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Kuchma thanks diaspora for support

WASHINGTON — In a special message to “our brothers and sisters abroad,” President Leonid Kuchma thanked Ukrainians of the diaspora for “decades of work at the time of the Iron Curtain’s existence that created a positive posture toward Ukraine” and five years ago resulted in speedy recognition of its independence.

Addressing his fellow Ukrainians around the world just over five years since Ukraine declared its independence and then confirmed that independence by a nationwide referendum, the president stated: “Fate has scattered us around the world, to various corners of our planet. But all of you are close and dear to us, because we and you are sons and daughters of one mother, Ukraine.”

In the December 28 missive released by the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, the president wrote: “No matter how diverse our everyday concerns, plans and hopes may be, we nurture one mutual hope and goal: we are building a free, independent and developed Ukraine, a strong democratic European state. Each of us has a contribution to this cause; each of those contributions is valuable and essential.”

Mr. Kuchma underlined that the diaspora’s activity is particularly evident in “opening Ukraine and Ukrainians to those countries that became your second homelands, as you spurred the development of bilateral ties and promoted Ukrainian interests.”

The president continued:

“The past five years were difficult. But, on the path to defeating the burdensome legacy of the past and taking their difficult first steps, the people of Ukraine felt the support of their brothers and sisters abroad. You sincerely sympathized with us when we encountered problems, you helped us correct our mistakes, and you rejoiced over

our victories. 1996 is marked by one of the most important victories: the adoption of the Constitution of Ukraine, which codified our achievements in the process of state-building, delineated further steps in its development and became the fundamental consolidating factor of our society.

“I want to sincerely thank all of you, dear countrymen in the U.S.A. and Canada, Great Britain and Australia, France and Germany, Brazil and Argentina, Russia and Poland, in all countries, on all continents, for your support — both moral and material, your sincerity, your mutual concern about the fate of Ukraine and your active participation in creating its future.”

President Kuchma also extended his best wishes for the New Year and Christmas, wishing “good fortune and good health, success and fulfillment, and peace and harmony in your hearts and in your families.”

Conference reflects on 20 years of Ukrainian human rights activism

by Irene Jarosewich

NEW YORK — Twenty years ago, a small group of determined individuals gathered together with a pledge to unveil the hypocrisy of the Soviet system, to reveal its oppressive grip on the lives of its citizens and the brutality with which it treated its opponents. From a modest beginning in the Kyiv apartment of Mykola Rudenko, the Ukrainian Public Group to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords became an internationally recognized human rights organization.

Founded on November 9, 1976, the mandate of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group (UHG) was to provide information of human rights abuses by Soviet authorities, in violation of the 1975 Helsinki Accords,

a security and cooperation agreement to which the government of the USSR was signatory.

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the UHG, its External Representation in the United States organized a conference held on December 15, 1996, at the Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York. Speakers included Nina Strokata-Karavanska, one of the founders of UHG; R.L. Chomiak, a journalist who tracked the activities of the Ukrainian human rights movement from the West; Myroslav Marynovych, a co-founder of the UHG and now a professor at the Pedagogical Institute in Drohobych, Ukraine; and Valeriy Pavlov, a Ukrainian cinematographer.

The conference was organized and directed by Nadia Svitlychna, who also introduced Raisa Rudenko, wife of the group’s first chairman, as well as Andriy Grigorenko, son of the late Petro Grigorenko, also one of the founders of the UHG and its representative in Moscow. The voice of the late Oksana Meshko, another founding member of the UHG was heard from an archival tape as she read an appeal to the World Congress of Free Ukrainians.

There was consensus among the speakers that the now-popular adage “Ukraine’s independence was achieved without bloodshed” is untrue — and even immoral. Ukraine’s independence was not obtained over a weekend; it was obtained over many decades with many lives lost and ruined. Intended as a positive statement, “without bloodshed” in fact belittles and obscures the sacrifices of countless people.

Ms. Strokata-Karavanska, who spoke about the importance of historian Mykhailo Melnyk’s work on the formation of dissident thought, reminded the audience that nowadays everyone accepts as an obvious truth that the independence of Ukraine was a necessary precondition for the collapse of the Soviet monolith. Yet, as recently as 10 years ago, this was a radical position in the Soviet Union, punishable by incarceration.

For years, the situation in Ukraine, according to Mr. Chomiak, could be compared to trees falling in the woods: with no one to hear, was there sound? Ukrainian human rights activism was reminiscent of trees falling in dense, silent woods.

In particular, the 1960s, the period of “Shestydesiatnyky” activism and subsequent repression was a long silence. Information about arrests, detentions and conditions in the camps rarely made it to the West. Even when information reached Western correspondents based in Moscow, if the correspondents could not confirm information, then it often remained unreported.

CHRIST IS BORN — GLORIFY HIM!



Icon by George Kozak as reproduced on Christmas card published by the UNA.

Walter Kwas of Soyuzivka dead at 80

KERHONKSON, N.Y. — Walter Kwas, who was widely known in the Ukrainian community as manager of Soyuzivka, the Ukrainian National Association’s upstate New York resort — having served in that capacity for 28 years — died on Saturday, December 28, 1996, following a brief illness. He was 80 years old.

Mr. Kwas was active in numerous Ukrainian community groups, and served as a supreme advisor of the Ukrainian National Association for many years until he chose to retire from that post in 1994.

He was born in Bozhtysha, Zolochiv county of western Ukraine, on March 17, 1916, and worked in the Ukrainian cooperative movement until the outbreak of World War II. After emigrating to the United

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ANALYSIS: A look at Ukraine in its fifth year of independence

by David R. Marples

Ukraine marked its fifth year of independence in 1996. In many respects the year can be perceived as one of consolidation of the Ukrainian state within the international community. Compared to its former Soviet neighbors, Ukraine can be termed an oasis of stability amid a bleak desert of conflict and change. At the same time in specific spheres — particularly the coal and nuclear energy industries — there remains cause for concern. In addition, the Russian Duma's claim to the city of Sevastopol is an indicator that relations with the giant neighbor state remain uncertain, particularly in view of the likely long convalescence of President Boris Yeltsin. Let us examine some of these issues in turn.

Internal politics

The most notable changes in personnel occurred at the level of prime minister, with the replacement of Yevhen Marchuk on May 27 and the appointment a day later of Dnipropetrovsk native Pavlo Lazarenko, 43, in his place. Mr. Lazarenko's mission is evidently to accelerate the privatization process and attract foreign investment into Ukraine. Less than two months later, Mr. Lazarenko narrowly avoided an assassination attempt while being driven to the airport, as a powerful explosive ripped apart the roadside verge. In May, President Kuchma added Volodymyr Lanovoy to his team as his main economic advisor. On September 23, Viktor Pynzenyuk, another well-known reformer, was appointed vice prime minister for the economy, with Anatolii Minchenko being inserted as the minister responsible for industrial policy and the energy complex.

The year saw increasingly bitter conflict between the reformers and the Leftists, particularly within the Verkhovna Rada during an extensive debate on the ratification of a new Constitution for Ukraine. In late March, Leftist deputies even submitted an alternative draft to declare Ukraine a socialist state, eliminate the office of president, and raise Russian to the status of a state language.

On June 28, however, the Parliament voted in support of a new constitution by 315 votes to 36, and the accepted version clearly established the president as the most powerful figure in the government, along with a single-chamber Verkhovna Rada. The Constitution also confirms Ukrainian as the state language, with specified local rights for the use of languages in areas inhabited largely by minorities. The new Constitution overrides the agreement reached in 1995 between the president and the legislature and formally replaces the old Soviet Constitution introduced in the late Brezhnev period in 1978. The event was perceived as a triumph for President Leonid Kuchma over significant opposition.

The economy

The key problem in the economy has been a failure to meet regular wages, with the result that Ukraine now faces the prospect of an enormous wage backlog. In the agricultural sector alone, the backlog was reported to be the equivalent of \$200 million, and that figure does not take into account inflation. By late June, Mr. Lazarenko noted that the government was using 80 percent of its internal and external revenues to clear the wage arrears. Inflation also began to rise during the latter part of the year after falling to 0.1 percent in the months of June and July.

David R. Marples is director of the Stasiuk Program on Contemporary Ukraine at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta

In early September, the long awaited Ukrainian currency — the hryvnia — was introduced, replacing the much maligned karbovanets, which had been in use for the past four years. Contrary to some expectations, the hryvnia held steady against the dollar on the international exchange (at 1.76 to \$1), though by the year's end it had begun to decline.

The coal sector remains Ukraine's biggest single problem within the industrialized spectrum. The early part of the year saw a coal strike that affected 177 of Ukraine's 227 coal mines, while in this same month, then Prime Minister Marchuk declared his plans to close down some 70 mines that were operating at a loss. His remarks were supported by a conference of World Bank officials, which concluded that 114 Ukrainian coal mines must be shut down if the industry is to restore profitability.

By the spring there were further strikes of miners seeking wages, some of whom had not been paid since September 1995. Coal miners were also concerned about layoffs as a result of the scheduled mine closures. By June a further strike had erupted, with the involvement of over 2,700 miners in the Donbas and Lviv-Volyn coalfields. It was ended only in mid-July when the government reached an agreement with the Workers' Union of the Coal Industry and the Independent Donbas Miners' Union.

In addition to the unrest among the coal miners, who have traditionally been the most militant among the Ukrainian workforce, the dangerous geological state of the coal mines themselves has continued to result in a very high accident rate and casualty list. By March, 61 Ukrainian miners had reportedly died in various accidents, while by September the figure had risen to 224. The anticipated yearly total was about 340. To put that figure into perspective, in the Soviet period, approximately double that number of miners died annually in Ukraine, yet coal output in Ukraine has dropped dramatically since that time to about 25 percent of the peak output figure. Clearly the shutdown of some of Ukraine's deeper mines is warranted on the grounds of safety alone.

The energy sphere

Turning to the energy sphere, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant has remained a focus of world attention. One reason for this focus was the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the tragic accident on April 26. However, though the anniversary attracted publicity, the key issue has been the future of the plant. Momentum has grown for a campaign to keep the station in operation beyond the scheduled shutdown time of the year 2000.

Early in February, 58 parliamentary deputies pleaded with President Kuchma on behalf of the station, arguing that it was the safest and best run of all Ukraine's nuclear power stations.

Shortly afterward Environmental Minister Yuri Kostenko demanded that if Ukraine was to meet its deadline for the closure of Chernobyl, then the promised international loans and credits must be received quickly. Throughout the year these two issues were tied together by the Ukrainian authorities.

On April 19-20, the leaders of the G-7 countries and Russia met in Moscow and announced the commitment of about \$3.2 billion worth of aid to Ukraine so that the station could be safely decommissioned by the end of the century. Further talks took place in Kyiv in June, when it was announced that the promised funds would begin to arrive in Ukraine in the summer

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NEWSBRIEFS

Dudayev aide stabbed to death in Kyiv

KYIV — Ruslan Badayev, an aide to the late Chechen leader Dzhokar Dudayev, was stabbed to death in Kyiv, Agence France Press reported on December 28, 1996. His assailant has been arrested, but no details have been disclosed about the motive for the murder, except that it appeared to be "a settling of accounts." NTV reported that Mr. Badayev had not been involved in politics in recent months and that the murder seemed to have been connected with his personal business dealings. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Kuchma focuses on agricultural reform

KYIV — President Leonid Kuchma said agricultural reform is the main precondition for Ukraine to emerge from its economic crisis, Ukrainian radio reported on December 30, 1996. He noted that besides the insufficient volume of agricultural and dairy products, there are many complex social problems associated with rural settlements. Mr. Kuchma said agrarian reforms, which began in 1994, reached only a certain point and then ground to a halt. He added that prices for agricultural goods were driven by the "wild market" and that agricultural theory and practice were operating independently of each other. The director of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Petro Sabliuk, said the concept of land as a commodity has to be accepted, otherwise there could be no agricultural reform. (OMRI Daily Digest)

EBRD to quadruple projects in Ukraine

KYIV — The EBRD plans to more than quadruple the number of projects it is implementing in Ukraine, said Yuriy Poluneyev, EBRD director for Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, Georgia and Armenia. Infobank reported that Mr. Poluneyev addressed the Kyiv Press Club on December 26, 1996, and said the number of EBRD-financed projects in Ukraine would rise from the current number of 17 to around 80 in the near future. The biggest of the coming projects will be completion of two reactors at the Khmelnytskyi and Rivne nuclear power plants. According to Mr. Poluneyev, this project will cost \$1.2 billion (U.S.), but he said that powerful anti-nuclear lobbies in both Ukraine and the EBRD would have to be overcome before the project could get the green light. Among the other big projects cited by the EBRD director were: the modernization of the runway at Kyiv's Boryspil Airport, the granting of credit to UkrTeleKom to set up a modern telecommunications network in Kyiv, and the reconstruction of several

Ukrainian hotels. The EBRD will also finance a \$70 million pilot project in the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast to purchase and install gas meters. The EBRD has already extended credits to Ukraine worth \$392 million. Five joint projects are being implemented in the state sector, and the remaining 12 in the private sector. Ukraine can expect a real investment boom as early as 1997, predicted Mr. Poluneyev. He added that Kyiv will be "the world's financial capital" in May 1998, when the EBRD holds its two-week stockholders' meeting in the city. (Eastern Economist)

Federation Council calls for moratorium

MOSCOW — The Russian Federation Council called on President Boris Yeltsin on December 26, 1996, to impose a moratorium on any agreements over the Black Sea Fleet until a special commission examines the status of the main base, in Sevastopol, NTV reported. The following day, Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov informed Ukraine's Foreign Ministry that he intends to visit the city in January, despite the ministry's threats to declare him persona non grata to prevent such a visit, Rossiyskaya Gazeta reported. Mr. Luzhkov has repeatedly made it clear that he backs Russian claims to Sevastopol. Meanwhile, Zerkalo Nedeli reported that President Leonid Kuchma has said he will never agree to hand over Sevastopol to Russia. He added that if such a step were taken, he would no longer be president and Ukraine would lose its independence. RFE/RL reported that Russian presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzemskii said on December 27 that Mr. Yeltsin has not changed his position that "Sevastopol and Crimea are part of Ukraine." (OMRI Daily Digest)

Rodionov cites U.S. drive for hegemony

MOSCOW — Addressing a Moscow conference on CIS military cooperation on December 25, 1996, Russian Defense Minister Igor Rodionov said that Washington's efforts to "make its world leadership complete" by relying on an expanded NATO may become a "military threat" to Russia and other CIS states, Russian and Western agencies reported. Mr. Rodionov added that Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Japan, China and other unnamed Asian countries also pose potential military threats. He urged the formation of joint CIS military forces and the bolstering of Russian strategic nuclear forces in response. The Russian Foreign Ministry quickly moved to downplay the defense minister's remarks, labeling his

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Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
Assistant editor: Khristina Lew
Staff editors: Roman Woronowycz (Kyiv)
and Andriy Kudla Wynnyckyj (Toronto)

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Conference reflects...

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However, the determined activism of UHG members and supporters in Ukraine, as well as support from the Ukrainian diaspora worldwide focused attention on human rights abuses in Ukraine in the late 1970s and during the 1980s. Information provided by UHG gave Western governments a base from which to confront Soviet authorities.

Ms. Strokata-Karavanska also reminded the audience that external forces, such as the Western military build-up, are often cited as causes for the collapse of the Soviet Union, but that the role of internal opposition has all but been ignored.

Mr. Chomiak concurred and remarked that, whereas in previous decades, there was no information in the West about human rights activism in Ukraine, today, in Ukraine itself, the history of the internal opposition movements and their activists have been almost forgotten.

Mr. Pavlov elicited murmurs of disbelief, resignation and a few chuckles from audience as he described the establishment of a memorial museum at the former site of one of the most notorious camps — Perm 36 in the Urals.

The Russian organization Memorial had undertaken the project to build a museum to honor dissidents at the site, however, the site had been disassembled. So, in order to accurately portray the dehumanizing conditions, the organization now must raise private funds to recover and re-install listening devices, infra-red sensors, bars, prisoner garb, barbed wire, etc.

Mr. Pavlov mentioned that the members of the group actively solicit input from their Ukrainian compatriots since it is widely recognized among former Soviet dissidents that more than 50 percent of former political prisoners were from Ukraine.

Ms. Svitlychna commented that not only were most of the political prisoners from Ukraine, but that of the former Helsinki watch groups, Ukraine's was one of the strongest and had numerous "external" members and supporters in other republics and in the West.

The youngest member of the UHG, Myroslav Marynovych, is presently in the United States on a Pew Fellowship at Columbia University. Mr. Marynovych commented on the strong activism of religious groups in the human rights movement. Activists from many religious denominations, Greek-Catholics, Orthodox,



At an evening devoted to the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, from left are: Nadia Svitlychna; Aishe Seitmuratova, a former political prisoner and Crimean Tatar activist; Myroslav Marynovych; Nina Strokata-Karavanska and Raisa Rudenko.

Protestants, Jews and Muslims all found a voice through the Ukrainian Helsinki Group.

According to Mr. Marynovych, in retrospect, the Western understanding of human rights as particular to the individual was not fully understood in Ukraine, even among the dissidents. The "individual," according to Mr. Marynovych is still a very "western Protestant" concept.

Human rights activism in Ukraine, as well as in other republics, was based to a large degree on some sort of group or collective identity — either religious, such as Jews and Evangelicals, or national, or ethnic. Individual rights were still viewed through the prism of a collective — the right to be a Crimean Tatar, for example, or a Greek-Catholic.

The value of an individual as a moral or social enti-

ty apart from any collective context is only now beginning to be understood in Ukraine, and in some cases is met with resistance. Very often this resistance comes from the same religious, national and ethnic groups that were integral to the human rights struggle, as the competition for the hearts, minds and souls of Ukrainians continues.

According to both Mr. Marynovych and Mrs. Rudenko, in various ways, opposition movements in Ukraine must continue. "In many instances," said Mrs. Rudenko, "communists are, for all practical purposes, still in power." "The administrative shadow of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic continues on the territory of an independent Ukraine," concluded Mr. Marynovych, "and there still must be dissidents to throw off the rotting shell of the old system."

Newsbriefs

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list of potential adversaries "purely hypothetical." (OMRI Daily Digest)

Daewoo promises \$1B for car industry

KYIV — Korean giant Daewoo plans to invest more than \$1 billion (U.S.) in Ukrainian car production, reported UNIAN on December 26, 1996. According to presidential press secretary, Dmytro Markov, President Leonid Kuchma has approved most of the projects proposed by Daewoo Chair Kim U Jung at a recent meeting and has ordered the Cabinet and ministries to do their utmost to ensure their successful realization. Mr. Markov insisted that Daewoo is entering the Ukrainian market as a strategic investor and plans to reinvest its profits in the Ukrainian economy. During a meeting with Conversion Minister Valerii Malev and representatives of Zaporizhzhia car plant AvtoZaz, the Daewoo corporation agreed to participate in restructuring of AvtoZaz and to start mass-production of cars solely from Ukrainian components. Specialists report that more than 160 Ukrainian enterprises will be involved in the manufacturing cycle. About 30,000 cars are to be made annually, half of which are to be exported. This is expected to yield annual profits of \$1.5 billion (U.S.). (Eastern Economist)

Government cuts education spending

KYIV — Education Minister Mykhailo

Zgurovskii told the Verkhovna Rada that the country's education system is facing "total ruin." The 1997 draft state budget covers only 55 percent of teachers' wages and 70 percent of students' stipends. Mr. Zgurovskii said the government will reduce spending on education by introducing partial payment for textbooks and cutting other benefits, as well as reducing the number of teachers by 23 percent. The Ukrainian government also decided to abolish stipends for university students beginning on January 1. Stipends will be paid only to the best students and to those from poor families. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Industry poses threat to environment

KYIV — Emergency Situations Minister Valerii Kalchenko said up to 42 percent of Ukrainian enterprises, employing one-third of the workforce, are ecologically unsafe. Minister Kalchenko said Ukrainian railways, where 16 percent of crossings need replacing, are especially dangerous. Ukraine faces problems with destruction of chemical weapons of the former USSR. Mr. Kalchenko said many of the 4,000 wagon loads of shells near Kerch in Crimea had exceeded their shelf life. Meanwhile, officials at the Radical Chemical Factory in Kyiv warned that the chlorine compound stored in an aging storage tank at the plant could soon be released into the atmosphere, threatening nearby residents and forests. The factory cannot afford new containers to store 20 metric tons of the highly toxic material. (OMRI Daily Digest)

Walter Kwas...

(Continued from page 1)

States he immediately became involved in Ukrainian community life, first and foremost the Ukrainian National Association.

Mr. Kwas founded UNA Branch 88 in 1957 and served as its president from its inception until his death; he also held the post of branch secretary from 1957 to 1968. He was elected to the UNA Supreme Assembly, serving three four-year terms as a supreme advisor, and was active in the Troy-Albany UNA District Committee. At the UNA Convention in 1994 Mr. Kwas urged delegates to vote for Stephanie Hawryluk, a fellow officer of UNA Branch 88, as his successor on the Assembly.

Mr. Kwas became manager of Soyuzivka in 1955 and served in that post until 1983. He was the heart and soul of Soyuzivka, as well as a surrogate parent to the hundreds of Ukrainian youths who worked at the resort during summer seasons. He transformed the Catskill mountain estate into a little piece of Ukraine, complete with Hutsul-style architectural embellishments and furnishings reminiscent of the Carpathian Mountains. He promoted youth camps and workshops at Soyuzivka, and he turned the estate into a showcase for Ukrainian performers and artists — both established talents and up-and-coming novices and amateurs.

Mr. Kwas was active also in local politics. He was elected to the Ulster County Legislature and was voted chairman of the local Republican Committee. He also served as president of the Lions Club of Kerhonkson.

After the death of their only son in



Walter Kwas

Ukraine, Mr. Kwas' wife, Magdalyna, emigrated to the United States in 1973, settling in Kerhonkson with her husband.

A parastas service was to be offered on Friday, January 3. The funeral was to take place the next day, with liturgy scheduled for 10 a.m. at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Kerhonkson, and burial at the Pine Bush Cemetery, also in Kerhonkson.

Surviving are Mr. Kwas' wife and relatives in the United States, Canada and Ukraine. Memorial donations may be made to Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Chernobyl children's fund of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, The Ukrainian Museum and Plast in Ukraine.

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Chicago events focus on Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies

OTTAWA – A weekend of events was held in Chicago on November 1-3 to support the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies. Founded in Chicago in 1986 at the Catholic Theological Union, the Sheptytsky Institute moved to Ottawa in 1990. Today, as an integral part of St. Paul University's faculty of theology, it provides the Ukrainian Catholic Church in North America a theological voice and a place for seminarians and other students to study their Eastern Christian spiritual and theological heritage. While most of the institute's students come from Canada and the United States, there also are students from as far away as Ukraine.

Sponsored by the U.S.-based organization American Friends of the Sheptytsky Institute, the weekend featured a publications and photo exhibit, a fund-raising banquet, a scholarly conference and a video presentation on the Sheptytsky Institute, produced and donated by a grateful graduate, who is also a media specialist.

During the banquet, beautifully organized by Tania Laba and held at the Ss. Volodymyr and Olha Cultural Center on Saturday, November 1, members of Chicago's Ukrainian community were able to meet board members of the Sheptytsky Institute Foundation, a non-profit organization that manages the funds necessary for the Institute's continued activity.

Among the honored guests were Bishop Michael Wivchar, Eparchy of Chicago; Eugene Cherwick of Winnipeg, the foundation's president; Father Andriy Chirovsky of Ottawa, director of the institute; Dr. Andrew Browar of Chicago, president of the American Friends; and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kule of Edmonton, the institute's



The board of directors of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute Foundation meets in Chicago.

most generous benefactors.

In one of the highlights of the evening, Peter and Doris Kule presented their second endowment of \$1 million for the Chair in Eastern Liturgy. Their first \$1 million, donated in June 1993, enabled the Institute to inaugurate the Chair of Eastern Christian Theology.

Speaking at the banquet, Mr. Kule

underscored his commitment to the institute: "People may ask why we have invested so much of our life's earnings in the Sheptytsky Institute. It is a matter of trust. We believe in the vision of the Sheptytsky Institute and its staff. Without very well educated leaders priests, sisters, laypeople, our Church on this continent may very well die. It will live on in Ukraine, where our

people are concentrated and can support each other. To survive in North America we must be stronger and deeper and wiser than other Churches... We have a rich tradition, but we need to make it alive for the next millennium... That is where the Sheptytsky Institute comes in."

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Ukrainian Technological Society cites Ukrainian of the Year Nickolas Kotow

PITTSBURGH – Nickolas C. Kotow of Bethel Park, Pa., was honored as the 1996 Ukrainian of the Year by the Ukrainian Technological Society of Pittsburgh at its 27th annual dinner and dance on November 30 at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association.

Mr. Kotow was selected for his efforts as a chronicler of the Pittsburgh Ukrainian community through the UTS Newsletter and his position as secretary in many local Ukrainian organizations. The UTS is a charter member of the Federation of Ukrainian American Business and Professional Associations.

Mr. Kotow was born in Canonsburg, Pa., of American-born parents. He graduated from Lehigh University in

Bethlehem, Pa., with a B.S. in chemistry in 1966. He received a Juris Doctor degree in 1976 from Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, and a master's degree in library science from the University of Pittsburgh.

In 1977 while in Columbus, he began to research his Ukrainian ancestry, after viewing the television miniseries "Roots." He visited the home of his colleague Dr. Alexandra C. Melnyk, and her late husband, Konstantin, where he learned much about Ukraine. In Columbus, he joined the local branch of the Ukrainian National Association.

In 1979, after he returned to Pittsburgh, he joined the Ukrainian Technological Society. In January 1980

he was elected to its executive board and assigned to the society's newsletter committee. He has served on the UTS executive board and has been associated with the publication of the UTS Newsletter ever since. He has been secretary and treasurer of the society, and was president in 1982-1983 and 1986-1987. In 1986, with assistance from Myron J. Spak, he published the Ukrainian Directory of Greater Pittsburgh; in 1994 he worked with Gloria J. Kinal to publish an expanded, second edition of the directory.

In the fall of 1981 then UTS President Bohdan M. Konecky proposed that the community sponsor a Ukrainian festival. Mr. Kotow was on the first Pittsburgh Ukrainian Festival Committee in 1982 and has been a member of every annual festival committee. He has been chairman or co-chairman of the festival program book committee since 1984 and was chairman of the 1989-1992 festivals.

In 1984 Mr. Kotow joined the Western Pennsylvania Council of the League of Ukrainian Catholics of America. He has served the council as secretary and treasurer, and has been president since 1993. He was elected treasurer of the LUC national board and has served in this capacity since 1992. He joined the Diocesan Resource Committee of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of St. Josaphat in Parma, Ohio, in 1988, and is its acting chairman.

Mr. Kotow is a member of the Ukrainian American Citizens Club of Carnegie, Pa., and the American Ukrainian Citizens Club of Wilmerding, Pa., where he has served as appointed recording secretary for over a decade. He has been a member of many ad hoc committees, such as the Western Pennsylvania Branch of the

National Committee to Commemorate the Millennium of Christianity in Ukraine in 1988 and the committees to host visits to Pittsburgh of the first president of modern-day Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk, and the current ambassador of Ukraine to the United States, Dr. Yuri Shcherbak. He is president of UNA Branch 264 in Carnegie.

In his acceptance remarks, Mr. Kotow thanked Michael Komichak, director of the Ukrainian Radio Program in Pittsburgh for over 46 years, for nominating him; UTS President Ihor Havryluk and the society for naming him as the Ukrainian of the Year; and his mother, Virginia, and brother, Theodore, for helping him with many behind-the-scenes duties.

He proposed that the society join with other local Ukrainian organizations to create a "Ukrainian Visitors Network" in Pittsburgh. This network would ensure that Ukrainians visiting Pittsburgh at the invitation of non-Ukrainian hosts could have the opportunity to meet members of the Pittsburgh Ukrainian community. He has also proposed that the community establish a "Ukrainian Guest House," where Ukrainian business travelers could stay inexpensively while conducting business negotiations in the Pittsburgh area.

In naming Mr. Kotow as its Ukrainian of the Year, the Ukrainian Technological Society recognized his efforts in preserving the history of the Pittsburgh Ukrainian community through his articles and reporting in the UTS Newsletter and his secretarial duties in many organizations and on ad hoc committees, his willingness to help diverse facets of the community, his building of relationships throughout western Pennsylvania, and his ongoing moral and financial support of his Ukrainian heritage.



Nickolas C. Kotow (center) receives the Ukrainian Technological Society's Ukrainian of the Year Award from Ihor Havryluk (left). Looking on is Rep. William J. Coyne.

First volume of Hrushevsky translation handed over to CIUS Press

by Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj
Toronto Press Bureau

TORONTO — The monumental project of translating Mykhailo Hrushevsky's 10-volume "Istoria Ukrainy-Rusy" (The History of Ukraine-Rus') from Ukrainian into English reached a major milestone on December 3.

That day, Dr. Frank Sysyn, director of the effort, and director of the Petro Jacyk Center for Historical Research at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, whose major undertaking it is, at long last handed over a completed and edited manuscript translation of Volume 1, to Prof. Maxim Tarnavsky, director of the CIUS Press, for publication.

The foot-thick 1,400-page stack of paper was the result of years of painstaking labor on the part of New York-based translator Marta Skorupsky, a team of editors that includes Dr. Sysyn, Dr. Andrzej Poppé of Warsaw University (who also compiled a bibliography), managing editor Ulana Pasichnyk-Tarnavsky of Toronto, and an international array of scholarly advisors.

Dr. Sysyn noted that this achievement was also the third milestone of the Petro Jacyk Center's publication effort. He explained that the first was, ironically, the translation into Ukrainian of Alberta-based historian Ivan Lysiak-Rudnytsky's works. Dr. Sysyn said this translation has already had a measurable impact on historians in Ukraine.

The second milestone, in the Jacyk Center director's view, was the recent appearance in print of "Ukraine Between East and West," a collection of Harvard historian Ihor Sevcenko's essays on cultural history up to the early 18th century.

Reading from the "General Introduction" he prepared for the first volume, and thus, the entire series, Dr. Sysyn pointed out that Hrushevsky originally intended to write a popular work, but changed purpose in mid-stream and charted "a far more important, strictly scholarly course, although he sought to make it as accessible as possible."

Dr. Sysyn explained that Hrushevsky consciously embarked on a project to fill a great void — "We do not yet possess a history of the Rus' people in its entirety," the historian and future statesman noted before creating just that. The project director quoted Hrushevsky's contention that "a society that believes in itself must face the unvarnished truth."

The Hrushevsky project director noted that the translation of the first volume will be published a neat 99 years after it first appeared in print in Ukrainian in Lviv in 1898.

Dr. Sysyn extended his thanks to the individuals and institutions that made the preparation of the first volume possible, including Mr. Jacyk, the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies (CFUS) and the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities.

With champagne brought out for the occasion, the Harvard-educated historian toasted patron Petro Stelmach, in attendance that day, who together with his wife, Ivanna, donated \$100,000 (Canadian) to become sponsors of the first volume's translation, editing, proofing and supplementary annotation.

Mr. Stelmach said he preferred to make such a donation than to support the construction of physical monuments. "People merely pass such things by," he said, "but scholarship and knowledge endure."

Prof. Tarnavsky solemnly assumed responsibility for the prompt publication of the volume, projecting that it should appear in print in July 1997.

The CIUS Press director said the Hrushevsky project "is entirely in concert with our primary function and goal. We are assured that it will play an important role in bringing Ukrainian scholarship to the English language reader — the reader of what is currently the primary language of scholarship in the world."

Prof. Tarnavsky said publishing the first volume "is both an extraordinary responsibility and an opportunity to show our capabilities and resources as an academic community."



Dr. Frank Sysyn (right) hands over the manuscript of the translated first volume of Hrushevsky's "Istoria Ukrainy-Rusy" to Prof. Maxim Tarnavsky.

The Harvard-trained literary scholar noted that, taking up from the point reached thanks to Mr. Stelmach's sponsorship, the CFUS will be covering the production costs of typesetting, printing and binding of the long-awaited volume.

Also in attendance was Dr. Marko Stech, executive director of the Petro Jacyk Educational Foundation, which provides the financial underpinnings for the historical research center's activities.

Dr. Stech also thanked Mr. Stelmach, and outlined the success of the Jacyk Foundation's most recent fund-raising drive. Begun on June 17 and concluded on October 30, the foundation raised \$250,000 (Canadian).

Together with the \$200,000 previously gathered, Dr. Stech said, it was now possible to pay the salaries of two full-time researchers at the Jacyk Center's

Edmonton offices, Dushan Bednarsky and Marta Horban, shore up the strength of its endowments, and plan confidently for future publishing ventures, including the next volumes of Hrushevsky translations.

During the course of the most recent drive, Dr. Stech pointed out, Hanna Mazurenko of Toronto and Sofia Wojtyna of Hamilton had contributed \$100,000 each to the Jacyk Foundation. Two anonymous Toronto donors gave \$100,000 and \$25,000, respectively. Katherine Labiuk of Canora, Saskatchewan, donated \$10,000; while Alexandra Demianchuk of Toronto gave \$5,000, as did Stefanie Wychowanec of Willowdale, Ontario.

Dr. Stech also extended the heartfelt gratitude to all other sponsors of the Peter Jacyk Educational Foundation's projects.

Encyclopedia of Ukraine presented to Ukrainian community in Philadelphia

TORONTO — The Encyclopedia of Ukraine was presented to the Ukrainian community in Philadelphia on December 7. Although the Encyclopedia of Ukraine five-volume edition edited by Profs. Volodymyr Kubijovych and Danylo Husar Struk appeared in September 1993, this is only the second time that there has been a formal book launch in the United States. The New York community was introduced to the encyclopedia in the fall of 1995.

This second launch was sponsored by the Friends of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine Foundation, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, Philadelphia branch, and the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, Pa., where it was held.

Dr. Jaroslaw Zapilsky, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, greeted the public and introduced Prof. Oleksa Bilaniuk, member of the editorial board and the subject editor for physics of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, who chaired the evening.

Prof. Bilaniuk, a foreign member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NANU), made some introductory remarks about the importance of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, recognized Dr. Volodymyr Bandera, the editor of economics, and introduced the first speaker, Dr. Swiatoslaw Trofimenko, the subject editor for chemistry.

Dr. Trofimenko spoke briefly about the amount of intense work that went into producing the encyclopedia. He stressed its objectivity and importance in the world, and its very timely appearance when the whole world was in need of a reference work about the newly reborn Ukrainian state.

Prof. Bilaniuk then introduced the main speaker, the editor-in-chief of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine. Dr. Struk, who is a professor of Ukrainian literature at the University of Toronto, a foreign member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NANU) as well as the associate director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS),

and the director of the CIUS Toronto Publications Office, greeted all in attendance. He thanked Marta Sheprykevych and her committee for organizing the event, the Friends of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine and the Shevchenko Scientific Society for sponsoring it, and the center for hosting the launch.

He then asked that the video about the Encyclopedia of Ukraine's history and publication be shown. The video was professionally produced and first shown at the inaugural launch of the encyclopedia in Toronto in September 1993. It is a tribute to the late founder of the encyclopedia, Dr. Kubijovych, to his successor Dr. Struk and to the dedicated team of subject editors and in-house editors as well as the sponsoring bodies — CIUS, the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies (CFUS) — all of whom made the project possible.

After the video, Prof. Struk spoke about the Encyclopedia of Ukraine in the year 2000. He reported that the Encyclopedia of Ukraine as a reference work will be enhanced greatly as soon as the name index will be added. Work on the name index is almost complete and, if all goes according to plan, it should appear by 1998.

Prof. Struk spoke also about plans to do a second revised and corrected printing of the encyclopedia. This second printing would be done on a CD disk. The technology for such a printing is readily available. All that is needed is the extra funding to make this second printing a reality. Prof. Struk expressed hope that some benefactor will come forward to fund such a printing.

He then informed the audience of the ongoing work to produce a sixth volume of updates. Since the first two volumes appeared in 1984 and 1988, respectively, that is, before the regained independence of Ukraine, the two volumes have to be updated in terminology and to provide information about people who did not make it into these two volumes. As an example, he mentioned such important

personages as the two presidents of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk and Leonid Kuchma. There are many other persons who must be added. Some major updates and corrections to existing entries have to be done to bring all five volumes up to date.

The index, the CD and the sixth additional volume are all scheduled to appear by the year 2000, making the Encyclopedia of Ukraine as current and as updated as possible, and retaining its importance as the foremost source in English on Ukraine.

Dr. Struk completed his talk by appealing for coordination among the various Ukrainian encyclopedic projects. He talked passionately about the fact that the Ukrainian community cannot afford to simultaneously support various encyclopedic projects, no matter how important all of them are. A means has to be found by which the human resources, the data banks and the financial resources can be pooled and shared so that all of the various projects can attain completion, he underlined.

He then appealed to the audience for support. He pointed out that one of the best ways to support the encyclopedia is to purchase it. He suggested also that people could make sure that their local libraries purchase the encyclopedia by asking for it. Several requests will produce a purchase.

Dr. Struk also drew everyone's attention to the collectors' edition of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine. He explained that only 100 such sets, all leather-bound and individually packaged, were printed. Each of the collectors' sets has its own number and is hand-inscribed with the owner's name, thus making each set unique. What's also quite valuable is that the first volume of each collectors' set had been individually signed by the first editor-in-chief, Dr. Kubijovych. About half of these special

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THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The Christmas spirit

All around us it may seem that the Christmas season has passed, but for those Ukrainians and others who observe the Julian calendar, Christmas arrives on January 7. Thus, the Christmas spirit is still with us as we mark the birth of the Savior by giving thanks for the greatest of God's gifts to us: His Only Begotten Son.

At this time of year we exchange gifts as tangible expressions of our love and esteem for family members, friends, colleagues, etc. But, we should not allow this tangible expression — no matter how pleasant and lovely a custom it is — to become the be-all and end-all of our Christmas giving.

The Christmas season calls upon us to recall the principal commandment brought by the One who was born on Christmas day: "Love thy neighbor."

The spirit of the season calls upon us to remember the less fortunate among us. Whether those less fortunate are fellow Ukrainians, or our neighbors in our communities is not important. What is important is to remember — and care — about our fellow man. That care can be shown in many ways; we can give of ourselves through volunteer work or via donations of goods or financial contributions.

Christmas shows us also that from humble beginnings can come greatness and that simple things can be priceless. So, we must learn to appreciate what we have, to make the best of it and to give thanks for God's blessings.

As well, this holy season calls upon us to live as seen in the example of Jesus Christ's life and in his teachings: to turn the other cheek; to do unto others, as you would have them do unto you.

If only we could do that in our Ukrainian community life! Dare we hope that, perhaps, during this special season, we can put away our enmity, our envy, and, yes, our pride to think of the greater good? That we can forget old quarrels and disagreements, that we can put aside our negative criticisms and focus on the positive that does exist in each and every one of us? With this new outlook, we can move on toward a better tomorrow.

Thus, as we light the candles on our Christmas Eve tables for Sviata Vecheria (holy supper), let us do so as a symbol of unity among all Ukrainians around the world: the fortunate and not so fortunate, our allies and our (hopefully former) adversaries. Let us try to begin anew renewed in the spirit of Christmas.

And then, united in love, as brethren, let us greet each other:



Detail of an illustration by Marta Tomenko of Ukraine as reproduced on a Christmas card published by the Plast publishing house Molode Zhyttia.

Jan.
6
1901

Turning the pages back...

Mykola Hryshko was among the victims of the notorious Stalinist quack, fellow Ukrainian geneticist Mykola Lysenko. Hryshko was born in Poltava on January 6, 1901, and graduated

from the Poltava Agricultural Institute in 1925, then the Kyiv Agricultural Institute the following year.

In 1932, he assumed the chair of the Plant Genetics and Selection Department at the KAI, in 1933 published one of the first Ukrainian textbooks on plant genetics, and in the 1930s became a professor at Kyiv University.

During World War II, he also headed the Division of Biological Sciences at the All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences (AUAAS, 1940-1943) and its Botanical Institute (1939-1944). Hryshko also founded the Republican Botanical Garden in 1944, serving as its director until 1958.

Following Lysenko's consolidation of control over the AUAAS in 1948, Hryshko was ejected from the faculty at Kyiv University and stripped of a number of directorates. Briefly disgraced in 1956, Lysenko returned to Nikita Khrushchev's favor two years later, and Hryshko suffered again. He was demoted from his remaining post — director of the Botanical Garden.

Hryshko died a year before Lysenko's 1965 comeuppance, on January 3, 1964, in Kyiv.

Source: "Hryshko, Mykola," *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*, Vol. 4 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993).

CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTERS

Open your hearts and souls to the Light

To the Esteemed Clergy, the Deaconate in Christ, the Venerable Monastics and God-loving Spiritual Children of the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church:

Peace and grace be to you from the Light of Light — Christ Jesus!

Once again, the spirit of Bethlehem, the town whose name means "House of Bread" invites us to open our hearts and souls to the True Light, our Heavenly Bread, the Only-Begotten Son of the Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ. It is He who desires to shine through them in this despondent world, a world that awaits the life-giving Light of His immeasurable love, peace and joy.

Once again, as it was almost 2,000 years ago, Bethlehem, "The House of Bread" invites us all to stand with the heavenly powers. Together with them, we have the honor to proclaim the joyous and wondrous news that in this world, the Savior, the inexhaustible Source of true peace, is born. It is He who calls us and all humanity to establish peace and benevolence on earth by establishing good will among ourselves.

Bethlehem, "The House of Bread," invites us to join with the shepherds, the guardians of the flocks entrusted to them, who with a pure heart received the heavenly message and set out to that "House of Bread." Let us set out together with them and partake of the Bread of life, foretold in the law and the prophets, for it is He who is the guarantor of certain peace on earth and true joy in our hearts.

The spirit of Bethlehem invites us to stand with the Magi, the learned of the time, who were brought through knowledge and investigation to the Source of wisdom. Together with them, let us wel-

come the Light which comes from The Light, who physically appeared, dispelled the darkness that enveloped the world, and whose Light no power can extinguish.

Let us once again receive the birth — the incarnation of the Eternal God — hymned through the ages by the cultures of those nations who were enlightened by Him. In truth, this marvelous event cannot fully be comprehended by the human mind nor adequately expressed in words. Profoundly deep and wide is the Divine Love that eternally springs forth and transforms all who allow it to enter their life.

The Nativity of Christ invites us all to continual rebirth in Christ Jesus. It calls upon us to identify ourselves with Him, with the Light that enlightens every person who comes into this world.

Christ the Lord shares His saving work with His people, His Church, His Mystical Body. We, who were reborn in the waters of Baptism are His mouth, His hands, His feet in this world. We are the members of His reasonable flock, His Church, which is His Mystical Body. The honor of belonging to Christ's Mystical Body and of fulfilling the responsibilities of such membership belongs to all, and especially to those, who via tonsure or the laying upon of hands are set aside to fulfill special and important ministries in the Church. We speak here of the monastic and priestly ministries. We speak here of those who have a special calling from God, a calling that is seen as particular gift for those who have been baptized and clothed in Christ.

Our Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church is in need of shepherds! The Church anguish-

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Let us focus our attention on Jesus Christ

To the Reverend Clergy, the Religious and Devout Faithful of the Eparchy of Stamford:

In my Advent letter, I mentioned that the entire Christian Church is preparing for the Great Jubilee of the fast-approaching year 2000. Since Christianity has been of such overwhelming importance during these two millennia, and remains such a pre-eminent faith today, this is a jubilee of God's love and grace for all men and women. We are privileged to live in this special moment of time, the year of the Lord's favor, this approaching "great springtime of Christianity." By the power of the Holy Spirit, together we should make the most of this time for the glory of God.

Almost everywhere in the world, people use the dating system that reckons time by the conventional year of Christ's birth, the "Year of Our Lord." Thus, even the numbering of the years reminds us of the unique, unparalleled effect of the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. This was the turning point in the history of the entire human race.

Every jubilee is a joyous occasion. The celebration of jubilees began in the Old Testament, as God was preparing His people to receive Jesus Christ the Savior. The joy of each jubilee is above all a joy of reconciliation, a joy of the forgiveness of sins and debts, a joy of freedom, a joy of conversion. Thus the holy father, Pope John Paul II, teaches us that the Church "cannot cross the threshold of the new millennium without encouraging her children to purify themselves, through repentance of past errors, past infidelity, past inconsistency and slowness to act as we should."

Those sins which have damaged the unity of the Church, the unity which God Himself wills for us, His people, are certainly among the sins that require a firm

commitment to repentance and conversion. In these last few years of the second millennium, all of us should invoke the Holy Spirit together, imploring forgiveness and correction, and a miraculous outpouring of the grace of Christian unity.

This year, 1997, the holy father calls us to focus our attention upon Jesus Christ, the very Word of God, made Man by the power of the Holy Spirit. In coming to know Jesus Christ more closely, we place special emphasis upon the Holy Bible. As the pope teaches us, "in the revealed text, it is the heavenly Father Himself Who comes to us in love and Who dwells with us, disclosing to us the nature of His Only-Begotten Son and His saving plan for all men and women."

For the Great Jubilee to be the miraculous time of grace that we need and ask from God, all of us, all Christians, must do as much as possible to live up to the great challenge of the year 2000. The preparation itself will be a special grace for the Church, and for all people. In particular, the pope invites every family to be involved in some special way to get ready for the Great Jubilee.

Again, this must be a time when we dedicate ourselves to Christian unity, especially through prayer. In his wonderful letter *Oriente Lumen*, in 1995, the holy father teaches that "we cannot come before Christ, the Lord of history, as divided as we have unfortunately been in the course of the second millennium. These divisions must give way to rapprochement and harmony." The holy father expressed his special longing for the renewal of full communion between Catholics and Orthodox; we of the Ukrainian Catholic Church share that longing acutely, so we must pray fervently and sacrifice generously to bring the long-

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COMMENTARY: 20th anniversary of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group

by Bozhena Olshaniwsky

Twenty years ago, on November 9, 1976, the Ukrainian Public Group to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords (also known as the Ukrainian Helsinki Group) was founded in Kyiv. The group's purpose was to monitor the Soviet government's adherence to the Helsinki Accords in Soviet Ukraine.

From 10 founding members – Mykola Rudenko (chairman), Oleksa Tykhy, Oksana Meshko, Nina Strokata Karavanska, Petro Grigorenko, Oles Berdnyk, Mykola Matusevych, Myroslav Marynovych, Levko Lukianenko and Ivan Kandyba – the group ultimately expanded to more than 40, including external members and representatives. All of the members but one were either imprisoned, sent to labor camps, deported or exiled. Three members – Oleksa Tykhy, Yuriy Lytvyn and Vasyl Stus – died in prison due to harsh treatment.

The Helsinki Accords were signed in 1975 by 33 European nations plus the United States and Canada. Being one of the signatories, the Soviet Union agreed to the conditions of the accords, including the third basket, where rights and freedoms were guaranteed.

The signing of the Helsinki Accords, the establishment of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group (UHG) and its activities had a major impact on the international perception of human and national rights, since, for the first time, Soviet violations against its own citizens were exposed.

The establishment of UHG prompted the formation of Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine (AHRU) in 1980. Based in New Jersey, AHRU worked with 19 other branches to disseminate information about the status of human rights compliance in Ukraine to the U.S. government, concerned individuals and organizations.

In 1982 AHRU was instrumental in initiating concurrent resolutions (H.Con.Res. 205) in both houses of the 97th Congress and a presidential proclamation issued by President Ronald Reagan that designated November 9, 1982, as a day honoring the Ukrainian Helsinki Group on the sixth anniversary of its founding.

The proclamation noted:

"The spontaneous formation on November 9, 1976, in Kyiv, Ukraine, of the Ukrainian Public Group to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords affirmed once more that the human spirit cannot be crushed and that the desire for human freedom cannot be conquered."

In 1986, the 10th anniversary of the UHG was a milestone in the struggle of human rights in the Soviet Union. AHRU again was instrumental in initiating a concurrent resolution on November 9, 1986, in the U.S. Congress (S.Con.Res. 154; H.Con.Res. 332).

The resolution stated:

"The Ukrainian Helsinki Monitoring Group opened a new phase in the Ukrainian struggle for human and national rights, providing impetus for human rights activists to demand not only that the Soviet government uphold the human rights guarantees by the Soviet Constitution, the Helsinki Final Act, and other international human rights declarations and covenants, but also to assert that the Western democracies have a solemn responsibility to support the struggle for achievement of human rights of Ukrainians and other peoples living under Soviet domination.

Bozhena Olshaniwsky is president of Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine.

"The Soviet Union continues to violate the human rights provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and other international human rights declarations and covenants by denying to the citizens of Ukraine and other Soviet republics rights of national identity and basic human rights through intensified Russification, ethnocide, repression and imprisonment of the citizens of Ukraine and other Soviet republics who lawfully engage in calling the Soviet government to account for violations of human, national and religious rights, as well as the rights of family reunification and emigration.

"The blatant disregard by the Soviet Union of the humanitarian provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and other international human rights declarations and covenants, in particular its persecution of the members of Ukrainian and other public Helsinki monitoring groups, contribute to tensions between East and West and give rise to doubts about Soviet commitments to their international obligations."

The resolution also noted the untimely deaths of Messrs. Tykhy, Lytvyn and Stus of the UHG and Eduard Arutunyan of the Armenian group after years of inhuman treatment in Soviet labor camps.

The resolution stated that the president and his administration should use every "appropriate opportunity" to discuss human rights violations in the USSR with their Soviet counterparts.

In the 1980s AHRU's activities revolved mostly around the defense of the abused and imprisoned members of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group. It was neither practical nor feasible to defend all members individually; therefore, AHRU chose the most prominent, the sickest, the most abused or the most publicized, and then built defense actions around them.

One of the most memorable international forums for this activity was provided by the Vienna Review Meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which opened on November 4, 1986. Several members of AHRU went to Vienna and vigorously lobbied the 35 participating delegations on behalf of the imprisoned UHG members. For several days, AHRU members stood outside of the entrance to the palace where the conferees were meeting, holding up a huge sign with a statement: "10th anniversary of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group."

Throughout the 1980s AHRU worked closely with the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Established in 1976, the Helsinki Commission (as it is known) is still very active today. It became one of the most important agencies in the U.S. to promote the defense of human rights on the world stage.

Of all the political prisoners defended by AHRU, the case of Oksana Meshko was the most poignant. Here was a wizened grandmother, speaking out publicly for her incarcerated son, on the brink of collapse from malnutrition and disease, being brutally persecuted in an icy, desolate region by the mighty Soviet empire. The case graphically depicted the ugliness and dehumanizing brutality of the Soviet system.

Another assertive figure was Mykola Rudenko. He was a war veteran who fought in the Soviet army and was wounded in action. His spinal wound caused a crater-like scar in his back that never fully healed and caused constant pain. He could not be without medication. However, the needed medication was not given to him in prison.

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Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Is Ukraine constitutional?

From the moment the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine approved the Constitution on June 28, 1996, the Ukrainian state became "unconstitutional." Following are a few examples by way of explanation.

Article 11 of the Constitution stipulates that "the state shall facilitate the consolidation and development of the Ukrainian nation, its historical consciousness, traditions and culture as well as the development of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious attributes of all indigenous peoples and national minorities of Ukraine."

Sounds wonderful, right? The reality, however, is quite different. Today, teachers haven't been paid for months, Ukrainian history textbooks aren't being published, and schools are shutting down for the winter because of a shortage of fuel. How does one "consolidate and develop historical consciousness, tradition and culture" under those circumstances?

How can the Ukrainian Catholic consciousness be consolidated and developed when Ukraine's president folds under Orthodox pressure urging him not to invite Pope John Paul II for a visit?

Jews have a similar problem. According to The Canadian Jewish News of October 24, 1996, about 2,000 Jews flee Ukraine every month. "Anti-Semitism no longer plays role in the decision to leave," according to Joseph Traupinsky, head of the Jewish Agency in Ukraine. The main reason is economic and social chaos. The agency operates in Kyiv, Odesa, Lviv, Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk and employs a staff of 26 to teach Hebrew, Jewish culture and traditions, and run youth programs. It's not a good sign that Jews, traditionally among Ukraine's most creative entrepreneurs, are leaving.

Article 27 of the Constitution declares that "every person has the inalienable right to life." If that's the law, then why have some 89 people been executed in Ukraine during the last six months? Why is the rate of abortions increasing?

Article 42 states that the "entrepreneurial activities of deputies, officials and civil servants in organs of state authority and organs of local self-government are restricted by law." If that's true, then why do some government officials still carry around two cards, one describing their government position, the other denoting their private business enterprises?

Article 43 states that "every person has the right to work, including the right to the opportunity to earn one's living by work which he chooses or agrees to freely ... The right to timely payment for work is protected by law." The key phrase here is "earn one's living." Younger people in Ukraine have jobs, but they hardly earn a living. Nor, as was the case during Soviet times, do many of them really work. Older people have neither jobs nor work. Timely work payments, of course, are the exception, not the rule.

Article 46 declares that "citizens have the right to social security which includes their right of provision, in case of illness, partial or complete disability, loss of the provider, unemployment under circumstances unrelated to their fault, and in old age, and other instances foreseen by law." According to a report by the World Bank, 29.5 percent of the Ukraine's citizens live in poverty; 41 percent of the poorest people are age 65 or older. So much for constitutional guarantees for the elderly.

Article 68 reads: "Every person is obligated to unswervingly comply with

the Constitution of Ukraine and laws of Ukraine, not to infringe upon the rights and freedoms, honor and dignity of other persons." Unfortunately, many federal officials behave as if the Constitution applies to everyone but them.

I could go on, but you get my point. The Ukrainian government is not fulfilling its constitutional responsibilities. Like the Soviets, Ukraine has a wonderful Constitution but if it's not being implemented, it's meaningless. How can anyone have faith in a government that ignores its own laws?

Many, both here and in Ukraine, will argue that too little time has passed for Ukraine to become fully "constitutional." How much time is needed? Another five years? Ten years? How long did it take a devastated Germany to recover after World War II?

I used to believe that every day Ukraine is independent makes Ukraine one day stronger, one day closer to stability, one day further from Moscow's imperialistic net. Today I believe that every day Ukraine continues in its present state brings it closer to collapse and takeover.

According to an article by Dr. Marc Faber in the November 1996 issue of Strategic Investment, the Ukrainian economy has performed worse than most Eastern European countries since independence. "Its GDP contracted on average about 15 percent per annum between 1990 and 1995, while industrial production fell by more than 50 percent over the same period ... since 1990, Ukraine's grain harvest has been cut in half (farm reforms have been delayed and farmers lack access to credits for seeds and fertilizers, and suffer from fuel shortages), while the port of Odesa, which handled 85 million metric tons of cargo in 1990, handled just 51 million in 1995." Ukraine's "agricultural sector is unproductive," continues Mr. Faber, "its nuclear reactors hazardous, the once-efficient steel mills are technologically outdated, and its resources (principally coal and iron ore) are of no great value."

The Ukrainian government is making it almost impossible for foreign investors to consider Ukraine over other regions of the world. Mr. Faber mentions China, Russia, Vietnam and Myanmar as preferred alternatives. Ukraine's "economy is in shambles, its foreign investment and tax laws are still murky ... and it only attracts very modest foreign direct investment (approximately \$900,000 since 1990) – tiny in comparison to the northeastern Chinese port city Dalian, which attracted \$1.9 billion worth of foreign investments in 1993, \$2.4 billion in 1994, and \$2.5 billion in 1995 – principally from Japan."

Amazingly, despite all of these negatives, Mr. Faber believes foreign investors should take another look at Ukraine. Ukraine's official economy may be lagging, he writes, but "the free spirit and individualism of the Cossacks [sic] is alive and well in Ukraine and, therefore, quite a thriving unofficial economy has emerged. The rise of the unofficial economy will ... inevitably force the archaic Rada toward wide-ranging reforms." Mr. Faber expects a fairly strong economic recovery in Ukraine over the next three years.

I hope he's right. But for the Kozak spirit to truly blossom, the Ukrainian people need to believe in the Constitution, in their government and in themselves. Only then will Ukraine become "constitutional."

Christmas fabric

by Orysia Paszczak Tracz

In celebrating Ukrainian Christmas, we do many things that not only seem to be, but really are irrelevant to typical North American urbanites approaching the 21st century. Symbolism is the *raison d'être* of our annual and family traditions, and Rizdvo, Ukrainian Christmas, is especially symbolic. Family and annual rituals celebrate the most important events in the lives of family and nation, and it is the "how" of those celebrations that is symbolic. As to the "why," it all means something, and we go through the motions whether we ourselves know the meaning or not.

When we consider the traditions followed at Sviat Vechir (Christmas Eve), and consider how many ancient traditions have fallen away because of impracticality in present-day life, we are nonetheless left with quite a rich, symbolic, ritual evening.

Most of us do not live in rural areas, so the original farm setting is not there for us to continue many of the customs related to farm animals, bees, and the weather. In the city house or condo, maybe the family pets get a special treat before Sviata Vecheria (Holy Supper), in place of the family sharing a portion of each dish with the animals in the barn before supper.

Instead of the husband and wife standing outside, holding a bowl of food, and thrice inviting the storms, lightning, frosts and wild animals for dinner — "and if you're not coming now, don't bother coming for the rest of the year" — the family could go out on the patio, or on the balcony, with a similar invitations. (As long as the neighbors don't call the police! "There go those Ukrainians again ... watch, pretty soon they'll start singing, as usual!")

The empty place setting is always there, the kolach (holiday bread) and candle, the embroidered table cloth, the 12 meatless and non-dairy dishes, and some form of a *didukh* is usually in the house year-round, even though it may be just some wheat stalks in a decorative vase. And, in communities with at least a few Ukrainians, the *koliadnyky* (carolers) visit and sing.

The rituals of Rizdvo (Christmas) harken back to earliest human memory, commemorating the origins of the firsts: the first foods, first crops, first people, as well as the coming together of the extended family, the "rid," or clan. The *koliadky* and *shedrivky* (ritual songs of the winter solstice and the new year) very clearly show how the earliest Ukrainians saw life and creation. Many begin with some variation of the phrase "Oi, scho zh tam bulo z pochatku svita?..." (Oh, what was there at the beginning of the world?) The various verses then mention the heavens and the earth, the first tree, the dove or falcon bringing clay or soil from beneath the waters to the surface, the first plants and the origin of grain, the first animals, the first humans, the first couple, and the first family. No matter what the region of Ukraine, variations on similar themes are present everywhere.

One, almost forgotten, custom commemorated a basic human need: clothing. The first fabric, hempen or linen, was essential for survival. Its importance is recorded in the *koliadky*, and in specific rituals of Sviat Vechir. Those of us who were fortunate to have heard stories about how it was "vdoma" (back home) in the village long ago may remember *babunia* or *dido* (grandmother or grandfather) sighing about the tastiness of the *pampushky* (jam-filled yeast-raised doughnuts) fried in *konoplianyi olii* (hemp seed oil). This oil in fact, flavored most of the dishes for Sviat Vechir, since no animal fats were used this evening. Ask anyone who grew up in a Ukrainian village about hemp seed oil, and you'll hear how this is the most delicious of all cooking oils, and how nothing, absolutely nothing tastes as good as something fried in it.

Hemp seed oil was used as the dressing for most of the 12 dishes not only for its taste, but for its symbolic value, as well as one of the earliest and most important plants in life. Poppy seed "milk" (from ground seeds) was also used as a flavoring for some dishes, again because of its fertility symbolism. Honey, fish fat and crushed garlic were the other dressings for specific foods. Ksenofont Sosenko (1928) notes that when foods were prepared with hemp seed oil or crushed garlic, the verb used was "riazhenia" or "zariazhennia," in the context of ritual. For example, a bride was "nariazhena do vintsia" (readied for the wedding), a groom "nariazhnyi" when he put on his hat, and a deceased person was "nariazhnyi" when prepared and dressed for the funeral. However, for everyday use, neither anyone nor anything was "riazhenyi/na."

Reverence for hemp and linen is also reflected in customs during other parts of the year. At Christmas, the *koliadnyky* are rewarded by gifts from the *hospodar* and *hospodynia* (host and hostess); he donates a *kolach*, and she presents them with a "povismo" a hank of ready-to-spin linen or hemp fibers. She ties this hank to the cross carried by the "bereza," the leader of the group.

Bread and fibers for clothing were the earliest "gifts," essentials for sedentary life. The priest was also presented with a *povismo* when he came to bless the house at Yordan (Feast of the Epiphany). In some *koliadky*, a soul is pulled out of hell by holding on to a *povismo*; the clothing fibers provide a person protection, warmth and salvation from shame. In other *koliadky*, gold and silver are spun and woven, as if they were linen and hempen cloth. Even the *kolach* in the center of the table is "pletenyi" — braided or "woven." *Koliadky* often sing about the clothing of the family, dressed for this evening in their finest white linen (later silk) shirts, and sometimes the spinning and weaving processes are mentioned.

As the table was set for the Sviata Vecheria, the embroidered tablecloth (of homespun linen or hemp) covered a layer of hay on the table. Garlic heads or cloves were placed under the tablecloth in each corner, to ensure good health, and especially prevent headaches, and with hemp seeds were sprinkled alongside the garlic. The garlic clove has dual symbolism: it represents medicinal and prophylactic power, as well as the importance of the moon to hunter-gatherers, as reflected in the clove's crescent shape. Seeds, especially hemp, flax, and poppy, represent fertility. The wild self-sowing poppy was especially productive.

The *koliadnyky* from your church or youth group would be grateful for the cookies and libations you serve them, along with the generous check for their cause. However, they would consider it odd if you presented them with a hank of linen or hemp fibers, even if you were able to find such a thing. After all, that was then, and this is the practical now.

Recently, I had the privilege of seeing and holding for the first time two linen *povisma* which were part of a donation to the museum of the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center in Winnipeg. They appear to be nothing special, just two hanks of shaggy dark golden fiber, almost like something Rumpelstiltskin would spin. However, I held them reverently, because a Ukrainian pioneer to the prairies a century ago had brought them to Canada, and had treasured them. The *povismo* at Christmas — a tangible reminder of very long ago.

Note from the author: While hemp and poppy were and are used medicinally, this writer has not come across any ethnographic sources at all indicating that these were used for any hallucinogenic purposes since at least the medieval centuries (the Scythians excluded). If anyone does have such sources, please let the author know.



Jacques Hnizdovsky

Yara Arts Group's new production takes troupe to distant Buryatia

by Virlana Tkacz

PART I

Yara Arts Group's new project, "Virtual Souls," will premiere at La Mama Experimental Theater in New York on January 16-26, 1997. Yara creates original theater pieces by bringing together poetry, drama, song, historical materials and scientific texts to form what one critic described as "extended meditation on an idea."

"Virtual Souls" was originally inspired by a Ukrainian poem, Oleh Lysheha's "Swan." I loved the poem; I translated it with Wanda Phipps into English and started looking for additional material on swans. The most fascinating swan myths were Buryat. "The swan is our mother, and the birch – our family tree," say the old Buryats.

The Buryats live in Siberia in the area around Lake Baikal. Buryatia has been part of the Russian Empire since the 17th century, and today it's a republic within the Russian Federation. The Buryat Chronicles start with the legend about a hunter who sees wild swans take off their swan dresses and turn into beautiful girls. He steals one of the swan dresses, while the girls are swimming in Lake Baikal. Startled, most of the swans fly off, leaving one behind to plead with the hunter to give back her dress.

Yara included this legend in the troupe's newest piece, "Virtual Souls." We also worked with Vladlen Pantaev, a Buryat composer, last spring at La Mama. As a result, we were invited by the Buryat National Theater to work on the project in their theater in Ulan Ude last summer.

Looking in

I traveled to Ulan Ude in the beginning of August with one Yara actor, Tom Lee, who helped me conduct the workshops with the Buryat actors and prepare the way for the five Yara members who joined us in the middle of August.

Mr. Pantaev, his wife, Tania, the Buryat actors, and their friends met the two of us at the airport. After sprinkling some milk and vodka, a shamanist custom that would be repeated on many occasions, we drove off into the countryside.

We had arrived just in time for a great occasion: the blessing of the cornerstone for the first "datsan," or Buddhist temple, to be dedicated since the Revolution. In the steppe stood a "ger," a traditional round felt tent. It was filled with grandmothers. We squeezed in. The chanting continued for the next several hours. Light streamed in from the top of the tent. I felt the centuries merge and expand. A thousand years ago things were done exactly this same way.

The next morning we met the three Buryat actors who were going to work with us. Erzhen and Sayan Zhambalov, a married couple, were the young stars of the Buryat National Theater. A few years before they had walked out of this theater and only recently had been convinced to return. They had organized their own shows and also a rock band, Uragsha (Forward), which was at the forefront of a resurgence of pride among young Buryats.

The third person we worked with was Erdeny Zhaltsov, who was both an actor and a musician. He played the "morin kuur," the horse-head fiddle, a two-string traditional instrument that can sound like a cello.

After the introductions, Erzhen spoke to me directly in Russian. (At the theater they usually speak Buryat, which is related to Mongolian and Kalmyk.) I answered in Ukrainian. We understood each other and were very relieved. (It is so hard to work through a translator.) I told them about our show and made it very clear to them that we wanted to learn more about their culture and that their point of view would have to be included in our text.

Our hosts then made sure we experienced many aspects of the cultural heritage of Buryatia first hand. We visited the ethnographic museum where we saw beautiful stone assemblages that displayed a surprising modern sensibility, although they were put together thousands of years ago. We also saw traditional felt gers, and wooden ones, as well as bark tents inhabited by Evenki shamans. There also were the beautifully carved wooden houses of the Old Believers, the first exiles to Siberia, sent here by Peter the Great for refusing to cut off their beards. A tiny zoo had camels, and we were told that during the purges in the 1930s camels were executed in this area. Now they are treated with special respect.

We drove out to Ivolginsk Datsan, a Buddhist monastery at the foot of the Khamar-Daban Mountains.



At the Ivolginsk Datsan (from left) are: Tom Lee, Virlana Tkacz, and Irina and Tania Pantaev.

It held out as the center of Buddhism in the USSR after 37 datsans and 10,000 monks were destroyed in the 1930s. Fortunately, however, much of the art work from those datsans is still preserved in Ulan Ude in what is known as "The Fond."

The Fond was originally established as an anti-religion museum under Stalin, but in this guise it preserved the thousands of Buddhist sculptures, tankas, vestments, banners, musical instruments and sacred volumes that now line its shelves. But the Fond's future is now in jeopardy. It is housed in a former cathedral, and the Orthodox Church is demanding that the building be returned. No other location has been found to house the collection.

We also walked around Ulan Ude. The main square is lined with crumbling Soviet-style buildings. In the center, alone on a pedestal, is the largest head of Lenin in the world. At over four stories high, this surreal monument towers over the town. The other unusual site is a beautiful opera house. The locals told us it was constructed by Japanese prisoners of war in 1953 and did not seem to think it was strange that Japanese prisoners of war were still being held in Siberia eight years after the war.

Virtual text

The next morning Valentina Dambueva came to our rehearsals and sang her heart out. Known as the best folk singer of Buryatia, the diva cooled herself with her fan, flashing smiles that set her gold teeth glistening in the sun. We said "wind" and she sang three amazing

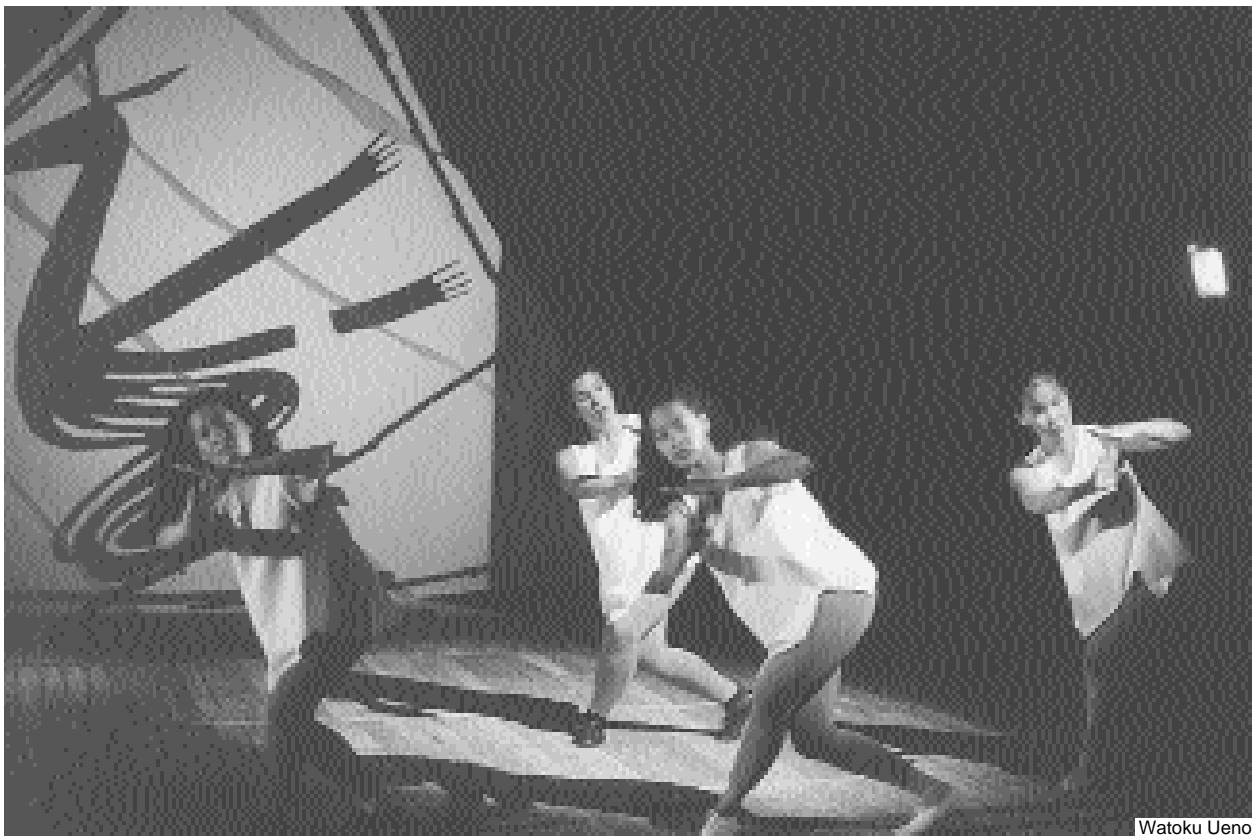
songs; then we said "swans" and heard even better ones. The three Buryat actors translated the meaning of each song into Russian. We would then confer as to where in our piece such a song might fit.

"Virtual Souls" is mostly sung. It tells its story through a series of traditional Buryat songs and contemporary ones we've written or found. The original score is created by Genji Ito and combines both traditional Buryat instrumentation and contemporary music created with a sampler on a computer. When we agreed that a particular song was of interest, the Buryat actors would note the words and music, not an easy task given that this traditional style of singing does not lend itself to standard music notation. Then they would translate the words into Russian; I would jot down my notes in Ukrainian. Later Tom and I could work on an English translation that could be sung to the notes.

This method of work was both exhausting and very rewarding, since in the process we learned a lot about Buryat music and the possible direction in which we could develop our piece. It also provided our piece with a very special sense of cultural authority that was immediately recognized by the people who saw it in Ulan Ude.

Before we could start rehearsals, we also had to translate our script into Buryat. Our actors play New Yorkers plugged into the World Wide Web devouring information about everything and anything on the superhighway. They fall into a mythic past by opening up the

(Continued on page 10)



A scene from "Virtual Souls" as performed at the Buryat National Theater in Ulan Ude.

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We feel it is necessary to notify our subscribers that The Weekly is mailed out Friday mornings (before the Sunday date of issue) via second-class mail.

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Yara Arts
(Continued from page 9)

Buryat Chronicles, where they learn to recognize the spirit in the presence of things. We wanted the Buryat actors to speak on stage in their own language and the Yara actors to perform in English.

Before this could happen smoothly, we had to translate into both languages everything that was said, so that the partners could play the scenes and coordinate proper responses. Since our theater pieces are developed in rehearsal, the script is always evolving and the translations had to be constantly updated. It is also very important for us to include into our piece the responses of the local artists and to have their performance material come from them.

Erdeny, who played the bard, suggested that we include the traditional introduction that opens every Buryat tale. He sang it, accompanying himself on the horse-head fiddle.

It was long, long ago
In the good old days
When the grass was always green
When the blue sky was just being
conceived by the universe
When the birds first learned to sing
Yes, it was then
When the great mythical bird
was just a chick
Yes it was then
Yes, it was then¹

Then he started to do throat singing and Sayan joined in. This is a traditional style of singing in which the voice is located in the throat and one singer can produce two distinct sounds simultaneously. Could this fit into our text, he asked? Yes, of course. We loved it.

I asked Erdeny to write out the lyrics so that I could put them into the script. He did not believe that I would be able to type in Buryat or that my computer could print it. But after some coaxing, he sat down with a pen and a pad. Erzhenya translated the words into Russian, and then I worked on the English translation from my Ukrainian notes.

That night I sat at my computer, first typing out the English translation, then facing the daunting task of pecking out the Buryat – letter by letter, combining one of my Ukrainian fonts with an English one. Buryat today is written in a

¹ "The Tale Begins" translated by Virlana Tkacz and Erzhenya Zhambalov.

combination of Cyrillic and Latin letters. The final product was not perfect. One letter faced the wrong way, and another was underlined instead of crossed. But it was definitely readable and now it could be edited or moved as our texts changed during our rehearsals. The next morning I handed out the new scripts, which included my "Buryat" to an absolutely quiet room. Then Erzhenya started laughing, "You know, I couldn't imagine how we were going to do this – you speaking English, the three of us speaking Buryat and everything changing everyday because we are still creating the piece. But you hand me this and suddenly I'm thinking ... why don't we work on my part today?"

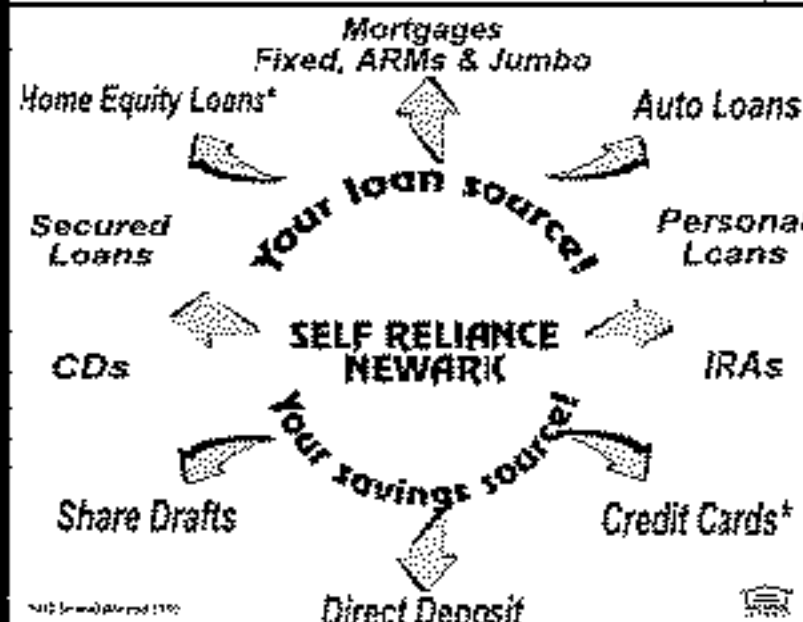
When my printer later ran out of ink and the back-up cartridge I brought turned out to be dry, I couldn't believe my bad luck. I had to continue updating our script every day. We were still writing new sections in our play. I had to provide the actors the new versions with parallel translations before they could rehearse the scenes. The person who especially needed a current script was our slide projectionist, a brave 14-year-old who was not intimidated by technology. He had to figure out how to show the 150 slides in our piece in the proper spots and his knowledge of English was extremely limited.

The situation with the printer looked hopeless. The selection of Western goods in town was limited mainly to brands of chewing gum. I needed a Canon jet cartridge. I stopped in all the places that had anything to do with electronics. People were trying to sell me all kinds of things that couldn't possibly fit any printer, much less mine.

Then I saw a salesperson who was actually using a computer. I asked him where I could get the cartridge I needed. He checked me out, glanced around and then whispered: "In the hunting store." I thought he was kidding. But he drew a map on his card and told me to show it in the hunting store. I did so and was led into what looked like a yard shed. An old man opened the door. As I followed him down the stairs my heart was beating so hard I could hardly breathe. What was I doing here alone asking about computer equipment? Our hosts were always warning us about the criminal elements in town. When I got to the bottom of the stairs, there was a huge store-room of computer equipment. I asked for the cartridge by number, and the woman pulled it out. I had to sit down to catch my breath.

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SELF RELIANCE NEWARK

Defunct community organization supports Chernobyl relief efforts

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. — When John Seleman thinks back to his youth, he proudly recalls a statewide organization that once was a powerhouse in the Ukrainian community in Connecticut. The Ukrainian Youth Organization of Connecticut is part of the forgotten heritage of the Ukrainian diaspora, but in its own time it laid a solid foundation for the vibrant community life that has characterized the parishes and community centers of many towns scattered across southern New England.

This fall, to mark the fifth anniversary of Ukrainian independence, the trustees of the UYOC contributed \$6,000 to the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund as an expression of solidarity and continuity between the youth of yesteryear and the future generations of children who will inherit an independent Ukraine.

"We've been following the successes of this relief group," said Mr. Seleman in presenting the check to CCRF's Hartford Chapter, one of the most active in the country. "We're pleased to see how much progress has been made in bringing relief to the poor children in Ukraine."

The trustees made their donation in the belief that CCRF embodies the charitable principles of the UYOC. Its involvement of youth of all denominations and its concerted effort to reach out to compassionate Americans beyond the Ukrainian community are reminiscent of some of the most creative efforts launched in the 1930s by this once prominent youth group.

Though he is now in his late 70s and recovering from illness, Mr. Seleman's eyes still light up with excitement when he tells of the many successes he and his colleagues achieved at the height of the Great Depression and World War II.

To a large degree, the UYOC comprised the sons and daughters of the first wave of Ukrainian immigrants who established farms in the fertile Connecticut River Valley and who worked in the textile mills and machine shops of towns like Terryville and Bristol, New Britain and Willimantic.

The story of the UYOC deserves its own rich chapter in the history of the emigre community. Established in the summer of 1937, the organization was devoted to building unity between young people of Ukrainian descent without regard to religious or political affiliation. It organized choral concerts, seasonal dances, community forums, sports leagues, a scholarship fund and charity drives.

By the time World War II erupted, the group had become a force to be reckoned with. Its Shevchenko Memorial Concert in March of 1941 drew an audience of 1,300, including Connecticut Gov. William Hurley, who addressed the crowd.

The UYOC played an important role in disseminating information on Ukrainian history to prominent Americans and institutions across the state. It co-sponsored the publication of an English translation of Hrushevsky's "History of Ukraine," Ivan Franko's "Zakhar Berkut" and the distribution of recordings by the Ukrainian National Choir under the direction of Oleksander Koshetz.

In 1943, the group staged its own War Bond Drive, which raised \$13,000 — a very significant sum for that time. Although World War II stimulated a great deal of activity on the part of the UYOC, it also took its toll on some of the association's core membership. The group's honor roll counted 655 Connecticut men and women of Ukrainian descent who served in the Armed Forces. Many of these made the supreme sacrifice for their country. Others returned disabled and emotionally traumatized by their experience.

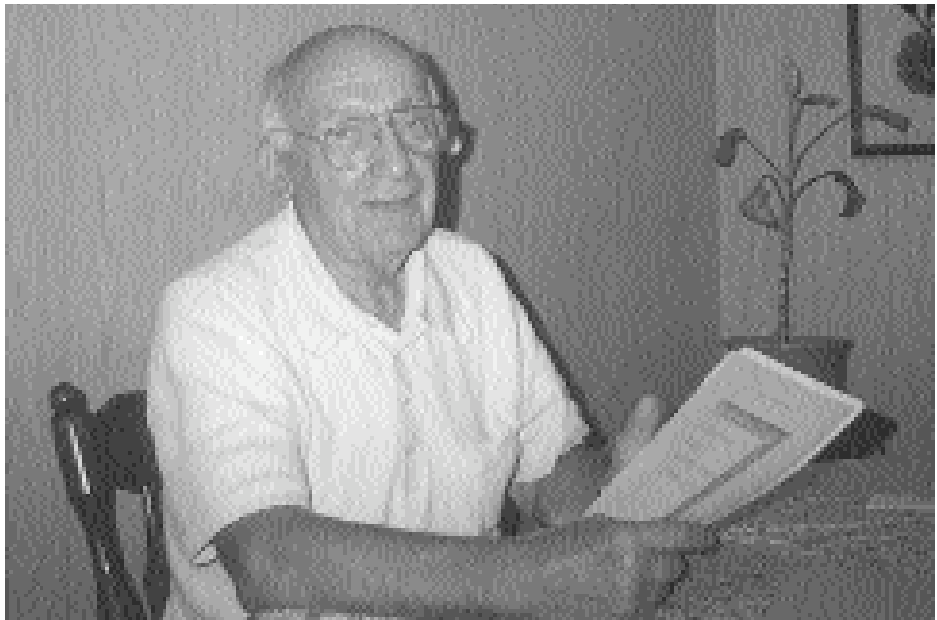
By the 1950s the UYOC began to weaken in influence as a new wave of political immigrants began to dominate community life with powerful youth organizations such as Plast and SUM-A.

Even so, the legacy of the UYOC remains. Its members and descendants established a tradition of community activism and strategic planning that has sustained many parishes and programs throughout Connecticut's Ukrainian community. Several of its members went on to occupy positions of considerable prominence in the state's political arena, such as former Hartford County Sheriff Russell Huk. Mr. Seleman went on to serve as the first president of the Self-Reliance Hartford Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, which now boasts over \$22 million in assets and 400 members.

There have also been important symbolic victories. In New Britain, commuters traveling to Central Connecticut State University and the popular West Farms Mall via Route 9 are continually reminded by official road signs that they are traveling the "Taras Shevchenko Memorial Highway" in honor of the Ukrainian patriot and poet.

The political influence of the Ukrainian community continues to be felt as the Connecticut congressional delegation, led by U.S. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, U.S. Reps. Rosa DeLauro, Barbara Kennelly and Sam Gejdenson, hail the achievements of Ukrainian Americans in their districts and support aid to Ukraine through their public pronouncements and legislative action.

For more information, contact Alex Kuzma at the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, (203) 407-0261; Ksenia Kyzzyk, (201) 376-5140; or Nadia Haftkowycz, (860) 956-3834.



John Seleman, one of the charter members of the Ukrainian Youth Organization of Connecticut, displays a copy of a program booklet from the group's 1945 convention.

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A look at Ukraine...

(Continued from page 2)

or fall of 1997, or in 1998. Mr. Kostenko reacted angrily to such protraction, again maintaining that Ukraine would likely reconsider the shutdown if the funds were not forthcoming in timely fashion.

In September, Kostenko went even further, prophesying that a major explosion could occur at the sarcophagus covering the destroyed fourth reactor unit. Plant director Serhii Parashyn attributed several reported releases of neutron emissions to the malfunction of measuring equipment as a result of heavy rainfall in the area.

On November 30, Chornobyl reactor No. 1 was removed from the grid, though it was specified that the closure would not necessarily be permanent and that the reactor could be "restructured." At the same time, the Ukrainian nuclear authorities announced plans to restart the second unit, which has been shut down since a fire in 1991. Economically it would be inexpedient to restart the No. 2 unit if it is intended to close the Chornobyl plant by the year 2000. Though Ukraine is suffering acutely from energy shortages, it appeared to some observers that the future of the Chornobyl station was being used as a bargaining chip to expedite the arrival of the international credits. President Kuchma himself has acknowledged that the Chornobyl reactors constitute a safety hazard.

The current costs of \$800 million annually to meet the ramifications of the Chornobyl disaster remain an acute burden on the economy, and Ukraine is irritated by what it perceives as a sluggish reaction on the part of the G-7 countries to meet their agreed obligations. Moreover, a significant section of Ukraine's nuclear energy community has maintained consistently that Chornobyl is a much safer station than generally perceived; and conversely that international attention has focused only on the Ukrainian RBMK station while ignoring similar stations operating in Russia and Lithuania.

The crime wave

The year 1996 may be remembered as one of escalating crime in Ukraine. In this respect, the country has begun to emulate its eastern neighbor, Russia. A wave of assassinations and attempted murders has plagued Ukraine particularly, though not exclusively, on the Crimean peninsula. The crimes in the latter region have been attributed to a dramatic rise in organized gang violence.

Among those attacked and beaten were the journalist Svitlana Riaboshapka and Rukh National Deputy Myroslav Horbatiuk, while those who were killed

during such attacks included nine people in a Kerch bar in June, the Crimean broadcaster Oleksander Metrenko, and powerful Donetsk government boss Volodymyr Scherban.

In September, President Kuchma announced a four-year intensive program to combat crime, following the establishment in August (after the attempted assassination of Prime Minister Lazarenko a month earlier) of an anti-terrorist center. By year's end there appeared to be little decline in the high rates of crime.

Health concerns

Ukraine's health concerns were highlighted by a report of the Ukrainian Health Ministry on February 22 which noted that the decline in population growth has continued and was at that time 9.6 births per 1,000 people. The death rate, correspondingly, rose in 1995 from 5.5 to 12.1. The major cause of death in Ukraine is heart disease, at 50 percent, with cancer at 14 percent. However, the country also suffers from other health problems that can be related mainly to industrial pollution.

At the beginning of the year there was an outbreak of hepatitis in Konstanyivka (Donetsk region) as a result of a mishap in the city's sewage system. A similar accident occurred in April in Sevastopol when raw sewage was spilled into the Black Sea and a further outbreak of hepatitis occurred. Another major concern was diphtheria, which has broken out principally in the large cities of Kyiv and Donetsk and has affected hundreds of people; while cholera outbreaks have been frequent in the summer as a result of contamination of the water supply.

Foreign relations

Ukraine has become the third largest recipient of U.S. assistance after Israel and Egypt, thus overtaking Russia in this regard. When Secretary of State Warren Christopher visited Ukraine in March, he promised aid worth over \$1 billion. Ukraine has become a key strategic partner for the United States given the apparent unreliability and relative instability of Russia. On June 1, Ukraine solidified its international standing with the announcement that it had moved all of the strategic warheads from its territory to Russia.

President Kuchma has also been fairly consistent on the question of the expansion of NATO to the East European countries - particularly Hungary and Poland - noting that while Ukraine is not against such an expansion in principle, it would be opposed to the deployment of nuclear weapons in new member-states. At the Salzburg meeting of presidents of Central and Eastern Europe in July, President Kuchma mentioned a possible special partnership between Ukraine and NATO; and also suggested that Ukraine should maintain some association with the Western European Union military partnership.

Relations with Russia are relatively cordial at the presidential level, less so at the level of the Duma. President Yeltsin decided not to visit Kyiv to sign the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation during the run up to the Russian presidential elections. There have been two related issues of contention between the two countries: the status of the Black Sea Fleet; and the future of the port of Sevastopol, the home port of the fleet. Neither had been resolved by the year's end.

One of the major supporters of Sevastopol's status as a Russian city is Moscow mayor Yurii Luzhkov, who made several outspoken statements during the course of the year. In mid-January, for example, while visiting the port, he declared that "Moscow will never abandon Sevastopol." On September 10, he went further, declaring that the city was

(Continued on page 13)

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ATTENTION

ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 3

Please be advised that Branch 3 has merged with Branch 171 as of December 15, 1996. All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Genevieve Kufita, Branch Secretary:

Mrs. Genevieve Kufita
572 Avenue A
Bayonne, NJ 07002
(201) 436-7005

ATTENTION

ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 24

Please be advised that Branch 24 has merged with Branch 161 as of January 1, 1997. All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Nicholas Diakowsky, Branch Secretary:

Mr. Nicholas Diakowsky
2065 Ridge Road Ext.
Ambridge, PA 15003
(412) 251-9266

A look at Ukraine...

(Continued from page 12)

Russian, a comment subsequently supported overwhelmingly by the Russian Duma. In the meantime, Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada voted in June to prohibit foreign military installations on the territory of Ukraine, though it was prepared to grant some time for Russia to remove its fleet.

The future of Sevastopol is linked to the future of Crimea generally. The peninsula, which retains its autonomous status, has remained politically subdued since Ukraine enforced its authority quite dramatically in 1995. Russia has refused to step aside, and has resolved not to reduce in any way its commitment to, or the size of its share of the Black Sea Fleet. With the ostensible ending of the war in Chechnya, Russia has more time to devote to other issues pertaining to the so-called "near abroad," and it has the support of the Crimean authorities, who attempted - unsuccessfully - to have the status of Sevastopol as a Russian city inserted into the Crimean Constitution.

Though the two issues have not reached a boiling point and do not as yet constitute a serious issue of international conflict, they remain on the table each time Ukrainian and Russian leaders meet.

Conclusions

Ukraine enters the new year in an environment of political stability and economic uncertainty. Structurally it continues to develop as a reformist presidential republic, backed by a Parliament that is riven with dissent, but at the same time has a tradition of reaching compromises with coaxing from the executive. In contrast to some

of the other post-Soviet countries, Ukraine has remained free of ethnic tension and civil conflict. The Constitution's adoption was symbolic of this gradual but very definite progress toward the consolidation of the statehood declared in 1991.

The economy and demographic picture remain major concerns, however. Very few of Ukraine's industries are performing at a satisfactory level, and the government must also be concerned with the alarming health and demographic statistics. The reluctance of the government to apply "shock measures" is comprehensible, but the economic results are hardly encouraging.

Ukraine's economy today is a melange of the old and new: the declining traditional industries and the emergent or rejuvenated spheres that continue to attract foreign businesses (the share of private output rose to almost 50 percent in 1996).

For the majority of the population, the outlook for the late 1990s does not offer much solace: their concern is daily subsistence and survival. Wages remain unpaid, and factories are not paying for their energy requirements.

On the other hand, such comments are relative because they apply to most of the newly independent states. It could equally well be argued that the past five years of concentration on survival and maintenance of statehood have been strikingly successful, and that the next five years will surely see the government turn with vigor to the question of economic renewal. It is one that has become imperative, and will likely outweigh in importance the political maneuvering with Russia, the United States and the countries of Europe that has characterized the 30 months of the Kuchma presidency to date.

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Please be advised that Branch 29 has merged with Branch 282 as of January 1, 1997.

All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Mary Bolosky, Branch Secretary:

Mrs. Mary Bolosky
311 Wright Avenue
Kingston, PA 18704-4613

ATTENTION**ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 52**

Please be advised that Branch 52 has merged with Branch 253 as of January 1, 1997.

All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Peter Hawrylcw, Branch Secretary:

Mr. Peter Hawrylcw
23 Karen Drive
Ludlow, MA 01056

Open your hearts...

(Continued from page 6)

es due to a shortage of true pastors, namely a lack of those whose ministry has not been marred by the desire to achieve power and control or seek the first place, instead of being the servant of all. The Church seeks out dedicated shepherds, those who will completely dedicate themselves to the Good Shepherd, the High Priest according to the order of Melkhizedek – Jesus Christ, and together with Him, in the spiritual darkness of this world watch over and care for His spiritual flock, heal its wounds and direct it on the path of truth, to Him who says, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

We Bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church beyond the borders of Ukraine, feel, together with the flock entrusted to our care, that vacuum which has arisen due to a lack of true vocations, especially in this Ukrainian branch of Christ's Ecumenical Church. Aware that "the harvest is rich, but the laborers are few" (Matthew 9:37), we proclaim the year of the Lord, 1997 – the third prior to the completion of the second millennium from the birth of Christ, to be the Year of Vocations.

During this solemn period of celebration and spiritual refreshment, we focus our attention on Him who speaks to Orthodox Ukrainians in the words recorded in the Gospel according to St. Luke: "Ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers to His harvest" (Luke 10:2). We fervently appeal to you dear brothers and sisters: contribute to the increase in responses to serve in the Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Do this via living prayer, namely by an example of your personal love and dedication to Christ. Encourage those who are called to entrust themselves to Him who calls out: "Follow me ..."

This Year of Vocations, which we have proclaimed, gives us and especially parents – the first teachers of faith and piety – the opportunity to be channels of the voice of God, Who cried out to all: "Come, follow me!" Let us remember the words of St. Paul the Apostle: "If a man sows in the field of the Spirit, he will get from it a harvest of eternal life. We must never get

tired of doing good, because if we don't give up the struggle we shall get our harvest at the proper time" (Galatians 6:8-9).

The feast of Christ's Nativity compels us to believe in that gift of divine Love, which makes it possible to love others, friends and enemies, and among the former, our brethren in sovereign Ukraine. It is they who await from us concrete manifestations of this love!

Thus, inspired by this solemn feast, we sincerely greet all of you – the spiritual sons and daughters of our Church, especially the archpastors, pastors, monastics and all of our brethren in Ukraine, and embrace all of you in the love of the Good Shepherd. Let us be the common instruments of His love for the world and our planet.

Christ is born! Let us glorify Him!

† **Wasyly**

Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **Constantine**

Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and Diaspora

† **Anatolij**

Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora – Western Europe

† **Ivan**

Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **Antony**

Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A. and Australia – New Zealand Eparchy

† **Vsevolod**

Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

† **Paisiy**

Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

† **Yurij**

Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **Ioan**

Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora – Great Britain Eparchy

† **Jeremiah**

Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of South America

ATTENTION**ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 73**

Please be advised that Branch 73 has merged with Branch 177 as of January 1, 1997.

All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. John Laba, Branch Secretary:

Mr. John Laba
24 Cavalcade Blvd.
Warwick, RI 02889-1605

ATTENTION**ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 81**

Please be advised that Branch 81 has merged with Branch 55 as of January 1, 1997.

All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Ms. Marianna Cizdyn, Branch Secretary:

Ms. Marianna Cizdyn
5422 Wasena Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21225

ATTENTION**ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 122**

Please be advised that Branch 122 has merged with Branch 238 as of January 1, 1997.

All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Anne Remick, Branch Secretary:

Mrs. Anne Remick
10 Sunnyside Avenue
Canton, MA 02021

ATTENTION**ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 136**

Please be advised that Branch 136 has merged with Branch 131 as of January 1, 1997.

All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Lew Bodnar, Branch Secretary:

Mr. Lew Bodnar
1120 S. Canfield Road
Park Ridge, IL 60068

ATTENTION**ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 150**

Please be advised that Branch 150 has merged with Branch 253 as of January 1, 1997.

All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Peter Hawrylcw, Branch Secretary:

Mr. Peter Hawrylcw
23 Karen Drive
Ludlow, MA 01056

ATTENTION**ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 167**

Please be advised that Branch 167 has merged with Branch 165 as of January 1, 1997.

All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Mary K. Pelechaty, Branch Secretary:

Mrs. Mary K. Pelechaty
3318 Stickney Avenue
Toledo, OH 43608

ATTENTION**ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 212**

Please be advised that Branch 212 has merged with Branch 130 as of January 1, 1997.

All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. George Yurkiw, Branch Secretary:

Mr. George Yurkiw
30-15 36th Street
Astoria, NY 11103-4704

ATTENTION**ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 243**

Please be advised that Branch 243 has merged with Branch 452 as of January 1, 1997.

All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Natalie Shuya, Branch Secretary:

Mrs. Natalie Shuya
6646 Howard Avenue
Hammond, IN 46324-1306

ATTENTION**ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 301**

Please be advised that Branch 301 has merged with Branch 114 as of January 1, 1997.

All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Olga Berejan, Branch Secretary:

Mrs. Olga Berejan
2324 W. Thomas
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Please be advised that Branch 332 has merged with Branch 155 as of January 1, 1997.

All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Yaroslav Zaviysky, Branch Secretary:

Mr. Yaroslav Zaviysky
11 Bradley Road
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ATTENTION**ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 370**

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All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. John Teluk, Branch Secretary:

Mr. John Teluk
105 McKinley Avenue
New Haven, CT 06515

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ATTENTION**ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 433**

Please be advised that Branch 433 has merged with Branch 267 as of January 1, 1997.

All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mrs. Gloria Tolopka, Branch Secretary:

Mrs. Gloria Tolopka
293 W. 5th Street
Deer Park, NY 11729

ATTENTION**ALL MEMBERS OF BRANCH 459**

Please be advised that Branch 459 has merged with Branch 234 as of January 1, 1997.

All inquiries, monthly payments and requests for changes should be sent to Mr. Eugene Oscislowski, Branch Secretary:

Mr. Eugene Oscislowski
25 Jason Ct.
Matawan, NJ 07747-3510

Let us focus...

(Continued from page 6)

awaited moment of full communion closer.

Each year of preparation will have a particular emphasis on the Holy Theotokos, the Blessed Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary. In 1997, the holy father invites us to reflect on the Theotokos "in the mystery of her divine motherhood." Mary is not only the Blessed Mother of Christ our God. In Christ she becomes the Mother of Christ's Body, which is the Church. By Christ's gift, she becomes the Mother of each of us.

So we entrust our longing for full communion between Catholics and Orthodox to the intercession of the Holy Theotokos, the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church. We ask her to approach the throne of mercy of her beloved Son, Our Lord, and implore this stupendous grace, this divine gift of unity.

The Great Jubilee must be a time of effective evangelism, when Christians bring the Gospel to those around us who need to

know Jesus Christ and His saving redemption. Our Lord Himself told us the secret of effective evangelism, of effective witness: "By this will all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). So may this love shine forth in us, in our families, in our parishes and in our communities, so that our Church today may be like that first Church in Jerusalem, "fully of one heart and soul" (Acts 4:32).

I wish each of you and all of you every joy in the celebration of Christmas, and in the approaching feast of the Holy Theophany, the baptism of Our Savior. May you have every blessing from God in the year of grace that lies before us, and may your life give witness to Christ for all those around you.

† **Basil**

Bishop of Stamford (New York and New England)

Given on the Feast of the Conception of St. Anne, 1996, at the Cathedral of St. Vladimir the Great, Stamford, Conn.

Encyclopedia of Ukraine...

(Continued from page 5)

sets have already been sold. Each set sells for \$2,500 and provides a very good investment for bibliophiles and collectors of rare books.

Prof. Bilaniuk introduced the final speaker of the evening, Walter Baranetsky, the president of the Friends of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine Foundation. Mr. Baranetsky spoke about the relationship of the Entsyklopediya Ukrayinoznavstva to the Encyclopedia of Ukraine and once again reaffirmed that the latter, by being an adaptation of the former, is a direct descendant of the Ukrainian version. He touched upon the

importance of financial support and expressed willingness to collect money for the completion of the projects outlined by Prof. Struk.

After the formal presentation, the participants were able to examine the whole "family" of Ukrainian encyclopedias from the Ukrainska Zahalna Entsyklopediya of 1935 through the five-volume Encyclopedia of Ukraine of 1993. The exhibit was prepared and displayed by Sophia Hewryk the help of the center's library. Participants were also able to purchase or order sets of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, as well as converse with the speakers while enjoying a glass of wine and partaking of a buffet prepared by the center's committee headed by Dzvinka Zacharczuk.

20th anniversary...

(Continued from page 7)

Then there was Oleksa Tykhy, quietly dying from stomach ulcers and complications, who was confined in a prisoner hospital without access to medical care, medication or proper diet.

In addition to the aforementioned 10 founding members, the other members of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group were: Vyacheslav Chornovil, Olha Hewyko, Mykola Horbal, Mykhailo Horyn, Vitaliy Kalynychenko, Sviatoslav Karavansky, Zinoviy Krasivsky, Yaroslav Lesiv, Yuriy Lytvyn, Volodymyr Malynkovich, Valeriy Marchenko, Mykhailo Melnyk, Vasyl Ovsienko, Leonid Plyusch, Oskana

Popovych, Bohdan Rebryk, Vasyl Romaniuk, Petro Rozumny, Iryna Senyk, Stefania Shabatura, Yuriy Shukhevych, Danylo Shumuk, Petro Sichko, Vasyl Sichko, Ivan Sokulsky, Vasyl Stiltskiv, Vasyl Stus, Nadia Svitlychna, Petro Vins and Yosyf Zisels.

Despite to unbearable suffering and reprisals, the Ukrainian Helsinki Group held fast. It continued to be strong in spirit in prisons and places of exile. Ukrainian Helsinki Group members were the first ones to stand up to the brutal Goliath. For this they paid dearly.

Their sacrifice is not forgotten. Their actions precipitated the beginning of the end of the Soviet empire. We will be eternally grateful to these brave men and women, and they will always be in our hearts.

Chicago events...

(Continued from page 4)

In the course of the evening an anonymous donor challenged the guests by agreeing to match funds raised at the banquet up to \$10,000. The evening's donations totaled over \$20,000.

Scheduled to coincide with the 52nd anniversary of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky's death on November 1, 1944, the weekend also provided the Sheptytsky Institute with an opportunity to honor Bishop Wiwchar for his continued efforts to complete the beatification process of Metropolitan Sheptytsky.

Presenting a gift cross from Ukraine to Bishop Wiwchar and a check to support the bishop's prayer league initiative, Dr. Browar emphasized: "I am happy to introduce an individual, who has understood that the canonization of Metropolitan Andrey does not depend solely on solid academic studies... it also depends on whether people really pray for this. The prayer league started by Bishop Michael is a noble effort that needs to be noticed, reinforced and supported, so that its work can continue until the day when the Universal Church recognizes the sanctity of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky."

On Sunday evening the Sheptytsky Institute held a conference, "The Union of Brest and the Ukrainian Churches Today". The evening included two presentations: "The Union of Brest compared with other Eastern-Catholic Unions" by the Rev. Chirovsky and "The Liturgical Question at the Crossroads of East and West" by the Rev. Petro Galadza. The Rev. Prof. Alexander Baran of Winnipeg, also a Sheptytsky Institute professor, delivered a series of talks during the weekend about Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky.

Also during the weekend, the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute Foundation held its annual board meeting. In addition to reviewing the work of the institute and its plans for the future, the board meeting officially enacted the merger of the U.S.-based American Friends of the Sheptytsky Institute with the Canadian-based Sheptytsky Institute Foundation, forming one organization for North America. More than \$150,000 in U.S. funds gathered earlier by the American Friends were consolidated with the funds of the Sheptytsky Institute Foundation. Donors to the newly merged foundation can receive full tax benefits in the United States and in Canada, since the foundation is an officially registered charity with both federal governments.

A projected total of \$5 million is needed to ensure the Institute's survival for generations to come.

For more information, or to make a tax-deductible donation, please contact: The Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute, St. Paul University, 233 Main St., Ottawa, Ontario K1 S 1C4; (613) 239-1393, ext. 2332.

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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, January 11

DALLAS: The Zorya Ukrainian Dancers of Dallas and the Ukrainian American Society of Texas will host a Ukrainian New Year's celebration, or "malanka," at Arthur Sarris Community Center of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 13555 Hillcrest (corner of Alpha). Tickets are \$35 for adults; \$15 for students and children. For information or to order tickets call (972) 235-4920. The celebration also marks the 20th anniversary of the Zorya Dancers, and proceeds from the event will benefit the troupe.

IRVINGTON, N.J.: The Ukrainian Community Center and the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM-A) invites the community and friends to its annual New Year's "malanka" dance. This evening of fun and entertainment will begin at 8 p.m. with a hot buffet, followed by dancing to the sounds of Vechory v Karpatakh. Admission: \$35; youth, \$20. The dance will take place at the center, 140 Prospect Ave. For reservations call (201) 375-0156 or (201) 372-9856.

Saturday, January 18

YARDVILLE, N.J.: St. George Ukrainian Orthodox Church invites the public to its traditional "malanka," beginning at 9 p.m. in the church hall, 839 Yardville-Allentown Road. Music will be provided

by Fata Morgana. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$10 for students; includes a delicious buffet. For more information, please call the Rev. John Fatenko, (609) 585-1774, or Natalka Posewa, (609) 259-2763.

Saturday, January 25

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, Chicago Branch, the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, Illinois Branch, and the Ukrainian Veterinary Medical Association of America and Canada, Chicago Branch, will hold their annual banquet and ball with presentation of debutantes in the State and Grand Ballroom of the Palmer House Hilton Hotel, 17 E. Monroe St. The evening is black tie with music by Nove Pokolinnia. For reservations and more information call (847) 985-3596. All reservations must be in by January 10.

Saturday, February 1

WHIPPANY, N.J.: The Plast Ukrainian Youth Organization, Newark Branch, is holding its annual debutante ball at the Hanover Marriott, Route 10, with music by Tempo and Luna. Cocktails, 6:30 p.m.; presentation of debutantes, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: dinner and dance, \$75; dance only (for students under age 23), \$20. For tickets and reservations please call Daria Semanyshyn at Beyond Beepers, (201) 515-8326.



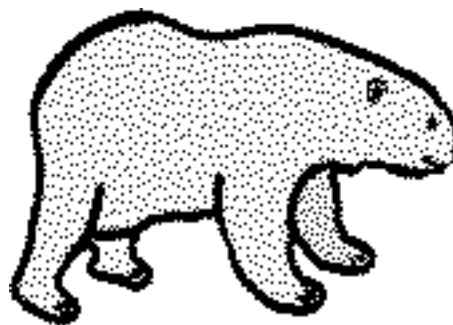
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