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\$1.25/\$2 in Ukraine

UNA General Assembly votes to stay the course on fiscal responsibility

by Roma Hadzewycz

KERHONKSON, N.Y. — The first regular annual meeting of the Ukrainian National Association's General Assembly since the fraternal organization's May 1998 convention took place here at the UNA resort, Soyuzivka, on Friday, December 3, through Sunday, December 5.

The three-day meeting heard reports of General Assembly members for the period from May 1998 through November 1999; reviewed fraternal activities such as UNA publications, Soyuzivka and scholarships; approved a budget for 2000 after reviewing the financial report for 1998 and the first nine months of the current year; and discussed the proposed referendum on a new corporate structure for the UNA.

The principal decisions of the 1999 meeting were:

- to fund operations of the UNA's Kyiv Press Bureau;
- to support the UNA's two official publications, Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly;
- to support and to seek funding for Soyuzivka's continued development;
- to hold the next UNA convention in Chicago.

General Assembly members also:

- established a By-Laws Subcommittee that will prepare, with the assistance of the General Assembly and input from the UNA membership, a referendum question regarding the implementation of a corporate structure for the UNA's policy-making and executive authorities; and
- approved the budget for the year 2000, as prepared by Treasurer Stefan Kaczaraj and reviewed by the Financial Committee, which foresees continued improvement in the UNA's financial status.

It was reported to the General Assembly — the fraternal organization's highest decision-making body between quadrennial conventions — that insurance authorities of the state of New Jersey had informed the UNA that, at this time, mergers of the Ukrainian National Aid Association of America and the Ukrainian Fraternal Association with the UNA have been put on hold.

The annual meeting's sessions were chaired by the UNA president, Ulana Diachuk. Participating were:

- First Vice-President Stefko Kuropas, Second Vice-President Anya Dydyk-Petrenko, Director for Canada the Rev. Myron Stasiw, National Secretary Martha Lysko, Treasurer Stefan Kaczaraj;

- Auditors William Pastuszek, Stefan Hawrysz, Dr. Alexander Serafyn, Yaroslav Zavytsky (who left the sessions on Friday due to illness) and Myron Groch; and

- Advisors Taras Szmaga Jr., Alex Chudolij, Tekla Moroz, Wasyl Szeremeta, Vasyl Luchkiv, Stephanie Hawryluk, Andre Worobec, Eugene Oscislawski, Barbara Bachynsky, Andriy Skyba and Al Kachkowski. (Nick Diakiwsky and Halyna Kolessa were unable to attend.)

Also present were honorary members of the General Assembly: Joseph Lesawyer, Anne Chopek, Mary Dushnyck, Walter Sochan, Myron B. Kuropas, Anna Haras and Taras Szmaga Sr. (who, along with Helen Olek Scott, became an honorary member as a result of an amendment to the UNA By-Laws passed at the last convention), as well as the editors-in-chief of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, respectively, Raissa Galechko and Roma Hadzewycz. Soyuzivka Manager John A. Flis delivered a report before the assembly.

The annual meeting opened with a wreath-laying ceremony at Soyuzivka's monument to Taras Shevchenko,

(Continued on page 4)

Kuchma in D.C. for talks with U.S. administration, international financial institutions



President Bill Clinton and President Leonid Kuchma meeting in the White House Oval Office, with Vice-President Al Gore (second from the right) looking on. Sitting next to President Clinton is Marta Zielyk, State Department interpreter.

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON — President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine came here for talks with the Clinton administration and the international financial institutions on December 8, delivering a message that he and the Ukrainian people are committed to economic and democratic reforms and integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. He also made the point that Ukraine needs U.S. and Western support in restructuring the \$3.5 billion in loans coming due in 2000.

The message was underscored during a full day of important meetings with President Bill Clinton, Vice-

President Al Gore and the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission that he and President Kuchma co-chair, Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, World Bank President James Wolfensohn and International Monetary Fund Managing Director Michel Camdessus, a group of U.S. congressmen, business representatives and leaders of Jewish organizations, in an appeal to Ukrainian Americans and in the local press.

While the United States and the international lending institutions agree that President Kuchma and his government need to use the mandate of his recent presidential election victory to accelerate long-overdue economic

(Continued on page 4)

IMF and World Bank criticize Kyiv for slow pace of reform

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Since arriving in early December for their regular reviews, both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have severely criticized the pace of reforms in Ukraine, and neither financial organization has given Kyiv any encouraging news that the country is ready for additional credits from them in the near future.

While the separate missions will continue to work in Ukraine for another week, analyzing economic indicators and to what extent the government is adhering to criteria set forth by them, the initial response by the Ukrainian government has been one of acknowledgment and understanding.

"The investment climate in Ukraine is one of the worst in the region," said Lily Chu, the head of the World Bank delegation, at a December 2 press conference.

Ms. Chu said that perhaps only the Belarusian bureaucracy is more difficult for investors to circumvent. She said Ukraine confounds investors with too many licensing regulations, an assortment of bothersome inspections, and a complicated and ever-changing tax system.

The World Bank representative said that thus far she had

seen little that makes her optimistic that reforms are proceeding as promised.

The World Bank has set goals for the Ukrainian government that include administrative reform, establishing an investor-friendly business climate and generating \$1 billion from the privatization of state assets.

Ms. Chu said that \$800 million is available to Ukraine next year, but the country must develop the projects to which the money would be applied.

Meanwhile, John Odling-Smee, the head of the IMF mission, said on December 6 that whether the country gets the next tranche that it now has been awaiting since September depends on how it decides to move on implementation of the reforms that it has promised.

Mr. Odling-Smee said the government needs to revise its role in the economic life of the state, from that of a controlling body to one that promotes economic development. He echoed remarks made by the World Bank, saying that Ukraine must begin administrative reforms, particularly in reorganizing and reducing the number of state committees and ministerial structures.

(Continued on page 4)

A POST-ELECTION ANALYSIS: Observers examine Ukraine's media

by Lily Hyde
RFE/RL Newslines

The Ukrainian presidential elections that took place in two rounds in late October and mid-November focused world attention on the country's media. International watchdogs from the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Institute for Media all concluded that Ukraine's television, radio and print media were overwhelmingly biased toward one or another candidate. Thus, they argued, Ukrainians were denied access to objective information.

Observers condemned government intimidation of the media in the form of tax and fire inspections and lawsuits. They also lamented the fact that oligarchs own most media outlets and use them for their own political ends. Some observers, however, think the reports produced by human rights and freedom-of-speech watchdogs were exaggerated.

The latter view is held by Taras Kuzmov of Internews, an internationally funded training project for television and radio journalists. Mr. Kuzmov told RFE/RL that reports focused overwhelmingly on Kyiv-based media and ignored Ukraine's extensive regional media outlets.

Most broadcasting outlets, he added, were approached neither by government officials nor by presidential candidates: "Without question there were some precedents of pressure on TV companies, but there were many stations that didn't experience any such pressure."

Vadym Denysenko, chief editor of the national television channel STB, argued that the reports did not provide sufficient explanation of their monitoring results, which recorded the airtime accorded to each candidate and whether the coverage was positive or negative.

"Basically, Channel X is 99 percent positive about [incumbent President Leonid] Kuchma and 70 percent negative about [the challenger, Petro] Symonenko," he remarked. "I don't see the mechanism, they didn't explain how they calculated these numbers. It's like I'd say this woman is

Lily Hyde is a Kyiv-based RFE/RL correspondent.

Symonenko plans to continue fighting

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

PRAGUE – In an article titled "The Elections Are Over; The Struggle Continues" published in the November 18 *Komunist*, Community Party leader Petro Symonenko thanked the 10.6 million Ukrainian voters who voted for him and promised to fight to rescue Ukraine from a "deadly danger of destruction" under President Leonid Kuchma's rule.

"Having united all the healthy and [class]-conscious forces of society, we will make a joint effort to protect our constitutional rights and social gains, we will rescue dear Ukraine from its definitive enslavement to the IMF and other financial structures [as well as] NATO staffs," he wrote.

According to the Communist Party secretary, President Kuchma won the presidential ballot because "the corrupt authorities were able this time, too, to treacherously fool a considerable number of voters with cheap populism, petty alms, and sweet promises, and to intimidate them, that is, to rape the whole nation."

beautiful and this woman is not beautiful – it's my personal subjective view, nothing more, until I explain my conclusions. And for this reason, I can't absolutely trust all these reports."

While few would deny that the state of the Ukrainian media leaves much to be desired, many say that to blame only government interference is an over-simplification. According to Mr. Denysenko, the single biggest problem facing STB is the country's economic decline. Prior to the elections, however, STB complained loudly of what it called government repression when its bank accounts were frozen by tax inspectors. Its cause was taken up by the Committee to Protect Journalists and was cited as an example of state coercion by the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

After a management reshuffle at STB, and the unfreezing of bank accounts, the complaints have disappeared. Mr. Denysenko now downplays any problems with the government. He told RFE/RL all difficulties have now been solved and that STB was able to continue objective coverage of news in the month before the election and since.

But others see STB's new tone as a form of self-censorship.

Mr. Kuzmov of Internews says that it is a tactic that allows Kyiv-based media like STB to remain in business. He says these media outlets are overwhelmingly dependent on big business, and the interests controlling them usually back the ruling power. He says if journalists tried to be completely objective in their coverage, the outlet would simply go out of business, so Ukrainian journalists choose pragmatism over idealism.

"I think the Ukrainian mass media doesn't know what direct political censorship is," Mr. Kuzmov argues. "Instead, self-censorship exists. One journalist got to the heart of it when he said Ukrainian journalists have freedom of speech, but they have the wisdom not to use it."

IREX ProMedia is a sister organization to Internews, also promoting free media in Ukraine. IREX ProMedia's Tim O'Connor advocates ownership by foreign media companies as one possible way of improving standards because a foreign company is more interested in profit than politics and can bring international experience. He says two newspapers in regions of Ukraine have already been bought by a Norwegian company and are doing well.

Mr. O'Connor says that the poor pay given most journalists is another problem. He says Ukrainian journalists receive such low wages that some take extra money to write articles in favor of political candidates.

But Mr. O'Connor says the professionalism of many journalists in Ukraine is also undermined by Soviet press traditions: "[Journalists] very often see their role as someone who is responsible for sifting through information and then telling their readers or viewers what to think about it. They don't actually give them the information and let them make up their own minds, they see themselves as the analysts ... which is very much a continuation of the old traditions."

According to Mr. O'Connor, Ukrainian journalists "absolutely did not try to be independent" during the elections. But he adds the Ukrainian public needs to become more discerning too and make greater demands on its media.

Mr. Kuzmov of Internews, meanwhile, says a lot of talented young people are working in the Ukrainian media but says the level of professionalism is still low. He predicts that in time, there will be so many young journalists that they will be able to change the whole system.

NEWSBRIEFS

Privatization of energy companies halted

KYIV – State Property Fund Chairman Oleksander Bondar on December 6 ordered a halt to the privatization of energy suppliers, which had been decreed by the president in the summer, Interfax reported. The fund said privatization has been halted in connection with "difficulties in energy supplies in the winter period [as well as] the need to ensure efficient state control over the operation of energy companies and the process of the branch's restructuring." The privatization of energy companies has so far resulted in revenues totaling 90 million hrv (\$18.5 million). The state has retained a controlling interest in 20 of Ukraine's 27 regional energy suppliers. (RFE/RL Newslines)

Officers pledge restoration of socialism

KYIV – Ukraine's Union of Soviet Officers (SRO), together with the Party of Communists (Bolsheviks) of Ukraine (PKBU), plan to reinstate a socialist system in Ukraine in a "peaceful way." This news was revealed to Interfax on November 30 by SRO head Oleksander Ohorodnykov. Mr. Ohorodnykov said the SRO and the PKBU intend to form a bloc to take part in the 2002 parliamentary elections. He added that his organization will not resort to terrorist actions even if the peaceful attempt to restore socialism in Ukraine fails. Mr. Ohorodnykov noted that the future socialist Ukraine should cooperate closely with Belarus and Russia, both of which, he added, should be ruled by Alyaksandr Lukashenka. He noted that the SRO has 18,000 members, but has not yet been registered by the Justice Ministry of Ukraine. The PKBU, which is led by Col. Oleksander Kaspruk, has registered and has headquarters in Dnipropetrovsk. (RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report)

Kuchma abolishes collective farms

KYIV – Leonid Kuchma on December 4 issued a decree reforming the agricultural sector on "the principles of land ownership," Interfax reported. Under the decree, the land and property of collective farms must be divided among their workers by the end of April 2000. Collective farm workers can subsequently organize private enterprises or agricultural cooperatives on their plots. The decree also orders the government to supply the plots' owners with ownership certificates by the end of 2002. "The main point of this document is to announce collective farms as ineffective forms of property," Vice Prime Minister Mykhailo Hladii was quoted by the Associated Press as saying. (RFE/RL Newslines)

President re-nominates Pustovoitenko

KYIV – Parliament Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko told national deputies on December 2 that President Leonid Kuchma has proposed Valerii Pustovoitenko for the post of prime minister, Interfax reported. Mr. Pustovoitenko submitted his resignation as prime minister following President Kuchma's inauguration on November 30 and is now acting head of the Cabinet of Ministers. Mr. Pustovoitenko told Interfax the same day that if he is confirmed as prime minister for Mr. Kuchma's new term, he will "certainly" implement "more radical reforms." Mr. Pustovoitenko must win at least 226 parliamentary votes to retain his post. In 1997 he was approved with 227 votes. (RFE/RL Newslines)

Lazarenko's wife locked out of home

KYIV – Tamara Lazarenko, the wife of former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko who is seeking political asylum in the United States, returned to Ukraine on December 2 but could not enter her apartment. According to her lawyer, Mrs. Lazarenko returned to demonstrate that she is innocent of money laundering, for which her husband is currently being investigated, but was locked out of her apartment by prosecutors. "This contradicts the Constitution and is a groundless ban," her lawyer commented. There was no immediate comment from the Procurator General's Office, according to the Associated Press. (RFE/RL Newslines)

Rada's 'non-constructive' stance protested

KYIV – Some 200 representatives of the election bloc "Our Choice – Leonid Kuchma" picketed the Parliament building on December 1 to protest the "non-constructive stance" of the legislature, Interfax reported. According to Mykola Shevchenko, one of the organizers of the protest, "the Parliament should cooperate with the executive, not block its activity." He added that if the Verkhovna Rada does not depart from its "confrontational course, we will initiate its dissolution through a nationwide referendum." (RFE/RL Newslines)

Debtors' electricity is cut off

KYIV – Some 16,000 enterprises, or 33 percent of the all enterprises, have received no electricity supplies since late November because they have not paid for earlier deliveries, Interfax reported on December 1. The debt of those disconnected from the grid amounts to 432 million hrv (\$87 million), or 7.5 percent of the total debt for electricity supplies in Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newslines)

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Editor-in-chief: Roma Hadzewycz
Editors: Roman Woronowycz (Kyiv)
Andrij Kudla Wynnnyckyj (Toronto)
Irene Jarosewich
Ika Koznarska Casanova

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Kuchma travels to Brussels, Moscow and Paris to spur foreign investment, expand foreign policy

by Roman Woronowycz
Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma left for a six-day visit to foreign capitals on December 5, on what was his first trip outside Ukraine in his second term. In the span of a working week he met with the presidents of Russia, France and the United States, and the head of the European Union to spur foreign investment and further develop Ukraine's multi-vector foreign policy.

The three countries and the EU are keystones in Ukraine's oft-stated strategic policy of maintaining equal relations with the East and the West.

Mr. Kuchma first stopped briefly in Brussels to meet with Romano Prodi, the recently elected head of the European Commission, which is the executive arm of the European Union. Discussions focused on the EU summit scheduled for Helsinki on December 10-11.

Ukraine has pushed for associate membership in the EU, which the organization has resisted, and has been waiting for a signal that it can join the EU once it has met tough economic and political criteria. The EU will consider a new policy for Ukraine at the summit, which most experts say will stop short of offering Ukraine any type of membership for the present.

In Brussels, Mr. Prodi said only that EU-Ukraine cooperation would increase. "We must discuss now how to deepen our relations and become great friends so as to work on the achievement of special goals," said the European Commission chairman, according to Interfax. "I believe that our future lies with clearer and deeper cooperation," he added.

President Kuchma said he was pleased with the rough draft he had seen of a document to be signed by European leaders during the summit. "This document will send a positive signal of cooperation," he said.

Finland, which currently holds the EU presidency, released the rough draft to reporters on December 3. According to Reuters, the document outlines the EU's plans to make Ukraine a free trade area in the future and assist it in joining the World Trade Organization. It states that it will encourage Ukraine to ratify new bilateral trade agreements with member-states, and urges it to improve its investment climate by fighting corruption, and proceeding with economic and administrative reforms.

After his brief Sunday evening session with Mr. Prodi, the Ukrainian president flew to Moscow, where he had a Monday morning meeting with ailing Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Mr. Yeltsin had been hospitalized with pneumonia in the days before the visit, which had led to doubts that the two leaders would meet. But the Russian president looked upbeat and energetic as he greeted his Ukrainian counterpart in the Kremlin on December 6, according to Moscow Television. The Russian press reported that Mr. Yeltsin had signed himself out of the hospital against doctors' orders especially to meet with his guest from Kyiv.

The meeting irked Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka because, only days before, the Kremlin, citing Mr. Yeltsin's illness, had canceled the scheduled signing ceremony that would have formally united Belarus and Russia. Mr. Lukashenka has put tremendous pressure on a wavering Moscow to formalize the agreement on reunion.

Kremlin officials said that Mr. Yeltsin felt it was important to meet with Mr. Kuchma on the eve of his trip to the United States, according to the Kyiv newspaper Den.

During their short encounter the two

presidents settled on the restructuring of the balance of Ukraine's oil and gas debt to Russia – particularly the \$500 million owed by the state-owned company Naftohaz Ukraina to the Russia's Gazprom. The details are to be worked out by an inter-governmental committee. A larger debt was resolved in late August when Kyiv agreed to turn over old TU-160 and TU-95MS strategic bombers.

The two presidents also agreed on joint production of three new planes, the AN-70, TU-334 and AN-140. "This is a priority over all of our plans," said Mr. Kuchma.

The Ukrainian president had said the day before the start of his trip that he is not satisfied with several aspects of relations between Russia and Ukraine. He emphasized that he believes the delineation of the Russia-Ukraine border, particularly the waters of the Azov Sea, was moving too slowly. He also expressed his disappointment that there has been little progress in returning Ukrainian citizens' the savings they had lost when the USSR fell apart.

"Paramount is the issue of the return of currency to Ukrainian citizens and legal entities that was frozen by the Soviet Foreign Economic Bank," said Mr. Kuchma.

Oleksander Martynenko, the president's press secretary said on August 6 that, during talks on the matter, the Russian side had expressed readiness to assist Ukraine in the return of its portion, although he did not clarify the reason for the hold-up.

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin briefed Mr. Kuchma on the Chechnya conflict as well, before the president flew to Paris for an afternoon meeting with French President Jacques Chirac.

During his 24-hour stay in the City of Lights on December 6-7, President Kuchma held a series of talks with French politicians, bankers and businesspersons, including first and foremost with President Chirac.

The two met at the Elysian Palace on December 7, during which the French president signaled his support for Ukraine's eventual entry into the EU. Mr. Chirac assured Mr. Kuchma that during the EU Summit in Helsinki the member-states would adopt a strategy that would send "a political signal testifying to the EU's intention to broaden relations with Ukraine," Interfax-Ukraine quoted Mr. Kuchma's press secretary as saying.

The two presidents also agreed to the creation of a Forum of the Ukrainian-French Dialogue to coordinate the broadening of relations in the inter-governmental and public spheres. The forum will be co-chaired by Ivan Bilas, ex-head of President Kuchma's re-election committee and a former vice-prime minister, and Jean Claude Trichet, chairman of the Bank of France.

Meeting with the head of France's power utility conglomerate Electricité de France, later that day, Mr. Kuchma pressed his case for the need for additional financing to finish reconstruction of the concrete dome over the destroyed fourth block of the Chernobyl nuclear facility. Electricité de France has won the tender for part of the reconstruction effort under the Shelter Implementation Project.

At a luncheon hosted by the French Entrepreneurs Movement held earlier that day, the Ukrainian president had urged French business persons to initiate a second international donor conference to raise money for the closure of Chernobyl, similar to the one organized by U.S. Vice-President Al Gore in 1997.

That evening President Kuchma flew to Washington, for the next plenary session of the Kuchma-Gore Committee and meetings with President Bill Clinton, the International Monetary Fund and the U.S. business community.

German forced labor settlement at a crossroads

by Myroslaw Smorodsky

BONN, Germany – The sixth in the series of negotiations between representatives of forced/slave laborers and German Industry ended on November 17 without the negotiators finding a solution that would be acceptable to both the victims and the companies. The date and time of the next crucial meeting has not been established, but it is expected to take place before Christmas of this year.

Although both sides have made considerable concessions in their respective positions, the negotiators find themselves at a crossroads, where an inappropriate or obstinate move by any of the numerous parties can torpedo the negotiations into failure.

The negotiators are fully cognizant of the fact that failure would deprive hundreds of thousands of victims of any hope of compensation whatsoever. On the other hand, German industry would be bogged down in numerous lengthy legal battles that, even if they were resolved in favor of Germany, would expose German industry to public scrutiny and criticism for its actions during World War II.

In October of this year, German negotiators had offered a total settlement of 6 billion DM. At the November 17 meeting in Bonn, after intense closed-door negotiations between each of the individual victim groups, German representatives and U.S. government negotiators, German industry

increased the offer to 8 billion DM.

Although these individual negotiation sessions were aimed at dividing the victims groups, the Eastern European delegation and the plaintiff's lawyers were able to maintain a unified position and stated that this new offer still is insufficient.

The German negotiators also reversed their prior position and stated that their settlement offer would not be based on compensating agricultural and domestic workers. However, the negotiators for both sides made it clear that any settlement payments that would be made to the individual country delegations would be in a lump sum and it would be left to the discretion of each of the Eastern European delegations to include farm workers in the individual compensatory payout.

The latest round of negotiations in Bonn concluded with both sides putting forward their anticipated range of settlement: 6-10 billion DM on the German side and 10-15 billion DM on the victim side. Both sides were cautiously optimistic that the next meeting in mid-December should see success in the negotiations.

For further information visit <http://www.smorodsky.com/forcedlabor/> or contact: Myroslaw Smorodsky at Smorodsky & Stawnychy, 75 Union Ave., P.O. Box 1705, Rutherford, NJ 07070; telephone, (201) 939-1999; fax, (201) 507-3970.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Russian oil to bypass Ukraine?

MOSCOW – A commission of Russian governmental experts announced on November 29 that there is an "economic expediency" for Russia to construct a pipeline between Sukhodolnaya and Rodionovo-Nesvetaiskaya (towns in Rostov Oblast) to bypass Ukrainian territory, Izvestiia reported on November 30. At present, some 300 kilometers of the oil pipeline between Samara and the Russian port of Novorossiisk are located on Ukrainian territory. The commission asked the Transneft company to work out a bypass pipeline construction project. According to the November 30 issue of Kommersant-Daily and Izvestiia, the reason for constructing the bypass pipeline is purely economic. Ukraine has repeatedly raised transit tariffs for Russian oil, and the cost of pumping one ton of oil through Ukraine stands at \$2.35, or almost five times as much as through Russia. According to estimates by the Russian Ministry of the Economy, Russia loses some \$70 million every year on the Ukrainian stretch of the Samara-Novorossiisk oil pipeline. It is expected that the bypass pipeline can be built within 18 months. The cost of the project is estimated at \$113 million (U.S.). Transneft will finance only 20 percent of that sum, while the rest will be provided by other investors. Izvestiya warned that the project may also have negative consequences for Russia. The daily argues that Ukraine would like to transfer to Russian management some of its oil refineries in exchange for a guarantee of continued Russian oil supplies. By building an alternate pipeline, Russia may harm relations with its neighbor and "lose control over Ukraine's fuel market," Izvestiia said. (RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report)

Western Europe invests in Lviv Oblast

LVIV – A total of \$37 million (U.S.) was invested into Lviv Oblast's economy since the beginning of the year, 70 percent of this in cash, the rest in-kind, reported the Lviv Statistics Department. The most active investors were Switzerland with \$13 million (U.S.), Poland with \$10 million, Great Britain with about \$4 million, Hungary with almost \$3 million and Norway with \$1.5 million. Half of the funds were invested in the industrial sector, while the rest was invested into financial and communications sectors. (Eastern Economist)

McDonald's Big Macs come to Lviv

LVIV – McDonald's opened a restaurant in Lviv on November 26, the first in western Ukraine. It was announced that prices there will be 10 percent lower than in Kyiv's restaurants. Two more restaurants are planned to be opened in Lviv by the end of the year, and 10 more in Ukraine. Eventually, there will be 50 McDonald's restaurants in the country. At present the company uses some 36 percent of Ukrainian raw materials, but plans to gradually increase this figure to 90 percent. (Eastern Economist)

Uzbekistan will participate in AN-70 project

KYIV – Uzbekistan will take part in producing the AN-70 airplane, said the general manager of the Russian-Ukrainian Medium Transport Airplane consortium, Leonid Terentiev, on November 26. According to a cooperation plan, the Tashkent-based aviation production association will be manufacturing the AN-70 wings, and then shipping them to plants in Kyiv and Samara, Russia. Five sets of wings are being manufactured now. According to some estimates, production in Tashkent will make up to 20 percent of the total labor input needed to manufacture the AN-70. It is believed that the total demand for the AN-70 will be between 1,000 and 1,500 planes over the next 30 years and its export price will be \$60 million to 70 million (U.S.). (Eastern Economist)

UNA president's opening remarks

Following is the full text of opening remarks at the 1999 annual meeting of the Ukrainian National Association's General Assembly by President Ulana Diachuk. (Translated from the original Ukrainian by The Weekly.)

Esteemed Members and Honorary Members of the General Assembly, Editors-in-Chief of our publications Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, and Dear Guests:

We are meeting at our annual meeting for the last time this century and this millennium. This may sound rather dramatic, but, looking at the calendar, one realizes that it's true.

Our institution was founded back in the 19th century, it developed, grew and flourished in the 20th century.

Crossing into the 21st century, we must adapt our institution to new conditions within our Ukrainian community as well as in the insurance business from which our former and current members, the entire Ukrainian community, as well as our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, derived great benefit.

I believe it was the Greek philosopher Heraclitus who said: "Nothing is as permanent and eternal as change."

Looking around us, we see how quickly everything is changing due to new technology, how many new jobs and new businesses have been created by

technology. Technology has made the world smaller and more interconnected, and it has created a global economy.

Our organization was founded in 1894 when there was a great need for it; there was a need for self-preservation and for safeguarding the principal needs of the Ukrainian individual and the Ukrainian family on the American continent.

Since that time many of the functions of caring for workers and their families have been assumed by employers and, to some extent, government.

Entering the new century and the new millennium with confidence, we should seek new methods and new approaches so that our principal goals continue to be supported by the Ukrainian community and so that the UNA continues to fulfill the purposes delineated in its founding charter.

The homeland of our ancestors, Ukraine, still has not been secured as an independent, law-based, economically strong and democratic European state. And perhaps it will require a lot more time for Ukraine to become a Ukrainian and a flourishing country. That is why diaspora organizations like ours, and many others, will continue to be needed.

To that end, we must unite the new active cadres of our young people who will assume leadership from the older generation and will lead this organization to new heights and new goals.

UNA General Assembly...

(Continued from page 1)

patron of the UNA. The ceremonies then moved inside, into the Main House library, where the American, Canadian and Ukrainian national anthems were played, and Mrs. Moroz read a text about Shevchenko, which was followed by a musical rendition of his "Testament" (Zapovit).

Mrs. Diachuk convened the proceedings with a historical perspective: "Our institution was founded back in the 19th century, it developed, grew and flourished in the 20th century. Crossing into the 21st century, we must adapt our institution to new conditions within our Ukrainian community as well as in the insurance business." (The full text of the president's remarks appears on the left.)

A prayer for the success of the deliberations was offered by the Rev. Stasiw, and a moment of silence was observed in memory of UNA activists who had passed away since the last meeting of the General Assembly, most notably UNA Advisor Walter Korchynsky, hailed as a true fraternalist who was well-respected in his community in western New York state; and longtime former UNA Auditor Iwan Wynnyk, a dedicated UNA leader in New York City, as well as many UNA branch secretaries.

After approval of the agenda and acceptance of the minutes from the previous session of the General Assembly – the special meeting convened in November 1998, six months after the 34th Regular Convention of the UNA;

Leading off the reports of UNA officers – all of which were submitted in printed form – was President Diachuk who focused her remarks on efforts to cut expenses at the UNA, introduction of a new administrative system at the Home Office and retraining of personnel, as well as the what she described as "tremendous regulatory pressure" exerted on all fraternalists by insurance authorities in both the United States and Canada.

Mrs. Diachuk noted also that in Canada the atmosphere is such that U.S. fraternalists are getting out of the country and Canadian insurance authorities are urging American fraternalists to merge with other fraternal societies in Canada. The UNA, she said, is being advised to merge with another similar organization in order to decrease costs of doing business in Canada. Until December of last year, the UNA had a sales office in the Toronto area, but that office was closed down and its personnel laid off because the office was unprofitable.

The UNA president touched on the finances of the organization's fraternal operations, such as its two weekly newspaper and its upstate New York resort (a detailed report on their status was delivered by the UNA treasurer), and noted that marketing efforts continue to promote the newspapers, while at Soyuzivka consultants are being asked to advise how to make the resort profitable, or at least less of a drain on the UNA's finances.

First Vice-President Kuropas focused his remarks on the decisions of the three

(Continued on page 5)

Kuchma in D.C. ...

(Continued from page 1)

reforms, it was unclear that they were sufficiently convinced by the visiting president and his high-level delegation that Ukraine has done enough to help itself.

The IMF suspended its long-term, low-interest Extended Fund Facility (EFF) credit payments to Ukraine in September because the government was not taking the steps it agreed to as conditions to the approval of the multi-year \$2.6 billion program in 1998. Ukraine has already received \$965 million of that amount and is seeking \$850 million more for next year to help keep its financial head above water.

On the day of President Kuchma's meeting with the IMF director, the organization's spokesperson indicated that "corrective measures are needed to bring the program back on track." The government budget spending was exceeding agreement limits, and many government policy decisions are still awaiting the approval of the Verkhovna Rada.

President Kuchma acknowledged his problems with the Parliament at the outset of his visit in a by-lined article published on the morning of his talks here by The Washington Post.

"My new mandate is not a reason for euphoria," he wrote. "Our legislature, to date, has no unified bloc of pro-reform members, even though a majority of them are in their individual ways in favor of reforms. But the opponents of reform, largely Marxists, are united. The result has often been gridlock, especially on critical issues of privatization and land reform." In the article he pledged to "coalesce" a pro-reform coalition during his new term in office.

He told a breakfast meeting hosted by the Ukraine-U.S. Business Council and attended by representatives of some 50 large American firms doing or interested in doing business in Ukraine that the current Parliament is sitting on more than 1,000 pieces of legislation, including many of the laws necessary for improving the investment climate in Ukraine and implementing

judicial and administrative reforms.

Ten agreements and memoranda were signed during the third annual plenary meeting of the so-called Kuchma-Gore Commission, which was created in 1996 to build closer U.S.-Ukrainian ties in numerous areas.

According to Yuri Shcherbak, Ukraine's former ambassador to the United States, who now serves as President Kuchma's foreign policy advisor, the most important of these agreements would create, with the European Union's cooperation, a regional environmental center in Kyiv, similar to the one already functioning in Budapest. (Dr. Shcherbak headed the advance team that prepared for President Kuchma's visit to Washington.)

The other documents dealt with such items as cooperation in studying the health effects of the Chernobyl accident, production-sharing legislation, energy-sector cooperation, cooperation on climate change initiatives, establishing a "joint consultative economic mechanism," military international assistance, the U.S. Agency for International Development assistance program for 2000, and an Export-Import Bank project incentive agreement.

The high-level Ukrainian delegation included the government's major financial/economic players, including Vice Prime Minister Serhii Tyhytko, Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov and National Bank Director Viktor Yushchenko. Also in the delegation was the newly appointed secretary of the National Security and Defense Council Yevhen Marchuk, who competed against President Kuchma in the first round of presidential elections before swinging his support to him in the second round.

As with other members of the delegation, in addition to participating in the president's schedule, he arrived here earlier in the week and also had his own schedule of meetings with representatives of the National Security Council, the State and Defense departments, the CIA and the FBI.

Asked by reporters if the Chechnya issue came up during the meetings, Mr. Marchuk said that it was discussed "fairly

actively," but at the working level and not during the plenary sessions. Ukraine is, of course, concerned about the plight of refugees and the suffering of innocent people, he told reporters. But knowing firsthand about the criminality and terrorism emanating from this region, he added, one should not be "simplistic" in viewing the Chechen problem.

Washington was the last stop on Mr. Kuchma's first foreign trip since his election. He also visited Moscow and then Paris. Following the Ukrainian president's meeting in Moscow with President Boris Yeltsin, a Kremlin aide reportedly said that the Mr. Kuchma expressed his support for Russia's military action in Chechnya.

On the day he was visiting Washington, Russia and Belarus signed the long-postponed treaty to merge their countries into a federation. Asked about Ukraine's view of the merger, Mr. Kuchma told reporters that the Russian and Belarus peoples have the right to decide their own future.

"Ukraine," he added, "made its own choice, and so have I as its president."

IMF and World Bank...

(Continued from page 1)

Ukraine has received \$965 million of a total of \$2.6 billion promised by the IMF when the country agreed to the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program in September 1998. However, Ukraine last received a tranche on September 7, in the amount of \$184 million. An October tranche was canceled when Kyiv failed to meet a number of financial targets, including a budgetary deficit limit and the foreign currency reserve minimum of the National Bank of Ukraine.

The Kuchma administration is hoping for another \$300 million by the end of February 2000, when Ukraine will have substantial outlays on matured short-term treasury notes and international loan re-payments.

Two leading Ukrainian economic officials said the government realizes that its chances for qualifying in December for the

Although he did not have a formal meeting with representatives of the Ukrainian American community, Mr. Kuchma had the opportunity to meet, albeit socially, with a few Ukrainian Americans at the conclusion of his visit, when he presented the Presidential Award for Merit (second degree) to Judge Bohdan Futey, of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, for his work in helping Ukraine develop its judicial system.

During the ceremony he called on the Ukrainian diaspora to unite in its support of Ukraine. Earlier in the day he made a similar appeal during a brief exchange with reporters. He said Ukrainian Americans should remember Ukraine not only during anniversaries but every day, and assist it with their deeds.

"I would like to see more active, concerted action by all Ukrainians in America in support of Ukraine," President Kuchma said. "Lobbying is a civilized endeavor," he added, "and Ukrainians have the wherewithal to influence the decisions of American Congress and the administration."

next IMF tranche are poor.

"It will be difficult to reach agreement with the IMF because of the decisions contravening the [earlier] accords reached and deviations from the EFF program," admitted Vice Prime Minister Serhii Tyhytko.

Valerii Lytvynskyi, an economic aide to President Kuchma, said that Ukraine had failed to comply with a number of provisions on housing and utilities policies, and energy sector, agro-industrial, privatization and foreign economic activities.

Mr. Tyhytko expressed optimism that Ukraine's problems with the IMF problems can be resolved and the EFF program put back on track through the imminent implementation of radical economic reforms.

While adding that Ukraine will have "to traverse a long way" in order to resolve problems with the World Bank, Mr. Tyhytko said he is confident that, "with favorable developments," Ukraine eventually will receive \$850 million from the IMF and about \$300 million from the World Bank in 2000.

UNA General Assembly...

(Continued from page 4)

members of the Executive Committee who are employed full-time at the Home Office. He pointed to a decision about UNA investments that was made by the entire six-member executive, but then implemented in a different manner by the three in-house officers. He also pointed to the decision to close the Toronto Press Bureau of The Ukrainian Weekly, which was made by those three executives and not the entire committee.

His remarks on that issue were echoed by Second Vice-President Dydyk-Petrenko and the Rev. Stasiw, director for Canada, who both noted that they were not consulted on various matters, among them the closing of the Toronto Press Bureau. Ms. Dydyk observed that quite often she finds out about Executive Committee decisions from reading the press. She called on the three full-time executives to remember that there are three other members of the UNA Executive Committee who also were elected by the UNA convention.

National Secretary Martha Lysko's oral report to the General Assembly highlighted the issue of direct billing, whereby UNA members receive statements from the Home Office without branch secretaries acting as intermediaries. She said that thus far 25 branches had opted for this method of billing. She also reiterated her longstanding request that secretaries provide the Home Office with the current addresses of their members so that the UNA's files are updated.

Finally, Mrs. Lysko spoke of the new rate books that have been prepared for the UNA's revised and updated insurance policies. She explained that sales of these products, though they have already been approved by insurance authorities, have been put on hold until such time as New Jersey's state insurance authorities review the financial impact of the new products.

Treasurer Kaczaraj prefaced his report by commenting that it was a tough year for the UNA – due to downsizing, staff layoffs, reductions of expenses, elimination of the Toronto sales office – but that the decline in surplus that had been observed since 1989 had been slowed down.

He emphasized that the UNA had made great progress in the nine-month period of January through September 1999 when compared to 1998 and prior years. The decline in surplus for the first nine months of 1999 was \$145,000, whereas in 1998 that decline was \$1,521,000, and in the period of 1989 to 1997 it was an average of \$2 million per year.

More than half of the losses for 1989-1997, Mr. Kaczaraj continued, were generated by Soyuzivka, Svoboda and The Weekly. The publications' net loss for the nine months of 1999 was \$187,000 (\$151,000 of that The Weekly's and \$36,000 Svoboda's), whereas the total for 1998 was \$640,000.

Addenda to written reports were delivered also by advisors and auditors, as well as the editors of Svoboda and The Weekly. The manager of Soyuzivka delivered an oral report

According to Ms. Galechko, for the first time in 25 years the decline in readership of Svoboda has been reversed. She also stated that the paper's budget for the first nine months of 1999 was the lowest in its history. She emphasized that advertising income had increased and that Svoboda can become financially independent in the next few years. The editor-in-chief, who has been at the helm of Svoboda since September 1998, noted that she is increasingly using materials off the Internet and that articles submitted to the paper are, of necessity, being shortened to fit the needs of a weekly publication.

Ms. Hadzewycz reported that The Weekly had been compelled to lay off its Toronto editor and to make other reductions in expenses. She also noted that at the same time the newspaper has appealed for donations to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund and that the initial response from readers was very positive (whereas donations in all of 1997 totaled \$387 and in 1998 \$2,400, in 1999 they are expected to reach \$12,000). The Weekly staff is working with the publications' administrator and advertising manager to continue increasing income from advertising, and is preparing a two-volume book dubbed "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000" that will feature the most significant articles published during the history of The Ukrainian Weekly. Volume 1 will cover the 1930s through the 1960s, while Volume 2 will encompass the 1970s through the 1990s.

Mr. Flis reported that the resort experienced a downturn in business during spring 1999 due to the previous year's convention resolution, which indicated that Soyuzivka would be open only from June 1 through September 15, and that the summer, too, was less busy. Thus, income for the first nine months of 1999 was down \$100,000 from the previous year, and expenses were up by \$150,000. As of October 30, 1999, the resort has a deficit of \$358,000 for this year. The manager pointed out that UNA executives and the resort's management are now talking to hotel consultants to see how Soyuzivka's financial picture can be improved. In addition, he reported that he is now working on packages to attract non-Ukrainian business in an effort to increase income.

Discussions of the reports focused on diverse topics, from budgeting and investments, to direct billing, donations from the Ukrainian National Foundation, community perceptions of the UNA, the organization's decision-making mechanism, the UNA's future in Canada, and publication of minutes from UNA General Assembly meetings and conventions.

Once discussion of all reports was completed, Auditing Committee Chairman Pastuszek proposed a vote of confidence for the UNA Executive Committee, pointing out that the executive officers did their utmost to make the UNA more financially sound while keeping it on a fraternal footing. The motion was passed.

By-laws issues

In accordance with a resolution adopted at the last convention, General Assembly members discussed amendments to the UNA Charter and By-Laws that would provide for altering the UNA's governance structure to an 11-member board of trustees. The purpose of the discussion was to fine-tune the proposed by-laws changes that will be presented in a referendum via mail to delegates to the 34th Convention.

If approved, the changes would allow delegates to the 35th Convention, scheduled for May 2002, to elect an 11-member board, instead of a 25-person General Assembly consisting of six executive officers, five auditors and 14 advisors. The board, which is to meet at least once per quarter, would then hire executive officers to run the day-to-day business of the UNA.

The by-laws changes and the ramifications of this corporate structure were discussed in detail on Saturday evening through Sunday morning, with Advisor Szmagala, who heads the Standing Committee on the UNA By-Laws, leading the proceedings. However, point-by-point review was not concluded. The General Assembly authorized a specially called By-Laws Subcommittee to continue this process. Elected to the committee were: Honorary Members Kuropas and Szmagala, Advisors Szeremeta, Chudolij, Luchkiv and Kachkowski, as well as members of the



Roma Hadzewycz

General Assembly members and honorary members as they prepare to place a wreath at the foot of the monument to Taras Shevchenko, patron of the UNA.

Executive Committee.

The General Assembly adopted the following approximate timetable and procedures for the by-laws review and referendum: within the next 90 days the proposed changes to the by-laws are to be printed in both official publications of the UNA in their respective languages and mailed to delegates of the past convention with a request for comments and suggestions; comments are to be sent to the Home Office and then are to be published in both papers by September 1, 2000; the By-Laws Subcommittee is then directed to look over all comments and suggestions, and present a final draft of the referendum question (as it will be posed to convention delegates) to the General Assembly for approval at its next meeting in December 2000; once approved, the draft of the amendments is to be published in the newspapers again and mailed to convention delegates; a discussion of the final draft can then be held on the pages of both newspapers, as well as at various UNA meetings; voting on the referendum is to be completed by July 1, 2001.

Committee meetings and a banquet

Only two committees met during the 1999 annual meeting of the General Assembly: the Standing Committee on Soyuzivka, whose meeting took place on Friday evening, and the Financial Committee, which convened on early Sunday morning.

Members of the Financial Committee were: Treasurer Kaczaraj (chair), First Vice-President Kuropas, Auditor Pastuszek, Advisors Luchkiv and Skyba, and Honorary Member of the General Assembly Lesawyer. The major task of that committee was to review the budget prepared by Mr. Kaczaraj before its pres-

entation to the full assembly.

The Standing Committee on Soyuzivka, chaired by the first vice-president, focused its deliberations on the future development of the UNA resort and on the question of whether Soyuzivka could host the next convention of the UNA scheduled for 2002. After much discussion of the logistics with Soyuzivka Manager Flis, the committee concluded that, at present, the facilities at Soyuzivka could not conveniently accommodate conventioners and that the costs and arrangements required to transport delegates to the resort from various airports are prohibitive. Members of Standing Committee on Soyuzivka are: Advisors Chudolij, Skyba, Kachkowski, Szmagala, Luchkiv, Szeremeta and Hawryluk (Ms. Hawryluk could not be present at the meeting).

On Saturday evening, a special liturgy was celebrated for General Assembly members in the Main House lobby by the Rev. Stasiw.

The banquet that evening, which was preceded by a cocktail hour, featured a selection of Ukrainian and Italian works performed by tenor Roman Tsybala with piano accompaniment by his wife. The master of ceremonies for the evening was Dr. Kuropas, who also provided comedic interludes during the evening. During the banquet General Assembly members also had an occasion to celebrate the birthday of Oksana Trytjak, the UNA's special activities coordinator, who was present at the annual session in the capacity of recorder of the minutes.

The next annual meeting of the UNA General Assembly will take place at Soyuzivka on December 1-3, 2000.



UNA advisors during the deliberations: (from left) Alex Chudolij, Taras Szmagala, Wasyl Szeremeta, Andre Worobec and Eugene Oscislowski.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

The UNA on the eve of the 21st century

As the Ukrainian National Association, the largest Ukrainian fraternal organization, prepares to enter into the 21st century, it held its last General Assembly meeting of the 20th century. At the opening of the session, UNA President Ulana Diachuk provided a historical perspective by noting that this fraternal benefit society has already existed in two centuries and is now on the threshold of a third.

"Entering the new century and the new millennium with confidence, we should seek new methods and new approaches so that our principal goals continue to be supported by the Ukrainian community and so that the UNA continues to fulfill the purposes delineated in its founding charter," President Diachuk emphasized.

And, it was with the future ever-present in their minds that members of the General Assembly – executive officers, auditors and advisors, as well as honorary members – participated in the three-day meeting. After hearing reports about the current status of the UNA and projections and predictions on where it is headed, they engaged in serious discussions and questioning – sometimes heated at that – in order to better chart the UNA's course into the next century. There were disagreements, there was openness and forthrightness that sometimes may have been seen in a negative light. But above it all there was a predominant genuine concern and true dedication to the Ukrainian National Association, a pioneering organization whose achievements are well-known to Ukrainians here and abroad.

Officers' reports indicated that the UNA had downsized – a phenomenon quite widespread in today's business climate – and that the downsizing had eliminated personnel, re-evaluated UNA programs, cut back on fraternal activities and generally cut expenses wherever possible. They argued that the UNA, as a leaner but more efficient fraternal benefit insurance company, will strive to stay true to its founding mission as capsulized in 1997 in the organization's mission statement: "The Ukrainian National Association exists to promote the principles of fraternalism; to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and to provide quality financial services and products to its members. As a fraternal insurance society, the Ukrainian National Association reinvests its earnings for the benefit of its members and the Ukrainian community."

Proof of that dedication can be seen in the General Assembly's decisions to continue subsidizing the UNA's two official publications, *Svoboda* and *The Ukrainian Weekly*; to resume funding the Kyiv Press Bureau from the UNA budget; to continue awarding scholarships to UNA members; to award stipends to young UNA members who graduate from schools of Ukrainian studies; to provide financial assistance for pedagogical courses to teachers of schools of Ukrainian studies who are members of the UNA; and to continue sponsoring sports competitions at Soyuzivka.

The hope is that a more efficient organization will also be a more attractive one and that with this efficiency will come better service to members that, in turn, will enable the UNA to continue its work and to flourish as new members replenish and enrich its ranks. And that, dear readers, is the only way the UNA as we know it – a leader in our Ukrainian community life that is involved in all facets of our activity in the United States and Canada – will be able to carry on the all-important mission delineated by its founding fathers and remain a vital component of our community.

December
12
1998

Turning the pages back...

Exactly one year ago on December 12, the vice-chairman of the Russian State Duma told representatives of the political left from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine gathered in Kyiv that ratification by Russia's Parliament of the Ukraine-Russia treaty on

friendship and cooperation will not happen soon.

State Duma Vice-Chairman Sergei Baburin was in the Ukrainian capital to attend a political seminar organized by the Patriotic Party of Ukraine called "Russia-Ukraine-Belarus: A Glimpse into the 21st Century." The Weekly's Kyiv correspondent, Roman Woronowycz, reported that, while calling the signing of the treaty a "mistake," he said that it may be a while before the State Duma debates the document.

The Ukraine-Russia Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership had been signed in Kyiv in May 1997 by Presidents Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine and Boris Yeltsin of Russia; the Verkhovna Rada ratified the treaty in January 1998.

Mr. Baburin said the treaty was hastily put together and not properly thought through. "This treaty is, in my view, a truly nice gesture of friendship and cooperation between Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Kuchma, but my feeling is that the interests of the people are far from identical to those of the presidents. In this respect the treaty of 1997 is far inferior to the treaty of 1990, which is still in effect, because the [latest] treaty does not contain several provisions of cooperation, including in the field of defense," said Mr. Baburin. He added that the new treaty could turn out to be "a scalpel used, not to cure the disease, but to kill the patient."

Ukrainian National Deputy Mykola Haber, formerly of the Progressive Socialist faction and then of the Hromada faction, echoed Mr. Baburin's sentiments and said that, without Ukraine, the Russian Federation is in for more fragmentation. Mr. Haber and other presenters at the conference, called for a Russia-Ukraine-Belarus union. Ivan Symonenko, leader of the Ukrainian political party, Russian-Ukrainian Union, said his country needs to find its own Lukashenka. In 1997 Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka had signed a treaty with Russia that called for eventual political and economic union with Moscow. Mr. Symonenko suggested that current Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko may be able to fill those shoes.

Ultimately, the bilateral treaty was approved by the State Duma on December 25, 1998, and ratified by the Federation Council, the Russian Parliament's upper house, on February 17 of this year.

Source: "Russian Duma vice-chairman calls bilateral treaty with Ukraine a 'mistake,'" by Roman Woronowycz, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 20, 1998, Vol. LXVI, No. 51.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Moscow is not moved by tears

by Taras Hunczak

Despite numerous newspaper and television reports with graphic descriptions of women and children who have been mutilated by Russia's indiscriminate bombings and artillery fire, and reports of Chechen towns and villages turned into rubble, the architect of this genocidal policy, Vladimir Putin, the prime minister of Russia, still has the audacity to write in *The New York Times* ("Why We Must Act," November 14) that the Russian military "target only opposing armed forces."

Furthermore, after releasing the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse against the Chechen people – spreading war, famine, pestilence and death – Mr. Putin tells readers that "the Chechen citizens, after all, are our citizens, too." Such a caring tone after labeling the people of Chechnya "terrorists" of the Caucasus, so as to justify their extermination simply for their desire to be independent!

As for the bombings of apartment buildings in Moscow, allegedly by Chechen "terrorists," the only thing that can be stated with certainty is that only the perpetrators of those heinous acts know who did it, since, to this day no evidence was found that might implicate "terrorists" from Chechnya. Therefore, to accuse the people of Chechnya without any evidence of the crime is to be irresponsible and, even worse, is to use innocent people for diabolical plans that call for justification on the international arena and serve as a call to patriotism at home.

As I read Mr. Putin's article, I was particularly taken aback by his attempt to gain American sympathy for what Russia is doing in Chechnya by drawing an absurd comparison between Chechnya, on the one hand, and Montana and Idaho, on the other. Surely, there must be individuals among Mr. Putin's advisers who know the nature of our federal structure – our states are not culturally or nationally identified entities and, therefore, to compare our states with Chechnya is to display one's ignorance.

Of course, from a historical perspective, the current Russian policy in Chechnya is really nothing new. The people of the Northern Caucasus experienced their first major Russian effort to turn the region into a Russian colony during the reign of Peter I in the early 1700s, for whom the region of North Caucasus was to serve merely as a staging area for his expedition against Persia.

This Russian expansionism did not go unchallenged. Being a proud people, the Chechens and neighboring ethnic groups resisted Russian imperial ambitions, resulting in prolonged wars, which, ultimately, Russia won. What is interesting to note is the fact, as noted by Prof. Smirnov in his "Politika Rossii na Kavkaze v XVI – XIX Vekakh" (Russia's Policies in the Caucasus in the 16th-18th Centuries, Moscow, 1958) that "massacres of the local population and large-scale destruction of crops became the usual means of dealing with rebellious natives."

Russia's wars against these peoples became particularly ruthless in the 19th century. Thus, for example, General A.P. Ermolov attacked, burned towns and villages, and conducted indiscriminate massacres hoping to intimidate the "tribes." He and his successors did this hoping to subjugate the tribes, whom they considered

rebels against the Russian tsar. Their methods proved counterproductive: the infuriated indigenous population was now united in its common hatred of the Russians.

Hence the entire first half of the 19th century was a prolonged battle between the expansionist Russian Empire and the people of Northern Caucasus. Even Tsar Nicholas I became personally involved, issuing his notorious instruction to Count I.F. Paskevich in which he urged him to achieve one of two goals: "The pacification forever of the Mountain peoples or the extermination of the unsubmissive."

Even from a cursory examination of the historical sources of the region, one is forced to conclude that the tragedy of the people of Chechnya and others of that region consisted in the fact that their desire to be independent challenged Russian historical imperial expansionism. R. Fadeev, in his "Letters from the Caucasus ..." (1865) reported the position of the Grand Duke Mikhail Nikolaevich, who, as commander of the Russian troops in the Caucasus, stated that "... it was necessary to exterminate half of the Mountaineers to compel the other half to lay down its arms." One might well ask whether Russian tactics and objectives have really changed in 200 years.

Besieged in Istanbul at the summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe by Western critics, President Boris Yeltsin branded the Chechen fighters as "terrorists and bandits." "We do not accept the advice of so-called objective critics of Russia," he declared. "Those people," he continued, "do not understand that we simply must stop the spread of cancer and prevent its growth from spreading across the world." After such a self-serving statement one is tempted to say "doctor, heal thyself."

The urgings of the various statesmen from different countries and of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan not to inflict indiscriminate violence and terror on innocent civilians have been to no avail. On the contrary, the policy of genocide against the people of Chechnya has been pursued with new vigor after the Russian president's meeting with the heads of states in Istanbul.

At this juncture it is obvious that Messrs. Yeltsin and Putin, and the entire power structure of Russia, have remained true to the Russian historical tradition where human suffering, particularly of a conquered people, is of no significance.

How to reach

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

MAIN OFFICE

(editorial, subscriptions
and advertising departments):

The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10,
P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054
phone: (973) 292-9800; fax: (973) 644-9510

KYIV PRESS BUREAU:

The Ukrainian Weekly
11 Horodetsky Street – Apt. 33
Kyiv, Ukraine 252001
phone/fax: (44) 229-1906

TORONTO CORRESPONDENT:

The Ukrainian Weekly
189 Madison Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2S6
phone: (416) 920-2646; fax: (416) 920-0596

Dr. Taras Hunczak is professor of history at Rutgers University.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Ukrainian festival run by non-Ukrainians

Dear Editor:

First of all, let me thank you for your informative newspaper, which I look forward to receiving each week (but which I sometimes don't get as some issues seem to be "lost" in the mail). Therefore, I don't know if you published information about the Ukrainian festival, held in Springfield, Ore., this year.

It was held on August 7, and is held each year on the first Saturday in August. What makes it unique, are the efforts of so many non-Ukrainians, who spent endless hours in preparation: dancers, singers, cooks, stage-builders, costume-designers, sign-makers. This community of many nations becomes Ukrainian for one day.

When the Oregon Slavonic Choir sang the Ukrainian national anthem, my soul stirred. I saw faces from many nations and the director of the choir from Korea, singing familiar words, beautifully and phonetically, in Ukrainian. They included works of Taras Shevchenko and Ukrainian folk songs.

The many young dancers were also not Ukrainian, yet their families had spent end-

less hours sewing traditional Ukrainian costumes. Their Canadian instructor volunteered months of his time, choreographing and teaching the intricacies of Ukrainian-style dancing, to young people, most of whom never heard of Ukraine.

There was delicious Ukrainian food for sale, and demonstrations of ancient Ukrainian arts of icon-painting, pysanka-painting, wreath-making, and books about Ukraine.

When I tried to find the "Ukrainian" organizers of the festival, I kept finding that people of many nations were involved in every phase of the preparation. The man in charge of tickets was from India, the food server was German and the stagehand was Afro-American.

What a great tribute to Ukrainians! These hard-working people of Springfield honored and recognized our language, history and traditions in such a beautiful way, yet so many, of Ukrainian descent, have forgotten or don't have time to carry on such traditions. Sometimes, it takes "foreigners" to preserve Ukraine's rich heritage.

I thank this West coast community, in the memory of my Ukrainian parents, and grandparents who struggled so hard to reach America for a better life.

Halia Pushkar,
Cos Bay, Oregon

ACTION ITEM

Dear Colleagues:

The editorial in the October 9 issue of The Ukrainian Weekly outlines a crisis for the North American Ukrainian diaspora and indirectly for Ukraine. The Ukrainian Weekly has been an excellent source of information for the diaspora, and especially for the younger generation.

Equally important for our purposes, this English-language newspaper has been an immensely vital source of information and a paper of record concerning Ukrainian and North American diaspora issues, and it has communicated this information to the non-Ukrainian audiences we need to reach, mainly the U.S. Congress.

Time and time again, even when the Associated Press or other news agencies carried stories about Ukraine, these news items and articles were not picked up by newspapers in the United States. Only The Ukrainian Weekly has been a consistent source of information about Ukraine. We are not writing to denigrate Svoboda, but we feel that the inertia that has led to the disintegration of The Weekly's financial resources has got to be halted and turned around. The continued existence of The Weekly is equally, if not more, important for the overall destiny of Ukrainian-American relations than is Svoboda.

Because The Weekly is professionally written, objective, non-partisan, inclusive and nonsectarian, it is an excellent forum for public debate. We often say that we want unity in the Ukrainian diaspora and in Ukraine, but it is important to remember that the concept of democracy is not defined by a homogeneous "unity," but by a respect for its very opposite – for plurality. The Ukrainian Weekly is an excellent example of plurality of opinion which shows U.S. legislators that we are a thriving, dynamic, professional and thinking community, engaged in supporting our ancestral homeland and the best ideals of democracy. By the same token, it is an excellent means of building consensus and combined community effort.

Therefore, we urge all members to do the following: 1) write letters to The Weekly calling on its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association, to restructure the newspaper's budget to allow it the funds it deserves, 2) ask others in your community to do the same; 3) order a gift subscription to The Weekly for someone you know; 4) donate to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund; 5) advertise in The Weekly. Please act without delay.

– submitted by *Ihor Gawdiak, president,*
Ukrainian American Coordinating Council.

To The Weekly Contributors:

We greatly appreciate the materials – feature articles, news stories, press clippings, letters to the editor, and the like – we receive from our readers. In order to facilitate preparation of The Ukrainian Weekly, we ask that the guidelines listed below be followed.

- ✦ News stories should be sent in **not later than 10 days** after the occurrence of a given event.
- ✦ All materials must be typed (or legibly hand-printed) and double-spaced.
- ✦ Photographs (originals only, no photocopies or computer printouts) submitted for publication must be accompanied by captions. Photos will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.
- ✦ Full names (i.e., no initials) and their correct English spellings must be provided.
- ✦ Newspaper and magazine clippings must be accompanied by the name of the publication and the date of the edition.
- ✦ Information about upcoming events must be received one week before the date of The Weekly edition in which the information is to be published.
- ✦ Persons who submit any materials must provide a daytime phone number where they may be reached if any additional information is required.
- ✦ Unsolicited materials submitted for publication will be returned only when so requested and accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope.

Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



Symon Petliura: Pogromchik or Philosemite?

In the annals of Jewish martyrology, the name Symon Petliura, leader of Ukraine during the waning days of the first republic, ranks up there with Haman, Himmler, and Hitler as a killer of Jews.

In his 1976 book "Pogromchik: The Assassination of Simon Petlura," Saul S. Friedman reviewed the evidence presented at the trial of Sholom Schwartzbard, the Jewish anarchist who shot Petliura dead on a Paris street on May 25, 1926, and concluded that the acquittal was understandable, perhaps even just. Otaman Petliura was guilty of crimes against humanity, according to Dr. Friedman's commentary.

Dr. Friedman dismissed both Ukrainians and Jews who testified on behalf of the prosecution at Mr. Schwartzbard's trial as biased or as "lackeys of the nationalist pogromchiks." The notion that an inordinate number of Jews in Ukraine were Bolsheviks was discarded as a "canard." The certainty that Mr. Schwartzbard had once served in a Red Army unit was of no consequence; the idea that Moscow was behind the assassination was "ludicrous." The fact that most of the pogroms were committed by the White Russian armies and independent war lords in no way associated with the Ukrainian government was also ignored. Petliura was a mass murderer, and Schwartzbard acted "as an instrument of humanity's conscience."

Led by Henri Torres, a renowned Jewish-French jurist, the Schwartzbard defense team won acquittal by cleverly shifting the trial focus from its client to the person of Petliura, arguing that he: had orchestrated the pogroms; enjoyed the loyalty of Ukrainian troops who killed Jews while screaming "for Ukraine and Petlura"; had total control over the army. All his directives (especially Order 131), warning troops that anyone found guilty of killing innocent Jews would be executed, were ineffective, mere window dressing to impress the Western powers. Even those pogromists in the Ukrainian army who were executed, Dr. Friedman suggests, can not be attributed to Petliura. "He did nothing to prevent the killing of Jews, even when it was within his province to do so."

On February 28, 1958, the French television series "En Votre Ame et Conscience" continued the demonization process with a program devoted to the Schwartzbard Affair featuring Henri Torres. Despite vehement protests from leading Ukrainians throughout the world, no effort was made to later present the Ukrainian perspective. The program was a precursor of the infamous October 23, 1994, "60 Minutes" broadcast, "The Ugly Face of Freedom."

Over the years intrepid Ukrainian scholars have come to the defense of Symon Petliura, arguing that he was the victim of pestilential slander. Among them was Rutgers professor Taras Hunczak who somehow managed to have his views published in the journal Jewish Social Studies in 1969. In his article he reiterated two significant points: 1) Petliura was a humanist who tried to protect the Jews; 2) the various invasions of Ukraine, but especially the Bolshevik onslaught, created the kind of anarchy among the masses that made it impossible for Petliura to govern.

Today, the Hunczak perspective is finally being considered by some Jewish scholars who appear willing to reassess their views. In the recently published "A Prayer for the Government: Ukrainians and Jews in Revolutionary Times, 1917-1920", a monograph published jointly by Harvard's

Ukrainian Research Center and the Center for Jewish Studies, the author, Henry Abramson, writes: "Although Hunczak did not uncover any important new sources, nor did he advance any radically new arguments, he moved the level of the debate to a higher plane as he eloquently presented the case for a reappraisal of Symon Petliura and Ukrainian-Jewish relations."

Dr. Abramson writes that, in "the spirit of adversarial scholarly debate," Jewish Social Studies invited the rebuttal of Zosa Sjakowski, a longstanding proponent of the Jewish interpretation. The latter employed "inflammatory language" in his response which forced the debate to regress "to increasingly bitter personal attacks in subsequent issues." Unfortunate, but no surprise.

With the publication of his book, Dr. Abramson has once again elevated the debate regarding Otaman Petliura to a scholarly level. After reviewing the Ukrainian leader's early life, he concludes that Petliura was hardly an anti-Semite, that "he was in no way the 'architect' of the pogroms," and that directives condemning the pogroms in 1919 were effective: "recorded pogroms dropped by 37 percent in April and 85 percent in May." Although Petliura had no personal responsibility for the Jewish massacres, he was head of state, and for that reason, Dr. Abramson concludes, "he must be held accountable for the actions of his army, despite his relative lack of control over them."

The major questions in the Petliura affair revolve around culpability and Jewish Bolsheviks. Did Petliura have control over his so-called army (which included independent otamans of the most disreputable type) at a time when his entire government was confined to a moving railroad car? Is it possible that the Jewish-Bolshevik connection is not a canard? In his book "Red Victory: A History of the Russian Civil War", Prof. W. Bruce Lincoln addresses both questions.

"Too much of Petliura's regime seemed artificial and contrived," he writes. "As the Directory failed to replace the strict regulations of Skoropadsky" [Petliura's predecessor as ruler of Ukraine], government control collapsed. Without any effective central government, local chiefs established petty tyrannies in Kharkov, Poltava, Ekaterinoslav, Chernobyl, Radomysl and Chernigov [sic] and these neither enforced the policies of the Directory nor even agreed with them ... all these local regimes despised outside authority and hated the Jews." So much for Petliura's influence over local anti-Semitic war lords.

As for Jewish involvement with the Soviets, Prof. Lincoln explains: "Always anxious to use hatreds to advantage, Dzerzhinsky [Soviet head of the Cheka, the secret police], placed Jews in seven of the Cheka's 10 top positions and saw to it that Jews made up nearly 80 percent of the rank-and-file Cheka agents in the Ukraine." Cheka brutality in Ukraine is well-documented.

The Petliura puzzle comprises but a small fraction of Dr. Abramson's book. Reading it, one quickly concludes that there is much about Jewish-Ukrainian relations during the days of the first Ukrainian republic that is more positive than both Jews and Ukrainians are willing to admit. It is for that reason that Harvard has provided both communities with a true service.

Myron Kuropas' e-mail address is:
mbkuropas@compuserve.com

With great sorrow we announce that on Sunday, December 5, 1999, at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville, N.J., after a brief illness

Dr. Roman A. Hnatiw

passed away at the age of 48.



He was born in Newark, N.J. After graduating from high school, he attended and graduated from Rutgers University and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Dental School. He also studied religious history in Italy. He enjoyed traveling, history, meteorology, the arts and his many hobbies. After graduating from medical school, he moved to Chicago, Ill., where he had his dental practice for five years. He then moved to Irvington, N.J., and started his dental practice in Manville, N.J., which he has had for the past 15 years. He was a resident of Manville, N.J., for the past 11 years. He practiced both general and cosmetic dentistry. Dr. Hnatiw had dental licenses in New Jersey, Illinois, Florida, New Hampshire and Michigan. He started teaching in 1983 at The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He was an Assistant Professor at UMDNJ for the past 15 years.

Dr. Hnatiw taught Clinical and Preclinical Operative Dentistry as well as Dental Anatomy. He was also Course Director for Freshman Operative Dentistry for the past several years. Dr. Hnatiw was also involved in research programs at UMDNJ. He was a member of The American Dental Association, The New Jersey Dental Alumni Association, The New Jersey Dental Association, The Academy of General Dentistry and The Ukrainian National Association.

The viewing hours were held on Thursday, December 9, 1999, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Ketusky Funeral Home, 1310 Brooks Blvd., Manville, N.J. Parastas was at 7:30 p.m. the funeral was held on Friday, at 8 a.m. from the Ketusky Funeral Home, followed by a 10:30 a.m. funeral liturgy at St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, N.J.

Burial was held at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Cemetery in South Bound Brook, N.J.

In deep sorrow,

- wife – Irene Hnatiw
 - mother – Oksana Savoyka Miz
 - in-laws – Roman and Jaroslawa Kuzma
 - brother-in-law – Roman Kuzma
 - uncles – Borys Jarymowycz and family in Munich, Germany
Taras and Lidia Hajduczok
 - aunts – Lew and Nina and family
 - nieces – Vera Savoyka
Tania Pachowska
 - sister – Nadia nee Parusewych
- many close relatives and friends in United States and Ukraine

Eternal memory

Ukrainian Heritage Foundation ceases its existence, awards grants

CLEVELAND – The Ukrainian Heritage Foundation brought its existence to a close here on August 14.

In attendance at the executive board meeting were President Eugene Woloshyn of Poland, Ohio; Helen Shipka, vice-president, of Cleveland, Ohio; Estelle Woloshyn, secretary, of Poland, Ohio; Ann Maksymowich, treasurer, of Miami Beach, Fla.; Marian Senyk, art director, of Largo, Fla.; and Advisors Steve Zenczak and Judge Andrew Boyko, both of Cleveland.

The foundation had been established at a reunion of the Ukrainian Youth League of North America in 1983, by former members and officers who attended the UYLNA's golden anniversary celebration at Soyuzivka. The foundation announced in its mission statement that it was "dedicated to preserving Ukrainian culture."

Toward that end, the foundation produced a video that documents the contributions of Vasile Avramenko to the preservation of Ukrainian folk dances in North America. This video and accompanying posters have been widely distributed at no charge to Ukrainian dance groups, schools, universities and libraries.

Recently, grants totaling over \$20,000 were awarded to various organizations for projects or efforts that would have been unlikely to occur without the foundation's support.

The Cleveland Ukrainian Museum has been chosen as the repository for all records of the Ukrainian Heritage Foundation. Former members of the Ukrainian Youth League of North America who have any

records, photographs, etc., that they would like to contribute to the museum are asked to contact the museum at 1202 Kenilworth Ave., Cleveland, OH 44113.

At the foundation's final meeting, President Woloshyn expressed thanks to all officers, members and contributors over the past years, adding "Vichnaia Pamiat" (eternal memory) to those who had passed away.

For more information, Mr. Woloshyn may be reached at (330) 726-1937.

The Weekly gets grant

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Along with a press release announcing the decisions of its last executive board meeting, President Eugene Woloshyn of the Ukrainian Heritage Foundation enclosed a check for \$500 made out to The Ukrainian Weekly. Thus, The Weekly became one of the many organizations (as reported above) that have benefited from the UHF's largess.

In a note to the editor-in-chief, Mr. Woloshyn suggested that news of this grant, which has been forwarded to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund, "might be used as an example for other organizations to contribute."

The Ukrainian Weekly Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzewycz thanked Mr. Woloshyn and all the officers of the Ukrainian Heritage Foundation in her report before the annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Ukrainian National Association.



The leadership of the Ukrainian Heritage Foundation: (from left) Advisors Steve Zenczak and Judge Andrew Boyko, Treasurer Ann Maksymowich, President Eugene Woloshyn, Secretary Estelle Woloshyn, Art Director Marian Senyk and Vice-President Helen Shipka.

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FOR THE RECORD: President Kuchma's inauguration address

Published below is the full text of President Leonid Kuchma's inauguration address, delivered on November 30 at the Ukraina Palace of Culture. The English-language text was released in Washington by the Embassy of Ukraine.

PART I

Fellow countrymen,
Honored foreign guests,

Ukraine, together with all humankind, is nearing the epochal threshold, behind which lies the 21st century and the third millennium.

On the eve of this chronological milestone we are crossing an important and historic Rubicon.

It is within this context that we must view and assess the expression of will of the Ukrainian people during the recent presidential elections.

This epoch raised Ukraine from the status of one of the Soviet republics to a fully independent existence, to international recognition and to the height of European and global politics.

They chose the future and received guarantees.

Guarantees of a clear, foreseeable and dignified future that will be created not by the blind interplay of untamed forces and processes, not by the will of one person or party, but rather by all people, by our common intellect and our hands.

Therefore, today is not a day of my personal triumph, or personal victory but a day of triumph and victory of the entire Ukrainian community, and, if anything, that of all of Europe, as well.

The act of inaugurating a president of Ukraine is the crowning touch on the list of momentous events in the history of Ukraine in the 20th century.

The beautiful and cruel epoch that was marked by high elevations of human spirit and mind as well as endless plunges into the chasm of barbarity, is passing away. It brought unforeseeable tribulations, but at the same time, brought about the unforgotten, long-yearned for by generations rebirth of the Ukrainian statehood.

This epoch raised Ukraine from the status of one of the Soviet republics to a fully independent existence, to international recognition and to the height of European and global politics.

Today, on the eve of a new century and a new millennium, we can justly say: we are an enduring, freedom-loving and strong people.

We are a people that managed to withstand and preserve itself amidst the ferocious heat of revolutions, two devastating world wars, civil strife, merciless famines and repressions. We are a people, who took upon itself the blow from Chernobyl and shielded humankind from the global catastrophe.

We are a people that have come to see itself as one whole.

These elections have for the first time not brought about any ideological split either along the Zbruch River, or the Dnipro River, or the Perekope Isthmus (Crimea), or any other line. It has not caused any unyielding estrangement of different regions of Ukraine from one

another based on their political sympathies or preferences.

In fact, November 14 became the second All-Ukrainian referendum that testified to the fact that our society would not venture aside, it would never change the course it had chosen eight years ago on December 1, 1991.

I sincerely thank all the Ukrainian people for their active involvement and for their patriotic approach to the elections, as well as for their understanding and support of the incumbent president.

I have been honest before God and the people, being sincere and open about the uneasy realities of our life. I did not promise and could not promise sweet illusions, instant resolution of all problems that were piling up for many decades.

I believe that the fact that you, my countrymen, have made this choice stands as proof to the result of your wisdom, political maturity, psychological change and irreversibility of your orientation on democratic and market transformation.

I would like to thank internal and international observers, journalists and all others, who facilitated free and democratic expression of will by the Ukrainian people.

My sincere thanks to all my supporters, who worked selflessly during the electoral campaign and exerted their efforts in organizational work and propaganda.

I am deeply thankful to the heads of state and government, politicians and public activists, to my countrymen and foreign citizens, who congratulated me with the election. This is just one more proof that the presidential elections took place in a democratic and civilized fashion.

I send my grateful words to fellow countrymen abroad – the Ukrainian diaspora – who, in this critical time of people's choice, were supportive of their historic motherland.

Certainly, we have not yet achieved all recognized standards of democracy. However, nobody can deny that our state and society move forcefully along the way that took other countries decades, if not ages, to complete.

I attest my understanding of the positions of all citizens regardless of what it is. And this is yet another expression and proof of the democratic development of Ukraine.

The discontent of the people with their life, with the pace of economic transformations is natural and understandable. I take it as a strong signal to all the branches of power. It prompts me, all of us, to adequate decisions and actions. The following principal conclusions are obvious today.

First, Ukraine will never reject its independence and will not return to the previous political and economic system.

Second, having placed a full stop after our past, we, nevertheless, do not discard any of its pages. Nor do we renounce our own history. Historical memory and understanding of who we are and where we came from will help to strengthen the state and glue the nation. Without such awareness, the younger generation will have difficulties building and leading into the future the country, which possesses every prerequisite to occupy a pertinent place in the European and global community.

The young generation voted precisely for this at the elections. Without such an understanding we would weaken the connection between generations, would lose the support of elder people, who fought for Ukraine, built up its might and glory. I am confident that building on this we will find common language and ensure

dynamic movement in the future. I believe that it is necessary for me, particularly as the president of the Ukrainian nation, to stress this. I believe that more than anything else we need to preserve and augment the resources of stability, harmony and understanding, as well as to sustain a conducive political climate.

The energy of the first push, which helped us move ahead, painfully overcoming ourselves and inevitable and real difficulties, is receding. It needs to be recharged. Such impulses can be generated by the sense of community among the people, united around the common national idea. I consider this as a necessary precondition for resolving my defining and fundamental task – to improve the welfare and life of the people. I place first the human, social dimension, which until now has been overlooked for differ-

ent reasons, but first and foremost, in the interests of strengthening the structure of the state. It is from this angle that I will be considering my every decision and action, as well as everything that is done in the state and society.

My efforts will be concentrated on simultaneous resolution of urgent as well as potential problems. I intend to put forward the principles of economic and social policies for the years 2000 through 2004 in my annual message to the Ukrainian people, which I will deliver before the Verkhovna Rada. In view of that, I will concentrate only on key points.

In the economy, we will accelerate the resolution of imperative fundamental tasks of the transitional period. These are to amass and utilize the potential for economic growth, to accumulate critical

(Continued on page 21)

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Ukrainian World Congress presidium hears reports on human rights, NGOs, Olympics

by Andriy Kudla Wynnyckyj

TORONTO – Five months after the event, Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskyj officially informed members of the diaspora body's presidium that he had been kidnapped during a visit to Kyiv in May. He declined to specify the date of the occurrence.

At a meeting of the UWC's presidium held at its headquarters here on October 15-16, Mr. Lozynskyj recounted, at the insistence of incredulous presidium members, that he was kidnapped for several hours by two individuals, driven around the Ukrainian capital at gunpoint, and told not to criticize the administration of President Leonid Kuchma.

The UWC president defended his decision not to speak to the press at the time, nor to notify the U.S. Embassy. Several presidium members criticized Mr. Lozynskyj's decision in this regard, indicating his position as a representative of the diaspora and that to take no action in this instance could jeopardize other diaspora visitors to Ukraine.

In an interview with The Weekly (see page 11), Mr. Lozynskyj said "I don't think it would be helpful if I blew this incident out of proportion and allowed it to become the cause of a U.S. government decision to end assistance to Ukraine."

UWC Vice-President Maria Szkambara insisted that in future travels to Ukraine Mr. Lozynskyj be accompanied by a body guard, while Human and Civil Rights Commission Chair Jurij Darewych said that an official UWC protest in the matter should be issued and that the incident be investigated and reported to the UWC.

Mr. Lozynskyj said that "anyone who travels to Ukraine should be aware that it is 'the Wild East' and be prepared for any eventuality," but conceded that additional protests should be filed.

Other travels

Mr. Lozynskyj also reported on his summer travels to Ukrainian communities in Kazakhstan, Russia and Uzbekistan, as well as his eventful visit to Kyiv. While dismissing the meetings with the Ukrainian World Coordinating Committee executive as "predictably unproductive," the UWC president encouraged the presidium to continue paying \$4,500 (Canadian) in membership dues to the Kyiv-based body.

He also quieted Ukrainian Canadian Congress President Eugene Czolij's concerns that claims for "outstanding dues" would be made by the UWCC. At Mr. Czolij's prompting, it was agreed that the UWC would seek assistance from a Ukraine-based jurist in drafting a set of by-laws for the UWCC that were acceptable to the UWC and that would take into account the shifting sands of Ukraine's legal system.

The UWC president's insistence on "bringing some form of monetary gift" to Ukrainian communities he visited aroused spirited debate, and resulted in a compromise decision to provide for donations of \$1,000 (Canadian) to the national umbrella organizations of countries visited by the chief executive.

Human and civil rights debates

Mr. Lozynskyj also suggested that the diaspora umbrella body should look past its budget in seeking to address issues of concern to Ukrainians worldwide.

Prof. Jurij Darewych, successor to Christina Isajiw as chair of the Commission on Human and Civil Rights (CHCR), outlined a plan of action that would require an appropriation of \$25,000 (Canadian).

When several presidium members raised

the issue of precedent thus being set, and the UWC's Chief Financial Officer, William Sametz, expressed reservations about the extent of the sum, Mr. Lozynskyj offered assurances that he would personally see to it that sufficient funds would be raised in the wider community in a separate campaign.

Thus bolstered, the CHCR intends to lobby various national governments and international agencies in defense of the rights of Ukrainians in Poland (on the issue of reparations and redress for repressions committed during the Akcja Wisla in the 1940s) and Russia (concerning the expropriation of a cathedral and attendant facilities from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Kyiv Patriarchate, in Noginsk).

Otherwise, Prof. Darewych reported that he is assembling a team of volunteers who will gather a database of legal norms governing minority rights in the various countries where Ukrainians reside. The Toronto-based physicist said that the CHCR will seek contacts with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's sub-committee on minorities, and will monitor the Ukrainian government's action or inaction concerning Ukrainian minorities abroad.

Vasyl Kolomatskyi, a CHCR activist and émigré from Russia, reported on protests held in Kyiv and Moscow against the Russian offensive in Chechnya.

UN forum for Ukrainian issues

As a whole the UWC Presidium resolved to lobby the Ukrainian government to mount an effort to have the famine-genocide of 1932-1933 officially recognized at the United Nations as one of the genocides perpetrated in the 20th century, and to encourage the Ukrainian government to pursue the passage of a U.N. General Assembly resolution condemning the use of food as a weapon.

Irena Kurowyckyj, speaking as representative of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, reported on procedures involved in getting resolutions to the attention of U.N. delegates, and in securing recognition at the world body's Economic and Social Council.

Ms. Kurowyckyj pointed out that while non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as the UWC are given a wide berth for activism on issues concerning the present day, matters of history such as the famine-genocide require the sponsorship of a national government.

Sports difficulties

UWC Sports Commissioner Laryssa Barabash Temple reported on the various difficulties faced by Ukraine's Olympic movement.

Among the preparations for the upcoming summer Olympiad in Sydney, are signals from the Ukrainian side and from those in Australia seeking to assist arriving athletes, that everyone's expectations should be very modest. The prohibitive cost of travel to the southern continent is likely to have a dramatic impact on the size of the delegation Ukraine is able to send to these games.

Ms. Temple said that the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv has been making it difficult for Ukraine's athletes to train for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, refusing to issue team visas unless there is a U.S. citizen signatory on the application – a condition not demanded of any other delegation she was aware of.

Ms. Temple also reported that a "Diaspora Olympiad" will be held near Philadelphia over the July 4

(Continued on page 20)

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INTERVIEW: Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskyj

The interview below with Ukrainian World Congress President Askold Lozynskyj was conducted by Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj at the UWC's headquarters in Toronto following the diaspora umbrella body's most recent presidium meeting.

On their face, your travels to the Ukrainian communities in Russia, Kazakstan and Uzbekistan broke new ground in terms of the reach of the Ukrainian World Congress. How would you assess them?

It was all very interesting. Overall, the Ukrainian communities in the three countries I visited are vibrant, some are experiencing economic malaise, but in terms of national consciousness and cultural well-being, they have considerable vitality.

They're all very different, however. In Kazakstan, active members of the community are essentially descendants of former gulag inmates, prisoners, exiles of concentration camps – essentially people who came from western Ukraine. Their national awareness is at the highest level of the three, but they are very poor.

In Uzbekistan, they don't speak Ukrainian at all. They resettled there for myriad reasons, including economic. They are significantly better off because the country has gold. In the case of the Ukrainian central organization's president, Stanislav Mantsurov-Kovryhenko, he was brought there as an orphan, taken along by those retreating from the Nazi advance in 1941. When Ukraine became independent, he started searching for his roots and discovered that his real surname was Ukrainian.

Russia is a potpourri of different characters. There are those who went there because it was convenient or they were following their ambition, moving to the capi-

tal. Then you have a large population in the Urals, Ekaterinburg, Zelenyi Klyn.

To what extent is their situation comparable to Ukrainians in the Baltic countries – that they're taken for Russians, or even try to act like Russians?

Particularly in Uzbekistan there is tremendous animosity towards Russians from the indigenous population, so to compensate for past discrimination all "Russians," or Slavs, are being removed from various posts and replaced by Uzbeks.

By extension, Ukrainians are suffering in this regard, but those with whom I spoke don't mind, because they manage to leave on good terms. They don't feel discriminated against. I was surprised how much praise they extended to President Islam Karimov, who is essentially a dictator.

It wasn't of the "all hail our leader, whoever he may be now" variety?

No, I thought it was genuine. We met with Uzbek government officials, they gave a party in my name. The contacts that have developed between the Ukrainian community and the government are very good and at the highest level.

Uzbek government officials appeared at the eighth anniversary of Ukrainian independence and participated in the program. Uzbek artists also took part, singing Ukrainian songs. One of the leading sculptors in Uzbekistan is a Ukrainian. There is a tremendous amount of good feeling between the two people.

When I returned to North America, I met with a member of the Uzbek community in New York, and have spoken to officials at the Uzbek Consulate. The GUUAM Concept [the alliance of Georgia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Moldova] appears

to be quite attractive to them.

Turning to Kazakstan, there are different issues. Kazaks find themselves a minority in their own country. There are actually more ethnic Russians than Kazaks, many of whom have been scattered in other countries, and the government is making an effort to repatriate them.

Ukrainians are fourth on the list behind Germans in terms of ethnic background, and by and large they are treated well. They were also positive about the president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, who also happens to be considered a thug in the West, but they impressed upon me that Asian cultural approaches to democracy are different.

In Kazakstan, there is one umbrella organization, the Association of Ukrainians of Kazakstan, chaired by Mykhailo Parypsa from Pavlodar. The various constituent groups fight among each other constantly – it appears they've brought over the political splits that existed in western Ukraine.

The community is scattered among four cities: Almaty, the former capital; Astana, the current capital; Karaganda; and Pavlodar. They recently erected a monument with the assistance of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America to commemorate the women who led an uprising in the Kingir concentration camp in the early 1950s

In Russia, the biggest problem is that it seems Ukrainians have absorbed the prevailing Great Russian mentality that Slavs are all brothers with Russians as elders. Most Ukrainians, particularly those in Moscow, would rather not rock the boat.

In my opinion, that's why the situation [over the expropriated Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral] in Noginsk happened. The Russian Orthodox Church was simply sure that neither the Ukrainian government nor the local Ukrainian community would react

very strongly. They haven't; most of the noise was made by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP).

It seems that some moves have been made to placate the UOC-KP now, as they have been assigned some new buildings, some converted army barracks, but the cathedral remains in the hands of the Moscow Patriarchate. The matter is still pending, and we at the UWC intend to make an issue of it.

I had the opportunity to meet a renowned veteran Russian dissident, Gleb Yakunin. I went in thinking that perhaps the Ukrainians had over-reacted, making a mountain out of a molehill, but Mr. Yakunin set me straight.

He said, and I quote: "The greatest weapon that Russian imperialists have is the Russian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate." He told me that the government continually hides behind the ostensible separation between Church and state.

Since following up on this issue took up most of my time, unfortunately I wasn't able to travel out to the provinces. Moscow is entirely different from the rest of Russia, a different world altogether. I met with people from the outlying regions, and they're in much greater economic need. With 75 percent of the country's wealth concentrated in the capital, that leaves 25 percent for 11 time zones. Unfortunately, 95 percent of the Ukrainian community in Russia lives outside the capital.

There has been a recent movement to push "foreign elements" out of Moscow. Have Ukrainians fallen prey to that?

As far as I know, many former Ukrainian residents were moved out by the Soviet regime, to the gulag. Others left to work in regions such as the Tiumen Oblast.

(Continued on page 16)

ПОДЯКА

КОМІТЕТУ 50-ЛІТТЯ ШКОЛИ УКРАЇНОЗНАВСТВА Т-ВА „САМОПОМІЧ“ У НЬЮ ЙОРКУ

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Self-Reliance Federal Credit Union - NY \$2,000 plus \$500 for purchase of Encyclopedia of Ukraine; Self-Reliance Association of Ukrainian-Americans, NY Branch \$2,000 plus \$180 for purchase of Encyclopedia of Ukraine; Ukrainian Orthodox Federal Credit Union \$500; Ukrainian Sports Club \$250 (earlier donation)

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BOOK NOTES

A second collection of poetry by Yuriy Tarnawsky

by Yuriy Tarnawsky

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. – The Kyiv publishing house Rodovid which in 1998 released Yuriy Tarnawsky's collection of plays "6 x 0" has just published a book of his poetry called "Yikh Nemaye" (They Don't Exist). The 430-page book constitutes the second volume of Mr. Tarnawsky's collected poetry – 10 separate cycles and book-length poems written after the appearance of his first book of collected poetry, "Poems About Nothing and Other Poems on the Same Subject," which was published in 1970. Previously published works, such as the bilingual English-Ukrainian collection "This Is How I Get Well" and the book-length poem "U ra na," as well as unpublished works are included in the book.

Mr. Tarnawsky is a bilingual Ukrainian-English author, member of the avant-garde group of Ukrainian émigré writers, the New York Group, the American avant-garde writers' organization, Fiction Collective and the Association of the Writers of Ukraine. He has published 19 books of poetry, seven plays and three books of fiction.

"They Don't Exist" was officially presented to the Ukrainian reading public in Lviv at the Les Kurbas Theater on September 20, and in Kyiv at the National



University of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy on October 12, during Mr. Tarnawsky's recent trip to Ukraine. On November 13 he gave a reading of selections from the book at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago.

A third volume of Mr. Tarnawsky's works – a book of prose – is to be published by Rodovid in 2000.

Papers from Jewish-Mennonite-Ukrainian conference

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – In 1995 three ethnic groups – Jews, Mennonites and Ukrainians – came together in Winnipeg to reflect on the similarities and dissimilarities of the cultures and experiences of their respective communities. The conference was titled "Building Bridges."

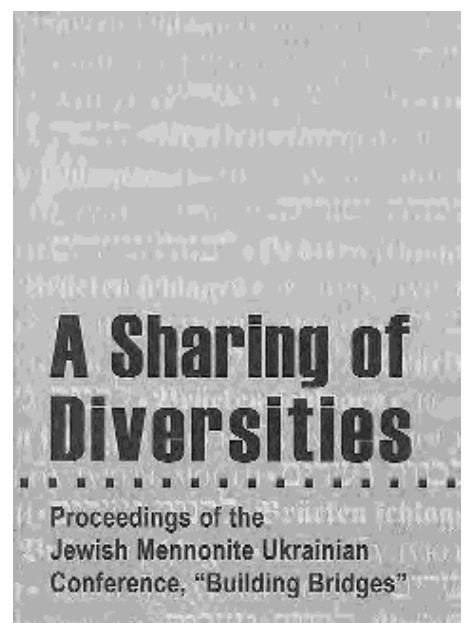
All three groups had suffered the ignominy of hatred and violence over the centuries; all three came to Canada in the late 19th century, hoping to find a place where they could live and prosper in an environment of peace and security. All three brought with them their histories of oppression and antagonism.

A new book – "A Sharing of Diversities: Proceedings of the Jewish Mennonite Ukrainian Conference, 'Building Bridges,'" edited by Fred Stambrook and Bert Friesen (Winnipeg: Jewish Mennonite Ukrainian Committee, 1999, 273 pp. \$19.95) – contains a selection of the papers presented at the conference.

This extensive survey of the three ethnic groups' histories, both in North America and in their respective fatherlands, and the relations among them is of interest both to scholars and to the general reader. For individuals who belong to these groups, the information is intended to promote knowledge of self in terms of cultural identity.

In his introduction, the book's co-editor Mr. Stambrook, a professor of history, begins with the phrase, "Great oaks do from small acorns grow." He traces the evolution of a childhood friendship between two members of different ethnic groups, connected by a common immigrant ancestry, to the application of this fellowship into a broader assemblage, to preliminary deliberations and the building of inter-group trust, to the resultant conference, and beyond.

The keynote address, Raymond Breton's "Diversity and Homogeneity: The Ambivalence of Canadians," examines the attitudes that newcomers faced in Canada, of the native, colonial and fellow immigrant varieties, along with the underlying principles and reasons for either positive or negative views. Mr. Breton calls upon various statistical surveys and census information to draw the conclusion that Canadians



hold two opposing views toward immigrants. In one breath many citizens can express their hostility toward a new people who demand the same rights, or even more rights; in the next, they can embody the ideal conditions for smooth and concordant immigration.

Interaction among the three groups is traced back to Europe, before emigration took place. Also outlined are Canadian immigrant demographics and their geographic settlement patterns in the New World. Maps and graphs accompany and elucidate the essays.

The chronicle continues with perceptive studies of the cultures themselves, drawing on such interdisciplinary perspectives as sociology, mythology and folklore, psychology, philosophy, history and aesthetics, to uncover and impartially probe group perceptions, and answers the questions about whether they are productive or not so.

"A Sharing of Diversities" may be purchased for \$19.95. For further information, call CPRC Publications, (306) 585-4758, Fax (306) 585-4699 or e-mail canadian.plains@uregina.ca; or write to: Canadian Plains Research Center University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0A2.



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Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor celebrate 60th anniversary

by Bohdan Nehaniv

DETROIT – The Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor celebrated their 60th anniversary on November 7 with a reception followed by a luncheon at the Ukrainian Cultural Center.

This year seven students, all of whom were entering college, were presented with scholarships. Guests also were honored by the presence of Myron and Sophie (Storoz) Kasey, the only remaining charter members of the original organization. A musical interlude at the reception was provided by Darryl Zusko, pianist, his sister Dara-Lynn Zusko, violinist.

On October 9, 1939, a group of Ukrainian university graduates met at Wayne State University and founded the Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor. This organization, dedicated to the interests of the Ukrainian community in the Detroit and Windsor area, has flourished throughout the past 60 years. In 1964 the organization was incorporated as a non-profit organization in Michigan.

Two objectives have inspired the organization's existence: the promotion of the cultural interchange of ideas and fellowship among its members and their community, and the encouragement of students of Ukrainian descent in their pursuit of higher learning through scholarships, bursaries and loans.

The Scholarship Program is the pride and joy of the Ukrainian Graduates Club, and its members have sustained a special effort to encourage the Ukrainian youth

of the Detroit and Windsor area to pursue higher education, to learn Ukrainian and to be active in the cultural life of the Ukrainian community by recognizing achievements with scholarship awards. Beginning with a modest one-semester scholarship in 1941, the scholarship program has expanded to disburse, by 1993, 15 scholarships with a total value of \$6,000.

The success and stability of the scholarship program was assured in 1969 when Ray Sepell attained tax-exempt status for the Scholarship Fund. Generous donations by Mr. Sepell, Joe Gurski, Ted Geleney, Archie Corsa and others led the way to building the Scholarship Fund. On many occasions the scholarship offerings were enriched by the provisions of small loans to needy students or by featuring special memorial scholarships. During the past five years alone, 21 scholarships totaling \$7,800 have been awarded to deserving students.

The main focus of the Scholarship Program, however, is directed at graduating high school students. Scholarships of \$300 to \$500 are awarded to applicants with excellent scholarly achievements and participation in the Ukrainian community.

Over the years, both individual members and the club itself have organized drives and made donations to support Ukrainian studies at various institutions. These included the Harvard Ukrainian Studies Chair Endowment Fund; the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, Germany; the Ukrainian Catholic



Among the recipients of 1999 scholarships from the Ukrainian Graduates of Detroit and Windsor are: (from left) Jennifer Ann Clogg, David C. Dobryden, Adriana Kuropas, Emily Nora Sawka and Vera Maria Slywinsky. On the right is Serafina Marzotto, chairperson of the Scholarship Committee.

University in Rome; St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg; the Ukrainian Studies Book Fund for the University of Windsor Library; the Ukrainian Studies Fund supporting Ukrainian courses at the Wayne State University, as well as the establishment of a Ukrainian Room at the university; and the School of Ukrainian Language and Culture in Warren, Mich.

In 1955 the practice of awarding special honors to a person of Ukrainian descent for community service was initi-

ated and has continued to the present day. The Ukrainian of the Year Award is presented annually at the anniversary banquet. The recipients of the Ukrainian of the Year award included not only activists in the Detroit-Windsor community, but also those from farther afield. This year the Ukrainian of the Year Award went to Dr. Alexander List of Windsor, Ontario. Dr. List is a long-time member of the graduates, and last year's

(Continued on page 20)

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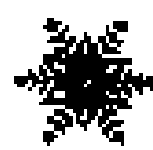
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—Jensen

"This is a wonderful book about the history and culture of Ukraine. It is a must-read for anyone interested in Ukrainian folk tales."
—Jensen



FOCUS ON PHILATELY

by Inger Kuzych

The wooden church of Yasinia

The author dedicates this column to Andrij Solczanyk, the dean of Ukrainian philatelic topical collectors, in appreciation for his many years of unstinting service to the hobby as an indefatigable researcher, writer and exhibitor.

Spot quiz: Which province (oblast) in Ukraine is renowned for its lovely wooded mountain vistas, while at the same time being one of the poorest areas of the country, dependent largely on raising livestock? If you answered Zakarpattia, you are right.

But did you know that just prior to World War II and during the close of the conflict, this area was the independent country of Carpatho-Ukraine and that it issued its own postage stamps?

This article will focus on Carpatho-Ukraine's very first stamp, an attractive issue showing the wooden church in Yasinia. The story behind the creation of this issue, as well as the subject of the stamp itself, are both quite fascinating.

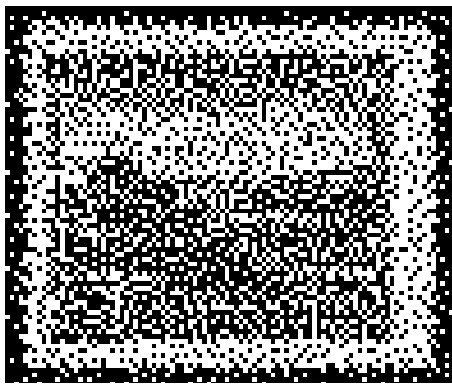


FIGURE 1: A 1928 Czecho-Slovak stamp first showed the wooden church at Yasinia.

Background on the stamp issue

During early February 1939, the daily press and certain philatelic magazines in Czecho-Slovakia published news items about the proposed issuance of a stamp to commemorate the opening of the first Carpatho-Ukrainian National Assembly (Soim) in Khust. This part of eastern Czecho-Slovakia (referred to as Ruthenia by the Czechs), although overwhelmingly populated by Ukrainians, had opted to join the Czecho-Slovak state in 1919, in part to escape from the turmoil and fighting on the rest of Ukrainian lands. Autonomy was promised, but consistently deferred by Prague; it was not until 1938 that self-governance was granted as part of a federated Czecho-Slovakia.

Over the course of the next several weeks in February 1939, more details of the stamp became known. The design was to be a modified version of a red, 60 haleru Czecho-Slovak stamp first issued in 1928 (Figure 1). The new stamp was to



FIGURE 2: Carpatho-Ukraine's first stamp was used in the capital of Khust for only two days, March 15-16, 1939.

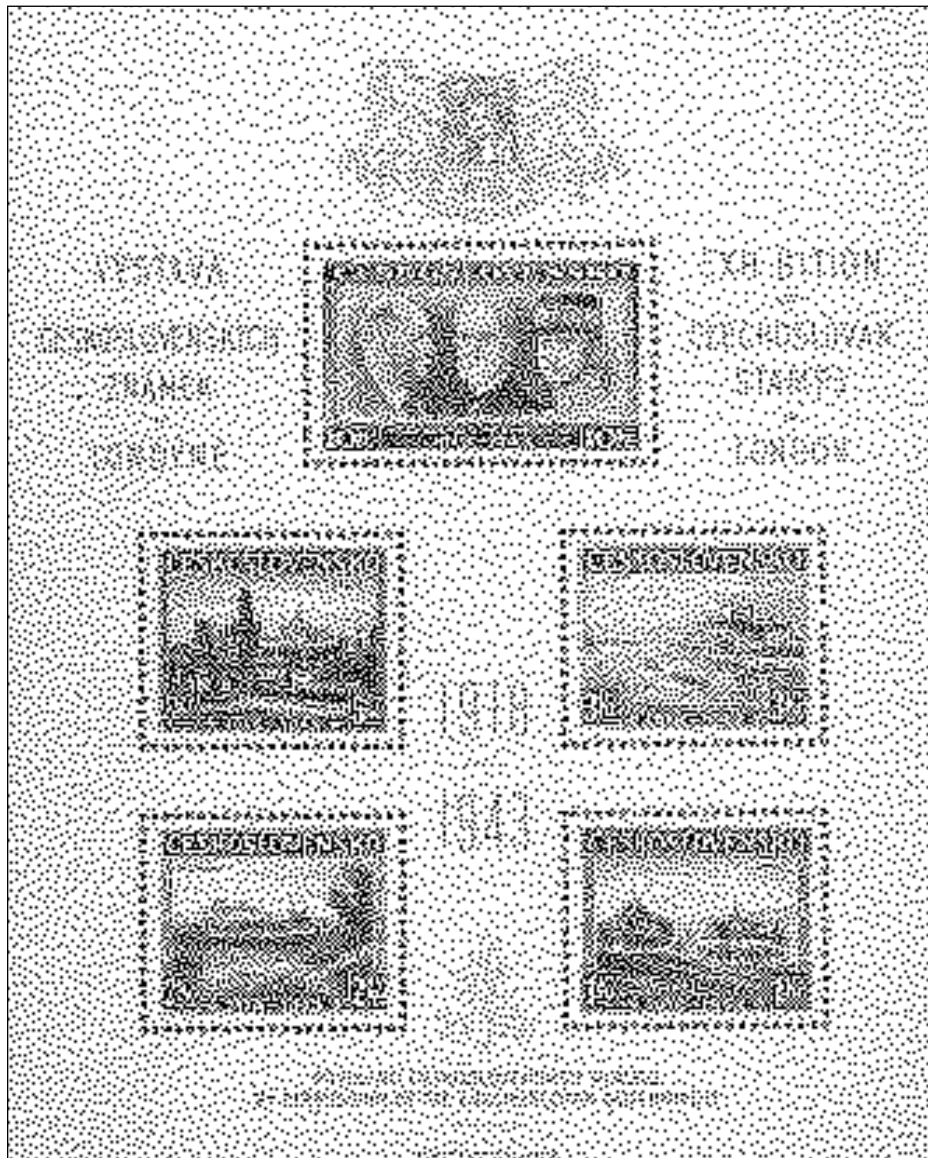


FIGURE 3: A 1943 souvenir sheet released by the Czecho-Slovak government-in-exile showed another version of the Yasinia church in the lower right.

be blue and have a high value of 3 krone. On the upper part of the stamp, under the name "Cesko-Slovensko", would be the Ukrainian inscription of "Karpatska Ukraina" (Carpatho-Ukraine). Along the bottom, between the values, would be the commemorative announcement: "I.SOIM 2.III.1939" or "First National Assembly, March 2, 1939." The date corresponded to the scheduled opening of the Soim in Khust (Ruthenia's capital). Special commemorative cancellations also were prepared for the stamp release, which would take place simultaneously in Khust and in the national capital of Prague. A total of 200,000 completed stamps were sent to Khust on March 1, and a further 100,000 a few days later (see Figure 2); 600,000 were retained in Prague.

On February 12, 1939, elections to the Carpatho-Ukrainian Assembly saw the overwhelming victory of candidates from the Ukrainian National Union, a coalition of Ukrainian parties seeking national self-government. Alarmed, the Prague leadership refused to permit the Soim to convene on March 2. Outside forces, however, soon altered the situation.

Czecho-Slovakia, already partially dismembered by the Munich Agreement of September 1938, began its total dissolution on Tuesday, March 14, 1939, when Slovakia declared itself independent. That same evening, the government of Carpatho-Ukraine followed suit in Khust. On the following day the declaration was ratified and various state-founding laws were passed. Msgr. Augustine Voloshyn was elected president of the new country.

On the morning of the March 15, President Voloshyn forwarded a handwritten decree to the Khust post office ordering the commemorative stamp to be put on sale. At around 10:30 a.m., the post office telegraphed Prague, informing it of the situation and suggesting that it should also put the stamps on sale. The 600,000 new stamps were made available at the philatelic section in Prague on March 15 and sold out in about 10 days.

Meanwhile, back in Khust, even while the Carpatho-Ukrainian Assembly was setting about founding a new state, battles were being fought only seven miles away. The Hungarian army had demanded the capitulation of Carpatho-Ukraine and had begun an invasion when its terms were refused.

The face value on the Carpatho-Ukraine stamp, 3 Krone, was sufficient to send letters by registered mail; by the end of the morning of March 15 about 1,800 registered articles had been handed in. The registered mail could not be dispatched since the only possible route to the west, the Khust-Presov highway, was no longer functioning. However, it appears that at least one shipment of ordinary mail did get through by bus to Presov in Slovakia before the highway was cut.

By 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 16, 1939, Khust was occupied by the Hungarian military; the first mail released by them was sent from Khust to Berehiv on March 18. This dispatch also included all registered mail that had been handed in on March 15. All the mail was then sent to Budapest and forwarded from there to the addressees. The unsold remainder of the stamps in Khust, as well as the cash takings, were confiscated by the Hungarian authorities. Examples of mailings from these first days of Carpatho-Ukrainian independence are obviously highly valued and of considerable rarity (Figure 3). The stamp itself is far easier to obtain and retails for about \$10 U.S.

Just prior to the complete occupation of Khust, President Voloshyn and part of the government led the country. By March 20, most of Carpatho-Ukraine had been occupied by Hungarian troops, but

partisan skirmishes continued in the mountains for another month.

Interestingly, the design of the church at Yasinia was used a third time. In 1943, a Red Cross souvenir sheet was issued by the Czecho-Slovak government-in-exile based in London. The sheet, released at a stamp exhibit marking the 25th anniversary of Czecho-Slovak independence, shows the Yasinia church in the lower right (Figure 4). Although the central stamp vignette is the same as in the previous two issues of 1928 and 1939, a number of changes were made in the frame design.

A description of the stamp subject

The building depicted on the Yasinia stamps is the Church of the Ascension with its prominent bell tower (on the left). A Ukrainian account of the origin of Yasinia and its church was translated into English by Andrij Solczanyk and included in the Marian Philatelist of May 1969; it is this latter version that is quoted below:

"Archaeological investigations and historic documents demonstrate that the village [site] has been in existence for over 4,000 years. A story told by inhabitants states that in 1535 Ivan Struk traveled from Galicia (Halychyna) to Hungary to purchase sheep. On the way back, crossing the Carpathian Mountains, he came to the gorge of Yasinia and was caught there, under the Bukovynka Mountains, by severe winter weather. Since he and his shepherds had only light clothing, they were forced to flee, leave the sheep, and return to Galicia. Ivan Struk, presuming his sheep had perished, returned to skin them the following spring. When he and his companions entered the gorge, they found, much to their surprise, that the sheep were alive and the herd had actually increased [in size] with the arrival of lambs. The shepherds perceived this as a magnificent gift of God. In thanksgiving, Ivan Struk built a wooden bell tower from nearby ash trees. In Ukrainian, the ash is called yasen. From the word yasen came the name of the village, Yasinia.

"In 1557, the companions of Ivan Struk settled on the slopes of the Bukovynka Mountains and at the same time constructed a church. The wooden structure – erected without any wedges – was strengthened by bolts in the 19th century. The church pictured on the stamp is still preserved today. Inside are four icons: one represents the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the second and third show the Apostles, and the fourth depicts the Mother of God. Traditionally, only the faithful who lived on the right bank of the Chorna Tysa River (i.e., on the bank on which the church is located) were buried in the cemetery."

Although the chronicle is charming, I was initially skeptical of its reliability since a number of other sources I had checked mentioned 1824 as the year of construction. Consultations with Titus Hewryk, author of "Masterpieces in Wood – Houses of Worship in Ukraine," helped clarify matters. According to his research, the church was indeed built in 1824. However, he stressed that these facts do not disprove the traditional account of the 16th century founding of the church and village. Many wooden structures have been rebuilt after decades or even centuries of exposure and use, often in the shape of the original structure, though sometimes in a new style. The church at Yasinia, which is still referred to as "The Struk Church," was most likely reconstructed in 1824, perhaps reusing many original timbers. A hint of this rebuilding survives in the traditional account which states that "the wooden structure ... was strengthened by bolts in the 19th century."

(Continued on page 20)

DATELINE NEW YORK: A tetralogy for two violoncellos and soprano

by Helen Smindak

Virko Baley's newest composition, "Treny" (Laments) is filled with intense emotion – the torment of the spirit, the pain of loss and deprivation, at times anger and rage – and concludes with a portion of a wake. A tetralogy for two violoncellos and soprano, inspired by a new bilingual edition of "Treny" by the Polish Renaissance poet Jan Kochanowski, published in 1995, received its world premiere during the Music at the Institute (MATI) concert on November 20.

As the feature artists, world-renowned cellists Natalia Khoma and Suren Bagratuni and the highly esteemed New York City Opera diva Oksana Krovtytska, gave expressive and physically intense performances. Ms. Khoma and Mr. Bagratuni inspired awe as they phrased somber solos and duets in the first three "treny" with precision and tremendous feeling. Although "Treny I" and "Treny II" were solos played by Ms. Khoma, Mr. Bagratuni's cello supplied an inconspicuous drone from time to time. The two joined forces in Treny II, a duet in two parts, with the two cellos binding into a single unit.

"Treny III," which Mr. Baley describes as "a monodic piece, a soliloquy, a stream of consciousness, elegies of lamentation," expressed the composer's grief over the death of composer Borys Liatoshynsky (who played an important role in Mr. Baley's aesthetic development) and the loss of three persons close to him – his mother, Lidia; Lydia Bondarenko (the wife of composer Valentin Silvestrov, a member of the Kyiv Avant-Garde of innovative musicians); and Bruce Adams, his oldest friend in Las Vegas. This portion ranged through variations in mood, from the sweetly sorrowful or fiery and ranging to tender and melancholy.

Ms. Krovtytska joined the two cellists in "Treny IV," adding further excitement to the masterful work. She gave words to the laments as she sang Kochanowski's tragic and translucent poetry in Polish in a clear, powerfully projecting soprano. Conveying deep feeling and pathos, she sang excerpts like the "tren" that voiced the thought that "Man is not alone; his wounds run deep;/His joys are like a scar on top;/And once it's touched, that buried ache/Throbs wide awake."

As the compositions emotional epicenter and its final resolution – Mr. Baley's attempt to "wrestle down my grief" – "Treny IV" brought the laments to an end with a fragment of a resounding and eternal wake.

Mr. Baley, who came from Nevada to New York for the premiere and who is the newly appointed principal professor of music at the University of Nevada, joined the artists on stage to take bows after the presentation. Born in Ukraine in 1938, he is also the principal conductor of the Kyiv Camerata, and until 1995 served as founding music director of the Nevada Symphony. He co-produced and composed the music for the film "Swan Lake: The Zone," which won two top awards at the Cannes Film Festival in 1990. He has made several recordings, among them "Dreamtime," "Jurassic Bird" and "Orpheus Singing." His compositions "Dreamtime," performed by the California E.A.R. Unit, and "Concerto No. 1 Quasi Una Fantasia," given its premiere by the New Juilliard Ensemble, received excellent reviews.

Ms. Krovtytska, who opened the New York City Opera's current season in the title role of "Madama Butterfly," is preparing for a number of engagements in the United States and Canada in com-

ing months. She will sing in "Katya Kabanova" with the Miami and Montreal operas, "Fedora" with the Palm Beach Opera, Helena in Boito's "Mefistofele" with the Opera de Montreal, Dvorak's "Requiem" with the New Jersey Symphony and Brahms' "German Requiem" with the Flagstaff Symphony.

Ms. Khoma, like Ms. Krovtytska is a native of Lviv, has been a recitalist and soloist with orchestras around the world since winning top prizes at the Budapest Pablo Casals competitions and the Markneukirchen and Tchaikovsky international competitions and first prize at the 1990 Belgrade International Cello Competition. Making her first public appearance on television at the age of 10, she has been featured on numerous European radio and TV stations and on WNYC-FM in New York and WGBH-FM in Boston. She is married to Mr. Bagratuni, a native of Yerevan, Armenia, a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician who has won acclaim for both his traditional and contemporary repertoire. The two often perform together on recordings and at recitals.

News in Brief

- Dmytro Bortniansky's second opera "Alcide," written while the young composer was studying in Italy, was recorded on two CD's in Lviv last year through the collaborative efforts of two musical groups in Lviv and one in France – the Gloriya Chamber Choir directed by Yaroslav Hnatovsky, the Leopolia Chamber Symphony Orchestra conducted by Yaroslav Myhal and the Orphina Society in France. Music critic Teodor Teren-Juskiw notes that the handwritten score of the opera was discovered in a British library and published in Kyiv in 1985. Look for the recording under the title Dimitri Bortnianski, "Alcide" opera, World Premiere, 2 CD, EROL, France 1998. Dist. Disques Concord.

- Lilia Dlaboha is a native New Yorker whose parents came from Ukraine. She has worked as a newswire editor and on

various literary and consumer magazines in New York, taught poetry privately, worked as a private investigator, and has had several of her poems published internationally. Her latest oeuvre, titled "Morning," appeared in a recent issue of Lungfull! magazine alongside Ms. Dlaboha's original attempt (with revisions) at describing a morning soliloquy in free verse. She also performs on drum and vocals with the Carpathian folk band Cheres; she and her husband, Cheres director Andriy Milavsky, spent some weeks this past summer in Ukraine's Hutsul countryside searching for Hutsul folk instruments and costumes.

- Actress, model and film star Milia Jovovich, who stars in the newly opened film "The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc," is pictured on the cover of Elle magazine's December issue. The Kyiv-born star, described in advance movie publicity as the only child of Russian film star Galina Loginova and Yugoslav pediatrician Bogich Jovovich, made her film debut at age 9 in Disney's TV movie "Night Train To Kathmandu," has been modeling since age 11 and began writing songs at 15. The New York Times film critic Janet Maslin says Ms. Jovovich's performance in "The Messenger" dominates the film, but notes that the actress "remains pedestrian and underwhelming, with leadership qualities that are noticeably dubious." Elle magazine's story, by David A. Keeps titled "Wild At Heart," touting her lucrative contract with L'Oreal and her careers as a singer-songwriter and an actress. Now estranged from her husband, director Luc Besson, she will next be seen in "Million Dollar Hotel" with Mel Gibson and Jeremy Daviies. The story is accompanied by a multi-page photo spread showing Ms. Jovovich in "casual chic" clothing and jewelry fashions by designers Chanel, DKNY and Ralph Lauren.

- Following a tip last summer that the Broadway musical "The Scarlet Pimpernel," a classic story of romance, intrigue and swashbuckling adventure,



Ken Howard

Virko Baley

harbored a Ukrainian actor among its stars, "Dateline" asked the Barlow-Hartman PR agency to name the artist in question. In response, we received a bio on Marc Kudisch (Chauvelin) and subsequently reported that Mr. Kudisch was of Ukrainian ancestry. Turns out the actor is actually of Lithuanian and Polish stock. A late-night stop at the Neil Simon Theater on West 52nd Street for corroboration, following a concert at the Ukrainian Institute of America, brought us face to face with Mr. Kudisch outside the stage door. "Sorry, I'm not Ukrainian," the actor told me with a smile, but I'm pretty close to it."

- Definitely Ukrainian are women's fashions spotted in the Petites section of some New York department stores. Labels reading "Made in Ukraine/Hecho en Ucrania" have been seen on coordinated charcoal-grey jacket and pants outfits made by Amber Stone Petites and smart-looking jackets by Braetan Petites. Earlier this season Macy's was offering

(Continued on page 17)

Consulate General showcases Ukrainian music



Yaroslav Kulynych

Ukraine's consul general in New York hosted a concert, "The Charms of Ukrainian Music and Song," at the Ukrainian Institute of America on Wednesday, November 24. Invited to this evening showcasing Ukrainian talent were members of the Ukrainian American community, as well as diplomats representing diverse countries. Above, Consul General Yuriy Bohaievsky (third from right) is seen with the concert performers (from left) jazz pianist John Stetch (originally from Canada and now in the United States), bandurist Roman Hrynkyv (Ukraine), bandurist and soprano Alla Kutsevych (Ukraine), alto Liudmyla Hrabovska (Ukraine), pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky (Ukraine), tenor Roman Tymbala (Ukraine), soprano Lesya Hrabova (Ukraine) and baritone Oleh Chmyr (Ukraine).

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Ukrainian World Congress...

(Continued from page 11)

Otherwise, I'd say that recently the Ukrainian community in the Russian capital has been stable. From what I was told, the "OVIR" [Office of Visas and Registration] and registration programs have not been used against Ukrainians.

Turning to some internal UWC business, the Commission on Human and Civil Rights has been reorganized by Prof. Jurij Darewych, but one member of the presidium queried whether his plan of action was substantially different from that proposed by its former chair, Christina Isajiw and, by extension, why a greater effort was not made to keep her on board. Would you care to comment?

I'm very pleased with Prof. Darewych, he's very organized, he has very concrete ideas as to how to proceed. The team he has assembled to work on the various projects he has delineated are people I know to be very positive, people with ideas, people who are ready to work.

I agree with Prof. Darewych's proposals regarding the budget [asking for a \$25,000 allocation]. The CHCR has to have a working budget if it is to be taken seriously.

For all their enthusiasm, I think that certain people the CHCR has attracted need to tone down their rhetoric. You can't deal with human and civil rights issues without a professional and responsible manner.

For example, and this is for the record [the representative of the Union of Ukrainians in Russia at the UWC] Mr. Vasyl Kolomatsky needs to be more objective in his analyses. His report on the protest held in Moscow against the Chechnya invasion was problematic.

Frankly, I'm not sure if this is an issue in which the CHCR should involve itself. I'm not displeased that Moscow is embroiled in the Caucasus — it means it has fewer resources to devote to disrupting matters in Ukraine, but I think we should stick to the issues that concern Ukrainians directly.

The principal issue for us at the UWC is the absolute right of Ukrainians to practice their religion in a manner they see fit. Consequently, there has to be room for an official presence of the UOC — KP. It's blatant discrimination if there isn't a single Ukrainian Orthodox church in the entirety of Russia.

To what extent is Prof. Darewych's presentation in October different from that of Ms. Isajiw in May?

Substantially. It is certainly a matter of debate whether we need \$17,000 for a paid employee for the CHCR without submitting a plan of action with specific projects in mind. Prof. Darewych indicated that the CHCR will concern itself with the rights of Ukrainians in Russia, surrounding the confiscation of church properties in Noginsk and the general issue of religious freedom, and the rights of Ukrainians in Poland over the issue of acknowledgment of the wrongs done during the Akcja Wisla in the 1940s.

He actually broke the expenses down in a very transparent fashion: so much for Internet connections, so much for preparation of documents, and so on, arriving at a total of about \$20,000 to \$25,000 Canadian.

In my opinion, this amount is not egregious. Secondly, even if the UWC doesn't have sufficient monies in its present budget, I am confident that the Ukrainian community out there is interested in addressing these two issues and will be quite willing to provide the funds necessary to address them in a professional and responsible manner.

I expressed my confidence that this amount could be easily raised at the meeting of the presidium and provided an assurance that I would personally involve myself in the campaign to raise these funds.

What happened to you on that increasingly notorious day in May in

Kyiv and why have you been so reluctant to go on the record about it?

I have no comment for the record. It's bad enough that a story appeared about the incident in the Novoye Russkoye Slovo.

Well all right. I'll tell you that I was picked up by some people with guns, and I was driven around Kyiv, and they attempted to intimidate me. They did not hurt me, and they let me go. Period.

It would appear that, that is, they tried to give the impression that they were members of the militia, but I can't tell you if they were, because I never saw any badges on them. All I saw were the guns.

It would have been very opportune for anyone who dislikes [President Leonid] Kuchma to have me believe that this was done in order to provoke me into criticizing Kuchma for something he did not do.

OK, so it's a provocation, and we can't say one way or another. It's bad enough that it happened to you as an individual, a person of good will who wants to broaden ties with Ukraine. But it also happened to you as the president of the UWC, the representative of the diaspora. It's as if the president of the World Jewish Congress came to Israel, was kidnapped and driven around Jerusalem for a day, and nobody heard about it.

It's a little different. And unfortunately, this is Ukraine today. It's the "Wild East." It doesn't mean the president of Ukraine, or his administration, is responsible for it.

Look, today, thugs are in control of Ukraine. Given that the country is a wild environment, the rule of law doesn't apply. Filing a protest, which under normal circumstances would be beneficial to preclude something similar happening in the future, doesn't apply here.

In essence, it brings public attention to something that: a) may later hurt me; or b) may put certain people who are not responsible for the incident in disrepute.

Short of making allegations about who was behind it, did you report the incident to authorities in Ukraine?

Certainly. This was brought to the attention of the president. This was brought to the attention of the Consulate in New York, and brought to the attention of the Embassy in Washington. It was not brought to the attention of the U.S. ambassador in Kyiv.

Why not? It also happened to you as a U.S. citizen.

I certainly don't want to bring it to his attention. The U.S. Embassy would have used this as a prima facie case of what is going on in Ukraine and this could lead to suggestions that the U.S. is throwing away its money on Ukraine.

But shouldn't Ukraine worry about that?

Maybe so, but I'm not going to feed any fire. My job is to help Ukraine. I don't think it would be helpful if I blew this incident out of proportion and allowed it to become the cause of a U.S. government decision to end assistance to Ukraine.

In the long run, couldn't it prove helpful? It seems that Ukraine is refusing to face certain things that it desperately needs to address. If not, it will continue its slide towards the kind of society that obtains in Russia, minus the massive wealth from resources.

But that's exactly my concern. If Ukraine does not manage to keep a sufficient number of friends in the West, then it will gravitate towards the East. And that's the worst possible scenario.

If we do anything that might cause the U.S. to be shortsighted, then, in my opinion, we're doing the wrong thing.

Kostash delivers 1999 Mohyla Lecture

SASKATOON – The 1999 Mohyla Lecture was delivered on November 19 by nationally acclaimed author and writer Myrna Kostash of Edmonton. The lecture, titled “All of Baba’s Great Grandchildren: Ethnic Identity in the Next Canada,” was delivered in the Great Hall of the Shannon Library, St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan.

In her presentation, which was based loosely on a forthcoming book to be published by McLelland and Stewart, Ms. Kostash emphasized that despite the inherently ambiguous and fluid nature of ethnicity, ethnic identity continues to play an important role in the personal and public lives of young Canadian adults. The research material for the book and the conclusions drawn were the result of interviewing conducted across Canada among young adults of multicultural backgrounds.

Sponsored by the Prairie Center for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage at St. Thomas More College, the lecture is the fifth in the Mohyla Lecture series. In his introductory remarks, the director of the Prairie Center, Prof. Bohdan Kordan, underscored the importance of the Mohyla Lecture Series as both a vital link between the community and the university, and a forum at which issues critical to the life of the community might be vetted and discussed.

In conjunction with the 1999 Mohyla Lecture, an exhibition of Ukrainian Canadian folk painting was organized by Neil Richards of the Special Collections Department, University of Saskatchewan. The paintings of Dmytro Stryjek, Ann Harbuz, Anne Senkiw and Molly Lenhard will continue to be on display at the Link, at the university’s Murray Memorial Library, until January 15, 2000.

Voloshky to sing on CBC

SASKATOON – Voloshky, this city’s well-known Ukrainian vocal trio, may be heard singing Ukrainian Christmas carols on a CBC radio program to be broadcast across Canada on Wednesday, December 22, at 3 p.m. on the English network and at 11 p.m. on Friday, December 24, on the French network.

This is the second consecutive year that Voloshky have been asked to represent the Ukrainian culture in the annual multicultural celebration of Christmas music, whose proceeds go for the benefit of the Children’s Wish Foundation.

This year’s concert, titled “Waiting for the Star,” featured 50 musicians and vocalists representing some of Saskatchewan’s finest musical talent. Voloshky performed a total of four carols, including a seldom heard composition of “Boh Predvichny.” The concert program was recorded in front of a live audience on Thursday, November 25, at Knox

Metropolitan Church in Regina, Sask.

The program was produced by Michel Lalonde of CBC French Radio and was led by Colin Grewar, English-language commentator, and Francis Marchildon, French-language commentator.

Additional broadcasts of this program may be heard in Saskatchewan only on December 25 at 6 p.m. on CBC-AM radio on both the English and French stations, on December 26 at noon on CBC-FM radio, on December 24 at 4 p.m. on French radio.

Last year’s concert, in which Voloshky also performed, is now available on CD under the title “Waiting for the Star.” Copies of the CD may be obtained through the Children’s Wish Foundation, which also receives all sale proceeds. The Children’s Wish Foundation may be reached at (306) 955-0511 in Saskatoon or toll free at 1-800-267-9474. For information contact Al Kachkowski, (306) 374-7675.



The Voloshky ensemble of Saskatoon.

A tetrology...

(Continued from page 15)

black wide-strap buckled sandals by Aerosole, labeled “Made in Ukraine.”

• After four years, a \$20 million renovation and an acrimonious lawsuit, the Russian Tea Room has reopened its doors, once again offering Chicken Kiev [sic] and borscht [sic]. Though transformed into a glistening Winter Palace of etched glass, mirrors and gilded candelabra, the restaurant still relies on Ukrainian food standbys but has lightened its cuisine a bit – the chef puts a

cranberry pirozhok (pyrizhok) on the plate next to the borscht.

• The Syzokryli Ukrainian Dancers, directed by Roma Pryma-Bohachevsky, recently received a great report card from the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County (New York). The ensemble’s performances at two secondary schools in the exclusive Port Washington community on Long Island was given an “outstanding rating, based on student response, artistic quality and educational quality. Using a rating criteria of 1-5 points (1 = poor, 5 = outstanding), the board gave marks of “5” to Syzokryli in each category.

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AUTHOR’S QUERY

Professor Peter Roberts, former Canadian ambassador to the Soviet Union, is writing a book about the “Return to the homeland campaign.”

Return to the homeland means return to the Soviet Union in the years after Stalin’s death in 1953.

Would anyone who had experience of this campaign please get in touch with Professor Roberts at the following address:

Peter Roberts
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e-mail: peteglenna@cyberus.ca

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Irondequoit activists visit sister city of Poltava on the occasion of its 1,100th anniversary

by Tamara Denysenko

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – On the invitation of the Poltava City Council and Mayor Anatole Kukoba, a six-member delegation from the Town of Irondequoit, N.Y., traveled to Poltava, Ukraine, in September to celebrate Poltava's 1,100th anniversary. The official Irondequoit representative at the celebration was Town Clerk Lydia Dzus. Also on the trip were Town Councilman and president of the International Sister Cities Council Bill Bastuk; Tamara Denysenko, chair of the Irondequoit-Poltava Committee; Walter Denysenko; Prof. Wolodymyr (Mirko) Pylyshenko; president of the Ukrainian-American Business and Professional Association; and Alex Loj.

The trip was the culmination of nine years of Irondequoit-Poltava committee sister cities humanitarian aid, people-to-people and other community activities. As Poltava's official guests of honor, members of the delegation met with Mayor Kukoba, city and oblast officials and President Leonid Kuchma at the opening of the new Poltava Polyclinic. Members of the delegation joined representatives from Poltava's German sister city, neighboring countries and dignitaries as far away as India in a variety of official and social events that began with ceremonies at the World War II veterans memorial.

During the next several days, the delegation attended spectacular concerts in Poltava's amphitheater, where more than 800 amateur and professional performers presented traditional and contemporary Ukrainian songs and dances. In the Lysenko Opera House invited guests enjoyed the traditional opera "Natalka Poltavka."

Before the performance Ms. Dzus was invited on stage with other government, city and church officials for anniversary ceremonies and awards presentations by Mayor Kukoba and President Kuchma. In the Vorskla sports stadium over 25,000 spectators enjoyed four hours of Ukrainian folk and modern performances by local, national and international stars including Raissa Kirichenko and the Zaporizka Sich Brotherhood.

In honor of Poltava's anniversary, Ms. Dzus delivered greetings and gifts from Irondequoit Town Supervisor David Schantz. Councilman Bastuk presented greetings from County Executive Jack Doyle and from the city of Rochester, while Ms. Denysenko read greetings from Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, New York State Sen. James Alesi and the Ukrainian credit union movement.

To strengthen sister city relations and promote educational exchanges, Prof. Pylyshenko, on behalf of SUNY at Brockport, invited the Poltava Pedagogical Institute to establish student and faculty exchanges. He met with cooperative and business college professors, and made plans to provide Ukrainian and English language literature to Poltava Oblast public libraries.

Councilman Bastuk and Mr. Loj discussed school and young adult soccer exchanges, while the Denysenkos continued their humanitarian aid activities, delivering funds and much needed supplies to children in foster care and orphanages.

With Olya Klimko, the Poltava-Irondequoit president, they met with credit union representatives to discuss the Year 2000 International Credit Union conference to be held in Poltava. They also had an opportunity to visit the Poltava Maternity Hospital, where a neonatal unit was being set up under the auspices of the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund and the donations of CCRF Rochester Chapter. They delivered to 11-year-old Julia Tanko a generous life-saving gift of \$1,200 for heart surgery to implant a state-of-the-art pacemaker generously donated by Medtronic Inc. through the efforts of Sue Masters and the Irondequoit Chapter of Rotary International.

In addition to visiting several of Poltava's historic sights and participating in the grand opening of a new modern art gallery, the American delegation attended the dedication and blessing by Patriarch Filaret of grounds for a new Ukrainian Orthodox cathedral to be rebuilt in place of the original one destroyed by the Soviet regime in the 1930s.

Upon arriving in Kyiv, members of the delegation visited the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and presented a sister cities scholarship for outstanding students from the Poltava region. Before departing for the United States, Prof. Pylyshenko and Ms. Denysenko were recognized by National Deputy Pavlo Movchan and the Prosvita Society of Ukraine. Both were awarded honorary medals and received Recognition Awards for their "significant individual contribution in the rebirth of Ukrainian culture, in molding national consciousness, building and strengthening Ukrainian statehood."

For more information please write to: Irondequoit-Poltava Committee, c/o International Sister Cities Council of Irondequoit, P.O. Box 17621, Rochester, NY, 14617.

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Ukrainian Graduates...

(Continued from page 13)

president.

In 1998 the Distinguished Service Award was introduced in order to recognize prominent leaders of the Ukrainian American, and/or the Ukrainian Canadian communities. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Roma Dyhdalo of Troy, Mich., for her leadership and dedicated work with the organization Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council of the Detroit Metropolitan Area, as well as many other groups.

The most tenacious bond among the

graduates for the past 60 years has been The Graduate Bulletin, beginning with the first issue in 1940 by the original founder and editor Martha Wichorek. The bulletin has kept the members in touch with each other and the community.

Many changes in format and frequency of publication marked early years. Its banner assumed many forms, but its mission remained steadfast. Many editors have contributed their time and talents to making the Bulletin an indispensable part of the organization. The current editor, Olga Meyer, carries on this tradition of commitment. The Graduate Bulletin is symbolic of the organization's perseverance. It continues to maintain the bond that has informed and sustained the club throughout its 60 years.

Ukrainian World Congress...

(Continued from page 10)

weekend in 2000.

Other matters

The UWC's by-laws committee was mandated to examine, with pro bono assistance from Toronto-based counsel Ihor Bardyn, the matter of official incorporation of the UWC in both the U.S. and Canada.

World Council of Ukrainian Social Services Chair Ola Danyliw received support for her effort to hold a conference on the reform of the social assistance network in Ukraine and reported that negotiations with several of the country's ministries are ongoing.

The presidium is seeking candidates from the Plast Ukrainian Youth Organization to assume the post of chair of the Conference of Ukrainian Youth Organizations.

The wooden church...

(Continued from page 14)

Although closed to worshippers in 1962, since Ukrainian independence the church once more serves an active congregation.

The two Yasinia church stamps and the souvenir sheet described in the foregoing paragraphs were the first philatelic issues of any type to depict a Ukrainian church. Thus, they form the core of Ukrainian

topical collections for religion on stamps or churches on stamps. In addition, they are also necessary to any collector of architecture on stamps.

Dr. Inert Kuzych may be reached for comments or questions at P.O. Box 3, Springfield VA, 22150, or by e-mail at ingertik@gateway.net. One of his favorite collecting topics is Ukrainian wooden churches on stamps or stationery.

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Western Union's ethnic agents meet; holiday promotions are announced



Western Union's marketing team with an excellence award for advertising work done by the InterAccess agency: (from left) Yonatan Gozdanker of Western Union, Ewa Wierzynska and Ewa Zadrzynska of InterAccess, and Grazyna Bulka and Michael Tax, both of Western Union.

NEW YORK – Western Union announced the details of its holiday season promotion at a meeting of Western Union ethnic agents who specialize in transferring money to Central and Eastern Europe.

This year's promotion features the Western Union Welcome Home Sweepstakes; the grand prize is a luxury trip for two to the winner's home country or another destination of choice. Western Union customers are automatically entered into the sweepstakes with each money transfer they send through December.

In addition, with every transfer, cus-

tomers receive a scratch card and can win various prizes, including computers, video-cameras, luggage, phone cards and discounts on the next transfer.

Western Union will also incorporate an online aspect into its promotion. Visitors to www.westernunion.com will be able to see highlights of the Welcome Home Sweepstakes and print a voucher entitling them to receive free phone time the next time they send a qualifying money transfer transaction with Western Union. Website visitors can also enter the sweepstakes online after completing a short survey.

President Kuchma's...

(Continued from page 9)

mass in market transformations, further development of economic relations on a sustainable market basis. Radical steps will be taken to reform the budgetary and fiscal systems, to resolve the land issue as a basis for agricultural reform, to develop and protect entrepreneurship, to strengthen positions of the national capital, to support the domestic producer and establish an internal market. Combined with other large-scale measures, such as further liberalization and deregulation of economic relations, it will enable us to accomplish in general the reconstruction of the Ukrainian economy according to the market principles.

At the same time, this will provide the basis for the real and strong social policies. They include the following major components; change in the policy concerning revenues so that it favors the interest of people and features increasing salary growth rate; urgent pension reform; reconstruction of the system of medical care; effective policies on employment; practical and addressed support of the needy and less protected segments of the population.

In providing conditions for developing the potential of all our citizens, we have to pay special attention to the youth and the elderly. That is to say, those who are either about to start their active career, or have retired.

I believe that stimulating people's interest in private property should be one of the principal elements of the government's social policy. Generally speaking, I plan to shift government and public activity toward economic and social dimensions. A consolidated work in this most difficult and decisive direction should become the foundation for the unwritten public contract. I repeat, consolidated effort, with common responsibility, between the government and Parliament.

I particularly stress this because the social-economic situation determines not only people's living standards – our national security depends on the way in which we resolve our internal problems.

In addition to other things, I refer to energy and ecological security; all that is related to Ukraine's role as a transit country, as well as issues of military-economic security and all components of state defense capabilities.

We will optimize the composition of, and numbers in, the Armed Forces of Ukraine, increase effectiveness of decision-making with regard to the use of defensive potential that would be adequate to the international situation. Among the urgent tasks is improving the system of common and comprehensive planning of defensive measures, as well as developing the mechanism of civil control over the activities of the military. Building on what has already been achieved in this area, we will continue to increase the public prestige of the military profession, and we will take better care of people serving in the Armed Forces.

In the context of strengthening national security, I place particular emphasis on the fight against corruption and crime. Although no country, or society has managed to avoid this evil, the core questions are: "What is the scale of this evil, and how to cope with it?" In our country, corruption and crime originate from a weak state, an incomplete economic system, oversights by law enforcement, the judiciary and other bodies, as well as from incomplete and imperfect legislation. Last, but not least, they come from our legacy – the rudiments of the administrative-command system. Respectively, we will place emphasis on applying and combining two major approaches in our battle against corruption and crime – administrative, coercive and economic – as well as on decisive clean-up of the state structures. A state official must serve the state and its interest.

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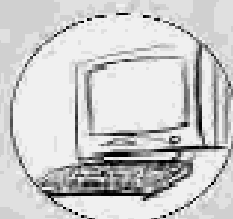
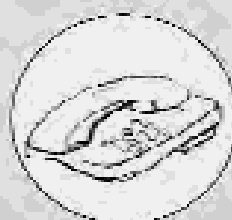
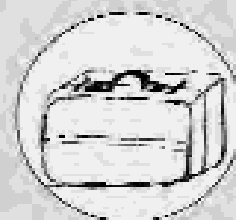
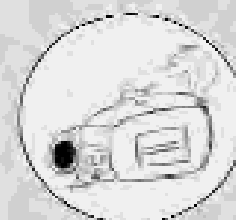
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Bohdan Kostiv	100.00	Mr. Byron Magalas	50.00	Mr. & Mrs. John Odulak	50.00	John Rogalo	15.00	Society for Humanitarian Help		Mr. & Mrs. Jaroslaw Tymoczko	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kostka	25.00	Dr. & Mrs. Ihor Mahlay	100.00	Roman G. Oleksyshyn	100.00	Dr. & Mrs. Gregory Rokosz	200.00	to Ukraine (North Port, FL)	62.00	Mr. & Mrs. Bohdan Tytla	25.00
T. Kotonsky	2.50	J. Majkut	10.00	Pauline Oleskiw	15.00	Andrew Rokycy	100.00	Mr. Michael Sofiak	150.00	Mr. & Mrs. Ewthen Tytla	25.00
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Ms. Sophie Kovolsky	20.00	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Makar	20.00	Myron Olesnycky	100.00	M. Romancio	2.50	Wasyli Soleclyj	10.00	Center (Pittsfield, PA)	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kowal	20.00	Teofil Makow	15.00	Olga Olijnyk	50.00	Mr. & Mrs. Mykola Romaniv	50.00	Mr. Martin Solonyinka	75.00	Ukrainian Committee	
Lydia Kowalchuk	50.00	Gregory Makuch	35.00	Ms. Bozhena Olshaniwsky	25.00	Mr. & Mrs. Wolodymyr Romaniv	100.00	Rose Soncrato	50.00	(Lorain, OH)	100.00
Alex Kowalenko (Clark, NJ)	25.00	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Makucha	15.00	Walter Olson	25.00	Alyn J. Roos	10.00	Mr. & Mrs. Rostyslaw Sonevitsky	25.00	Ukrainian Congress Committee	
Alex Kowalenko (Troy, MI)	75.00	Mr. Steve Malafy, Jr.	40.00	Mr. Serhij Olszanskij	100.00	John Roszko	100.00	Mr. & Mrs. Wasyli Sosiak	25.00	of America (East North Port, NY)	100.00
Roman Kowaliw	30.00	B. Z. Malaniak	25.00	Mr. & Mrs. Elias Onyszkewycz	25.00	Carlotta H. Rotman	50.00	Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Sosnick	25.00	Ukrainian National Home	
Norman Kowalski	50.00	Mr. & Mrs. Bohdan Malaniak	25.00	Paul Opacky	10.00	Betty Rotundo	5.00	Southborough Firefighters Assn. (MA)	50.00	(Brooklyn, NY)	100.00
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Mr. Jaroslaw G. Labka	20.00	Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Moloney	20.00	Andrew Petrina	150.00	Bohdan Sereda	100.00	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Szypula	200.00	Wasyli Worona	20.00
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UKELODEON

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

What's happening to our holidays?

by Lev Horodyskyj

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word "Christmas?" Santa Claus? Presents? Christmas trees? Shopping? Headache? What was once a celebrated holiday of Christ's birth has become an excuse for greed and maxing out credit cards. What have we done to our holidays?

We have allowed holidays to become corrupted in the interest of the economy. Buy, buy, buy! Even the word "holiday" is a corruption of the words "holy day." These once solemn occasions are no longer days when we pause in our hectic lives to reflect. We busy ourselves searching the malls for the latest "must have" items.

The early Christians died for their beliefs. Those beliefs were all they had. Easter was the most celebrated holiday because Jesus Christ rose from the dead. It was a very sacred holiday. Today, Christians engage in Easter egg hunts, give presents and make their semi-annual appearance in church.

Who remembers who St. Valentine was, or what he did? Today, Valentine's Day has become synonymous with hearts, chocolates, flowers and other gifts. St. Valentine was a martyr for the Christian faith. Love's association with him goes back to a pagan Roman holiday during which young people chose their true love for the year. It was celebrated at the same time St. Valentine died. Another saint, St. Patrick, did incredible things for Ireland. Now, St. Patrick's Day is an excuse for drinking, having parades and wearing green.

Christmas is probably our most tarnished holiday. Why are children growing up believing that Christmas is a special day for them? They think that Christmas is the day that Santa Claus brings them gifts. Not many remember that it is Jesus' birthday. We should spend Christmas day celebrating God's greatest gift to us, His only Son – not ripping open presents.

Even most of the major symbols of Christmas have lost their meaning. Who remembers what the candy cane stands for? Or who originally thought of decorating a pine tree? Who thought of the Nativity scene? Who was St. Nicholas? The candy cane was a symbol of Jesus, the shepherd. The cane was shaped like the shepherd's crook. The red symbolized the blood that Jesus shed for us. Martin Luther originated the idea of decorating a pine tree for Christmas. St. Francis created the Nativity set. St. Nicholas, a rich nobleman, gave anonymously to the poor. Christmas is now about Rudolph and Frosty the Snowman specials aired on TV before Halloween to get us in the mood for shopping.

Holy days are not the only ones that have lost their meaning. Does anyone remember that Halloween was a day to honor the dead and not a day to run from house to house begging for candy? What do you do on Veterans' Day? Did you fly a flag in memory of those who died to protect our freedom? Does anyone remember that Thanksgiving was the day the Puritans gave thanks for arriving safely in the New World and not a day to gorge on turkey, watch parades all morning and football all afternoon? The day after Thanksgiving has now become a national holiday – the first day of the "shopping season." Giving is good, but what happens on the day after Christmas? All the people dissatisfied with their presents rush back to the stores to return them.

I remember one late August seeing a store already selling artificial Christmas trees. Nowadays, we just seem to make Thanksgiving an extension of Christmas. Some people don't even bother to take down their Christmas lights, they just leave them up all year long. All the holidays are starting to look alike. What is happening to our holidays? Maybe one day it will be "Trick or treat! Happy Hallo-giving! Here's a candy cane and a chocolate egg for your Independence basket."

In order to protect the next generation from holiday corruption, we need to teach them now why we celebrate holidays. And it is not to get gifts or chocolates, take time off from work, party, or lie around in bed all day. Do we know why we celebrate holidays? Will our children know?

Lev Horodyskyj is a freshman at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He has contributed to UKELODEON in the past.

Plast girls complete a good deed



Girls of Plast's "Bdzhilky" patrol at Historic Speedwell with the historic site's board of trustees president and program director.

by Dara Denysyk

MORRISTOWN, N.J. – The "Bdzhilky" Plast patrol of Newark/Morris County, N.J., performed their scouts' good deed here at Historic Speedwell, a national historic site and museum.

After enjoying an outdoor picnic on the seven-and-a-half-acre site, the Plast girls helped at the museum in the following manner: planting spring flowers and bulbs, weeding, moving furniture, sweeping, cataloguing the museum's book collections and organizing the archives.

Historic Speedwell has eight historic structures and a pond. It preserves the remainder of the Vail Homestead and House Mansion, where you can view the last two portraits painted by S.F.B. Morse, professionally a portrait painter; and features an exhibit of the Speedwell Iron

Works, which built the motor for the first steamship to cross the Atlantic, the S.S. Savannah.

It is the site of the birthplace of the telegraph, where Alfred Vail and Samuel Morse developed and first publicly demonstrated the Morse Code and Telegraph in 1838.

Each Ukrainian scout – Victoria Baranetsky, Dara Denysyk, Slava Halibey, Melanie Nycz, Andrea Popovich, Daria Szkwarko, Natalie Turynsky and Marta Yacykewych – received a letter of thanks for her volunteer work.

"The above-named scouts are welcome to come back and volunteer in the future. They made a difference. We are grateful for their skill, talent and time," wrote Kathleen Duane, president of the board of trustees of Historic Speedwell, and Anna Denysyk, program director at Historic Speedwell.



Victoria Baranetsky, Daria Szkwarko, Marta Yacykewych, Natalie Turynsky and Andrea Popovich clean up inside Estey House, one of the historic buildings at Historic Speedwell.

More than 170 Plast youths attend annual Orlykiada at Soyuzivka

by Tatiana Kuzmowycz

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – During the weekend of November 12-14, yet another Plast gathering occurred at the Ukrainian National Association Resort Soyuzivka. Only three weeks after the 24th Plast National Convention of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, over 170 Ukrainian youth (“yunatstvo” age 13-18) gathered for a competition known as Orlykiada. The colorful autumn leaves had long since fallen, and the cold air started this eventful weekend.

This competition is an opportunity for Plast youth to meet with one another and enjoy the competitive spirit and teamwork essential to Orlykiada. The event is organized by the senior fraternity known as the Orlykivtsi, named after Hetman Hryhorii Orlyk. It has taken place annually since 1962.

This year, Plast members attended from all over the United States and Canada: from New York, Newark, Philadelphia, Toronto, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Washington, Passaic, Rochester, Hartford, Boston and Hempstead. Seventeen teams were registered to compete. The theme of this competition was the 50th anniversary of Plast in America.

Opening ceremonies began at 10 a.m. on Saturday. In attendance were all 17 teams, with approximately 25 counselors, guests and members of the sponsoring Orlykivtsi headed by Mr. Kurchak. Master of ceremonies Bohdan Kopystianskyj and “bunchuzhnyi” Tymish Korytko, gathered the plastuny for the opening ceremonies, while Tamara Heimur read the program.

Immediately following the opening ceremonies the question and answer session began. Yunatstvo attending the competition had prepared long before this November weekend. Preparatory information on the history of Plast’s development in the United States was sent out to each scouting



Orlykiada participants in front of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, located down the hill from Soyuzivka.

branch in the United States and Canada. Since only 12 representatives from each troop (“kurin”) may attend, many counselors gave tests to select the best possible team.

The teams also prepared a project on a specific topic dealing with the history of Plast in the United States. Each team showed creativity on how to approach this project. Some of the projects included a map depicting locations of Plast branches, a photo history of Plast’s Jamborees, camp kitchen menus, homemade Plast medallions, a scene from a typical camp set-up, the history of “KBT” – a U.S.-based camp for “yunatstvo” wishing to attain Eagle Scout ranking, joint U.S./Canadian Plast projects, and a creative and colorful model of a millennium celebration at Times Square with many buildings and questions in each window that was designed by the Newark girls team.

After lunch on Saturday the skit

performances began. There were many variations of skits, ranging from serious campfire simulations, to interesting songs and dances. Creativity was at its highest level during this phase of the competition, and the entire room was crowded during the performances. Skits were judged on originality, team work and adherence to the given topic. The room echoed with laughter and applause. The group from Toronto won this phase of the competition with a creative and exciting musical performance in which they took popular Broadway show tunes and wrote lyrics to them dealing with the history of Plast. Later that evening a dance was held, with D.J. Adyk Kwitkowsky, and the youths got to enjoy themselves and stray away from the competitive atmosphere of earlier that day.

Sunday morning everyone attended divine liturgy followed by the traditional group picture, then the competition resumed. This time team competitions were over, but 10 boys and girls competed for the position of “Hetman” and “Hetmanivna,” the leaders of this Orlykiada. Each competitor took the stage and recited one paragraph that they had earlier memorized, outlining the biography of Hryhorii Orlyk. Then, they were asked questions dealing with current affairs, the future of Plast, their personal goals, etc. During the closing ceremonies of the 38th Orlykiada it was announced that Markian Dobczansky of Washington, was selected “Hetman” and the “Hetmanivna” was Natalia Terpliak of Toronto.

Closing ceremonies were at noon

on Sunday. Once again the main hall was lined with teams and their flags, and in attendance were guests, counselors, members of the Orlykivtsi and Plast’s National Council. Mr. Korchak distributed the certificates to all the teams, and the winners were announced.

Project winners: first place – Troop 20; Newark girls; second place – Detroit; third place – Troop 2, New York girls.

Question and answer session: first place – Troop 7, Chicago boys; second place – Troop 10, Toronto; third place – Troop 4, Philadelphia girls.

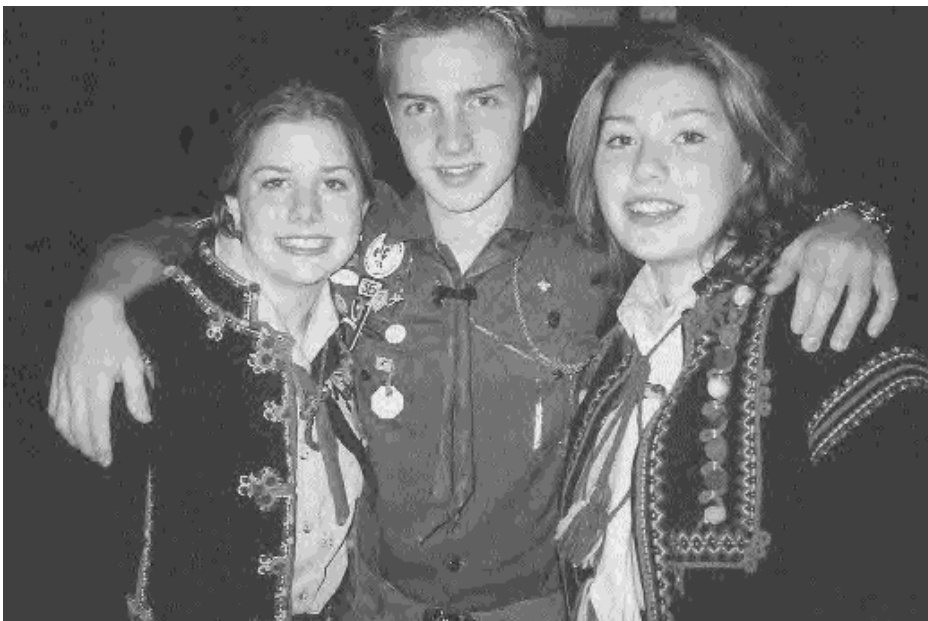
Skits: first place – Troop 10, Toronto; second place – Washington; third place – Detroit.

Overall standings – boys: first place – Troop 7, Chicago; second place – Detroit; third place – Troop 3, New York; first place – Troop 10, Toronto; second place – Troop 4, Philadelphia; third place – Troop 2, New York.

Closing remarks were given by the national commander of “yunatstvo,” Marta Kuzmowycz, who congratulated everyone for the wonderful team work of the participants and gave thanks to the Orlykivtsi for their 38 continuous years of work for Ukrainian scouting youth. The event ended with everyone singing “Mnohaia Lita.”

It appears the competitive spirit is contagious, since Orlykiady have now been taking place in Ukraine for the past five years as well.

As everyone was preparing to leave Soyuzivka, there were final hugs and kisses and tears – for some older “yunatstvo” this was their last Orlykiada, but many others will be back next fall for the 39th Orlykiada.



Friends meet at Orlykiada: (from left) Tatiana Kuzmowycz, Roman Hankewycz and Talia Hud.

Children's contest is announced

NEW YORK – As the entire world prepares to celebrate the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Christ, the New York Regional Council of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America is planning an exhibit in the year 2000 celebrating the creativity of children. Participation in the exhibit is open to all children, age 5 to 14.

To ensure the success of this project, the UNWLA is asking all teachers, educators and parents to encourage children to participate by submitting their works for inclusion in this exhibition. Every aspect of creative

ability is welcome: all art such as paintings, drawings, sculpture, constructions, models; the written word including poetry and prose; and handcrafts, for example, embroidery and pysanky.

The "Children's Exhibit" will be on display for two weeks. During that period, one day will be devoted to live performances by participants.

The submission date for all entries is February 28, 2000. Please include all pertinent information for each individual entry: name, address and age of participant; title of the submitted entry, and if applicable the materials used to create it; also the school, organization, or other affiliation of the participant, etc.

The date and place of the exhibition will be announced in the spring of 2000. We ask all Ukrainian organizations, schools and parents for their support and participation in this undertaking.

Please mail all entries to: UNWLA Regional Council, c/o Daria Kostiw, 108 Second Ave., New York, NY, 10003. For additional information, call (212) 228-1244 after 7 p.m.

UKELODEON: it rhymes with nickelodeon, an early movie theater that charged a nickel for admission. The root of the word, "odeon," is from the Greek "oideion," a small building used for public performances of music and poetry. Our UKELODEON is envisioned as a public space where our youth, from kindergartners to teens, can come to learn, to share information, to relate their experiences, and to keep in touch with each other.

Mishanyna

K	D	E	S	H	O	L	Y	C	G	D	D	O	R	V
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I	R	P	M	A	N	G	E	R	R	T	A	S	D	D

Locate the words or phrases below to solve our December Mishanyna. All of the words are somehow related to the last month of the year and Christmas.

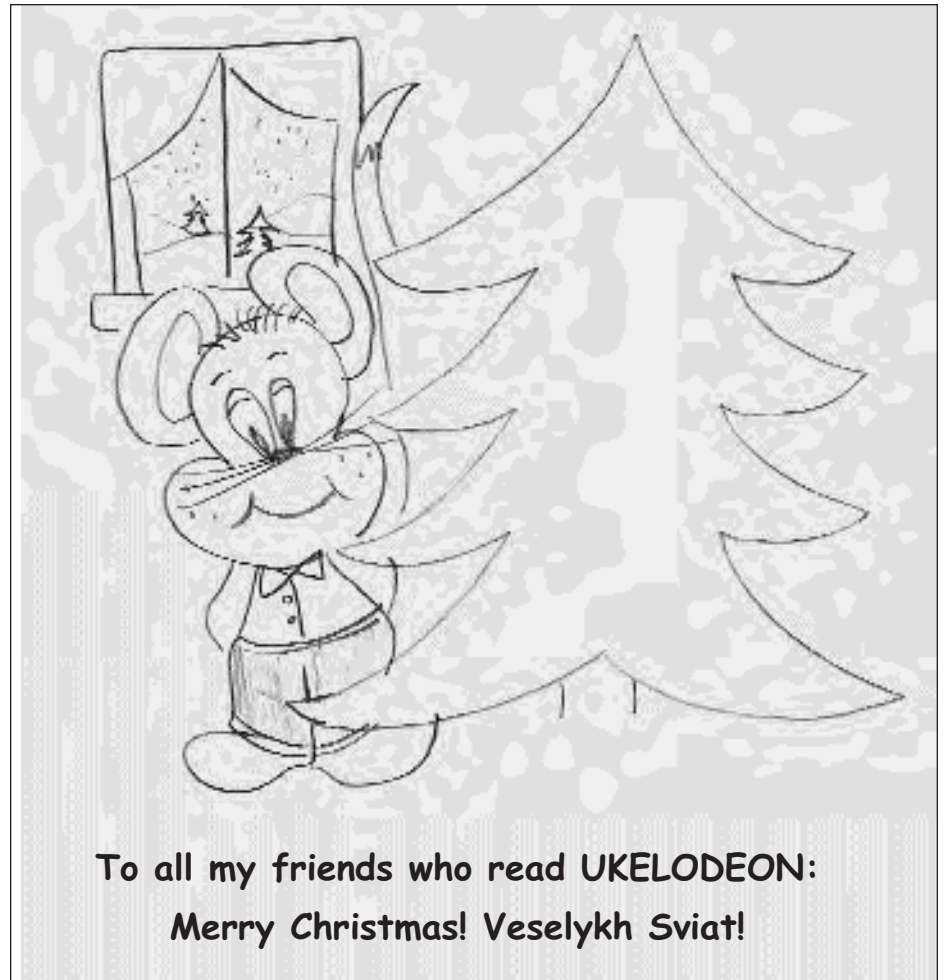
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|------------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| Bethlehem | icicle | Mary | St. Nicholas |
| carols | Jesus Christ | Mykolai | stable |
| Christmas | Joseph | present | Three Kings |
| December | koliada | Schedryk | vertep |
| holy night | manger | snow | winter |

OUR NEXT ISSUE:

UKELODEON is published on the second Sunday of every month. To make it into our next issue, dated January 9, 2000, please send in materials by December 30.

Please drop us a line: UKELODEON, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054; fax, (973) 644-9510. Call us at (973) 292-9800; or send e-mail to staff@ukrweekly.com.

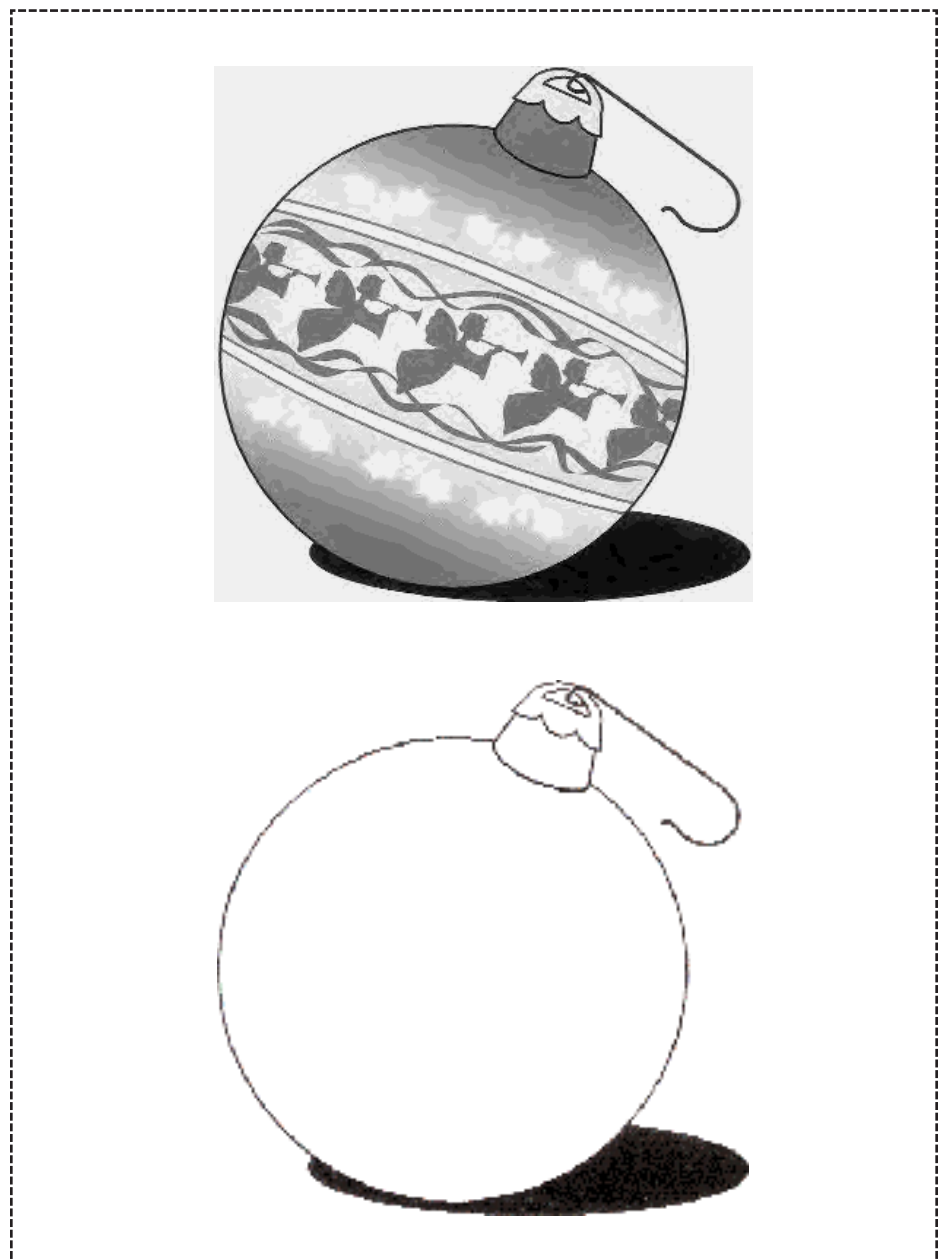
Myshka's Christmas



Design your own ornament

Following up on the success of its pysanka project for Eastertime, UKELODEON presents a coloring activity for Christmas. The choice is yours: simply color the top ornament or design your own using the blank ornament.

If you want to help The Ukrainian Weekly decorate its office for Christmas, please send in your completed ornaments to UKELODEON at The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. PS: Don't forget to write your name, age and address on the back of your ornament.





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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 12

CHICAGO: The Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art presents a concert featuring pianist Mykola Suk in a program of works by Haydn, Thalberg and Liszt. The concert will be held at the institute, 2320 W. Chicago Ave., at 2 p.m.

Friday, December 17

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club presents "Creation Myths as Reflected in Pre-Christian Ritual Koliadky," as part of the "Archetypes of Ukrainian Culture" series. Anna Bachynska, Ludmyla Hrabovska and students from the New York School of Bandura will perform the koliadky, with Alla Kutsevych and Lavrentia Turkewicz accompanying on the bandura; commentary by Slava Gerulak. Donation: \$5. The evening will be held at the Mayana Gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor, at 7 p.m. For more information call (212) 260-4490 or (212) 777-8144. Website: <http://www.brama.com/mayana>. The performance is funded in part by the New York State Council on the Arts.

WASHINGTON: The Washington Group (TWG) invites everyone to the annual TWG Christmas Party, which will be held beginning at 8 p.m. at the historic Evans Farm Inn, 1696 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Va.; telephone, (703) 356-8000. Admission: \$25; includes food, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, music and a special appearance by renowned bandurist Roman Hryniv from Kyiv. The TWG Cultural Fund will be holding a silent auction during the Christmas party. For more information call Tanya Stasiuk, (703) 875-8036.

Saturday, December 18

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Art and Literary Club presents "Ritual of Andriy Kalyta," as part of the "Archetypes of Ukrainian Culture" series. Oksana Lykhovyd will direct the Ukrainka Rodyna choral ensemble in an enactment of an ancient winter solstice ritual. Bandura accompaniment will be by Lavrentia Turkewicz. The program will feature magical songs, ritual foods and

divination. The evening will be held at the Mayana Gallery, 136 Second Ave., fourth floor, at 5 p.m. For more information, call (212) 260-4490 or (212) 777-8144. Website: <http://www.brama.com/mayana>. The performance is funded in part by the New York State Council on the Arts.

Sunday, December 19

MENDHAM, N.J.: New York City Opera soprano Oksana Krovytska will perform, with soloists Misa Iwama, mezzo-soprano, Andrew Richards, tenor, and Michail Krutikov, bass, and a chamber orchestra featuring The Meridian String Quartet and The Five Woodwind Quintet at the Mallinckrodt Convent of the Sisters of Christian Charity. The concert, under the direction of Rick Hartung, Ms. Krovytska's husband, will consist of various Christmas selections from operas and oratorios, as well as carols and songs from around the world. The latter section will feature the New York area premiere of a group of Ukrainian carols arranged by V. Polezhayev and Mr. Hartung. The convent is located at 350 Bernardsville Road. Tickets: \$38 in advance; \$43 at the door; patron tickets; reserved seats, \$75. For additional information call (973) 543-6528, ext. 313. The concert is presented by New York Concert Opera; proceeds to benefit the Sisters of Christian Charity and their charitable works.

NEW YORK: The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America invites everyone to attend a community event with three independent journalists from Kyiv, who will discuss "Freedom of the Press during Ukraine's Recent Presidential Elections." The discussion will be held at the Ukrainian Liberation Front Building, 136 Second Ave., at 2 p.m. For further information call the UCCA office, (212) 228-6840.

PASSAIC, N.J.: Plast Passaic invites all children, young and old, to a Christmas play, followed by a visit from St. Nicholas at noon at St. Nicholas School Hall, 212 President St. The heavenly office will open at 10 a.m. Please mark packages clearly.

PLEASE NOTE NEW REQUIREMENTS:

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (**\$10 per submission**) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Payment must be received prior to publication.

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

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. No information will be taken over the phone. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment of \$10 for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published. Also, please include the phone number of a person who may be contacted by The Weekly during daytime hours. Information should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Notice to publishers and authors

It is The Ukrainian Weekly's policy to run news items and/or reviews of newly published books, booklets and reprints, as well as records and premiere issues of periodicals, only after receipt by the editorial offices of a copy of the material in question.

News items sent without a copy of the new release will not be published.

Send new releases and information (where publication may be purchased, cost, etc.) to: The Editor, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.