug for the rest of their lives, and they exhibited very mild, if any, side effects.

However, as with most medications, some patients began developing resistance to Imatinib a few years after the start of therapy. This was to be expected, since cancer cells undergo additional mutations and may thus acquire changes in BCR/ABL that would prevent Imatinib from properly binding, explained Dr. Monczak. Consequently, novel second- and third-generation “designer drugs” were developed (Nilotinib, Dasatinib) which were able to recognize the mutated BCR/ABL proteins, bind to them and neutralize their activities.

Presently “designer drugs” are finding their way into mainstream medicine, and targeted therapy has become the new focus in pharmaceutical development. New “designer drugs” are being developed against an ever-increasing number of cancers.

Dr. Monczak said he believes that the future of medical therapy holds many more solutions. Scientific advances can be translated into disease prevention and timely detection of physiological imbalances that, when treated in time, could provide a much improved quality of life.

These novel technologies give scientists unprecedented powers to manipulate human genetics. This, in turn, raises numerous ethical concerns for which obvious solutions remain yet to be determined – noted Dr. Monczak at the end of his presentation.

One of Michigan's "Super Lawyers"

ROYAL OAK, Mich. – Andrey T. Tomkiw of the Tomkiw Law Group has been named by Michigan Super Lawyers magazine as one of the top attorneys in Michigan for 2010. Only five percent of the lawyers in the state are named by Super Lawyers. Mr. Tomkiw has made the list twice – for 2009 and 2010. He was also named by Super Lawyers, Corporation Counsel as a top lawyer for both years as well.

Mr. Tomkiw was selected for his work in representing management in employment and labor law issues. He has dedicated his legal career to representing employers in labor and employment law cases, and in related business matters, with focus on litigation avoidance counseling. His experience also includes successfully defending numerous discrimination and sexual harassment litigation matters, as well as complex commercial disputes.

Mr. Tomkiw is a principal with the



Andrey T. Tomkiw

Tomkiw Law Group, plc, based in Royal Oak, Mich. He lives in Pleasant Ridge, Mich., with his wife, Marta, who is the chief of staff for the U.S. Army Tank

(Continued on page 20)

“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.

Book launch of "Ukrainian Artists in Paris, 1900-1939" held in D.C.

U.S.-Ukraine Business Council

WASHINGTON – The new book "Ukrainian Artists in Paris, 1900-1939," by Vita Susak of the Lviv Art Gallery, was launched at a reception sponsored by The Washington Group (TWG), and the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC), and held at the Embassy of Ukraine on December 10, 2010.

"Ukrainian Artists in Paris, 1900-1939," is the first systematic and comprehensive examination of the role played by Ukrainian-born émigrés to France in this time period. A great deal has been written about this time and place, and the events that changed so much in the world of art, but the Ukrainian contribution to that time and place has rarely been highlighted, until now.

Vladyslava Bondarenko, counselor of the Cultural Section at the Embassy of Ukraine, welcomed over 50 guests to the Embassy. Andriy Bihun, president of TWG, and Morgan Williams, director of government affairs at the Washington Office of the SigmaBleyzer Private Equity Investment Group, who serves as president of the USUBC, gave opening remarks about the



Vita Susak speaks about her new book, "Ukrainian Artists in Paris, 1900-1939."

ongoing work in the United States to promote Ukrainian art and culture.

Lidia Lykhach, director of Rodovid Press of Kyiv, Ukraine, which published the book, made a presentation about her long-

time work to publish individual monographs about the history of Ukrainian art. Rodovid has published 12 books already on this subject and more are planned.

Ms. Lykhach then introduced the author

of the book, Ms. Susak of Lviv, and noted that her book has been published in Ukrainian and English. A French-language version is being prepared in collaboration with the Institute Francais d'Ukraine in Kyiv and will be published soon.

Ms. Susak said she started doing research for the book in 1998 with a trip to Paris, adding that research was conducted over the past 11 years. She spoke about the importance of the Ukrainian artists who worked in Paris and of her own work in libraries, galleries and museums, with some of the artists, with the families of those who had died and with private collectors.

Ms. Susak said this is the first detailed look at the contributions of artists from Ukraine to the phenomenon known as the "School of Paris." At the same time that Picasso, Modigliani and Chagall were working in Paris, many artists from Ukraine were also living and creating art there, among them Alexander Archipenko, Mykhailo Boichuk, Sonia Delaunay, Sophia Lewitska, Vladimir Baranoff-Rossiné and Hannah Orloff.

In the early 1920s they were joined by Oleksa Hryshchenko (Alexis Gritchenko), Mykhailo Andriienko, Vasyl Khmeliuk, and many others. Some achieved fame, others are long since forgotten. Separate chapters are devoted to several of these artists.

Ukrainian events that took place in the French capital are discussed against the general backdrop of the School of Paris. The book's Appendix includes a listing of more than 250 Ukrainian artists in Paris, as well as a chronology of Ukrainian events in Paris, both covering the years 1900-1939.

"Vita Susak's book is groundbreaking because it shows art of Ukrainian origin in its various aspects within the framework of what is always called the School of Paris. She recreates the cultural context in which artists of Ukrainian background worked and outlines the more important biographies. Her book should serve as a reference work," wrote Jean-Claude Marcade of Le Pam, France, in the foreword to the book.

Rodovid Press specializes in publications on the cultural history and heritage of Ukraine. Included are albums, monographs and calendars, as well as a special art series. Most future publications will be in at least two languages, with separate editions to appear in Ukrainian and English, or French, or German.

Among Rodovid's most recent publications are such important works as "Transformation in Civil Society: An Oral History of Ukrainian Peasant Culture in the 1920-30s," "Embroidery of the Cossack Elite," the album "Ukrainian Folk Icons" and others.

Books published by Rodovid Press may be purchased via the Rodovid Press website, <http://www.rodovid.net/>, by phoning the Rodovid Press office in Kyiv at 067-404-402; or by e-mailing rodovid.box@gmail.com.



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One of Michigan's...

(Continued from page 19)

Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) and their three children, Halyna, Yuri and Maria. He is also a lifelong member of the Ukrainian National Association.

The selections for Super Lawyers are made by Law & Politics. Each year, Law & Politics undertakes a rigorous multi-phase selection process that includes a statewide survey of lawyers, independent evaluation of candidates by Law & Politics' attorney-led research staff, a peer review of candidates by practice area and a good-standing disciplinary check.

UECC launches book marking 30 years of service to Ukrainian community

by Petrusia Sawchak

JENKINTOWN, Pa. – The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC) launched its history of the center, celebrating 30 years of community service in the Philadelphia area.

Members and friends of the UECC gathered in the Alexander B. Chernyk Gallery for the commemorative book signing – the first of this kind for this institution – and wine and hors d'oeuvres reception that followed.

Opening the program, Borys Pawluk, president of the UECC, introduced Lubomyr Pyrih, UECC board member and chair of the editorial staff of the 30th Year Anniversary Book Committee, who greeted the guests and presented an exciting and informative prelude of the book, its contents and contributors.

The book contains greetings from church and political dignitaries, biographies of the past presidents, listings of all the board of directors, notable benefactors-supporters, and information about UECC's programs and organizations.

It also includes a detailed chronological history of the center for each of the three decades, as well as highlights of its activities for 30 years in both the Ukrainian and

English languages, and personal and business greetings.

Also congratulating the center for its book was Vasyl Zivarych, first secretary from the Embassy of Ukraine.

The navy-blue-and-gold hardbound book, 8.5 by 12 inches with 441 pages, also has many priceless photographs illustrating the center's memorable occasions. The book is truly a trip down memory lane and a must for all who want to remember the UECC.

Mr. Pyrih, book chairman, also congratulated the members of the book committee: George Danyliw, Natalia Griga, Orysia Hewka, Borys Pawluk, Osyp Roshka (editor), Petrusia Sawchak, Borys Zacharczuk and Andrea Zharovsky (graphic design) for their outstanding dedication to the project.

Information for the book was compiled from the archives of the UECC, UECC's Newsletter, America, The Ukrainian Weekly, Svoboda, and personal interviews with many individuals who were involved with the center over the years. The book was printed by Computoprint Corp. of Clifton, NJ.

Guests were able to purchase the book during the reception. Readers may order a copy of the book by calling the UECC at 215-663-1166. Cost per copy is \$30.



Yurko Sawchak

At the Ukrainian Education and Cultural Center's launch of its 30th jubilee commemorative book (from left) are: Borys Pawluk, Natalia Griga, Orysia Hewka, Lubomyr Pyrih, Petrusia Sawchak, George Danyliw, Andrea Zharovsky, Osyp Roshka (holding the book) and Borys Zacharczuk.

UCC calls for...

(Continued from page 6)

objectivity of the Content Advisory report, the museum layout and content, and the selection process for staff and consultants to the CMHR.

The Content Advisory Committee of the CMHR released its final report on September 22, 2010. In the report, there is no real mention of the experience of Ukrainians in Canada or in Ukraine. The current vision of the CMHR, as expressed by the Content Advisory Committee, is to include only two permanent galleries in the museum: one devoted to aboriginal issues and another to the Holocaust. Any other experiences and issues will be addressed thematically in the remaining galleries. This is unacceptable because this vision of the CMHR is neither consistent with the undertaking given to the UCC National by the Asper Foundation, nor is it reflective of the experience of all Canadians and certainly not of those of one of Canada's founding peoples and largest ethnic constituencies, the Ukrainian Canadian community.

The CMHR represents a unique opportunity for Canada to be recognized as a leader in reflecting and further advancing contemporary research on genocide and human rights and in telling the story of all genocides without any attempt to represent the suffering of one nation, tribe or community as having been of more relevance or importance than any other's. All attempts to so argue fundamentally do an injustice to the memory of the many millions of victims of genocide throughout the ages, whether they suffered in Europe, or somewhere else.

Furthermore, the government of Canada needs to ensure that the actions which it has recognized as genocide or as contraventions of human rights be appropriately addressed in the CMHR.

This includes the experience of Ukrainians and others during Canada's first national internment operations as recognized in MP Inky Mark's Private Member's Bill C-331, Internment of Persons of Ukrainian Origin Recognition Act, which received Royal Assent on November 25, 2005, and Canada's recognition of the Holodomor as genocide by the Parliament and Government of Canada through the adoption and Royal Assent given to MP James Bezan's Bill C-459, An Act to Establish a Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day.

With this new museum Canada has an opportunity, a rare and singular one, to tell these stories that have not often been told, or fully understood by others, and that surely is the role of a truly national museum, if that is what this one is to become.

About the Ukrainian Canadian Congress

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress is the voice of Canada's Ukrainian community. The Congress brings together under one umbrella all the national, provincial and local Ukrainian Canadian organizations. Together with its member-organizations, the UCC has been leading, coordinating and representing the interests of one of Canada's largest ethnic communities (1.2 million) for 70 years and instrumental in shaping Canada's social, economic and political landscape.

1985 showed that people are not afraid to reveal their disapproval of the war.

"The Soviet occupation of Afghanistan has made the Soviet public more acutely aware of the human cost of the war," Mr. Kuzio concluded, "and it is no wonder that large numbers of them transform their discontent over this human cost into opposition to the overall policies of the Soviet regime."

Source: "Soviet-Afghan relationship analyzed," by Thaya Salmacha, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 29, 1985.

Turning the pages...

(Continued from page 6)

showed a 25 percent approval of the war, another 25 percent disapproval, and 50 percent of respondents being ambivalent or having no opinion on the war.

A report by the Ukrainian Catholic Chronicle expressed the view that the war in Afghanistan is a result of "Russian chauvinism," and one that Ukrainians don't want to fight.

Demonstrations in Yerevan, Armenia, and Tbilisi, Georgia, in the summer of

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First and foremost we thank you for many years of support which enables the UNA to continuously work for the benefit of Ukrainian communities in the US, Canada and in Ukraine. The UNA would like to wish you, your family and friends a very merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year. This year again we are sending you a series of Christmas cards based on Ukrainian traditional themes by Ukrainian artists. The proceeds from the sale of the cards are assigned to the SOYUZIVKA HERITAGE FOUNDATION, Inc. We encourage everyone to be proactive and support all projects that will benefit the foundation. Please complete the attached coupon and return with your donation in the self-addressed envelope. Please make check payable to: UKRAINIAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION, Inc., (UNF) all contributions are tax deductible with UNF's 501(c)(3) tax status.

We thank you for your generosity and wish you a merry Christmas and peace throughout the new year!



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Won't get fooled...

(Continued from page 7)

of the 20th century would alert us all to the need for vigilance in defense of civil liberties in periods of domestic and international crisis. As matters stand, Canada's first national internment operations get just one minor reference, placing the state-sanctioned indignities suffered by thousands of men, women and children on par with "the alleged slaughter of Inuit sled dogs in the High Arctic" even while hoaxes like accounts of "thousands of Nazi war criminals hiding in Canada" will be regurgitated as part of this museum's staple fare.

A major gallery comparing the many genocides that befouled human history, not just in Europe but in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and not only in the 20th century but before and since, would have genuine pedagogical value. Placing the Shoah in the context of other crimes against humanity would remind us that while the word "genocide" may have been crafted just after World War II, the act itself is neither modern nor, sadly, unlikely to reoccur.

And how to explain that victims of Communist states are not mentioned? Joseph Stalin's name never appears even though he and his satraps murdered millions more than Hitler managed. Nor are Mao Tse Tung's atrocities included – peculiar given that his regime slaughtered about the same number as Hitler and Stalin did, combined. And what about Imperial Japanese barbarities, like the infamous "Rape of Nanjing?" It's left out,

as it is in most Japanese textbooks, even as the Holodomor is now being edited out of Ukrainian ones. Should a Canadian museum, even indirectly, succour deniers?

Being inclusive and equitable takes nothing away from hallowing the Shoah. As over two dozen well-supported museums and educational programs dedicated exclusively to Jewish losses in the second world war already exist in Canada, it is obvious that what happened to those innocents is a tale already told, often and well, in no danger of being forgotten. But the catastrophe that befell many millions of non-Jews enslaved or murdered by the Nazis – including the Roma, Catholics, the disabled, Poles, Ukrainians, Soviet POWs, homosexuals and others – will be obfuscated in the proposed museum. That's ahistorical, actually quite unCanadian.

Remedying this boondoggle is easy. First the content advisory report should be blue-boxed. Then truly inclusive and fair-minded consultations should be held. Those who say this can't be done, who insist current management should be allowed to develop whatever exhibits it wants, need to be reminded that this is a publicly supported institution, just like the Canadian War Museum. An egregious exhibit there about Bomber Command so infuriated veterans that it was undone. Unless this government wants more of the same it has to intervene.

As for that second song I keep humming it's by The Who. What is clear and is happening here is that we "Won't Get Fooled Again."

Lukashenka...

(Continued from page 2)

Independent polls indicate President Lukashenka, while still a powerful and charismatic leader, does not enjoy the groundswell of support that his official 80 percent returns suggest.

A poll conducted by Polish-supported Belsat Television just ahead of the vote suggested that Mr. Lukashenka's support was as low as 30 percent, a number that would have fallen far short of the 50 percent needed to clear a first-round win.

The Belsat poll suggests that, if forced into a second round, Mr. Lukashenka might have faced possible defeat at the hands of one of the opposition candidates, who would have the collective backing of more than 40 percent of the voters.

The Belarusian government has been quick to respond to the violence as a case of unprovoked aggression on the part of the opposition. In a televised address, President Lukashenka said his country had carried out a "dignified" election and defended the police as standing firm against "barbarism and destruction" in the post-election unrest.

Election Commission Chairwoman Yermoshina said the protesters had "crossed a line" and showed "that standards of behavior have gone down considerably."

Yaraslaw Ramanchuk, one of the few presidential hopefuls who was not arrested, criticized other candidates for leading demonstrators to Minsk's Independence Square and attempting to storm the House of

Government, the building housing the Parliament, government and Election Commission.

Mr. Ramanchuk said he had repeatedly tried to persuade Andrey Sannikau and Mikalay Statkevich, in particular, to give up "plans of radical actions."

But the source of the violence remains unclear. Video footage from the protests – which briefly swelled to some 20,000 people – shows a large but peaceful crowd that dissolved into violence only after some people in the crowd tried to storm the government building, breaking windows and glass doors. Only then did riot police surround the building, beating protesters with truncheons and loading them into police vehicles.

RFE/RL's Belarus Service quoted Vitaly Rymasheuski, one of the presidential candidates arrested during the violence, as blaming "drunk provocateurs" for the violence.

An unnamed protester, speaking to RFE/RL, said the demonstrators were largely peaceful and that it was a separate "group of people" who attacked the government building as plainclothes security forces looked on.

"Who's behind this provocation? Was it the special services? Was it a fraction of the demonstrators? Was it an instruction from the candidates to break the glass? That I never heard," the protester said. "There was no such instruction. What there was was a call to start negotiations with officials."

Written by Daisy Sindelar, with RFE/RL's Belarus Service and agency reports.

Fund-raiser...

(Continued from page 11)

Theodore McCarrick of Washington, Cardinal Edward Egan of New York and Archbishop Timothy Dolan, also of New York. All of them have visited the Lviv campus of the Ukrainian Catholic University in the past and continue to support it today.

Greetings were also offered by the Ukrainian Catholic hierarchy, including Metropolitan-Archbishop Stefan Soroka, Bishop Emeritus Innocent Lotocky of Chicago, Bishop Richard Seminack of Chicago, Bishop Hlib Lonchyna of Great Britain and Bishop Emeritus Robert Moskal of Parma, Ohio.

Chicago's consul general of Ukraine, Kostiantyn Kudryk, also sent a letter of greetings and attended the event in support of the UCU.

Throughout the afternoon various foundations and individual donors announced donations to the university. The largest included a \$40,000 gift from the Omelan and Tatiana Antonovych Foundation, a \$35,000 gift from the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union in Chicago and a \$25,000 gift from the Heritage Foundation/1st Security Savings Bank.

Both Father Gudziak's mother, Jaroslawa Gudziak, and his brother, Dr. Marko Gudziak, with his wife, Roma, donated \$50,000 each, noting that \$1,000 was given for each year of Father Borys' life. Dr. Bohdan and Joanne Celewycz also announced a gift of \$10,000.

The atmosphere was warm and light; numerous renditions of "Mnohaya Lita" resounded in the banquet hall and Father Galadza added much humor to the event, pointing out that Father Gudziak should be grateful for the fact that he is celebrating his 50th in the United States; his predecessors Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, the founder of the university, spent his 50th birthday in a prison in Suzdal and Patriarch Josyf Slipyj spent his 50th in exile in Siberia.

Sophia Opatska, the CEO of the Lviv Business School at the Ukrainian Catholic University, engaged the audience with a talk about "Five Reasons Why I Am Happy to Work at UCU." Among them was the fact that UCU is an environment free of corruption, and it is only one of two universities that can claim this distinction.

She pointed out that it is the only Ukrainian institution of higher learning that has a mission and a vision for the next 25 years; on a regular basis it tries to blend ethics with expertise, it has a sense of community and the only place in Ukraine where you can see businesspeople interacting with seminarians and nuns – and this is normal. Her fifth reason was the leadership of the university is the kind that anyone would be thrilled to work alongside.

The Sunday afternoon banquet was not the only opportunity Dr. Opatska had to talk about the Lviv Business School. On Friday evening, November 12, an evening hosted by the Chicago Business and Professionals Group and the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation gave Ms. Opatska the opportunity to talk about the business school, which opened in 2008 and recently graduated its first class of six. She described the challenges of doing business in Ukraine today and of the positive experience of working on business ethics in an environment that is open, free and democratic.

The school, which specializes in executive development programs offers courses specifically designed for the needs of the students, most of whom are mid-career professionals interested in developing socially responsible businesses and effective and advanced management sys-



The Rev. Dr. Peter Galadza, a long-time friend of Rev. Gudziak, was the merry master of ceremonies for the festivities.

tems.

Later on Sunday evening, after the successful banquet, Ms. Opatska and the Rev. Gudziak Borys were guests of honor at a cocktail party hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Celewycz, which gave them an opportunity to network with presidents, provosts and deans from such universities as Notre Dame, Northwestern, Loyola, DePaul, Dominican, Benedictine, Quincy and Lewis.

Many of the contacts were made through Father Thomas Baima, PhD, the provost at St. Mary of the Lakes/Mundelein College, who is a good friend of the Ukrainian Catholic University, and who concelebrated liturgy with Father Gudziak at Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Church earlier that day.

Both Father Gudziak and Ms. Opatska are interested in exploring partnership opportunities and establishing exchange programs with these prestigious Midwestern schools of higher learning. Talks with many of the universities will continue in the future.

His weeklong visit to Chicago was particularly busy for the UCU rector, as his stay coincided with the visit of Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate. Father Gudziak attended Patriarch Filaret's evening lecture at the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago on Friday, November 12 and on Saturday, November 13, he participated in an ecumenical Holodomor prayer service at St. Andrew Orthodox Church in Bloomingdale, Ill.

He did have the opportunity for a brief meeting with the patriarch to discuss the challenges facing Ukraine today and the importance of working together for the good of its people.

During his stay in Chicago, Father Gudziak also met with students and parishioners of Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church in Palatine, Ill. on Saturday morning, November 13, followed by an afternoon discussion with upper-grade students from St. Nicholas School of Ukrainian Studies. Later in the week, he had a meeting with students from St. Nicholas Cathedral School.

With all of the students he talked about his discovery of such new technologies as Facebook and encouraged all of them to friend him. And, this may be one of the reasons that he currently has over 1,600 friends.

He had the opportunity to meet with old friends at an intimate cocktail party at the home of Dr. Bohdan and Roxana Charkevycz and relive memories of tennis camp at Soyuzivka, as well as Plast camps, including "Lisova Shkola." During the relaxing evening of laughter and storytelling, these Plast friends raised \$5,000 for the needs of the university, in honor of Father Gudziak's 50th birthday.



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OUT AND ABOUT

- December 31 Chicago New Year's Eve party, featuring music by Rendezvous, St. Joseph the Betrothed Ukrainian Catholic Church, 773-625-4805
- December 31 Carnegie, PA New Year's Eve party, featuring music by Obrij, New Ukrainian Wave - Pittsburgh Branch, Ukrainian Hall, 412-481-1865 or 412-969-4149
- January 6 Hartford, CT Traditional Christmas Eve dinner and concert, featuring the Yevshan Vocal Ensemble, Ukrainian National Home of Hartford, 860-296-5702
- January 9 Virginia Beach, VA Christmas party, Tidewater Ukrainian Cultural Association, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church hall, 757-850-1873 or crusier27@cox.net
- January 13 Stanford, CA Lecture by Olenka Pevny, "Dethroning the Prince: Princely Benefaction and Female Patronage in Medieval Kyiv," Stanford University, 650-723-1602 or <http://crees.stanford.edu/events/pevny.html>
- January 14 Scranton, PA Malanka, featuring music by Fata Morgana, St. Vladimir Parish Center, 570-383-9487
- January 15 Hartford, CT Malanka, featuring music by Na Zdorovya, Hartford Ukrainian National Home, 860-296-6955
- January 15 Mississauga, ON Malanka, Mississauga Branch of the Ukrainian Youth Association, Mississauga Convention Center, www.cymmismalanka.com
- January 15 Pearl River, NY Chervona Kalyna debutante ball and Malanka, featuring music by Dunai, Hilton Hotel, 845-735-9000 (hotel) or 914-271-2805 or 201-391-2581

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Friday, January 7, 2011

PARMA, Ohio: St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral will sponsor its 23rd annual Christmas radio program for its sick and elderly shut-in parishioners. The entire Christmas divine liturgy will be broadcast live at 9-11 a.m. over radio station WJMO, 1300 AM. The liturgy will be celebrated by the cathedral clergy, with responses sung by the Ukrainian and English choirs of the cathedral. (Also at St. Vladimir's Great Complines and Matins will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Thursday, January 6). For information call the parish office, 440-886-3223.

Saturday, January 22, 2011

CARTERET, N.J.: St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and St.

Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church are co-sponsoring a Malanka, which will be held at the St. Demetrius Community Center, 681 Roosevelt Ave. Entertainment will be provided by Fata Morgana. Tickets are \$60, which includes admission, choice of sirloin beef or chicken capon dinner, open bar and a midnight champagne toast. The St. Demetrius Center is located just blocks from Exit 12 of the New Jersey Turnpike. There is a Holiday Inn right off the exit. Cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres begins at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and the music starts at 8 p.m. For table and ticket reservations contact Peter Prociuk, 609-655-4468 or pprociuk@aol.com. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Outside liquor is prohibited. Deadline for tickets is January 16. For more information visit www.stdemetriusuoc.org.

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.

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

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