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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Canadian PM establishes Office of Religious Freedom

New ambassador has ties to Ukrainian Catholic Church



Frank Gunn/Canadian Press

Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada with Ambassador Dr. Andrew Bennett of the Office of Religious Freedom.

OTTAWA – Prime Minister Stephen Harper on February 19 announced the establishment of the Office of Religious Freedom within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The office will be dedicated to promoting freedom of religion or belief around the world.

He also announced the appointment of Dr. Andrew Bennett, who has ties to the Ukrainian Catholic Church, as ambassador to the office.

“Around the world, violations of religious freedom are widespread and they are increasing,” said the prime minister. “Dr Bennett is a man of principle and deep convictions and he will encourage the protection of religious minorities around the world so all can practice their faith without fear of violence and repression.”

The new ambassador is also a religious leader in his capacity as subdeacon and cantor with both the Holy Cross Eastern Catholic Chaplaincy and St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, both in Ottawa, and as vice-president and chairman of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute Foundation.

According to the biography released by the Canadian government, Dr. Bennett is a public servant and academic with an extensive educational background in history, political science and religious studies. He holds a B.A. in history from Dalhousie University, an M.A. in history from McGill University, and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Edinburgh. He is in the process of completing a part-time degree in theology in Eastern Christian Studies at the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at St. Paul University in Ottawa.

He has worked for the Privy Council Office, Export Development Canada and Natural Resources Canada in a wide variety of analytical, research and corporate roles. He has also held roles as professor and dean at Augustine College in Ottawa, as a scholar expert on

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Tymoshenko’s lawyer stripped of his national deputy’s mandate

by Zenon Zawada

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

KYIV – With one hand, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanykovich was shaking hands with European Union (EU) leaders in Brussels two weeks ago, pledging to commit to rule of law and equality before the law.

With the other hand, he was directing his administration, which has allegedly manipulated the mass media and arranged for national deputies to be kicked out of Parliament in recent weeks. These campaigns have upset European Union leaders, who have intensified their warnings that Ukraine’s Euro-integration efforts could be undermined.

The incident drawing the most attention is the March 6 court ruling that stripped the parliamentary mandate of National Deputy Serhiy Vlasenko, 46, the defense attorney for imprisoned opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko. With his legal immunity gone, he predicted he could be prosecuted and imprisoned.

“Most likely, I’ll be arrested in three weeks,” he told reporters in late January, stating that the potential criminal charges carry three- to seven-year prison terms. “These are realistic things that will occur in the nearest future.”

The Kyiv Higher Administrative Court ruled that Mr. Vlasenko violated the law in moonlighting as Ms. Tymoshenko’s defense attorney while at the same time serving as a national deputy in Parliament.

As his defense, Mr. Vlasenko cited a legal technicality, stating that he’s been defending Ms. Tymoshenko as a civic defender, not as an attorney, which anyone can do. Western governments indicated that they’re more concerned about the bigger picture of political persecution in Ukraine rather than legal nuances.

“Vlasenko’s mandate was removed disregarding the calls of the international community,” tweeted Jacek Protasiewicz, vice-president of the European Parliament. “I’m afraid that this is one more step backwards from signing the [Ukraine-EU] Association Agreement.”

The court rulings “appear to be politically motivated” owing to Mr. Vlasenko’s connection with Ms. Tymoshenko, said the U.S. State Department in a March 5 statement. “We call on the Ukrainian authorities



www.tymoshenko.ua

Serhiy Vlasenko, the lead defense attorney for imprisoned opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko, had his national deputy’s mandate removed by a Kyiv court on March 6. Mr. Vlasenko is seen above at the European Court of Human Rights with the opposition leader’s daughter, Eugenia Tymoshenko, on August 28, 2012.

to end politically motivated persecutions of opposition leaders and to abide by their international commitments to the rule of law and democracy.”

On March 4, the German Foreign Affairs Ministry invited Ukraine’s Ambassador to Germany Pavlo Klimkin for talks, during which its diplomats

declared their “unprecedentedly harsh” opposition to Mr. Vlasenko’s persecution, as reported by the newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

Faced with such criticism, President Yanukovich and state officials have repeatedly fallen back on the defense

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. is “deeply concerned” about anti-opposition moves

Below is the text of the statement to the press released on March 5 in Washington by Acting Deputy Spokesperson Patrick Ventrell of the Office of the Spokesperson, U.S. Department of State.

The United States is deeply concerned by recent steps taken in Ukraine to remove members of Parliament from the Rada. We note with particular concern efforts to deprive Serhiy Vlasenko, a member of Parliament and defense counsel for former Prime Minister [Yulia] Tymoshenko, of his seat in Parliament, his corresponding immunity from prosecution and his right to travel outside Ukraine. These actions appear to be politically motivated due to his connection with Mrs. Tymoshenko.

We also note with concern the High Administrative Court’s extra-judicial decision last month to annul the mandates of independent Members of Parliament Pavlo Baloha and Oleksander Dombrovsky. These actions create an atmosphere that inhibits political competition and freedom of expression.

The United States urges Ukrainian authorities to honor the will of Ukrainian voters as expressed in the October 2012 parliamentary elections. We call on the Ukrainian authorities to end politically motivated prosecutions of opposition leaders and to abide by their international commitments to the rule of law and democracy.

Radio Liberty celebrates 60 years of promoting principles of democracy

WASHINGTON – “Listen! Listen! Today, a new radio station, Liberation, begins its broadcasts.”

Those words, spoken by broadcaster Sergei Dubrovsky on March 1, 1953, were the first to be transmitted by Radio Liberty, a new voice with a mission to promote “the principles of democracy” to Russian listeners behind the Iron Curtain.

Sixty years later, friends of Radio Liberty (Radio Svoboda, as it is known in Russia) gathered in Washington, Prague and Moscow to celebrate its legacy and future as one of the most respected sources of independent journalism throughout the Russian Federation and beyond.

“[Radio Liberty is] journalism which is guided by an independent, skeptical, constant iterative search for factual reality, verifiable facts, context and consideration of many points of view,” said Kevin Klose, Acting President and CEO of RFE/RL, at an event commemorating the anniversary today at the company’s Washington bureau. “That kind of journalism is a first, powerful step to allowing communities of people to share uncensored information... so they can get a very clear picture of the issues in front of them.”

The modern Radio Liberty is a multimedia, 24-hour news operation across nine time zones, broadcasting on radio, video, satellite, mobile and Internet platforms. Its extensive network of journalists can be found in Moscow, Prague and New York City, and includes freelancers throughout the Russian Federation, Europe and Israel. The service has completed its move to a new bureau in Moscow, an open and flexible workspace complete with a state-of-the-art television studio.

Recently, the Russian service enhanced its live video streams and provided unique reporting from major events, including Moscow’s “March of Millions” protest, the trial of members of the punk-collective Pussy Riot, the struggle of rights activists and the ongoing controversy surrounding U.S.-Russian adoptions.

Lyudmila Alekseyeva, Russian human rights leader, Nobel Peace Prize nominee and stalwart Radio Liberty supporter, joined author and journalist David Satter in a “Dialogue on Liberty” discussion at the RFE/RL Washington event on March 1.

“Radio Liberty was not a station broad-

casting from overseas, it was our station. And as a result of Radio Liberty, we were able to speak to our fellow citizens,” Ms. Alekseyeva said. “I’m convinced that the rapid informing of an entire huge country that there existed a human rights movement was possible because of the existence of Radio Liberty.”

Dignitaries including Karel Schwarzenberg, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Czech Republic, home to RFE/RL’s headquarters, praised the work of Radio Liberty. In a letter celebrating its anniversary, Mr. Schwarzenberg wrote, “Always a reliable provider of unbiased, uncensored and balanced news... Radio Liberty has been everything that totalitarian media are not.”

In Moscow, Russian Service Director Masha Gessen met with U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul, who congratulated Radio Liberty on its anniversary. Additionally, the Moscow bureau was connected via video link with colleagues throughout RFE/RL to toast Radio Svoboda, and included a poignant recollection by Ruslan Gelischanov, deputy director of the Russian Service, of learning about Radio Liberty as a 5-year-old in a displaced persons camp in Germany.

In the days and weeks following the launch of the 1953 Russian broadcast, Radio Liberty added programming in other languages of the Soviet Union, including Ukrainian (beginning in 1954), Georgian, Armenian, Azeri, and the languages of Central Asia. In 1955 the radio set up transmitters in Taiwan to make its Russian-language programs available to residents in eastern parts of Siberia and along the Soviet Union’s Pacific coast.

Radio Liberty and its sister station, Radio Free Europe, which broadcast to Eastern Europe, merged in 1976 under the name RFE/RL. Broadcasting to 21 countries in 28 languages, and with over 400 full-time journalists, 750 freelancers, and 19 local bureaus, RFE/RL is one of the most comprehensive multimedia news operations in the world.

RFE/RL is a private, independent international news organization whose programs – radio, Internet and television – reach influential audiences in 21 countries. It is funded by the U.S. Congress through the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG).

Our Ukraine party disbands itself

KYIV – The Our Ukraine party on March 2 dissolved itself at a party congress in Kyiv.

Its founding documents, seals and flags will be handed over to the Orange Revolution Museum at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

Former Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko was invited to the congress but did not attend it.

The party’s 12th congress was attended by 289 delegates. According to Interfax-Ukraine, 267 delegates voted to disband Our Ukraine, two voted against and six abstained.

Interfax-Ukraine also reported that a liquidation committee, including Petro Yushchenko (chairman), Vira Ulianchenko, Iryna Vannikova, Mykola Onyschuk, Valentyna Rudenko and Zynoviy Shkutiak, was created. The commission is authorized to solve the issues of repaying debts to the party organizations, as well as transferring

and using the party’s property and assets, which cannot be distributed among the members of the party.

The Our Ukraine party has been experiencing internal turmoil. Back on February 9, the Our Ukraine political council had dismissed Serhiy Bondarchuk as its head and elected Mr. Shkutiak in his place. Meanwhile, the organizing committee for Our Ukraine’s 12th congress chaired by Mr. Bondarchuk on February 10 decided to hold a congress in Kyiv on March 2. Mr. Shkutiak said a congress of Our Ukraine led by Viktor Yushchenko would be held on May 18.

Our Ukraine won just over 1 percent of the vote in the parliamentary elections in October 2012, falling far short of the 5 percent threshold needed to enter Parliament.

Sources: RFE/RL, based on reporting by ITAR-TASS and Interfax; Interfax-Ukraine.

NEWSBRIEFS

Patriarch honors Cardinal Husar

LVIV – The head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC), Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk, expressed his high appreciation for the role of Cardinal Lubomyr Husar in the spiritual life of Ukrainian Christianity in a commentary to ICTV on the cardinal’s 80th birthday. “His Beatitude Lubomyr is a phenomenon in the spiritual life of the Ukrainian Christianity. We will be able to understand that phenomenon only with time. Obviously, a spiritual phenomenon has more invisible aspects than visible ones. The return of the head of UGCC to Kyiv is perhaps one of the most impressive events of this time. His Beatitude Lubomyr really prayed hard for it and suffered for it, and the Lord helped him to realize that. And we actually returned to our capital from where we were driven away many centuries ago,” Patriarch Sviatoslav said according to February 27 news reports. In addition, he noted that Cardinal Husar showed the world that the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church is “a Church of global dimension.” Patriarch Sviatoslav underscored that Cardinal Husar is “the spiritual father of our nation. People who do not identify themselves with our Church and even those, who do not identify themselves with Ukraine or Ukrainian people, respect and listen to him. His profound voice and Godly opinion really move many people.” (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Husar celebrates 80th birthday

LVIV – On February 26, the major archbishop emeritus of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Cardinal Lubomyr Husar celebrated his 80th birthday. That day, in St. George Cathedral in Lviv, a hierarchical liturgy on the occasion was celebrated by Patriarch Sviatoslav in concelebration with the bishops of UGCC. Two days later, on February 28 in the Patriarchal Cathedral of UGCC in Kyiv, a thanksgiving prayer service and a meeting of Cardinal Husar with the representatives of UGCC youth communities were held. Bishop Borys Gudziak said that he met with Father Husar 45 years ago and that the priest, then serving in the United

States, enjoyed special popularity and the respect of young people, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization members and intellectuals. “He is an embodiment of the faith which he preaches. He loves people and his word is very just and wise. People feel that,” said writer Yevhen Sverstiuk in his comment about the major archbishop emeritus. (Religious Information Service of Ukraine)

Yanukovych wants EU agreements fulfilled

KYIV – Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych has demanded that the government fulfill all of the agreements needed for the signing of the Association Agreement with the EU, which were achieved with EU representatives. Speaking at an enlarged Cabinet of Ministers meeting on February 27, he said: “I’m demanding that the government unconditionally fulfill the agreements that were reached with the leadership of the European Council and the European Commission. We should take the necessary efforts to sign the Association Agreement during the Eastern Partnership summit.” At the same time, the president expressed confidence that Ukraine should continue to actively seek a mutually acceptable model of cooperation with the Customs Union. “Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan are not only trading partners and neighbors for us, but also brotherly countries with which we are united by many centuries of common history,” Mr. Yanukovych said. (Ukrinform)

Yanukovych considers pardoning Lutsenko

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovych said at a press conference on March 1 that he is going to consider the issue of pardoning former Internal Affairs minister Yuriy Lutsenko if the court of appeals leaves his sentence unchanged. “There will be a cassation trial, and if it does not release him, I will consider the question of pardon. Then it will be my turn,” he said. At the same time, Mr. Yanukovych said he did not want to influence the court’s ruling. “There should be no pressure on the court from the president. So we have to wait for some

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Editor: Matthew Dubas

e-mail: staff@ukrweekly.com

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ADMINISTRATION OF THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY AND SVOBODA

Walter Honcharyk, administrator

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040
e-mail: admin@ukrweekly.com

Walter Honcharyk, advertising manager

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3040
fax: (973) 644-9510
e-mail: adukr@optonline.net

Mariyka Pendzola, subscriptions

(973) 292-9800, ext. 3042
e-mail: subscription@ukrweekly.com

INTERVIEW: 'Gulag' author Applebaum on enduring 'distortions' of Stalinism

RFE/RL

Anne Applebaum is a columnist with *The Washington Post* and director of *Global Transitions* at the Legatum Institute. She is also author of the 2004 book *"Gulag: A History"* and last year's *"Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe, 1944-1956."* RFE/RL's Robert Coalson spoke with Ms. Applebaum about the enduring legacy of the Gulag in Russia.

I'd like to begin by asking you to read a passage from your book "Gulag," to give people a sense of how powerfully written it is. This passage is from your appendix, in which you discuss the difficulties involved in answering the seemingly simple question of how many people did Stalin kill. Maybe you could say a few words before you read it.

I needed a whole chapter, really, to explain the numbers, because the numbers vary depending on how you look at them. You can look at the numbers of dead in the archives. You can look at numbers of dead that we know from other sources. You can add them up in different kinds of ways. But

one of the conclusions I came to was that the numbers were, in the end, inadequate.

And I will read a passage from that part of "Gulag" that I think explains it quite well:

"A single round number of dead victims would be extremely satisfying, particularly since it would allow us to compare Stalin directly with Hitler or with Mao. Yet even if we could find one, I'm not sure it would really tell the whole story of suffering either. No official figures, for example, can possibly reflect the mortality of the wives and children and aging parents left behind, since their deaths were not recorded separately. During the war, old people starved to death without ration cards: had their convict son not been digging coal in Vorkuta, they might have lived. Small children succumbed easily to epidemics of typhus and measles in cold, ill-equipped orphanages: had their mothers not been sewing uniforms in Kengir, they might have lived too.

"Nor can any figures reflect the cumulative impact of Stalin's repressions on the life and health of whole families. A man was tried and shot as an 'enemy of the people'; his children grew up in orphanages and joined criminal gangs; his mother died of stress and grief; his cousins and aunts and

uncles cut off all contact from one another, in order to avoid being tainted as well. Families broke apart, friendships ended, fear weighed heavily on those who remained behind, even when they did not die."

Thank you. Your book makes the argument that the Gulag was not tangential to Stalinism but was an integral part of his economic, social and political system. Could you elaborate on that?

It is very hard to separate the history of the Gulag from the history of the Soviet Union. It was, in some ways, the logical consequence of so many other policies. The Gulag had two functions. No. 1, it had a punitive function. It created fear. It was very spread out, it had branches all over the Soviet Union and everybody knew about it. Everybody was aware that it existed. It wasn't some kind of hidden part of society. It functioned as something that would scare people, but it also had a very important economic function.

The Gulag actually had the task of digging coal mines, of digging uranium mines, gold mines. The Gulag was enormous at its height in the late 1940s, early 1950s, which really was its height. It was an enormous economic empire, controlling factories and whole areas of Russia. Northeast Russia was settled by the Gulag – prisoners and guards. Some of the Far Northern cities were effectively built by the Gulag – Vorkuta, Norilsk, cities like that.

It also distorted in some ways the way the Soviet Union thought about economics. So, when a large deposit of coal was discovered in the Far North, the Russians didn't, as one would have done in Alaska, they didn't send a few teams of workers to work there for a few weeks and then send them back again to recover and then go back up again. Instead, because they had free labor, because they weren't counting costs, they built enormous cities in the Far North, which basically no one else has done anywhere. So, the city of Vorkuta, the city of Norilsk, Magadan. These were large constructions, big cities built because there was free labor, because there was slave labor. So you can see the distortions that the Gulag created for the Soviet economy. You can still see them today.

In your book, you write that Russia has not done a very good job of reckoning with Stalin and Stalinism. What is the state of this process in Russia today?

Now, at this moment, the current Russian government and the current Kremlin doesn't try to repress discussion of Stalin – as, of course, once would have been the case

– but it tries to deal with it selectively. So there is very little discussion of the Gulag; there is very little discussion of industrialization even or collectivization. And there is quite a lot of emphasis placed on Stalin's victory in the second world war and on what the current Russian leadership thinks of as the most glorious moments in Soviet history. This, of course, is extremely distorting because it leaves out the context of that victory and what it really cost Russia and Russians. And it gives modern Russians a very skewed view of their past.

The danger about forgetting Stalin is not so much that it will repeat itself, because history doesn't ever really repeat itself in the exact same way. But it can leave Russians insensitive to some of the flaws that still exist in their society which are left over from that time. In other words, much of what is wrong in Russia now, or what seems unfair in Russia now, these are things that are left over from the past.

There are still institutions that exist from the past. The way the prison system works; the way the judicial system works; the role of the political police, which is in some ways unchanged for the last 30-40 years. Its power goes up and down, but it is always there. And the fact that Russians don't feel more sensitive about these institutions, that they don't feel a deeper desire to reform them and change them, I think, is partly because they haven't dwelled on, thought about, or absorbed the lessons of Soviet history.

And one of the reasons they haven't is that the current Russian leadership doesn't want them to. There is an active attempt to suppress discussion or to keep discussion focused only on positive aspects of the past.

Some argue that Stalin was a good manager, that he won the war, that he left the country stronger than he found it. You don't have a lot of patience for such views, do you?

No, I would really contest that. You need to look at counterfactuals – what might Russia have been if it had been developed in a different way? You wouldn't have had millions of people – lives wasted, talent wasted, education wasted – working in slave-labor camps. All those physicists who were sent to dig coal in Magadan might have invented something faster and better. People might have lived better. You might now have a more developed infrastructure. I think to imagine that what Stalin achieved was some kind of triumph is to ignore how Russia could have developed differently.

(Continued on page 9)

UWC president concludes Brussels visit

UWC

TORONTO – Ukrainian World Congress President Eugene Czolij on March 1 concluded a five-day working visit to Brussels, Belgium, during which he met with high-ranking officials of the European Union (EU) and Belgium to discuss Ukraine's Euro-integration. The beginning of the visit coincided with the 16th EU-Ukraine Summit on February 25.

The UWC president met with members of the European Parliament (EP), including Vice-Presidents of the EP Rainer Wieland and Miguel Angel Martinez, Committee on Foreign Affairs Chairman Elmar Brok and former President of the EP Jerzy Buzek, as well as the president of the Senate of Belgium, Sabine de Bethune, high-ranking Belgian officials, and the head of Ukraine's Mission to the EU, Ambassador Kostiantyn Yeliseyev.

Mr. Czolij focused attention on the

importance of signing the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, which will send a positive signal to the people of Ukraine while providing a strong stimulus to democracy and social progress in the country. He also highlighted concrete actions by the EU that demonstrate its commitment to Ukraine.

The EU officials expressed their support for Ukraine's Euro-integration. They stressed, however, that Ukraine's authorities must now also take concrete steps to similarly demonstrate their commitment to the EU. This includes necessary reforms of the legal and judicial systems, adherence to the principles of democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the elimination of selective justice.

The UWC president's visit to Brussels concluded with a town hall meeting with the local Ukrainian community at the headquarters of the Association of Ukrainians in Belgium.

UCC leader meets with Canadian minister

UCC

OTTAWA – During his February 23 meeting with Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney, Paul Grod, president of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, asked him to address a number of policy issues with senior Ukrainian government officials during his March 2-4 visit to Ukraine.

Among them were:

- Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration – Canada should express strong support for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration and underscore how the Customs Union with Russia would negatively impinge on Ukraine's sovereignty. To this end, the UCC believes, Canada needs to encourage the expeditious signing of the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement.

- Democracy – Ukraine must focus on the development of a true democracy by abiding by the rule of law and ensuring democratic freedoms such as freedom of

the press, assembly and speech. Canada must continue to voice its concerns about the state of Ukraine's judicial system and with the selective prosecution of political opposition figures, such as the dubious cases against Yulia Tymoshenko, Yuri Lutsenko and Bohdan Danylyshyn.

- Canada-Ukraine relations – Bilateral relations between Canada and Ukraine should be strengthened by moving towards a Free Trade Agreement with Ukraine and by demonstrating a willingness to remove or dramatically reduce visa restrictions for Ukrainians (e.g., implement a visa regime similar to that with Poland).

- Ukraine's national unity – Canada should show support for the development of a unifying national identity for Ukraine and ending the use of the Russian language issue as a political wedge.

- Civil society – Canada should explore ways to increase "people to people" interaction by enhancing greater cooperation between NGOs in Ukraine and Canada.

Quotable notes

"...Three years to the day since his inauguration, Mr. [Viktor] Yanukovich is attending an EU-Ukraine summit in Brussels today. The perspective of membership is not on the table, but an Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, is being discussed. ..."

"Opinions vary as to whether or not it will ever be signed. The EU has said it wants to see progress by May on selective justice, democracy, and certain reforms set out in the agreement. That seems highly unrealistic. European officials in Kiev [sic] privately express deep frustration with their Ukrainian interlocutors. The new charges brought against Ms. [Yulia] Tymoshenko just before the Brussels summit look suspiciously like an attempt to subvert progress towards Europe. In this context signing the deal would constitute a major renunciation of the union's principles and the very idea that it can set conditions for cooperation.

"But Mr. Yanukovich appears determined to call Europe's bluff, reckoning that those principles will eventually cede to political and economic realism: no progress in November would be a terrible blow to the EU's Eastern Partnership project. Moreover the economic impact of the deal is by no means all in Ukraine's favor, as the Warsaw-based Center for Eastern Studies points out. ..."

– "Calling Europe's bluff," by G.C., *The Economist*, February 25.

OBITUARY: Chester Myroslav Kuc, dancemaster, folk art specialist, 81

by Natalie Kononenko

EDMONTON, Alberta – Chester Myroslav Kuc was a lover of Ukrainian folk art. He was also a skilled and talented practitioner of many art forms. A dancer, a violin player, a pianist, a pysanka artist, an embroiderer, he was a man of tremendous energy who, in his own words, just could not sit still.

He was also a man determined to share his love of the arts. He taught dance all over Edmonton and started two premier dance companies, first Shumka and later Cheremosh. He volunteered at Ukrainian events such as Heritage Days in Edmonton and the Pysanka Festival in Vegreville, Alberta.

Mr. Kuc also arranged exhibits of folk art, not just in Edmonton, but also in cities such as Vancouver in British Columbia and Saskatoon in Saskatchewan. He collected textiles and costumes and other art objects. The Royal Alberta Museum honoured him in 2006 with a show of the pysanky that he had produced.

Chester Kuc was born in Edmonton on April 15, 1931, to a Ukrainian activist father and a Polish mother who named him Czeslaw – a name that the hospital staff misheard as Chester. Later, his godfather suggested choosing a more Ukrainian name and Chester acquired the name of Myroslav. Both names, as it turns out, proved most appropriate, for Chester was a man of honor, as Czeslaw indicates, and a man of peace, the root of the name Myroslav.

He quite literally grew up at the Ukrainian National Federation (known by its Ukrainian-based acronym as UNO). This was and continues to be an organization that promotes Ukrainian culture both among people of Ukrainian heritage and to non-Ukrainians. While Chester was still a boy, the UNF, which had not had its own space, acquired a building that had apartments upstairs. Chester's father John, a dedicated UNF member, rented one of these apartments for himself and his family. This meant that Chester's exposure to Ukrainian oriented-life was constant and powerful. As a result, Chester acquired an excellent command of the Ukrainian language through the language classes held twice a week.

He was also exposed to Vasile Avramenko every time this dancemaster came to town. Chester learned dance from Avramenko and performed on stage at age 8. In fact, this event left a particular impression on him. The time was 1939 and the event was a Shevchenko concert. Chester's part was to appear in a dance duet and

Luba, whom he knew from childhood and who would later become his wife, recited a Shevchenko poem. Chester participated in dance competitions as a child and remembers his childhood disappointment of placing second in Saskatoon.

As he grew older (he believes that it was right after the second world war) Mr. Kuc had the opportunity to go to a UNF-sponsored program in Winnipeg which attracted hundreds of students from across Canada and the United States. At this summer program, young people participated in singing and dancing. They watched movies of Soviet performing groups. The young participants often came back to their own communities as Ukrainian activists. Mr. Kuc was such a young person.

He attended the Winnipeg program for four years and, having been exposed to different approaches to dance, began to feel that Edmonton needed a change. He took ballet lessons himself and worked with others to bring new life and new choreography to the local dance scene. Working primarily out of UNF, he helped introduce dance styles that were more complex and demanded greater athleticism. They were just what the community needed.

As Mr. Kuc noted, prior to the changes, young people tended to get bored and to drop out of Ukrainian dance in their middle teens, at the age of 16 or 17. With the reforms in which Mr. Kuc participated, attrition of teenagers stopped and being a dancer became a most coveted self-descriptor.

Another thing that was important to Mr. Kuc was a sense of exploration, of growth. He looked into the various regional styles of dance and used these to explore the intricacy of Ukrainian dance and to make the Edmonton dance scene more varied, complicated, nuanced and interesting.

Mr. Kuc shared his enthusiasm and his knowledge not only with the young people at UNF, but across Edmonton. He worked a full-time job as a court clerk, yet he still had the energy to go out almost nightly to teach dance at churches of both Ukrainian denominations and at other community organizations.

A major event in the development of Ukrainian dance in Edmonton came when Shumka broke out of the primarily Ukrainian performance venue and staged a show for the general public at the Jubilee Auditorium in 1959. Prior to this event, the pattern was to have children perform at their various religious establishments or at non-denominational, but still Ukrainian, venues such as UNF. With the help of his father, Mr. Kuc arranged the performance at the Jubilee and helped make Ukrainian



Chester Kuc

dance an entertainment form with mass appeal.

The show at the Jubilee attracted a large audience and Shumka has held a fund-raiser in that auditorium ever since. As of this writing, Shumka is a major company. It is not just a chance for parents and grandparents to see their little ones on stage. Shumka is a company of international stature that performs in Edmonton, across Canada and internationally, with tours to Ukraine and China among its accomplishments.

Ever looking for new challenges and eager to explore dance forms characteristic of the various regions of Ukraine, Mr. Kuc parted company with Shumka. But he did not stay away from dance for long. MUNO, the youth branch of the Ukrainian National Federation, asked him to start another dance company for the many youth who wanted the challenge of serious performance and needed a venue through which they could achieve their goals.

In 1969 Cheremosh was born and it too achieved national and international status, performing in England, Scotland, China, Bulgaria, Mexico and, of course, Ukraine. In recognition of the enormous contribution that Mr. Kuc made to Ukrainian dance, Cheremosh dedicated its board room to the Kucs in 2010.

Dance was not Mr. Kuc's only means of musical expression. Encouraged by his parents, especially his father, he studied violin. He also studied piano, an instrument that was his own choice and allowed him to later serve as accompanist for his dance pupils. Although violin was not Mr. Kuc's love, he did succeed as a player of this instrument and finished the conservatory in Toronto. Luba also studied violin. In fact, she was so talented that she won a scholarship to study in Vancouver. Her teacher wanted her to continue on to a career as a concert violinist. She, however, decided this was not the sort of life that she wanted. Luba returned to Edmonton and she and Chester married in 1960. The Kucs became the proud parents of two daughters, Larysa and Daria.

Mr. Kuc had a keen eye, a love of craft and a desire to explore. He wanted to learn how to write pysanky and saw a man make the wonderfully decorated eggs with a pen tipped with a metal nib. He acquired the technique and became a master at executing pysanka designs with exquisitely fine lines. As he learned about the use of a stylus, or kystka, in pysanka writing, he mastered that technique as well, and became equally expert in the kystka decorating method.

He shared his work through shows like the aforementioned one at the Royal Alberta Museum. As with dance, he was more than willing to teach technique to others. He ran demonstrations during the show at the Royal Alberta and conducted workshops at schools, churches and, of course, the UNF. When this writer had to bow out of a pre-Easter event at UNF last year because of time constraints and fatigue, it was Mr. Kuc who took over and showed children how to write pysanky for several hours.

Both Chester and Luba Kuc loved embroidery and both were very good at it. Mr. Kuc produced wall hangings, embroidered pictures and a special accomplishment of his: tiny replicas of rushnyk, or ritual towel, designs done in petit point. These are miniatures of designs that would normally be done on a cloth several meters in length. As with pysanky, Mr. Kuc saw a person working in petit point, became fascinated, and decided to learn the technique. He was able to do his tiny designs, using a single one of the six strands found in standard embroidery floss. He continued to work on his miniature embroideries until a few months before his death.

Mr. Kuc's keen eye, combined with his curiosity, led to an outstanding collecting career. He was curious about all things Ukrainian and, with dance, with pysanky, with costume, he wanted to have a complete set of styles and forms. With dance, this was expressed through an interest in regional dance variations. With pysanky, this took the form of Mr. Kuc trying to reproduce designs from every region of Ukraine. Starting in the 1980s, Chester and Luba Kuc traveled to Ukraine numerous times and Mr. Kuc looked and learned. Helped by his wife, who photographed museum collections, he tried to produce entire sets of designs for every region of Ukraine. A total of 2,500 of these were on display at the Royal Alberta Museum. Many were bought by smaller museums and some were donated to the Kule Center for Ukrainian and Canadian Folklore.

The Kucs had an outstanding collection of woven wall hangings called "kylymy" and arranged a show of these for the public. They tried to collect costumes from all Ukrainian regions. Mrs. Kuc, as costume mistress for the dance companies that Mr. Kuc founded, used the collected pieces to help design the outfits worn by the young performers. She also taught the dancers and their families how to make the costumes they needed.

The originals of the costumes that the Kucs collected became the basis of exhibits. Major shows, based largely on their collecting work, were held in venues such as St. John's Cathedral. When this writer visited Mr. Kuc approximately one month before his hospitalization, he proudly showed an embroidered dress that he had just acquired for St. John's. It was a dress with a different sort of embroidery design and Mr. Kuc saw it as a way to help fill out the regional specifics of the collection he had built. Mr. Kuc's generosity, coupled with his curiosity, characterized his life even in ill health.

My visit in January was my last visit. I had interviewed Chester several times in the summer of 2012. We had talked about his life and about dance. We had talked about pysanky and embroidery. I planned to have our next interview cover Mr. Kuc's work as a collector. Unfortunately, that interview never took place. Shortly after our visit he was hospitalized. He passed away on February 16 at the age of 81.



The Cheremosh ensemble with founder Chester Kuc (left) in England in 1977.

Tymoshenko's lawyer...

(Continued from page 1)

that Ukrainian courts are independent and beyond their influence. Yet, Western governments recognize that Mr. Yanukovich has dismantled the remnants of rule of law in Ukraine, making the courts entirely beholden to him.

That being understood, Mr. Yanukovich has demonstrated he's indifferent to Western criticism and remains intent on destroying Ms. Tymoshenko's political career at any cost.

"He's the personal communicator with Tymoshenko and they are knocking out her defense from under her," Batkivshchyna Party Chairman Arseniy Yatsenyuk said after the verdict. "The decision came hot from the presidential administration. [One judge] didn't even know what the European Court for Human Rights is. The judges didn't reach this ruling. It was made on Yanukovich's direct order. Its goal is the systemic destruction of the Ukrainian opposition."

Mr. Vlasenko is among the few people with consistent access to Ms. Tymoshenko in prison "precisely because of his attorney status," Volodymyr Fesenko, board chairman of the Penta Center for Applied Political Research in Kyiv, said on March 6.

"The attempts to deprive him of not only his [parliamentary] mandate, but also his attorney's status, are to remove him as a communicator with Tymoshenko and weaken Tymoshenko's communications with the outside world," he said.

Mr. Vlasenko is the fourth national deputy to lose his mandate this year – an unprecedented political trend in Ukraine.

The Kyiv Higher Administrative Court ruled on March 5 to remove the mandate of another deputy, Andrey Verevskiy, who serves as board chairman of Ukraine's biggest sunflower oil producer, Kernel Group.

The Yanukovich administration targeted Mr. Verevskiy, 38, whose wealth is estimated at \$570 million, for reasons different than those applying to Mr. Vlasenko, Ihor Zhdanov, president of the Open Politics Analytical Center in Kyiv, told the Liga business news wire.

"Verevskiy doesn't show up in the Verkhovna Rada," he said. "They say that he's always abroad. For the government, they're better off bringing a new person into the Party of Regions who will consistently come to work in Parliament and vote as told."

In early February, the same Kyiv court stripped mandates from independent National Deputies Pavlo Baloha and Oleksander Dombrovskiy, alleging the election results in their respective single-mandate districts were unreliable, and ordered a revote in both.

"For the first time in Ukraine's history, the authority of a legally elected deputy can be removed in an unconstitutional way by a court and not the people who elected him," wrote Mr. Baloha's brother, National Deputy Viktor Baloha, on his Facebook page. "Elections in this country have become a simple formality because deputies can be 'selected' in the courts."

In targeting these two deputies, both elected in single-winner, single-mandate districts, the Yanukovich administration struck against two competitors – the Baloha business clan that controls Ukraine's Zakarpattia region and the clan of Petro Poroshenko, which has strong influence in the Podillia region, said Dr. Oleh Soskin, director of the Institute of Society Transformation in Kyiv.

Mr. Fesenko agreed that it was a strike against Mr. Baloha, as well as all independent parliamentary members who have refused to join the majority led by the Party of Regions.

"This will only increase the circle of direct or indirect opponents of the government, and particularly the president," Mr. Fesenko told the gazeta.ua news site, referring to such maneuvers as a "serious mistake."

"This will weaken the government and this situation will create very serious political and legal conflicts," he added.

The U.S. government expressed its concern with the Kyiv High Administrative Court's "extra-judicial" decision to revoke the mandates of Messrs. Baloha and Dombrovskiy. "These actions create an atmosphere that inhibits political competition and freedom of expression," the March 5 statement said.

Independent media targeted

Western leaders have also raised concern about the Yanukovich administration's campaign to destroy independent media.

The UNIAN news agency, owned by billionaire Igor Kolomoisky and respected for two decades for its independent news coverage, has deteriorated into a mouthpiece for the Yanukovich administration under its new management, which took over in early 2012 and immediately began cleaning its ranks of independent editors and reporters, observers said.

It reached its low point on February 11, when publishing an interview with Mr. Vlasenko that included false statements that were attributed to him.

"Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) agents have emerged near my building in cartoon bear costumes; they are conducting secret surveillance of me under the guise of distributing advertising," he is alleged to have said. UNIAN editors later admitted this was contrived.

Not only did he not say anything about people in cartoon bear costumes, but Mr. Vlasenko said that it was agents of the Procurator General's Office of Ukraine, not the SBU, conducting the illegal surveillance. Around the same time, UNIAN published false statements from Batkivshchyna National Deputy Oleksandra Kuzhel claiming she was the most prominent opposition leader.

UNIAN editors claimed they were forced to post the false material by the management team installed in 2012, which is led by 1+1 Media Group Director Oleksander Tkachenko, who is known for his cozy ties with the Presidential Administration.

"The recent events surrounding UNIAN are obviously a problem for freedom of the press and issues regarding the independence of journalists are a cause for concern," European Member of Parliament Rebecca Harms told Tyzhden.ua in a commentary published on February 27.

When it's not distorting the news, the Yanukovich administration is alleged to be actively destroying it – literally.

The February 22 issue of Focus magazine, a Kyiv political newsweekly published in the Russian language, disappeared from stores and kiosks after it published articles largely criticizing Mr. Yanukovich on the third anniversary of his presidency.

A centerfold infographic illustrating such spending estimated that the state budget spent \$126 million over three years to accommodate Mr. Yanukovich's personal caprices.

That includes \$42 million spent on renovating the Foros and Massandra state residences in Crimea (including building helipads), \$35.8 million spent on building a helipad on the Parkova Doroha road in Kyiv (situated on the Dnipro River's slopes between the Dynamo football stadium and the Mariyivskiy Palace), and \$29 million spent on renovations to the Synyohora presidential residence in the Carpathian foothills.

Another feature highlighted Mr. Yanukovich's numerous verbal gaffes, including calling Lviv residents "the coun-

try's best henotsyd" (genocide) instead of "henofond" (gene pool), confusing South Ossetia with North Ossetia, and referring to Ukraine's "investment weather" instead of "investment climate."

Most of the magazine's 135,000 copies were dispatched for delivery but were reportedly confiscated before they reached stores and readers on orders from the management of UMH Publishing (holding company for Focus).

An official statement released by Focus magazine said it recalled not more than 20 percent of the issues owing to a "technical flaw" in which some pages were printed twice while others were missing altogether.

However, the evidence of censorship stemmed from the Focus website, from which the critical materials reportedly disappeared for about three days before returning. Moreover, news reports quoted kiosk and newsstand attendants who said they received the issues before being confiscated.

Chief editor Yana Moiseyenko declined to comment on the incident beyond the official statement.

With regard to Mr. Vlasenko, Mr. Yatsenyuk said the Batkivshchyna Party will file an appeal with the European Court of Human Rights, which is likely to overturn the ruling against Mr. Vlasenko.

Among those facing potential sanctions for the allegedly illegal ruling is Party of Regions National Deputy Volodymyr Makeyenko, who allegedly falsified the ruling by the parliamentary rules committee approving the complaint against Mr. Vlasenko, which was then submitted to the court by Parliament Chair Volodymyr Rybak.

As for the EU, Ms. Harms said right now there is not a majority in the European Parliament that would approve the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement, even if it were scheduled to be signed at the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius in November.

Fire-damaged church in Woonsocket, receives donation of \$6,000 from UOC



Bishop Daniel presents a check in the amount of \$6,000 to the Rev. Anthony Perkins, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Woonsocket, R.I., which was damaged by a fire in November.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK, N.J. – Bishop Daniel, president of the Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., acting on behalf of Metropolitan Antony, transferred a collected donation of \$6,000 to the Rev. Anthony Perkins, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Woonsocket, R.I., following a fire in November that damaged the church.

The presentation was made at Three Holy Hierarchs Chapel at St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary, where Bishop Daniel offered words of encouragement as the parish rebuilds.

"On behalf of the faithful of St. Michael

Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Woonsocket, R.I., I thank you," the Rev. Perkins said. Noting the difficulties in the recovery process, the Rev. Perkins noted the church's icons, altar and other sacred items that have been lost to the fire. He also noted the feelings of grief and despondency that can be debilitating for the parish community.

At the end of December 2012 the Consistory offered additional assistance to the parish, with the donation of a temporary iconostas, icons and other sacred liturgical objects for use in its temporary chapel that has been erected in the social hall of the church.

Parma mayor invites Lviv to become sister city

PARMA, Ohio – Mayor Tim DeGeeter on February 22 extended an invitation to his counterpart in the Ukrainian city of Lviv, aiming to establish a sister city relationship.

Mr. DeGeeter, whose city boasts a Ukrainian Village section, sent a letter to Andriy Sadovyy, mayor of Lviv. The letter, Mayor DeGeeter said, serves as an official invitation for a sister city relationship.

"We are truly proud of our Ukrainian American community," Mayor DeGeeter wrote in the letter. "I am honored to extend this invitation to you, in the hopes that we

can realize a true sister city relationship with the city of Lviv. A great number of our families emigrated from Lviv, and the city's presence is felt everywhere. We even have one of the most active businesses named after Lviv."

Mayor DeGeeter announced in his State of the City address on February 25 that he had sent the letter to Lviv. "We are excited about this and the social, cultural and economic development opportunities it can bring," he said. "We are looking forward to a response from Mayor Sadovyy."

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The children of our community

Each month, readers of The Ukrainian Weekly have an opportunity to see what the children of our community are up to, as reflected on the pages of UKELODEON, a special section devoted to them. And, the children of our community also have an opportunity to write in and share their experiences and thoughts.

The latter was one of the major purposes of our UKELODEON page, founded way back in February 1999, on Valentine's Day to be precise.

In the editorial of our issue dated February 14, 1999, we expressed hope that the new section would keep our youngsters involved and in touch with the Ukrainian community. We also wrote: "...our new feature... is also a thank-you to our elders for their awareness, commitment and investment in us. And, as we offer this page as a Valentine of love to the next generation, we also offer it to those who came before us. ...As a work in progress, our new page is open to ideas. We invite you, the parents of the next generation, to help us help you use this publication and its new feature to continue to preserve our precious asset."

Our collaborator in the early years of UKELODEON was a dedicated teacher, Lydia Smyk (who passed away in 2002 at the age of 43). It was Ms. Smyk who came up with the name for the monthly section, illustrated the "Mykola Myshka" feature and prepared "Mishanyna," as well as stories bearing her byline. The UKELODEON pages, which strove to teach young readers something new and to encourage them in their activities via a fun format, were a natural extension of her vocation as an educator.

Since then, UKELODEON has succeeded in showcasing many worthwhile endeavors that our children and young teenagers enjoy, from camps of our scout and youth organizations to individual achievements in sports and studies, from special outings and folk arts workshops to good deeds and community service. UKELODEON pages have served as a forum for young writers to express themselves and highlight what they consider to be important in our community life.

We are especially proud of our younger generations – and the adults who guide them – who learn by doing of the importance of helping others. A look at just a few of our latest issues shows youngsters supporting U.S. veterans, children entertaining senior citizens, kids helping the Seeing Eye program do its salutary work, teens sharing the Bethlehem Peace Light with their communities and young people promoting environmental projects. Kudos to them and their leaders.

Beginning with that first issue back February of 1999, 170 issues of UKELODEON have now been published. As UKELODEON begins an unbelievable 15th year, it is great to see that it is being used. But it is even better to see that our youngsters are involved, engaged and on the right track!

March
12
2012

Turning the pages back...

Last year, on March 12, 2012, former U.S. Ambassador William Green Miller delivered a presentation "The Present Situation in Ukraine" at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington.

Ambassador Miller, who served as the U.S. envoy to Ukraine in 1993-1998, noted the 20 years of Ukraine's independence and

how it may take another 20 years for Ukraine to realize a fully functioning democratic state. The ambassador cited the following statistics and facts: 35 percent of Ukraine's population lives below the poverty level, ranking it on the same level as Uganda; inflation is at 5-9 percent; more than a million small entrepreneurs have closed shop; Ukraine's financial reserves are dwindling at an alarming rate; life expectancy is down; and Ukraine has become a difficult country in which to conduct business.

On the positive side, the ambassador hailed the country's highly rated health care system and its 100 percent literacy rate, as well as the thriving metallurgical, petrochemical and agricultural sectors of the economy. But this, he said, also fosters the development of the "shadow economy," which makes up 40 percent of the economy and is designed to avoid taxation. The culture of corruption, where bribery and kickbacks are the norm, permeates Ukrainian society down to the lowest remote village level, he said.

Defecting national deputies have been bought for \$500,000, with a \$20,000 monthly stipend to the party defector; judicial decisions, university admissions and grades can also be bought, the ambassador noted.

Ambassador Miller was also critical of the oligarchy and plutocracy that has crippled the government of Ukraine, which works for the benefit of the few – 14 billionaires, 7,000 millionaires, 350 of whom comprise the large parliamentary majority in the 450-seat Verkhovna Rada. These oligarchs, he said, acquired their wealth over the past 20 years, which saw the old Communist nomenklatura succeeded by the present "authoritarian capitalist oligarchic nomenklatura."

It will be difficult for Ukraine to reform the government from the grassroots level, Ambassador Miller said, as Ukraine's security forces have clamped down on mass anti-government protests and increased pressure on the government's foes, such as former Primer Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and former Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko.

Independent universities and media continue to experience pressure from the Yanukovich administration, the ambassador said, and art and music are flourishing, but need nurturing and protection.

"European and U.S. support for Ukraine's present economic and political difficulties has not been forthcoming as it ought to be as long as these prosecutions and misuse of law continue," the ambassador said.

Ukraine's identity crisis also needs to be resolved, Ambassador Miller said. He characterized Ukraine as "separated from Russia but linked to Russia, different from Europe but linked to Europe, very different from the United States but linked to the United States."

Source: "Former U.S. ambassador notes progress and setbacks in Ukraine," by Yaro Bihun, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 25, 2012.

COMMENTARY

Ukraine: an unseen imbroglio?

by David Marples
and Myroslava Uniát

The administration of President Viktor Yanukovich and Prime Minister Mykola Azarov appears to be in confusion. On the one hand it faces a large bill from Russia's Gazprom for portions of unused gas, along with intense pressure from the Russian government to join the Customs Union. On the other, there was a significant summit with the European Union in Brussels on February 25 to discuss an Association Agreement, a prelude to its potential signing at the EU Eastern Partnership in November in Vilnius, without first meeting preconditions requested by the Europeans.

In fact, the president seems blandly oblivious of the tightrope he is walking, assuming that in the world of realpolitik, it is Ukraine rather than Brussels that holds most of the cards. The Ukrainian leader's logic is that the Kyiv government can operate between the EU and Russia, which are also limited in their bargaining power: Russia, because it needs Ukraine to make the Customs Union work, and the EU isolating Ukraine would push that country firmly into the Russian orbit. He has witnessed similar maneuvers by the president of Belarus, after all, who has survived largely unscathed to date and remained in power for almost two decades.

In reality, however, Ukraine's position seems much weaker than the Yanukovich-Azarov team imagines or acknowledges. Russian pressure is constant. The former deputy of United Russia, Sergey Makarov, commented that if Ukraine joined the Russian-led Customs Union – it currently comprises Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan has expressed a wish to join – then the \$7.09 billion fine for unused gas will simply be waived. Joining would also mean more chances that gas prices would be reduced (<http://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2013/02/8/6983116/>). In brief: join us and your troubles are over!

Understandably, the Ukrainian side balks at Gazprom's demand, partly because it has denounced the 2009 agreement, signed between former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and then Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in 2009, which failed to anticipate the fall of gas prices and committed Ukraine to paying for the full amount of imported gas, whether or not it was actually needed. Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine Yurii Boyko met with the chairman of the Gazprom board, Aleksey Miller, in early February and stated that he did not think it appropriate for Ukraine to pay such a sum (<http://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2013/02/8/6983148/>).

Meanwhile, the Party of Regions of Ukraine (PRU) has not responded to a variety of requests from the Europeans to fulfill what are seen as essentially minimal

requirements for the signing of the Association Agreement in November.

The Dutch ambassador to Ukraine, Pieter Jan Wolthers, has commented that there is no guarantee that the Association Agreement will be signed because all depends on the Ukrainian side meeting the terms, which include dealing with the issue of selective justice (<http://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2013/02/9/6983182/>).

Likewise, Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė, whose country takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of this year, informed Mr. Yanukovich during his working visit to Lithuania on February 6, that she believes the imprisonment of two former opposition leaders, Ms. Tymoshenko and former Internal Affairs Minister Yurii Lutsenko, to be politically motivated. She also took Mr. Yanukovich to task over the Customs Union, pointing out to him that the simultaneous signing of agreements with the EU and the Customs Union was impossible, because the two contradict each other (<http://postup.brama.com/usual.php?what=75559>). Therefore it is necessary for Ukraine to choose one or the other.

British analyst Andrew Wilson posits that President Yanukovich is ignorant of how the EU works, believing that the crucial matter is a balance of power and that the EU's concern for Ms. Tymoshenko is ritualistic. Mr. Wilson's view is that Mr. Yanukovich expects at some point that the EU will simply stop making demands and sign the Association Agreement, whereas in reality Ukraine is becoming isolated (http://zaxid.net/home/showSingleNews.do?u_yes_rozdratovani_nevikonanimi_obitsyankami_yanukovicha&objectId=1278035 accessed Feb 17).

For his part, Mr. Yanukovich is defending himself and casting stones simultaneously. First of all, he informed EU Commissioner Stefan Füle on February 7, his Party of Regions has already introduced draft proposals to meet some of the EU's demands starting in 2010. They are somewhat delayed because he has to deal with officials and politicians "who are used to living in the old way" (<http://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2013/02/8/6983134/>). He responded to President Grybauskaitė that Ukraine could not ignore the fact that trade with the members of the Customs Union currently amounts to more than \$60 billion, and therefore he supports "simultaneous cooperation" with the EU and the Customs Union. He also blamed the EU Energy Community, which Ukraine joined in 2010, for its failure to intervene to defend Ukraine when Russia made the demand for \$7.09 billion for gas, a comment to which the director of the Energy Community Secretariat, Janez Kopač, responded with surprise, noting that Ukraine has to date never requested such assistance (http://zaxid.net/home/showSingleNews.do?u_yees_zdivovani_zakidami_yanukovicha_pro_vidstnist_dopomogi&objectId=1277536).

Other officials simply blame the parliamentary opposition for the lack of progress on meeting EU requests. Thus, Cabinet and PRU member Olena Lukash stated that five projects have been submitted to Parliament, dealing with improvement in laws to combat corruption and increasing penalties for corruption offenses. The president has submitted two bills dealing with the ratification of the United Nations protocol against

David R. Marples is Distinguished University Professor and director of the Stasiuk Program for the Study of Contemporary Ukraine at the University of Alberta.

Myroslava Uniát is a master's degree student in the Ukrainian Folklore Program, Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies, University of Alberta. Her field of research is contemporary Ukrainian political folklore.

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

(Continued on page 9)

NEWS ANALYSIS

Holodomor workshop in Yonkers a success

by Oksana Kulynych

YONKERS, N.Y. – It requires a strong grassroots movement to make a difference. Anyone, be it a student, a parent or a concerned individual, can contact his or her local school district Social Studies teacher or department and provide them with information about the Holodomor and request that it be taught.

This is precisely what was done in the Yonkers School District, the fourth largest school district in New York state. Donald DeMatteo, the Director of social studies, was contacted about including the Holodomor in the curriculum. He responded with enthusiasm and helped to organize a workshop for high school and middle school teachers titled "Learning From the Past: Ukrainian Genocide – Holodomor of 1932-1933". The response was overwhelming, and teachers had to be turned away because of space constraints.

The workshop took place on February 6, at Yonkers Middle High School. Presenting were Oksana Kulynych, chair of the U.S. Holodomor Education Committee, and Lesia Kaszczak, a science teacher at Yonkers Middle High School. Also present was Dr. Maria Kiciuk, who was instrumental in helping to prepare the Holodomor PowerPoint presentation as well as speaking about her first-hand experiences under the Soviet regime.

The workshop began with a 10-minute viewing of "The Soviet Story." (Unfortunately we received the educational version of "Genocide Revealed" too late to use. It is excellent and should certainly be used in the future.) This was followed by Ms. Kulynych making a PowerPoint presentation about the Ukrainian Famine Genocide of 1932-1933. The presentation, which is available to all teachers to use in their classrooms, is very student and teacher friendly, visually engaging and aligned to the Common Core Standards now being

Oksana Kulynych is chair of the U.S. Holodomor Education Committee. She may be reached at okul17@aol.com or 914-965-6467.

Canadian...

(Continued from page 1)

the Americas Desk with Oxford Analytica and as a researcher with the University of Edinburgh's Institute on Governance where he focused on the process of devolution in Scotland.

Dr. Bennett's community work includes involvement with the Shepherds of Good Hope mission in Ottawa and the Canadian government's Recruitment for Policy Leaders program.

Prime Minister Harper was joined for the announcement of the new Office of Religious Freedom by Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Jason Kenney and Minister of International Cooperation Julian Fantino.

Under Ambassador Bennett's leadership, the new office will promote freedom of religion or belief as a Canadian foreign policy priority. The Office will be an impor-

implemented in most school systems.

A lively discussion ensued, generating many questions and comments. Ms. Kaszczak then presented activities that the teachers could easily incorporate in the classroom and introduced the teachers to the Holodomor Student Competition for students age 12-19.

The teachers were given a packet of educational material to take home. Also on display were three trifold foam boards with a colorful and informative exhibit dealing with the Holodomor. Teachers asked to borrow the exhibit and it will become a traveling exhibit in various schools. A copy of the DVD of "Harvest of Despair" was raffled off.

Most of the teachers present had not heard about the Holodomor and had no idea about the brutality of the Stalin regime. One teacher stated that he first heard about the Holodomor when one of his students wrote a paper about it. A teacher who attended a workshop in 2008 has already been teaching about the Holodomor. The feedback from the teachers about the workshop was very positive. Among the comments was this: "Just want to let you know how remarkable the Holodomor presentation was... I know that I left with a deeper understanding about the lasting impact of the events in addition to the excellent curriculum materials. I have already presented some new insights to my classes and I will continue to share my understandings with my classes going forward. I am sure that the other teachers who attended are significantly influenced as well. Thank you for sharing such powerful information. The impact on our students and our community is immeasurable."

Readers who would like an electronic copy of the Holodomor PowerPoint presentation and information about the Holodomor Student Competition may contact this writer at okul17@aol.com.

Please feel free to forward this information to your school districts so that they may begin teaching about this horrific chapter in the history of mankind. Get involved, be proactive and make a difference!

tant vehicle through which Canada can advance fundamental Canadian values including freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law worldwide.

"Our government is dedicated to promoting the freedom and prosperity of the people it serves," Prime Minister Harper said. "We will work with other countries and all people of goodwill, to promote the principles we share."

The office's mandate is to: protect, and advocate on behalf of, religious minorities under threat; oppose religious hatred and intolerance; and promote Canadian values of pluralism and tolerance abroad.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress on March 1 congratulated Dr. Bennett on his appointment as Canada's first ambassador of religious freedom. "Dr. Bennett is very familiar with the Ukrainian community and Ukrainian religious orders," stated UCC National President Paul Grod. "The Ukrainian Canadian community is pleased that someone of Andrew's stature, education and experience will be occupying this important post.

CROSSCURRENTS

by Andrew Sorokowski

Your Shevchenko

It is sometimes said that an author's works are as many as his or her readers, for each reader perceives a given text differently. So is it with Taras Shevchenko, the bicentennial of whose birth we will celebrate a year from now.

"My" first Shevchenko poem was "Sad Vyshnevyyi Kolo Khaty" ("The Cherry Orchard by the House," 1847), which I recited as a child at one of our community events in our church hall in San Francisco in the 1950s. Given a choice between a copy of Shevchenko's 1840 self-portrait as a young man and that from 1860, as a venerable bard (though only in his forties), I naturally chose the former.

Since there was no Plast or SUM in our area, I was not spoon-fed any more of his works. During my freshman year in college I visited New York's Arka or Surma and bought a small, thick, red-bound edition of the "Kobzar" (New York: Knyho-Spilka, 1954 – if memory and the Library of Congress serve me right). It contained plates of some of Shevchenko's artwork, as well as photos of Soviet monuments and such. I took the little red book with me for a semester in Italy and even to the mountains of Catalonia. But the poet's "Eastern" Ukrainian language was unfamiliar, and I understood little more than half of it. (When I looked into Ivan Franko, on the other hand, I recognized the Galician Ukrainian spoken by my grandfather, who came from a neighboring district.)

At first, Shevchenko did not appeal to me: the inconsistent prosody seemed inept, and the combination of Romantic pathos with bits of folk ditties was not to my taste. Shockingly, I preferred Pushkin, who poured Romantic content into strict classical forms. The English translations of Shevchenko's selected poems by Vera Rich, "Song Out of Darkness" (London, 1961), did little to reassure me. While it may have been appropriate to render Shevchenko in the early Victorian English of his day, the contrived syntax, and all those "thous" and "thees" rubbed me the wrong way. Could it be that Shevchenko was not really so great? Perhaps there was a reason why no one outside the Ukrainian community had ever heard of him.

His paintings were another story. Though I found some of the portraits cloyingly sentimental, I admired his watercolor landscapes of Central Asia. I began to wonder whether he was not a better painter than poet. And yet, with time and effort, I began to identify with his more introspective verse. During a lonely sophomore year at Berkeley, as I wandered the streets of North Side watching the sun sink into the Pacific, I could easily imagine Shevchenko watching it halfway around the world sinking into the Aral Sea. "My heart is broad, but there's no one to share it," wrote Shevchenko at Kos-Aral in 1849 – my sentiments exactly. Shevchenko was longing for the Ukraine of his childhood; I was longing for a Ukraine that existed only in my imagination.

I also took an interest in historical poems like "Haydamaky," which must have contributed to my choosing the 18th century Kozak and peasant uprisings for my senior thesis. Later I encountered the

work of George Grabowicz, who approached Shevchenko with the tools of modern literary criticism and did much to put him on the map of world literature. He has also explored the reception of Shevchenko both in his time and since, and has examined the writer's place in the developing canon of Ukrainian literature. Unfortunately, some members of the Ukrainian diaspora misunderstood the title of his 1982 study "The Poet as Mythmaker," imagining that Shevchenko was being depicted as a fabricator of untruth. Others (or perhaps the same ones) took offense at Dr. Grabowicz's allusion to the poet's close identification with his female characters – though this is obvious in both his painting and his poetry.

Given the vast differences between the two languages and the "musical" quality of his poetry, English translations of Shevchenko are especially difficult. My complaint about Ms. Rich was unjust, I find, for she had achieved the feat of closely following both Shevchenko's meter and his rhyme schemes. In fact, I had failed to understand that it is precisely the variations in Shevchenko's form, from iambic to trochaic meter, from perfect to imperfect rhymes, that enhance the dramatic quality of his poems.

In his introduction to "Song Out of Darkness," Victor Swoboda compares Shevchenko's metrical variations to the movements of a symphony (pp. xxv-xxvi). The translator must often choose between imitating the poet's "music" and conveying his meaning. It is interesting to compare Vera Rich's rendering of Shevchenko's "Mynaiut' Dni, Mynaiut' Nochi" ("The Days Pass, The Nights Pass"), written in a period of feverish creativity in December 1845, with a recent one by Alexander Motyl. Both translations were publicly read at the Bowery Poetry Club in New York on March 10 of last year (NTSh Biuletyn', No. 34/50 2012, p. 28). Unlike Ms. Rich, Prof. Motyl dispenses with the two metrical and rhyme schemes that differentiate the first eight lines from the rest of the poem, focusing instead on reproducing the poet's direct, conversational style in a contemporary idiom. Contrast, for example, Ms. Rich's rendering "Or if not – let me set the world/Alight with curses then" ("Song out of Darkness," p. 84) with Prof. Motyl's "And if not – to hell with the world!" Prof. Grabowicz takes a different approach with "Chy to Nedolia ta Nevolia" ("Is it Misfortune and Bondage," NTSh Biuletyn', p. 25), one of Shevchenko's most painfully bitter poems, written during his military punishment at Orenburg in 1850. Prof. Grabowicz replicates the poem's relentless iambic movement but varies the length of the lines, thus facilitating a faithful translation.

But enough of "my" Shevchenko. It is no more important than anyone else's. Yet I hope it will encourage those who have not found Shevchenko's works immediately accessible, or who feel they must accept some official image of the bard. Persist in your reading. And discover your own Shevchenko.

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

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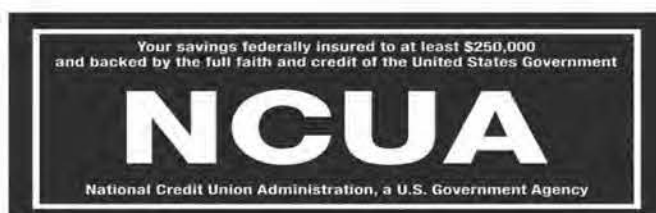
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Plast centennial documentary premieres in Montreal

MONTREAL – In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Plast Montreal premiered the Ukrainian-language documentary film “100 Rokiv Plastovoyi Ideyi” (100 Years of Ukrainian Scouting) on Sunday, February 24, at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church Hall.

Incorporating rare archival photographs, the 31-minute film produced and edited by filmmaker Yuriy Luhovy outlines the essential elements of Plast scouting and the main events in its history beginning in 1911-1912.

Plast was based on the ideas of Scouting founder Robert Baden-Powell and infused with a Ukrainian orientation that developed leadership skills among Ukrainian youth.

Dr. Taras Konanec, the newly elected head (stanychnyi) of the Montreal branch of Plast, officially opened the event, greeting the more than 150 people present, which included original founders of Plast Montreal, today's young Plast members and members of the Ukrainian community of Montreal.

A special plaque and a copy of the docu-



At the premiere of a centennial documentary of Plast (from left) are: Yuriy Sawchyn, producer Yuriy Luhovy, Martha Mayer and Plast Montreal head Dr. Taras Konanec.

mentary were presented to Ivan Prokaziuk, president of Prosvita-Verdun, for that organization's generous donation towards the continued work of Plast.

Following the enthusiastically received film screening, Mr. Luhovy was introduced.

In his remarks he acknowledged the work of Tanya Dzulynska, the director and initiator of the film, as well as the contributions of graphic designer Adriana Luhova and others.

Mr. Luhovy mentioned the film received

a standing ovation at its Lviv premiere during Plast's centenary celebrations in Ukraine last summer, and its similar reception in Toronto last October during Plast Toronto's 100th anniversary banquet with 800 guests in attendance from all over Canada.

Mr. Luhovy further commented on how the film is still another example of how the Ukrainian diaspora, after World War II, continued the work of Plast. The documentary is being shown at Plast branches around the world.

The Montreal celebration concluded with the singing of familiar Plast songs by Plast members accompanied on the guitar by Chrystia Sawchyn. A reception followed.

All donations from this very successful event went towards the continued work of Plast-Montreal.

The documentary “100 Rokiv Plastovoyi Ideyi,” narrated by Irena Korpan with original music by Roman Luhovy of Kyiv, may be ordered from www.yluhovy.com, by writing to MML Inc., 2330 Beaconsfield Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, H4A 2G8 or phoning 514-481-5871.

Ukraine: an unseen...

(Continued from page 6)

the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms. She hopes, therefore, that the opposition will provide its support for the adoption of European laws and confirm its choice of European integration (<http://www.day.kiev.ua/uk/news/090213-v-uryadi-zapevnyayut-shcho-pracyuyut-na-iev-rointegracyu>).

The opposition, in turn, blocked the parliamentary tribune in an effort to demand individual voting of each national deputy (<http://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2013/02/8/6983114/>), ending the practice of multiple voting through the voting cards of deputies. On February 20, however, it supported the Parliament's draft statement on implementing Ukraine's goals for integration with Europe and signing of the Association Agreement.

The subplot behind these issues is the continuing detention of Ms. Tymoshenko and Mr. Lutsenko cited above, and the recent

introduction of new criminal charges against the former for the murder of former National Deputy Yevhen Shcherban in 1996, together with the then Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, who served a sentence in the United States for money laundering. One possibility widely discussed is that President Yanukovich could conceivably pardon Mr. Lutsenko, a secondary figure who would be unlikely to pose a political challenge, if he received such a request. Mr. Lutsenko's wife, however, thought that her husband would not request such a pardon, which would imply an acknowledgement of guilt (http://zaxid.net/home/showSingleNews.do?yanukovich_ukazom_mozhe_zvyniti_lutsenka_nardep&objectId=1277817). But without any such concessions, it seems inconceivable that the Europeans would be very welcoming toward the Ukrainian leaders.

The irony of these complex discussions and internal wrangling is that even a leader as out of touch with the world around him as Mr. Yanukovich, and his trusted aide Mr. Azarov, would not have to do much to

assuage the anger emanating from some capitals of Europe. The early release of Mr. Lutsenko, with or without a pardon, would cost the president nothing, but would be perceived as a positive step from the EU's perspective. Moreover, the oligarchs within and outside the Party of Regions have little to gain from Ukraine being drawn into the Customs Union, which would curtail their control over a lucrative part of the domestic economy, as well as reducing Ukraine's political independence.

At times the president does appear to perceive where future policy should lie. All too often he appears simply to be unaware of the limitations of his position, which unfortunately affects not only to his administration, but the Ukrainian state, which has a limited number of options. Despite the growing authoritarianism and corruption of his government and in the country at large, President Yanukovich has an opportunity to move closer to the EU. It is one that requires decisive and prompt action.

'Gulag' author...

(Continued from page 3)

Even the war – Stalin started the war. He and Hitler divided Europe between them in 1939 at the time of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. They jointly invaded Poland and the Baltic states. It was Stalin's decision to do that that allowed Hitler two years in which to invade Western Europe. And the Soviet Union – the Russian people – then paid the price. They then suffered when Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, for which the Soviet Union was basically unprepared. The many, many millions of people who died all died unnecessarily. Had Stalin not participated, had he not had a union with Hitler at the beginning, then maybe [those people] would be alive today.


It is interesting that even people like Vladimir Putin who praise Stalin as “an effective manager” don't have anything good to say about Stalinism or advocate a return to Stalinism.

I don't think anyone wants to revive the system that Stalin created. Of course, it still exists in some places in attenuated form.


North Korea, as far as I can tell, is potentially a Stalinist system, for example. But no, Stalinism doesn't hold any appeal for Putin. What he is trying to do is to cherry-pick Stalin's record, to focus on elements of the Soviet period that he wants to celebrate because he wants to rally Russians behind him; he wants to create a sense of patriotism because he wants, in some ways, to renovate himself.

He worked for many years in the KGB, which was the secret-police branch of the Soviet Communist Party, and the KGB was responsible for the Gulag and [its predecessor organizations] did create the terror of 1937 and the waves of other terror before and after that. So he is looking for elements of that past to rehabilitate. But nobody has suggested reviving the entire system. It probably, it couldn't be done now because you can't cut off Russia in the way you could before. And it would be suicidal. It is widely acknowledged that it was an economic disaster for the country.

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“Midwinter Night” performance in New York reveals season’s rituals

by Ihor Slabicky

NEW YORK – With the performance space in complete darkness, the huge disc deep in stage left glowing a silvery white reminded one of a full moon just risen above the horizon, much larger than any moon one has ever witnessed. Musical notes twinkled like stars and then a breeze, a breath, was heard. The lights slowly went up, revealing the Sun, portrayed by Marika Kuzma. Seated to the side was Julian Kytasty, providing the astral aural on his bandura. As she sang “Poduy zhe Hospody,” the opening lines of the age-old Creation Song, her voice was joined by those of Alina Kuzma as the Moon and Teryn Kuzma as the Stars.

These opening scenes greeted audiences attending the four sold-out performances of “Midwinter Night: Sacred and Profane Rituals” produced by Virlana Tkacz and the Yara Arts Group at the La MaMa ETC in New York City on December 27 through 30, 2012. Watching these scenes unfold, one felt drawn in to them, compelled to become one with them, spiritually and emotionally joining the three perfectly matched voices as they created the world and the heavens from the golden sands brought up from bottom of the endless sea.

The sound of Mykola Ilyuk on the fiddle announced the entrance of the Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia. Led by Ivan Zelenchuk, they sang “Grechna Gazdynya, Vyno Sadyla.” This koliada tells of the Sun, the Moon and the Rain that will visit during the coming year. Mykola Zelenchuk sang that the Sun will shine brightly so all the mountains and valleys are warm. The Moon, Vasyl Tymchuk sang, will shine in the dark night, lighting the way for all travelers and for all the creatures on land and in the sea. Ostap Kostyuk sang that the Rain would fall gently and water all the growing crops.

“Vertep,” the second act, began with original 18th century choral music wonderfully arranged by Mr. Kytasty, the musical director for “Midwinter Night.” Accompanying his bandura playing, the chorus of Paul Brantley on cello, Mark Marczyk and Emily Stam on violins, Alex Nahirny on guitar, and vocalists Marika Kuzma (the choir director at UC Berkeley),



K. Kava

Ivan Zelenchuk, Teryn Kuzma and Ostap Kostyuk perform during “Midwinter Night.”



K. Kava

The Lemon Bucket Orkestra, the Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia and ensemble members perform during the encore of “Midwinter Night” at La MaMa ETC in New York City on December 27, 2012.

Rob Teehan, Brian Dolphin and Christopher Weatherstone reinforced the intricacies of those works. The koliadnyky returned with the sound of the trembita, singing the koliady that praised the master of the house and wished prosperity, health and wealth to all in the next year.

The scene shifted to the arrival of the Three Wise Men (Ivan Zelenchuk, Mr. Teehan and Mr. Weatherstone) and their encounter with Herod, portrayed by Kostyuk as arrogant and out of touch with the people, driven by power and a supremely evil heart. With the Wise Men not returning, Herod sought out his soothsayer, played by Mariko Pajalahti, to discern what had taken place. She whirled around, dragging the end of her long staff on the ground, which produced a dry rattling sound as she conjured up a vision to answer his question. Mykola Zelenchuk, as Herod’s soldier, executed all commands without question or emotion. Having lost her child, Rachel, played by Natalia Okolita, condemned Herod to eternal damnation. Tamar Ilana, as Time, danced the flamenco, her flashing steps rapidly counting off the remainder of Herod’s days. The entrance of Death, played by Alexandra Baczynskyj, was so casual that one almost was not aware that it was Death who had entered. Her portrayal was perfect – not too dramatic and not too dark. Death came in the door and calmly claimed her Herod, despite his pleas and cries that he was not ready. Mr. Marczyk, as the Devil, fiddled the final notes of Herod’s life, and death exited, cradling a skull capped with his crown. Mr. Brantley, on cello, played his work “Arbor,” providing a contemplative transition from the drama that had just been played out.

The third act, “Celebration,” started off with a “baa-a-a-a!” as the Koza (goat) peeked out from behind a curtain. Based in Toronto, the Lemon Bucket Orkestra, with Stephania Woloshyn as the Koza, presented a slightly updated version of the traditional Koza dance.

Playing the tsymbaly, violin, flute, drum and cymbal of the troista musicians, the Koliadnyky returned to the stage. With Mr. Teehan on sousaphone counting off, and Mr. Weatherstone on alto saxophone, John David Williams on clarinet, Ms. Baczynskyj, Marichka Galadza, Ms. Ilana and Ms. Woloshyn on vocals, Michael Louis Johnson

on flugelhorn, Mr. Marczyk and Ms. Stam on violins, Mr. Nahirny on guitar, Mike Romaniak on sopilka, Karl Silveira on trombone and Jaash Singh on darbuka, they launched into a spectacular “Arkan.” As the audience clapped along, Mykola Ilyuk flawlessly led the 19-member ensemble through “Batko Spyt.” and back to the energetic rhythm with “Batko Vstav!”

The Lemon Bucket Orkestra followed with the rousing koliada “Rai Rozvyvsia.” As the last notes from that piece hung in the air, Ms. Ilana performed “Kondzha Mia” (Flower of Mine), a traditional Sephardic song. Mr. Marczyk on violin added to her

voice filled with emotion. Mr. Kytasty and the Koliadnyky returned to perform “Ishly Molodtsi,” a koliada from Sumy region. The lively “Kozachok” that followed was picked up by the Lemon Bucket Orkestra as they sang the shchedrivka “Oi Chy Ye, Chy Nema.” The troista musicians then launched into a “Hutsulka,” which was enlivened by the rest of the ensemble joining in.

A razor slice of white light cutting the floor of the blacked out stage provided the dramatic entry for Inka Juslin as she danced “Awakening.” With a violin, clarinet,

(Continued on page 16)

“Memory Songs” presented at The Ukrainian Museum



NEW YORK – The first musical collaboration of two of the world’s most well-known and respected musical and sung poetry traditions – the griot of West Africa and the kobzari of Ukraine – was recently presented at The Ukrainian Museum in a concert titled “Memory Songs: A Dialogue of Traditions.” Presenting the historical and lyrical epics of the Ukrainian kobzari was Julian Kytasty, master bandurist and an accomplished singer. Representing the griot tradition of praise songs was Alhaji Papa Susso, the Gambian master kora player and an oral historian (griot or jeli, as they are known) of the Mandinka people. Above, Messrs. Susso (center) and Kytasty (right) are joined for their performance at The Ukrainian Museum on October 27, 2012, by Bob Holman. Providing a most appropriate setting was the “Ukrainian Kilims: Journey of a Heritage” exhibit on display at the museum. It should be noted that Messrs. Susso and Kytasty were honored in 2012 as recipients of fellowships in folk/traditional arts awarded by the New York Foundation for the Arts – the first time fellowships were awarded in that category.

– Ihor Slabicky

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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

more time, when the trial finishes, and then there will be an answer," he said. (Ukrinform)

Putin: Customs Union is political issue

MOSCOW – Ukraine's accession to the Customs Union is a purely political issue, President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation said before the start of his talks with President Viktor Yanukovich of

Ukraine. "In fact, this is a political issue, a political choice of Ukraine itself, and we are certainly going to treat it with respect," Mr. Putin said on March 4. He stressed that all decisions at the Customs Union are taken by consensus built on the basis of interests of all the three parties. He said the issue of cooperation between Ukraine and the Customs Union requires the involvement of Belarus and Kazakhstan in the negotiations. "From the economic and social point of view, I think, neither in Ukraine nor in Russia are there any serious experts who would not believe that for Ukraine this is

an exclusively positive process," Mr. Putin said. (Ukrinform)

Putin, Yanukovich meet in Moscow

MOSCOW – Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yanukovich met in Moscow on March 4, with energy cooperation issues high on the agenda. They were expected to discuss the price for Russian gas supplied to Ukraine, and the lease of Ukraine's gas pipelines, which deliver much of the Russian gas that goes to Western Europe. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the leaders did not plan to sign any documents at the meeting. Mr. Yanukovich's visit to Moscow was initially planned for December 18, 2012, but was postponed, with Moscow officials saying more time was needed to prepare documents that were to be signed. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Interfax, rian.ru, and Bloomberg.com)

Kinakh on Kyiv-Moscow dialogue

KYIV – Ukraine and Russia are major strategic partners. Despite the difficulties in the world economy, trade between the countries is close to the mark of \$45 billion. That is why a constant political dialogue of the two countries, including communications at a high level, is vitally important, said Anatoliy Kinakh, a member of the parliamentary faction of the Party of Regions and president of the Ukrainian League of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. "It is positive that meetings of the countries' leadership are regular. The potential of our bilateral cooperation is huge, especially in sectors such as machine-building, shipbuilding, aircraft engineering, agriculture, transport and power machine-building, etc. With the multi-vector and multi-speed integration of Ukraine and Russia, whose economies are in need of modernization, it is necessary to systematically work hard not to lose the positive dynamics," Mr. Kinakh said, according to March 5 news reports. "It is unacceptable when integration processes, their directions – East or West, are opposed at the political level. Every modern nation pursues its interests where it is cost effective, where there are strategic partners. And the purpose of high-level meetings is to neutralize unnecessary barriers," the politician said. It is also important, he said, that both countries are WTO members. This allows Ukraine and Russia to build their cooperation based on the current standards of trade, and to attract to all these processes business community, unions and organizations. Mr. Kinakh expressed the hope that, despite the difficulties, Ukraine and Russia as good neighbors and friendly countries will reach a new level of equal and mutually beneficial strategic partnership. (Ukrinform)

Bill on culpability for blocking Rada

KYIV – Party of Regions' faction leader Oleksander Yefremov has submitted a bill on national deputies' culpability for blocking the Parliament. At a March 5 briefing in the Verkhovna Rada he said, "Back in February, I registered Bill 2307, which provides for responsibility for blocking the Parliament." He added that, if the blocking continues, the Party of Regions will do everything to ensure adoption of the bill and legal grounds for calling to account those who block the legislative body. The national deputy also said that the draft law on the responsibility of national deputies for their work in the session hall is undergoing finalizing. It provides for taking appropriate measures against deputies who do not come to work. Mr. Yefremov said Bill 2307 stipulates that, if a deputy is involved in blocking, the Rada chair, 226 national deputies, or 10 percent of the voters in the district from which the national deputy was elected, shall have the right to submit an appeal on withdrawal of his or her parliamentary mandate, and the Rada chair shall file this appeal with court. (Ukrinform)

Svoboda wants to sack 11 PRU deputies

KYIV – The parliamentary faction of the Svoboda party has filed an appeal for consideration by the Verkhovna Rada committee on the rules of procedure of the issue of relieving a number of the Party of Regions' national deputies of their parliamentary powers, Svoboda member Roman Shylo said on TV Channel 5. "The MPs concerning whom we will submit the application are: Shcherban, Shpenov, Oliynyk, Kivalov, Kolesnichenko, Bohoslovska, Derkach, Rozvadovsky, Pysarenko, Pylypenko and Berezna," the politician was quoted as saying. According to Mr. Shylo, the majority of the above-listed national deputies are lawyers, one is a representative of PJSC Ukrnafta and another is a notary. Ukrainian law requires a timely suspension of practicing law for the period of a deputy's work in the Verkhovna Rada. (Ukrinform)

Klitschko demands president's report

KYIV – The chairman of the UDAR parliamentary faction, Vitali Klitschko, is demanding a report by President Viktor Yanukovich at the Verkhovna Rada. Speaking at a news briefing on March 5, he said: "We demand the president's presence in Parliament, as we have a lot of questions for him and we want to get answers from the guarantor of the Constitution personally." Mr. Klitschko said the president has not addressed the national deputies for over a year. (Ukrinform)

Rep. Smith denied Russian visa

WASHINGTON – Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.), the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on human rights and co-chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, was denied a visa by the Russian government apparently in retaliation for U.S. efforts to punish Russian human rights violators. According to "The Cable," a blog on the Foreign Affairs website, Rep. Smith has been traveling to Russia and before that the Soviet Union for decades, but this was the first time he was denied a visa, despite the personal intervention of U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul. In an interview on February 27 with Josh Rogin of "The Cable," Rep. Smith said "The Magnitsky bill is the reason I didn't get the visa. ...During the worst days of the Soviet Union I went there repeatedly." The Sergei Magnitsky Accountability and Rule of Law Act of 2012, of which Rep. Smith was an original sponsor, was named after the Russian anti-corruption lawyer who died in prison, allegedly after being tortured by Russian officials.

(Continued on page 14)

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With profound sorrow we inform our friends that

Andrew Litosch

passed away suddenly on February 15, 2013, at the age of 67. He was preceded by his mother Maria.

Parastas was held on February 20, 2013, at Union Funeral Home in Union, NJ

Funeral Services were held on February 21 at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J.

Interment took place at Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Hamptonburgh, N.Y.

He is survived by:

wife - Yara née Semaniuk
 son - Evan
 father - Eugene
 sister - Dr. Irene Litosch
 brother-in-law - Dr. Taras Semaniuk with wife Diane and family extended family in Ukraine.

May His memory be eternal



Eighth Anniversary

Dr. Wasyl Kostrubiak,

passed into eternity March 15 of 2005.

He remains alive in the memory of his wife, family members and friends.

May his soul rest in peace in the Glory of God.

The mass for the eternal rest of his soul will be celebrated Friday, March 15, at the Church of St. John the Baptist in Oviedo, Spain.



It is with profound loss that we announce the passing of

Erast Huculak

1930 – 2013



who left us peacefully on March 2, 2013. Loving husband, adventurer and soul mate to Yarmila Delores (nee Buka), supportive father and role model to Roma (Victor), George (Elizabeth), Christina (Michael), Amanda (Adrian), and Samantha (Shaun); playful and proud Dyodyo to Katrina, Tiana, Taissa, Mia and Arianna. Predeceased by first wife Lydia and son Marchik. Survived by his brother Lubomir, nieces Christi (Talal), Tamara (Erin); sisters-in law Lida (Trevor), Christine; extended family and friends in Canada, the United States and Ukraine whose lives he touched continuously through his inspiring acts, sense of humour and joie de vivre.

Erast was born in Rivne, Ukraine in 1930. He emigrated to Canada as a displaced person in 1948 with mother Maria, father Mychailo and brother Lubomir.

Erast graduated with a degree in Pharmacy from the University of British Columbia. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to become the founder, past President and Chairman of the Board of Medical Pharmacies Group Inc. one of the largest providers of pharmaceuticals to Long Term Care facilities in Canada.

Erast impacted innumerable lives through his leadership, generous societal contributions, philanthropy, charitable donations, visionary thinking and actions.

During Ukraine's proclamation of independence he served as President of Canadian Friends of Rukh for Canada. He wrote about this period in history in his memoir My Wooden Suitcase.

Erast was one of the founders and director of the Children of Chernobyl Candian Fund. Since 2004, Erast has been the honorary Consul of Ukraine in Canada.

His philanthropic activities were many. He endowed a chair in Ukrainian Canadian Studies at the University of Alberta. The University of Alberta later awarded him with an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree for his humanitarian activities and advancement of Ukrainian studies.

Upon the fall of the Soviet Union, Erast donated a building in Ottawa for the first Ukrainian Embassy in Canada.

As a thank you to Canada for opening its doors to him and his family, he donated 550 acres of land for the East Cross Forest Conservation Area.

Erast Huculak led by example and believed strongly in giving back to his country Canada, homeland Ukraine, and community. He was a constant contributor to charitable organizations, schools, health institutions and democratic causes. He purchased and donated the Huculak Centre for Plast Ukrainian Youth Association scouting, and community use.

This humble man received many awards, certificates and official honours, some of which include: Appointed to the Order of Canada in 2006; Presented with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal; Ukraine Presidents Medal of Merit 3rd degree; Ukraine Presidents Medal of Merit 2nd degree; Medal by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine; Prince Ostroh Gold Medal; Plast Orden of 'Eternal Fire' in Gold; Taras Shevchenko medal by the UCC.

Along with his wife Yarmila, Erast travelled to almost every corner of the Earth. Most recently he flew to Munich, Germany to receive his 3rd and final Honourary Doctorate degree. Erast Huculak lived a remarkable life: a life worth remembering.

Friends said farewell to Erast Huculak at the Turner & Porter Yorke Chapel, 2357 Bloor St. W., at Windermere, on Thursday March 7, and Friday, March 8, with Panachyda services at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. A private interment followed. A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at the Huculak Centre, 516 The Kingsway, Toronto.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Huculak Foundation which distributes donations to charities and will provide income tax receipts.

On-line condolences may be made through www.turnerporter.ca



With profound sadness we inform you of the repose in the Lord on February 26, 2013, of our dear and beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather and Pastor

Protopresbyter

Michael Zemlachenko

Father Michael was born December 25, 1923, in Dnipropetrovsk.

He faithfully and dutifully served the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA as a priest for 58 years.

He leaves behind his Family –

His wife of 67 blessed years Pani Matka Tatiana
 son Jerry and wife Helen,
 granddaughter Christina with husband Richard O'Malley and their 3 children
 grandson Nicholas with wife Tiffany and their 2 children
 son Michael and wife Oksana
 grandchildren Kathryn, Michael and Irene
 son Nicholas and wife Kathleen
 grandchildren Harry, Meagan, Nicholas, Kayla and Emily
 extended family in the U.S. and Ukraine

A Priest's Parastas was held on Friday, March 1, 2013, and a Priest's Funeral was held on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church, S. Bound Brook NJ followed by interment in St. Andrew Cemetery.

The family asks that donations in Father Michael's memory to be sent to St. Andrew Memorial Church (c/o OUC of USA, PO Box 495, S. Bound Brook, NJ 08880) or Blue Ridge Hospice (333 West Cork St., Suite 405, Winchester, VA 22601).

May His memory be eternal!



RON KOSTYNIUK

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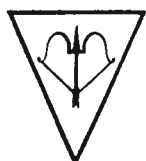
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Saturday, March 23, 2013 Hartford CT

The annual meeting of UNA Branch 277 St. John Society, will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Ukrainian National Home of Hartford, 961 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford CT. Please contact Myron Kolinsky, President, at 860-563-4072 or Myron Kuzio, Financial Secretary at 860-633-1172 for more information.



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NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 14)

The Russian government gave the congressman no explanation for its action. Smith met with Russian Ambassador to the U.S. Sergey Kislyak just before the visa was denied, and Mr. Kislyak told Smith the decision was made in Moscow, not Washington. (Foreign Policy)

Yanukovich signs bill on personal vote

KYIV – President Viktor Yanukovich has signed into law the bill on amend-

ments to Article 47 of the Verkhovna Rada regulations, dealing with the parliamentary decision-making procedure, the press service of the head of state reported on March 1. On February 22, the Verkhovna Rada amended the regulations law, providing for a personal vote. In accordance with the law, in the absence of national deputies at the Rada's plenary sessions, their voting cards shall be withdrawn and transferred to the Rada chair. In the case of illegal voting for bills with other deputies' cards, the bills will be re-voted. (Ukrinform)



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COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

Ukrainian delegation examines education models in Chicago

by Motria Melnyk

CHICAGO – The Chicago Kyiv Sister Cities Education Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International prepared, implemented and hosted a program for an Open World Education Delegation. Five Ukrainian Leaders participating in the Open World program examined secondary and higher education and innovation during their recent visit to Chicago.

The Open World Leadership program is an initiative of the U. S. Congress and the Library of Congress and is administered by the Open World Leadership Center. The program brings emerging leaders from Eastern Europe and Asia to the United States to observe American-style democracy in action and to help build relationships through interaction with Americans in local communities.

Among the delegates visiting Chicago on November 2-10, 2012, were educators in leadership roles, NGO leaders and journalists active in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in academia. During the eight-day program, the delegates visited schools and colleges, and met with education leaders and decision makers.

Motria Melnyk, chair of the Education Committee, stated, "It was important to offer the delegates experiences, innovative ideas and best practices within various educational models in order for them to gain an understanding of education policy in Chicago and the United States and the many models it provides for preparing young people for their future."

They were given an opportunity to explore the role of universities and research institutions in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, and the role of public-private partnerships in developing innovative education models. They partici-

pated in cultural activities and, by living with local families, enriched their cultural exchange experience.

Vera Eliashevsky, Ms. Melnyk and the Rev. Myron Panchuk of the Chicago Kyiv Committee accompanied the group on educational visits and presentations. These included the Ogden International School of Chicago, DeVry University, Richard J. Daley College, DePaul University and Northeastern University.

Ogden International School of Chicago offered a glimpse of the city public school model, its curriculum and programs. The delegates were very interested in how American schools ensure that all students with disabilities are successful and graduate prepared for college and career.

At DeVry University the delegation was given an in-depth hands-on presentation on the "classroom of the future," focusing on the most current modalities of teaching in an era of online and hybrid courses with a focus on developing technologies in communications. Ideas were exchanged on how to bring this technology to Ukraine.

Topics such as opening the classroom to adult returning students and single mothers, education and the job force were examined at Daley College, an example of the community college model, that embraces the surrounding community and serves as the point of entry for students who wouldn't otherwise participate in post-secondary education.

The visit to DePaul University initiated the examination of attending Catholic universities in a secular society as well as the challenges of diversity in student communities. A very comprehensive presentation of teacher education was presented from Northeastern University.

Rep. Mike Quigley's Congressional staff



During their visit to Chicago are: (standing from left) Roman Oleksenko, Anna Yashchenko, Motria Melnyk, Svitlana Mefford, Dr. Erik Fuoco, Nataliya Bordun, Constantine Tsilikas, Zoryana Udych, Oleksandr Smyrnov and (seated) Kateryna Chepura.

and spokespersons of Sen. Mark Kirk's office discussed national and local education policy-making and lobbying. An on-site visit to the Environmental Protection Agency offered an understanding of the work of the EPA in Chicago and Ukraine. Since Soviet authorities released little information regarding the explosion of the nuclear power plant in Chornobyl in 1986, the EPA was designated to lead the U.S. response to this disaster and its aftermath.

The Open World program also offered several cultural and community activities, including the 19th annual SOFA Art and Design Fair at Navy Pier; a guided walking tour of the downtown Chicago "Loop," a visit to the Willis Tower Skydeck and the musical "Million Dollar Quartet."

The delegates attended several events in the Ukrainian Village section of Chicago. They were present at the opening of an art exhibit by Anatole Kolomayets at the Ukrainian National Museum, met with the distinguished artist and had an opportunity to converse with community members and art critics.

They also attended a presentation, "Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine: Results and Their Significance" by Damon Wilson, vice-president of the Atlantic Council, which was hosted by the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art.

Dialogue with students and teachers of the local School of Ukrainian Studies gave

(Continued on page 16)

UMANA Illinois Branch elects new officers



Outgoing president Dr. George Charuk (center) chairs the UMANA Illinois branch annual business meeting.

by George Hrycelak

CHICAGO – The Illinois Branch of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA-Illinois) held its annual business meeting and biennial elections Sunday afternoon, January 13, at the conference center of the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union in the heart of Chicago's Ukrainian Village.

Outgoing President Dr. George Charuk chaired the proceedings, giving a detailed

report of the branch's activities over the concluded two-year term. He thanked his officers and members for continuing to support the association, making it the largest active organization of Ukrainian health care professionals in the United States and Canada.

Treasurer Dr. Theresa Kuritza presented the branch's financial status and activity, receiving a positive endorsement for prudent fiscal management.

The following UMANA Illinois Branch

officers were elected to lead the group for the next two years: President Dr. Diana Iwanik, Immediate Past President Dr. Charuk, Vice-President and President elect Dr. Arkadiush Byskosh, Secretary Dr. Adrienne Kovalsky, Treasurer Dr. Theresa Kuritza and Member-at-Large Dr. Sophie Worobec.

The incoming president, Dr. Iwanik, greeted the members, thanking them for their support and asking for their continuing involvement in UMANA activities.

At the conclusion of the formal proceed-

ings, attendees gathered with families and friends to celebrate the annual and traditional "Yalyinka," deliciously catered by Chicago's well-known Shokolad Pastry and Cafe. Several hours were spent caroling, reminiscing and meeting with colleagues from Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. The event continued into the early evening, with the departing members making plans to next meet at the branch's traditional banquet and ball with presentation of Debutantes on February 2, at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel.



UMANA Illinois officers for 2013-2015 (from left): Dr. Sophie Worobec (at-large), Dr. Diana Iwanik (president), Dr. Theresa Kuritza (treasurer) and Dr. George Charuk (immediate past president).

Kinofest NYC 2013 announces festival line-up and film premieres

NEW YORK – Kinofest NYC, featuring independent films from Ukraine and the broader post-Soviet region, has announced the program for its fourth annual festival, which will take place April 4-7.

This year, the festival includes 11 screening sessions presenting more than 25 short and four feature films by independent filmmakers from Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Russia, Slovenia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Kinofest NYC 2013, will take place in three different locations around New York City.

The festival weekend will kick off on Thursday, April 4, with opening night at the Ukrainian Institute of America (2 E. 79th St.); all other film screenings are scheduled at The Ukrainian Museum (222 E. Sixth St.) and the Anthology Film Archives (32 Second Ave.), two longstanding East Village cultural institutions. The complete program and roster of films are posted on the museum's website, www.ukrainianmuseum.org, and on www.KinofestNYC.com. The Ukrainian Museum is among Kinofest's sponsors.

The popular "Goodbye, Ukraine!" short film series is returning to Kinofest this year showing seven new shorts that will have their U.S. premieres at the festival. Denis Ivanov, executive director of "Goodbye, Ukraine!" and director of the Odesa International Film Festival, is flying in to present the short film series. Five of the "Goodbye, Ukraine!" filmmakers will also be on hand at the opening night event.

One of the highlights of the festival is the New York premiere of "Pit No. 8," a human-interest documentary by Estonian filmmaker Marianna Kaat. The film follows a Donetsk teenager's journey from a dys-



A scene from "Pit No. 8," a documentary by Estonian filmmaker Marianna Kaat.

functional household to an illegally operated coal mine near his hometown, where he scrapes by, providing for himself and his siblings. The director of the award-winning film will present her film, along with Alla Tyutyunnyk, a director of the International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival DOCUDAYS UA in Ukraine, where this film was shown in 2012.

Making its U.S. premiere at this year's Kinofest is the dark comedy "Business As Usual" by the husband-and-wife team Valentyn Vasyanovych and Iya Myslytska. The story is about a Ukrainian doctor going through a mid-life crisis, which leads him on a journey of comical self-discovery, causing him to lose his status-minded wife and get

involved in several hare-brained schemes with a close friend. Mr. Vasyanovych, a student of the Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing in Poland, and his wife will be in New York to present their film.

Two Bennington alumni will be joining the Kinofest line-up this year: filmmaker Andrea Odezynska and Virlana Tkacz, artistic director of Yara Arts Group. Ms. Odezynska's latest film project, the docu-

mentary, "Felt, Feelings, and Dreams," demonstrates how women artisans in Kyrgyzstan have taken control of their lives through the ancient craft of felt making. Yara Arts Group will wrap up the final session at Kinofest with its video program interlaced with poetry readings.

Tickets to Kinofest NYC 2013 are \$12 per screening, and will be available for online purchase starting March 15. All films shown are in English or their original language with English subtitles.

Kinofest NYC 2013 is being produced in cooperation with The Ukrainian Museum as part of its program "Film in Perspective" (the museum's film program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council). Other major sponsors of the festival include Self Reliance (NY) Federal Credit Union, Bauer Dental Arts (NYC), Izolyatsia-Platform for Cultural Initiatives (Ukraine), the Ukrainian Institute of America (NYC) and individual contributors.

Kinofest NYC was founded in 2009 by a group of East Village residents with a passion for cinema and a desire to advocate Ukrainian independent film. The festival seeks to educate and entertain its viewers, and to provide opportunities in the U.S. for the new generation of innovative and talented filmmakers from that part of the world.

"Midwinter Night"...

(Continued from page 11)

bandura and voice at times hinting "Shchedryk, Shchedryk," that projected image morphed into a swirling pattern. Stepping within the image, the swirls wrapped over her, creating living spirals of brilliant white energy as she moved through that space. Mikhail Shraga transformed that into dappled grey shapes, looking almost three-dimensional coming out of the floor. Inka Juslin once again entered the image space, now her body and her broad white streaming scarf revealing that those greys were green stalks with white and yellow flowers, her movements giving the sensation that she was the wind weaving through a field of daffodils.

Along with these floor projections, Mr.

Shraga and Volodymyr Klyuzko used the disc in deep stage left throughout "Midwinter Night" for projecting various images that flawlessly and unobtrusively matched and amplified the actions taking place on the stage.

Led by the Koliadnyky, the ensemble sang "Teche Richka." For the finale, the Lemon Bucket Orchestra started playing a dance tune. As the beat became more invigorating and the music more urgent, the house lights slowly came up. Dancing ensemble members began walking into the audience, bringing attendees on stage to dance with them. At the same time, some of the musicians went up into the seats to play among the now clapping audience. The piece ended with the whole theater a huge sea of exuberant playing, singing and dancing, the audience now a physical part of the performance.

Ukrainian delegation...

(Continued from page 15)

the delegation an understanding of how Ukrainian Americans preserve their heritage through education.

The delegates met with members of the Ukrainian Genocide Famine Foundation, and discussed writing, creating and advocating curriculum programs on collective trauma – such as the Holodomor – both here and in Ukraine.

The delegates had an opportunity to visit Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union, where President/CEO Bohdan Watral described this financial institution not only as a financial and economic institution, but as a community leader that continually supports Ukrainian organizations and institutions and is deeply committed to, and supportive of, community development.

On November 6, Election Day, the delegates had the unique experience of witnessing the U.S. presidential election. Members of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Illinois branch,

explained American electoral law, the voting process and the need to support efforts for electoral transparency in Ukraine. After a visit with Chicago Alderman Roberto Maldonado, the group was invited to accompany him to his polling place, where they could observe him voting and where they saw first-hand how a polling place functions and what protocols are in place to prevent voter fraud and electioneering. The delegates presented queries as to how they could facilitate election reform in their country and how to garner more U.S. support in doing so.

Reflecting on the events throughout the week, the Rev. Myron Panchuk stated, "I was delighted to spend an entire week with the delegates. Our conversations were insightful, engaging, and endearing. It was a joy to host this delegation."

Ms. Eliashevsky, chair of the Kyiv Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International, stated, "Chicago Sister Cities International and its Kyiv Committee were very pleased to welcome this delegation of emerging education leaders from Ukraine to Chicago as part of the important work of the Open World Leadership Center."



KINOFEST NYC

Ukrainian post-Soviet FILM FESTIVAL

in New York City April 4-7, 2013

www.kinofestNYC.com

Festival Sponsors: The Ukrainian Museum of New York, Izolyatsia - Platform for Cultural Initiatives, Self Reliance (NY) Credit Union, Bauer Dental Arts, Veselka, The Ukrainian Institute of America and individual donors

OUT & ABOUT

- March 12
Stanford, CA Seminar with Marci Shore, "The Taste of Ashes: The Afterlife of Totalitarianism in Eastern Europe," Stanford University, khaley@stanford.edu or <http://europe.stanford.edu/events>
- March 14
Cambridge, MA Presentation by Igor Delanoe, "Tracking Developments in the Black Sea Fleet, Russia-Ukraine, and New Regional Security Issues," Harvard University, 617-495-4053
- March 15
New York Literary evening, "Collective Memory," Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660 or www.ukrainianinstitute.org
- March 16
McKees Rocks, PA Pysanka workshop, Ukrainian Community of Western Pennsylvania, St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Social Hall, 412-364-0968
- March 16
Chicago Pysanka workshop, Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020
- March 16
New York Lecture by Alla Perminova, "The Ukrainian Reception of America Poetry in Ukrainian Translation," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130
- March 16
Jenkintown, PA Workshop, "Theology and Catechetical Teaching in St. Basil's Anaphora," by the Rev. Dr. Oleh Kindiy, Basilian Spirituality Center, 412-260-1607 or www.stbasils.com
- March 16
New Britain, CT Ukrainian Easter Festival, St. Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 860-229-3833 or 860-677-2138
- March 16
New York Ukrainian Easter bread workshop, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or info@ukrainianmuseum.org
- March 16
Chicago Concert, "Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the 1932-1933 Holodomor," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522 or www.uima-chicago.org
- March 16
New Haven, CT Pysanka lecture and workshop with Gloria Horbaty, Ukrainian National Women's League of America - Branch 108, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, 203-269-5909
- March 16-17
Newark, NJ Pre-Cana Conference, St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church, 973-371-1356
- March 16, April 6
Chicago Pysanka workshop, Ukrainian National Museum, 312-421-8020
- March 17
Ottawa Pysanka writing workshop, Glebe Community Center, 613-564-1058 or www.gnag.ca
- March 17
Warren, MI Concert, featuring works by Yuri Laniuk and the St. Joseph Valley Camerata ensemble, Ukrainian Arts Society, St. Josaphat Parish Center, 248-879-8167 or pianostudio88@sbcglobal.net
- March 17, 23, 24
New York Pysanka workshop, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or info@ukrainianmuseum.org
- March 22
Olyphant, PA Lenten dinner, Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church, The Regal Room, 570-489-4348 (reservations and pre-sale only)
- March 22
Whippany, NJ Lenten dinner, "Pyrohy, Pyvo and Lobster During Pist," Ukrainian American Youth Association - Whippany Branch, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, pyrohypyvolobsterdinner@gmail.com or 973-713-6956
- March 22-April 7
New York Art exhibit, "Art/Nature/Art by Ron Kostyniuk," Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660 or www.ukrainianinstitute.org
- March 23
Jenkintown, PA Easter Bazaar, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-663-1166 or www.ueccphila.org
- March 23
New York Pysanka demonstrations, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or info@ukrainianmuseum.org
- March 23
New York Lecture by Olena Panych, "The Memory and Identity of Post-Soviet Immigrant Believers in the United States," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to mdubas@ukrweekly.com.

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Main Office

125 Corporate Blvd.
Yonkers, New York 10701
Tel: 914-220-4900
Fax: 914-220-4090
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E-mail: memberservice@sumafcu.org

Yonkers Branch

301 Palisade Ave
Yonkers, NY 10703
Tel: 914-220-4900
Fax: 914-965-1936
E-mail: palisade@sumafcu.org

Spring Valley Branch

16 Twin Ave
Spring Valley, NY 10977
Tel: 845-356-0087
Fax: 845-356-5335
E-mail: springvalley@sumafcu.org

Stamford Branch

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UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Ice skating outing raises funds for Ukrainian school



NEWINGTON, Conn. – On Saturday, February 16, St. Michael's Ukrainian School of Hartford, Conn., held an ice skating fund-raiser at The Newington Arena in Newington, Conn. Members of the Ukrainian school, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Zolotyj Promin Dance Ensemble and the Ukrainian community skated to Ukrainian music and enjoyed an afternoon of friendship and fun.

– Christine M. Melnyk



The UNA announces Scholarships and Awards for students attending college in the 2013-2014 academic year.

Students wishing to apply for a UNA scholarship or award must meet the following criteria:

- Have been an active, premium-paying UNA member for at least two years by June 1st of 2013
- Have had a single premium policy or an annuity, valued at a minimum of \$5,000 during the last two years
- Be enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited college or university, studying towards their first bachelor's degree

The application for a UNA scholarship or award must be postmarked no later than **June 1, 2013**.

For complete details and applications, please call the UNA headquarters or visit the *Our Benefits* page on the UNA website at:

www.UkrainianNationalAssociation.org

UNA, Inc.
2200 Route 10
Parsippany, NJ 07054
800-253-9862



UAYA youths craft Valentines for vets

STAMFORD, Conn. – On Saturday, February 4, youths from Branch 54 Chersones, of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (UAYA) located in Stamford, Conn., worked together to create hundreds of beautifully crafted, hand-made Valentine decorations and greetings for veterans of American wars and conflicts currently recovering in hospitals from service-related injuries.

The effort was part of an annual program conducted through the office of Rep. Jim Himes (D-Conn.) It provided an interesting opportunity for the children to gain a greater

appreciation for the sacrifices these men and women of the armed forces have made for us in this country, enabling us to enjoy many freedoms and privileges.

This was the second year that UAYA Stamford members participated in the program. Last year, they received an official certificate of recognition from the congressman's office and a special greeting, in which Rep. Himes thanked them for their involvement and invited them to never falter in showing pride for their Ukrainian American background.

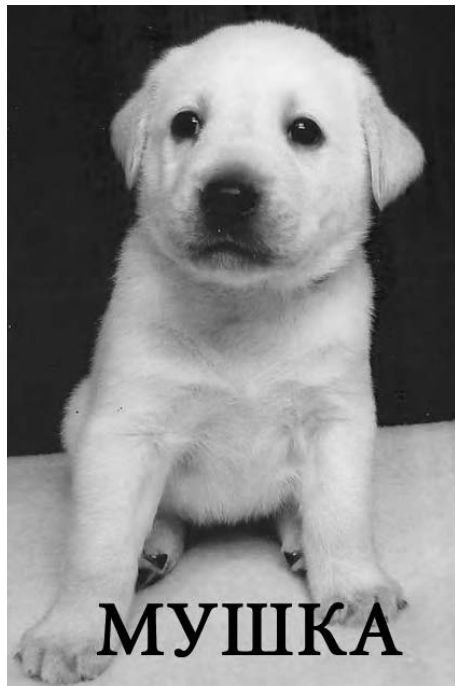


UAYA Stamford members show some of the Valentine's Day greetings they made for veterans.

Ukrainian American Youth Association of Whippany sponsors puppy for Seeing Eye

by Linda Kleban

WHIPPANY, N.J. – The Whippany branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (CYM) has



The UAYA's sponsored pup, Mushka.

sponsored a puppy for the Seeing Eye in Morristown. Youth members were inspired after a recent visit by Anita Eigen and her guide dog Camper to one of their regular Monday evening meetings to sponsor their own puppy. Also visiting the group that evening were Kelly, a Golden Retriever, and a little German Shepherd puppy named Kent with their volunteer handlers.

Youth members have enthusiastically begun their campaign of "Pennies for Puppies" to sponsor their own puppy for the Seeing Eye. Each week the children will bring in spare change to fill a four-gallon water bottle with donations to help reduce the cost of raising their sponsored pup. The children have lovingly dubbed their pup "Mushka."

Mushka will be raised by a volunteer family who will be responsible for the basic training in obedience



Members of the Whippany Branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association with Seeing Eye dog Camper

and socialization of the puppy until she is about 18 months old. The Seeing Eye works with the Morris County 4-H club to find volunteer families. Formal training will then continue at the Seeing Eye in Morristown, where Mushka will learn to guide a future human partner in keeping him or her safe from danger in everyday life.

The Ukrainian American Youth Association invites the community

to join in the campaign by saving spare change for the "Pennies for Puppies" campaign. Water bottles are on display at the UACCNJ in Whippany for anyone who would like to contribute pennies (or nickels and dimes!) for this worthwhile cause. Checks can also be sent to UAYA Pennies for Puppies, 60 N. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07936 .Every penny raised will go directly to the Seeing Eye.

'Scout Sunday' tradition continues in New Britain



Youth group members with the Rev. Andrii Pokotylo after their special "Scout Sunday" blessing.

byStephania Melnyk

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. – According to tradition, the first Sunday in February every year is called Scout Sunday. The Scout Sunday tradition was started in the 1940s by Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts in 1907. The tradition was started so that people belonging to houses of worship would be aware of the young scouts within these houses of worship, and the charitable work they do for their community.

The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and that all scouts promise to fulfill their "Duty to God" by doing good deeds. Scout Sunday encourages the scouts in every house of worship to fulfill this duty and strengthen their character in their family, community and faith.

This tradition was continued on February 3, when children from St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church

who participate in various scouting-type groups came to church dressed in their uniforms. Children from the Ukrainian American Youth Association, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Boy and Girl Scouts of America all attended the service. The children carried icons in a special procession around the church during the Great Entrance.

Following the divine liturgy, the Rev. Andrii Pokotylo read a special prayer and did a special blessing in honor of the scouts. He thanked the scouts for their commitment to God and His work and asked that they continue to serve their communities and God.

During coffee time, the youths handed out desserts for all the parishioners in attendance.

Stephania Melnyk, 13, is from Avon, Conn., and is a member of the Ukrainian American Youth Association.

Mishanyna

Find the capitalized portions of the names of special days during the month of March to solve this month's Mishanyna.

Beginning of SPRING	National READING DAY	Taras SHEVCHENKO birthday
EASTER (Gregorian calendar)	PALM SUNDAY	TEXAS Independence Day
GIRL SCOUT DAY	PASSOVER	VERNAL EQUINOX
IDES OF MARCH	PI DAY	WORLD WATER Day
LENT	ST. PATRICK'S DAY	

S	S	A	C	R	A	M	E	N	T	O	K	Y	I	P
I	P	R	E	A	D	I	N	G	D	A	Y	E	R	A
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E	N	A	Y	P	N	E	A	R	T	H	A	D	I	S
M	G	Y	A	I	T	R	A	C	T	O	R	W	I	U
Y	A	D	S	K	C	I	R	T	A	P	T	S	T	N
O	L	D	A	Y	S	E	O	R	D	I	S	I	E	D
R	V	E	R	N	A	L	E	Q	U	I	N	O	X	A
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D	A	Y	T	T	O	L	D	T	I	M	E	T	S	E
A	U	E	X	S	H	E	V	C	H	E	N	K	O	R
Y	R	A	S	I	R	E	T	A	W	D	L	R	O	W
P	A	A	S	S	P	A	L	M	D	A	Y	E	A	S
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2013-14

Group Tours

Zenia's Travel Club



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Tour A: Aug 13-29, 2013 - 17 days - Land Tour \$3500pp + Airfare \$1285pp

Tour B: Aug 13-26, 2013 - 14 days - Land Tour \$2850pp + Airfare \$1385pp

Tour C: Aug 14-25, 2013 - 12 days - Land Tour \$1750pp + Airfare

Registration and deposit deadline is April 15, 2013

"Bermuda Cruise"

St. Stephen Church, Toms River, NJ

8-Day Sailing from New York - "Norwegian BREAKAWAY"

Sept. 08-15, 2013 - from \$980pp - Dep. by May 01, 2013



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*Plus-Bermuda Cruise Raffle - \$10 per ticket

Grand Prize: Balcony Cabin for Two (2) on above Bermuda Cruise

Call Zenia for details: 732-928-3792

PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 16

NEW YORK: The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Alla Perminova on "The Ukrainian Reception of American Poetry in Ukrainian Translation." Ms. Perminova is a docent at Kyiv National University and a Fulbright scholar. The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets), at 5 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130.

Saturday-Sunday, March 16-17

NEWARK, N.J.: St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark is sponsoring a pre-Cana conference for everyone who is planning a wedding in a Ukrainian Catholic church, regardless of city or state. The conference will feature lectures by qualified specialists: a priest, a psychologist, a physician, an attorney/financial planner and several life coaches. To register, or with questions, please call the church office at 973-371-1356 between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on weekdays.

Saturday, March 23

PALATINE, ILL.: Ukrainian American Veterans 1st Lt. Ivan Shandor Post 35 invites veterans and the community to an informational/social meeting to discuss the educational system in District 211 in Palatine and Schaumburg townships. The meeting takes

place at 2 p.m. at the Palatine Library, 700 N. North Court, Palatine, IL 60067. At 3 p.m., at the Palatine Library, the Conservative Veterans of America, Palatine TEA Party and the ACT for America chapter will host former Congressman Joe Walsh. Mr. Walsh will address the last elections, the state of the Republican Party in Illinois and his future plans in politics. After his presentation, there will be a question and answer session moderated by Col. Roman G. Golash (ret.). There is no charge for these events. For more information, call 847-910-3532 or e-mail roman.golash@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday, March 24

ALEXANDRIA, Va.: The Washington Group Cultural Fund will present a tribute to composer Bohdana Filts on her 80th birthday. The program will feature the composer's works for piano, violin and voice. Pianist Oksana Skidan, violinist Ivanna Husar and diva of the New York City Opera Oksana Krovytska will perform art songs composed by Ms. Filts to the words of Taras Shevchenko. There will be a reception to meet the artists immediately following the performance, which begins at 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Suggested donation: \$20; free for students; unreserved seating. For more information e-mail twg-culturalfund@gmail.com; event contact phone, 301-229-2615; venue phone, 703-838-4994.

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. 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.**

SOYUZIVKA HERITAGE CENTER

Tennis Camp

June 23-July 4

Kicks off the summer with 12 days of intensive tennis instruction and competitive play, for boys and girls age 10-18. Attendance will be limited to 45 students. Room, board, 24-hour supervision, expert lessons and loads of fun are included. Camp is under the direction of George Sawchak.

Tabir Ptashat

Session 1: June 23-29

Session 2: June 30-July 6

Ukrainian Plast tabir (camp) for children age 4-6 accompanied by their parents. Registration forms will also be appearing in the Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly in March and April. For further information, please contact Neonila Sochan at 973-984-7456.

2013 Summer Camp Information



Soyuzivka Heritage Center
P.O. Box 529, Kerhonkson, NY 12446

Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Academy Workshop

June 30- July 13

Vigorous 2-week dance training for more intermediate and advanced dancers age 16 and up under the direction of the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Foundation, culminating with performances on stage during the Ukrainian Cultural Festival weekend. Additional information <http://www.syzokryli.com/>

Ukrainian Heritage Day Camp

Session 1: July 14-19 • Session 2: July 21-26

A returning favorite, in the form of a day camp. Children age 4-7 will be exposed to Ukrainian heritage through daily activities such as dance, song, crafts and games. Children will walk away with an expanded knowledge of Ukrainian folk culture and language, as well as new and lasting friendships with other children of Ukrainian heritage. Price includes kid's lunch and T-shirt and, unless noted, is based on in-house occupancy of parent/guardian.

Discovery Camp

July 14-20

Calling all nature lovers age 8-15 for this sleep-over program filled with outdoor crafts, hiking, swimming, organized sports and games, bonfires, songs and much more. Room, board, 24-hour supervision and a lifetime of memories are included.

Chornomorska Sitch Sports School

Session 1: July 21-27 • Session 2: July 28-August 3

44th annual sports camp run by the Ukrainian Athletic-Educational Association Chornomorska Sitch for children age 6-17. This camp will focus on soccer, tennis, volleyball and swimming, and is perfect for any sports enthusiast. Please contact sitchsportsschool@gmail.com for an application and additional information.

Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Ukrainian Dance Camp

Session 1: July 21-August 3

Session 2: August 4-August 17

Directed by Ania Bohachevsky-Lonkevych (daughter of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky), this camp is for aspiring dancers age 8-16, offering expert instruction for beginning, intermediate and advanced students. Room, board, 24-hour supervision, expert lessons and plenty of fun are included. Each camp ends with a grand recital. Attendance will be limited to 60 students.

