

INSIDE:

• "1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW" – beginning on page 9.

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Ukraine's ambassador to U.S., two consuls general are recalled

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON – Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Anton Buteiko, has been recalled to Kyiv along with Ukraine's two consuls general in this country – Yuriy Bohaievsky in New York and Borys Bazylevsky in Chicago.

No specific reason was given for cutting short Ambassador Buteiko's assignment in Washington, which began in November 1998. (His predecessor, Ambassador Yuri Shcherbak, who now serves as foreign affairs advisor to the president, had spent four years in Washington.) Mr. Bohaievsky had served in New York for one year, after serving for a year and half as Ukraine's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, and Mr. Bazylevsky arrived in Chicago four months ago. The three diplomats reportedly were instructed to vacate their posts by January 5.

A number of Ukrainian diplomats serving in other countries also were recalled home following President Kuchma's re-election in November.

Dr. Buteiko's impending departure was not completely unexpected. Rumors to that effect had been circulating here since before President Kuchma's Washington visit on December 8. The recall letter arrived a few days later.

Washington Post writer Nora Boustany, who broke the story in her "Diplomatic Dispatches" column on

December 17, suggested that the first-round presidential election absentee voting results in Washington, New York and Chicago had "disappointed" President Kuchma and that the "political fallout is roiling Ukrainian diplomatic ranks."

Immediately following the first round, the Kuchma administration had sacked the governors of three oblasts that voted decisively for his opponents.

In an interview for *The Ukrainian Weekly*, Ambassador Buteiko said that, personally, he could not comprehend any kind of a link between the election results at the Embassy and his recall.

"I know that the election process at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington was democratic, as witnessed by American observers," he said. "The president received a plurality of the votes in the first round, and more than 70 percent of the votes in the final round." (About 160 Ukrainian citizens cast their ballots at the Embassy.)

"Therefore, it's very difficult for me to conclude that this recall is somehow connected with the election results," he said. "Only those who made the decision know the real reason," he added.

Asked if there was any mention of the election in the recall letter, Dr. Buteiko said, "No. The letter I received notified me that it was decided that I return to Ukraine, expressed appreciation for my effort in expanding our economic, political, military and humanitarian relations with the United States,

(Continued on page 3)

Verkhovna Rada overwhelmingly approves reformer Viktor Yuschenko as prime minister

by Stefan Korshak

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – For once, Ukraine's President and Parliament were on the same sheet of music, and economic reform was playing in the background. While President Leonid Kuchma looked on approvingly, national deputies across the political spectrum joined December 22 to give their overwhelming approval to National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) boss Viktor Yuschenko's nomination as Ukraine's next prime minister.

Mr. Yuschenko received 296 votes in favor of his candidacy for the nation's second-highest government job, out of 316 deputies present. Twelve deputies cast their ballots against Mr. Yuschenko, while four registered themselves as present but abstained from voting. The remaining 136 deputies, some absent, did not vote.

Debate was almost completely laudatory, but Mr. Yuschenko responded sharply to one Communist deputy's allegation he had become personally wealthy while running the NBU.

"If you don't believe me, tomorrow there will be a bus at the front door of the Parliament," Mr. Yuschenko said. "Any deputy who wants to check can drive to my house and see how wealthy I am."

But, perhaps significantly, even three members of the usually rabidly leftist Progressive Socialist Party – headed by Leninist Natalia Vitrenko – broke party ranks to join the heavy majority supporting Mr. Yuschenko's candidacy.

The lopsided legislative victory marks a critical success in President Kuchma's efforts to build a working parliamentary



Efrem Lukatsky

Ukraine's new prime minister, Viktor Yuschenko.

majority to support campaign promises to accelerate the pace of Ukrainian economic reforms.

The former Soviet republic has lagged well behind neighbors Poland and Hungary in shifting its economy over to a free market. One of the biggest barriers to implementation of more radical Ukrainian economic reform has been a long-standing impasse between Mr. Kuchma, who advertises himself as a business-friendly centrist, and largely leftist parliamentary deputies.

Mr. Kuchma nominated the 45-year-old Mr. Yuschenko after the Verkhovna Rada shot down Mr. Kuchma's first nomination, long-time political ally and sometimes hatchet man Valerii Pustovoitenko on December 14.

But on December 22 politicians across Ukraine's political spectrum were registering their support in favor of President Kuchma's second choice for prime minister, a man best known for a strict monetarist policy and facile, if not always successful, handling of Ukraine's national currency, the hryvnia.

"Viktor Yuschenko is the kind of professional Ukraine needs right now," said National Deputy Stepan Havrysh, a Revival of Regions faction member. "With our financial problems we need someone who can deal with Ukraine's foreign debt."

Mr. Yuschenko made clear that his short-term goal as prime minister is precisely that, via stabilization of Ukraine's shaky finances. Ukraine faces \$3 billion worth of foreign obligations coming due in year 2000 alone, and commercial

(Continued on page 56)

UNA Executive Committee holds last quarterly meeting of 1999

by Martha Lysko

KERHONKSON, N.Y. – The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian National Association met on December 4 at the UNA estate Soyuzivka during the annual meeting of the General Assembly.

President Ulana Diachuk, presided over the quarterly meeting of the committee. Present at the meeting were: Stefko Kuropas, first vice-president; Anya Dydyk-Petrenko, second vice-president; the Rev. Myron Stasiw, director for Canada; Martha Lysko, national secretary; Stefan Kaczaraj, treasurer; and William Pastuszek, chairman of the Auditing Committee.

The reports for the last quarter were not presented since they were topics for the General Assembly meeting in progress at Soyuzivka on December 3 to 5, which was attended by the entire governing body of the UNA. (See *The Weekly*, December 12.)

A major appointment was approved by

the Executive Committee. The UNA's Canadian accountant Bohdan Mocherniak was appointed the fraternal organization's new chief agent for Canada since he is able to comply with more stringent Canadian requirements now demanded by the Canadian insurance authorities. President Diachuk expressed sincere thanks to Yaroslava Zorych who for many years served as the UNA's chief agent and worked diligently in that capacity.

The major topics of discussion during this abbreviated meeting of the Executive Committee were UNA investments and UNA investment policy. The motion to approve the new investment policy was tabled until the next meeting of the committee, which is scheduled for March of next year.

The Executive Committee is looking into the possibility of hiring an investment manager to handle its investments. The three companies contacted for information on

investment management were reviewed. One replied that they handle only companies with assets of \$1 billion or more, while the others sent in proposals for review. Mr. Kuropas agreed to review the proposals and report to the committee at the next meeting.

It was noted that during all of 1999 the Executive Committee struggled to develop a sound investment policy that would conform to industry standards but still give the best yields possible.

As mandated annually by insurance authorities, all members of the Executive Committee signed a conflict of interest statement.

Members of the Executive Committee voted unanimously that the President Diachuk should represent the UNA and participate in the Council of Presidents of Ukrainian American Organizations. This body was formed on September 15 after the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations held in June in Washington.

ANALYSIS

A decade of disappointments

by Paul Goble
RFE/RL Newline

The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 unleashed great expectations that the world was entering a new period of democracy, free markets, peace and stability. But despite the undeniable progress almost everyone has made, the decade since that time has brought even greater disappointments, both in the countries that languished under Communist domination as well as in those that had actively fought that political system.

Such a sequence, of course, is typical of periods of massive change. As the Polish writer Adam Michnik points out in the current issue of the American journal *Dissent*, "any great social change unleashes great expectations. And therefore, of course, it leads to great disappointments."

This particular decade of disappointed expectations has had the unintended consequence of focusing attention on three aspects of the Communist experience in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe that many participants in and analysts of these developments have until now been largely unwilling to confront.

First, communism was far more insidious, pervasive and evil than even many of its sharpest critics have been prepared to acknowledge. As a result, overcoming its consequences requires a far greater effort over a longer period than many had earlier assumed.

The Communist regimes of the region killed millions of people and destroyed their physical environment in the name of a supposedly higher good – something even former Communists now acknowledge. But these regimes also deformed the mental and moral make-up of the people living under them.

The Communist authorities were ultimately unsuccessful in reducing everyone to the status of "homo Sovieticus." Had they been able to achieve that objective, these regimes might have survived far longer than they did. Nonetheless they did have a major impact on those over whom they exercised their power, as any comparison of pre-Communist and post-Communist periods in these countries shows.

Paul Goble is the publisher of RFE/RL Newline.

Many of the most committed anti-Communists, however, had assumed that formally replacing communism as the ruling ideological system with democracy and free market economics would be sufficient to overcome up to seven decades of Communist indoctrination.

Second, Soviet domination of this region was never only about communism, and resistance to that domination was never only about communism. Instead, it was about nationalism and patriotism – values that the Soviet system sometimes actively exploited and at other times even more actively opposed.

There remain enormous differences between those countries where indigenous groups imposed communism and those where a foreign occupying power did so. In the former, many people viewed the Communist government as somehow their own, even if they hated it for what it did. In the latter, far more people viewed it as what it was, an occupying force that they would ultimately overthrow.

During the Communist period this difference helped explain the pride many Russians took in the achievements of the Soviet state, even if they were suffering as much as anyone else from its rule. And it explains some of the impetus behind East European resistance to Communist occupation, not only in 1956 and 1968, but in the struggle to overthrow communism a decade ago.

But as important as these differences were in Soviet times, they have become even more significant in the post-Communist period. It has proved far less difficult for those societies that always viewed communism as something foreign to turn away from it than it has been for those that saw communism as part of their own national patrimony.

To a large extent, this national dimension of communism and its collapse has been either ignored or downplayed by all involved. Any mention of it inevitably reopens the question of just what the Cold War was about. And, any discussion of this dimension of that conflict opens a variety of broader historical issues that political leaders in both the East and the West believe are best resolved by being ignored.

Third, the struggle between those who did the oppressing and those who were

(Continued on page 46)

National deputies regroup in Verkhovna Rada

RFE/RL Poland, Belarus and Ukraine Report

PRAGUE – Over the past two weeks, the Ukrainian Parliament saw a number of "deputy transfers." Some 20 national deputies left their former caucuses to join others or to have no parliamentary affiliation whatsoever.

Ukrainian commentators and politicians suggest that regrouping is due to the anticipated creation of a pro-government majority in the Verkhovna Rada.

"It's nothing, don't worry, they will come back as soon as all [Cabinet] portfolios are distributed," Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko told the Verkhovna Rada on December 1, as he announced a list of deputies who decided to change their parliamentary colors on that day.

Mr. Tkachenko's Peasant Party caucus has lost four deputies and now has only 10. According to the parliamentary regulations, a caucus must consist of at least 14 deputies (if it is unable to replenish its ranks within two weeks, it must be dissolved). Mr. Tkachenko said the Communist Party has

decided to "donate" seven communist deputies to prop up the Peasant Party caucus, reportedly to reciprocate for the support Mr. Tkachenko gave to Petro Symonenko in the presidential election campaign.

Some Ukrainian newspapers, meanwhile, reported that some deputies allegedly were bribed to change caucuses.

As of December 2, the line-up in the Parliament was as follows: the Communist Party, 122 deputies; the Social Democratic Party (United), 33; Fatherland, 31; the Popular Democratic Party, 29; the Popular Rukh led by Yuriy Kostenko, 28; the Revival of Regions, 28; Labor Party, 27; the Left Center bloc (Socialists and Peasants), 25; Green Party, 19; Rukh led by Hennadiy Udovenko, 16; Reforms-Congress, 15; Independent, 15; the Progressive Socialist Party, 14; Hromada Party, 12; Peasants' Party, 10.

Twenty-one deputies have no affiliation (the Verkhovna Rada currently has 445 deputies out of the 450 provided in the Constitution of Ukraine).

NEWSBRIEFS

Rukh faction holds 'unifying' congress

KYIV – Some 740 delegates on December 18 took part in the "constituent and unifying congress" of Rukh, which was organized by the Rukh faction headed by Yuriy Kostenko, Interfax reported. However, the Rukh faction headed by Hennadii Udovenko did not participate in the congress. Rukh's split into two groups this spring was followed by bitter enmity and court litigation over which group has the right to inherit the movement's historical name – Narodnyi Rukh Ukrainy, or the National Movement of Ukraine. From a legal viewpoint, Mr. Udovenko remains head of both Rukh and its parliamentary caucus. (RFE/RL Newline)

Leftists to boycott Rada session

KYIV – Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko said on December 16 that his caucus will boycott the session unless the Verkhovna Rada includes on its agenda a discussion of the presidential decree abolishing collective farms, Interfax reported. The Progressive Socialist Party caucus walked out in protest after deputies failed to approve including that issue on the December 17 agenda. Leftist caucuses oppose the abolition of collective farms in Ukraine, while some 100 deputies have asked the Constitutional Court to declare the decree unconstitutional. (RFE/RL Newline)

Kuchma comments on Russian elections

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma on December 20 praised the strong showing of centrist parties in the Russian parliamentary elections, Mr. Kuchma's spokesman Oleksander Martynenko told Interfax. According to the Ukrainian president, such results mean the success of forces oriented toward introducing further democratic and market transformations. Mr. Kuchma noted that a majority of Russians demonstrated their belief that the political and economic processes in their country are irrevocable. Meanwhile, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko said the electoral victory of Russian Communists will positively influence the development of Ukrainian-Russian relations. (RFE/RL Newline)

IMF to Kyiv: money after reforms

KYIV – The International Monetary Fund's Kyiv mission chief, Mohammed Shadman-Valavi, said on December 16 that the IMF's new loans will depend on the country taking concrete steps toward implementing reforms, UNIAN reported. The

IMF's permanent representative in Ukraine, David Orsmond, said the fund expects Kyiv to introduce a program of reforms that are "large-scale and quite ambitious," according to Interfax. So far, Ukraine has received \$965 million from the IMF's \$2.6 billion loan package. (RFE/RL Newline)

Kuchma cuts state bureaucracy

KYIV – President Leonid Kuchma has signed a decree reducing the number of ministries and other central executive bodies from 89 to 35, Interfax reported, quoting presidential administration chief Volodymyr Lytvyn. The number of ministries has been reduced from 18 to 15 and the number of Cabinet members from 24 to 20. Administrative reform was one of the International Monetary Fund's key demands for resuming its loan program for Ukraine. (RFE/RL Newline)

Russia halts energy supplies to Ukraine

MOSCOW – Russia has suspended its supplies of oil and electricity to Ukraine after accusing the country of stealing Russian gas from pipelines crossing its territory, Interfax reported on December 10. The Russian government approved disconnecting supplies when Kyiv reportedly failed to respond to Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's letter to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, in which the former accused Ukraine of siphoning off Russian gas bound for Europe. Russian Energy Minister Viktor Kaliuzhnyi said on December 10 that Ukraine is stealing some 150 million to 200 million cubic meters of Russian gas a day. He added that the oil and electricity supplies can be resumed only if Ukraine takes a "constructive stand" on repaying its debt to Russia for gas supplies, according to ITAR-TASS. (RFE/RL Newline)

Ukraine shrugs off energy threats ...

KYIV – First Vice Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh on December 13 said neither the Russian Federation nor Gazprom has taken any measures against Ukraine in connection with the accusations that Ukraine siphons off Russian gas from transit pipelines, Interfax reported. Responding to the Russian energy minister's statement that Russia halted oil and electricity supplies to Ukraine, Mr. Kinakh said Ukraine has not imported electricity from Russia in 1999 so "there is nothing to halt." He added that Russian oil supplies are handled by commercial firms, so "there is

(Continued on page 46)

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Ukraine's ambassador...

(Continued from page 1)

and set a date by which I should return."

Neither did the letter mention any new assignment for him, Dr. Buteiko answered, suggesting, however, that this might be due to the government reorganization reforms President Kuchma initiated a few days earlier, which will cut back 89 government entities to 35 and pare down the number of ministries from 18 to 15.

During the interview Ambassador Buteiko underscored some of the Embassy's accomplishments over the past year, expressed his personal views about the best future course for Ukraine's foreign policy and shared some parting thoughts with the Ukrainian American community.

"I know that the Embassy worked earnestly and effectively, taking into account our manpower and financial resources," he said. "We've had a number of achievements of which I am proud, and I am pleased that during my tenure here we achieved, I think, a higher degree of mutual understanding between Ukraine and the United States."

Dr. Buteiko said that when he came to Washington a year ago there were some 30 commercial disputes involving American businesses in Ukraine, and today only four remain to be resolved. The Embassy organized two presidential visits, as well as visits by the prime minister and more than 70 official delegations, helping to ensure the success of their trips.

Dr. Buteiko was especially pleased with the success of the most recent presidential visit, during which 12 bilateral agreements were signed.

Among the important agreements, he cited the "New Generation" program, which next year will bring 2,400 Ukrainian high school and college students to study in the United States. The program is based on an idea he brought with him to Washington, he said.

"One could say that my work here has been very satisfying," Dr. Buteiko said. "Now we have the president's decision to recall me. The president is implementing his program, and he knows best where his cadres are needed."

Discussing some of the domestic and foreign issues confronting Ukraine, Ambassador Buteiko said that the left has been throwing obstacles in the way of President Kuchma's reform programs, especially in its attempt to derail his new, major agrarian reform program aimed at doing away with the collective farm system.

"I doubt that the left will be successful because the Ukrainian people, for the most part, have come to the realization that reforms are absolutely necessary, that there is no future without them," Dr. Buteiko said. "I am certain that the president understands this probably better than anyone else, and he is implementing them."

He said that during the recent talks in Washington both the U.S. government and international financial institutions indicated their willingness to help Ukraine, but they indicated that "such assistance would be effective only if Ukraine more effectively implements its economic and administrative reforms and intensifies its fight against organized crime and corruption."

Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk and Ambassador Buteiko, when he served as the principal vice minister of foreign affairs, were widely known as the "Westernizers" of Ukraine's foreign policy.

As ambassador, Dr. Buteiko said, he adheres to the official government policy, which states that Ukraine's strategic goal is to integrate with the European Union,

to become a member of the EU, to broaden its relationship with NATO, to develop further its strategic partnerships with Russia and the United States, and maintain its neutral, "non-bloc" status, as President Kuchma reiterated during his inauguration address.

As a citizen of Ukraine, however, Dr. Buteiko said he has expressed his personal opinion that "the time has come to discard this non-bloc status and to state clearly and without reservation that Ukraine wants to join both the EU and NATO."

"Only this combination can stimulate Ukrainian society to achieve those standards that define Europe," he said. "I find it very difficult to see Ukraine as a member of the EU and not of NATO." This, he explained, would be a new and reformed NATO – an active and important element of the overall European security system.

"I cannot imagine our joining the European Union being 'half-pregnant,' " cooperating with the civilian sector of the European economy and not the military-industrial sector, he said. And Ukraine would never be allowed into that important sector without, at least, a declaration of intent to join NATO, he added.

Using the interview as possibly the last possibility to address the Ukrainian American community, Ambassador Buteiko expressed his best wishes on the occasion of the coming Christmas and New Year holidays, and added:

"Of course, I would also wish that Ukrainian Americans continue their deep love of Ukraine and continue to help her – not merely help her, but help her to help herself" with their knowledge and experience, he said.

Dr. Buteiko also thanked those in the Ukrainian American community with whom he worked for their cooperation and understanding, and he asked that any misunderstandings be forgiven.

"In my efforts I tried to expand the strategic partnership between Ukraine and the United States, so that it would be sincere and mutually beneficial," he said. "And here, in large measure, we were helped by that segment of the American population we call the Ukrainian community (hromada) in the United States," he said.

"I thank you very much for the support I always felt you have given me," Ambassador Buteiko said. "We have to continue to do what is required of us to help Ukraine grow strong, to improve the quality of life of our people and to further strengthen the relationship between our two countries."

Consul general hosts youth representatives



Roma Hadzewycz

Consul General Bohaiievsky (left) presents gifts to youth organization representatives (from left) Olya Shevchenko, Ihor Sochan, Lida Mykytyn and Xenia Piaseckyj.

by Roma Hadzewycz

NEW YORK – Ukraine's consul general in New York, Yuriy Bohaiievsky, hosted a reception for representatives of Ukrainian youth organizations in the United States, as well as a group of students from Ukraine, at the Consulate General on December 1.

As the event coincided with the eighth anniversary of the nationwide referendum on Ukraine's independence, the diplomat stated that it was a day also to celebrate that overwhelming affirmation of Ukraine's independence proclamation of August 24, 1991.

Mr. Bohaiievsky told *The Weekly* that he had wanted to host a gathering for youth leaders for some time in order to promote contacts between Ukrainian American organizations and youth organizations in Ukraine and to offer the Consulate General's assistance in that regard.

Noting that the Consulate General is in fact a small piece of Ukraine's territory, the consul general welcomed the leaders, veterans and members of three organizations, the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM), the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Organization of Democratic Ukrainian Youth (ODUM). He noted that the gathering was organized with the assistance of Ihor Sochan of Plast.

In turn, Mr. Sochan spoke of how, 50 years ago, many Ukrainians left their homeland, and, after living for a time in displaced persons camps, found themselves in the

United States. "Here we continued our youth organizations' activities. We brought with us from Ukraine our faith, our history, traditions, and most of all our love for our homeland," he said.

Mr. Sochan pointed to the leading role played by leaders and members of youth organizations in Ukrainian American community life and underscored that these organizations "maintained the spark of hope and love for Ukraine among our youths." He concluded by asserting, "Today we are helping youth organizations in Ukraine to be reborn."

Afterwards, a video called "Piznaimo Ukrainu" (Let's get acquainted with Ukraine), released in 1997 by the National Television Company of Ukraine, was screened for the youth representatives as Mr. Bohaiievsky invited everyone to visit Ukraine.

Brief remarks were delivered by Olya Shevchenko of ODUM, Lida Mykytyn of SUM and Xenia Piaseckyj of Plast. All three voiced similar sentiments: Ms. Shevchenko noting that "although physically we are far away from Ukraine, in spirit we are with Ukraine; Ms. Mykytyn underlining that "we consider ourselves an integral part of the Ukrainian nation"; and Ms. Piaseckyj stating that "though we are born here, in spirit we are and always will be with Ukraine."

At the conclusion of the reception, the consul general presented gifts of books to the three Ukrainian youth organizations.

Hollywood Ukrainians form media group

by Lewko Kaspersky

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. – "It was a great night. I enjoyed being with people who love and feel as I do about things that are Ukrainian," is the way Hollywood actor Jack Palance described the December 7 meeting of Hollywood Ukrainians to discuss the formation of a group to promote Ukrainian interests in films, television and related media.

Sparked by longtime film industry leaders Luba Keske, senior vice president of MGM – United Artists Studios, and Peter Borisow, president of Entertainment Finance Management, attendees included Mr. Palance and his brother, producer John Palance, University of Southern California cinema professor Paul Wolansky, Warner Brothers Studios executive Nestor Balaban, film maker Roman Mykytyn, author Eugenia Dallas, producer Tom Daniels, banker Lewko Kaspersky,

attorney Andriy Semotiuk, as well as other people involved in film production, financing and promotion.

In view of the show business nature of the meeting, it should come as no surprise that it was held around a conference table on the 45th floor of a downtown skyscraper in front of a salt water fish tank filled with sharks.

Speaking round-robin style, all present voiced their views on a Ukrainian media organization. Prime issues that concerned many included frustration about the low media profile of Ukraine and the 1933 Famine-genocide. A consensus emerged that a media organization with a social setting could be an effective instrument for promoting Ukrainian issues and projects.

The operational agenda of the group is fourfold: to gather together in one association members interested in promoting Ukrainian values and interests in Hollywood; to help create and pro-

mote more films, television programs and music which contain Ukrainian content, or are written, produced, directed or acted in by people interested in Ukrainian affairs, particularly association members; to support each other in the pursuit of career objectives in Hollywood; and to help the entertainment industry in Ukraine.

The group, tentatively called the Hollywood Trident Group, will meet again on February 2, 2000. In the meantime members will continue to get to know each other better, form some working arrangements, and get more people involved.

People interested in getting involved should contact Andriy Semotiuk, c/o Law Firm of Manning, Marder & Wolfe, 707 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90017; e-mail, ajs@mmw.com; telephone, (213) 624-6900, or fax, (213) 624-6999. The Hollywood Trident Group's e-mail address is HTG@usa.com.

Ukrainian Technological Society honors Ukrainian of the Year

PITTSBURGH – Michael John Jula of Carnegie, Pa., was honored as the 1999 Ukrainian of the Year by the Ukrainian Technological Society of Pittsburgh at the society's 30th annual dinner-dance held at The University Club on November 27. Mr. Jula was honored for his lifelong promotion of Ukrainian arts, culture and heritage, and for his efforts in mounting exhibits, or advising others in doing so, of authentic Ukrainian artwork and artifacts.

Charles P. Kostecki, president, welcomed UTS members and guests and introduced the Rev. Michael Kochis, pastor of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Ambridge, Pa., who made the nominating speech. Mr. Kostecki and Secretary Kristina M. Kincak presented to Mr. Jula the 1999 Ukrainian of the Year award plaque, an original designed and crafted by graphic artist Kathy Boykowycz.

As members of his family – wife, Marijka Borszcz Jula, and daughters, Tatyana Helena and Anastasia Stephanya, and brother, William Jula – listened Mr. Jula provided a historical review, a current assessment and comments on future prospects of the Ukrainian community in Pittsburgh. After these acceptance remarks, Mr. Kostecki offered a toast to the honoree and all sang "Mnohaya Lita."

Mr. Jula, born on May 19, 1950, has been a lifelong resident of Carnegie and a lifelong Ukrainian activist. His father was a charter member of the Ukrainian American Citizen's Club of Carnegie, and his mother was active in helping to build the parish of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church in Carnegie. It was from his parents and from his extended family of aunts and uncles that Mr. Jula learned much about his Ukrainian



The UTS executive board with the Ukrainian of the Year: (front row, from left) Irene K. Grimm, Kristina M. Kincak, Charles P. Kostecki, Michael J. Jula (honoree), Nickolas C. Kotow; (back row) Halya S. Polatajko, Michael Korchynsky, Ihor Havryluk, Stephen Haluszczak and Debra A. Walenchok.

heritage. He was an acolyte at the Holy Trinity Church, attended religious school there, and attended Ridna Shkola.

He graduated from the design department of the Pittsburgh Art Institute in 1972. While studying there, he mounted a Ukrainian Awareness Day exhibit. His early Ukrainian activist involvement was with the Pittsburgh branch of the Ukrainian Student Organization of Mykola Mikhnovsky.

In 1973 he called upon his formal design and Ukrainian artistic skills to provide an authentic setting for an ecumenical moleben

in which Patriarch Josyf Slipyj participated. In recognition of his expertise, he was later asked to arrange the appointments for official visits to Pittsburgh by Metropolitans Ambrose Senyshyn, Joseph Schmondiuk and Stephen Sulyk, and for Metropolitan Constantine of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

The celebration of the millennium of Christianity in Rus'-Ukraine in 1988 was another important time for Mr. Jula. In that

(Continued on page 5)

Buffalo community remembers victims of Famine-genocide

by Osyp Hawryluk

BUFFALO, N.Y. – The local Ukrainian community on Sunday, December 5, gave respect to the victims of the Great Famine of 1932-1933 engineered by Stalin in Ukraine. Under the capable leadership of Chairman Pavlo Bandriwsky, 21 Ukrainian organizations of Buffalo, N.Y., united to produce a successful commemoration.

Over 1,200 people attended 10 a.m. liturgy in St. Joseph's Cathedral, and 500 took part in a solemn memorial march to City Hall.

Ukrainian Catholic clergy celebrated together at the altar with Bishop Henry J. Mansell of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo. Bishop Mansell gave a very strong sermon on the Ukrainian Famine-genocide, quotes of which appeared in The Buffalo News.

Gloria Grega-Long and Maria Dranka, famine survivor, took part in the processional, bearing communion gifts to the altar. The Boyan choir of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, directed by Zenon Deputat, sang the "panakhyda," with Ukrainian Orthodox clergy participating and the entire church congregation joining in toward the end. All who attended were deeply moved.

The march featured men, women and children in Ukrainian embroidered shirts (Buffalo weather cooperated with temperatures reaching 64 degrees F), carrying church banners, Ukrainian flags draped with black ribbons, and posters of starving victims of the Famine.

A proclamation declaring December 5 "Ukrainian Genocide Day of Remembrance in Buffalo and Erie County" was read at City Hall by Thomas E. Gleed, representing Buffalo Mayor Anthony M. Masiello. Mr. Bandriwsky read the "Great Famine" address delivered on November 20 in New York City by State Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), which said in part: "Today, too many do not know enough of this great tragedy – one of the greatest tragedies in the history of mankind."

Articles about the event appeared in the Saturday, December 4, and Monday, December 6, editions of The Buffalo News; local TV affiliates of NBC and ABC carried news clips of the event on their evening broadcasts.

Organizers extended thanks to Yuri Darmohrai's "Ukrainian Radio Program" (2 p.m. Saturdays on radio station WHLD AM 1270) for publicizing this event weeks in advance, and also for providing carpooling information for Sunday morning. The "St. Sophia Patriarchal Society Radio Program" (1:30 p.m. Sundays on radio station WHLD AM 1270) was cited for encouraging the Ukrainian community of Buffalo to attend this event.

OBITUARY

Romana Nawrocky, Ukrainian Catholic lay leader, 78

by Kateryna A.R. Schray

PHILADELPHIA – On Saturday, November 27, Ukrainians gathered from across the United States and Europe to pay their final respects and bid farewell to Dr. Romana Lidia (née Lebedovych) Nawrocky, a leader of the St. Sophia Association of Ukrainian Catholics. Dr. Nawrocky passed away at the age of 78 on November 16 in Philadelphia.

Romana Lidia Lebedovych was born on October 11, 1921, in the village of Vizhomlia, Peremyshl region, the daughter of the Rev. Ivan Lebedovych, a chaplain in the Ukrainian armed forces and Natalia (née Sawojjka) Lebedovych, who died in childbirth.

From 1934 to 1939, she was enrolled at the Ukrainian Institute for Girls in Peremyshl, and later attended Middle School No. 2. She attended the university in Lviv and subsequently in Innsbruck, Austria, where she earned her doctorate in geography.

Under Hitler, along with thousands of Ukrainian women, she was incarcerated in Ravensbruck, the largest women's concentration camp in Germany, located northeast of Berlin. She was rescued from the camp by the man who was later to become her husband, Myroslav Nawrocky. After the war, in 1949, she emigrated to Philadelphia, where she and her husband lived until his death in the early 1980s.

Within the Ukrainian community, Dr. Nawrocky is best known for her dedicated work on behalf of the St. Sophia Association of Ukrainian Catholics, founded by Cardinal Josyf Slipyj (1892-1984), patriarch and primate of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Dr. Nawrocky and her husband were among the first to aid the patriarch in rebuilding the

Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ukraine after his release in 1963 from 18 years of exile in Siberia. Dr. Nawrocky dedicated her life to overseeing St. Sophia's good works: financing and maintaining the institutions founded by Patriarch Slipyj; supporting schools for underprivileged and orphaned children in Ukraine and Poland; funding education for both the religious and laity; responding to pleas for food, clothing, and medical equipment; publishing Ukrainian literature in translation as well as studies on the Ukrainian Catholic Church and books on Ukrainian spirituality in English.

Shortly before her death, Dr. Nawrocky oversaw the completion of St. Sophia's most recent project – the restoration of Patriarch Slipyj's childhood home in Zazdrist, Ukraine, and the building of a Memorial-Museum complex on the premises. Anticipating that Ukraine would one day regain its freedom, Patriarch Slipyj had entrusted Dr. Nawrocky with this undertaking in 1974. The Memorial-Museum Complex now offers programs in ethics and moral education. Dr. Nawrocky tirelessly attended to every detail of this undertaking, traveling frequently to Ukraine first to negotiate the purchase of the property, later to meet with architects and builders, and finally to guide the young nuns entrusted with the care of this complex in their ministry.

Metropolitan-Archbishop Stephen Sulyk celebrated the funeral services at Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church in Philadelphia with Msgr. Dr. Ivan Bilanych, pastor emeritus of Christ the King; the Rev. Jaroslav Kurpel, current pastor; the Rev. Dmytro Blazejowsky, scholar-historian and embroidery artist; the Rev. Marian Procyk, pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Buffalo, N.Y., and former admin-

istrator of the Philadelphia affiliate of the Ukrainian Catholic University; and the Rev. Ihor Kovalchuk of the Lviv diocese. Dr. Nawrocky was laid to rest alongside her husband and her father at St. Mary's Cemetery in Fox Chase, Pa.

Numerous letters attesting to Dr. Nawrocky's dedicated work on behalf of the Ukrainian Catholic Church were read at the Friday evening parastas and at the tryzna following the funeral, and formal condolences were offered by numerous Ukrainian organizations, among them: the Lviv Theological Academy, the Shevchenko Scientific Society, the Ukrainian Patriarchal Association, the Ukrainian Free University, and the St. Sophia Associations of Ukrainian Catholics of Rome and Belgium. The solemn proceedings were organized by Julian Holoulchak, treasurer of St. Sophia, and coordinated by Dr. Leonid Rudnytsky, secretary of St. Sophia, who presented the letters of condolence and introduced the many speakers.

In his letter, Bishop Ivan Khoma, president of the St. Sophia Association in Rome, described Dr. Nawrocky as a person who "did not spare herself, nor her worldly possessions, nor her health, in order to fulfill her great obligations" and who "did everything out of love for her Church and Nation."

Given that the 40th day after Dr. Nawrocky's death falls on December 25, masses for the peaceful repose of her soul will be celebrated on Sunday, December 27, in churches in Ukraine (Lviv and Ternopil), Italy (Rome), Germany (Munich), and across the United States (including Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church, Philadelphia; St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, Buffalo, N.Y.; St. Joseph Catholic Church, Huntington, W. Va., as well as parishes in Detroit and New York).

Saskatchewan UCC presents 1999 Nation Builders Awards

SASKATOON – The fifth annual recognition event of the Saskatchewan Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC-SPC) was held November 7, when 265 guests, family and friends from across Canada gathered for lunch at the Delta Bessborough Hotel. The occasion honored 11 recipients of the prestigious Nation Builders Awards presented annually since 1994 to recognize community contributions of outstanding Ukrainian Canadians from Saskatchewan. The 1999 awards focused on distinction through career achievements. Those present ranged from a large number of young grandchildren of recipients to several nonagenarians. Seven former recipients also were present, including Dr. Stephen Worobetz, who had been invested into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit on October 28 in Saskatoon.

The award recipients included two church metropolitans, a senator, a premier, a government minister, a war hero, a ceramics artist, three professors and a pharmacist. Four of these were also authors, two were researchers, one was a mayor and one a former lieutenant-governor. Through their distinguished careers they brought distinction to the community of their heritage.

The program was conducted by master of ceremonies, Danylo Puderak, languages and marketing coordinator at the Center for Second Language Instruction at the University of Saskatchewan. Eugene Krenosky, president, UCC-SPC, presented the awards.

Raynell Andreychuk, senator, ambassador, high commissioner, United Nations permanent representative, provincial court judge and lawyer, has had an influence on many social changes through her initiatives. She established the first Family Court in Saskatchewan, held three United Nations posts that reflected her humanitarianism, brought knowledge of Canada to her ambassador duties, and initiated Senate proposals focusing on environment and health, as well as legal and foreign affairs. She was the first female national president and international vice-president of the YMCA. A chancellor of the University of Regina, she was honored by that institution with an honorary doctor of laws.

Metropolitan Michael Bzdel CSSR, priest, pastor, rector, teacher, Church administrator and member of the Redemptorist Order, has always made a significant impact in each of his roles. A builder of churches, he emphasized tradition in Church decoration. He guided his people to full Church participation in liturgies and parish activities. His people and administration skills were rewarded with progress through Church ranks to the top as Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Catholic Church for all of Canada. A dynamic visionary, he has guided his Church to the preservation of historic traditions, in Canada and the resurrection of the Church in Ukraine.

Peter Dmytruk, a native of Wynyard, Saskatchewan, as a young man of 23 died a heroic death in France, during World War II, thereby sparing the lives of hundreds of French civilians. Joining the Resistance Movement after the downing of his plane by the Germans, "Pierre le Canadien" amazed the French people with his determination to obtain their freedom from German oppression declining return to the safety of Canada. Memorialized by the French, a movement is under way in Saskatchewan to enshrine the memory of Mr. Dmytruk, and others who sacrificed a life in Canada for similar freedom for others far away.

Metropolitan Archbishop Wasyly (Fedak), born in Ukraine, initially used his Canadian education in opportunities as a teacher. Inspired by his work with the young people in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, he determined to devote his life to work in the Church proceeding through the ranks from priest to protopresbyter. His pastoral work included a 30-year tenure at the cathedral in Hamilton. As primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, he was instrumental in attaining Eucharistic Union with the Patriarchate of Constantinople. Acknowledged as a community leader, he counts among his honors the Order of Canada and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Shevchenko Medal.

Sylvia Fedoruk, a former lieutenant governor of Saskatchewan, has made historic contributions as a professor of oncology at the University of Saskatchewan and as a research scientist in medical and biological physics, in nuclear medicine, radiology and cancer. Her presentations at international conferences and in professional journals have highlighted Saskatchewan's history and role in radiotherapy research. Her honors include induction into the Order of Canada, the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame for her prowess primarily in curling, as well as of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Shevchenko Medal. She has served as university chancellor and member of professional and administrative bodies.

Dr. Roma Franko has distinguished herself as an inspiring educator, tireless administrator and insightful author



At the Nation Builders Awards banquet are: (standing, from left) Peter Woroby, Mary Cherneskey, Myron Kowalsky (accepting award for Roy Romanow), Vera Labach, Metropolitan Michael Bzdel, Paul Ortynsky, the Rt. Rev. Oleh Krawchenko (for Metropolitan Wasyly), Eugene Krenosky, Ostap Skrypnyk, Alex Balych; (seated) Raynell Andreychuk, Roma Franko, Stella Kushniruk (for Peter Dmytruk), George Rupchan (for Peter Rupchan), Sylvia Fedoruk and Alex Kuziak.

and workshop leader. As professor and head of the Slavic Department at the University of Saskatchewan, the popularity of her classes resulted in a wide demand for her teaching materials, from programs to audiovisuals to workbooks. Her program of Ukrainian for English speakers satisfies a language need for entrepreneurs, academics and travelers. She is co-author of an English translation of Ukrainian women's literature throughout historic periods. Recipient of the UCC Shevchenko Medal and a Kobzar Society inductee, she has served on professional councils and as vice-chairman on the National Film Board.

Alex Kuziak, known for his capabilities as a teacher, public administrator and entrepreneur, made his greatest mark as a politician. Elected three times under the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF)/New Democratic Party (NDP) banner, he received ministerial appointments that recognized his first-hand knowledge of business, agriculture and administration. He was known for his oratory powers, driving energy and passion for individual rights. The naming of the A.G. Kuziak Building in Yorkton was in tribute to his dedication and commitment to the people of Saskatchewan. He was the first Ukrainian in Canada to receive a Cabinet appointment and was a charter member of the Yorkton Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Association.

Paul Ortynsky undertook diverse endeavors that brought honor and distinction to his town, his cultural community and his profession. A pharmacist entrepreneur, he has been recognized with professional honors for his leadership in pharmacy activities. He has also been cited for his work with youth in the RCAF and in Ukrainian Orthodox Church programs. He contributed his business knowledge to curriculum development of Business Education in Saskatchewan. Active in assorted community organizations, he guided the town of Canora in progressive projects in his post as mayor, achieving two national honors for "niceness" recognition. Top recognitions include the Canada 125 Commemorative Medal and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Shevchenko Medal.

Roy Romanow achieved international status as a political leader with constitutional expertise. A practicing lawyer, he was first elected to the Saskatchewan legislature in 1967 under the banner of the NDP and then re-elected seven more times to 1999. As attorney general he initiated justice reforms and as premier from 1991 he provided balanced budgets and further fiscal and social reforms. As minister of inter-governmental affairs, he played a key role in federal-provincial negotiations which culminated in the Canadian Constitutional Accord in 1991. He served as advisor to the Ukrainian government on the development of its Constitution and initiated Saskatchewan-Ukraine entrepreneurial exchanges.

Peter Rupchan was endowed with the gift of artistic expression through the medium of pottery. He acquired accomplishment at this craft in a pottery factory in Chernivtsi, Ukraine. Following his parents to Canada, he worked at establishing a homestead and providing for a growing family at the same time attempting to reconcile his passion for working in his craft. His resources of ingenuity and perseverance, together with fortuitous assistance from community and academic luminaries, ultimately led

to celebration of his artistry after his untimely death. His place in Saskatchewan's history was ensured through high-priced acquisition and museum exposure.

Dr. Peter Woroby has utilized his international education and multi-language proficiency in his post as a 25-year University of Regina professor, as analyst and advisor to governments in Canada and Ukraine, and contributor to academic publications and international conferences, in the fields of economics, statistics and sociology. He has been associated in executive positions with professional and community organizations. In Kyiv and Lviv he has lectured on marketing and economics matters at academic institutions and even at the Ukrainian Parliament. In his retirement he continues to share his expertise and knowledge with a particular consultative involvement in the Saskatchewan-Ukraine trade and commerce exchange.

Mary Cherneskey, Recognition Committee chair, concluded her biographical presentations, carried out with the assistance of Ostap Skrypnyk, UCC-SPC executive director, with this appreciation of the role played in community development by the 1999 recipients of the Nation Builders Awards.

Ukrainian Technological...

(Continued from page 4)

year, he mounted a large exhibit also of Ukrainian Christianity at the Pittsburgh Folk Festival, was involved in the planning for the ecumenical observances in Point State Park and mounted another large exhibit at the Pittsburgh Ukrainian Festival at the University of Pittsburgh.

In 1997 Mr. Jula led the Pittsburgh Ukrainian community in commemorating the 50th anniversary of "Akcija Wisla," the forced ethnic cleansing of Ukrainian peoples from their ancestral homes in southeast Poland. The Pittsburgh Ukrainian community was one of only a few to commemorate this important event in Ukrainian history.

Mr. Jula has had a significant continuing association with the Pittsburgh Folk Festival, where his expertise has been called upon to guarantee the authenticity of the displays and costumes of the many ethnic groups that participate in the festival. He has been associated with the Pittsburgh Ukrainian Festival since its initial festival in 1982, and served as general chairman of the festival in 1993-1999. He invited artisans from Manor College to participate in the festival.

He has also been active with the committee that helped to design and construct the Ukrainian Nationality Classroom in the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh. He submitted many documents from his collection to help in the writing of "Christmas in Ukraine," one in a series of ethnic Christmas books by World Books Inc.

Mr. Jula is currently a board member for Ridna Shkola (the School of Ukrainian Studies) of Pittsburgh, where he is promoting the school's Internet website for the community (<http://www.pghukrainians.org>). In addition, he has assumed new duties as treasurer for the Pittsburgh-Donetsk Sister Cities Committee, which recently formalized that sister city connection.

UCCA's executive board discusses organizational issues

NEW YORK – The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) held an executive board meeting on Saturday, December 11, at the UCCA office in New York City. The issues discussed included organizational and financial matters, the formation of a scholarship fund called "Yevshan Zillia," as well as several issues regarding new immigrants from Ukraine.

With regard to organizational issues, it was established that on January 22 a regional conference for the UCCA branches of Chicago, Hammond, Ind., Milwaukee and Minneapolis would take place.

UCCA President Askold Lozynskyj reported on the recently held branch meeting for the Miami-North Port-Fort Lauderdale UCCA Branch, during which a new board was elected with Maria Kond as the new president. The UCCA's National Council called these elections because the previous board was inactive. It was decided at the UCCA board meeting to hold similar elections for the Binghamton, N.Y., and Trenton, N.J., UCCA branches.

It was reported that in two weeks the revised UCCA Branch Handbook in both the English and Ukrainian languages will be ready for distribution.

During the financial discussions, Mychailo Spontak reported that, although close to \$800,000 has been collected from January 1 to December 7, only \$72,000 has been allocated for the Ukrainian National Fund (UNF) out of the \$110,000 budget, and only \$25,000 has been collected for the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) out of the \$98,000 needed.

Since December 7 additional funds have been collected, however, several UCCA branches still have not sent in their UNF dues, Mr. Spontak said. With this in mind, it was decided that personal pleas would be sent to collect the remaining funds needed by the end of the year. In the future, the UCCA will investigate the options of paying by credit cards as well as via the Internet. It was also decided to reactivate the UNF Committee.

Prof. Taras Hunczak discussed the "Yevshan Zillia" scholarship fund. Following his report, a special UCCA committee was formed consisting of Prof. Hunczak, Mr. Lozynskyj and Ivan Kobasa, who will prepare the fund's by-laws, applications for students as well as a mechanism to approach schools. Money for this scholarship fund can be obtained from private foundations and through the government.

The executive board agreed that scholarships would be extended only to students of Ukraine and the Eastern diaspora for study in Ukraine (at Ukrainian institutes, universities and other institutes of higher learning).

In the absence of Yaroslav Kernitsky, representative of new immigrants on the UCCA's executive board, Mr. Lozynskyj reported on the recent challenges with new immigrants, specifically incorporating them into Ukrainian community life. He noted the necessity of organizing a center for new immigrants in the UCCA building in New York City, as well as in New Jersey at the Ukrainian National Home in Bayonne.

A new committee to deal directly with the Fourth Wave issue was formed consisting of the following members: Mr. Kernitsky, Petro Rybchuk, Kvitka Semanyshyn, Ivan Burtyk, Mr. Kobasa and Mr. Lozynskyj (ex officio).

It was also decided that in the near future Mr. Kernitsky should meet with new immigrants in other communities to get a better understanding of their problems and needs, and discuss possible solutions.

Issues concerning youth, students and children of the new immigrants also were discussed. It was decided that these matters would be discussed in more detail at the next UCCA executive board meeting.

Ontario Parliament member proposes annual Genocide Memorial Week

TORONTO – Ontario's Ukrainian community has warmly endorsed Bill 38, a proposal by a member of Ontario Provincial Parliament, Bob Wood (London West), for an annual Genocide Memorial Week to begin on the third Monday of every April. The bill was introduced on December 16.

Commenting on this initiative, the president of the Ontario Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Walter Halchuk, said: "Our community applauds the initiative shown by MPP Bob Wood. His proposal would hallow the memory of all of the victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and atrocities that have befouled the century that is now almost over. Being an inclusive act that recognizes the many millions of people

who perished at the hands of oppressive regimes of both the left and right, and not only in Europe but in Africa, Asia, Latin America and elsewhere, it speaks to the experiences of many of Ontario's citizens, who share in our multicultural society."

Mr. Halchuk urged all MPPs to vote for the bill.

Speaking on behalf of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, President, John B. Gregorovich noted: "This is a very welcome proposal which we trust all MPPs will support. Ontario should be the first province to recognize that many nations, peoples and minorities experienced terrible suffering during the 20th century and even before, and not only in Europe but in Africa and Asia as well. By recalling all

of these episodes of genocide, mass murder and crimes against humanity, the bill proposed by Mr. Wood would go a long way toward ensuring that the citizens of this province, and indeed of the rest of Canada, hallow the memory of all of the victims."

Mr. Gregorovich added: "We ask all MPPs to support Bill 38 and also call upon the Minister of Education, the Honourable Janet Ecker, to ensure that detailed and comparative information about the many episodes of genocide in the 20th century is included in the new Ontario high school curriculum in the Social Sciences. That is essential if our children are to be properly instructed about how important it is to stand on guard for freedom in the face of tyranny."

Canada Post again rejects proposal for stamps recalling internment

TORONTO – Canada's Ukrainian community has reacted with dismay at the recent Canada Post decision to once again refuse to recall Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920 with a series of commemorative stamps.

For the second year in a row, the Stamp Advisory Committee, chaired by Andre Ouellet, has not recommended the adoption of the community's proposal that stamps be issued recalling this little-known episode in Canadian history.

Commenting, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, director of research for the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association, a non-profit, non-partisan educational organization, noted:

"Every year Canada Post issues stamps that are intended to recognize the Canadian experience. We had hoped that, aside from producing stamps that show birds, or landscapes, or rural mailboxes, or trees in blossom, Canada Post would respond favorably to the hundreds of letters and postcards they received in support of a series of six stamps recalling the six years of Canada's first national internment operations.

"Innocent Canadians of Ukrainian and other European heritages were unjustly imprisoned in 24 concentration camps across the country, and some survivors are still alive today. We had hoped that Canada Post would help us recall this unfortunate episode in our national history, especially given the fact that on June 20, 2000, we will be recalling the 80th anniversary of the end of the internment measures."

Dr. Luciuk added: "Given Canada Post's willingness to

issue a stamp recalling a European tragedy, the Holocaust, we are very surprised that no attention is given to remembering a tragedy that befell many innocent men, women and children in Canada."

He explained that Ukrainian Canadians will continue to insist that such a series of stamps be produced "as part of the reconciliation process that we believe is integral to resolving our community's long-standing campaign for an acknowledgment of this injustice and a restitution of that portion of the internees' looted wealth that remains in the Bank of Canada to this day."

Commenting on behalf of the Ontario Provincial Council of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, its president, Walter Halchuk, said: "Ukrainian Canadians are deeply disappointed with this state of affairs, especially given that this is probably one of the few last chances we would have to recall this unhappy episode while survivors are still with us. How symbolic it would have been to get this done in this Millennium, putting an unfortunate incident in the 20th century behind us by recalling it one last time, in a timely and honorable fashion. That opportunity has now been lost due to the short-sightedness of Canada Post."

Dr. Luciuk suggested that persons concerned about this issue write to: The Honourable Andre Ouellet, Chairman, Stamp Advisory Committee, Canada Post, 2701 Riverside Drive, Suite No. 420, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0B1. (Letter writers should send copies to their MPs.)

UCCLA's Christmas postcards recall internment operation



Since 1995 the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) has been sending out Christmas postcards to remind legislators and others across Canada that the effort to achieve reconciliation between the Ukrainian Canadian community and the federal government over the internment of "enemy aliens" during World War I remains unrealized. The Canadian government has yet to acknowledge the injustice of Canada's first national internment operations and offer restitution by committing to a series of educational projects that will hallow the memory of internment victims. The UCCLA sends each member of Parliament and senator at least one postcard; and many UCCLA members and supporters send their own. Over 2,000 postcards (like the one seen above) were distributed this year.

THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORUM

Students pitch in to help mail UNA's Christmas cards

by Oksana Trytjak

Special Projects Coordinator

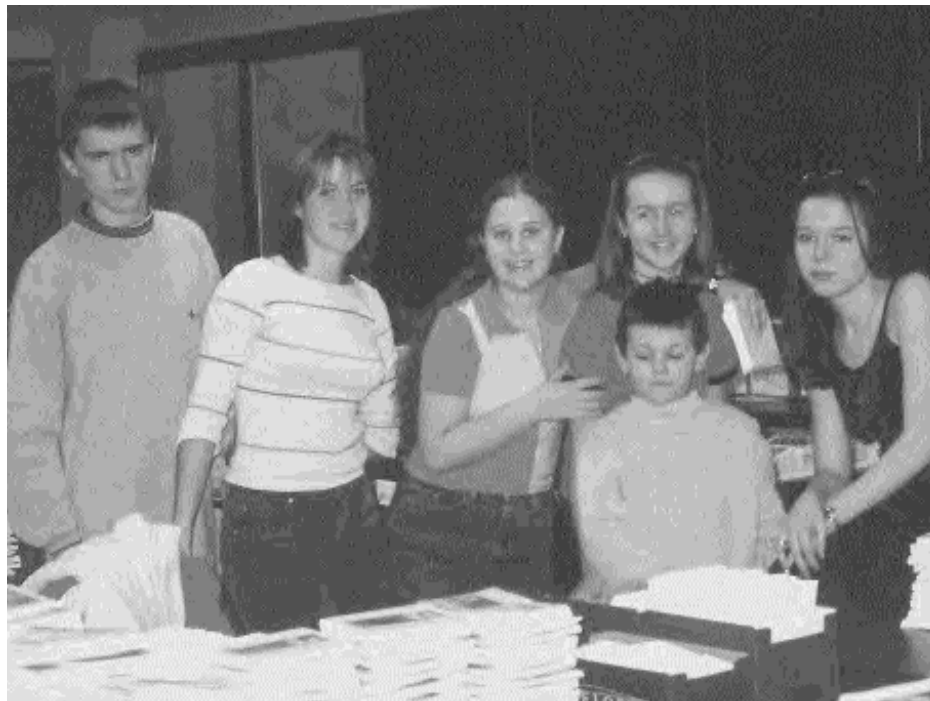
PARSIPPANY, N.J. – The UNA's 1999 Christmas cards were mailed to Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly subscribers just in time for the Thanksgiving weekend.

When looking for part-time helpers to sort, pack and prepare for the bulk mail of the more than 140,000 Christmas cards, the UNA offered some of its youngest members a chance to make a few extra dollars just in time for Christmas. The Home Office cafeteria was filled to the brim with boxes of envelopes, cards and mailers. These were sorted, assembled and packed for distribution. On Saturdays and non-school days it was interesting to see these young part-time helpers, all of whom speak Ukrainian and English, working hard

packing and sorting the cards and at the same time listening to the latest rock music on the radio. While packing, sometimes humming to the music, they would occasionally comment on the artists' works, the color, the graphics and their personal preference as to the cards that they liked best.

The UNA believes that giving our teenagers an opportunity to earn a few dollars while working in a Ukrainian setting gives these young people a sense of belonging, working for the community and getting to know the UNA. It also enables them to appreciate and better recognize their Ukrainian heritage and culture.

We thank all the additional workers for their hard work in completing this special project, but in particular we recognize the work of the youngest workforce. Thank you all.



Christmas card project helpers at the UNA Corporate Headquarters: (from left) Nazar Kolinetz, Christine Salabay, Slava Pikulin, Natalka Bilchuk, Mykola Bilchuk and Yulia Kaploun.



Mission Statement

The Ukrainian National Association exists:

- n to promote the principles of fraternalism;
- n to preserve the Ukrainian, Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian heritage and culture; and
- n 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.

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Faces and Places

by Myron B. Kuropas



A Norman Rockwell Ukrainian Christmas

The holiday season is a time for memories, for recollections of precious moments never repeated, often re-lived.

Every year at this time I remember the wonderful Christmases I spent as a child growing up in Chicago during and after the Great Depression.

The American chapter of our family history begins with Tato who arrived in 1927, two years before the market collapse. After bouncing from job to job, he eventually found employment as a service station attendant for the Standard Oil Company. At the time, no one pumped their own gas. Nor did anyone check their own oil, clean their own windshield, or check their own tires. A service station provided "service" for everyone at no extra cost.

Tato prospered and eventually franchised his own two-stall service station. Mama owned and operated a beauty salon on Damen Avenue in the Ukrainian Village. Her success as an entrepreneur was a welcome addition to our family's finances.

My maternal grandmother was living with us at the time, and she is the reason I speak Ukrainian today. Babtsia never learned English so we all spoke Ukrainian at home. It was Babtsia who stayed home with me while Tato and Mama worked.

I recall that we lived rather well. Tato's

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first car was a 1929 Model A Ford with a "rumble seat," the joy of my childhood. In 1939, he purchased a brand-new, shiny, four-door black Pontiac sedan.

Like many Ukrainians, Tato dreamed of owning land and in 1941, his dream came true. Mama sold her business and my parents purchased a fully functional 60-acre farm in Michigan, between Three Rivers and Mendon, a mile from Highway M-60. Mama believed in fresh air and the farm was the perfect place for Vera, my sister, and me to spend our summers, far from the streets of Chicago.

Babtsia agreed to manage the farm, which in time included five milking cows, some 250 chickens, a few hogs, geese, ducks, and assorted other barnyard animals. She managed this menagerie despite the fact that she had never lived on a farm, even in Ukraine, and could not speak English. She was an incredible woman.

During the war years the Pontiac drove us the 150 miles to "Babtsia's Farm," frequently exceeding the posted nationwide speed limit of 35 miles per hour. We usually completed the trek in three and a half hours. Amazingly, I recall being stopped by the state police only once, in Indiana.

Mama, Vera and I spent our summers on the farm. Tato would arrive on Friday night and stay until late Sunday afternoon, taking care of the miscellaneous responsibilities associated with farm management.

Mama loved the movies. On Saturdays,

we would walk to M-60, flag down the regularly scheduled Greyhound bus, and travel the seven miles to a theater in Three Rivers. A Greyhound bus going the other way was available about three hours later, just enough time to see the double feature.

Other school breaks and weekends were another opportunity for Mama and her kids to use the Greyhound. The bus ride from Chicago was five hours, with a rest stop in Michigan City.

During Christmas vacation one year, I was permitted to make the Greyhound trip all by myself. As always, Babtsia greeted me with hugs and kisses. We "farmed" together for about five days before Tato, Mama and Vera arrived. The two weeks spent on Babtsia's farm that particular winter are among the most memorable moments of my childhood.

There was a country general store in the village of Parkville, about a half mile from Babtsia's farm. Most, especially pork and beef, was limited during the war years. People lined up at the meat market, waiting for the meat truck. Babtsia and I would watch for the meat man to come roaring by on his way to Parkville. Once we spotted him, I would hop on my bike and follow, arriving just in time to purchase my favorite, pork chops. No one prepared "pork chops" like my grandmother. No one baked fresh apple pie the way my grandmother did, either.

The few days I spent alone with my grandmother were very, very special. Snow had fallen, guaranteeing a white Christmas throughout Michigan. The farmhouse was warm and cozy and I indulged in my favorite past-time, reading. The first novel I ever read, "Thunderbird," the story of a white stallion, was during that week with Babtsia. Reading, Babtsia's "pork chops" and apple pie. For a kid like me, life didn't get any better.

By the time my parents and sister arrived, I was ready for Christmas.

Babtsia and Mama dived in right away to prepare dishes for the traditional Christmas Eve dinner. They also baked Christmas cookies and, of course, apple pie. The aromas that permeated the farm house that year are still with me.

A highlight of the holiday was a trip to our snow-covered woods to find a Christmas tree. Mom was especially fond of the freshly-cut variety which, when dragged into the house, contributed to the farm house fragrances. We decorated the balsam together, as a family.

On Christmas my sister watched for the first star of the evening; when she spotted it, we sat down at the table to pray. I remember the evening as tranquil and holy. Contentment filled the air. It was our special, Norman Rockwell Ukrainian Christmas.

There was only one disappointment. I had been told that farm animals speak on Christmas eve, and I wanted to go to the barn to witness this miracle myself. Mama and Tato told me animals only spoke when no humans were present.

I have been blessed with many magnificent Christmases in my lifetime. The best revolved around our Stefko and Michael when they were growing up. These days, our grandchildren, Mariana, Kathryn, Kailee and Andrew, brighten the holiday celebrations. I can't imagine Christmas without the joyous laughter of little children. Like the Christ Child, they represent innocence, peace and hope for the future.

Babtsia died in 1976 and Mom in 1995. They are no longer with us, but they live in our hearts – especially at Christmastime.

If you've already celebrated Christmas, I hope your memories will endure. If you are yet to celebrate, I wish you a blessed time and memories that will endure in the hearts and minds of your family.

Khrystos Rodyvsia! – Slavim Yoho!

PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



Millennium reflections

When you're writing a column called, "Perspectives," it's hard to ignore the calendar creeping from 1999 to the year 2000. There's an obligation to look back at the past 1,000 years of Ukrainian history. A millennium, though, is such an impossibly wide canvas. Think of it: a thousand years – 40 generations. From Volodymyr the Great to President Leonid Kuchma – and everyone in between. As an American, I have a much shorter frame of reference. Columbus, after all came to the New World only 500 years ago. As a Ukrainian, on the other hand, I participate in Christmas and Easter rites whose origins go back to the Bronze Age. Now there's perspective! What the heck ... let me give it a try.

The first thing you can say is that after 1,000 years, Ukrainians have survived. The trident that once identified the coins of Kniiaz (Prince) Volodymyr the Great is now engraved on the banknotes of independent Ukraine and painted onto the wings of supersonic fighter jets and trans-Atlantic passenger planes. Getting to this point, where Ukrainians can freely use their national symbols, has been the central drama of their history for the last 800 years. Imagine: eight centuries – that's how long it was that the Ukrainian people in one form or another struggled for a state of their own.

A thousand years ago, in A.D. 1000,

Ukraine must have been a bustling place.

Located at the crossroads of the north-south trade route that linked Scandinavia with Byzantium and from there south to the Baghdad of "1,001 Arabian Nights," Kyiv was destined to become a cultural, political, religious and commercial center whose only European rival was Constantinople. Only years before, the semi-barbaric Volodymyr had cast off paganism and accepted Christianity, replacing animal and human sacrifice with the sacrifice of the Christian mass. Throughout his empire, Volodymyr mobilized architects, quarrymen, builders, artists, priests, monks and missionaries to construct and decorate churches, baptize people, teach them religion and hold regular services. It was all financed from profits from the sale of honey, wax and wheat. You still hear faint reverberations of that long-ago public works program in the frescoed walls and mosaic domes of churches that dominate Kyiv and dot the landscape of Ukraine.

Geo-strategists will tell you that geography is destiny, and the same location that made Ukraine the center of a trading empire also brought with it incessant war. Located as they were on the edge of the vast Eurasian plain that begins in Mongolia and ends at the Carpathian Mountains, Volodymyr and his descendants had to fight off nomadic peoples like

the Pechenihs and Mongols. Volodymyr himself was descended from warriors and invaders. Like England's William the Conquer, Volodymyr's ancestors were Norsemen. According to legend they came to Kyiv and struck a deal with the local farmers and merchants to protect them from invaders in return for tribute and status. In time, the Vikings were absorbed into local society. Helga became Olha; Valdemar became Volodymyr. Jaroslav, Bohdan and Oksana were home-grown.

It took a couple of centuries before the relentless military pressure from the east proved too much and in 1240, Kyiv was devastated by the Golden Horde. Not unlike the American story of the Alamo, the defenders of the city made a heroic last stand at the fortified Cathedral of St. Volodymyr, but to no avail. For the next 750 years most Ukrainians were slaves of one kind or another. Ukraine's more powerful neighbor to the west, Poland – buffered from the Mongol onslaught by the Carpathian Mountains – harnessed Ukrainians into ever-more cruel and arbitrary serfdom. As for the Mongol Tatars who had sacked Kyiv, they settled in the Crimea, where they ran a slave market that provided labor for the Ottoman Turks. Much as the Mongols had done to Kyiv in 1240, the Ottomans captured Byzantium in 1453. They renamed it Istanbul and made it the capital of their empire. One of the slaves taken by the Tatars to the market in Crimea, was a beautiful Galician girl, Roxolana, who ended up in the harem of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. There she poisoned all the other heirs to the Sultan's throne, leaving only her own son, Selim, who went on to rule one of the greatest empires in history. Others were not so lucky.

Needless to say, Ukrainians did not like

having their daughters become harem girls or their sons chained to an oar lock on a Turkish galley. Trapped between Polish serfdom and Tatar slave raids, free Ukrainians organized themselves into a dense force, the Zaporozhian Kozaks. Ensnared safely on an island in the Dnipro rapids, the Kozaks established a lifestyle that in many ways characterizes the way Ukrainians see themselves: boisterous, spontaneous, irreverent, undisciplined, full of energy, full of fun. These horsemen invented the low stepping and high-flying dances that Ukrainians love so much. The painter Ilya Repin captured it perfectly in his painting, "Kozaks Writing a Letter to the Sultan." The quintessential Ukrainian song – the mournful "duma" and robust dances – are also from this era.

And so is "The Cause": Polish landlords had the power of life and death over their serfs. What is worse, in the midst of the Counter-Reformation, they tried to force their Catholicism on a staunchly Orthodox people. Fed up with injustice and mistreatment, the serfs periodically rose up in rebellion with the goal of immediate and bloody revenge on the hated Polish masters and Jewish overseers who administered their estates. The greatest of the rebellions was in 1648 when Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky organized an army of peasants and Kozaks. The fury of the wave he raised reached the approaches of Warsaw itself. "By the will of God," Khmelnytsky said in wonder, he had driven out the Poles and became the "independent ruler of Rus'."

Six years later, he signed a fateful treaty with Russia and Ukraine's history became, if possible, even more violent and tragic. People summed up this complex quarter century of politics, slaughter, intrigue and

(Continued on page 52)

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Elections: it's good to be the incumbent

Ukrainians turned out in large numbers in two rounds of presidential elections in 1999, but the vote will be remembered as much for the highly questionable and much criticized campaign techniques utilized by both incumbent President Leonid Kuchma and the other candidates as it will be for the landslide victory achieved by the president.

Mr. Kuchma led a group of 13 candidates in the first round of voting on October 31, but did not receive the required 50 percent-plus-one required to win the poll, which forced a run-off with second place finisher Petro Symonenko of the Communist Party. On November 14 President Kuchma handily defeated his opponent 56 percent to 38 percent to gain another five years in office and attempt to finish the economic and political reforms that he failed to complete in his first term.

Both rounds saw more than 70 percent of the Ukrainian electorate go to the polls. Ukraine's politically lethargic youth was the biggest surprise, with some 73 percent voting in the first round, mostly for the incumbent.

The election season, which officially began on September 1, but unofficially consumed most of 1999, was marked by controversy, mudslinging, unwieldy political associations and an assassination attempt against one of the leading candidates.

President Kuchma set the tone for the campaign season at the close of 1998 when he told a gathering of regional journalists on December 15 in Kyiv that the presidential poll would be much like the parliamentary elections in March of that year, with voters being offered a stark contrast: a return to the old ways of communism or continued economic reforms and democratic development.

He also foresaw a key development of the 1999 presidential race when he predicted that democratic forces would have difficulties uniting around a single candidate.

"Democrats cannot unite themselves, which is to the detriment of Ukraine," said Mr. Kuchma. "Each sees himself with the bulava" (mace – a symbol of authority).

To begin unifying the center and center-right, which Mr. Kuchma needed if he was to have any hope of re-election, the president tasked Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko with developing a coalition of political parties that would support his re-election bid. It was also the first indication of the extent to which the Ukrainian government would be involved in the election campaign.

On January 15 the prime minister, with ex-President Leonid Kravchuk at his side, announced the formation of the All-Ukrainian Zlahoda (Concord) Association of Democratic Forces. Mr. Pustovoitenko said the association's aim was to confirm "a democratic, law-governed



With his hand on the Bible and the Constitution of Ukraine, President Leonid Kuchma takes the oath of office on November 30.

and socially oriented state, [caring for] the well-being of its citizens, overcoming the estrangement between the state and society, and forming a society of solidarity that is true to general human values."

The Zlahoda coalition brought together the largest centrist political parties: the National Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party (United), the Green Party, the Liberal Party and the Democratic Party of Ukraine.

Mr. Pustovoitenko said the alliance had not yet chosen a presidential candidate, and that it was not a fait accompli that it would endorse Mr. Kuchma, although eventually it did.

The next day, the National Rukh Party and the Reform and Order Party, two organizations in Ukraine's political mainstream that had formed a political coalition in mid-December, announced they would support the presidential candidacy of Hennadii Udovenko, an ex-foreign affairs minister and ex-president of the United Nations General Assembly.

Vyacheslav Chornovil, the leader of Rukh, whose own candidacy had been anticipated by many, said at the time

that he would not run for the highest post in the land. "I officially will remove my name from consideration in favor of Hennadii Udovenko at the next party convention," said Mr. Chornovil.

Mr. Udovenko became the fifth candidate to throw his hat into the ring unofficially, following President Kuchma, National Deputy Yevhen Marchuk, the ex-prime minister and a former head of Ukraine's State Security Service, Natalia Vitrenko of the Progressive Socialist Party and former Justice Minister Serhii Holovatyi.

The coalition-building that had begun in earnest was prompted by the passage of a new election law by the Verkhovna Rada. Passed on January 15, the law stipulated that a presidential candidate can be nominated by political party or group of at least 500 voters, that each candidate must obtain 1 million signatures to get his name on the ballot, with a minimum of 30,000 each from 16 of Ukraine's 25 oblasts, and that the winner of the vote must obtain more than 50 percent of the vote or else a second-round run-off would occur between the two highest vote-getters, with the winner being the one who received the most votes.

Presidential decree on official symbols

The official symbols of the head of state of Ukraine are a flag (standard), a symbol, a heraldic seal and a mace, in accordance with a decree issued by President Leonid Kuchma on November 29.

The decree stipulates that the standard is to be placed near the newly elected president during his swearing-in; the presidential symbol is bestowed on the newly elected head of state; and the heraldic seal and the mace are handed to him during the ceremony.

The presidential symbols are always kept at the presidential office in the president's residence in Kyiv.

The president's flag (or standard) is a blue square panel with a golden image of the emblem of Prime Volodymyr the Great (the trident – Ukraine's small state coat of arms) in the center. The panel has golden edging and is decorated with a golden fringe. The wooden flagstaff's ball-shaped top is made of onyx, decorated with embossed metallic ornament. Both sides of the president's standard are identical. The Ukrainian president's standard also has duplicates, with sizes corresponding to their use.

A silver plate with the Ukrainian president's surname, name and patronymic, and the date of his inauguration engraved on it, is attached to the flagstaff's base. After his term is ended, the plate is transferred to the State Awards Department of the presidential administration for preservation.

A duplicate of the presidential standard is raised on a flagstaff near the presidential residence in Kyiv. Another copy is located in the presidential box in the Verkhovna Rada chamber during the president's presence there.

A duplicate of the presidential flag also is flown or shown in a smaller size on presidential transport vehicles on Ukrainian territory. Another copy of the standard, in keeping with protocol, may be raised on flagstaves over other residences during the president's presence there and also in places of official events and ceremonies attended by the president and on his transport vehicles during visits abroad.

Ukraine's presidential symbol is in the form of an order chain that consists of a drop medallion, six enameled medallions and 12 decorated links. The drop medallion is a heraldic cartouche with Ukraine's small coat of arms depicted in relief on a blue enamel. The enameled oval-shaped medallions are framed with the heraldic cartouche and depict Kyivan Rus' Prince Volodymyr the Great's symbol, the coat of arms of the Halych-Volyn principality, the Great Lithuanian Principality, the Zaporozhian Host, Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky's patrimonial coat of arms, and the Ukrainian National Republic's coat of arms. The stylized images of a kalyna (guelder rose) and clusters are depicted on decorative links.

The presidential symbol is made of yellow and white gold, and all its elements are united with links.

The president wears his symbol around his neck as he accepts letters of credence from foreign states' diplomatic representatives, as he presents Ukraine's state awards and presidential distinctions, as well as during his television

appeals to the nation. The presidential symbol is used also during other events, according to the requirements of protocol.

The presidential heraldic seal is ring-shaped with a small image of Ukraine's coat of arms and the words "President of Ukraine" written above. A stylized image of the presidential medal of the Order of Yaroslav the Wise, is located under the coat of arms. The heraldic seal's handle is made of labradorite and is decorated with Ukraine's small coat of arms made of yellow metal with a gold-plated ornamented top.

There are four copies of the heraldic seal, one of which is a standard and cannot be used for presidential signature certification.

The presidential mace is made of gold-covered silver. The mace's handle and its top are decorated with ornamentation and precious stones. The presidential mace traces its roots to the centuries-old historical tradition of the Ukrainian state.

The official symbols of the head of state are used only with the president's consent. The President's Protocol Service and the State Awards Department control the symbols' use.

The new symbols were used for the first time on November 30 at the presidential inauguration. The presidential symbol (the order chain) was placed around President Kuchma's neck; the heraldic seal and mace were handed to him. The presidential standard was fixed on the scene near the armchair of the Head of State.

The standard was first flown the next day on the flagstaff near the presidential administration.

– Interfax-Ukraine

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Efrem Lukatsky

Communist Party leader and presidential candidate Petro Symonenko (left) attends a celebration of the 82nd anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution on November 7. The slogan on the placard reads: "With the people and for the people."

With the campaign season gearing up, a group of non-governmental organizations announced on March 22 that it had formed a coalition of its own – one that would monitor the course of the campaigns and the elections in order to ensure that the electoral process was democratic, free and fair. The group, which started with 63 NGOs and ended up involving more than 200, was led by the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, a citizens' group that eventually played an important role in monitoring election day voting in both rounds with its 16,000 registered observers.

The first pre-election surveys appeared at the beginning of April, and one of them was a surprise. A Democratic Initiatives Foundation poll showed that Ms. Vitrenko, the Progressive Socialist nominee, led a field of potential and announced candidates, ahead of President Kuchma, the expected early favorite, by 21 percent to 19 percent. Mr. Symonenko, who would eventually face off with the incumbent in November, came in third at 10 percent. In another survey, released by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology at the same time, President Kuchma led the pack, 22 percent to 17 percent for Ms. Vitrenko, followed by Oleksander Moroz of the Socialist Party at 9 percent. Mr. Symonenko showed only about 6 percent support in the second poll.

Most political pollsters explained Ms. Vitrenko's popularity as being a result of her populist declarations for the need to raise pensions and wages.

A month later, on May 14, as prescribed by the election law, political parties and organizations began nominating their candidates. Most of the nominations were expected. President Kuchma led the way, having his name placed in nomination by several parties, including the National Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party (United) and the Liberal Party, all of which were major pillars of the Zlakhoda political coalition.

The National Democratic Party's support of the president caused an internal split the same day its nominee was announced and led to the departure of NDP Chairman Anatolii Matvienko from the top post and the party, along with other party leaders who had questioned the advisability of supporting a president who had shown little ability to affect economic change. Prime Minister Pustovoitenko replaced Mr. Matvienko as the NDP's chairman.

The Rukh Party, which had split earlier after the ouster of its long-time leader Mr. Chornovil, announced officially that it would support Mr. Udovenko; the splinter group of Rukh decided, not surprisingly, to support its newly appointed chairman, Yurii Kostenko. Because the other Rukh had been denied official status by the Ministry of Justice, however, Mr. Kostenko was nominated by political organizations in the Zhytomyr and Rivne oblasts.

Ukraine's political left flank, which had stated that it,

too, would attempt consolidation around a single candidate to ensure a victory, failed miserably to do so. Each of the four major leftist parties nominated their party leader. Initially they produced only three candidates: the Communists went with Mr. Symonenko, the Socialists with Mr. Moroz, the Progressive Socialists with Ms. Vitrenko.

Then, on May 29, the fourth leftist party, the Peasant Party led by Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko, which many thought would support Mr. Moroz, produced a political shocker in the young campaign season when it supported Mr. Tkachenko's candidacy. Since the beginning of the year Mr. Tkachenko had repeatedly said he had neither plans nor desires to run for the presidency.

By June the field of candidates had exploded to 19 individuals from all parts of Ukraine's political spectrum, including other leading political figures such as Mr. Marchuk, nominated by a coalition of right-oriented parties and organizations, and Vitalii Kononov of the Green Party, as well as political unknowns like Mykola Haber of the Patriotic Party, Oleksander Rzhavskiy of the Single Family Party and Oleksander Bazyliuk of the Slavic Party.

A campaign law requirement that forced the candidates to disclose financial statements produced snickers in some Ukrainian political circles. Ukraine's Central Election Commission began releasing the reports on May 21. Among the candidates, many of whom were considered to be very well off and were not ashamed of bounding about town in shiny, top-of-the-line Mercedes Benz automobiles, only one, Mr. Rzhavskiy, admitted to making any substantial amount of money in 1998.

The Single Family Party nominee reported an income of 1.36 million hrv for 1998. But the others all stated that they were just as poor as the average Ukrainian, and some worse off still. While President Kuchma claimed an income of 19,214 hrv and ownership of a 350-square-meter apartment, Mr. Symonenko's statement showed that he earned a paltry 8,906 hrv in 1998 and owned no real estate except for a 24-square-meter garage in which he presumably parked his Russian-made car.

As the presidential campaigns began moving into high gear, the mayoral election in Kyiv, which many political analysts believed would be a test of the Kuchma campaign strategy, showed that the best re-election plan is to have concrete successes of which to boast. Challenged by the millionaire owner of the Dynamo Soccer Club, National Deputy Hryhorii Surkis, who seemed to have the support of the president, Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko, nonetheless won a landslide victory on May 30, with a margin of 76.4 percent to 16.5 percent – much larger than even he had predicted.

Kyivans wholeheartedly supported the mayor's tackling of pervasive day-to-day problems, as well as his

restoration of cultural monuments, renovations of public dwellings and improvements in the city's transportation network.

Two months later, however, a district court of Kyiv Oblast ruled, after a complaint by Mr. Surkis, that the mayor had usurped his authority to gain an edge in the campaign and had "significantly affected" the outcome. Almost immediately Ukraine's Supreme Court set aside the lower court decision.

Back in the presidential political sweepstakes, some of Mr. Kuchma's opponents also began to charge the president with unfair campaign practices.

On May 31, during a meeting with members of the Ukraine's regional press, Mr. Moroz said the media in the capital city had been bought off by the president's campaign team, and made first mention of an information blockade in pre-election Ukraine.

"We ourselves are to blame for living in an atmosphere of information terror ... Ukraine's salvation is in deposing the incumbent president. Let us unite and break the information blockade," said Mr. Moroz.

A week later Mr. Moroz charged that the president's administration was blocking his presidential campaign further by refusing to give him access to petitions distributed by the CEC, which he needed to collect the 1 million signatures required to get on the election day ballot. "We are facing a deliberate and planned campaign aimed at preventing my participation in the elections," said Mr. Moroz. After filing a complaint with the Supreme Court, the judicial authority ruled in Mr. Moroz's favor and ordered the CEC to issue 150,000 more signature forms to his campaign.

Fourteen of the 19 declared presidential candidates met the July 12 deadline imposed by law and succeeded in gathering the required 1 million signatures to support their continued candidacies. But the signatures had to pass CEC scrutiny first and that would lead to another major debacle in the 1999 elections.

At the head of the field in this and at most every juncture of the election process was President Kuchma, whose petitions were accepted and reviewed first by the CEC. He also was the first to be officially registered for the October 31 election on July 1, along with Mr. Symonenko of the Communist Party. Both candidates gathered far more than the required minimum, Mr. Kuchma submitting 1.89 million and Mr. Symonenko some 2 million signature. Mr. Tkachenko of the Peasant Party submitted the most, 2.05 million. In the end, 15 candidates submitted at least 1 million signatures.

The CEC, citing falsifications and improper signature-gathering procedures, rejected six of the candidacies, all lesser-known politicians, which caused a major stir. The rejected candidates – Vasyl Onopenko of the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party, Yurii Karmazin of the Defenders of the Homeland Party, Mr. Kononov of the Green Party, Mr. Rzhavskiy of the Single Family Party, Mr. Bazyliuk of the Slavic Party, Mr. Haber of the Patriotic Party – filed appeals to Ukraine's Supreme Court, which ruled in their favor. It found that the CEC had failed to follow registration procedures as outlined in the elections law. Specifically, it stated that the CEC should have informed each candidate of any problems with the petitions within a five-day period and then allotted another two days to gather the balance required to attain the 1 million mark. The nation's highest civilian court ruled that all six candidacies should remain valid.

CEC Chairman Mykola Riabets said on August 18, as



Efrem Lukatsky

A Communist supporter holds a red flag emblazoned with the words "Our President – Symonenko."

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

the candidate registration fiasco hit its apex, that the Supreme Court's ruling could lead to a series of further court actions by candidates and ultimately to the October elections being ruled invalid.

The beleaguered chairman said that, by forcing the registration of six candidates, which according to the CEC had failed to meet minimum requirements, the Supreme Court had established a legally questionable field of candidates.

Even as it became evident that Ukrainians would have many candidates from which to choose two political surveys taken in July showed that most voters would stick with the major players and that President Kuchma's lead over the field was widening. He was followed by Ms. Vitrenko, who continued to show staying power even as political analysts continued to predict her imminent political demise in the polls. Following her was Mr. Symonenko, who was picking up quite a bit of steam as the race entered the final leg.

While Ukraine marked its eighth anniversary of independence on August 24 in the nation's capital with a military parade, replete with military fly-overs, four presidential candidates were showing firepower of another sort in Kaniv, the final resting place of Ukraine's national bard, Taras Shevchenko.

Beneath the huge Shevchenko monument on the banks of the Dnipro River, candidates Tkachenko, Moroz, Marchuk and Volodymyr Oliinyk, the mayor of Cherkasy who was nominated by a civic organization, announced they had formed a political alliance to defeat the incumbent. They said that they soon would settle on one from the quartet to be their single candidate and waxed optimistic that they would attain victory in the first round.

In the end, the Kaniv Four, as the group came to be called, could not temper their individual egos and ambitions, and disintegrated just days before the first round.

President Kuchma received a major push in his re-election effort on August 31 when 20 political parties – nearly a quarter of the 76 registered parties of Ukraine – announced at a political shindig that they would support his candidacy.

But even as the Kuchma re-election locomotive gathered ever more steam, Ms. Vitrenko's political train remained not far behind, according to opinion polls, which many politicians in Ukraine continued to question.

September polls, rightly or wrongly, showed that as summer ended more than 23 percent of the electorate still supported Ms. Vitrenko as their choice for president, putting her behind Mr. Kuchma, who held a strong lead with 30 percent support, but ahead of Mr. Symonenko, who was at 17 percent. Most surprisingly, polls showed that, in a second-round run-off, those voters who said they would definitely vote favored Ms. Vitrenko over both the president and the Communist candidate.

Ms. Vitrenko showcased her bombastic and outspoken style at the first candidates' debate, which was sponsored by the Ukrainian Federation of Trade Unions on September 21. There voters had their first chance to hear 14 of the 15 presidential hopefuls lay out their political plans and strategies before local and national federation leaders, who were to decide whom to support after the roundtable.

Ms. Vitrenko elicited catcalls and derisive shouts from the crowd when she accused the federation of putting on a Potemkin-type show because, as she asserted, the group had already made up its mind to support the incumbent president. Then, smirking cat-like, she walked out of the hall. The federation eventually decided to refrain from endorsing a candidate until after the first round of the elections.

The Kaniv Four candidates continued to attack the president's campaign strategies as unethical and illegal. They issued a statement in which they said the president was loading the 225 territorial election commissions with his own people. The statement said that central authorities "taking advantage of the short-sightedness of local executive bodies, have seized leading posts in territorial election commissions in order to be able to falsify the election results in an unimpeded manner."

It pointed out that the president's representatives would lead 80 of the territorial commissions; while Mr. Tkachenko's people would lead 16; Mr. Moroz's, 14; Mr. Marchuk's, 10; and Mr. Oliinyk's, 14.

The attack on the president by the Kaniv Four continued on September 22 when Mr. Tkachenko used his power as the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada to introduce a resolution to have the CEC de-certify the candidacy of Mr. Kuchma for the unconstitutional use of his office in his campaign efforts. The resolution referred to a refusal by the National Television and Radio Company, a



Efrem Lukatsky

Russia's Prime Minister Vladimir Putin (left), Moldova's President Petru Lucinschi (center) and Azerbaijan's President Heidar Aliyev chat at the inauguration of President Leonid Kuchma.

state enterprise that controls the UT-1 government station, to broadcast the Verkhovna Rada Government Day session. Twelve of the 15 presidential candidates were also members of Parliament.

During a three-hour debate in Parliament on the issue, Chairman Tkachenko accused the presidential administration of inappropriately using state funds and utilizing the state militia and security services in the re-election campaign.

The Verkhovna Rada also brought Europe into the developing political morass. An investigative team from the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly flew to Kyiv the first week of October, at the behest of Mr. Tkachenko and the Kaniv Four, to review allegations of election improprieties. It concluded that the Kuchma government was intimidating the press and not allowing for a free and fair campaign season.

"We are a bit alarmed at the situation," said Anna Severinsen, the lead rapporteur of the PACE delegation.

The investigator noted the government's use of tax, health and fire inspectors to intimidate and bring pressure to bear on media outlets that were not supporting the president in their broadcasts. It specifically pointed to the case of the STB channel, whose financial accounts were frozen by tax investigators. The PACE team called on the government to ban all types of inspections of media organizations until the elections were completed and allow equal access to television broadcasts, including on the state-controlled channel, for all candidates.

The single largest abomination of these scandal-plagued elections was the attempt on the life of Ms. Vitrenko on October 2 in the city of Kryvyi Rih. Two grenades were hurled into a crowd lingering near a public hall in which Ms. Vitrenko had just completed a campaign appearance. Thirty three people were injured, none fatally. The first explosive device landed several feet from the candidate while she shook hands and signed autographs for well-wishers. She escaped serious injury only due to the efforts of her bodyguard who sustained serious head injuries when he took the brunt of the blow, as he pushed Ms. Vitrenko back toward the building, probably saving her life.

"My reaction was to race to the car. If I had done so, the second grenade would have hit me," said Ms. Vitrenko after the incident.

The Security Service of Ukraine almost immediately announced it had arrested two individuals – Russian nationals – and that one was a brother of Serhii Ivanchenko, a campaign organizer and official of presidential candidate Moroz's campaign team.

Mr. Moroz fiercely denied any connection to the incident, but a relentless television campaign by the Kuchma team left many Ukrainians wondering.

Two weeks later, with the Vitrenko imbroglio still simmering, the Kaniv Four, which had promised to name the person from among them who would be their candidate

by October 11, announced that it had done so, but due to the need for further negotiations refused to divulge the name. Three days later Mr. Tkachenko announced that Mr. Moroz was the choice. But in the first tangible sign that cracks were appearing in the coalition, Mr. Marchuk's campaign team stated that their candidate, while supporting the Kaniv Four choice, would continue with his candidacy.

The Kaniv Four said that in return they would continue to support Mr. Marchuk's election efforts. The other two Kaniv candidates, Messrs. Tkachenko and Oliinyk, failed to say when they would withdraw their candidacies. The group also said that it retained the right to make the decisive announcement, and any changes to it, on October 25. Four days later, on October 18, Mr. Tkachenko said he would heed the request of his Peasant Party and not withdraw his candidacy.

On October 25, confusion reigned as the alliance disintegrated after it announced that the members had changed their minds and now Mr. Marchuk was their choice. Immediately after the statement, Mr. Moroz said at a hastily called press conference that he would continue to run, at the behest of his Socialist Party, but would also support Mr. Marchuk.

The next day Mr. Tkachenko stunned reporters with the declaration that he was endorsing the Communist Party candidate, Mr. Symonenko. He explained that without Mr. Moroz, who he said had betrayed the alliance, the Kaniv Four no longer had the ability to achieve its goal and, therefore, was no longer a political force worth maintaining.

The disintegration of the Kaniv Four five days before the elections, and with it a reduced chance for victory by Mr. Moroz, whom the Kuchma campaign team had long said was its primary threat, left the president's team feeling certain of victory. The president continued to lead most polls right up to the last day that the election law allowed surveys to be published – two weeks to the elections..

Meanwhile the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, which had achieved legitimacy and respect in the way it monitored the election to Parliament in March, 1998, issued a warning on October 19 that the elections conceivably could be nullified because of last-minute changes to the election law proposed by Parliament.

It said that national deputies had proposed 30 mostly inconsequential changes, that could, nonetheless confuse local election commissions. It also warned that situations could develop in which commissions in many local districts would not have a quorum to allow voting precincts to open and operate.

Nonetheless, on October 31 the precincts were open and the electorate voted in large numbers, giving President Kuchma a substantial margin of victory over his closest challenger, Mr. Symonenko. Mr. Kuchma finished with 36.5 percent, while the Communist leader took 22.2 percent.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Mr. Kuchma, in a reversal of his political fortune in the 1994 presidential elections found large electoral support in the western oblasts, but did not take a single eastern oblast, save for his political home base of Dnipropetrovsk. The two leaders were followed by Ms. Vitrenko, who finished surprisingly weak at 11 percent. Mr. Moroz, also at 11 percent, and Mr. Marchuk at 8 percent came next. The two Rukh candidates, Mr. Udovenko and Mr. Kostenko, followed, with 2.1 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively.

International political observers gave the first round elections a passing grade for fairness, although all judged the pre-election campaigns, particularly President Kuchma's, to be fraught with improprieties and illegal tactics.

Mr. Kuchma and Mr. Symonenko quickly began lining up support from their defeated opponents in the first days of the run-up to the second round. While Mr. Symonenko gained the support of five ex-presidential hopefuls, Mr. Kuchma took what for him was the coup de grace when he received the backing of Mr. Marchuk – whose 2.1 million votes many considered the key to a Kuchma victory in as much as they represented an electorate that was both anti-Kuchma and anti-Communist.

The endorsement was not without its political cost. Mr. Marchuk demanded and received a high-level administrative portfolio – secretary of the National Security and Defense Council – and the incorporation of a portion of his political platform with its heavy accent on anti-corruption measures into the president's post-election agenda.

Some concern existed on the part of the Kuchma campaign that a low turnout would favor Mr. Symonenko because his backers were sure to turn out as they always did. The fears were unfounded as even more Ukrainians voted on November 14 than did in the first round – some 74 percent of eligible voters. Mr. Kuchma won by a landslide.

Remarks made by international election observers, however, cast a shadow over the Kuchma victory. The largest observer organization, the delegation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, said a day after the vote that Ukraine's elections had been affected by a planned and coordinated effort by the government to utilize all its power to re-elect the incumbent. Simon Osborn, head of the OSCE observer delegation said it had "uncovered clear evidence that this campaign by state institutions was systematic and coordinated across the country."

Although Mr. Simon underscored that Ukraine had violated OSCE rules and regulations, which it had sworn to uphold when it took membership, he did not go so far as to label the elections tainted.

The chief reason for that, as Mr. Osborn stated, was the large margin of victory by the president, and the difficulty in quantifying the effect of the government's influence on voting patterns.

With the elections over, the president went about setting out his plans for the next five years, which in the short term, as he explained, would include a drastic intensification of economic and administrative reforms, the formation of a centrist majority coalition in the Parliament that would be able to form a government, and a proposal for a referendum to change the Constitution and to allow for the establishment of a bicameral national legislature.

The president, who hoped for improved relations with the national deputies in order to get long-stalled economic bills moving, again faced a confrontational legislative body days after his re-election when he requested that his inauguration ceremony be moved from the Parliament Building to a Kyiv concert hall. After reaching agreement with the Verkhovna Rada leadership for a change of venue and agreeing to move the date to accommodate a parliamentary recess, the president's request was rejected by a floor vote.

But, after the president threatened to make the change anyway, via a presidential decree, more back-room deal-making occurred and, finally, the deputies relented the morning of the inauguration. However, three leftist Parliament factions – the Communists, Progressive Socialists and Hromada – held out and boycotted the event, and even conducted a minor protest outside the site of the inauguration.

More than 300 guests, including delegations from 20 foreign governments, witnessed Mr. Kuchma take the oath of office as the third president of Ukraine since independence in 1991, and the fourth in its history. In a new tradition, Viktor Skomorokha, the head of the Constitutional Court, handed the president the official symbols of his office: a gold medallion engraved with a trident, the official executive stamp and a gold "bulava" (mace), the symbol of executive authority.

Kyiv's foreign policy: continuing success

Although at times it seemed as if little besides the presidential campaign was happening in the country, Ukraine did have a political life beyond the elections in 1999.

In the foreign policy realm especially, Ukraine realized several achievements while President Leonid Kuchma gained stature as a leading political figure in Central and Eastern Europe. The country continued to develop its multi-vectored policy of expanding relations with Europe, while continuing to build relations with Moscow and its strategic partnership with the United States. It was lauded for its peace plan for the Kosovo conflict and its mediation of the Transdnier situation.

However, it also continued to receive criticism for increasing corruption, a lack of political will to move forward on reforms, and for its failure to close the Chernobyl nuclear facility.

On the home front, apart from the elections, the year in politics was marked by the death of the leading pro-democracy figure and the split of his party into two bickering political organizations, as well as the detention of a former prime minister, held in a U.S. immigration facility after unsuccessfully requesting political asylum here.

As 1998 ended, Oleksander Tkachenko, the controversial, Russia-oriented chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, turned Ukrainian heads again when he decided to foray into foreign policy during a visit to Moscow, where he reiterated a proposal first announced earlier in the year that Ukraine should consider joining Russia and Belarus in a Slavic brotherhood. He called such a union "a necessity" for Ukraine's economic development.

Mr. Tkachenko also said he had convinced Gennadii Selezniiov, chairman of the Russian State Duma, to push for long-delayed ratification of the Ukraine-Russia treaty on friendship, cooperation and partnership.

Indeed, Mr. Tkachenko's visit seemed to break the logjam that had stalled the approval process, because on December 25, 1998, the treaty was finally ratified after laying dormant for a year and a half.

The treaty was signed only after the prime ministers of the two countries had tackled the sensitive issue of the Black Sea Fleet and signed a document that outlined in further detail provisions for the division of space and facilities.

The ratification by the State Duma was a major step towards the enactment of the treaty, but it only attained full Russian approval when the upper house finally passed it on February 17.

Mr. Tkachenko continued to push for his tripartite Slavic union throughout the first part of the year. On January 28, during a speech before the Belarusian Parliament in Minsk, Mr. Tkachenko reiterated his proposal for a joint economic and customs system, and single currency. His ideas got little support at home, however. Even Borys Oliinyk, a leading member of the Communist Party, which generally supports reunion with Moscow, commented that such a move would be ill-advised.

Mr. Tkachenko could claim one major victory in his fight to bring Ukraine back into the Moscow fold when he led a successful battle in the Verkhovna Rada on March 3 to make Ukraine a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly Commonwealth of Independent States.

After rancorous debate and a major scuffle between Ukraine's parliamentary leadership and center-right forces opposed to such a move, the body approved the resolution by four votes. The success came after four previous votes failed to attain a majority.

A month later, on April 1, Mr. Tkachenko led the delegation of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly's newest member to St. Petersburg, Russia, where he again called for an economic and currency union with Russia and Belarus, and added that a single defense system wouldn't be bad either.

The weekend, which included a parallel meeting of the CIS heads of state, signaled a reinvigoration of the largely Moscow-controlled, multi-state structure, which had drifted with no apparent mission or evident desire by the member-countries to actively work within its framework. President Kuchma had said a month earlier that the organization "barely exists." But, after the summit and with the appointment of a new executive secretary, Yurii Yarov, the Ukrainian president changed his stance and declared at the Moscow summit's conclusion that the "CIS does exist."

Mr. Tkachenko's trumpeting of a Slavic state grew

louder on June 10-11, when he orchestrated and presided over a full-blown inter-parliamentary conference on the matter titled: "Belarus, Russia, Ukraine: Experiences and Problems of Integration." An overwhelmingly leftist political gathering of politicians of the three countries, the conference heard calls from leading parliamentary figures for reunion.

But all it could muster in terms of concrete results was two documents calling for closer cooperation in various areas.

Much controversy surrounded Mr. Tkachenko's last-minute decision to move the meeting from the city of Chernihiv to Kyiv and the Verkhovna Rada Building. The chairman's opponents noted that the conference was nothing more than a political tactic by Mr. Tkachenko, who had declared his presidential candidacy two weeks prior, to raise his profile among Ukrainian voters nostalgic for the past.

President Alyaksandr Lukashenka of Belarus continued the call for Slavic unity during a visit to Kyiv on March 21. While appearing at a joint conference with President Kuchma, the Belarusian strongman said, "Sooner or later we will be united." The Ukrainian president did not comment on the remark, but also did not disagree when Mr. Lukashenka stated that talks had begun on the matter.

Mr. Kuchma, who met often with world leaders in his first years in office, continued to do so on an even wider scale in 1999. Some critics said the president used the meetings as a campaign tool to raise his image among Ukrainians as an international statesman. But he also had several notable accomplishments this year.

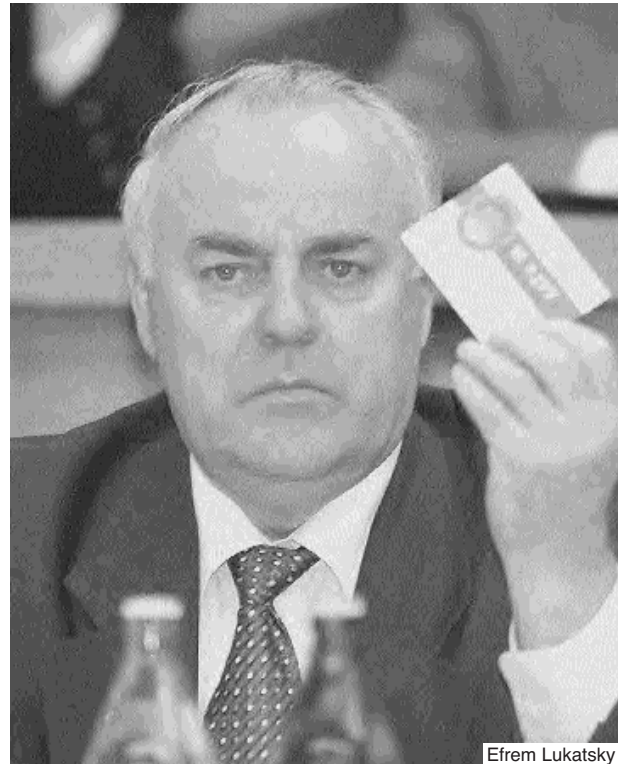
In Lviv on May 14-15, the president gathered nine Central European leaders for a summit that focused as much on how to avoid alienating those European countries that have not yet been allowed to enter Europe's predominant political and economic structures, as it did on the major international event of the year: the Kosovo crisis.

The heads of state – during what was for the most part a relaxed and informal setting in a city that hadn't looked so good in years, according to residents – discussed how the European integration process will affect citizens and how to keep European borders open so as not to once again geopolitically divide Eastern and Central Europe.

Another foreign policy success, perhaps more symbolic than tangible, occurred in Yalta on September 9-10, when 22 countries, including 14 heads of state or government, attended a summit on the Baltic-Black Sea region. Mr. Kuchma dubbed the event Yalta II, symbolically tying it to the historic Yalta Conference of 1945, during which Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin redrew the geopolitical map of Europe in an agreement that gave rise to the Iron Curtain.

Mr. Kuchma alluded to the threat of a new dissection of Europe if integration does not proceed on a wider basis and called the potential new division a "paper curtain."

Beyond these extended gatherings of world leaders, the president continued to receive presidents and prime ministers in Kyiv as well. But he traveled less than he has in the



Efrem Lukatsky

Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksander Tkachenko, chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, seen at the Peasant Party Congress.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

past, due to the limits put on him by the election season.

Mr. Kuchma did manage to get to Davos, Switzerland, on January 28-30 for the annual World Economic Forum, where he held a series of discussions with other leaders, chiefly to gather support for continued financial aid from international financial organizations for the beleaguered Ukrainian economy.

In Kyiv the president hosted several international leaders in individual visits. First came Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, who convinced Mr. Kuchma during a 24-hour visit on January 27-28 that Ukraine should begin the destruction of its anti-personnel mine stockpiles, on which Ukraine had been stalling.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu followed, arriving in Kyiv on March 21 for a seven-hour stay while on his way to Moscow. The two leaders signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen ties between the two nations and to invigorate an exchange of capital investment.

On July 8-9 German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder made his first official visit to Ukraine and ran into a Ukrainian president not ready to heed the German leader's proposal that Ukraine stop construction of two nuclear reactors near the cities of Rivne and Khmelnytskyi in favor of alternate energy sources. Mr. Kuchma told Mr. Schroeder, who was facing pressure from environmentalists in his political coalition not to support nuclear energy development, that it was too late to change plans.

The Ukrainian president, who held talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow during the CIS summit, also met with two Russian prime ministers. First Sergei Stepashin visited Kyiv on July 16 to discuss the 25 percent decline in trade between the two countries, and Ukraine's increasing indebtedness to Russia for oil and gas. The two sides could not agree on the exact size of the debt, however, because Ukraine insisted that it was not responsible for money owed by private Ukrainian firms, but did agree on a general guideline for repayment.

While in Kyiv Mr. Stepashin also took part in a mediation conference organized by Mr. Kuchma concerning problems in the breakaway Transdnister region of Moldova. The Ukrainian president succeeded in bringing Moldovan President Petru Lucinschi and the self-styled Transdnister leader Igor Smirnov to the negotiating table and getting them to sign a joint declaration in which they agreed to work to reunite under a single state. Differences remained on what form the reunion should take, however. Russia and Ukraine agreed to act as "guarantors of the peace."

After Prime Minister Stepashin abruptly left office in August, his replacement, Vladimir Putin, continued talks on the subject of the energy debt with Ukrainian Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko in Moscow. In September Ukraine agreed to repay – what the two sides finally determined to be a \$1 billion debt – in commodities.

With the elections over, Mr. Kuchma packed his bags and began anew his travels to world capitals. On December 6 he arrived in Moscow for talks with the ailing President Yeltsin. A day later he made a stop in Paris to meet with French President Jacques Chirac, before flying to Washington on December 8 for a general session of the Kuchma-Gore Commission and meetings with the International Monetary Fund and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

U.S.-Ukraine relations remained strong in 1999, although the degree of warmth rose and fell depending on the heat applied by Washington for Ukraine to get moving on stalled reforms.

On January 17 a high-ranking U.S. delegation warned that unless Kyiv could show Washington that it had taken substantial steps down the road of economic reform and that it had made progress in resolving complaints of U.S. businessmen in the country, Ukraine would face a reduction in U.S. foreign aid.

The bilateral economic assistance appropriation act required that Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright make appropriate certification before the House Appropriations Committee by February 18 for Ukraine to receive the full measure of the \$195 million earmark granted in the 1999 U.S. foreign assistance budget.

Ukraine passed the test when Ms. Albright told Congress that Ukraine had made "sufficient progress." Without the positive report Ukraine could have lost \$72 million.

Ukraine-U.S. cooperation continued at the highest levels of government, chiefly through the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission, better known as the Kuchma-Gore Commission. The group met half a dozen times throughout 1999, usually at the committee level, of



Efrem Lukatsky

President Leonid Kuchma (left) and Poland's President Alexander Kwasniewski (second from left) attend a wreath-laying ceremony at Lychakiv Cemetery in Lviv in honor of Polish troops killed during the 1918-1919 war between Ukraine and Poland. The ceremony was held on May 13, a day before the beginning of the Central and Eastern European summit in that western Ukrainian city.

which there are four. The first 1999 meeting, held in Kyiv on January 20-22, involved the Trade and Investment Committee. The U.S. delegation head, Jan Kalicki of the Department of Commerce, said the two sides had covered three topics: an action plan for trade and development; creation of a second plan to cover standards and certification, particularly in covering telecommunications and medical equipment; and issues surrounding the certification process by Secretary of State Albright, which at the time had not yet been resolved.

Similar meetings of the various committees associated with the Kuchma-Gore Commission took place regularly all year long, culminating in the December 8-9 general session chaired by Vice President Gore and President Kuchma.

U.S. assistance continued to come to Ukraine in a variety of forms, through grants and programs administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development, by means of the Freedom Support Act as well as the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, known commonly as the Nunn-Lugar program.

The U.S. and Ukraine agreed to extend the Nunn-Lugar program until 2006 during a six-hour visit to Kyiv by U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen on July 31. The program provides Ukraine funds and expertise to reorganize its military and dismantle its nuclear arsenal, which in the future will include the elimination of the last of the SS-24 ICBMs and their missile silos, as well as Bear and Black Jack strategic bombers and air-launched cruise missiles.

On August 25 U.S. officials delivered \$16.5 million in medical supplies and medicines to Kharkiv hospitals and clinics, the first financial investment for the Kharkiv Initiative, a project advanced by the U.S. in compensation for Ukraine's agreement to withhold the sale of turbines to Iran for the development of a Russian-built nuclear reactor. The turbines were to be manufactured by Turboatom, a Kharkiv factory. The agreement between Ukraine and the U.S. was signed in the spring of 1998. Until the medical supplies were delivered, the Kharkiv Initiative mostly consisted of seminars and retraining for Ukrainian businesses, and limited exchanges of Ukrainian and U.S. businesspeople.

Other U.S.-financed development programs continued to grow in Ukraine in 1999. The Western NIS Enterprise Fund, a not-for-profit investment fund, capitalized with \$150 million of U.S. taxpayer dollars in 1995, had invested some \$68 million in 20 Ukrainian and Moldovan companies by September 1999.

Another U.S. government-funded operation, the Internet Access and Training Program, established several Internet access centers for alumni of U.S.-sponsored technical assistance programs. The goal of the program,

which is funded through 2001, is to keep the alumni connected to their U.S. counterparts and to develop a continuing education program.

The Community Partnerships Program, a USAID-funded program that ties U.S. cities to Ukrainian counterparts to improve municipal government practices, also continued to thrive in Ukraine. In 1999, CPP, which is directed by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, saw its program grow to 18 U.S.-Ukrainian municipal partnerships.

The U.S. also supported Ukraine in its effort to become Y2K compliant. Although Kyiv did not seriously begin attacking the millennium bug problem until February – much later than most developed countries – by November a special government task force reported that the country's energy, communications and transportation systems would not collapse on January 1 because of computer failures. A team of Y2K experts from several U.S. energy producers reviewed and assisted in the compliance inspections. Nonetheless, the U.S. government decided that it is better to be safe than sorry and agreed to pay U.S. government employees travel expenses if they desired to leave Ukraine before the New Year.

The U.S. strategic partnership reached its heights quite literally when on October 10 a Ukrainian Zenit rocket lifted a Hughes Company-built communications satellite into orbit from an ocean-based launch platform. The successful launch was the tangible result of the Sea Launch project, a consortium of the U.S.-based Boeing Corporation, Ukraine's PivdenMash rocket factory and PivdenMash Design Bureau, the Norwegian company Kvaerner and the Russian firm Energia. The launch was the first ever from a mobile launch pad set in the ocean.

The two countries found it more difficult to cooperate in the NATO-led air assault on rump Yugoslavia in the Kosovo crisis.

A day after NATO began aerial bombing of Belgrade, the Serbian capital, and its environs, the Verkhovna Rada passed a resolution condemning the act as "aggression against a sovereign state" and urged the Cabinet of Ministers to break all ties with NATO and rescind Ukraine's status as a non-nuclear state. In the next month the Verkhovna Rada would attempt unsuccessfully to pass the resolution six additional times.

The Ukrainian government, which repeatedly expressed its concerns about military intervention in Yugoslavia, called on NATO to wait for a United Nations Security Council authorization.

Almost immediately after the assault started, the Ukrainian government began working on a peace initiative that it hoped to broker. Days after the bombing began, Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, along with Minister of Defense Oleksander Kuzmuk, flew to Belgrade to offer their services as go-betweens in peace

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

negotiations. Although Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic met with the two Ukrainian officials, he did not address their offer. Minister Tarasyuk then traveled to the European capitals of Bonn, Paris and London, where he met with the foreign ministers of Germany, France and Great Britain, respectively, regarding the Kosovo situation and Ukraine's peace proposal.

The details of the plan, announced by President Kuchma on April 14, included a simultaneous ceasefire by both sides, followed by a withdrawal of Serbian troops from Kosovo and a return of Kosovo Albanian refugees under the direction of either the U.N. or the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. He said that Ukrainian troops would take part in a peacekeeping effort, but only under the aegis of the two organizations.

The announcement came a day after the president had met in Kyiv with a delegation of European Union officials led by German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and Chairman of the European Commission Hans Van den Broek.

Although criticized for its similarity to a plan put forward by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, it received high marks from several international leaders, including U.S. President Clinton.

While congratulating President Kuchma for his initiative, the U.S. president invited him to a private meeting while he was in Washington for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of NATO, held on April 23, a celebration that turned into a conference on Kosovo.

On the eve of the summit, Foreign Affairs Minister Tarasyuk announced that Ukraine was willing to act as a neutral holding point for three U.S. servicemen captured by Serbian forces, and that Ukraine was willing to host a peace conference in Kyiv.

Ukrainian troops began preparing to take part in peacekeeping efforts after the Verkhovna Rada gave the nod on April 16. By the end of August some of the 800 troops that were to take part had arrived in Pristina, the Kosovo capital.

Ukraine's efforts in Kosovo and the Transdniestrian region, as well as the two successful international summits in Lviv and Yalta paid Ukraine dividends on the diplomatic front, when the country received a two-year non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council after a majority vote of the organization's General Assembly on October 14.

Ukraine had applied for the seat in 1986, after having held it in 1984-1985. Minister of Foreign Affairs Tarasyuk led the final thrust to Ukraine's success in 1999 with the help of ex-Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadii Udovenko, whose influence as a former president of the General Assembly aided the lobbying effort immensely. Ukraine finally won the seat in a competition with Slovakia in the Eastern European region after four rounds on voting.

Ukraine had less success in attaining the financial support of the international community for its effort to close the Chernobyl nuclear facility, which it had promised to do by the end of the year.

In 1999 the delays centered on Ukraine's continuing demand that the world help Ukraine finance the completion of two reactors, one each at its Khmelnytskyi and Rivne facilities. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development delayed a final decision on funding the two projects until Kyiv complied with a list of 74 demands, which included revamping the energy sector and providing evidence that the two reactors would be profitable.

The G-7 most industrialized countries agreed in Denver in 1997 to help Ukraine decommission the Chernobyl facility. Although only one of the four reactors remained on line in 1999, Ukraine continued to maintain that without the completed Rivne and Khmelnytskyi reactors, Chernobyl would not close.

"The Chernobyl power plant will continue to operate until the G-7 countries meet their commitments to Ukraine," said President Kuchma.

Ukraine received additional aid on July 23 when the European Union promised \$210 million more in assistance for the repair of the sarcophagus of the damaged No. 4 reactor, but Ukrainian officials maintained it was still not nearly enough.

Work finally began, however, to rebuild the crumbling concrete cover. With more than \$600 million of the \$758 million needed to stabilize and rebuild the shelter gathered, actual repairs began in mid-year to stabilize and strengthen the main beams that support the roof of the shelter. There are 22 planned stages to the Shelter Implementation Plan, which began in July 1998 with the onset of engineering and design studies.

Just as the year was drawing to a close, the third reactor block of Chernobyl, which had been shut down for



Efreim Lukatsky

At the Central European summit in Lviv on May 14: (from left) Presidents Milan Kucan of Slovenia, Roman Herzog of Germany, Arpad Goncz of Hungary, Alexander Kwasniewski of Poland, Emil Constantinescu of Romania, Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine and Thomas Klestil of Austria pass by an honor guard.

nearly a month for repairs, was reopened, which caused another outcry in the international anti-nuclear community. Within days, after fire in a non-essential pressure line, the reactor was closed again.

In domestic politics, the country continued to fight the effects of an economy on the slide, while corruption remained as evident as ever.

The United Nations Human Development Report release on July 12 put Ukraine 91st in a rating of 174 countries on life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted real income. Ukraine improved from the 102nd position, where it placed in 1998, but remained far below its 54th place standing in 1995. The U.N. reported Ukraine's life expectancy at 68 years of age, while its infant mortality rate stood at 18 per 1,000. The rate in the U.S. stands at six deaths per 1,000 newborns.

At the beginning of the year statistics released by the Ukrainian government showed that Ukraine's population had decreased by 205,000 to 50.09 million. The country's population has fallen steadily since 1993, when it peaked at 52 million.

Miners in the Donbas coal region and ethnic Tatars in the Crimea have been among those the hardest hit by the country's economic malaise. On June 17 the Moscow-based Segodnia newspaper reported that since the new year more than 700 suicides had been recorded in the coal-mining Donbas region, most due to depression brought on by bleak prospects for the future, which the newspaper attributed to the Ukrainian government's overhaul of the mining system in accord with IMF demands. It stated that many towns were bereft of males, who had left for Russia in search of work.

The situation became worse still on May 24 when a methane explosion rocked a Donetsk mine, killing 39 and injuring 48 others. It was another in a series of blasts that have racked the industry in recent years. Most experts considered the Zasiadko mine among the safer ones in the Donbas region, although a government expert said that it often exceeded limits on methane gas and coal dust concentrations. It was also one of the few mines that still maintained its huge output of coal and where workers received their salaries regularly.

Some 35,000 Crimean Tatars, many of whom believe they have been ignored by the Ukrainian government, made their plight known, when they gathered in the Crimean capital of Symferopol on May 17-18 to demand inclusion in Ukraine's political and economic processes, as well as simpler citizenship procedures. Since 1992 the Tatars have slowly returned to the Crimea from Uzbekistan, where they were forcibly relocated in 1944 on the orders of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin.

Many Tatars had threatened violence in the days leading up to the demonstration if their demands were not met. President Kuchma and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Tkachenko defused the situation when they met with

demonstration leaders in the Crimean capital and agreed to an advisory board within the presidential administration to hear and resolve Crimean legal issues.

Approximately 271,000 Tatars have returned to the Crimea, where promised aid for schools, housing and sewers dried up after inflation hit in the early and mid-90s. Less than half have taken citizenship, citing insurmountable bureaucratic hurdles.

Violence and corruption, inevitably found in weak economies, continued to plague Ukraine in the last year of the millennium. Besides the grenade attack on Progressive Socialist presidential candidate Natalia Vitrenko in October (see preceding section on elections), another bomb blast shook the city center of Kyiv on June 15, destroying the main level of the Sport Hotel. The bomb, which contained nearly two kilograms of explosives, injured nine people. Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs, which made no arrests in the matter, said it believed the incident was related to an organized crime business dispute.

A report on corruption in the world compiled by Transparency International and released in mid-October identified Ukraine among the 14 most corrupt countries. The country fared worse than such notoriously corrupt states as Columbia, South Korea and India, although it did manage to place better than Russia.

Though it has announced several anti-corruption programs during the first term of President Kuchma, Ukraine has had little to show for its efforts, even though leaders of the anti-corruption effort said otherwise at an international conference on corruption. During the conference, hosted by Vice-President Gore and held in Washington in mid-February, director of Ukrainian National Bureau of Investigation, Vasyl Durdynets, stated that although the social transformations taking place make the fight against corruption difficult, some progress had been made.

He cited figures showing a large increase in the number of corruption cases filed during the past year and the astonishing number of Ministry of Internal Affairs official – some 20,000 – dismissed.

But Inna Pidluska, a representative of the Ukrainian Center for Independent Research, told the seminar that despite all the laws and extensive number of agencies created to fight corruption and organized crime, outdated laws and a totalitarian mindset make the effort difficult. In addition, she explained, an expansive and unreformed bureaucracy, and unclear laws and regulations remain fertile ground for bribery.

As the conferees continued to talk in Washington, Pavlo Lazarenko, the ex-prime minister and leader of the Hromada Party, who had come to personify corruption in Ukraine, landed in New York to ask for political asylum.

Mr. Lazarenko had been arrested in Basel, Switzerland, on December 3, 1998, after authorities

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

detained him for attempting to enter the country with a Panamanian passport, and was subsequently charged with 21 counts of money laundering before being freed on \$3 million bond.

On February 17 the Verkhovna Rada voted to strip Mr. Lazarenko of his immunity from criminal prosecution, which all national deputies carry. The vote cleared the way for him to face prosecution on domestic charges of embezzlement and concealing foreign income. Two days before the vote, however, Mr. Lazarenko fled Ukraine for Greece, where he issued a statement that he was seeking medical attention for a heart ailment. He then proceeded to the United States, where he was detained by immigration officials for attempting to enter the country without a valid visa.

On February 24 he met with immigration officials and requested asylum in the U.S. on the grounds that he had a credible fear of returning to Ukraine, where he said he would be politically persecuted for his opposition to the Kuchma government.

Ukrainian officials asked the U.S. to hand Mr. Lazarenko over to them on February 21, but because the two countries do not have an extradition treaty the request was never heeded.

Just more than a week later Swiss authorities postponed a hearing date that had been scheduled in the Lazarenko case because of developments in the U.S.

On March 4, Mr. Lazarenko's attorney, James Mayock, told *The Weekly* that the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service had determined that his client had a "credible fear" of political persecution if he returned home and that further hearings would determine whether he would be granted asylum.

The Ukrainian politician received permission to have his case moved to San Francisco on March 12 to be closer to his family. During the summer, the U.S. press reported that Mr. Lazarenko had purchased an 18-acre estate in the San Francisco area worth some \$7 million, once owned by the comedian and actor Eddie Murphy, which had a separate helicopter landing pad and five swimming pools.

In mid-April Swiss authorities issued a formal warrant for the arrest of Mr. Lazarenko and began extradition proceedings with the U.S.

Throughout the summer and autumn, the Lazarenko case seemingly stood still. Hearings scheduled for mid-June and the end of October were delayed, as U.S. officials worked with Swiss authorities on the terms of an extradition warrant, which the U.S. said superseded Mr. Lazarenko's asylum request. However, on June 18, the U.S. arrested Petro Kirichenko, an associate of Mr. Lazarenko, at his home in northern California in connection with the Swiss case.

Meanwhile, on September 3, Mr. Lazarenko issued a letter from the detention facility in the Bay area where he was being held to the Verkhovna Rada. He stated that if national deputies agreed to remove wording that gives consent for his arrest in the resolution that it approved denying him criminal immunity, he was ready to return to Ukraine "for the sake of establishing the truth." The Parliament has yet to act on the request.

A week later Swiss officials announced that they had frozen 20 bank accounts allegedly connected to Mr. Lazarenko.

On December 1, with no movement on Mr. Lazarenko's legal standing in the U.S. and the extradition request by the Swiss still in progress, Tamara Lazarenko, the wife of the beleaguered national deputy, returned to Kyiv. She said she had come back to take care of Mr. Lazarenko's sick mother and to live there once again. However, she quickly discovered that she would have to find other living accommodations because the Procurator General's Office had confiscated her Kyiv apartment.

The prime minister who replaced Mr. Lazarenko in office, Mr. Pustovoitenko, continued in 1999 to bring a degree of stability to the office, which had changed hands yearly since President Kuchma was first elected. He celebrated his second year in the post in September, but not before overcoming a determined effort by the Communist majority in the Verkhovna Rada to oust him.

Communist leader Petro Symonenko began the attack against the prime minister on July 16 when he declared before a general session of the Verkhovna Rada that "the Cabinet [of Ministers] continues to build a criminal-predatory society with immoral and cruel rules of the game imposed by international financial circles." The Communists, however, failed to garner the 226 votes needed to dismiss the prime minister and his Cabinet.

After Mr. Kuchma's second inauguration on

November 30, the president announced that he had nominated Mr. Pustovoitenko to lead a new Ukrainian government. On December 14, however, the Verkhovna Rada failed to approve the nomination. Three days later Mr. Kuchma nominated Viktor Yushenko, chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine, for the post.

Ukraine's record on human rights, used by Mr. Lazarenko in making his asylum request, continued to be criticized by international organizations and governments in 1999. Determinations made regarding the presidential elections aside, Ukraine's commitment to human rights was questioned by the U.S. State Department, the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly and Amnesty International in separate reports.

A February 26 U.S. State Department report found "significant restrictions" in freedom of association and limitations on non-native religious groups; "some" limits on freedom of movement; and other problems such as restrictive laws governing political parties, violence against women and children, trafficking and discrimination against women. It criticized the corruption in the country and the heavy-handed tactics of law-enforcement agencies against politicians, journalists and businessmen.

The Council of Europe also made less than laudatory statements on human rights in Ukraine, particularly in regards to its refusal to ban the death penalty, which Ukraine had promised to do by late 1998 as a condition for taking membership in PACE. A PACE delegation that visited Kyiv on May 20 said that if Ukraine did not change its law on capital punishment it would face censure in January 2000 and eventual ouster.

Amnesty International also called on Kyiv to abolish the death penalty in a statement it released on June 24. But Ukrainian national deputies, while continuing to emphasize that Ukraine had implemented a moratorium on the death penalty a year ago, said no public support existed for a ban, and that the chances for such a law passing were nil in an election year.

But the report that most seemed to irk President Kuchma was one in which he was listed among the top 10 "enemies of the press." The president criticized the report, released on May 3, for inaccuracies and said he would file a suit in international court against the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists, which issued it. The CPJ listed Mr. Kuchma in sixth position for "running roughshod over expressions of opposition" and "his tacit acceptance of violence against the press," which has resulted in bombings, assaults on journalists and "a climate of fear and self-censorship."

Even with all the problems that Ukraine continued to face in 1999, without a doubt the largest political and social tragedy of the year was the death of Vyacheslav Chornovil. The long-time leader of Rukh, who stood at the forefront of the movement for democracy and statehood for nearly 35 years, died in a tragic car accident on March 26 outside Kyiv. The incident brought cries of

political assassination from right-center democratic forces, but no one has yet to substantiate the allegations. Minister of Internal Affairs Yurii Kravchenko said within days of the death that law enforcement officials were investigating the case as a tragic accident.

The funeral for Mr. Chornovil, held on March 29 and attended by some 50,000 people, was widely considered the largest outpouring of grief for any Ukrainian public figure ever. After a public viewing at the Teachers Building and a funeral service at St. Volodymyr's Sobor, Mr. Chornovil's body was interred at the historic Baikove Cemetery, alongside many of Ukraine's other historic figures.

"History will show that without him today's independent Ukraine would not have been possible," said Mykhailo Horyn, a former fellow dissident and a current political leader.

Mr. Chornovil's death occurred just as the party he led for six years was undergoing the biggest crisis of its 10-year existence. It began on February 17 when the Rukh faction in the Verkhovna Rada voted to depose Mr. Chornovil as its leader, alleging that his authoritarian ways and abuse of party procedures and statutes were hurting the organization. Three days later came a proposal from Rukh's Central Leadership, controlled largely by that faction. Then, on February 28, a quickly called extraordinary Congress of Rukh formalized Mr. Chornovil's removal as the head of both the faction and the party, and elected National Deputy Yurii Kostenko to replace him.

Mr. Chornovil, however, called his own party congress on May 7, which gave him a vote of confidence and affirmed that he should continue to lead the Rukh Party. The end result was two Rukh parties, both claiming that only theirs was the legitimate one.

As the two parties bitterly bickered over who was at fault and whose was the real Rukh, a situation that made Mr. Chornovil's funeral sadder still, the Ministry of Justice attempted to sort out the affair. Less than a month after the split it ruled that it would recognize only the Rukh Party that stayed with Mr. Chornovil, now headed by Hennadii Udoenko. The Kostenko-led Rukh lost an appeal filed with the Kyiv Oblast Court, which rejected Mr. Kostenko's claim that his Constitutional right to act as the leader of the Rukh Party had been abrogated by the Ministry of Justice ruling. It determined that he had no legal standing to file such an appeal. Ukraine's Supreme Court upheld the lower court ruling on June 30.

The Rukh Party split – occurring half a year before it commemorated 10 years as the vanguard of Ukrainian democracy – made for uneasy celebrations on September 8-10. Reflecting both the disappointment of Ukrainians and the continued bitterness and uncertainty within the two parties' political organizations after the split, the observances were generally muted and the rhetoric more inflammatory than congratulatory.



A view of Vyacheslav Chornovil's grave bedecked with flowers at Baikove Cemetery.

Roman Woronowycz

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Ukraine's economy: few improvements

For all of President Leonid Kuchma's foreign policy achievements and his success in the elections, he could claim few improvements in the economy in 1999. For Ukraine, it was more of the same: continued stagnation, a slowly devaluating currency, rising unemployment and little movement on reforms.

But the president gave some hope after his re-election to another five-year term that the economic situation may finally begin to change when he announced the reinvigoration of comprehensive economic reforms, which he and his ministers said would be deep and radical.

The president claimed throughout the year that the major obstacle to completing economic reforms was the Verkhovna Rada. In March, while hosting a wide-ranging forum on Ukraine's economic future dubbed "Ukraine 2010," the president called on cooperation between the legislative and executive branches of government. "Economic transformation should never become a matter for political barter," said Mr. Kuchma. But in a presidential election year it could be no other way, with the leftist-dominated Parliament putting up obstacles to the president's proposals at every chance.

The Ukraine 2010 conference, a gathering of the major economic players in Ukraine held March 10-11, attempted to spell out long-term economic objectives for the country. It announced a three-stage development process that would lift Ukraine to political stability by 2010. In the first stage, the years 1999-2000, the announced goal was to achieve economic stability and halt industrial decline. In the next phase, from 2000 to 2006, Ukraine would begin to see economic growth that would reach 6-7 percent, which would eventually rise to 8 percent as Ukraine entered the final stage of its economic revival.

Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko said the basis for the market transformations must be a stable currency and low inflation. He announced that the government expected to lower inflation to 10-12 percent in 2000 and to 5 percent by 2006.

The year began on a high note for Ukraine, when the Verkhovna Rada passed the 1999 budget with hours to go to the New Year. For the Verkhovna Rada, which has had trouble agreeing on most everything since it was elected in March 1998 and which did not pass the 1998 budget until six months into the fiscal year, that was a major accomplishment.

It took 20 votes before the national deputies could manage to eke out a bare majority of 226 votes – and only after some figures were adjusted to assuage leftist legislators who were holding out for more financing for social spending. The budget called for expenditures of 25.14 billion hryv (\$7.2 billion) against revenues of 23.9 billion hryv, a deficit that fell within the 1 percent framework that the International Monetary Fund had strongly urged.

Seeking further support from the IMF, Prime Minister Pustovoitenko traveled to Washington on February 2 to meet with IMF officials regarding the continuation of the Extended Fund Facility program, by which Ukraine is to receive some \$2.6 billion in financial credits through 2001. Mr. Pustovoitenko needed to show IMF officials that Ukraine was making the effort to meet the agreed-upon economic and reform parameters. Mr. Pustovoitenko also wanted to ensure that the IMF was ready to extend the next tranche of money, desperately needed in the first quarter of 1999, when Ukraine was scheduled to begin repaying short-term treasury notes it had issued in the 1996-1998 period and IMF loans extended prior to the EFF agreement.

Simultaneously, President Kuchma met with IMF Director Michel Camdessus and other international bankers at the World Economic Forum, held annually in Davos, Switzerland, where he discussed continued financing of Ukraine's beleaguered economy and the problems Ukraine was having reaching targeted goals for administrative reform and revenue collection.

After stalling for two months, the IMF finally agreed to resume the EFF program with Ukraine at the end of March, the first payment since the previous September. By June the IMF had granted Ukraine \$965 million in long-term credits.

At a CIS Economic Forum in St. Petersburg on June 15, Mr. Pustovoitenko announced that he would ask the IMF for a debt-forgiveness program in conjunction with a June 12 decision by the Group of Seven most industrialized states to forgive debt incurred by the 36 poorest countries of the world. Mr. Pustovoitenko met with IMF Director



It was not a good year for Ukraine's agricultural sector as it remained stalled between the old Communist system and uncompleted reforms.

Camdessus at the forum, which ended with no decision on Ukraine's request.

The agricultural sector of Ukraine – once called the breadbasket of Europe and later of the Soviet Union – continued its drastic decline in 1999, mostly because it remained stalled in an administrative quagmire between the old Communist system and half-hearted and uncompleted economic reforms. Since 1991 harvest yields have fallen steadily. In January the Ministry of Agriculture announced that the country harvested just 26.5 million tons of grain in the prior year, down by about 25 percent from 1997. Soviet era harvests generally had stood at about 50 million tons. Although the agricultural ministry blamed the poor crop on drought and the financial crisis in neighboring Russia, a private agricultural consultant laid it elsewhere.

"The results expose the absence of market reforms in Ukraine and the Ukrainian Agriculture Ministry's misguided policies," said Serhii Feofilov of Kyiv-based UkrAgroConsult.

In 1999 the Ukrainian currency, the hryvnia, also had trouble keeping pace with its past performance, which never has been much to speak of. On February 9 Vice Prime Minister of Economic Reforms Serhii Tyhytko introduced a new currency corridor for the hryvnia after it reached the upper limits of the past trading band, which was 2.5 hryv to 3.5 hryv to the U.S. dollar. At the time the hryvnia was trading at 3.4 hryv to the dollar.

While pegging the new corridor at 3.4 hryv to 4.6 hryv to the dollar, Mr. Tyhytko said he expected to eventually liberalize the currency, but that the new currency corridor would remain for the duration of 1999.

In fact, the hryvnia stayed within the corridor only through the first half of the year, but with little artificial support from the National Bank of Ukraine. At the beginning of August it suddenly plunged by 20 percent in a two-week span as an unexpected countrywide gasoline shortage caused a minor panic among consumers and then currency traders. NBU Chairman Viktor Yuschenko announced on August 11 that he would not enter the market to prop up the hryvnia unless the situation turned critical. Eventually, however, the NBU did make a limited intervention.

Pavlo Haidutskyi, President Kuchma's economic advisor, said the oil crisis ensued from the sudden demand for oil products as the harvest season went into full swing. He said that market forces should have replenished the depleted reserves, but that trading companies had refused to sell oil products in Ukraine because they could not get the price they wanted after a government subsidy of import tariffs expired.

On July 31, with many filling stations closed for lack of gasoline, and those working offering a liter of gas for nearly \$2, President Kuchma dismissed his First Vice Prime Minister Volodymyr Kuratchenko. While a bewildered Mr. Kuratchenko maintained that he did not understand the

reason for his dismissal, the president said the reason was obvious.

"Somebody should be responsible for the fuel and energy complex," said Mr. Kuchma.

Eventually Ukraine bought some 11 million tons of oil in Greece and Azerbaijan to replace depleted reserves and bring gas prices down.

Two months later, as the presidential elections drew near, the hryvnia began to devalue again and eventually wound up outside the currency corridor. Mr. Yuschenko announced that he would again let the currency float, while emphasizing that he expected that it would return within the currency corridor, which it never did. By the end of the year, the value of the hryvnia had fallen to 5 hryv to a U.S. dollar. On December 3 President Kuchma said that Ukraine's hard currency reserves did not allow it to continue to support the hryvnia and that it would most likely be allowed to float freely in the next year.

Mr. Yuschenko, widely respected by international bankers but less so by the leftist Ukrainian Parliament, nearly lost his NBU chairmanship on May 6-7 when a parliamentary committee accused him of financial misdealing in the handling of Ukraine's hard currency reserves.

The Verkhovna Rada's Banking Committee accused Ukraine's chief banker of a questionable and highly risky deposit of \$580 million into a Cypriot bank, considered an off-shore tax haven. It said the NBU could not account for \$85 million, and accused the central bank of insufficient transparency and too much independence. Mr. Yuschenko defended his bank's policies during a hearing of the full parliamentary body, while explaining that "there are no losses," and that he had independent audits to prove that all the money was accounted for.

Two votes on the matter showed that a majority of the national deputies did not agree with the Banking Budget Committee's proposal to remove Mr. Yuschenko. Some four months later, the NBU chairman went out of his way to announce that all the invested money plus profits had been returned from Cyprus.

The Verkhovna Rada continued to block and stall economic reforms and almost any of President Kuchma's economic initiatives in 1999, including a new privatization effort and a proposal that would have allowed for the sale of agricultural lands.

President Kuchma showed his frustration with the Parliament on April 21 when he accused it of intentionally not passing needed reform bills and turning itself into a leftist rostrum in the run-up to the presidential elections.

Two months later, with no additional parliamentary cooperation evident and his Constitutional mandate to issue economic reforms via decree expiring, President Kuchma issued 39 presidential orders in a two-week span.

In a Constitution Day address to the nation on June 28, the president derided the country's Parliament for its paralysis and political populism, and announced that he had issued the decrees to revitalize the economy.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

"A country cannot be a prisoner of parliamentary passivity in the legislative process caused by the lack of desire to create a legal basis for the economy," said Mr. Kuchma.

Mr. Haidutskyi, the president's economic advisor, said most of the executive orders were replicas of bills that had languished in the Verkhovna Rada – some for more than a year.

"It was simply no longer possible to wait for the Verkhovna Rada to act," said Mr. Haidutskyi.

Many of the decrees were politically motivated – after all it was the beginning of the campaign season – but others, such as a simple, one-time tax for small businesses, increased pensions for farmers, a graduated tax for new businesses, and an increase in the tax on alcohol, tobacco and mobile telephones, were considered necessary by many experts.

Although in 1999 Ukraine failed again to collect the tax revenues projected in the budget, Prime Minister Pustovoitenko aggressively hounded the State Tax Administration to meet targets. In April, after the tax inspectors met merely 82 percent of their first quarter goal, the prime minister ordered salaries cut until levels were met. On April 9 he announced that the overall tax debt to the government had risen to 13.9 billion hrv.

Ukraine's revenue shortfall posed problems for the country not only in the repayment of loans and treasury notes, but in its handling of the debt owed to Russia for oil and gas.

Prime Minister Pustovoitenko met with Russian Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin in Kyiv on July 16, to discuss the 25 percent decline in trade between the two countries in the last year, and Ukraine's increasing indebtedness to Russia for oil and gas. The two sides could not agree on the exact size of the debt because Kyiv insisted that it was not responsible for money owed by private Ukrainian firms. They did agree, however, on a general guideline for repayment.

After Prime Minister Stepashin abruptly left office in August, his replacement, Vladimir Putin, continued talks on the subject with his Ukrainian counterpart in Moscow. In late August Ukraine agreed to repay in commodities what the two sides finally determined to be a \$1 billion debt.

First Vice Prime Minister Anatolii Kinakh, who had replaced Mr. Kuratchenko after the gasoline crisis, said on August 28 that Ukrainian strategic bombers would be part of the deal after it was determined that Ukraine's disarmament treaties were not affected.

Foreign trade turnover in Ukraine continued to grow in Ukraine in 1999, albeit at a molasses-like drip. On November 25 the Ministry of Foreign Trade announced that in the first nine months of 1999, Ukraine had imported \$10.9 billion, while exporting \$8.9 billion, a trade turnover of \$19.8 billion, which left Ukraine with a \$2 billion trade deficit. The numbers were a slight improvement over 1998.

The agricultural industry also experienced some rare good news as well with the release of numbers that showed that grain exports had nearly doubled over the previous year in the January to September time-frame, reaching 4.6 million tons, as compared to 2.3 tons in 1998.

The ministry predicted that in 2000 trade turnover would increase sharply to reach \$29.6 billion.

However, the government continued to struggle to obtain repayment of credits it had issued to Ukrainian firms to cover international loans on which they were at risk of defaulting. November figures released by the Cabinet of Ministers showed that the government was owed nearly 227.4 million hrv (more than \$54 million) by private Ukrainian businesses.

In September, PriceWaterhouseCooper, a leading international auditing firm and the Ukrainian Investment Newspaper announced Ukraine's largest state-controlled companies of 1998. Leading the pack was the now reorganized and semi-privatized UkrGazProm with gross revenues of 15 billion hrv, followed by UkrTeleKom with 2.5 billion hrv and KryvorizhStal with 2.1 hrv in gross income.

By the end of November Ukraine had recorded a surprising 3.8 percent gain in industrial output over 1998, chiefly due to a strong November showing of 9.9 percent, compared to a 1.6 percent average increase for the previous 10 months.

Other economic indicators showed that Ukraine's economy appeared to be stabilizing. While National Bank Reserves remained at between \$1.1 to \$1.2 billion, inflation stayed under control. In November the government reported a slight increase in inflation, at 2.9 percent, the highest monthly increase in 1999. Nonetheless, the annual figure remained a respectable 14.5 percent.

The budget, as always, became another point of contention between the executive and legislative branches as

the fiscal year, which parallels the calendar year in Ukraine, ended.

Back in June several members of the Verkhovna Rada Budget Committee had joined with the Ministry of Finance to develop a general budget outline and to smooth over potential points of disagreement. But when the Verkhovna Rada received the draft budget for 2000 on October 7 the squabbles began.

The Cabinet of Ministers' budget for the first time ever proposed a budget surplus, chiefly due to the insistence of the IMF, which said the surplus was needed to cover scheduled loan repayments next year in the amount of \$3 billion. That however, did not suit Verkhovna Rada Budget Committee Chairwoman Yulia Tymoshenko, who called the financial document unrealistic. She also argued that the government's projected 2 percent growth in the country's GDP in 2000 was inflated and should be closer to 1 percent. Meanwhile, as always, leftist national deputies cried out that social protection programs were being ignored.

The national deputies managed to pass the budget in its first reading on November 18, but only after they made extensive changes, including elimination of the surplus. The parliamentarians boosted appropriations for social safety net programs and raised total budget expenditures to 40.75 billion hrv. The original budget presented by the Cabinet of Ministers called for a budget surplus of 554,000 hrv, with outlays pegged at 38.6 billion hrv and revenue at 38 billion hrv. The budget was returned to the Cabinet of Ministers, which was to reconcile the differing figures. But Vice Prime Minister Tyhypko said on November 29 that the changes were unworkable. He suggested that the government would not compromise as it had done in the past and ruin the first chance for a responsible budget for the country.

Mr. Tyhypko's confrontational tone echoed a new assertiveness found in the government with the re-election of the president. In the immediate days after his landslide victory, Mr. Kuchma spoke out for reinvigorated and radical economic reforms and ordered his ministers to develop a 100-day program to get the executive moving in the right direction.

In his inauguration speech he mentioned the need to radically alter the budget and tax systems, intensify agriculture and land reform, and overhaul the administrative-bureaucratic system, which should include substantial personnel cuts.

He explained that the large bureaucratic machine in Ukraine, a remnant of the old Communist administrative command system, had to be taken apart, which meant deep and far-reaching administrative reforms and consolidation, to include a better balance between local and central governments.

"Today the administrative-bureaucratic hybrid that has developed is increasingly at odds with the practices and responsibilities of the democratization of the life of the state and society, and the development of market relations," said President Kuchma.

He said the streamlining would produce another, secondary, but perhaps even more beneficial result: less fertile ground for corruption to continue to thrive. He asserted that an integrated battle against corruption was required to maintain Ukraine's national security interests.

The first tangible result of the president's fired up reform program occurred on December 3, when he issued a presidential decree on agricultural sector reform, which liquidated collective farms and called on the establishment of individual and corporate farms and for the development of legal enforcement structures to ensure an open and voluntary system. It also called on the legalization of the sale of land to be used for agriculture.

The new impetus given economic reforms at the end of 1999 did not sway the IMF immediately and convince it to give Ukraine much-needed, additional credits. As Vice Prime Minister Tyhypko explained on December 2, the international finance organization would no longer be satisfied with either promises or plans.

"Now we must show that we are implementing what we have promised," said Mr. Tyhypko.

On September 7 the IMF had authorized the disbursement of an additional \$184 million under the EFF framework, which was suspended at the end of that month after several economic indicators, as well as the NBU hard currency reserves did not meet IMF requirements.

This time Ukraine hoped to convince the IMF mission, which arrived in Ukraine on December 1 and was to remain until IMF Director Camdessus arrived in mid-December, that through its new aggressive stance on economic reforms it would meet IMF requirements to receive a \$300 million tranche in January 2000.

The head of the IMF mission to Kyiv, John Odling-Smee, said it would be up to Ukraine to prove that it had qualified for more IMF money.

U.S. and Ukraine: a focus on elections

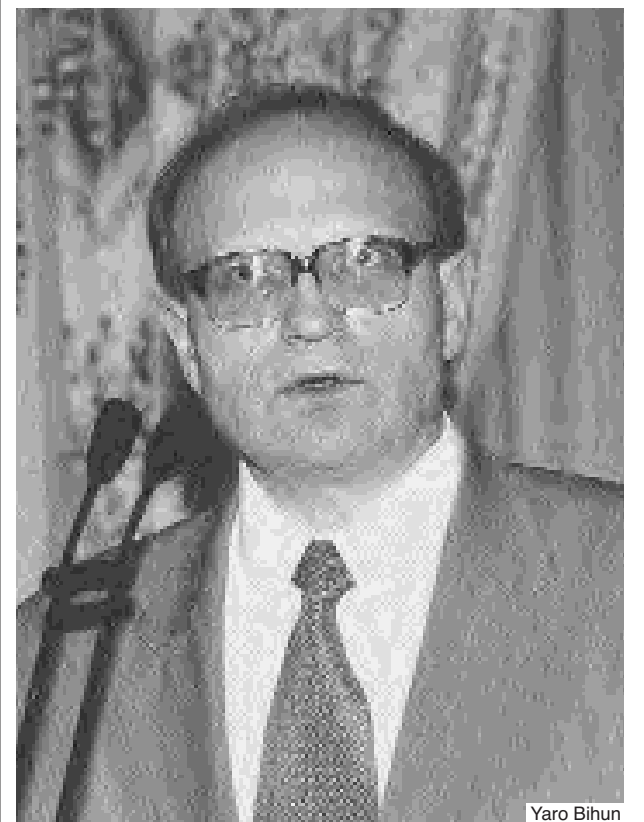
The 1999 presidential election in Ukraine – its preparation, conduct and outcome – in one way or another influenced or colored almost every aspect of the U.S.-Ukraine relationship as it developed over the past year. It played a role in President Leonid Kuchma's and Prime Minister Valeri Pustovoitenko's visits to Washington, the assistance Ukraine seeks from the United States and international financial institutions for reforming its failing economy, and reports on its human rights record. It is also alleged to be behind the early recall of Ukraine's ambassador and consuls general to the United States.

As 1998 ended with a changing of the guard at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, so 1999 is ending on a similar, but discordant note: Ambassador Anton Buteiko, who replaced Yuri Shcherbak one year ago, is himself being replaced. Unlike the previous change, however, which followed Dr. Shcherbak's four-year tenure here, Mr. Buteiko's recall was abrupt, after only one year of service and, as some allege, tied to the lackluster showing by President Kuchma in the first round of the November presidential election vote tallies at Ukraine's diplomatic missions in Washington, New York and Chicago.

As President Kuchma's decisive victory over his communist challenger, Petro Symonenko, became clear on November 15, the U.S. government congratulated the president and the Ukrainian people, calling his victory an "expression of their commitment to democracy" and "an important endorsement by the Ukrainian people of a policy direction of continued political and economic reform and Western integration." Washington also promised to assist Ukraine's transition to democracy and a market economy.

The U.S. statement agreed with the OSCE observers' assessment that, while instances of election day violations were not "widespread or systematic," "imbalanced media coverage and the coordinated and inappropriate involvement of government officials in both rounds of the election on behalf of the incumbent" sullied the process.

The Kuchma administration's heavy-handed manipulation of the media was not a surprise. It was underscored in the State Department's annual human rights report released earlier in the year (see below), repeated by U.S. officials throughout the year, and focused on again just two weeks prior to the election during a briefing in Congress organized by the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki Commission). The briefing moderator, William Courtney, who is senior adviser to the commission and previously served as U.S. ambassador to Kazakhstan and Georgia, said the harassment and various forms of intimidation of the opposition media was distressing.



Anton Buteiko: Ukraine's ambassador to the United States during 1999.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



NATO Photo

Sitting at the head table of the NATO-Ukraine Commission summit meeting on April 24 are (front row, from left): NATO Deputy Secretary-General Sergio Balanzino, Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, President Leonid Kuchma and NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana.

On the positive side, panelist Nadia Diuk of the National Endowment for Democracy, pointed out that in Ukraine and in some other former Soviet republics "elections have now been definitively established as the only legitimate means of taking power."

A little more than a week after his inauguration, President Kuchma arrived in Washington – via Moscow and Paris – for talks on December 8 with President Bill Clinton, Vice-President Al Gore and other high-ranking administration officials, the heads of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and American business executives, among others. He also chaired, along with Vice-President Gore, a plenary session of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission (the Kuchma-Gore Commission).

The major thrust of the visit, as it has been during numerous previous high-level visits here, was to get U.S., IMF and World Bank support for its monetary and structural reforms. Ukraine faces a serious financial crisis in the year 2000, when it must either pay more than \$3 billion in credit interest payments or convince the IMF and other creditors to restructure Ukraine's loans.

During various meetings in Washington, President Kuchma stressed that his decisive victory in the presidential election was a mandate from the electorate to accelerate his economic reform program and continue pursuing the policy of integration into the Euro-Atlantic community. Indeed, just before coming to Washington, he signed a land reform decree aimed at doing away with collective farms in Ukraine. And, on his return, he instituted a major downsizing and restructuring of government ministries and agencies.

In a bylined article published by The Washington Post on the morning of his visit, President Kuchma gave his analysis of the election results, outlined his economic reform plans and tried to deflect U.S. and other Western criticism of the unfairness of the election campaign process.

Judging by the statements following his meetings here, Mr. Kuchma returned to Kyiv without a firm commitment about when the IMF would release its next tranche of long-term credits, which Ukraine needs in order to avoid defaulting on its loans.

Ukraine's Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko came to Washington on a similar mission on February 2-3, and with similar results. He, as did President Kuchma in December, also called on the Ukrainian American community to use its influence in helping Ukraine obtain the financial support of United States and international financial institutions. He also underscored the importance of President Kuchma's re-election for Ukraine's future.

The Ukrainian president's other visit to Washington in 1999 was on April 23-25 to participate in the 50th anniversary celebration of NATO and the first Ukraine-NATO summit, which defined Ukraine's "distinctive relationship" with the Western alliance.

As he did in his later visit with The Washington Post, Mr. Kuchma used the Wall Street Journal on the day of

his arrival in the U.S. for the NATO meeting to unveil a Ukrainian plan for the peaceful resolution of the Kosovo crisis.

While NATO was not in a mood for alternative peace proposals, especially those that would soften NATO's demands, Ukraine's participation in the anniversary celebration (which Russia boycotted), its summit discussions and the peace initiative served to strengthen its relationship with the West.

A few days after the NATO summit, the Ukrainian peace proposal got entangled in an embarrassing incident, when State Department spokesman James Rubin said in a television interview that the Kosovars would not return to Kosovo "if a bunch of Ukrainians are running around with guns on their sides ... the only country they really trust is the United States of America ..." Ukrainian Americans, including The Ukrainian Weekly, protested, and Mr. Rubin later back-tracked and, without apologizing, explained what he really meant to say.

For the most part, however, the Ukrainian American community has had a good working relationship with the administration. Senior U.S. officials have briefed community leaders and solicited their input on important U.S.-Ukraine issues. In April, State Department officials met with community leaders, who took exception to the annual State Department report on human rights, which cited Ukraine for having "deep-seated societal anti-Semitism." And prior to President



U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen (right) is welcomed by Ukraine's Minister of Defense Gen. Oleksander Kuzmuk during a visit to Ukraine's Crimean peninsula on July 31.

Kuchma's December visit, the vice-president's foreign policy adviser, Leon Feurth, held a teleconference with a small group of Ukrainian American leaders.

In the Congress, much of the community's efforts were channeled through the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, which, among other issues, has focused on improving U.S. assistance to Ukraine.

Two events defined U.S. assistance to Ukraine in 1999. In mid-February, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright reported to Congress that Ukraine had made "sufficient progress" in reforming its economy and in resolving some of the complaints by U.S. investors in Ukraine.

This "certification" of Ukraine, required by the foreign aid legislation passed by Congress in 1998, allowed Ukraine to receive the remaining \$72 million of the \$195 million in U.S. economic assistance slated for Ukraine in 1999.

Announcing Secretary Albright's decision on February 18, the State Department added, however, that both the administration and the Congress "remain very concerned about the uneven pace of reform and the difficult investment climate in Ukraine" and continue to urge Ukraine "to accelerate the market reform process and improve the climate for foreign investors by resolving remaining disputes."

On November 29, President Clinton signed the U.S. foreign aid legislation for fiscal year 2000, which the Congress passed 10 days earlier, after weeks of negotiations with the White House. The new legislation stipulates that Ukraine should receive "no less than \$180 million." While the amount is \$15 million less than in 1999 and \$30 less than in 1998, the current legislation does not include any "certification" clause.

Over the past seven years, the United States has given \$569 million to help Ukraine dismantle its nuclear weapons and reorganize its military under the so-called Nunn-Lugar program. On July 31, at a ceremony in the Crimean town of Foros, near Sevastopol, the program was extended for another six years under an agreement signed by U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen and Ukraine's Minister of Defense Gen. Oleksander Kuzmuk.

During the ceremony, Secretary Cohen spoke about the expanding U.S.-Ukrainian bilateral military relationship, noting that since Ukraine declared independence the two countries have undertaken more than 100 joint military programs.

The annual State Department human rights report for 1998 released last February gave Ukraine a "mixed" human rights record, with "limited progress" in some areas and persisting "serious problems" in others.

In addition to the "deep-seated societal anti-Semitism," which Ukrainian Americans protested, in general the report found more human rights violations in 1998 than in the previous year – "primarily due to infringements on freedom of the press and reports of government interference" in the elections to the Verkhovna Rada. But despite "numerous flaws and irregularities" in the elections, the report says they "generally reflected the will of the electorate."

The report also cited restrictive laws governing political parties, a judicial system "subject to political interference and corruption," politically motivated killings of politicians, politically connected businessmen, campaign managers, and journalists, and harsh conditions in prisons, where police and prison officials regularly beat detainees and prisoners and where there are "numerous instances of torture sometimes resulting in death."

This report has helped the former prime minister of Ukraine, Pavlo Lazarenko, who was detained at New York's Kennedy International Airport in February, from being deported back to Ukraine, where he is charged with misappropriation of government funds.

While under Immigration and Naturalization Service detention for trying to enter the country without appropriate documents, Mr. Lazarenko, who considered himself a political opponent of President Kuchma and his strongest challenger in the presidential election, requested political asylum, expressing fear for his life if he were to be returned to the conditions cited in the U.S. human rights report on Ukraine.

Also wanted in Switzerland, where he was arrested in 1998 on money laundering charges, Mr. Lazarenko remains in an INS detention facility in the San Francisco area.

While Ukraine has not been able to exert any influence in the Lazarenko case, it has been successful in two other matters in which the United States played a leading role.

A senior State Department official said in January

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

that the U.S. government is reconsidering the decision it made 50 years ago to give a collection of Albrecht Dürer drawings looted by the Nazis from the Stefanyk Library in Lviv to a descendant of its former Polish owner rather than return it to the library. The issue was raised earlier by the Ukrainian delegation to the Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets held at the State Department in November 1998.

And, in another U.S.-led effort to redress World War II injustices, in mid-December the German government and a number of German firms that used slave labor during the Nazi period agreed to pay \$5.2 billion to the victims. Most of the more than 2 million people eligible for compensation are non-Jews from Eastern Europe, including Ukraine.

The past year also saw a unique event in Washington that, among other achievements, served to facilitate dialogue among U.S. and Ukrainian government officials and Ukrainian Americans. It was the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations held June 23-27, when more than 900 members of major Ukrainian American professional, financial and veterans organizations discussed issues dealing with U.S.-Ukrainian relations, the Ukrainian American community and their own organizational matters at venues that, in addition to the conference headquarters hotel, included the Embassy of Ukraine, the State Department and Capitol Hill.

The keynote speaker at the Joint Conferences banquet was Vice-President Al Gore's national security advisor, Leon Feurth. Conference organizers had hoped that the vice president himself would attend and speak at the banquet and had planned to present him with the "Friend of Ukraine Award" in recognition of his co-chairmanship of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission (the Kuchma-Gore Commission). The award was finally presented to him personally on September 15, during a private ceremony in his office attended by representatives of 15 major Ukrainian American organizations (see section on Ukrainians in the U.S.).

One of the most riveting sessions of all the conferences dealt with the trafficking of women from Ukraine, which was organized jointly by The Washington Group and the Washington/Baltimore Chapter of the

Ukrainian National Women's League of America. The panelists – UNWLA President Iryna Kurowyckyj, Hanya Krill of LaStrada-Ukraine and Brama Gateway; Anita Botti, who heads the president's interagency task force dealing with that issue; Natalia Zarudna of the Embassy of Ukraine; and Walter Zalisko of the Jersey City Police Department – described the seriousness of what Ms. Kurowyckyj called this "modern form of slavery" and sexual exploitation, and what was being done and still needed to be done to combat the problem.

Two days later on Capitol Hill, Ms. Botti joined another group of panelists to examine the issue as a European problem. The hearing was held by the Helsinki Commission, whose chairman, Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.), declared that "It is time to declare war on those who commit these crimes."

Another troubling issue for Ukrainians which came up at the Joint Conference concerned the near impossibility of normal Ukrainians to get a visitor's visa from the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. John E. Tedstrom, director of Russian, Ukrainian and Eurasian affairs at the National Security Council, told the conference that changes are being made. "We've heard your message and have taken steps to fix the problem," he said. Subsequent man-in-the-street reports, however, indicate that little has changed.

Some say that Ukrainians stand a better chance of winning the lottery. Indeed, during the past nine years the lottery has been the easiest way for Ukrainians to get to the United States – and stay. The Immigration Act of 1990 makes available 55,000 permanent resident immigrant visas each year by random selection through what is called the Diversity Visa Lottery.

This year's lottery registration mail-in period was held between October 4 and November 3. The winning visas are apportioned among six geographic regions, with no visas issued to countries that have sent more than 50,000 immigrants to the United States during the previous five years, and no country permitted to receive more than 7 percent of the available visas in one year.

The Diversity Visa Lottery annually receives between 6 million and 8 million qualified entries for the 55,000 positions. That makes the odds of winning very respectable – between 109 and 145 to one.

Canada-Ukraine: Chrétien visits Kyiv

Canada's relationship with Ukraine began on a humanitarian note as senior federal government officials in Ottawa, including Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, petitioned the Ukrainian government to assist in returning a 6-year-old boy to his father.

Montreal-based cancer researcher Dr. Yury Monczak's son, Ivan, was abducted by his mother and Dr. Monczak's former wife, Mirosława Bartchouk, on June 7, 1998. On January 5 of this year, the Toronto Sun daily reported that an official from Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's office assured Dr. Monczak that the PM would raise the matter in meetings scheduled between him and his Ukrainian counterpart, Valerii Pustovoitenko, in Kyiv later that month.

Dr. Monczak told The Weekly that his ex-wife tried to abduct their son, an only child, once before in the summer of 1994. Ms. Bartchouk and the boy were later found at a shelter for abused women in Montreal. Following the couple's 1996 divorce, Dr. Monczak was granted custody of Ivan. A court ruling forbade anyone from transporting the child from Quebec.

On January 27 Mr. Chrétien became the first Canadian prime minister to visit Ukraine when he and an entourage that included 100 Canadian businesspeople, paid a 24-hour state visit to the country after visiting Poland.

Mr. Chrétien met with President Leonid Kuchma and Prime Minister Pustovoitenko – to whom he delivered his "stay the course on reform" message, attended a state dinner held in his honor, and laid flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Canadian prime minister also stopped at the Famine Memorial – a first by a Western leader that earned the praise of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – to honor victims of the Great Famine of 1932-1933. His wife, Aline, placed a memorial wreath at the monument.

Canada and Ukraine signed seven bilateral agreements during the two-day visit, among them a bilateral

U.S. Ukrainians' letter to Kuchma

The letter below, which discusses U.S.-Ukraine relations, was hand-delivered to President Leonid Kuchma on December 7 while he was on an official visit to Washington. It was the result of a conference call held a day earlier among six Ukrainian American community activists who are the signatories of the letter. (A copy was hand-delivered the same day to Vice-President Al Gore.) President Kuchma did not schedule a meeting with Ukrainian American leaders during his latest U.S. visit.

Dear Mr. President:

The Ukrainian American community welcomes you to the United States for your bilateral talks as part of the U.S.-Ukraine Binational Commission (the Gore-Kuchma Commission). Furthermore, we congratulate you on your recent re-election for a second term as President of Ukraine. We wish you success in Ukraine's hopes and objectives, as outlined in your inauguration speech, to continue along the road to a free-market system through economic and administrative reforms and the strengthening of democratic principles on which Ukraine is built. With your election victory, you have the mandate of the Ukrainian nation to move forward on economic and democratic reforms, to resolutely combat corruption and to manifesting support for Ukrainian cultural initiative.

As leaders of various Ukrainian American umbrella and community organizations, we would like to highlight a few points of concern regarding U.S.-Ukrainian relations. Key economic reforms are necessary for the establishment of a modern global economy. Of critical importance in Ukraine is commercial law reform and tax restructuring, which would provide a solid tax-based foundation while fundamentally improving direct foreign investment in Ukraine. Please be assured that we are fully supportive of Ukraine obtaining permanent most-favored-nation (MFN) status, as well as attaining membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO),

and we expect that Vice-President Gore will provide assurances in this regard during your meeting.

The year 2000 brings with it many challenges for the entire world's economy. Ukraine has committed to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by the end of the century to prevent future nuclear disasters from wreaking havoc on Ukraine and its neighboring countries. We urge you to coordinate your efforts with the international community to the commitment expressed in the 1995 G-7 Memorandum of Understanding, for the proper closure of the Chernobyl energy station. We welcome the endeavors undertaken by you and Vice-President Gore to fulfill the Shelter Implementation Plan (SIP) to prevent the further release of radioactive contaminants into the atmosphere. We hope that both the G-7 and Ukraine will make more progress in resolving these issues. Furthermore, we have been assured that significantly more money will be available for the closure of Chernobyl, as well as for the completion of the Rivne and Khmelnytskyi nuclear power stations.

The continuation of democratic principles remains the keystone to the continuing development of any law-based society. Independent Ukraine has been blessed with a broad spectrum of opinion, particularly in the printed media. Yet numerous charges have appeared in the Ukrainian and the Western press regarding pressure by your Administration, through tax audits, etc., on media outlets, thus resulting in their closing or suspension. Additionally, the plight of women and children in Ukraine have landed many of them in foreign countries against their own will, as opportunities of wealth and comfort are promised to them. These accusations trouble the Ukrainian American community and, therefore, we plead for your continued dedication to the preservation of democratic rule and a free-based media in Ukraine.

We welcome your administration's Westward-leaning foreign policy, as evidenced by Ukraine's strategic partnership with the United States, its collaboration within the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program, and its relations with NATO. We also urge you to continue expanding Ukraine's close cooperation with Euro-Atlantic structures and to indicate Ukraine's intent to eventually become a full-fledged member of the NATO alliance, which would

foster a more expeditious entry of Ukraine into the European Union and would provide additional benefits to the safety and security of Ukraine's citizens and the stability of countries in Central and East Europe.

As a community we have dedicated many of our resources, time and energy to promote a prosperous, independent and democratic Ukrainian state. We will continue to focus our efforts on strengthening the development of closer ties between the United States and Ukraine, as well as emphasize the opening of American markets for Ukrainian products. In your next term as President of Ukraine, we hope that you will be blessed with good health and great energy to rededicate your efforts to lead Ukraine on the path of democracy, international standards and the rule of law.

We understand that these various issues facing Ukraine at the present moment must be viewed in relevant terms, thus we also call upon the United States government to approach Ukraine on an equal basis with other countries of the world. While in Washington, we wish you very successful meetings with President Clinton, Vice-President Gore, and other officials of the United States government, as well as representatives from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

God Bless the United States of America!

God Bless Ukraine!

Sincerely,

Askold S. Lozynskyj, President
Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

Ihor Gawdiak, President
Ukrainian American Coordinating Council

Orest Deychakiwsky, President
The Washington Group

Iryna Kurowyckyj, President
Ukrainian National Women's League of America

Julian Kulas, President
First Security Federal Savings Bank

Michael Sawkiw Jr., Director
Ukrainian National Information Service

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



J.M. Carisse/PMO

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and his wife, Aline, lead the Canadian delegation's visit to the Great Famine memorial in Kyiv on January 27.

transport agreement and memoranda of understanding on cooperation in education, on climate change issues and on the destruction of Ukraine's anti-personnel land mines, with the possibility that Ukraine would eventually join about 130 countries that have signed the 1997 Ottawa Convention calling for the destruction of the weapons. Canada and Ukraine also announced further collaboration in criminal matters, controlling corruption in the public sector, as well as land privatization and farm reorganization.

On the business front, 18 agreements were signed between Canadian and Ukrainian partners in the agricultural, energy, construction and manufacturing sectors. As Mr. Chrétien told some 300 students and faculty at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, "Without a strong sense of entrepreneurship, a country cannot prosper."

While there, the prime minister also clarified his government's position on calls by the Ukrainian Canadian community for Ottawa to apologize for the Canadian government's internment of thousands of its members during World War I. "Yes, I am sorry," he said, "but we can't formally apologize for everything."

In the meantime, Canada's then-International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi dedicated a room at the Embassy of Canada in Kyiv in honor of a longtime Canadian foreign diplomat of Ukrainian descent, Roman Lishchynsky, who died in Ukraine in an automobile accident early last year.

From Ukraine, Mr. Chrétien went on to Davos, Switzerland, where he attended the annual World Economic Forum.

But while the Canadian prime minister was glad-handing in Ukraine, a national daily newspaper back home was stirring controversy. In the *The Globe and Mail*, reporter Jeff Sallot suggested Mr. Chrétien would have to be "mindful" of "the enmities" between Canada's Ukrainian and Jewish communities as the PM prepared to arrive in Ukraine after stopping at the Auschwitz and Birkenau death camps in Poland.

Citing tensions between the two Canadian ethnic groups dating back to the "persecution and murder of Jews in Ukraine during [World War II] and the post-war influx of European refugees to Canada," Mr. Sallot wrote that, "there were a number of Ukrainian war criminals, former soldiers and police officers in Hitler's service, who slipped into Canada in the refugee stream" and added that while Jewish groups "urge the prosecution of suspected war criminals, many in the Ukrainian community see this as the needless hounding of a small handful of very old men."

Characterizing the advance reporting as more of an editorial, the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association blasted the *Globe* journalist and, in a letter to the newspaper signed by UCCLA spokesperson Borys Sydoruk, stated that the "organized Ukrainian Canadian community's position remains that all war

criminals found in Canada, regardless of their ethnic, religious or racial origin, or the period or place where a crime against humanity or war crime was committed, should be brought to trial in Canada under Canadian criminal law."

Meanwhile, in a January 23 statement, UCCLA Chairman John Gregorovich chastised Prime Minister Chrétien's visit to Auschwitz for its "lack of any official representation from the Ukrainian Canadian community" – a point raised by Polish Canadian leaders for likewise being overlooked.

As Mr. Gregorovich explained, "Few appreciate that Ukraine lost more of its people during the second world war than any other nation in Nazi-occupied Europe."

Later in the year, the Canadian-Ukrainian Business Initiative and the Ukrainian League of Small and Mid-sized Privately Run Businesses signed a protocol agreement on cooperation in Kyiv on September 27. The two-year-old project is intended to promote Canadian-Ukrainian trade, attracting capital investment and creating new jobs in unemployment-stricken Ukraine.

Ukrainian diaspora: reforms at the UWC

As the World Council of Ukrainian Cooperatives heralded the arrival of 1999 with new headquarters in Toronto (relocated from Chicago) and a new president, Bohdan Leschyshen, a Toronto-based, 20-year veteran of the financial services industry, the future of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) was hotly debated in the letters page of this newspaper – from questioning its relevance to defending its role in representing the millions of Ukrainians living in the diaspora.

The UWC's new president, New York attorney Askold Lozynskyj admitted the organization "must reform" its "antiquated" administrative structure and "chaotic" by-laws in an interview with *The Weekly* following a meeting of the UWC's presidium, held at its Toronto-based headquarters on February 19 to 20.

Mr. Lozynskyj also acknowledged that getting the UWC's message out to people of Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian origin throughout the world was a priority, along with some key issues, including the need to "exert some pressure on the government" of Slovakia where the Ukrainian minority is "being discriminated against" and to develop "better relations" with the Ukrainian government.

As he explained, "The Ukrainian government often simply ignores the diaspora and yet, when they need us for financial purposes, they seem to find us."

At the February meeting, Mr. Lozynskyj told delegates

he had been unable to secure a meeting with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma during a recent visit to Kyiv and would redouble efforts to arrange one in May.

Mr. Lozynskyj also told *The Weekly* that the UWC needed to develop "a sufficient political status" as a non-governmental organization by seeking membership in the United Nation's Economic and Social Council with consultative status.

And, since the Ukrainian World Coordinating Council (UWCC) "has been a dismal failure" and its president, poet Ivan Drach, "a terrible administrator" in Mr. Lozynskyj's view, the UWC would need to assume the role the UWCC was meant to serve as an "all-diasporan organization."

To demonstrate it's more than a Western body, the UWC issued a statement on March 29 that condemned the Yugoslav government's "ruthless, inhumane and immoral" treatment of Kosovo's Albanians and called for a peaceful end to the armed conflict – applauding President Kuchma's offer to serve as a mediator.

In April *The Weekly* published a statement by the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organization – an NGO in consultative status with the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council – regarding the health and trafficking of women prepared for the 43rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Citing a 440-percent increase in reported cases of HIV and AIDS in Ukraine in the last two years, the federation threw its support behind an array of initiatives, from "easy access to public health facilities for women working in the sex trade" to the availability of medical and psychiatric rehabilitation for "enslaved women who have no voice."

That same month, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, *The Weekly* published the WFUWO's statement submitted on March 1 to the Commission on the Status of Women regarding the agenda item "Women and Health – Chernobyl's Disastrous Effect on Women's Health."

"Thirteen years after the greatest technologically induced human disaster of the 20th century, the after-effects of Chernobyl's nuclear meltdown continue to multiply for millions of children, women and men in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. The ruthless enemy in this case is nuclear radiation – it is invisible, unpredictable and deadly," the Ukrainian NGO noted.

A month later, during the Ukrainian World Congress' plenary meeting held in Toronto on May 14 to 15, the UWC Secretariat asserted its claim to being the sole representative of the diaspora.

In an April 26, nine-point document sent to Mr. Kuchma and his opponents running in the fall presidential election, the congress also called for protection of Ukrainian minorities living in countries throughout the world, praised the Ukrainian government's resettlement program that reversed the Soviet deportation of Crimean Tatars, and called for a ban on political parties whose members advocate measures inimical to Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity.

Other issues raised in the document included concern over the selective enforcement of Ukrainian as Ukraine's state language and the continued use of Soviet state symbols by certain government agencies, and a denunciation of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate for sowing discord among Ukraine's faithful.

On the financial front, the UWC was feeling a squeeze – earning only about a tenth of the \$100,000 expected for the first quarter in member-organization dues.

Later in the summer, on August 1, the UWC announced that it had moved its headquarters to downtown Toronto from its long-held stake in premises, also occupied by other community groups including the Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress' Ontario Provincial Council and Toronto branch, in the city's Bloor West Village. In UWC General Secretary Victor Pedenko's words, the new digs, owned by the Ukrainian National Federation, are "very spacious and very comfortable."

Two days later, the UWC sent an open letter to President Kuchma expressing concern over his directive to Ukraine's Ministry of Education giving prospective post-secondary students the opportunity to write entrance exams in Russian.

"We believe that such a directive undermines the status of the Ukrainian language as the official language of state, since it will be possible to seek the highest academic degrees available in Ukraine without the knowledge of Ukrainian," stated the letter signed by Mr. Lozynskyj and Mr. Pedenko.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Similarly, the congress was "disturbed" by the president's other like-minded efforts, including the establishment of an all-Ukrainian scientific, popular and literary journal on Russian culture.

"Since [Ukraine's] Constitution was adopted, the government has been inactive in the area of Ukrainization," according to the letter. "As a result, the Russification of the country has not been held in check, but has accelerated, in part due to the constant and practically undecipherable accusations levelled by state representatives of the Russian Federation about the allegedly unsatisfactory conditions faced by the Russian minority in Ukraine."

In the fall, Mr. Lozynskyj informed the UWC's Presidium, at a meeting held in Toronto from October 15 to 16, that, "some people with guns" kidnapped him, as he told this newspaper, and was held for several hours during a visit to Kyiv in May.

While he admitted that he was told not to criticize President Kuchma's administration, Mr. Lozynskyj said he kept mum about the incident for so long to prevent jeopardizing other diaspora visitors to Ukraine. As he told *The Weekly* in an interview, "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."

Still, Mr. Lozynskyj's colleagues suggested some action should be taken, including the initiation of a formal protest by the UWC or that his future travels to Ukraine include a bodyguard.

The diaspora body's president also reported on having "predictably unproductive" meetings with UWCC executive in Ukraine, though he encouraged the UWC to continue paying its membership dues to the Kyiv-based organization.

The fall UWC meeting also included an announcement that a "Diaspora Olympiad" – the third event of this kind – would be held in Philadelphia in the summer of 2000. Recent organizational meetings held at the Ukrainian American Sports Center Tryzub in Horsham, Pa., by representatives of Tryzub, the Ukrainian Sports Federation of the U.S.A. and Canada, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) determined that the event would be held on July 1-4. Ihor Chyzowych, longtime president of Tryzub, was elected as chairman of the organizing committee.

U.S. Ukrainians: a new synergy?

Several major developments occurred on the Ukrainian community scene in the United States during 1999. For starters, this was the year that Ukrainian Americans settled with CBS over "The Ugly Face of Freedom" segment aired in 1994 on the "60 Minutes" newsmagazine, and it was the year they participated in a mammoth event in Washington: the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations.

Settling with CBS

CBS and members of the Ukrainian American community who sued the network over its broadcast of a controversial segment that implied Ukrainians are "genetically anti-Semitic" reached a settlement whereby the network paid out \$328,000 to cover the Ukrainian American plaintiffs' legal fees, while the plaintiffs agreed to cease their lawsuits against CBS pertaining to that segment. The settlement was signed on April 21 by lawyers representing the three plaintiffs – Alexander J. Serafin of Detroit, Oleg Nikolyszyn of Providence, R.I., and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

The Ukrainian community had won a significant victory in its battle with CBS in August 1998 when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia had found there were serious questions about whether CBS intentionally distorted information in its news report titled "The Ugly Face of Freedom" and ordered the FCC to revisit the case. It appeared that the network's journalistic integrity was on the line – along with its broadcast licenses.

The federal appeals court ruled that the FCC "acted arbitrarily and capriciously" in denying a petition for a hearing on the issue of whether CBS engaged in news distortion when it broadcast the segment, which purported to uncover rampant anti-Semitism in Ukraine.

The FCC then had three options: to revisit its decision, call for more evidence or convene a full-scale hear-



Roma Hadzewycz

Commemorating the Great Famine of 1932-1933 engineered by Stalin in Ukraine, marchers walk in a solemn procession in New York City on November 20.

ing on the matter. As time went on, it became clear that, though the Ukrainian American plaintiffs could prove that there were distortions in the segment, it would be difficult to prove that the distortions were intentional on the part of CBS. Therefore, a settlement seemed to be the only viable option.

As part of the settlement, CBS agreed to "reimburse the legitimate and prudent expenses incurred" by the petitioners and to provide the petitioners with a settlement letter.

In that letter, Louis Briskman, vice-president and general counsel of CBS, expressed "regret on behalf of CBS over the fact that Ukrainian Americans were offended by the October 23, 1994, '60 Minutes' feature entitled 'The Ugly Face of Freedom' and saw it as a generalized condemnation of persons of Ukrainian ancestry."

"CBS did not intend to convey such an impression," he noted.

Mr. Briskman further wrote: "I want to squarely address the suggestion that our broadcast intended to imply that Ukrainians are somehow genetically anti-Semitic. Nothing could be further from the truth. This was not our intention when we first broadcast the report, nor is it our belief today."

The letter also indicated that the two parties were not in agreement on the principal issue: the accuracy and fairness of "The Ugly Face of Freedom." The letter stated: "While CBS and your clients may not agree about the merits of the '60 Minutes' broadcast and may have differences concerning possible future programs, I am hopeful that our meeting helped to promote mutual respect and understanding. In this regard, let me assure you that CBS has no 'agenda' with regard to the Ukrainian people and country. Our desire is to maintain good relations with all segments of the television audi-

ence and, obviously, the Ukrainian American community is no exception."

Arthur Belendiuk, the Washington-based communications lawyer who played the lead role in the Ukrainian American parties' case against CBS explained: "They wanted us to agree that they had not intentionally distorted – we refused to do that. We're just saying we're dropping the case. We agreed to disagree."

However, he quickly added, "Even though they [CBS] are not apologizing, they are certainly stepping back from what they said in 'The Ugly Face of Freedom.' I think they are making some pretty significant steps."

He explained that while the CBS program implied that Ukrainians are genetically anti-Semitic or that there was some official Ukrainian policy against Jews, "here it says in the letter that 'since its independence, the government of Ukraine has vigorously defended the civil rights of all citizens, especially ethnic minorities.' ... It's a significant step from what they were implying in that program: that Ukrainians were about to rise up and murder ethnic minorities in their country, their own citizens."

"If all of this had been presented – they are now in essence conceding to these facts – what would have been left of 'The Ugly Face of Freedom'? And there's your victory. But they can't get around to saying they're sorry because that would hurt them in their community of broadcasters," Mr. Belendiuk stated.

The conclusion to this four-and-a-half-year-old case came several weeks after an unprecedented meeting between CBS brass and representatives of major Ukrainian American community organizations. The two sides faced off at a settlement meeting at the CBS corporate headquarters on March 1. Present were representatives of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Ukrainian

President's message on Great Famine

Following is the text of President Bill Clinton's message on Ukrainian Famine Remembrance Day. Though dated November 24, the letter was sent to the Ukrainian National Information Service on November 29. UNIS forwarded a copy of the message to The Ukrainian Weekly on December 16.

As the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian American community observe Ukrainian Famine Remembrance Day, I join you in paying tribute to the memory of all those who died in the famine that devastated Ukraine 66 years ago.

Seeking to crush Ukrainian nationalism, Joseph Stalin in 1932 set out on a merciless crusade to starve

the people of Ukraine into submission. By dramatically raising Ukraine's grain procurement quotas, he forced millions of peasants to neglect themselves and their families and to turn over the fruits of their own labor. During this horrific period, nearly 7 million people died of starvation.

While the loss of life was staggering, Stalin failed to achieve his ultimate objective. Ukraine eventually emerged, after decades of courageous struggle, as a free and independent nation – a powerful reminder to us all that when people are united in a common quest for freedom they can overcome even the most terrible injustice.

I commend all those taking part in this special observance for reminding us of the history and rich heritage of the Ukrainian people and for reaffirming our shared commitment to the ideals of equality, freedom, and justice.

Best wishes for a meaningful observance.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

American Coordinating Council, Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Ukrainian National Association, Federation of Ukrainian American Business and Professional Associations and the Ukrainian American Professionals and Businesspersons of New York and New Jersey, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization, the Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox Churches, as well as attorneys for the Ukrainian petitioners, Mr. Serafyn and the editor-in-chief of *The Ukrainian Weekly*.

Later in the year, *The Weekly* reported that the attorneys handling the case on behalf of the Ukrainian American petitioners – Arthur Belendiuk, Askold Lozynskyj and Bohanna Pochoday – had donated funds received from the settlement to a variety of Ukrainian American community groups, ranging from the UCCA to the Ukrainian National Foundation (an arm of the Ukrainian National Association), United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Ukrainian National Women's League of America, The Ukrainian Museum, Ukrainian Institute of America and the Ukrainian Free University Foundation, as well as churches, youth organizations, veterans' groups and professional/business associations.

Joint Conferences in D.C.

More than 900 people – among them members of various Ukrainian professionals' societies and community organizations – participated in the diverse programs that constituted the inaugural Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations held in and around Washington on June 23-27.

From its beginning, a reception at the Embassy of Ukraine, to its conclusion, a session that focused on "Finding Direction for Our Organizations," the mammoth event was an uplifting experience for a Ukrainian American community that had been changed dramatically since the re-establishment of an independent Ukrainian state.

From start to finish, participants of the Joint Conferences heard and saw what the Ukrainian American community and the Ukrainian nation have to offer, from professional knowledge in disparate fields to energetic volunteerism and beautiful music.

The conferences straddled the two worlds that comprise two realities of Ukrainian American life: Ukraine and the United States. It was appropriate, therefore, that greetings to this extraordinary gathering were sent by both President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine and U.S. Vice-President Al Gore.

The Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations were seen as a regularly recurring event and the beginning of a new venture that will establish a new framework for cooperation among the community's diverse yet complementary elements. Community leaders and members spoke nearly unanimously in favor of setting up a mechanism for regular consultation among Ukrainian American organizations with the aim of increasing the community's effectiveness both internally and in terms of its external relations.

The conferences' coordinator was Dr. Roman Goy, a Baltimore physician who several years ago conceived the idea of this synergistic get-together, a "Ukrainian events week" in the nation's capital. The agenda and the mission of the Joint Conferences attracted such major organizations as the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, whose program was split into two full-day sessions, "Advances in Medicine" and "The First International Conference on Health Care in Ukraine"; and the Ukrainian Engineers Society of America, which opted to focus on "U.S.-Ukraine Science and Technology Cooperation: Status and Opportunities." The Ukrainian American Bar Association and the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association also held major sessions.

A key part of the program was The Washington Group's conference "At the Threshold." That conference attempted, in the words of TWG President Orest Deychakiwsky, to provide "five slices of the Ukrainian reality": U.S.-Ukraine cooperation in both the military and the business spheres, Ukraine's role in international space programs, trafficking of women from Ukraine and the political situation in Ukraine as the presidential elections draw near.

Also meeting at the Joint Conferences site were the Ukrainian Library Association of America and the fledgling Association of Ukrainian American Architects. The Ukrainian American Veterans held an executive board meeting and prepared a display promoting the work of their nationwide organization, and the Ukrainian National Women's League of America held meetings of both its leadership and its membership, as well as public sessions covering women's health, labor laws as they



Office of the Vice-President

Holding the Friend of Ukraine Award, Vice-President Al Gore addresses Ukrainian American community leaders during a meeting at the Old Executive Office Building on September 15.

pertain to women from Ukraine and genetic engineering.

Besides separate conferences of Ukrainian organizations, there were several joint events: a reception at the Embassy of Ukraine attended by approximately 275 people; a congressional reception on Capitol Hill attended by at least 400 people; and a reception at the U.S. State Department that was filled to capacity by 425 guests.

At the Joint Conferences it was announced that Vice-President Gore had been chosen to receive the Friend of Ukraine Award. However, the actual presentation did not take place until September 15, during a special meeting in Washington at the Old Executive Office Building between the vice-president and leaders of the Ukrainian American organizations that had played leading roles in the conferences.

Earlier that same day those leaders held a luncheon meeting at the National Press Club to discuss formation of the Council of Presidents of Ukrainian American Organizations. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Goy, chief organizer of the Joint Conferences and president of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA), who was subsequently elected chairman of a three-member executive to coordinate activity until such time as the Council of Presidents of Ukrainian American Organizations is duly constituted. Peter Piddoubny, president of the Ukrainian American Bar Association was elected secretary, and Ihor Chyzowycz of the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association was elected treasurer.

In addition to those three organizations, six others voted to join the newly created council: the Ukrainian Institute of America, Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America, Ukrainian Federation of America, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, Association of Ukrainian American Architects and the Ukrainian American Community Network. Several other organizations' representatives said at the time that they had to consult their membership and/or executive bodies before announcing their membership. At year's end, the Ukrainian National Association's Executive Committee voted unanimously to join the council.

The objectives of the CPUAO as currently outlined are: to coordinate the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations (which are envisioned as a regularly occurring event); to serve as a consultative body that will meet formally at least once a year to discuss matters of common interest; and to serve as a communications network among participating organizations.

The groundwork for the establishment of the council was laid with a discussion about the membership and governance of this new body. The CPUAO was to review the matter at the end of this year. (At press time there was no new information, according to Dr. Goy.)

Another major conference on community topics was held in San Francisco on October 9. "Ukraine and the West in the New Millennium" was the all-encompassing

topic of the conference organized by the Ukrainian Professional and Business Group of North California and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America.

Participants arrived not only from northern parts of the state, but also from southern California, Nevada, Arizona, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Washington, as well as the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Ontario and Quebec. They heard speakers address a diversity of topics, from relations between Ukraine and the West, with a focus on the United States; to doing business in Ukraine and with Ukrainians; and the status of the Ukrainian American diaspora.

The keynote speaker was Ambassador Anton Buteiko, Ukraine's envoy to the United States, who offered his personal observations on the status of eight-year-old independent Ukraine. Other major speakers were Gen. Robert W. Barrow, director of the Joint Staff, California National Guard, who reported on the National Guard's State Partnership Program via which Ukraine was paired with California in August 1993; Marta Fedoriw, a businesswoman from Allentown, Pa., who offered personal insights on doing business in Ukraine – and what she underlined is constructive criticism – based on her experience as developer of the Grand Hotel in Lviv; and Roma Hadzewycz, who had spoken at the San Francisco conference in 1995 about the genesis and development of *The Ukrainian Weekly* and this year spoke from her vantage point as editor-in-chief of that newspaper about the status and future of the Ukrainian diaspora in the United States. A special guest speaker was Dr. Goy, UMANA president and chief organizer of the Joint Conferences, who shared his observations on what was learned as a result of what many called "The Synergy Conference."

Popularly referred to as "San Francisco 1999," the conference was the fourth organized by the Ukrainian Professional and Business Group of North California; its coordinators were Dr. Andrew Iwach, an ophthalmologist, and Justin Makarewycz, a public relations professional. Dr. Iwach explained that the San Francisco conferences "are filling a niche completely parallel to what happened at the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations in Washington." He added, "We have people in high places that we need to draw on to help maintain this network to help our community and Ukraine. Furthermore, we need to maintain our infrastructure here, otherwise we will not be able to successfully help Ukraine."

Recalling the Famine-genocide

1999 was also the year that Ukrainians in the United States (and Canada as well) seemed to decide they would commemorate the Great Famine of 1932-1933 annually – instead of once every five years as had been the case.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Perhaps they were encouraged by last year's presidential decree in Ukraine that proclaimed an annual day of mourning for the 7 million to 10 million victims of that genocide.

The biggest commemoration of the 66th anniversary of the Famine-genocide took place in New York City on November 20 under the aegis of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, and an ad hoc group of New York area organizations called the Civic Committee to Remember the Victims of the Famine in Ukraine. The day's event began with a solemn procession of 1,500 people from St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church on East Seventh Street to St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue between 50th and 51st streets, where a memorial service was celebrated by Ukrainian Catholic and Ukrainian Orthodox clergy. The mourners hailed from all parts of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and cities beyond. Many arrived by the busload: from Hartford and New Haven, Conn., from Passaic/Clifton, Bound Brook, Jersey City/Bayonne and Newark, N.J., and from Bethpage, Long Island, N.Y. Others came by public transportation or in private cars from various cities throughout the tri-state area.

Queried by The Weekly about why they had chosen to march, community activists both young and old, all had the same response: to mourn the victims of what is known in Ukrainian as "Velykyi Holod" – the Great Famine; to let fellow Americans know that Ukrainians will always remember the millions deliberately killed during the Famine-genocide of 1932-1933; and to increase public awareness of this little known genocide.

Inside the cathedral, with nearly 3,000 in attendance, remarks were delivered by Bishop Basil Losten of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Anton Buteiko and Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations Volodymyr Yelchenko. A message was sent by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton; several days later President Bill Clinton also issued a message on the occasion of the Great Famine's 66th anniversary (see text on page 19).

Other communities, too, held commemorations, among them Buffalo, N.Y., and Parma, Ohio.

CCRF honors first lady

A most noteworthy development was the Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund's presentation of the Lifetime Humanitarian Achievement Award to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton at a special ceremony at the Ukrainian Institute of America on April 19. Mrs. Clinton received a 14-inch bronze sculpture of the Berehynia (protectress) in recognition of her commitment to improving the health of women and children in Ukraine, as well as around the world. Mrs. Clinton, who has lent considerable support to procure funds and contributions for hospitals and programs focused on healing the consequences of Chernobyl, has visited Ukraine several times and in 1996, during the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, hosted an event at the White House to commemorate the tragedy.

Mrs. Clinton, who had agreed many months ago to be in New York for the awards ceremony specifically to coincide with the 13th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy, noted that the "CCRF exemplifies the characteristic of Americans – the commitment to help ... the willingness to use our blessings to help others is a reflection of us as Americans and our values." She praised the dedication and commitment of the foundation's staff and volunteers, and the incredible work that has gone into leveraging a large amount of aid on a relatively small budget. The CCRF serves as an inspiration, noted the first lady, for its Ukrainian partners, who, seeing the commitment of the CCRF, gather new resolve to find creative solutions to difficult problems before them.

Guest speakers at the event included film star Alec Baldwin and U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.). Hollywood producer Fred Caruso, noted for such films as "The Godfather" and "Casualties of War" was master of ceremonies.

The CCRF, which has sent 22 airlifts and eight sea shipments to Ukraine, this year organized two airlifts on the occasion of the Chernobyl nuclear accident's 13th anniversary, one arrived in Kyiv on April 28 and another one in Lviv on May 5. The two shipments delivered over 31 tons of medical aid valued at more than \$1.2 million.

Ukrainian schools in the news

One of the most exciting bits of news in 1999, as far as Ukrainian Americans are concerned, was the announcement by U.S. News & World Report in its January 18 issue that among the 96 Outstanding

American High Schools there was a Ukrainian Catholic School: Immaculate Conception in Warren, Mich. Only 14 of the 169 Detroit area high schools studied by the newsmagazine were cited as outstanding and only four of them were Catholic schools.

Another Ukrainian high school did not fare as well in 1999. In late October it was learned that St. George Academy, as well as St. George Ukrainian Catholic School, were to close their doors as of June 2000, leaving some 260 students without an educational home. However, a group of concerned parents immediately sprang into action and created a steering committee to save the school.

At that meeting the Rev. Patrick Paschak, pastor of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, with which both schools are affiliated, admitted that the elementary and high schools have been experiencing financial difficulty for years. The parish, with its dwindling membership, can no longer afford to keep them afloat, said Serhiy Hoshowsky, father of a St. George student and de facto head of the steering committee. Although the Rev. Paschak did not quote an exact figure, Mr. Hoshowsky estimated that the schools' debt may be somewhere around \$700,000 with an additional \$200,000 needed for repairs.

At last report, the Rev. Paschak had agreed to cooperate with the committee and to accept the creation of a community board of trustees to take over the responsibilities of hiring principals and making the schools financially independent. Supporters of the schools say that if the schools didn't close 10 years ago, when there was hardly a Ukrainian student to be found, now is certainly not the time. Today there are hundreds of children of baby boomers who need to be educated according to the values of the Ukrainian community, and dozens of new families arriving from Ukraine with children who need the safe traditional environment St. George's can provide.

Community miscellany

Fifty was the big number this year as scores of Ukrainian American organizations founded after the post-World War II emigration marked that jubilee. Among them were Plast and the Ukrainian American Youth Association, or SUM, as well as schools of Ukrainian studies, like the one sponsored by the Self Reliance Association in New York.

Plast, it should be noted, began the celebrations of its 50th anniversary in the United States at its 24th national convention on October 23-24, at which the name of the organization was changed from Plast Ukrainian Youth Organization to Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization to better reflect the organization's roots, which go back to 1911 in Ukraine as the uniquely Ukrainian adaptation of Scouting for Boys founded in 1908 in Great Britain by Robert Baden Powell. Celebrations will continue into the year 2000.

Two major Ukrainian organizations, however, marked even bigger jubilees – their 75th.

The Carpathian Ski Club, whose sports portfolio includes much more than skiing – encompassing tennis, swimming, track and field, canoeing, volleyball and other sports – celebrated its 75th anniversary with ski races on March 6 at Ski Windham in upstate New York and, later in the year, a celebratory gathering at Soyuzivka on September 18 that featured a tennis tournament and a banquet. KLK, as it is known (acronym is based on its Ukrainian name), was founded in Ukraine in 1924 and then transported to Europe and the United States where it grew and flourished, and then was re-established in Ukraine in 1989.

Another 75th anniversary was that of the Chornomorska Sitch sports club, founded in this country in 1924. (The first three "companies," as the organization's branches used to be called, were in New York City, Jersey City and Newark, N.J.) In its early days Sitch stressed physical exercise and paramilitary training as its intention was to prepare its members for a possible armed struggle for Ukraine. Today, of course, the accent is on sports. Other jubilees for Sitch were the 35th anniversary of its magazine, Our Sport, and the 30th anniversary of the Sitch Sports School held annually at the Verkhovyna Resort in Glen Spey, N.Y.

In April the board of trustees of The Ukrainian Museum reported on the status of its building project, noting that more than \$3 million had been raised. In 1985 the board of trustees of The Ukrainian Museum had purchased a commercial building on East Sixth Street in New York City, in the heart of the Ukrainian community, with the aim of rebuilding it into a modern museum facility. The cost of the project, however, had increased from the originally envisioned \$3.5 million to \$6 million and, as a result, the museum was considering other options, such as purchase of another less costly building.

Negotiations were conducted with the owners of a building on Third Avenue, which they had considered offering for sale. The building presented a reasonable solution to the board's dilemma, as the museum could sell its Sixth Street industrial building, have the necessary funds to purchase the one on Third Avenue and use some of the previously raised money for remodeling. This looked like a good opportunity to have a new museum facility without going into heavy debt.

The Ukrainian National Museum (UNM) founded in 1952 in Chicago in order to preserve artifacts, books, periodicals, immigration records and other evidence of the Ukrainian culture brought to America by the three major waves of immigration from Ukraine, this year embarked on an ambitious program to develop a computerized database, titled the Cataloguing Project. The project will make the collections and archives at the 10,000-square foot UNM, which is located in Chicago's Ukrainian Village, a valuable resource for all friends of



First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton accepts the Lifetime Humanitarian Achievement Award from Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund Executive Director Nadia Matkiwsky (center) and the foundation's financial director, Tanya Vena (right), during a ceremony at the Ukrainian Institute of America on April 19.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Olha Kuzmowycz

Members of the steering committee established to save St. George elementary and secondary schools in New York at their meeting on October 30. On the right is the committee's chairman, Serhiy Hoshowsky.

the Ukrainian culture, academic researchers and the general public.

The UNM currently contains a collection of over 1,140 artifacts, including traditional folk art, agricultural tools, musical instruments, trophies and miscellaneous items that are unique or of exceptional value. The museum library has over 17,000 titles in both English and Ukrainian, as well as extensive archives of materials about Ukrainian communities, particularly in Chicago.

During 1999, the UNM received a grant of \$30,000 from the Heritage Foundation, a Chicago-based foundation headed by Dr. Julian Kulas and sponsored by the 1st Federal Savings Bank. The gift allowed the UNM to initiate development of its computerized database.

In July there was more great news: Illinois Gov. George H. Ryan presented a capital expansion grant of \$500,000 to the Ukrainian National Museum during a Ukrainian Day Celebration at the executive Mansion in Springfield. Acknowledgment was given to State Sen. Walter Dudycz who had taken personal interest in ensuring that the museum became eligible to receive state funds from the Public Museum Capital Grants Program.

Speaking of grants, the Ukrainian Heritage Foundation in August announced that it was awarding \$20,000 in grants to a variety of Ukrainian organizations in the United States and Canada, among them the Ukrainian Heritage studies Center Manor College, the Ukrainian Cultural Institute of North Dakota, Friends of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, the New York School of Bandura, the Oklahoma Friends of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of St. Josaphat in Parma, Ohio, and the Ukrainian Dancers of Miami. Later in the year, The Ukrainian Weekly also benefited from the foundation's largesse, receiving a \$500 grant for its community work.

With these grants, however, came some sad news: the Ukrainian Heritage Foundation, which was founded by activists of the former Ukrainian Youth League of North America, was being dissolved after 16 years of activity promoting Ukrainian culture.

There was news in 1999 also about the two major Ukrainian American bodies that unite other organizations.

After the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council held its convention in November 1998 and elected Ihor Gawdiak as president, the post he had previously held within the organization, that of chair of National Council was left vacant. On February 27, at a New York meeting of the National Council, Roma Dyhdalo of Troy, Mich., was elected its chair. At that same meeting the UACC president reported that the organization had signed a lease for office space in Washington, located one block from the White House. Soon thereafter, R.L. Chomiak was named director of the UACC Washington Office.

Meanwhile, the other Ukrainian American "umbrella," the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America,

organized a delegation of monitors for Ukraine's presidential elections and received a \$180,000 grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development for a pre-election public information campaign aimed at encouraging voter participation.

During the year the UACC and UCCA collaborated on a number of projects here in the United States, including the annual congressional observance of Ukrainian Independence Day on Capitol Hill on September 22, which is coordinated with the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus.

Other community developments included the following.

- The Ukrainian National Women's League of America Inc. (UNWLA) held its 25th Convention on May 28-31 at the Hotel Westin O'Hare, located near Chicago's O'Hare Airport. Approximately 200 delegates from across the United States and 100 guests attended the four-day convention. Newly elected President Iryna Kurowyckyj pointed out that the UNWLA will be celebrating its 75th anniversary as it enters the new millennium. "We are hopeful that the new technologies in communication will make it possible for us to attain new members who otherwise would never have had contact with our organization," she added. The title of honorary president was bestowed upon the outgoing president, Anna Krawczuk.

- Three Ukrainian American organizations representing diverse segments of the Ukrainian American community joined forces in Washington on April 15 to form the Action Ukraine Coalition. The immediate catalyst for the formation of this coalition was the annual debate over the certification of U.S. foreign aid for Ukraine, as well as the need to develop an ongoing, positive, proactive working relationship with members of the Ukrainian Caucus in the U.S. Congress.

The coalition was formed at a meeting of its three charter members: the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, the Ukrainian Federation of America and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation. The overall goals of the coalition are to strengthen the strategic partnership between the United States and Ukraine, to develop a sustained and more effective channel of communication between the U.S. Congress and the Ukrainian American community in order for Congress to better understand the community's concerns about Ukraine, to appreciate the critical issues facing the young Ukrainian state and to realize the urgency of alleviating the most pressing problems threatening Ukraine.

- Flood relief shipments to flood-ravaged Zakarpattia continued in the early part of 1999. The UNWLA's first shipment arrived in Uzhhorod in mid-January and a second shipment soon followed. The women's organization continued its fund-raising as the news from the region was dire: though the floods had occurred in November 1998, there were reports of mud slides, entire villages lost and mass evacuations. The United Ukrainian American Relief Committee also collected more than

\$60,000 for flood relief, and the UNA's Ukrainian National Foundation raised over \$17,000 to assist flood victims.

- The California Association to Aid Ukraine continued its good work, this year holding a gala on February 6 to benefit the Wheelchairs for Ukraine Project that sends wheelchairs and related items to those in need in Ukraine.

- Ukrainian Gift of Life, based in Glen Rock, N.J., also plugged away, bringing children from Ukraine to the United States for life-saving heart surgery.

- The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center of Philadelphia, which actually is located in Abington Township, held its annual banquet, marking its 19th anniversary, on February 27. The honoree for the evening, as well as the keynote speaker, was Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Anton Buteiko.

- The Ukrainian Technological Society, a society of professionals whose home base is Pittsburgh, met at its 30th general assembly on February 28, re-electing Charles Kostecki as president. Later in the year, the UTS named Michael Julia as its Ukrainian of the Year in recognition of his cultural and community activity.

- The Ukrainian Project Fund, whose goal was to find funds for the construction of a Ukrainian Pavilion at EPCOT in time for the theme park's Walt Disney's Millennium Celebration, reported in September, that, unfortunately, the funds simply were not there and the project had to be scrapped. The reason: the principal backer of the project, a philanthropic Ukrainian American organization based in New York that had pledged to provide \$500,000 for the project, backed out. Other sources of funding, including a major beer manufacturer in Ukraine, turned out to be more interested in personal incomes than in increasing awareness of Ukraine and Ukrainians. In the end, Taras (Jason) Harper, who spearheaded the Ukrainian Project Fund, expressed his disappointment in "the wealthy Ukrainian Canadians and Ukrainian Americans who did not bother to respond" to solicitations for support, and thanked the individuals and organization that worked hard to promote the project. Nonetheless, the Ukrainian Project Fund continues to exist in order to continue promoting awareness of things Ukrainian.

- Sailors from Ukraine found themselves stranded in New York harbor in spring-summer and by late July were in dire straits with inadequate supplies of food, water and medicine. The 8,400-ton Znamia Oktiabria (Banner of October), which regularly transports automobiles between New York and the Dominican Republic, had been in anchorage since April, awaiting an assignment from its owners. The Associated Press reported that the crew of 23 men and three women got an infusion of supplies courtesy of the Seamen's Church Institute, a non-profit organization serving area mariners, after Coast Guard inspectors found the ship was low on food.

The New York Times (which carried a news story about the stranded crew on the front page of its Metropolitan section on August 3) reported that the vessel first came to the attention of the Coast Guard in January, while off Sandy Hook, N.J., when Capt. Ivan Kozlov, the master, was found hanged in his stateroom. The death sparked an investigation by the FBI, which determined that there had been no foul play. Capt. Alexander Golub attributed his predecessor's suicide to depression about the fate of his ship and crew.

Soon thereafter, newly formed Post 301 of the Ukrainian American Veterans in Yonkers, N.Y., sprang into action. Taras Szczur, post commander, took charge of collecting boxes of bottled water, meat, rice, watermelons, cans of tomato sauce, pasta, vegetables and which were shipped to the sailors on August 3 before the ship left New York harbor. This dedicated post of veterans had carried out a similar mission for another Azov ship, the Mikhail Senko on April 16 of this year.

- At year's end, Ukrainian Americans were distressed to hear that Ukraine's two consuls general in the United States, i.e. its top diplomats in New York and Chicago, were being replaced. Consul General Yuriy Bohaievsky in New York had been appointed in December 1998; while his counterpart in Chicago, Borys Bazylevsky, served only four months.

Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Anton Buteiko, also was being recalled. He, too, had served in his capacity for only a short period, having been appointed just one year earlier.

Rumors – which could not be confirmed – that these diplomats were being abruptly recalled due to President Leonid Kuchma's poor showing in the presidential balloting at polling stations abroad left many Ukrainian Americans with a bitter taste in their mouths.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Canada's Ukrainians: making their mark

For Ukrainians in Canada the year began auspiciously, as the federal government agreed for the first time to extend the period that Parliament Hill in Ottawa was lit up for the Christmas season until January 8, to accommodate those celebrating by the old (Julian) calendar, and it ended on an even better note when Sarkis Assadourian, the Liberal Party member of parliament (MP) for Brampton Center announced on December 3, as the lights were being turned on once again, that the practice would be permanent.

In fact, 1999 was a year during which the Syrian-born Armenian Canadian surfaced as a man whose efforts have more than just symbolic worth for the Ukrainian Canadian community.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's visit to Ukraine and Poland in January helped place debate on the establishment of an inclusive Ottawa-based museum commemorating victims of genocide and crimes against humanity on the public agenda. Throughout the year, Mr. Assadourian's push for Bill C-479 (later rebadged as Bill C-224) helped focus Ukrainian lobbying in this area (see sidebar).

Ukrainians in politics

Federal Liberal MP Walt Lastewka, from St. Catharines, also the parliamentary secretary to the minister for industry, accompanied Mr. Chrétien on his Kyivan foray in January.

In May, Gene Zwozdesky, the Alberta member of the legislative assembly (MLA) for Edmonton-Mill Creek who shocked the Liberals by crossing the floor to the ruling Progressive Conservatives (PCs) in August 1998, was rewarded with a position in the Cabinet. He was appointed as Premier Ralph Klein's associate minister of health and wellness, making him responsible for the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, and Health Promotion and Prevention. At that time, he was also appointed Deputy Government House Leader.

In June Gerard Kennedy was re-elected as a member of the Ontario Provincial Parliament (an MPP) in the High Park-Parkdale riding and appointed the Liberal Party's education critic. In November, Mr. Kennedy, who boasts a Ukrainian background on his mother's side, played an active part in commemorations marking the 66th anniversary of the famine-genocide in Ukraine.

Tory (PC) Gerry Martiniuk was also re-elected in the Cambridge riding and subsequently appointed as parliamentary assistant to the attorney general and the minister of native affairs in Premier Mike Harris's second-term majority government.

In September Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow led the New Democratic Party (NDP) back to office in a closely contested election, this time only with a minority government. On September 30 Mr. Romanow announced a coalition with fellow Ukrainian Dr. Jim

Melenchuk, leader of the provincial Liberal Party, who was given the post of education minister.

Three others with Ukrainian backgrounds also made it into Mr. Romanow's Cabinet: Joanne Crofford, appointed minister of labor; Doreen Hamilton will fill the post of minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Property Management Corp. and the Liquor and Gaming Authority; while Clay Serby will be minister of municipal affairs.

Also in September, Manitoba Tory Gary Filmon lost his bid to return as premier, apparently unable to overcome the taint of scandal that forced the resignation of his former chief-of-staff Taras Sokolyk. However, former PC ministers Len Derkach, Darren Praznik and Frank Pitura managed to keep their seats in the Manitoba legislature.

Manitoba now also has an NDP government, led by Gary Doer, who named three Ukrainians to his Cabinet: David Chomiak (minister of health and minister of sport), Roseann Wowchuk (minister of agriculture and food) and Mary Ann Mihaychuk (minister of industry and trade). Doug Martindale (married to a Ukrainian, and whose children are being raised in the Ukrainian Bilingual Program in Winnipeg) and Bonnie Korzenowski were also re-elected as NDP MLAs.

Manitoba's elections were like an all-Ukrainian Canadian free-for-all. In this round of balloting, 10 ran for the NDP (five elected), eight for the PCs (three elected) and seven for the Liberals (all of whom lost).

On November 6 the community lost one of its greatest leaders, as Laurence Decore succumbed after a long and recurring battle with cancer. The former mayor of Edmonton, leader of the Alberta Provincial Liberal Party and champion of multiculturalism in Canada died in Edmonton at the age of 59.

Community institutions

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), the Winnipeg-based national umbrella body, had an eventful year. Guided by its president, Montréal-based attorney Eugène Czolij, and vice-president, Adrian Boyko, the UCC charted a deliberate path, seeking to restore its credibility as a representative body for Ukrainians in Canada, particularly in the eyes of the federal government.

In February its representatives presented a brief to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission hearings in Winnipeg, on policy for "ethnic" programming. As the CRTC embarked on a periodic review (the last one was conducted in 1994) of the publicly funded Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) a few weeks later, the UCC also took the opportunity to make itself heard, seeking 10 hours per week of "ethnic" broadcasting and establish a process whereby its adherence to the Canadian Multiculturalism Act in the creation of programming could be vetted.

In May the UCC Board of Directors ratified a three-year action plan for the organization's various committees, based in part on the resolutions of the 19th triennial congress, held the previous October.

This year's high-water mark for the UCC came, in part through the offices of the UCC-affiliated Taras Shevchenko Foundation President Andrew Hladyshevsky,

when it secured a long-sought meeting with Justice Minister and Attorney General Anne McLellan.

On August 25 Mr. Czolij and three colleagues were granted an audience with Canada's top lawyer, to discuss matters of ranging from the prosecution of war criminals in Canada (see sidebar), the internment of Ukrainian Canadians in 1914-1920 and the reopening of channels of communication with other ministries and departments to proposals for a Canadian Museum of Genocide (see sidebar).

Whatever the year's successes, the UCC was still bogged down in its efforts to re-open its Ottawa Bureau, and time-lines by which the official website was to be up and running came and went. (At press time, <http://www.ucc.ca> features a very slow-loading logo, an "Under Construction" sign, and a count of about 4,400 disappointed visitors since the homepage outpost went up in January.)

As usual, since it has led the way for the past decade in terms of organizational reform, the UCC's Saskatchewan Provincial Council boasted the widest range of activity of the regional bodies, from organizing local cultural events to co-sponsoring a nationwide study of the use and misuse of pharmaceuticals by the elderly as well as shepherding business, agricultural and scientific exchanges with Ukraine.

After years of quiescence under the slack hand of Dr. Evhen Roslyckyj, UCC's Ontario Provincial Council (OPC) came roaring back to life under the leadership of Sudbury-based activist Walter Halchuk, elected on June 24 at the first OPC general meeting to be held in four years.

Upon assuming office, Mr. Halchuk said that he would stress communications. Newspaper editors and e-mail networks across the country know that he was as good as his word – producing a deluge of impassioned responses and up-to-the-minute press releases.

The UCC's British Columbia Provincial Council marked the 10th anniversary of its establishment during 1999.

The UCC Toronto Branch, led by its president Maria Szkambara, was particularly active in lobbying on the denaturalization and deportation and internment issues and in offering its support to Mr. Assadourian's effort to establish a Museum of Reconciliation, an inclusive institution under the administrative control of Canada's Museum of Civilization that would commemorate the victims of genocide and other crimes against humanity.

The UCC Ottawa Branch, led by Oksana Bashuk Hepburn, made strides to reviving the Friends of Ukraine group on Parliament Hill and also made its voice heard in the nation's capital.

Another community institution, the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation, in the 1990s has been a study in unfulfilled potential. Once able to radiate its influence outward into the mainstream and a source of challenges to the Ukrainian community's establishment, it had become relatively quiescent, mostly a forum for debate and exchange of information rather than a hub for ambition.

But this was a convention year, and the newly elected president, Oksana Bashuk Hepburn, appears determined to effect a major change, and use her home base in



Oksana Bashuk Hepburn, newly elected president of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation, with Terry Evanshen, recipient of the UCPBF's Personal Achievement Award, during the federation's biennial convention held July 1-4.



Shuttle Astronaut Roberta Bondar, the first Canadian woman in space, poses next to the "Ukrainian Achievements in Space" Exhibit at the UCPBF Convention, where she was the keynote speaker.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj

The hate slogan that was spray-painted on June 20 on the facade of the Ukrainian Cultural Center on Christie Street in Toronto.

Ottawa to significant effect. The raft of resolutions she proposed in her acceptance speech drew nervousness from representatives of UCC national in attendance. Would the UCPBF seek to usurp UCC's role?

In short, after that weekend in July, it was back to the old days in a new way. The challenge from the professional and business guard had been issued.

The convention was held in Toronto, and provided two major-league events – the keynote speech by former shuttle astronaut Dr. Roberta Bondar which kicked off proceedings; and the convention-concluding awards banquet that hailed the achievements of such high-profile success stories as film-maker and businessman Roman Kroitor and professional athlete and motivational speaker Terry Evanshen.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK), the national body representing post-secondary students across Canada, has also shown signs that it is ready to return to Canada's activist front lines after almost entirely disappearing from view in the 1990s.

The national SUSK congress was held in February in Calgary, Alberta, and the Canadians made an important gesture to its U.S.-based counterparts, throwing them a lifeline. From 1999 onward, student-groups at U.S. universities and colleges will be allowed membership in SUSK, since the U.S.-based umbrella body, the Federation of Ukrainian Student Organizations of America (SUSTA) fell apart some years ago.

In March SUSK's newly elected president took up

the cause of the Alberta-Ukraine Agricultural Exchange Society, whose seven-year program was placed in jeopardy by the Canadian government's refusal to grant temporary visas to six to 10 Ukrainians to work on selected Alberta and Canadian farms and learn the methods of more efficient farming.

Mr. Inytsky pointedly reminded Canada's prime minister of his commitments. The SUSK leader said, "We ask that [Prime Minister] Jean Chrétien honor the promise he made to Ukraine in Kyiv when he said: 'Ukrainians played a key role in nurturing a young Canada. It is only natural that Canadians now return that favor by helping to nurture the new Ukraine, to be at her side as she builds a durable democracy, as she fosters free markets, and as she continues her opening to the world. My first priority is to reaffirm the support of Canada for the political and economic reform for which [Ukraine has] been striving since independence.'"

Also in the news

While in Kyiv in January, Prime Minister Chrétien had set back the effort to secure recognition and redress for the wrongs done to Ukrainians, when he suggested that his government would make no formal apology to Canada's community. "Yes, I am sorry, but we can't formally apologize for everything," he said, in answer to a student's question during the visit.

And yet, in April, Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray announced that federal funding would be provided for

the development of an educational center at a site marking the former internment camp at Spirit Lake, Québec.

Additionally, another plaque commemorating the victims of the internment operation was unveiled in Victoria, the British Columbian provincial capital, in July.

In her meeting with representatives from the UCC in August, Justice Minister McLellan offered assurances that she would assist the community in raising the issue in the Heritage Ministry (which, Mr. Chrétien decided, would handle government business in the matter).

But then, in December, Canada Post declined to commemorate the tragedy in a special issue of stamps in the year 2000, as lobbied for by the UCCLA.

The Weekly's second issue of the year carried an article about the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center (Oseredok) of Winnipeg, and its campaign to reinvigorate and expand its premises and services, led by Executive Director Shelley Greschuk.

On the night of November 5, the Oseredok was caught in a wave of arson that has beset the Manitoba capital. While the center sustained \$250,000 in damage (mostly to its first-floor boutique), happily its extensive and irreplaceable collection of archives, art and museum artifacts were not affected. The Weekly carried the stirring reports of the Oseredok's former librarian, Orysia Tracz, as she led the Ukrainian Canadian community's sigh of relief.

Meanwhile, in Toronto, during the night of June 20, the Ukrainian Cultural Center downtown on Christie Street was defaced with graffiti suggesting the center was a gathering-place for Nazis. UCC Ontario and UCCLA activists expressed the community's outrage, and suggested that such incidents were fallout from the Canadian government's unfocused effort in prosecuting World War II era war criminals and loose reporting on the subject in the mainstream media were to blame. Officers from Toronto police force's hate crimes unit were assigned to the case, but its investigations proved inconclusive. It also took a fortnight for workers from the city's Graffiti Removal Unit to arrive to cover up the offensive message.

On July 5, the Canadian Press ran an item referring to racially motivated killings in the U.S. Midwest headlined "Gunman belonged to 'church' founded by Ukrainian Canadian." Four days later, the agency ran a retraction after a storm of protest across Canada.

CP World Editor Paul Loong was praised by the UCCLA's Director of Research Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk for demonstrating "his willingness to consider a problem, deal with it expeditiously and take recommendations for ensuring that similar problems don't arise in the future. He and the CP are to be commended for their fast reaction time and [sensitivity]."

Among other developments in Ukrainian Canadian community life were the following.

- In 1999, two Toronto-based newspapers celebrated anniversaries. Homin Ukrainy (Ukrainian Echo) marked its 50th year in the business with a banquet in February, while Novyi Shliakh (New Pathway) celebrated 70 years in print in similar fashion in October.

Seeking a museum of all genocides

While Jean Chrétien became the first Canadian prime minister to visit the Auschwitz and Birkenau Nazi death camps in Poland on January 24, a multi-ethnic group back home, called Canadians for a Genocide Museum, issued a statement the day before urging the federal government to consider establishing a Canadian museum that would recall "not only the horrors" of the Holocaust, but "the other genocides" experienced throughout the world during the 20th century.

A month later, on February 15, Member of Parliament Sarkis Assadourian, who represents an Ontario riding for the governing Liberals, introduced Bill C-479 before the House of Commons on February 15, which would establish a genocide exhibit at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec. Such an exhibit would recognize "crimes against humanity" and the victims of such, including the 1.5 million Armenians who perished in a genocide driven by the Ottoman Turks in 1915. Syrian-born Mr. Assadourian claims Armenian ancestral roots.

The all-inclusive idea behind establishing a "Museum of Reconciliation" won support from

Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) President Evhen Czolij and Canadian Jewish Congress President Moshe Ronen, provided, Mr. Ronen said, it would not substitute a memorial museum commemorating the Holocaust.

In a March 23 interview with The Weekly, Adrian Boyko, chair of the UCC's Government Relations Committee, characterized Mr. Assadourian's private members' bill "uniquely Canadian in its inclusiveness."

Stephen Inglis, director general of the Canadian Museum of Civilization's Collection and Research Branch, seemed to agree, suggesting that Bill C-479 reflected "a general feeling that any national presentation should be inclusive and reflect the experience of many groups in Canada."

By the summer, Mr. Assadourian's effort to convince his fellow parliamentarians to set up a genocide museum had obtained over 85,000 postcards sent to Ottawa in support of the proposed legislation. Nevertheless, in the August 17 edition of the Toronto Star daily newspaper, B'nai B'rith Canada National President Lawrence Hart continued to press Ottawa for a separate museum dealing specifically with the Nazi-led Holocaust.

A "generic museum of genocide," he said, was overly ambitious and an attempt at "detailed presentation of each unique experience is completely impractical

and will be unable to do justice to any of them."

In the meantime, community representatives, such as the UCC's Mr. Boyko, argued against parallel bids to establish two separate museums – a point agreed to by Mr. Assadourian who told the National Post daily that two state-sponsored institutions amounts to "discrimination among victims, who were killed because of discrimination in the first place."

In the fall, the MP reintroduced his private member's bill during the new session of Parliament. Now known as Bill C-224, the proposed legislation and its proponent earned the praise of Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association Chairman John Gregorovich who said that, "as Canadians of Ukrainian heritage or origin, we are very acutely aware of the horrors that befell Ukraine's people under Soviet and Nazi occupation. Millions of Ukrainians were murdered in Europe in this century.

"Hallowing their memory is, for us, as important as recalling that many millions of other people of different ethnic, religious or racial backgrounds also perished around the world in this century and before," Mr. Gregorovich underscored.

In late November, Mr. Assadourian's bill moved to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage, which is scheduled to report back to the Commons by mid-June 2000 with its recommendations.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

• In June, Kingston's (Ontario) Ukrainian community hosted Albanian refugees from Kosovo during their sojourn at a local Canadian Armed Forces base, providing them with transportation about town and entertainment at the annual Folklore Festival.

• Controversy over the Victoria Cross medal awarded to Filip Konowal during the first world war erupted onto the pages of *The Weekly's* August 1 issue. It turns out that the original has been lost. After three years of a vain search, UCCLA activists, including Royal Canadian Legion member John Gregorovich, assailed Canada's War Museum as an untrustworthy institution, drawing a hot response from current director and military historian Jack Granatstein. "This is a medal won by a serviceman in the Canadian army," he told *The Weekly's* Chris Guly, "This is not the community's medal. They have neither right nor privileges here."

• On April 25 the Ukrainian community of Calgary erected a black granite monument commemorating the Famine-genocide of 1932-1933 in Ukraine. Nine famine survivors were present for the unveiling and the blessing of the monument, which was conducted by Ukrainian Catholic and Orthodox clergy, including Bishop Lawrence Huculak of the Edmonton Eparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Ukrainian Orthodox Bishop John Stinka said: "There are many pictures that remain forever unobliterated in the minds of the Ukrainian people. There is many a man still suffering from the taint of the evil thing experienced."



Nathan Berko

Community members in Calgary at the April 25 dedication of a monument to the Famine-genocide of 1932-1933.

Galicia Division cleared, again

The *Weekly's* first issue of the year carried news about yet another official exoneration of members of the Galicia Division. Canadian Justice Minister and Attorney General Anne McLellan averred in a letter to the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) that "the evidence we have been able to uncover is insufficient to merit the commencement of court proceedings against any members of the Division."

Denaturalization and deportation cases

Meanwhile denaturalization and deportation (D&D) proceedings continued against a number of other Canadian citizens. Formally brought by Canada's Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, investigated and prosecuted jointly with the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General's Office, they involved charges of having concealed criminal activity and thus having secured entry and citizenship under false pretenses.

Early in the year, the mainstream press (particularly Toronto daily, *The Globe and Mail*) gave considerable coverage to a decision handed down in late December by Federal Court Judge Marc Noël in the case against Johann Dueck, a former Volksdeutscher currently living in St. Catharines, Ontario. Judge Noël ruled that the prosecution failed to substantiate its charges that Mr. Dueck had committed crimes against humanity in eastern Ukraine during the Nazi occupation, and had likewise failed to prove that Mr. Dueck lied on his applications for entry and Canadian citizenship.

In January Federal Court Judge Marc Nadon found that in the case of Vladimir Katriuk of Montréal (born in western Ukraine), the prosecution had not established the accused's complicity in war crimes, but had proven that Mr. Katriuk entered the country under an alias and that he had concealed his collaboration, (i.e. membership in an auxiliary police unit operating in Belarus in 1941-1942), in his application for Canadian citizenship. As such, pending a Cabinet order to this effect, he can be deported from the country. His lawyers, the Toronto-based team of Orest Rudzik and Nestor Woychyshyn, and the UCCLA have sought a stay.

In February the case against Wasyl Odynsky, a Toronto man born in western Ukraine accused of committing atrocities while serving at a Nazi-run concentration camp in Poland, finally made it to trial. Hearings lasted into the summer, and a decision by Federal Court Judge J. MacKay is pending.

In June Federal Court Judge J. Luffy found that

Volhynian-born Serge Kisluk of St. Catharines had concealed his membership in the auxiliary police in Volhynia in applying for citizenship and was, on the balance of probabilities, part of a two-man detail that took a young Jewish woman to be executed in 1942. Mr. Kisluk's lawyers, Messrs. Rudzik and Woychyshyn, also sought a stay in this case.

In October, the government launched its 17th and latest denaturalization and deportation case – against yet another resident of St. Catharines, Jacob Fast. Born on a Mennonite settlement in Ukraine 89 years ago, Mr. Fast was accused, in a letter from Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Elinor Caplan, of failing to disclose "collaboration with German occupying authorities in Ukraine" and "association with the German Security Police and Security Service" when entering Canada in 1947 and seeking Canadian citizenship, which he obtained in 1954.

Community response

The UCC and the UCCLA continued to maintain that the civil-court D&D proceedings were unfair, in that (given the horrific nature of the accusations involved) they did not offer accused persons the protections of a higher standard of proof demanded at criminal court trials. The UCC also pointed out that while former Justice Minister Allan Rock had assured Canadians that no cases would be initiated unless there was strong direct evidence implicating individuals in crimes against humanity, already in four cases judges have upbraided the prosecution for not having sufficient evidence in this regard. (In two instances, judges found against the accused anyway.)

Postcard and letter-writing campaigns produced an estimated 70,000 mailings to federal officials over the year, and a more concerted effort to respond to reports in and provide information to the mainstream media was put in motion.

To further these ends, the UCC and UCCLA cooperated in arranging two in-camera strategy sessions, held in Toronto in May and in October, with defense attorneys from the various D&D cases participating. Vigorous intercessions were proposed, such as the issuance of "writs of mandamus" demanding the government proceed with criminal proceedings in particular cases, but as yet have not materialized.

On the other hand, the UCC president did prepare a formal legal brief on the D&D issue, and at a meeting in Edmonton with Minister McLellan and War Crimes Unit Chief Paul Vickery on August 25, UCC officials were afforded an opportunity to discuss it with the senior officials responsible for setting and executing policy in the country. The UCC also secured participation in future discussions concerning the use of experts in various war crimes proceedings.

In October the UCC's Committee for Justice

(chaired by UCC Toronto Branch President Maria Szkambara) organized a fundraising banquet in defense of the community's good name. Donald Bayne, a defense attorney for Mr. Dueck, was the keynote speaker. Mr. Bayne revealed that he was of Ukrainian heritage and described the ongoing threat to Canada's justice system of Soviet evidence.

For her part, Ms. Szkambara denounced the timidity of most Ukrainian Canadian lawyers on the issue in recent years. The UCC activist lamented the apparent lack of civic courage shown by the successors of the late Supreme Court Justice John Sopinka, who while still in private practice appeared on the UCC's behalf before the Deschênes Commission of Inquiry into the presence of war criminals in Canada.

Government policy and media coverage evolve

In October the Toronto daily *Globe and Mail* carried a story suggesting that Minister McLellan had brought a bill that would amend Canada's war crimes legislation before Cabinet and would prompt prosecutors to initiate criminal court proceedings against individuals accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

While an apparent triumph for Ukrainian Canadian lobbying efforts, UCC officials remained cautious about the news, saying that they would reserve comment before they obtained a copy of the draft legislation and/or conferred with the minister. Neither had occurred by year's end.

During the course of the year, mainstream media coverage had also begun to acquire a more multi-dimensional aspect, apparent in reports concerning individual D&D cases as well as Ms. McLellan's proposal.

In Mr. Fast's case, a greater amount of space was devoted to the circumstances in which the alleged frauds on Canada's immigration service occurred and the legal defense his attorney intends to pursue – balance that had been largely absent in coverage up to now.

In coverage of the other cases and the report on the amendments to be made to Canada's war crimes legislation, the impediment to further criminal court prosecutions was still said to have originated in the Supreme Court's acquittal of Imre Finta, a native of Hungary.

However, while no longer claiming that the Supreme Court gave credence to the "following orders" defense (which the UCCLA has hotly disputed), journalists wrote (or quoted government officials as saying) that Canada's senior justices had allegedly accepted Mr. Finta's arguments that he "sincerely believed" that Hungarian Jews "presented a threat" to the state he served (a defense dismissed by, among others, Justice J.A. Tarnopolsky in the 1992 Ontario Court of Appeal decision on the case).

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Religious affairs: a relative calm

The situation in religious communities in Ukraine and in the West, with only a few exceptions, was generally calm. The level of violence and tension between Churches in Ukraine continues to decrease, though there are still incidents of conflict, notably among the Orthodox Church. However, whereas there is calm in the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the West and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada, there is a deepening tension within the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the United States.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Several years ago the leaders of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America chose to bring their Church under the jurisdiction of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople. They explained their decision to the faithful of the Church with the claims that this step would make the Church in America canonical and would help in obtaining recognition for the Church in Ukraine. Opponents of this move contend that the hierarchs committed fraud against the faithful of the Church. They claim that the Church in America always was canonical; that the lay leaders and hierarchs misrepresented to the faithful the religious and administrative implications of this decision, including not fully or properly explaining the relationship with Constantinople; and that the hierarchs did not follow proper Church procedure to make such a decision, therefore forfeiting legitimacy.

In 1998 several U.S. parishes left the jurisdiction of the UOC/USA, which is headquartered in South Bound Brook, N.J., over this issue and were accepted into the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate by Patriarch Filaret. This split has increased tension between Patriarch Filaret and the hierarchs of the UOC/USA.

Patriarch Filaret visited the United States between October 22 and November 11, his second visit in a year, touring several of his parishes, as well as several that have not yet left the UOC/USA but are in opposition to the UOC/USA decision to accept the jurisdiction of Constantinople.

During his visit this year, Patriarch Filaret spoke strongly against the actions of the hierarchs of the UOC/USA. His basic message was: the hierarchs in South Bound Brook have misled the faithful; the natural relationship for all Ukrainian Orthodox faithful is with Kyiv, not with Moscow or Constantinople; the faithful here need to reaffirm their desire to remain with Kyiv. The patriarch spoke of good relations with the government of Ukraine and of improving relations with the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, citing the friendly relations between the two Churches in the diaspora as a model.

Besides widening divisions in the United States between Orthodox parishes that support the hierarchs in South Bound Brook and those that do not, the Church in Ukraine also remains divided among three churches: the UOC – Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC-KP) led by Patriarch Filaret; the UOC – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP), led in Ukraine by Metropolitan Volodymyr Sabodan, who is loyal to the Moscow Patriarch Aleksei II; and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC), led by Patriarch Dymytrii.

Patriarch Dymytrii of the UAOC visited the United States from December 28, 1998, to January 4 of this year. Unlike Patriarch Filaret, Patriarch Dymytrii notes that he is on good terms with the hierarchs in the United States and the visit produced an agreement with the UOC/USA to strengthen frayed ties and to work toward a united Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Ukraine.

“The specific matter that we discussed was a request that they [UOC/USA] develop a discussion with the center in Constantinople that it turn its face toward Ukraine, that it stop looking at Ukraine through the eyes of Moscow’s politics, and that it take the Ukrainian Church under its spiritual omophorion,” said Patriarch Dymytrii in an interview with *The Weekly* in February after his return to Ukraine.

Included in the program of cooperation between the UAOC and the UOC/USA is the opening of a representative office of the UOC/USA in Kyiv in the form of a center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Patriarch Dymytrii heads what is now the smallest of the three Orthodox Churches in Ukraine – one that has been decimated by defections to the UOC-KP since the

death in 1993 of Patriarch Mstyslav, the first leader of the Church after Ukraine’s independence. Though Patriarch Filaret claims to work well with Patriarch Dymytrii, the latter has few kind words for the former.

Patriarch Dymytrii claims that during his visit to South Bound Brook he brought documents that prove Patriarch Filaret is not the rightful heir to the patriarchal throne of the late Patriarch Mstyslav. According to Patriarch Dymytrii, the UAOC now hopes that, through renewed contacts with the UOC/USA, it can begin the process of achieving Eucharistic union with Constantinople and eventually uniting the various Orthodox Churches of Ukraine into a single entity. Patriarch Dymytrii hopes that the UOC/USA can act as a mediator between Kyiv and Constantinople in the UAOC’s bid for recognition by the historic seat of Orthodox Christianity.

One of the few incidents of inter-Church violence was the attack on Patriarch Filaret in Mariupol on April 30 by dozens of supporters of the rival Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate. The patriarch was physically attacked, barely escaping serious injury. Attacks were targeted also at the faithful gathered to greet him. The Ukrainian religious leader later stated at a press conference that this violent incident and others are being directed from Russia. Patriarch Filaret was on a tour of UOC-KP parishes in the Donetsk Oblast and was about to bless the construction site of a new church when some 80 attackers, who had arrived by bus, fell upon him, several bishops and clergy, and a dozen or so of the faithful gathered to take part in the ceremony.

In the United States relations within the UOC/USA continue to deteriorate as a lawsuit and counterclaims involving hierarchs and laity of the UOC/USA and members of Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Clifton, N.J., were filed this summer in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Somerset County. The majority of the members of Holy Ascension Parish have expressed concern about, as well as opposition to, the hierarchs’ decision to join Constantinople.

The original lawsuit, filed on May 27, lists the UOC/USA, Archbishop Antony (head of the Consistory of the UOC/USA), the Rev. Arkadiusz Mironko and 41 other individuals as plaintiffs. Listed as defendants are John Luchejko, John Marchenko, Roma Lisovich and Walter Mohuchy, trustees or members of the parish board of Holy Ascension Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

In a seven-count complaint, the plaintiffs allege that the defendants, of Holy Ascension Parish, violated acts of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Constitution; used funds inappropriately; defamed the Church, Archbishop Antony and the Rev. Mironko; deprived plaintiffs of the ability to receive sacraments and pastoral services, thereby depriving them of their legal right to worship; did not conduct proper board meetings; wrongfully interfered in the employment of the Rev. Mironko; and breached terms of the contract between the UOC/USA and Holy Ascension Parish.

In turn, on August 10, the defendants filed an answer in which they denied all the allegations made against

them by Archbishop Antony and the other plaintiffs and then filed a nine-count counterclaim, which includes allegations that Metropolitan Constantine of the UOC/USA and Archbishop Antony “willingly, knowingly, intentionally and clandestinely” abdicated their responsibility to the basic principles and traditions of the UOC, including remaining an independent Church, by becoming bishops of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; committed fraud upon the Church by willfully misleading the faithful and the participants of the sobors (the Church’s highest governing body); broke an implied trust with the parishes with regard to funds; and intimidated those who dissented from their points of view. There were four other claims, including ones against the Metropolitan Council of the Church.

Meeting on July 15-17, the Metropolitan Council voted to support the hierarchs’ decision to file a lawsuit against the trustees of Holy Ascension Parish, characterizing the lawsuit as an “effort to restore discipline and order in church life.”

A delegation from the UOC/USA, headed by Metropolitan Constantine, met on September 21-22 with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Istanbul (Constantinople). According to information released by the UOC/USA, “This meeting took place in accordance with the decision of the 15th UOC/USA Sobor, as well as the latest meeting of the Metropolitan Council, with regard to obtaining an explanation in greater detail of the previously accepted ‘Points of Agreement’ that served as the basis upon which the UOC/USA accepted the omophorion of the ecumenical patriarch.”

The statement released by the UOC/USA also noted that other topics of discussion included the ecumenical patriarch’s position regarding the various branches of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine and that agreement was reached regarding the specific participation of the ecumenical patriarch in activities to establish one “pomisna” (particular) Orthodox Church in Ukraine that would be recognized by world Orthodoxy.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church

For the first time since Ukraine’s independence, an official invitation was extended on February 10 by President Leonid Kuchma to Pope John Paul II, as head of state of the Vatican, to visit Ukraine in 1999. A visit by the pope would be the first ever to Ukraine by the worldwide head of the Catholic Church.

The invitation was personally handed to the pope by Prime Minister Valerii Pustovoitenko. However, since it is the policy of the pope to not visit a country before a major election, such as the Ukraine’s presidential vote in November, there was no visit this year. And, as the Vatican has declared 2000 a jubilee year during which the pope will not maintain his customary heavy travel schedule, no visit has been scheduled for next year either.

Bishop Lubomyr Husar, special auxiliary to the head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, met in Ottawa with professors and staff of the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies and with St. Paul University officials the third week in



The class of 1999 and administration of St. Basil College Seminary. Seated in the center is Bishop Basil H. Losten.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

January. He was the guest of honor at a banquet marking the university's 150th anniversary. The Sheptytsky Institute meeting was held following a week of consultations on liturgical renewal in the Ukrainian Catholic Church. The study group visited Ottawa's Roman Catholic Archbishop Marcel Gervais, who is chancellor of St. Paul University, as well as the apostolic nuncio, Archbishop Carlo Curis. Bishop Husar also paid a visit to Ambassador Volodymyr Khandogyi at the Embassy of Ukraine in Ottawa.

Ukrainian Catholic hierarchs held a synod at St. Nicholas Monastery in Krekhiv, Ukraine (25 miles northwest of Lviv), on September 1-8. Among the topics discussed and decisions made was a proposed reorganization of eparchies that are too large, in either territory or in population, in order to better manage the eparchy and provide better pastoral care. Also discussed was the official name of the Church, taking into account papal documents and claims by faithful in Ukraine and the diaspora that the term Greek-Catholic does not properly reflect the original tradition of the Church. Among the suggestions offered was "Kyivan Catholic Church." This issue, it was decided, will be resolved in the future and based on an all-Church discussion.

It was determined that the Ukrainian Catholic Church will participate in the following millennial events: opening of the Holy Doors of St. Peter's Basilica, this year on December 24-25; an ecumenical ceremony commemorating the martyrs of the 20th century, May 7, 2000; World Youth Day in Rome, August 19-20, 2000; and a divine liturgy concelebrated by all the Byzantine Churches on October 1, 2000. An all-Ukraine pilgrimage to the Mother of God Shrine in Zarvanytsia has been scheduled for July 22-30, 2000.

Jews in Ukraine

The U.S. Department of State on February 26 released its human rights report for 1998. Though the government of Ukraine was not cited for official discrimination, the report did cite a "deep-seated societal anti-Semitism; and some discrimination against religious, racial and ethnic minorities," as well as some discrimination against "non-traditional faiths," such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Baptists and Pentecostals.

During his visit to the United States Chief Rabbi of Ukraine Yaakov Bleich spoke before the Ukrainian community on March 17 and replied to the claims about anti-Semitism made in the report. In general, Rabbi Bleich reported, Jews feel comfortable in Ukraine, and the biggest problems tend to be economic, which continues to be the main reason for Jewish emigration (20,000 annually) from Ukraine. When asked specifically about the human rights report, Rabbi Bleich responded that, in his opinion, the facts are subject to Western standards of interpretation that quite often results in a misrepresentation of the truth as evidenced, for example, by the highly publicized and controversial "60 Minutes" segment on "The Ugly Face of Freedom."

On the subject of Jewish organizations and schools in Ukraine, Rabbi Bleich said there are over 350 very active Jewish organizations in existence in Ukraine today; and that funds for humanitarian and social welfare services have been donated by the Jewish diaspora, which has received remuneration for property reclaimed from Germany. There are 16 Jewish day schools in Ukraine, 12 of which are partially supported by the Ukrainian government, with an enrollment of 5,000 Jewish students. Rabbi Bleich reported that all the lessons are taught in Ukrainian in the schools he operates in Kyiv.

Internally, the Jewish community in Ukraine split this year as three influential Jewish organizations quit the All-Ukrainian Jewish Congress, headed by businessman Vadym Rabinovich and, in turn, established the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine on April 14. On April 5, Mr. Rabinovich, in a pre-emptive move, announced the formation of the United Jewish Community of Ukraine, which he also heads, in addition to the congress. At its founding, this new association included over 300 Jewish organizations, 12 of which are national, the rest regional and local. [In an unrelated development, Vadym Rabinovich was declared "persona non grata" on June 24 by the Kuchma administration for alleged corrupt business dealings, and originally was not allowed to return to Ukraine for five years, though the order was rescinded in September.]

A highlight in Ukrainian-Jewish relations this year is the consistent attempt in the area of professional and lay scholarship to more accurately portray the situation between Jews and Ukrainians historically. A recent publication by Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and the Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University, "A Prayer

for the Government, Jews and Ukrainians in Revolutionary Times, 1917-1920" by Henry Abramson, closely looks at the bold experiment between Ukrainians and Jews and the Central Rada. The author used formerly restricted Soviet archives, the extensive documentation of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York City and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, as well as secondary sources in Slavic and Jewish languages to shed new light on the relationship between the successive Ukrainian governments and the communal violence, and discusses in depth the role of Symon Petliura, the Ukrainian leader who was later assassinated by a Jew claiming revenge for pogroms.

Produced by Miriam Weiner, an American genealogist renowned for her expertise in Eastern European archives, a new publication, "Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova" is the result of eight years of intense effort and numerous trips overseas. A combination reference book, travel guide, Holocaust book and genealogical handbook, "Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova," is co-published by the Route to Roots Foundation and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Its archival inventories represent 1,400 shtetls and towns, and this 624-page book puts to rest the once widely held belief in the West that virtually all documents pertaining to Jews in these countries had been destroyed. More than 900 of the photographs are in full color, as are all 20 maps. These archives became accessible to the public for genealogical research only after Ukraine and Moldova declared their independence in 1991.

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, most notably in Europe; 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, and published this year by the Winnipeg Jewish Mennonite Ukrainian Committee, contains a selection of the papers presented at the conference.

Notes on religion

- Metropolitan Wasyly, primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (UOCC), was honored with a special moleben and banquet on November 1 at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral. The evening was in honor of the metropolitan on his 90th birthday and the 55th anniversary of his priestly vocation.

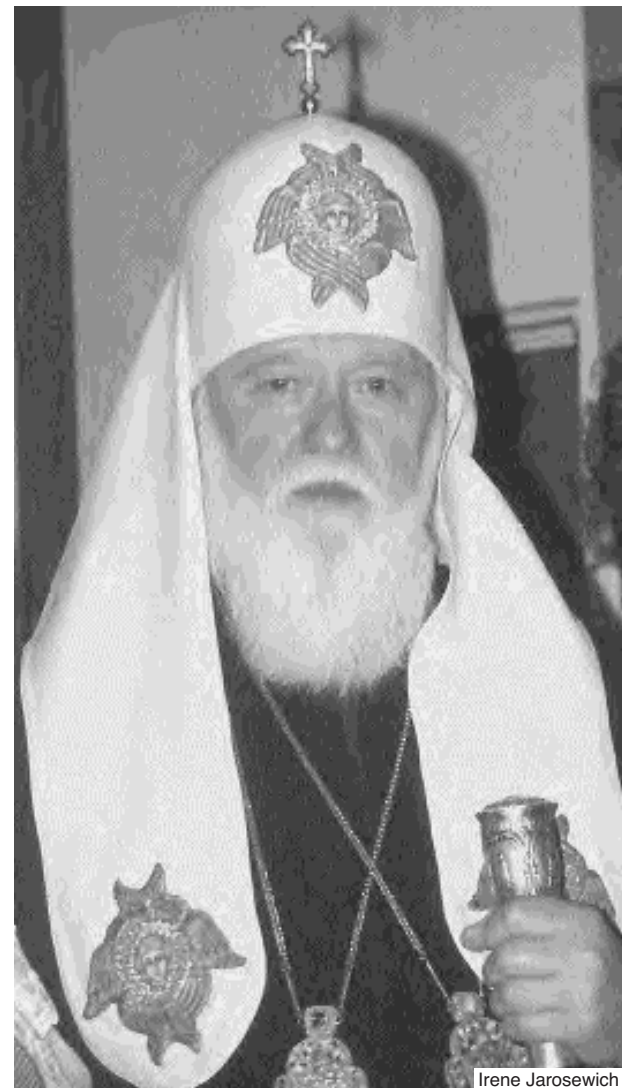
- A sister parish program, initiated by St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Minneapolis in honor of the parish's 75th anniversary, was established between parishes in United States and Ukraine under jurisdiction of Patriarch Filaret.

- The bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, which falls within the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, issued a statement on April 22 protesting NATO's decision to bomb Yugoslavia to stop Serb destruction of the Kosovars and declared their support for their "fellow Orthodox Christians," the Serbs.

- Russian Orthodox Patriarch Aleksei II announced in Moscow that, in honor of the jubilee year 2000, he will undertake a pilgrimage and visit his parishes found throughout the ancient territories of Kyivan-Rus'. The Russian patriarch planned to travel on Ukrainian territories in August, during Ukraine's independence celebrations. The announcement caused strong protest in Ukraine and, by early summer, the pilgrimage was canceled.

- "Crisis and Reform: The Kyivan Metropolitanate, The Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Genesis of the Union of Brest" by Borys A. Gudziak was published as part of the Harvard Series in Ukrainian Studies. The book explains and re-evaluates one of the most controversial events in Slavic Church history, the Union of Brest (1596).

- The executive committee of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops appointed the Rev. Peter Galadza as a member of the North American Orthodox/Roman Catholic Theological Consultation. He is the first Ukrainian Catholic to join the ecumenical body in its 33-year history, and one of only two Canadian members. The consultation meets twice annually and regularly issues statements and position papers on matters



Patriarch Filaret during a pastoral visit to Connecticut on November 7.

pertaining to Orthodox-Catholic rapprochement.

- Following a February 22 meeting with heads of religious organizations, President Kuchma ordered the Cabinet of Ministers to solve the problem of returning to religious organizations the property, ecclesiastical objects and theological literature taken from them during the Soviet period. He ordered the State Property Fund to implement measures protecting all property that had previously belonged to religious communities from being privatized before it can be returned to its former owners and ordered the State Customs Committee to draw up proposals to simplify the procedure of transferring goods sent from abroad as aid to religious organizations.

- The Rev. Dr. John Kovalchuk of Harrisburg, Pa., was elected president of the Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Convention in the United States. The election was held September 4, at the First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church in Levittown, Pa., during the group's 54th annual conference. The Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Convention supports 46 missionaries in Ukraine, with a goal of at least two missionaries per oblast, and also has helped finance the construction of dozens of church buildings.

- On March 21, during a seven-hour stopover in Ukraine's capital, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with both the Ukrainian president and Prime Minister Pustovoitenko and briefly visited with leaders of the Jewish community of Ukraine.

- For more than a month, rectors of the Lviv Theological Academy, the Rev. Dr. Mykhailo Dymyd, and the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak, traveled throughout North America visiting universities, cultural centers and Ukrainian parishes, as well as meeting with numerous bishops, Church dignitaries and representatives of lay organizations. The Rev. Dymyd announced the accreditation of the Lviv Theological Academy by the Congregation of Catholic Education in Rome.

- The Rev. Wolodymyr Roman Juszcak OSBM, provincial superior of the Order of St. Basil the Great in Poland, was appointed on April 24 by Pope John Paul II as bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Wroclaw-Gdansk, Poland. He was ordained bishop on June 19. Poland has a large community of 120,000 Ukrainian Catholics. In the Eparchy of Wroclaw-Gdansk there are 53,000 Ukrainian Catholics, 32 eparchial priests and 14 religious priests. The eparchy was established on May 24, 1996.

- The first class of seminarians from Ukraine to study at St. Basil College Seminary in Stamford, Conn., graduated on May 15. Bishop Basil H. Losten conferred the

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

bachelor of arts degree on 11 seniors. More than 60 seminarians from Ukraine are studying at St. Basil College Seminary in a five-year program that leads to a degree in philosophy.

- Parishioners at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family held a double celebration on October 9-10 as Holy Family Parish marked its 50th anniversary, and the newly completed upper church of the shrine building was dedicated and officially opened. The shrine, in construction for 25 years, was designed and built as a sanctuary for all Ukrainian Catholics in the United States.

- Over 300 faithful attended services at the rebuilt Church of the Transfiguration in Prnjavor, Bosnia, on August 19. Ukrainians from throughout Bosnia and Croatia, including a busload from Serbia, joined them in celebrating the reopening of the church, which had been destroyed by a powerful blast on August 2, 1992. The parish of the Church of the Transfiguration was founded in 1900, and in 1990 marked the 100th anniversary of the settlement of Ukrainians in Bosnia.

- The Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia celebrated its 50th anniversary. The first official Ukrainian Catholic liturgy in Australia is considered to have been celebrated by the Rev. Paul Smal on August 13, 1949, in a chapel next to St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Melbourne. In South Australia, the Rev. Dmytro Kachmar celebrated the first liturgy in that state on September 25, 1949.

- On November 30, as part of his inaugural celebrations, President Kuchma, who had been sworn in for a second term as president of Ukraine, met with the leaders of all of Ukraine's mainstream religions at the Sobor of St. Sophia, one of Ukraine's most renowned religious landmarks.

- Published by McGill-Queen's University Press, John-Paul Himka's "Religion and Nationality in Western Ukraine" examines the collision of East and West in the Greek-Catholic Church in Galicia in the 19th century. Mr. Himka is a professor of history and classics at the University of Alberta.

Survey on culture and the arts

The 1999 cultural season saw developments in all areas, with music again prominent on the scene. The following (listed by category) were among the highlights of the season.

Architecture

- At a time of serious economic malaise, Lviv, a city known for its varied architectural styles, saw the restoration of some of its heralded architectural landmarks as a result of work done in the city's center in preparation for the Summit of Central European Presidents being held there on May 14-15.

- Twenty-three architects and related design professionals expressed support for the formation of a Society for Ukrainian Architecture, in accordance with a plan formulated in the framework of the Joint Conferences program held in Washington on June 26.

- A photographic exhibition of Ukraine's architectural landmarks by Ukraine's renowned scholar and art historian Hryhorii Lohvyn was held at the Ukrainian Museum in New York on October 3-November 21.

Art

- An exhibition of graphic works by Alexander Archipenko and oil paintings, watercolors and drawings by Alexis Gritchenko (Oleksa Hryshchenko), which forms part of the Olena and Zenon Feszczak Collection donated to The Ukrainian Museum, was held at the museum on December 6, 1998, through February of this year.

- Sculptures by Lviv-born artist Oleh Lesiuk were exhibited at a solo show titled "The Cycles of Life," in Toronto's Cedar Ridge Gallery on January 17-29.

- The paintings of Mykola Krychevsky (1898-1961), the son of renowned Ukrainian architect and artist Vasyl Krychevsky, were on view at The Ukrainian Museum in New York on February 20 through March 7. Following the exhibition the paintings, on loan from the Krychevsky family collection, were permanently relocated to museums in Ukraine.

- Vasyl Krychevsky (1873-1952), an outstanding public figure in the field of architecture and art, was honored with an exhibition of his paintings and drawings at The Ukrainian Museum. Drawing on the collection of Vadym

Pavlovsky, the exhibit opened at the museum on December 5 and will be on view through March 12, 2000.

- The Daria Hoydysh Endowment for the Arts was inaugurated February 19 at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York with a commemorative art exhibit featuring artists who were exhibited by Mrs. Hoydysh during her tenure as curator and director of art at the institute from 1991 to 1996. Among artists represented at the exhibition were Jacques Hnizdovsky, Sviatoslav Hordynsky, Liuboslav Hutsaliuk, Masha Archer-Muchin, Yaroslava Gerulak, Arcadia Olenska-Petryshyn, Ilona Sochynsky, Anya Farion, Christina Saj, Ihor Barabakh, Nikolai Perepelitsa, Severyn Barabakh, Marko Shuhan; and the American artist Loren Ellis.

- The exhibition "Flowers as Muse," dedicated to the memory of the late Daria Hoydysh, art curator and director of "Art at the Institute," was organized by artist Ilona Sochynsky. Featured were works by Nina Klymowska; Olga Maryschuk, Natalia Pohrebinska, Roma Rainey, Ms. Sochynsky and Martha Hirniak Voyevodka. The exhibit was on view at the Ukrainian Institute of America on May 1-29.

- The work of artists Tanya Osadca and Aka Pereyma was featured in The Ukrainian Museum's annual exhibition of pysanky, or Ukrainian Easter eggs, as expressed in both its traditional form and in contemporary art. The exhibit was on view at the museum on March 21 through June 6.

- The Chicago exhibit "Second Nature: A Show of New Media for the New Millennium," curated by Paul Hertz, and featuring a program dedicated to technology, was held at the Ukrainian Art Institute on May 9 through June 27 as part of the city's Project Millennium.

- The work of Ukrainian American artist Zenko Onyshkewych was exhibited in Switzerland at the Musee de Bagnes in Le Chable on June 24-August 22. Titled "Zenko Onyshkewych: 25 Years of Paintings in the Entremont," the exhibit comprised some 65 paintings done on location over a span of 25 years.

- An exhibit paying tribute to one of Canada's most popular sculptors titled "Leo Mol: Fifty Creative Years in Canada," opened the cultural season at the newly redesigned Ukrainian Canadian Art Foundation Gallery in Toronto on September 19, with Mr. Mol and wife, Margaret, present at the opening.

- The noted Ukrainian American artist Liuboslav Hutsaliuk was the subject of a retrospective exhibition at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York held on October 23-November 7.

- The landmark exhibit - "Gold of the Nomads: Scythian Treasures from Ancient Ukraine" - featuring more than 170 objects on loan from museums in Ukraine, began its tour of the United States, opening at the San Antonio Museum of Art on November 7 and running through December 31, 2001, with exhibits in Baltimore, Los Angeles, Brooklyn, N.Y., Kansas City and Paris.

- Eudokia Sorochaniuk, 80, of Pennsauken, N.J., selected as one of 13 master folk artists from around the country for her accomplishments in Ukrainian embroidery and weaving skills, was awarded a National Heritage Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts in a ceremony on September 28 at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington.

- An exhibition of paintings by Andrei Kushnir, titled "My River: Recent Paintings of the Potomac River," was held at Taylor and Sons Fine Art in Washington from September 8 to October 8.

- Toronto artist Sophia Lada completed icons for the chapel of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great in Rome, bringing to completion the years' long project.

- The work of artist Larysa Martyniuk, a resident of Colorado, who finds inspiration for her work in nature, was shown at Maxim's of Greeley, and at the Aspen Fine Art Gallery in Aspen, Colo.

- Young Ukrainian American archaeologists and scholars were invited to speak at The Ukrainian Museum this fall about new developments at such important archaeological sites in Ukraine as Kamianets-Podilskyi and Khersones on the Crimean peninsula, as well as about Scythian treasures. Featured speakers were Dr. Adrian Mandzyj, Dr. Olenka Pevny, and Dr. Lada Onyshkevych.

Dance

- American Ballet Theater soloist Maxim Belotserkovsky and Irina Dvorenko received excellent notices for their performances in "Giselle," "Études," "The Merry Widow," "Sleeping Beauty" and "Sinfonietta," and made their debuts in the leading roles of "Don Quixote." The couple also appeared as soloists in Robert Joffrey's "Pas des Deesses"; Mr.



Carol Rosegg

Oksana Krovytska in the title role in the New York City Opera's production of Puccini's "Madama Butterfly."

Bilotserkovsky was also featured as one of the soloists in Robert Hall's new ballet "Baroque Game."

- Dmitry Polischuk, a Ukrainian-born composer formerly of Vinnytsia, whose compositions for the new ballets choreographed this season by Robert Hill, a principal dancer with American Ballet Theater, included "Post No Scriptum," which premiered on March 30 at the Sylvia and Danny Kaye Playhouse, and "Baroque Game," which premiered at City Center on October 28. Both works received excellent reviews by The New York Times dance critics Jack Anderson and Anna Kisselgoff.

- Choreographer Nusha Martynuk, professor of dance at Oberlin College, was awarded the 1999 Cleveland Arts Prize for Dance in recognition of her creative achievement in the field on September 21 at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

- Cleveland's Kashtan School of Dance, under the direction of David Woznak, celebrated its 20th anniversary on October 30 in Parma.

- Members of the Arkan Dance Company, with its directors, Danovia Stechishin-Stefura and Scott Stefura, set off on a concert tour of China on July 21 as part of the China International Year of Traditional Song and Dance and the World Expo of Culture.

Film

- The film "Stolen Years," a co-production of the Blackwell Corp. and The Evans-McCan Group, which documents the terror of Stalin's regime, was aired on PBS in March.

- A landmark documentary on the Ukrainian experience in this century, "Scarred by History," produced by Canada's 4 Square Production and Kyiv-based Novyy Kanal, was aired on television in Toronto on March 30 and April 3-4 by History Television as part of its "War Stories" series.

- The documentary film "Prypiat," directed and produced by Austrian filmmaker Nikolaus Geyrhalter, was screened as part of the New York Film Festival at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall on October 3. The film is named after the city where many of the workers of the Chernobyl nuclear plant lived.

- The French film "Est-Ouest," directed by Regis Wargnier, which offers a version of Soviet reality under

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Stalin, had its North American premiere on September 15 at the Toronto International Festival. Apart from the fact that much of the drama is set and shot in Kyiv, neither the writers nor director have a rudimentary notion that a place called Ukraine exists. Among the film's supporting cast was Ukrainian star Bohdan Stupka.

• The Polish film "With Fire and Sword," based on the first volume of Henryk Sienkiewicz's trilogy, which depicts the great Kozak war against the Polish Commonwealth led by Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky, was screened in New York on March 18. Directed by Jerzy Hoffman, the film starred Ukraine's Bohdan Stupka as Khmelnytsky and Ruslana Pysanka as Horpyna.

Literature

• The memoir "Honey and Ashes: A Story of Family," by Ukrainian Canadian writer and scholar Janice Keefer, was released as a publication of Harper Flamingo.

• The nationally acclaimed author and writer Myrna Kostash's "The Doomed Bridegroom: A Memoir," which provides historical narratives via a personal journey, was published by NeWest Press in Edmonton. Ms. Kostash delivered the 1999 Mohyla Lecture, titled "All of Baba's Great Grandchildren: Ethnic Identity in the Next Canada," at the University of Saskatchewan on November 19.

• A second collection of poetry by the New York Group poet Yuriy Tarnawsky titled "Yikh Nemaye" (They Don't Exist), published by the Kyiv publishing house Rodovid, was presented in Lviv, Kyiv and in Chicago this fall.

Music: individual performers

• Mykola Suk, artistic director at the Ukrainian Institute of America, presented a special concert in memory of Daria Hoydysh at the institute on February 20 and appeared in solo recital at the Consulate General of Hungary on December 9.

• Alexander Mikhailuk, 29, the first-prize winner of the 1998 Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York, gave a solo recital at the 92nd Street YMCA on March 2.

• Vitalij Kuprij, 25, currently at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music, made his Carnegie Hall debut in a featured concert with the New York Youth Symphony on March 7.

• Volodymyr Vynnytsky appeared in concert with violinist Daniel Phillips and cellist Vagram Saradjian at the Ukrainian Institute of America on February 13, with the Leontovych String Quartet at Music Mountain in Falls Village, Conn., on July 18, and with cellist Natalia Khoma at Trinity Church as part of the Earl Tucker Concert Series in a Beethoven program on July 29.

• Concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky, one of the most traveled of all Ukrainian American classical performers, was on tour performing concerts from Australia, to Britain, to Chile from June 6 to September 16.

• Four young piano virtuosos – Vadym Kholodenko, Daniil Shleyenkov, Seiko Tsukamoto and Oleksiy Hryniuk – Winners of Kyiv's third annual Vladimir Horowitz International Piano Competition performed at the Ukraine's Consulate General in New York on October 13.

• The Ukrainian Canadian piano duo of Luba and Ireneus Zuk were awarded the title "Merited Artists of Ukraine" for "significant personal contribution to the popularization of Ukrainian culture in the world and notable creative achievements" at the State Opera House in Kyiv on October 19.

• Among leading Ukrainian musicians performing concerts were violinist Oleh Krysa, partnered by his wife, pianist Tatiana Tchekina, who performed at the National Gallery of Art in Washington on October 24.

• Organist Volodymyr Koshuba, chief organist in Kyiv's Concert Hall of Organ and Chamber Music, launched his fourth U.S. concert tour with a performance at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, Va., on October 22.

• Virko Baley's newest composition, "Treny," a tetralogy for two violoncellos and soprano, received its world premiere during the Music at the Institute concert in New York on November 20. Featured artists were acclaimed cellists Natalia Khoma and Suren Bagratuni and New York City Opera diva Oksana Krovvytska.

• Ukraine's consul general in New York, Yuriy Bohaievsky, hosted a concert, "The Charms of Ukrainian Music and Song," at the Ukrainian Institute of America on November 24. Invited to the evening were members of the Ukrainian American community, as well as diplomats representing diverse countries. Concert performers were: jazz pianist John Stetch, ban-

durist Roman Hrynkiw, bandurist and soprano Alla Kutsevych, alto Liudmyla Hrabovska, pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky, tenor Roman Tsymbala, soprano Lesya Hrabova and baritone Oleh Chmyr.

• The summer concert season at the Grazhda, organized by the Music and Art Center of Greene County under the direction of Dr. Ihor Sonevtsky, and held at the Grazhda in Hunter, N.Y., featured, among others, the late tenor Anatoliy Solovyanenko, pianist Vitalij Kuprij, cellist Vagram Saradjian and pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky; soprano Oksana Krovvytska; violinist Oleh Krysa and pianist Tatiana Tchekina; violinist Artur Gursky, mezzo-soprano Charlene Marcinko, sopranos Oleksandra Hrabova and Liuba Schybchyk.

• A leading venue of Ukrainian cultural events in New York, the Ukrainian Institute of America presented, among others, cellist Natalia Khoma and the Aurny Quartet of Germany; violinist Solomia Soroka in her New York debut recital; an all-Lysenko program featuring soprano Oksana Krovvytska, mezzo-soprano Charlene Marcinko and baritone Yaroslav Hnatiuk and pianist Thomas Hrynkiw. The opening concert of the season was titled "Oleh Krysa and Family," featuring violinist Oleh Krysa, pianist Tatiana Tchekina, violinist Peter Krysa and cellist Rachel Lewis Krysa.

Opera

• The renowned Ukrainian opera singer Anatoliy Solovyanenko, soloist with the Kyiv Theater of Opera and Ballet (1965-1993), began his tour of Ukrainian communities in Canada and the U.S., with an appearance at the Glen Gould Hall in Toronto on May 30; the tour concluded with, as it turned out, his last concert at the Grazhda in Hunter, N.Y., on July 4.

• Soprano Alexandra Hrabova appeared as Violetta in the Dicapo Opera production of Verdi's "La Traviata" in February, to critical reviews by The New York Times and music critic John W. Freeman of Opera News.

• Bass Paul Plishka, leading member of the Metropolitan Opera now in his 33rd season at the Met, accompanied by pianist Thomas Hrynkiw, presented an evening of operatic arias and American and Ukrainian music during a gala benefit concert at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York on April 17.

• Paul Plishka and baritone Stephan Pyatnychko, who made his Carnegie Hall and New York operatic debut, appeared with the Opera Orchestra of New York in Donizetti's "Adelia" on November 11 in Carnegie Hall.

• Ukrainian tenor Vladimir Grishko sang at the Met in the role of Rodolfo in "La Boheme" in February and in Mussorgsky's "Khovanschina" in March.

• Odesa-born soprano Maria Guleghina appeared in "Aida" in spring and sang Lady Macbeth in a new production of Verdi's "Macbeth" at the Paris Opera.

• Baritone Sergei Koptchak appeared in Janacek's "Katya Kabanova" at the Met in January and sang the role of the priest in the February performances of Schoenberg's "Moses und Aron."

• Soprano Oksana Krovvytska opened the New York City Opera season in mid-September in the title role in Puccini's "Madama Butterfly." She was highly commended by reviewers, among them Bernard Holland of The New York Times.

• Bass Stefan Szkafarowsky appeared as the Commendatore in the NYCO productions of "Don Giovanni" on March 30 through April 25 and Richard

Strauss' "Intermezzo" in April as well as sang the roles of Varlaam and Pimen in "Boris Godunov" at the Kennedy Center in Washington.

• Twenty-four-year-old Wolodymyr Smishkewych from Cranford, N.J., on his way to a promising career as an opera singer and a specialist in early music, appeared, to critical review by Bernard Holland, in February in a program of French liturgical music with the New York Collegium concert at the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer, as well as soloist with the Indiana University Baroque Orchestra and other U.S. and European performances.

Music ensembles

• One of Canada's premiere chamber groups – The Gryphon Trio – violinist Annalee Patipatanakoon, cellist Roman Borys and pianist Jamie Parker, appeared in a concert in a performance of contemporary classics, including works by contemporary Canadian composers Gary Kulesha and Marc Sabat, at the Jane Mallet Theatre in Toronto on March 23.

• The New Jersey Youth Symphony, with Adrian Bryttan in his third year as its music director, presented a challenging repertoire for his high school-aged 90-member orchestra; among featured soloists at the concerts was soprano Liuba Shchybchyk.

• The Detroit-based Ukrainian Bandura Chorus, under the direction of Oleh Mahlay, the group's first American-born conductor, marked 50 years of performing in North America this fall.

• The New York Bandura Ensemble of New York, under the direction of Julian Kytasty, celebrated its 25th anniversary on April 24 with a concert by its students and with solo vocalist Olya Chodoba Fryz, as well as guest artist Kyiv bandurist Roman Hrynkiw.

• One of Ukraine's leading contemporary bandura performers Roman Hrynkiw, who hopes to see the bandura accepted as a string instrument of international recognition and stature, was in New York this spring to complete a musical collaboration and recording of a joint CD with renowned jazz guitarist Al DiMeola.

• Canadian singer Alexis Kochan and her Paris to Kyiv ensemble – Martin College, Julian Kytasty, Richard Moody and John Wyre – were one of the groups chosen to perform at the Showcase of Culturally Diverse and First Nations Artists held at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto on November 14. The ensemble made its Washington debut on April 29 at the Embassy of France, and performed in "Night Songs from a Neighboring Village," for the World Music Institute in New York City at Symphony Space on May 1.

• Yara Arts Group presented with the Ukrainian Institute of America a two-day festival of song titled "Harvest: Ukrainian Folk Song Today"; the events included a workshop in Ukrainian folk singing led by Canadian singer Alexis Kochan; "Ancient Song, New Voices," featuring a presentation of ancient folk songs in Ukraine today by Maryana Sadovska, actor and musical director of the Gardzienica Experimental Theater in Poland; a concert of new interpretation of traditional songs by Ms. Kochan and third-generation bandurist Julian Kytasty; and "New Music From Old sources," with performances by the Experimental Bandura Trio – Mr. Kytasty, Michael Andrej and Jurij Fedynsky – and guest artist bandurist Roman Hrynkiw.

• The recently established St. Andrew's College



The golden pectoral (and a detail of the piece) found in the Scythian burial mound known as Tovsta Mohyla near Ordzhonikidze, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Chamber Choral Ensemble, under the direction of Tatiana Navolska, performed at the Eva Calire Hall of the School of Music at the University of Manitoba.

- The Olexander Koshetz Choir of Winnipeg, under the direction of Walter Klymkiw, issued a new CD featuring Mykola Leontovych's collected liturgical music.

- A Choral Workshop of Ukrainian Music, organized jointly by The Ukrainian Canadian Choral Federation, the Ukraina Bandura Camp and the Kobzarska Sich Bandura Camp was held in Toronto on April 23-25, with Halyna Kondracki, Oleh Mahlay and Myron Maksymiw.

- The Chamber Chorus of the University of California-Berkeley, under the direction of Prof. Marika Kuzma, traveled in June to Vienna, Lviv, Kyiv and Prague, presenting a program spanning various centuries and cultures of sacred music, including Ukrainian and Slavic sacred works.

- The American-born and English-speaking members of the Ukrainian Catholic Choir of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church of Olyphant, Pa., under the direction of Patrick J. Marcinko II, performed concerts of Church Slavonic liturgical music throughout New York state.

Popular music

- Gogol Bordello, a four-man Ukrainian band specializing in a punk-style cabaret music, fronted by Kyiv-born Eugene Hutz, was a hit on the New York club scene.

- The Kyiv-based four-man band Vopli Vidopliassova, purveyors of Ukrainian ethno-music rock, fronted by Oleh Skrypka, appeared at Manhattan's Coney Island High Club in the East Village this spring.

- The popular a capella group Pikardiiska Tertsia of Lviv, under the direction of Volodymyr Yakymets, was in the United States on June 27-July 8 during which time it appeared in concert for Ukrainian communities.

Publications and archives

- Canadian singer Alexis Kochan and bandurist Julain Kytasty contributed entries on Ukrainian music for the second edition of the "Rough Guide to World Music," published in London.

- The English-language publication, "Dictionary of Ukrainian Composers," compiled by Dr. Ihor Sonevtsky and Natalia Palidvor Sonevtska, and offering essential information on Ukrainian composers in Ukraine and in the diaspora, became available in the United States.

- The long-lost estate of Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach was discovered this summer by Harvard specialists in Kyiv, where it was preserved as part of the music archive of the Berlin Sing-Akademie.

Theater

- Art installations inspired by Ukrainian poems, poetry and music, encompassing the work of 15 visual artists, contemporary poets and three composers, were featured in a three-day festival titled "Poetry: Installations and Performances" presented by Virlana Tkacz and the Yara Arts Group at the Ukrainian Institute of America on January 29-31.

- The all-sung, multi-disciplinary work "Flight of the White Bird," a Yara Arts Group production, under the direction of Virlana Tkacz, was staged at La MaMa E.T.C. on March 6-21, jointly with artists from the Buryat National Theater of Siberia.

- Among Ukrainian stars appearing on Broadway were: Christina Pawl in the musical "Cabaret" and Jeremy Kushnier in "Footloose." Appearing Off-Broadway were Tannis Kowalchuk in "Asphyxia and Other Promises" at La MaMa E.T.C., and Mary Ellen Baker in Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore" and "Ruddigore."

Ukrainian Hopak for the millennium

Roma Pryma Bohachevsky, doyen of Ukrainian dancers, was chosen to choreograph a dance for the David Parsons production for New York City's millennium celebrations on New Year's Eve.

Called "Ancient Nations," the production includes Ukraine – and a performance of the Ukrainian Hopak. The performance will be presented at 5-7 p.m. in Times Square. The celebrations will be telecast.

Academia: studies of Ukraine on the rise

The end of the decade and the end of the century provided an undercurrent of summation and overview to this year's academic activities regarding Ukraine. In general, the quality and quantity of scholarly and academic activity concerning Ukraine and Ukrainian topics continues to rise, maintaining a trend that began about a decade ago.

Major conferences in North America

Major conferences providing overviews of Ukraine were held at Yale University and the University of Toronto.

The first conference, "Soviet and Post-Soviet Ukraine: A Century in Perspective," was presented by the Yale Center for International and Area Studies and the Yale-Ukraine Initiative on April 23-24. It featured a banquet address by Ukraine's former Justice Minister Serhii Holovatyi titled "Ukraine at the Crossroads: Perspectives on Independence, Democracy and Reform." It was a speech Mr. Holovatyi also delivered at the annual meeting of the Trilateral Commission in Washington in March.

North American scholars examined the past 100 years in historical, economic and cultural terms. They were joined on the various panels by representatives of Ukraine's leading academic institutions, such as Lviv State University historian Yaroslav Hrytsak, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NANU) Center of Ethno-national and Political Studies Director Yuri Shapoval, Solomea Pavlychko of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and Kyiv State University research fellow Georgii Kasianov.

The conference also included a session devoted to Ukraine's present economic woes, focusing on contemporary politics. Speakers included research fellow Hryhoryi Nemyria of Kyiv, University of North London Fellow Taras Kuzio, and Prof. Dominique Arel of Brown University. One panelist, Mykola Ryabchuk, managing editor of the Kyiv-based Krytyka journal, described Ukraine's current literary climate.

Harvard University's Dmytro Cyzevskij Professor of Ukrainian Literature, George Grabowicz, was the keynote speaker at both Yale and Toronto conferences.

This was not the only case of overlap. Also speaking at the University of Toronto conference on "Problems of Development of Ukraine Since Independence: In the Light of Western Theories," were Dr. Kuzio and Prof. Arel, and with a focus on more recent events. Additional commentaries were provided by Bohdan Rubchak, University of Illinois, on literature; Volodimir Bandera, Temple University, on economics;

and Frank Sysyn of University of Alberta's Peter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research, who served as chair of the panels on history.

Orest Subtelny of York University and Wsevolod Isajiw, the recently retired holder of the Robert F. Harney Professorship of Ethnic, Immigration and Pluralism Studies at the University of Toronto, represented the two institutional co-presenters of the conference, and they appeared together on a panel examining the process of consolidation of Ukraine's new élites. The Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada was another co-sponsor of the Toronto conference.

The conference began with two sessions on religion and development featuring Oleh Gerus of the University of Manitoba, who spoke on Ukrainian Orthodoxy; Andrii Krawchuk of Ottawa's St. Paul University speaking on Ukrainian Catholicism; Henry Abramson of Florida Atlantic University, presenting Ukrainian-Jewish relations; and Eugene Lemcio of Seattle Pacific University, speaking on Protestantism in Ukraine.

Other participants included Oleh Hawrylyshyn of the International Monetary Fund, Rutgers University's Alexander Motyl, Ostap Hawaleshka of the University of Manitoba, Trent University's Olga Andriewsky and Marta Dyczok of the University of Western Ontario.

Other conferences, symposia and panels

On January 22, Columbia University hosted the second of its three-part series on the "Ukrainian Revolutionary Period of 1917-1920," this one dedicated to the Hetman government led by Pavlo Skoropadsky, with Prof. Motyl, Dr. Sysyn, Vladyslav Verstiuk of the Institute of East European Studies, the Institute of Ukrainian Archeography and Phonology's Ihor Hyrych, Laryssa Onyshkevych of the U.S. Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S. and Oleksa Bilaniuk of the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the United States.

On February 23 the University of Pittsburgh hosted an all-day symposium on "Ukraine: Taking its Place on the World Stage," which featured a group of entrepreneurs from Ukraine giving an insider's perspective on doing business in the country. Visiting from Kherson University was Fulbright Scholar Hanna Chumachenko, who presented the topic "History and Identity," Taras Filenko of Kyiv spoke about both ethno-musicology and Ukraine's distinctive business culture; and Kateryna Dowbenko (a Ukrainian language instructor at the hosting institution), discussed language and identity.

The Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) held its fourth annual convention on April 15-17, focusing on issues of ethnicity, nationalism, national identity and nation-building in the post-Soviet bloc, with nine panels dealing specifically with Ukraine. On the convention's last day, a commemorative panel in



Prof. Iraida and Michael Tarnawecy receive a certificate from Dr. Emöke Szathmary, president and vice-chancellor of the University of Manitoba, and Metropolitan Wasyl, chancellor of St. Andrew's College. At left is Dr. Natalia Aponiuk, director of the Center for Ukrainian Canadian Studies. In the background are the Tarnawecy's daughters, Natalie Balko and Marusia Tarnawecy Zurek. The Tarnawecys were among the seven benefactors honored by the center at ceremonies on June 24.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

honor of the late Prof. Bohdan Bociurkiw was held, featuring Serhii Plokhyy, director of the Church Studies Program at the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Prof. Arel, Dr. Sysyn and Dr. José Casanova, chair of the New School for Social Research's department of sociology.

A symposium commemorating the 80th anniversary of Viacheslav Lypynsky's ambassadorship to Austria in 1918-1919 was held at the University of Vienna on June 11. The symposium was sponsored by the University of Vienna, the Lypynsky East European Research Institute in Philadelphia, the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Embassy of Ukraine in Austria. The conference brought together scholars from the United States, Ukraine and Austria, and was convened by Prof. Andreas Kappeler, director of the East and Southeast European Institute of the University of Vienna.

The Ukrainian Free University (UFU) in Munich hosted two conferences this year. The first, on legal and judicial systems on May 28-29, drew scholars, government officials and judges from Germany, the United States and Ukraine, and the second, on Goethe and Ukraine, was held on June 19-20 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the German poet's birth.

On August 21-23 a conference was held in Kyiv to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the birth of Symon Petliura. Titled "Symon Petliura and the Age of the Directory of the Ukrainian National Republic," it was organized by the East European Research Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Philadelphia-based Lypynsky Institute, and was supported by the Academy of Sciences of Poland, the Central Archive Administration of Ukraine and more than a half-dozen research and academic entities from the United States, France and Canada.

The International Association of Ukrainian Studies (known by its Ukrainian-based acronym MAU) held its fourth international congress in Odesa on August 26-

29. Over 700 participants, including 100 of non-Ukrainian origin, arrived from 25 countries around the world to take in reports about scholarly activity in the field inside Ukraine and out, and to participate in academic discussions of history, law, economics, political science, sociology, linguistics, culture, literary studies, education, musicology, cinema and theater, philosophy, religion and folk studies.

Mykola Zhulynsky was elected president, succeeding Yaroslav Isaievych, and Mark von Hagen (United States), Marko Pavlyshyn (Australia), Wolf Moskovich (Israel), Stefan Rozak (Poland), Yaroslav Hrytsak (Ukraine) and Giovanna Brogi (Italy) were chosen as vice-presidents.

The University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana held its 18th annual Conference on Ukrainian Subjects, titled "Between Modernism and Post-Modernism: New Developments in Ukrainian Philosophy, Art and Literature," on June 14-19. Among the scholars from Ukraine attending were Roman Hromiak of the State Pedagogical University in Ternopil, and NANU's Taras Luchuk and Orest Pavlov. The conference also featured readings of recent verse works from Ukraine by their authors, including Prof. Luchuk, Ihor Tratsch, Taras Devydiuk and Iryna Starovoyt, a scholar from Lviv University.

On October 26 Rutgers University hosted its 14th annual symposium on education, co-directed by psychologist Ivan Holowinsky and with Petro Kononenko of Kyiv University participating.

The American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies held its 31st annual convention in St. Louis, Mo., on November 18-21, bringing together scholars worldwide to examine topics such as the possibility of a "third and fourth wave" of NATO expansion, current energy policies in Eastern Europe, Soviet policies during the "early famines" (1918-1933), icon motifs, Goethe and Ukraine, aesthetics versus politics in early 20th century Ukrainian literature, and issues in

Ukrainian identity and language.

The convention also included a session titled "Ukrainian No More." Scholars from Poland and North America addressed the emergence of a "post-colonial" Rusyn identity in the "Ukrainian near-abroad." The principal discussant was Prof. Paul Robert Magocsi, chair of Ukrainian Studies, University of Toronto.

Appearances and passages

On December 1, the CIUS Press and the Petro Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Research (PJCHCR) held a book launch at the University of Toronto's Hart House for Volume 7 of Mykhailo Hrushevsky's "History of Ukraine-Rus'" in the English translation, executed by the late Prof. Bohdan Struminski.

Ivan Koshelivets, the co-founder of the journal Suchasnist, a senior editorial board member of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, one of the diaspora's most respected literary critics and its most accomplished translator into Ukrainian, died in Munich on February 5 at the age of 91.

Prof. Danylo Husar Struk, editor-in-chief of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine Project and president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in Europe, and prolific scholar, passed away unexpectedly at age 59 in Munich on June 19.

Prof. Struk had undertaken many projects, many of which are now being administered by his colleagues, Prof. Maxim Tarnawsky and Dr. Frank Sysyn. The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies established a program in Ukrainian literature in the name of Prof. Struk and the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies established a commemorative memorial fund.

Ukrainian studies in Europe

Since the independence of Ukraine, studies of Ukrainian literature and culture in Europe have been growing steadily in demand.

In Germany, in addition to the Ukrainian Free

The vindication of a Cold Warrior

"A meditation on the philosophical cataclysms of this century" is the publisher's description of "Reflections on a Ravaged Century," the latest book by Dr. Robert Conquest, published by W. W. Norton.

The author of such works as "The Harvest of Sorrow," about the Great Famine of 1932-1933, and "The Great Terror," about the Stalin regime, Dr. Conquest now examines the "rogue ideologies" that savaged humanity during the 20th century. The central aim of his new book, according to the author, "is an investigation, and a demonstration of how and why these disastrous mental distortions arose, how and why they came to motivate movements, parties and states."

In the chapter titled "The Great Error: Soviet Myths and Western Minds," Dr. Conquest writes of "the delusive view of the Soviet phenomenon to be found in Western intellectual, or near intellectual, circles in the 1930s, and to some extent again in the first post-war decade and later." Citing George Orwell's observations that "Huge events like the Ukraine famine of 1933, involving the deaths of millions of people, have actually escaped the attention of the majority of English Russophiles," Dr. Conquest says "this was an intellectual and moral disgrace on a massive scale."

"The conflict between Soviet reality and Western perceptions," he writes, "had become acute in 1933," at which time the Soviets simply denied there was a famine in Ukraine, the north Caucasus and the lower Volga regions. A number of Western correspondents and other observers parroted the Soviet line (most notably Walter Duranty of The New York Times), while others (like Malcolm Muggeridge) told an entirely different story.

"Thus, the Western world was faced with, in effect, two different stories about the famine (and about various other Stalinist massacres)," Dr. Conquest writes. "Why did an intellectual stratum overwhelmingly choose to believe the false one? None of this can be accounted for in intellectual terms. To accept information about a matter on which totally contradictory evidence exists, and in which investigation of major dis-

putes on the matter is prevented, is not a rational act.

"For people who claimed to have used their brains, one can surely suggest that they had a duty, a moral duty, to look more carefully at the evidence," he emphasizes.

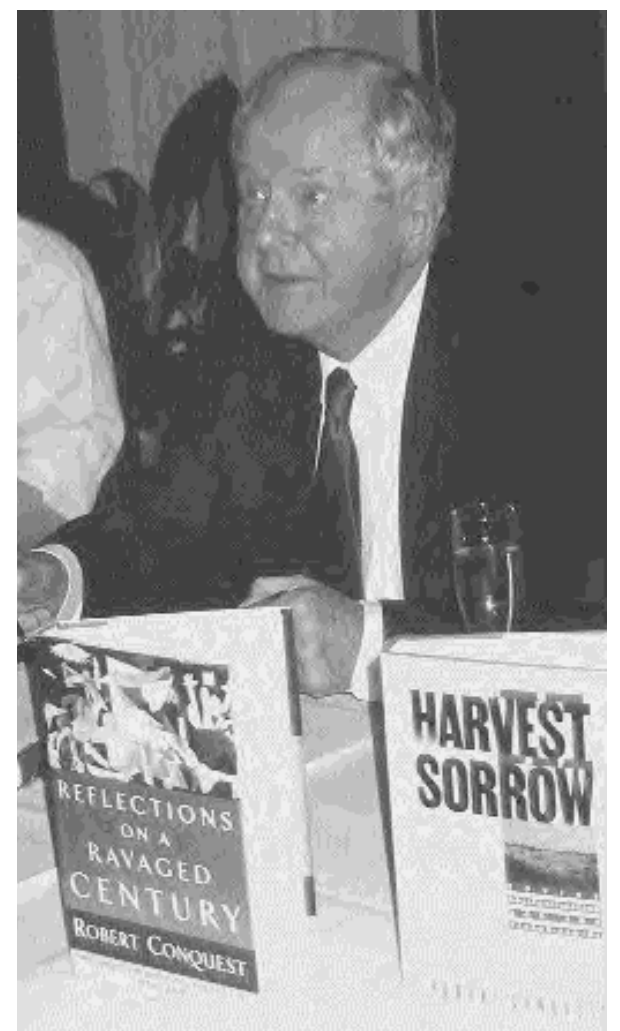
A book launch for the 82-year-old author, historical philosopher and economist was held on November 15 at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York. The event was co-sponsored by Freedom House, whose president, Adrian Karatnycky, delivered opening remarks paying tribute to Dr. Conquest's scholarship.

"Dr. Conquest is one of the lions of the Cold War. While Holocaust studies has its Elie Wiesels, its Simon Wiesenthals, its Lucy Dawidowicz, in the story of Soviet atrocities there is only one great Western name - that of Robert Conquest," Mr. Karatnycky said. "While the views of the Holocaust deniers were rightfully banished to the fringes of academic and political discourse long ago, Dr. Conquest labored in a difficult time in which much of academia seemed more preoccupied with 'downsizing' the true scale of Stalin's and Lenin's crimes."

Today, Mr. Karatnycky continued, the research of Dr. Conquest - a "visionary and courageous scholar, a man who together with Alexander Solzhenitsyn has done more than anyone else to help us understand what Soviet totalitarianism perpetrated on its people" - has been completely vindicated.

A similar analysis was provided by Josef Joffe, editorial page editor and a columnist at Süddeutsche Zeitung, who reviewed "Reflections on a Ravaged Century" in the November 21 issue of The New York Times Book Review. Mr. Joffe observed that "terror was intrinsic to both totalitarianisms, though many in the West still deny the twinship of Stalinism and Hitlerism ... So-called right-wing intellectuals like Conquest ... did not have an easy time in the academy during the 1970s and '80s when 'anti-Communist' became an epithet and moral judgments about the 'evil empire' became, well, 'judgmental.' Now, a decade after the empire's demise, and with ever widening access to party and state archives, it turns out that those 'Cold Warriors' were right, while many of their opponents look like unregenerate apologists."

"Conquest's answers are as plain as they are spirited," Mr. Joffe noted. "Transcending history, this book is a resolutely intelligent contribution to the cultural



Roma Hadzewycz

Dr. Robert Conquest autographs copies of his latest book, "Reflections on a Ravaged Century," during a book launch on November 15.

wars that will stretch into the next century. History is learning about (and perhaps from) the disasters of yesteryear, from ideas that became mindtraps rather than pathways to enlightenment."

Dr. Conquest currently is a senior research fellow at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University. "Reflections on a Ravaged Century" is available for \$26.95. (The cover design features a detail from Picasso's "Guernica.")

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

University, which has been the mainstay of Ukrainian studies in the Federal Republic of Germany for over 50 years, several universities, such as Berlin, Cologne, Munich, Hamburg and others, have initiated courses dealing with Ukrainian matters. The number of students and doctoral candidates is steadily growing. A parallel development can be observed in the east European countries such as the Czech Republic and Poland, where historically such studies have enjoyed relative prosperity. There are also Ukrainian studies at the University of London and courses in Ukrainian language have been offered in Switzerland at the University of Bern and the University of Fribourg.

At La Sapienza, also known as the University of Rome, for the first time a course of Ukrainian literature was officially introduced last year. It was taught by the prominent Ukrainian scholar and literary critic Oksana Pachlovskaya.

In order to provide an impetus at this, the Western world's largest university, with well over 140,000 students, the chairperson of the Department of Slavic Studies and Eastern Europe, Prof. Mario Capaldo, and Prof. Emanuella Sgambatti who heads the Ukrainian studies area, invited Prof. Leonid Rudnytsky (La Salle University) to deliver a lecture on Ukrainian literature and its contemporary status. Thus, in Rome, Italy, on Wednesday, March 4, at the historic Villa Mirafiori, Slavic scholars and students gathered to take part in this event. The eminent Italian Slavist, Prof. Sante Gracioti, eloquently introduced the speaker as a scholar of comparative literature who in addition to being the director of the Central and Eastern European program at La Salle University, in Philadelphia, Pa., also heads the Shevchenko Scientific Society and serves as the pro-rector of the Ukrainian Free University in Munich.

Prof. Rudnytsky greeted the assembled audience in Italian and then delivered his lecture in Ukrainian – copies of an Italian translation having been provided to the participants. He began his remarks with the notion that the literature of any nation is a living organism: it is born, it lives, it grows, and sometimes, depending on historical circumstances, it withers or even dies. He concluded his analysis with several observations regarding the development of contemporary Ukrainian literature and the status of Ukrainian studies.

Briefly noted

- Columbia University's Harriman Institute in January announced the creation of a new endowment fund, the Volodymyr O. and Lydia Z. Bazarko Fellowship, and the establishment of a Petro Jacyk Visiting Professorship. Dr. Sysyn was the first to benefit from the Jacyk endowment, and in the spring term taught a course titled "Problems in Modern Ukrainian History."

- The Kennan Institute of the Washington-based Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars announced in February the opening of a Kyiv project office to better effect its program of seminars, conferences and the granting of scholarships and fellowships.

- On April 17 the Prairie Center for the Study of Ukrainian Heritage was formally inaugurated at the University of Saskatchewan and its first director, Prof. Bohdan Kordan, introduced. Sen. Raynell Andreychuk and former Saskatchewan Lt. Gov. Stephen Worobetz delivered addresses.

- On June 24, the Center for Ukrainian Studies at St. Andrew's College in Winnipeg honored seven major benefactors whose contributions made possible the development of the center's programs and the establishment of several scholarships.

- The Weekly's August 22 issue carried an article about the Taras Shevchenko Foundation's grant to the Ukrainian Center for Multimedia, Interactive Learning and Digital Publishing at the University of Alberta, whose goal is to turn the Ukrainian language and literature program in the department of modern languages and cultural studies into the leading site for the delivery of Ukrainian courses in digital form.

- The Erast Huculak Chair of Ukrainian Culture and Ethnography at the University of Alberta celebrated its 10th anniversary in September with a special conference attracting scholars from North America and Ukraine. The event featured performances by various dance and artistic groups.

- The U.S. Information Agency announced a grant of \$296,000 to Montclair State University of New Jersey to establish a partnership with Kirovohrad State University in Ukraine.

Sports round-up: soccer, boxing, etc.

Undoubtedly, the main sports story during 1999 was Ukraine's return to soccer's upper echelon, built on the success hinted at, but not realized the previous year.

SOCCER

Kyiv Dynamo Champions League semifinalists

Kyiv Dynamo raced breathtakingly close to Europe's most coveted trophy – the UEFA Champions League Cup. Lifted by the awesome speed and lethal scoring touch of young phenom Andriy Shevchenko, the deft playmaking of Serhiy Rebrov (no slouch in the goal-scoring department himself), the bedrock defending and captaincy of Oleh Luzhny – and guided by the stone-faced chessmaster coaching of Valeriy Lobanovsky – they obliterated defending champions Real Madrid in the quarterfinals in March.

In the semis in April they met perennial powerhouses Bayern München. Having squandered a 3-1 lead in the home leg to emerge with a 3-3 draw, they lost the return match to the eventual Cup champions 0-1.

In the latter half of the year, the merry-go-round began again, but this time Mr. Shevchenko was off to Italy to play with AC Milan, having earned the sixth richest contract in soccer history. Mr. Luzhny signed with England's Arsenal (lured away from Benfica of Portugal). But as many of Europe's commentators noticed, Dynamo's was a solid core of cohesive youngsters – they still had Mr. Rebrov, and new captain Oleksander Holovko proved equally able at providing a calming influence afield.

Despite some middling play in the first round, they squeaked into the next, only to face the team they humiliated earlier in the year. In November Real Madrid made the Kyivans pay in a convincing 2-1 victory scored on the Ukrainians' home turf. Then it was League Champion Bayern's turn. In a December match in Munich, the Dynamists were more creative and controlled most of the play, but still ended up losing 1-2.

But, as they say, it ain't over 'til it's over, and as the year ends the return match against Bayern and the Rosenborg team to play.

National team bridesmaids

In the qualifying for the Euro 2000 competition in a very tough Group 4, Ukraine's entry profited in the early going from Russia's disarray, eked out a win against Iceland and managed a scoreless tie in an away game against world champion France.

The Weekly's April 4 issue was graced with Lev Holubec's account of the game in Paris, testimony to the fact that both Dynamo and the national team have acquired a fervent following of diaspora fans willing to make a holiday of following their matches in Europe. The article also highlighted the "diaspora challenge" game at Jules Noel Stadium, where a European squad downed a side from the U.S. 4-2.

In the fall, at the return match in Kyiv, the Ukrainians held off an insistent attack led by France's Zinedine Zidane, while the French stymied Mr. Shevchenko, resulting in another goal-less draw. Another win against Iceland (Mr. Rebrov scoring the game's only goal) on September 8 in Reykjavik set up an epochal confrontation against a resurgent Russian team in Moscow on October 9 – the most important match for the two since the break-up of the USSR.

The Russians pressed the entire match as an unpleasant sleet descended, and when they finally scored at the 75th minute it looked to be all over. But with 100 seconds left in regulation time, Mr. Shevchenko played the savior once again – hooking a deadly free kick at goal that goalkeeper Aleksandr Filimonov mishandled, setting off jubilation throughout Ukraine and the diaspora, but some ugly incidents of vindictive Muscovites attacking visiting Ukrainian fans were reported. The 1-1 tie allowed Ukraine to advance to a playoff against Slovenia.

On November 13, in Ljubljana, Mr. Shevchenko initially put his team ahead, but this year's Cinderellas shocked Europe by winning the game with two unanswered markers as Ukrainian self-discipline disintegrated and two players were given red cards (ejected). On November 17 in Kyiv, matters did not get much better as the blue-and-yellow could manage only a 1-1 draw (Rebrov scored for Ukraine), and were thus eliminated on a 2-3 aggregate. Under heavy criticism for this playoff loss, Coach Josef Szabo resigned a few weeks later, with former Dynamo great Oleh Blokhin rumored to be a possible successor.

Along with Ukraine's chances for a European Championship, this year unfortunately saw the disappearance of two excellent websites dealing with Ukrainian Soccer – <http://www.physics.rutgers.edu/~mykola/f-ua.html>, run maintained by Mykola Shvets, and <http://muddcs.cs.hmc.edu/~pkarimov/ukr.html>.

Also, the <http://shrike.depaul.edu/~jjarmola> site has been superseded by a joint "cyberventure" at <http://ukrainiansoccer.net/>. This and another site <http://football.wertep.com>, provide an array of up-to-the-minute reports, videos, stats, interviews, commentaries and gossip that should slake the thirst of most cyberfollowers in the next millennium. A cautionary note: users with versions of Netscape earlier than 4.0 could experience problems with these two sites.

On the other hand, the <http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Dugout/2639/football.html> site is low-tech



Efrem Lukatsky

Dynamo Kyiv's forward Andriy Shevchenko scores a goal as Bayern Munich's goalkeeper Oliver Kahn falls during their European Champions Cup semifinal at Olympic stadium in Kyiv on April 7. The match ended 3-3.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

and very good with both archived and up-to-date news. The so-called "Jareky's Links" site, at www.litech.lviv.ua/~jareky/sport still provides an excellent array of links, and the official www.uefa.com site provides reliable information and equally lively (if less Ukraine-partisan) commentary.

Hoosier Repeat

While, strictly speaking, the above sites should also have links to that of the University of Indiana Hoosiers, it's not an entirely Ukrainian team. Nevertheless, Oleksa Korol and Yuri Lavrinenko were once again crucial in the Hoosiers' repeat as NCAA soccer champions. On December 12, in the final against Santa Clara College in Charlotte, N.C., Mr. Lavrinenko lofted a pass to his compatriot just inside the penalty area. Mr. Korol returned the pass, and Mr. Lavrinenko made no mistake, scoring the game's only goal. Mr. Korol was fourth in voting as the NCAA's Most Valuable Player and named to Soccer America's "Team of the 1990s," during the championship tournament.

BOXING

Two Klychkos

Ukraine's Klychko brothers were the story in boxing for those (mostly in Europe) who were paying attention.

In September, Volodymyr Klychko scored a technical knock out in the eighth round against Germany's Axel Schulz to claim the European Heavyweight title.

In October, Vitalii Klychko, whom the Germans have adopted as their own and who chant "Klych-K.O." at his bouts, retained his World Boxing Organization title by defeating Ed Mahone of the U.S.

In December, his manager, Klaus-Peter Kohl, was telling people that former undisputed heavyweight champion of the world Mike Tyson would fight Mr. Klychko next August.

HOCKEY

Two Ukrainians not Russians

Denys Shvydkyi, a Kharkiv-born winger who played with last year's World Champion Russian junior team and the Ontario Hockey League's Barrie Colts, was chosen in the National Hockey League's entry draft by the Florida Panthers.

As Grant Kerr noted in a September 30 story filed from the Toronto-based *Globe and Mail* daily's British Columbia bureau, "Zenith Komarniski would like everyone to know, especially his won-over head coach, that he's of Ukrainian heritage, not Russian." Mr. Komarniski, 21, was born in Edmonton and raised in Vegreville, Alberta, and cracked the Vancouver Canucks' line-up this year as a rookie defenseman. "I'm 100 percent Canadian, but 100 percent Ukrainian also," he told the reporter after a team workout.

Ukraine's amateurs

Ukraine's Senior Team qualified for the World International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF)'s Pool A Championship in May in Norway, which usually means they earn the right to be abused by the world's top teams and players. And abused they were, finishing at the bottom of their group with an 0-3 record, outscored 3-13. However, they weren't relegated (Japan was), and qualified to play in the 2000 qualification tournament.

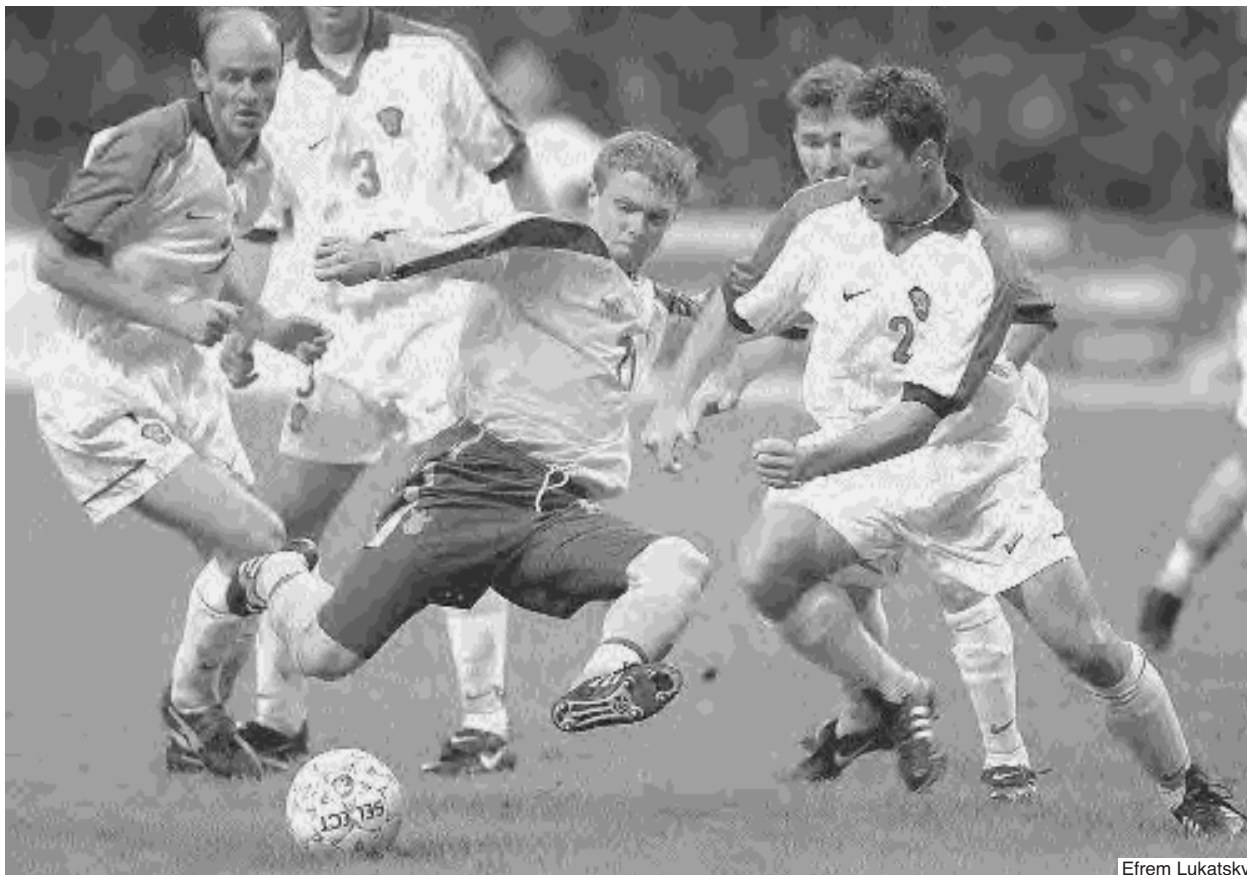
At the World under-20 Junior Pool B Championship in Hungary ending in January, Team Ukraine finished first in its group in the preliminary round and won the tournament beating Denmark in the final. Jurij Navarenko was named the tournament's best defenseman, while Ruslan Bezshchasny was voted the best player on his team.

Ukraine's under-18 juniors fared less well at the Pool A tournament in Germany, but finished eighth overall, certainly a respectable showing when faced by the best Finland, Sweden, the Czechs and the Russians have to offer (Canada did not have an entry this year).

From the IIHF's 1998-1999 Activity Report, we learn that the relative success Ukraine's teams have enjoyed is nothing short of miraculous. The entire country has only four rinks used in the system (Canada has 3,300; Finland - 170; Russia - 84), and a total of 800 registered players, of whom 350 are senior players and 450 are juniors (Canada has 508,836 total; Finland - 59,911; Russia - 58,040).

ATHLETICS

Ukraine fielded a contingent for the World Athletics In August Championships that featured athletes who were individually strong, but as a whole, collectively



Efrem Lukatsky

Ukraine's Serhiy Rebrov (center) fights for the ball with Russia's Viktor Onopko (left) and Dmitry Khlestov (right) during a Euro 2000 qualifying match pitting Russia against Ukraine in Moscow on October 9. Ukraine scored a late goal to tie Russia 1-1.

weaker. Their total medal count dipped from seven medals to four. However, Inga Babakova took the gold in the high jump, Anzhela Balakhanova captured the silver in the women's pole vault, Vladyslav Piskunov took the bronze in the hammer throw and Oleksander Bohach regained credibility in international circles with a bronze in the shot put (having been disqualified in last year's championship).

Zhanna Pintusevych struggled in the sprints despite soldiering valiantly, while Andriy Skvaruk (hammer throw, fifth), Valentyna Fediushina (shot put, seventh), Viktoria Stiopina (high jump, seventh), Olena Antonova (discus, seventh), Olena Hovorova (triple jump, seventh), Tetiana Tereshchuk-Antipova (400-meter hurdles, seventh), earned top-10 honors.

SWIMMING

This year, Ukrainians asserted themselves as a major force in the world's pools. Ukraine's Yana Klochkova, Dmytro Krayevskiy and Denys Silantiev and Canada's Joanne Malar, Kelly Stefanyshyn and Michael Mintenko made the World Cup circuit's waters boil behind them.

And they often squared off against one another. At the World Cup meet in Gelsenkirchen in February, Mr. Silantiev won the 100-meter butterfly, with Mr. Mintenko coming in second. A torrid rivalry is sure to come to a head at the Sydney Olympics in 2000, because Ms. Klochkova and Ms. Malar took turns on top of the podium in the 200- and 400-meter medleys during the course of the year.

Of the two, Ms. Malar is more psychologically fragile, using this season as a (very successful) comeback, and thus often steered clear of meets where Ms. Klochkova competed. When they did go head to head at a meet later that month in Paris, Ms. Klochkova set a World Cup record time of 4 minutes 33.66 seconds in the 400-meter medley, the fastest time recorded in 1999 and the sixth fastest ever recorded, blowing Ms. Malar away by an awesome 5.53 seconds. In the 200-meters it was closer, 2:11.39 to 2:12.67 for Ms. Klochkova.

In all, over the course of the season, competing in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter medley events, Ms. Klochkova captured nine gold medals, three silver and a bronze, setting a Ukrainian national record in the 200-meter medley at a meet in Glasgow, also in February.

Ms. Malar competed in the 200- and 400-meter freestyle and the 200- and 400-meter medley, scoring eight gold, two silver and three bronze.

Kelly Stefanyshyn was similarly dominant in her specialty, the backstroke, winning eight gold, six silver and one bronze in the 50, 100 and 200-meter events, but also added a silver medal in the 50-meter butterfly and a bronze in the 50-meter freestyle.

The Canadian pair also flexed their speed in July at the Pan Am Games in Ms. Stefanyshyn's home town of Winnipeg, where they combined to win four gold, two

silver and two bronze medals for their country.

Mr. Silantiev, a butterfly specialist competing in the 50, 100 and 200-meter events, won seven gold medals and three silver. Over the season Mr. Mintenko earned three silver medals, while Mr. Krayevskiy won silver in the 50-meter breast-stroke in Gelsenkirchen, Germany.

BASEBALL

Sportsline finally got wiser about doings in major league baseball, (see sidebar), also identifying Paul Konerko of the Chicago White Sox as a Ukrainian. The first baseman re-established himself as a consistent power hitter this year, after having struggled with the L.A. Dodgers and Cincinnati Reds as a much-touted rookie.

Ukraine Baseball's normally garrulous Basil Tarasko has provided us only with the very terse news that Ukrainian teams did play over the summer. An outfit from Kirovohrad won the European "B" Championship, the "senior" team placed fifth at a tournament in Prague, the "cadets" finished seventh in another Czech-based tourney (played in Ostrava) and the "junior" team placed fifth in a Group A championship.

Unfortunately, the refusal of U.S. consular officials to issue visas to team members made it impossible for the seniors to take part in the World Amateur Baseball Championships in Millington, Tennessee in August (a fact that should definitely be brought before the Kuchma-Gore Commission).

Equally disheartening, Mr. Tarasko's website, a source of information and opportunities to purchase "Baseball Kozak" patches and other memorabilia has unfortunately been down since July.

FOOTBALL

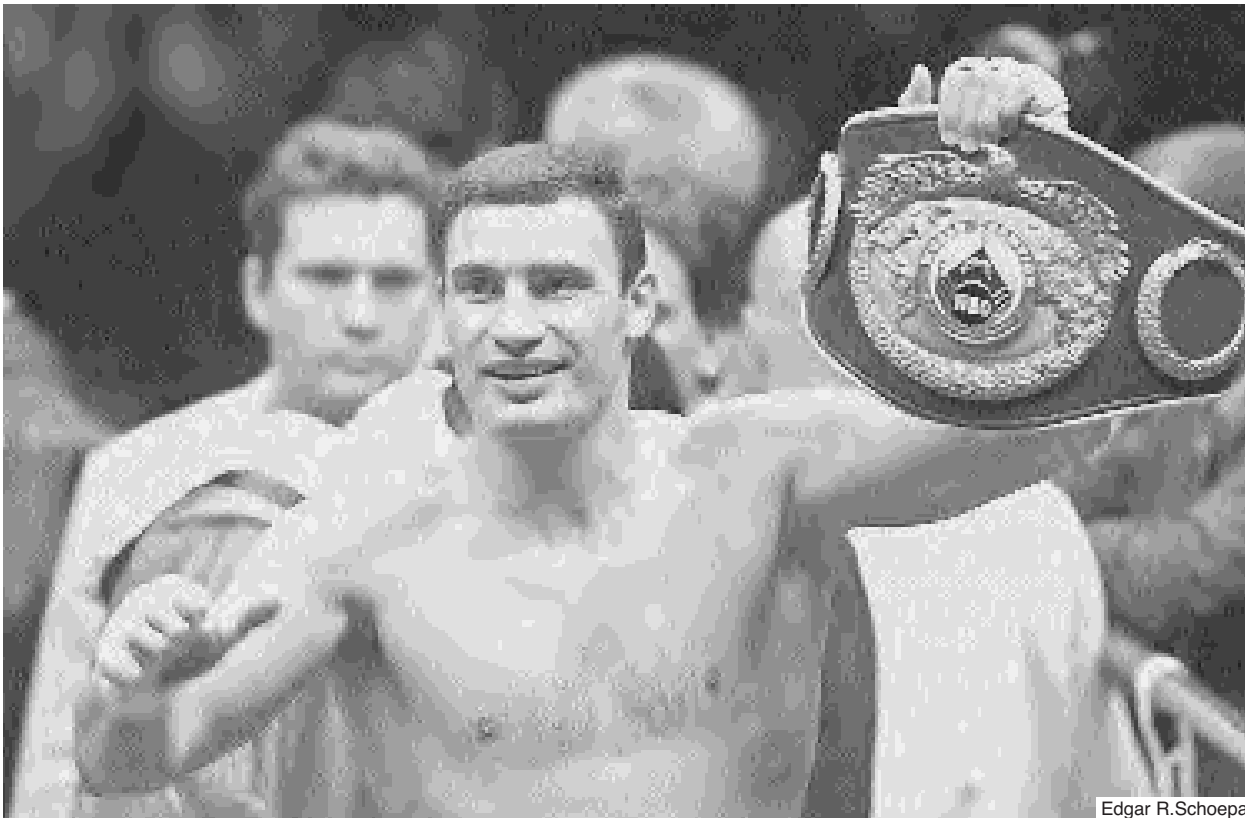
The Weekly's readers got to know Wayne Chrebet of Garfield, N.J., the sure-handed wide receiver of the New York Jets, as his team arrived in the American Football Conference championship game on January 17, but lost it to the eventual Super Bowl Champion Denver Broncos.

When the NFL season resumed in the fall, the Jets, among the teams touted to win the overall title in January 2000, were crippled by injuries, losing their number one quarterback, Vinny Testaverde for the entire campaign and Mr. Chrebet himself went down with a broken foot, which put him out for over half the season.

As the season wound down on December 19, Mr. Chrebet was back in action, in a "dignity saving" game against the Dallas Cowboys. In the Jets' first possession in the first quarter, he hauled in a 14-yard pass from Ray Lucas to set up a field goal, then did it again five minutes later, helping to put his team up 6-0.

Dallas fought back to take the lead into the second half, then Mr. Chrebet notched a 38-yard reception that set up a subsequent touchdown, lifting the Jets on the

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Edgar R.Schoepa

Boxer Vitalii Klychko of Ukraine shows off the WBO World Championship belt after defeating his opponent, Ed Mahone of the U.S., by TKO in Oberhausen Germany, on October 9.

way to a 22-21 nail-biter win, their second in a row, and the first victory managed by any visiting team in Texas Stadium this season. Mr. Chrebet led all receivers in the game with eight catches for 108 yards. At 6-8 the Jets were out of the playoffs, but their pride was salvaged.

Briefly noted

- Larysa Barabash-Temple succeeded Vsevolod Sokolyk as the Ukrainian World Congress's Sports Commissioner and continued her indefatigable efforts on behalf of the Ukrainian Olympic movement. An interview with her concerning the preparations for the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney and the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City ran in *The Weekly's* April 25 issue. Her report to the UWC in October mentioned U.S. consular intransigence as a problem for athletes seeking to train for the games in Utah.

- In January and February, Ukraine's biathletes Olena Zubrilova, Olena Petrova (the Olympic medallist from Nagano), Nina Lemesh and Tetiana Vodopianova scored a number of resounding victories in the World Cup circuit, giving their German and Russian counterparts a very strong challenge. Ms. Zubrilova topped the points board in individual rankings for a better part of the season, then became double world champion in the classic and pursuit events at the meet held in Kontiolahti, Finland.

- Floridian Matt Kuchar maintained his amateur golfer status, but had a more difficult time of it on the links this year, missing the first round cut in both the Hartford Open and the U.S. Open, where he made a splash in 1998.

- Ukraine's Andrei Medvedev was a finalist in the French Open in June, losing to a determined Andre Agassi of the U.S., and advanced as far as the fourth

round of the U.S. Open in August. Also at Flushing Meadows, 1998 finalist Greg Rusedski lost an epic battle to U.S. veteran Todd Martin in the quarterfinals. Larisa Neiland paired with Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and advanced as far as the semis in the Queen's-based Grand Slam. Olena Tatarkova's mixed doubles tandem (with Russian Andrei Olhovskiy) was good enough to make the quarterfinals at the U.S. Open. (Ms. Nieland also made it to the quarters paired with Rick Leach.)

- In May Ukraine's national wrestling team came to the U.S. and made a big impression, scoring a 25-18 victory over a U.S. Big-10 All-Star team at Purdue University. Later in the year, at the World Graeco-Roman Championships in Athens in September, Georgiy Saladze finished fifth in the 130 kg category, Hryhoriy Komysenko seventh in the 63 kg class, Rustam Adji was eighth in the 69 kg category and 85 kg Oleksander Sardoyan finished 10th.

- Ukraine fared better at the World Freestyle Championships in Turkey a few weeks later, since Elbrus Tadeev won gold in the 63 kg category, Oleksander Zakuruk won the 54 kg bronze, Alik Muzaev finished eighth in the 76 kg class, Mirab Valiev eighth in the 130 kg.

- Wally Szczerbiak (born in Spain, but throughout high school a resident of Long Island) joined an elite club of athletes to have been chosen in the top-10 of the National Basketball Association's draft. Mr. Szczerbiak, who played for the University of Miami at Ohio RedHawks was signed by the Minnesota Timberwolves in August to a three-year multi-million dollar contract.

- Kane Waselenchuk, 18, of Edmonton was in the thick of the racquetball competition at the Pan American Games in Winnipeg in July, reaching the quarterfinals before being ousted by former world champion (and fellow Canadian) Sherman Greenfield. Mr. Greenfield opined: "He's the future of the game."

- At the World Gymnastics Championships in Tianjin, China in October, Ukraine captured two medals. Viktoria Karpenko took home the silver medal in the women's over-all competition, and Olha Roshchoupkina took the bronze in the beam event. The men's team of Oleksander Beresh, Valeriy Honcharov, Yevhen Malymon, Ruslan Mezentsev, Valeriy Pereshkura, Oleksander Svitlychny and Roman Zozulia just barely failed to qualify for the final, beat out by the U.S. contingent by 0.272 points.

Umpire Chylak in Hall of Fame

On July 25 a Ukrainian posthumously shared the spotlight with the greats, including Orlando Cepeda, George Brett, Joe Williams (of the Negro Leagues), Nolan Ryan, Frank Selee (19th century Chicago Cubs' manager) and Robin Yount.

On that day, the late Nestor Chylak, Jr., was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, the eighth umpire to receive the distinction. Mr. Chylak, an American League (AL) umpire in 1954-1978, was honored at the Clark Sports Center. His son Bob Chylak attended the ceremony in his place.

A plaque is installed at the Hall for each inductee. Mr. Chylak's reads: "Considered by many to be the non-pareil umpire of the post-war era, a model of consistency with invariable accuracy both behind the plate and on the bases. Respected by players and managers alike, effectively combining authoritarianism, tact and a sense of humor. Lauded for his willingness to lend an ear to objections. His illustrious 25-year career included six all-star games and five World Series assignments. Served many years as a crew chief and then as assistant supervisor of American League umpires from 1979-1982."

To view it, make the pilgrimage to Cooperstown, NY, or visit the Hall of Fame's website at <http://www.baseballhalloffame.org/>

Mr. Chylak was born on May 11, 1922, in Olyphant, Pa., and studied engineering at Rutgers University in 1941-1942 (playing on its baseball team) before seeing four years of military service in World War II. At the Battle of the Bulge, he was struck by shrapnel from a shell and nearly blinded, but after experimental surgery and eight weeks in the hospital he emerged with his eyesight intact. He earned the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

In 1946-1947 he completed his studies in civil engi-

neering at St. Thomas University in Scranton, Pa. Fatefully, fellow Ukrainian Al Chaykovsky, a friend from Olyphant and the Rutgers days, persuaded him to umpire college games at STU for the last six weeks of the season in 1946.

His work was noticed and the next spring Chylak began his new career in the PONY (Pennsylvania, Ontario and New York) League, working his first game as a professional umpire in Hamilton, Ontario. In 1949 he moved up to officiate in the Class-C Canadian-American League, then the Class-B New England League, followed by terms in the Class-A Eastern League (1950-1951) and the AA International League (1952-1953).

On a cold dreary morning in January 1954, he went out to his mailbox and opened a letter from the American League - he had been selected to be an umpire in "The Show."

"I can still see that postman, walking through the crusty, grimy snow beside the road, and me beside the road with that letter in my hand," Mr. Chylak recalled later, "If I hadn't seen the postman, I'd have thought the whole thing was a dream."

A few weeks later, he was at Al Lang Field in St. Petersburg, Fla. for the pre-season, staring slack-jawed at future Yankee hall-of-famers Whitey Ford, Mickey Mantle, Hank Bauer. On April 13, 1954, he stood at third base and watched President Dwight Eisenhower throw out the first pitch at Griffiths Stadium in the season's Opening Day contest pitting those same Yankees against the Washington Senators.

His favorite call was a tough one that nobody contested on a play involving Mr. Mantle, Yogi Berra (Yankees) and Rocky Nelson (Pirates) in the 1960 World Series between New York and Pittsburgh. (He was also there to watch Bill Mazeroski's "last at-bat" homer sail over the outfield wall to give the Pirates the title.)

His "biggest thrill" was to officiate the 1966 World Series pitching duel between Sandy Koufax of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Jim Palmer of the Baltimore Orioles - it was the last game the Dodger

lefty played in - the Orioles won.

He worked the first World Series night game in history,

In the 1972 AL championship series (one of three he worked), he ignored a dangerous home-town crowd and ejected Oakland Athletics' all-star shortstop Bert Campaneris for throwing his bat at Detroit Tigers pitcher Lerrin LaGrow, after LaGrow hit him with a pitch. The A's won anyway, and the World Series, too. In the off-season prior to the 1972 campaign, Mr. Chylak had been chosen "Umpire of the Year" by the prestigious Al Somers Umpire School.

On June 4, 1974, he ejected an entire stadium of spectators, declaring a forfeit in the ninth inning of the infamous "Cleveland 10-cent-beer-night" when fans began to riot at the ballpark known as "the Mistake by the Lake," giving the game to the Texas Rangers despite a 5-5 score.

He was behind the plate on Opening Day at Exhibition Stadium in Toronto on April 7, 1977, when the hometown Blue Jays played their driving-snow first game against the Chicago White Sox, thus becoming the first man to call "Play Ball!" for a major league team in the city.

His other World Series included the 1957 Fall Classic involving the Yankees and Hank Aaron's Milwaukee Braves (who won), the 1971 seven-game see-saw between the Orioles and the Pirates (led to victory by Roberto Clemente), and the 1977 Yankee (Reggie Jackson five-homer) whipping of the Dodgers.

His last game afield was in Toronto on July 25, 1978, because soon after he suffered a mild stroke. However, that season he uttered what the USA Today considered to have been the most memorable quote of his career: "This must be the only job in America that everybody knows how to do better than the guy who's doing it."

Nestor Chylak died in his sleep on February 17, 1982, at his home in Dunmore, Pa. His funeral service was conducted at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in Olyphant, where he had remained a member of the parish. Lee McPhail, then AL president, wrote in an official release at the news: "He was certainly one of the greatest umpires of his era, if not the greatest."

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The UNA's priorities: members, finances

President Ulana Diachuk underlined in this year of the Ukrainian National Association's 105th anniversary that "Our priority is to strengthen our branches with younger leaders, to enroll new members, to explain the benefits of UNA membership to new generations."

"We are now undergoing much change in light of new needs ... but if the younger generations do not take over, we will not succeed." She referred to the UNA's proud history of accomplishments and emphasized: "The UNA is ready to do more, as needed by new generations of members – provided there are new members."

Our editorial on the anniversary noted: "... the UNA has always been there for all Ukrainians. Will it continue to be there in the next millennium? Will the Ukrainian National Association's future be as illustrious as its past? That depends upon both the new generations of Ukrainians who have grown up in North America and the new wave of immigrants recently arrived on these shores from Ukraine. Will they see the value of the UNA, become its members and its leaders?"

Beginning the last year of the 20th century, UNA assets totaled \$69,415,031 and its surplus now stood at \$8,078,705. The fraternal organization had 55,247 members insured for a total of \$192,036,275.

In order to increase membership enrollment, in January the UNA signed an agreement of cooperation with another fraternal organization, Western Catholic Union. The UNA hired its director to seek insurance salespersons and agents who will sell UNA products on commission, as other fraternal organizations have done, achieving good results. The UNA announced it would begin this campaign in Ohio, Illinois and Michigan.

On March 19, at their first quarterly meeting of 1999, UNA executives discussed a wide-ranging plan for new insurance products. It was noted that, taking into account increased life expectancy in the U.S., the UNA will sell life insurance to applicants up to age 85, and single-premium certificates to persons up to age 90. In general the UNA will decrease dues on insurance policies by between 20 and 67 percent, depending on the class of insurance.

At their second quarterly meeting of 1999, the UNA's execs reported that the UNA had reduced net losses for the first six months of 1999 by \$439,989; the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance completed its triennial examination of the UNA and would issue a report on the financial condition of UNA; the UNA is readying its computer and other systems to be Y2K compliant and that members can be assured that come January 2000 the UNA will be prepared to conduct business as usual; and that the entire first floor of the UNA Corporate Headquarters building in Parsippany, N.J., is fully rented.

The first regular annual meeting of the Ukrainian National Association's General Assembly since the fraternal organization's May 1998 convention took place at the UNA resort, Soyuzivka, on December 3-5. Mrs. Diachuk convened the General Assembly's annual meeting 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 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; and to hold the next UNA convention in Chicago.

Leading off the reports of UNA officers, President Diachuk 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 what she described as "tremendous regulatory pressure" exerted on all fraternal by insurance authorities in both the United States and Canada.

Mrs. Diachuk noted also that in Canada the atmosphere is such that U.S. fraternal are getting out of the country and Canadian insurance authorities are urging American fraternal 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 newspapers and its upstate New York resort, and noted that marketing efforts continue to promote the newspapers, while at Soyuzivka consultants are being asked how to make the resort profitable, or at least less of a drain on the UNA's finances.

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 (agreed to by both parties in May 1998) and the Ukrainian Fraternal Association with the UNA have been put on hold.

National Secretary Martha Lysko's 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 spoke also 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 Stefan 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.

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 General Assembly adopted a timetable and procedures for the by-laws review and referendum, which stipulates that, after a thorough review and discussion on the pages of the UNA's two official publications, voting on the referendum is to be completed by July 1, 2001.

The third quarterly meeting of UNA executives took place during the General Assembly's annual session. The major topic of discussion was UNA investment policy and how to develop a sound investment policy that would conform to industry standards but still give the best yields possible. The Executive Committee also voted unanimously that President Diachuk should represent the UNA and participate in the Council of Presidents of Ukrainian American Organizations.

Other developments at the largest and oldest Ukrainian fraternal organization included the following.

At the beginning of 1999, Svoboda published the 1999 Almanac of the Ukrainian National Association. Among the topics covered in the 89th annual publication were the 340th anniversary of the Battle of Konotop, the approaching second millennium of Christianity, the 80th anniversary of the Act of Union that united all Ukrainian lands into the Ukrainian National Republic and the 55th anniversary of the tragic Battle of Brody.

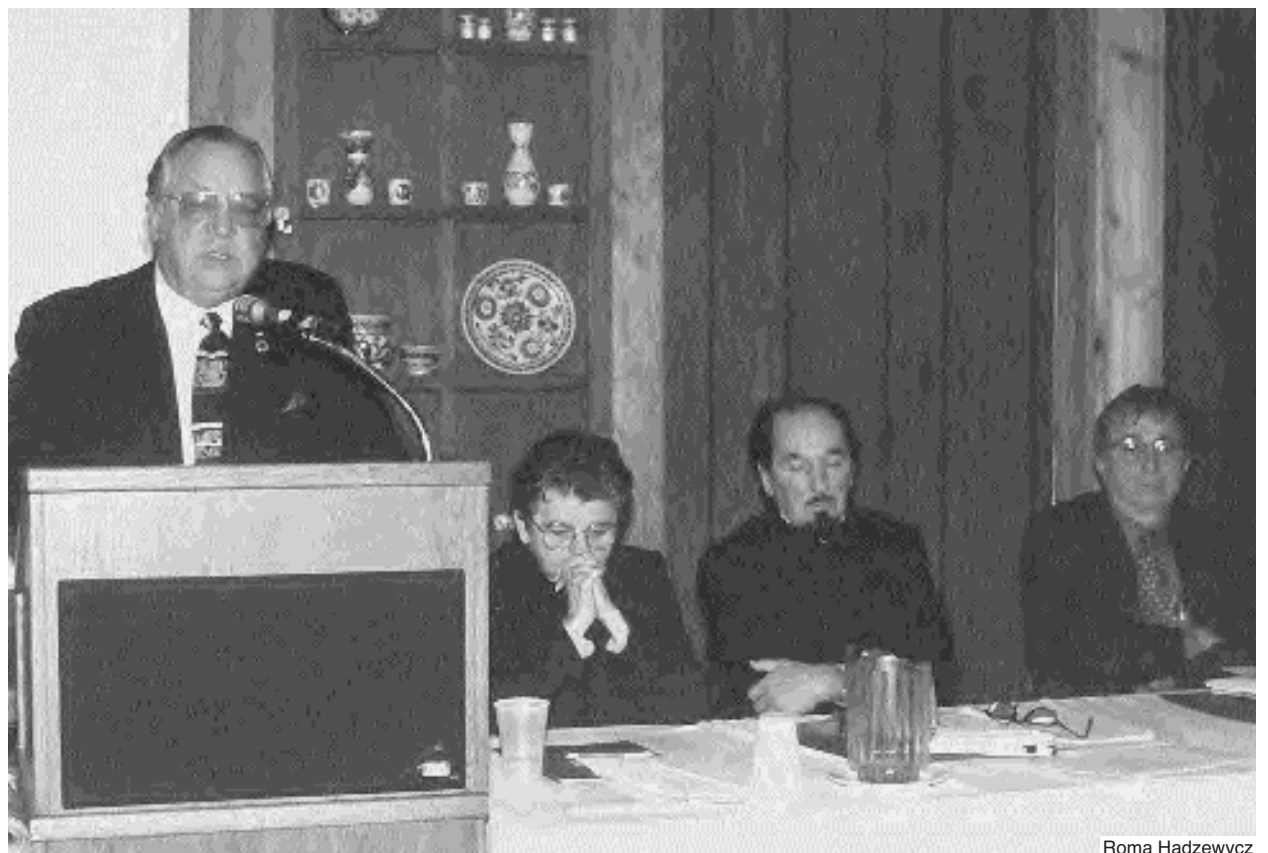
After the UNA convention decided Soyuzivka would be open only from June 1 through September 15, a closer look at the books showed this would be fiscally, well, not a good idea. Thus, the resort was closed only from February 1 through April 15 (although the Main Building was open all year round.)

The UNA awarded \$27,900 in scholarships to college students for the 1999-2000 academic year, plus \$6,000 for special scholarship funds established by separate benefactors. In all, 171 scholarships were awarded to undergrad students who are members of the UNA.

The UNA Seniors held their 25th anniversary conference at Soyuzivka on June 13-18 and re-elected Anna Chopek as president. Many seniors received special certificates recognizing their service to the organization.

On June 20, the resort played host to the annual UNA celebration of Father's Day, which this year featured the Yevshan Ukrainian Dance Ensemble of Rochester, N.Y., directed by Slavko Wirlo and Oksana Kraus.

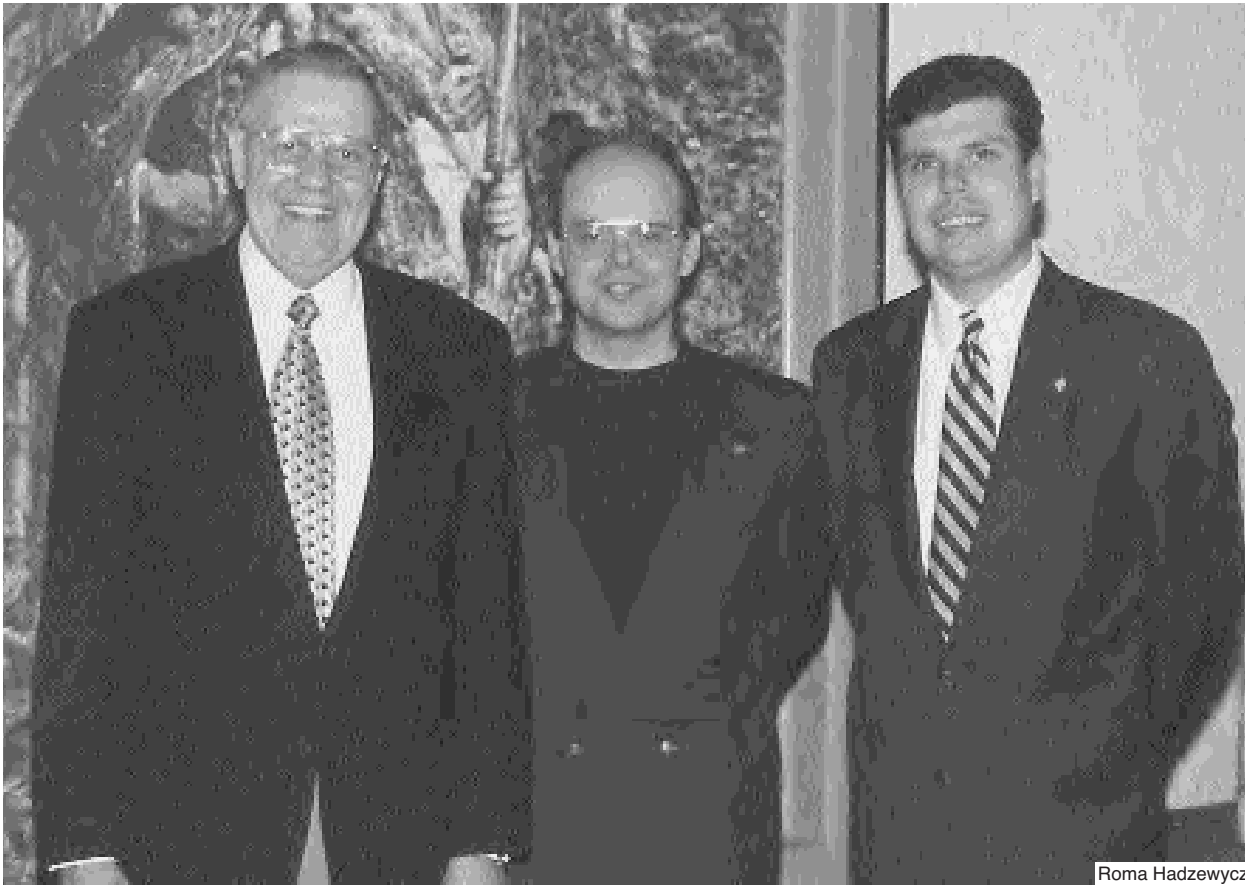
Then came the summer and Soyuzivka's 45th season, which brought the usual array of camps and activities, ranging from Tennis Camp to Tabir Ptashat, to Chemney's Fun Center and children's camps, as well as a seminar for teachers of schools of Ukrainian studies – not to mention weekend programs and the "big weekends" like Fourth of July and Labor Day that feature



Roma Hadzewycz

Auditing Committee Chairman William Pasztuszek addresses the December 3-5 annual meeting of the UNA General Assembly. Seated (from left) are: President Ulana Diachuk, Director for Canada the Rev. Myron Stasiw and Treasurer Stefan Kaczaraj.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW



The UNA General Assembly's Chicagoans are all smiles after that body voted to hold the fraternal organization's 2002 Convention in the Windy City. From left are: Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, Andriy Skyba and Stefko Kuropas.

competition in tennis and swimming, and even golf.

The annual Miss Soyuzivka contest took place on August 14. Maria Loun, who recently completed an associate's degree at Manor College and was to go on to study graphic design and art at Temple University, was chosen as Miss Soyuzivka 2000. Runners-up were Diana Vasylyk of Florida, a freshman at Broward Community College, and Tanya Singura of New Jersey, a teacher.

The last Labor Day weekend of this century and this millennium was celebrated in extraordinary fashion at Soyuzivka with sports events, dances, entertainment programs – featuring the young Veseli Cherevyckhky folk dance ballet and vocal ensemble of Lviv and the Vohnetz dancers of Edmonton, as well as singers from Ukraine and the United States – exhibits of fine and folk arts, and more.

Back at the UNA Home Office, a January report noted that more than \$17,000 had been raised for flood victims in Zakarpattia through the UNA's Ukrainian National Foundation.

Created in 1992 to promote humanitarian, cultural and educational programs in Ukraine, the United States and Canada, the Ukrainian National Foundation solicited funds to help prepare children from rural areas of Ukraine to enter universities. This scholastic preparation of younger students is held at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. The Ukrainian National Foundation said it was prepared to sponsor 10 such students at a total cost of \$10,000 and appealed to readers of Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly, as well as all interested community members, to support this special drive.

The foundation also sponsored the English Teachers for Ukraine Program, which, sends volunteer teachers to teach conversational English in cities throughout Ukraine, and the "Summer Institute on Current Methods and Practices in TESOL," designed to acquaint teachers in Ukraine with the newest methodologies and applications in language instruction. Since 1992 over 400 volunteers have taught conversational English to approximately 4,000 students in Ukraine.

The special projects coordinator at the UNA Home Office, Oksana Trytjak, invited children age 12 and younger to greet their mothers on the occasion of Mother's Day. Their art work and messages were published on the pages of The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda.

Another UNA project during 1999 was the annual release of Christmas cards. This year's set of 14 cards sold for \$15; proceeds were earmarked for support of educational, cultural and youth-oriented programs at Soyuzivka.

On the district and branch levels, fraternal activities continued apace. For example, the Northern New Jersey District held a "Yalynka" Christmas party for children of the area on January 16, while the Chicago District hosted a performance by "Barabolya," a Ukrainian "kid-

die fest" on April 30, Branch 180 of Akron, Ohio, sent relief packages to flood-ravaged Zakarpattia and Branch 120 of Aliquippa hosted its fourth annual golf outing.

There was also sad news to report in 1999 as two leading members of the UNA passed away. Iwan Wynnyk, a longtime auditor who was elected at UNA conventions in 1970, 1974 and 1994, died on April 16 at the age of 84. Advisor Walter Korchynsky, who was also a board member of the Ukrainian National Urban Renewal Corp., chairman of the Syracuse District Committee and president of UNA Branch 271 in Elmira, died on July 26 at age 45.

It was Advisor Korchynsky who had attempted to start a discussion on the pages of this paper regarding the question "Why is Soyuzivka operating at a deficit?" He later reported back that he had received many responses to his call for suggestions and said that it was now up to the Executive Committee and the General Assembly to take them into consideration. Unfortunately, however, he died soon thereafter.

Two other UNA milestones should be noted in closing this section. In July of this year the UNA's Ukrainian-language newspaper, Svoboda, marked its first anniversary as a weekly. In October The Ukrainian Weekly, the UNA's English-language publication, celebrated the 66th anniversary of its founding.

The noteworthy: people and events

Some major happenings and achievements defy easy categorization, ergo this section: the noteworthy people and events of 1999 (listed in chronological order).

- Wolodymyr Bilajiw, chief of Voice of America's Ukrainian service since 1991, retired on December 31, 1998. Mr. Bilajiw joined VOA in 1984 and witnessed many of the events during and after the collapse of the former Soviet Union. The VOA Ukrainian Branch celebrated its 50th anniversary this year.

- Myron Holubiak, 52, was appointed president of Roche Labs, a subsidiary of Hoffmann La Roche, on January 1. Roche Labs, located in Nutley, N.J., has revenues of over \$2.8 billion annually and 3,500 employees.

- The New Jersey State League of Municipalities inducted Woodbine Mayor William Pikolycky into the Elected Officials Hall of Fame during the Seventh Annual Mayors Legislative Day on January 27 at the State House Annex in Trenton. The honor is reserved for local municipal governing body members who as of December 1998 served for more than 20 years in elected municipal office. Mr. Pikolycky has served the Borough of Woodbine for 12 years as council member and eight years as mayor.

- The New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame honored

Bell Labs scientists Andrew Chraplyvy and Kenneth Walker and former Bell Labs scientist Robert Tkach as inventors of the year at a banquet on February 18 at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Bell Labs is the research and development arm of Lucent Technologies. Drs. Chraplyvy, Walker and Tkach were honored for their invention of optical fiber for dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM), a technology that allows transmission of digitized information over multiple wavelengths, or colors, of light to increase the capacity of communications systems. Their invention has been incorporated into Lucent's TrueWave optical fiber, designed for very high capacity communications systems.

- The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada honored Cyril (Kyrylo) Genik (1857-1925) on February 15 in Winnipeg, during the celebration of Canada's Heritage Day and commemoration of Canada's Citizenship and Heritage Week. Mr. Genik was one of the foremost leaders of the first wave of Ukrainian immigration to Canada (1891-1914) from western Ukraine. He was the head of the second group of immigrants to arrive in Canada in 1896. Because of his education and knowledge of languages, including English, as well as excellent diplomatic skills, he was appointed an immigration agent by the government of Canada. He became the first federal civil servant of Ukrainian ancestry in Canada.

- On March 3, Syracuse University recognized Dr. Patricia Burak, director of the university's Office of International Services, with the "Chancellor's Citation for Distinguished Service." This award is granted annually to individuals who have made an important difference in the lives of students, faculty and members of the community. Dr. Burak was acknowledged by the chancellor of the university as "the head, heart and soul of the university's widely admired services to its international students." He complimented her "extraordinary commitment to caring" and her expertise that is acknowledged worldwide through her book, "Crisis Management in a Cross-Cultural Setting," which is used by numerous campuses and institutions.

- Borislav N. Bilash, a science teacher at James Caldwell High School in New Jersey, received the Radio Shack/Tandy Scholar Award. Mr. Bilash was honored for his merit and innovative teaching as a science educator for the past 13 years. He was chosen from 1,600 nominees as one of the top 100 science, math and computer teachers in the country. Mr. Bilash received the award in March in Boston at the National Science Teachers Convention.

- The State Statistics Committee of Ukraine reported that Ukraine's population totaled 49.98 million as of April 1. At the beginning of 1999 the population totaled 50.1 million. The ratio between urban and rural dwellers is now approximately 3:1.

- Halyna Kolessa, director of the string program and string orchestra conductor at the Jefferson Arts House in Elizabeth, N.J., was one of 24 members of the New Jersey Education Association named as 1998-1999 Dodge Fellows. Ms. Kolessa holds master's degrees of music in viola from the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory and the Manhattan School of Music. She completed a post-graduate professional studies program at the Juilliard School.

- Georgie Pocheptsov, 7, is a prolific artist whose work has won much recognition. Some of his paintings have sold for as high as \$9,000. On May 3 one of his paintings was presented as a "Commitment to Children" award to Gen. Colin Powell at the Advertising Council's 49th Washington Conference. The painting depicts the bond between parent and child, an appropriate theme for Gen. Powell's contributions to improving the lives of children across the country.

- A team of three climbers, including Vladislav Terziul and Vasyl Kopytko of Odesa, and Volodymyr Horbach of Kyiv, reached the top of Mount Everest on May 8 and planted the Ukrainian national flag on the 8,848-meter peak. They were part of a group of climbers attempting to climb the mountain as part of the first Ukrainian national expedition to Mount Everest. However, tragedy struck the expedition as they descended to 8,600 meters and ran into a snowstorm that dumped 60 centimeters of snow in 20 minutes. Messrs. Terziul and Horbach survived and continued the descent. Mr. Kopytko disappeared. The 10-day rescue mission was called off on May 19. Technical assistance for the rescue effort came from Italy and the United States.

- For 40 years Marie Halun Bloch's library served as reference for the 18 books she wrote, including "Aunt

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

America," "The Two Worlds of Damyan," "Displaced Person". In 1998 Mrs. Bloch died at the age of 88. Her library of about 900 volumes in Ukrainian and English, appraised at \$14,140, was donated to The Ukrainian Cultural Center in Dickinson, N.D., this year. In addition to the donation of the books, and covering the cost of appraising, cataloguing and shipping, Mrs. Bloch's daughter, Hillary Bloch Hopkins, donated the cost of building shelving for the books at the institute. She also sponsored a bookplate, designed by North Dakota artist Rosemary Demaniow, which was placed in the books alongside the original bookplate designed for Mrs. Bloch by Jacques Hnizdovsky. The new bookplate reads, "Gift of Marie Halun Bloch, Daughter of Ukraine, Citizen of America."

- The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Special Investigations (OSI) initiated a new case against John Demjanjuk on May 19, seeking to once again strip him of his U.S. citizenship. More than 20 years ago the OSI began proceedings against Mr. Demjanjuk, accusing him of being "Ivan the Terrible" of the Treblinka death camp. After being denaturalized and extradited to Israel for a trial on war crimes and crimes against humanity, Mr. Demjanjuk was convicted, but the conviction was overturned by the Israeli Supreme Court. The OSI now charges that Mr. Demjanjuk was a guard at several other Nazi camps.

- Montclair State University honored Metropolitan Opera bass Paul Plishka with an honorary doctorate degree on May 14. Mr. Plishka, who studied music at Montclair State, is noted for an extraordinary voice and impeccable artistry that combine to make him one of the world's foremost singers. A leading member of the Metropolitan Opera since 1967, he regularly appears with other major opera companies. Mr. Plishka has sung in more than 1,000 performances.

- A Ukrainian sailing enthusiast and his crew began a journey around the globe, sailing from Kyiv the week of May 15. Their aim: to let the international community know about Ukraine. The project coordinators of the "Discover Ukraine" journey have set three goals for themselves: to get to Spain by the summer for celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the Spanish Armada; to be in the United States for Fourth of July celebrations in 2000; and to get back to Ukraine within five years. "Discover Ukraine" was conceived by Dmytro Birioukovitch, 59, an engineer and a lifelong yachting enthusiast, who has sailed 24,000 miles of the Mediterranean and the Black seas. Mr. Birioukovitch, who calls himself "an active Ukrainian patriot," said the idea for an around-the-world yacht trip came to him after traveling to far-flung places, such as Turkey, Israel and France, he was often asked whose flag he was flying followed by the question, "Where's that?"

- A cache of 216 unique photographs and negatives of Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) activities was found in June near the village of Yavoriv, in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast. A young boy found the photos in a rotting tree trunk. Locals surmise that the metal box of

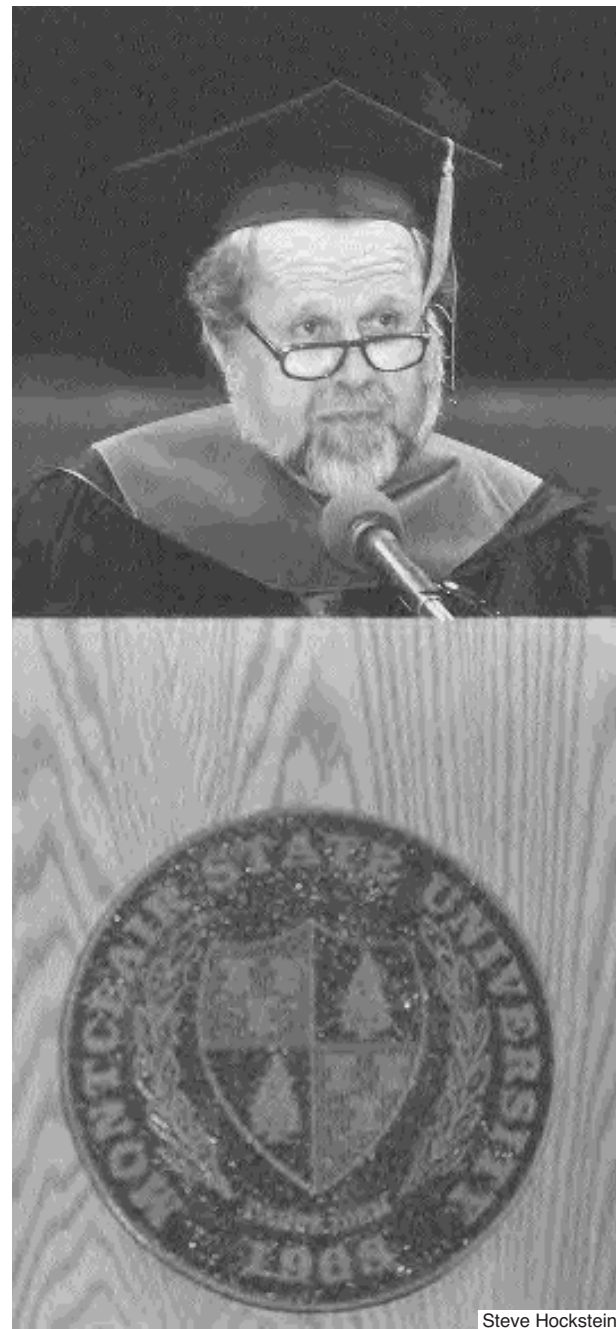
photos had been hidden inside the hollow of the tree many years ago. The UPA photos will be published in a commemorative album in honor of the 50th anniversary of the death of UPA Commander Roman Shukhevych.

- The California State Historic Landmark – Ukraina – was unveiled at Garin Regional Park on May 15. The site immortalizes the Rev. Agapius Honcharenko, who lived on the rolling California hills for 43 years in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He was born Andrii Humnytsky on August 31, 1832, in Kyiv gubernia. An Orthodox priest and a descendant of a Kozak family, he was sent to Athens in 1857 to serve as deacon at the Russian embassy's church. He began to contribute articles to Alexander Herzen's *Kolokol* for which he was arrested in 1860, but escaped and immigrated to the United States in 1865. He was, in fact, the first Ukrainian political émigré to the United States. In San Francisco he established a newspaper – *The Alaska Herald*, with a Russian- and Ukrainian-language supplement, *Svoboda* – aimed at the inhabitants of recently purchased Alaska. He published the paper single-handedly from 1868 to 1872, glorifying the Ukrainian Kozaks, Shevchenko's poetry, defending democracy and individual freedom; he attacked Russian imperialism, the corruption of the Russian Church, and capitalist monopolies. He prepared the "Russo-English Phrase Book" (1868) for American soldiers serving in Alaska. He retired to a farm that he named "Ukraina Ranch." There, in the early 1900s, a group of Ukrainian immigrants from Canada and Galicia organized a short-lived commune called the Ukrainian Brotherhood. The Rev. Honcharenko died May 5, 1916, in Hayward, Calif.

- Tamara Denysenko was elected president of the Ukrainian National Credit Union Association (UNCUA) at the organization's annual meeting June 27 in Washington. Ms. Denysenko is the first woman to be elected as president of UNCUA in the association's 45-year history. UNCUA is an association of 22 Ukrainian American credit unions that serves more than 75,000 customers nationwide with combined assets exceeding \$1.25 billion.

- The Pan American Games, featuring athletes from North and South America, were held in Winnipeg from July 23 to August 8. Among the 3,000 performers at the official opening ceremonies on July 23, at Winnipeg Stadium was a significant Ukrainian contingent. Towards the second half of the opening program some 27 multicultural dance groups – including seven Ukrainian dance groups from Winnipeg and the surrounding area performed. In total, some 120 Ukrainian dancers were featured in the cultural celebration. Another feature of the opening ceremonies was the singing and dancing performance of Ukrainian Canadian Jeremy Kushnier, 23, the featured star of the Broadway production of "Footloose." Many Ukrainians also participated in the mass choir of over 250 voices. The entire opening show was choreographed by Ukrainian Canadian Brenda Gorlick of Winnipeg.

- The last day of broadcasts for the Ukrainian



Steve Hockstein

Paul Plishka addresses commencement exercises on May 14 at Montclair State University after receiving an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts Degree.

Broadcasting Network's satellite radio and television programming from Ukraine and its five-day-a-week morning AM radio program, "Ranok z Namy," which served the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut area, was August 6. Due to a severe financial crisis at SkyView World Media (formerly Ethnic American Broadcasting Company), the owner of Ukrainian Broadcasting Network (UBN), the company eliminated its weakest networks, among them UBN. Also eliminated were the Italian and Filipino networks. Among those remaining are the Russian, subcontinent Indian, Greek, Vietnamese, Chinese and Arabic networks.

- On August 16 U.S. News & World Report published a double issue dedicated to "The Year 1000: what life was like in the last millennium" replete with historical inaccuracies about Ukraine. In the section called "Heroes: fearless, devout and terrifying," the following caption was included: "In converting Kievan Rus, Vladimir made Russia what it is today." The sidebar on Grand Prince Vladimir (referred to as "king" in another sidebar) is titled "A trader in theology: The mercantile origins of Russian orthodoxy." The sidebar incorrectly notes that Volodymyr converted his subjects "to the Eastern Orthodox branch of Christianity" and in the next paragraph informs readers that his "choice was by no means a foregone conclusion" as "there were Catholics among Vladimir's ancestors." A timeline in the first millennium issue gives the following information: "980 – With the help of Vikings, Vladimir establishes the first Russian dynasty in Kiev." There is a fold-out map that identifies what should properly be called Kyivan Rus' as Kievan Russia, followed by the description, in parentheses, "Viking descendants," leading one to understand that there were no people on those territories before the Vikings arrived. A fact box on "Viking Kingdoms" notes that the Vikings "went ... east to settle Russia." The on-line version of the magazine, included lists of sources for more information, all of them Russian: the Russian Embassy in Washington, the Russian Studies Program at Bucknell University (which is linked to the site of none other than the Moscow Patriarchate of the Russian Orthodox Church),



Among the cache of photos recently discovered in the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast is this one of UPA soldiers among the local Hutsul population.

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

and something called RussiaNet.

- Thanks to the work of Yuri Gawdiak and his NASA research team, NASA astronauts may soon have access to a softball-sized personal satellite assistant floating around taking care of time-consuming tasks. The Personal Satellite Assistant (PSA) is an astronaut support device designed to move and operate independently in the micro gravity environment of space. The PSA will monitor the space station's environment, testing sensors, fans, communication control and navigation, and will even be able to make minor repairs, leaving the astronauts free to work on other matters. Due to its size, the PSA will be able to investigate areas of the spacecraft that people cannot. The PSA was presented at a Silicon Valley conference on data fusion this summer. Today, the concept mock-up, which is about the size of a basketball, floats over a table on Earth. Yuri Gawdiak, 36, originally of Silver Spring, Md., dreamed of working for NASA since he was a child. Mr. Gawdiak is a team experiment lead engineer at NASA, Ames Research Center (ARC) in California.

- For over 50 years Eudokia Sorochaniuk, 80, has been embroidering, weaving, collecting and teaching Ukrainian folk art. This year the National Endowment for the Arts recognized her achievements with a National Heritage Fellowship, the country's most prestigious honor in the folk and traditional arts. Mrs. Sorochaniuk and other 1999 recipients of the National Heritage Fellow awards were honored on September 28 during a special ceremony in Washington in the Gold Room of the Rayburn House Office Building. Bill Ivey, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, presented awards to 13 artists from 12 different states in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments as master artists, teachers, innovators and protectors of cultural heritage. She will also receive a \$10,000 grant and hopes to use the money to publish a book on the art of "nyzynka" embroidery.

- In order to better define the college's identity to prospective students and more accurately depict its position in the academic community, Manor Junior College changed its name to Manor College this autumn. With the name change, Manor hopes to discourage students who thought attending Manor would be like an extension of high school or attending a prep school and encourage prospective students who are better suited for a small school and who have achieved scholastically.

- "The Black Book of Communism: Crimes, Terror, Repression" has been published in English translation by Harvard University Press, and is now available in North America. The 878-page publication is a well-documented (many sources are from Soviet archives) review of Communist crimes on four continents. Its authors, some of them former Communists, are scholars associated with the Centre d'Étude d'Histoire et Sociologie du Communisme and its review, Communisme.

- The new millennium now has an official egg-decorator. Maria Wowk, 73, set out two years ago to produce 2,000 pysanky as symbols of new life in commemoration of the coming epoch. This monumental undertaking has been completed, and Mrs. Wowk's home is now filled with pysanky. She was inspired in her effort by seeing Pope John Paul II on television, urging his followers to make spiritual endeavors.

- Larissa Paschyn, 14, a student of Parma Senior High School, competed in the Discovery Young Scientists Challenge in Washington. Larissa was selected from over 50,000 students around the country that competed at state and regional science fairs; 4,000 of these students were selected for the Discovery Young Scientist Challenge; and 40 finalists competed in the final challenge held October 13-17 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. Scholarships were presented to the top 10 winners along with a variety of special awards. Larissa's project was titled "Wetland or Wasteland." She was awarded 10th place in the overall competition. In addition, she won a special award offered by the Travel Channel: the "Dream Science Trip." Finalists completed an essay describing their dream science trip, and Larissa wrote that her desire was to visit a site on the Dnipro River in Ukraine where remnants of the Trypillian culture were discovered in 1893.

- Michael Furdyk, a 16-year-old Internet entrepreneur, made headlines across Canada when he and his two high-school-aged partners sold their venture of six web sites and six e-mail newsletters, called MyDesktop.com, to one of the pioneers of the on-line publishing industry, internet.com LLC of Westport, Conn. for more than \$1 million (Canadian).

We mourn their passing

During 1999 we mourned the passing of political leaders, scholars and people from the arts, community activists and leading members of the community, and other prominent individuals.

In 1999 we learned of the deaths of the following:

- Wasyl Sharvan, 77, Ukrainian radio program producer and community activist – Williamsville, N.Y., December 10, 1998.

- Dr. Roman Holiat, 76, journalist and community activist – New York, December 24, 1998.

- Maria Sokil Rudnytsky, 96, renowned lyric soprano and opera singer – Youngstown, Ohio, January 20.

- Dr. Alexander Bohdan Chernyk, 61, physician and surgeon, community leader – Schwenksville, Pa., January 23.

- Lidia Burachynska, 97, editor and ethnographer; held top positions in the Ukrainian National Women's League of America and the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations – Philadelphia, January 29.

- Ivan Koshelivets, 91, literary critic and scholar; founding editor of the journal Suchasnist – Munich, Germany, February 5.

- Prof. Myroslaw Semchysyn, 89, pedagogue and scholar – Chicago, February 5.

- Stefan G. Czerkas, 18, honor student at Boca Ciega High School and scout camp counselor – in automobile accident; St. Petersburg, Fla., March 17.

- Vyacheslav Chornovil, 61, journalist and literary critic, former Soviet political prisoner and leader of the Rukh Party – in an automobile accident outside Kyiv, March 26.

- Iwan Wynnyk, 84, community activist who held top positions in leading New York-based Ukrainian diaspora organization – New York, April 16.

- Petro Mirchuk, 85, survivor of Nazi concentration camps, author and a leading member of the Ukrainian Liberation Movement – Philadelphia, May 16.

- Robert M. Yaremko, 55, professor of psychology at San Diego State University and community activist – Rancho San Diego, June 18.

- Julian K Jastremsky, 89, architect in industrial, commercial and church design – New York, June 18.

- Danylo Husar Struk, 59, editor-in-chief of the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, professor of Ukrainian language and literature at the University of Toronto, poet and translator – Munich, June 19.

- Edward Dmytryk, 90, versatile film director who worked with some of Hollywood's biggest stars; investigated, as one of the "Hollywood 10 by the House Un-American Activities Committee in the 1940s – Encino, Calif., July 1.

- Mykola Dosinchuk-Czorny, 81, founder of the New York School of Bandura and editor of the Bandura Magazine – New York, July 3.

- Dr. Ivan Makarewycz, 85, physician, initiator and founding member of the parish and cultural complex of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hunter, N.Y. – Astoria, N.Y., July 10.

- Walter J. Korchynsky, 48, three-term Ukrainian National Association advisor, Syracuse District chairman and president of UNA Branch 271 – Elmira, N.Y., July 26.

- Anatoliy Solovyanenko, 66, renowned Ukrainian opera singer – at his summer home outside Kyiv, July 30.

- Ivan Bohdan Semen Zayac, 88, architect with leading U.S. architectural firms – New York City, August 5.

- Bohdan Mykytiuk, 70, president of the Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society – Toronto, September 6.

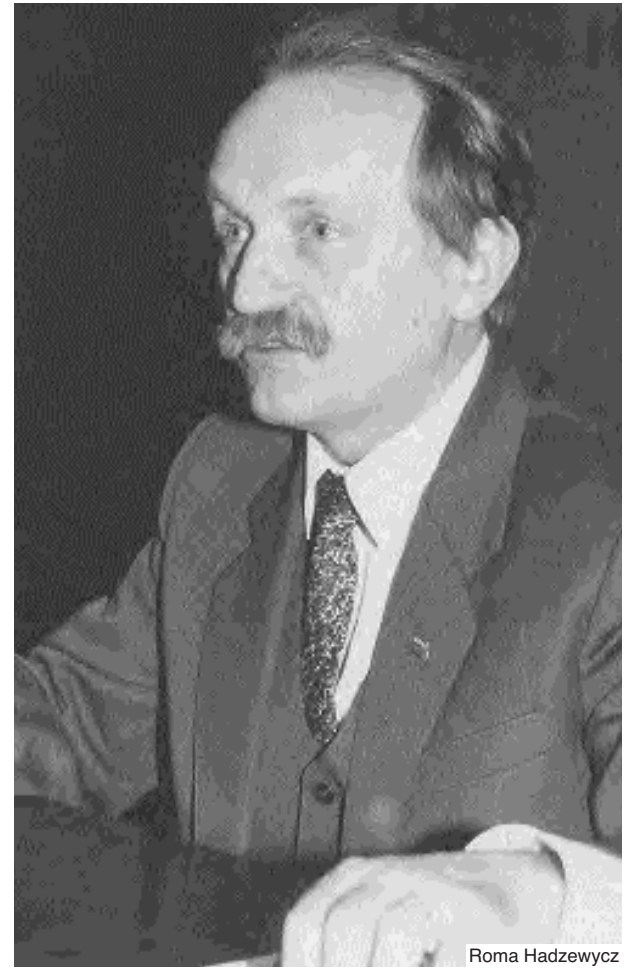
- The Rev. John Stuchlak CSsR, 70, assistant pastor of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Newark, N.J. – Bethlehem, Pa., September 15.

- Dr. Michael Huk, 79, anesthesiologist and supporter of Ukrainian causes – Cambridge, Mass., October 2.

- Laurence Decore, 59, influential Canadian Ukrainian politician, former mayor of Edmonton, three-term chairman of the Canadian Consultative Council on Multiculturalism and leader of Alberta's Liberal Party – Edmonton, November 6.

- Dr. Romana Nawrocky, 78, activist on behalf of St. Sophia Association of Ukrainian Catholics – Philadelphia, November 16.

- Daria Karanowych, 91, pianist and pedagogue, past president of the Ukrainian Music Institute of America – Newark, N.J., December 9.



Roma Hadzewycz

Vyacheslav Chornovil, 1937-1999.

Meanwhile, at The Weekly

Whew! This section brings our gargantuan yearender to a close. Fifty-six pages – beating by 12 the number of pages in last year's record-breaking issue. (But, hey, records are made to be broken, right?)

We also published more total pages than ever before: 1,148 for the entire year (compared to last year's even 1,000 if you count the 12-page issue on Ukrainian National Association scholarship recipients that we produced for our publisher). And we brought you 1,556 articles (in 1998 it was 1,406).

Our website (www.ukrweekly.com), which is prepared in our "spare time," now contains 5,435 full-text articles (not counting the 276 excerpted articles for the current year) and is continuously being updated with excerpts of each week's top stories, plus new additions to the archive section of past issues. We're proud to report that the site gets approximately 9,000 hits per week.

All of this wasn't easy...

We were already down one staffer from 1998 when we got the word from our publisher that our Toronto Press Bureau correspondent Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj was being laid off as of October 1. He continued working for us on a part-time basis through the end of the year to complete several projects, plus this yearender.

We simply had to do more with less. There were no questions about how we were to do it – it just had to be done ... Thanks to the dedication of our staff, it was.

1999 brought a refocusing on our community, as we ran more stories from local communities and succeeded in having more local contributors writing in about local functions, youth organizations, etc.

In February, on Valentine's Day to be exact, we initiated "UKELODEON," as we explained "for the love of our children" and in order get "the next generation" involved in our community and our newspaper. The debut issue brought us news from schools in Newark, N.J., and Palatine, Ill., a letter from North Royalton, Ohio, and a story about a roller hockey pioneer from Australia. The issue introduced the popular "Mishanyna" feature and "Mykola Myshka," who checks in each month with a mysterious question, a message or an assignment for his young readers. The special section is the result of a collaboration between editors of The Weekly, teacher Lydia Smyk and, of course, its readers.

Oh yes, an explanation of the name of our monthly children's and youth page for those not in the know: UKELODEON rhymes with nickelodeon. Yes, that's a kids' network (spelled with a capital "N"), but the original word referred to an early movie theater that charged a nickel for admission. According to The American Heritage

1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Dictionary of the English Language, 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 a public space where our youth, from kindergartners to teens, can come to learn, to share information and experiences, and to keep in touch with each other.

A special issue published in April reported about the life of the late Vyacheslav Chornovil. That same month a special section focused on the 13th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

We ran our third annual seasonal supplement titled "A Ukrainian Summer" in our May 2 edition. Once again, various community activists and organizations submitted news about special summertime activities geared to all age groups of Ukrainians throughout North America.

In terms of philately, we let our readers get in on the action when our columnist Inger Kuzych invited readers to vote for their favorite stamp of 1998 (a centerfold of stamp designs graced on May 16 issue.). The winner of the Narbut Prize was announced in our September 12 issue: the souvenir sheet commemorating the 350th anniversary of the beginning of the Ukrainian struggle for freedom under Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky.

Extensive reports on the mammoth Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations held in the Washington area were published in July in special sections in two successive issues of our newspaper. That coverage was particularly significant as we worked closely with all participating organizations to plan coverage of their respective sessions and activities. The result was an example of the very thing that the Joint Conferences sought to promote: synergy. By the way, The Ukrainian Weekly was one of the co-sponsors of that landmark undertaking.

Our August 22 issue marking the anniversary of Ukraine's independence offered a youth angle plus the views of former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller, and in September we carried an up-close look at the biennial convention of the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation.

On the occasion of our 66th anniversary, on October 3 we published the results of our 65th anniversary questionnaire and the results showed, once again, that our readers are a pretty satisfied group.

We had asked readers what types of news or features they regularly read, and the following were the top 10 responses: 1. all (read the paper from front to back); 2. "Newsbriefs"; 3. letters to the editor; 4. news from Ukraine; 5. "Faces and Places"; 6. "Preview of Events"; 7. editorials; 8. commentary ("News and Views"); 9. arts and culture; 10. columnists (unspecified).

The Weekly is often cited in other media. Following are a few examples of how The Weekly's reach extends far beyond our own community.

The Weekly began the year auspiciously, as it was cited in a January 3 article in The New York Times that reported on ethnic newspapers published in New Jersey. The Ukrainian Weekly's editor-in-chief was interviewed for the feature, which appeared on the front page of the New Jersey section. Headlined "Newspapers that speak tongues," the article by George James cited "Two for Ukrainians," noting that the Ukrainian National Association publishes two papers: Svoboda and The Ukrainian Weekly. The article went on to mention that Svoboda was established in 1893 and until July 1998 was a daily; and that The Weekly was founded in 1933 and "much of its early coverage was devoted to a famine in Ukraine that was not being reported by the mainstream press."

The Weekly's editor-in-chief was quoted as saying: "I love this job. I love this community. Every week I see the results of my efforts, and every week I feel I've given something back to my community. I feel the paper is needed and I'm doing a service."

Copies of The Weekly editorial on "The Kuchma mandate" (November 21, 1999) were part of a packet of materials on the presidential election in Ukraine sent in December by the National Democratic Institute to American opinion leaders and policy makers, including members of Congress, scholars, the press and non-governmental organizations.

The Weekly is included on the CD-ROM and online database called Ethnic NewsWatch, which provides access to full-text articles appearing in more than 100 ethnic newspapers and journals. In addition, our newspaper is listed also in various news media guides.

Here in Parsippany, in between putting out The Weekly each week, we concerned ourselves with funding. We put together several promotions to attract readers, we promoted The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund, and we worked with our

administration to increase advertising income.

Our administration – which includes administrator Walter Honcharyk, advertising manager Maria Oscislowski, circulation/subscriptions manager Mariyka Pendzola and administrative clerk Roman Pawlyshyn – deserves thanks for exemplary cooperation during difficult times.

We spelled out some of our problems to our readers in editorials published on October 3 and 10. We told them our newspaper is facing financial difficulties and that the reasons are both simple and complex. The response from readers has been gratifying, leading us to hope that perhaps the tide is turning ...

Our sincere thanks to our all patrons whose contributions this year pushed our press fund total to nearly \$12,000. Indeed, there have been a number of major donations in support of our work. Two donations of \$500 each were received for The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund from the Ukrainian Heritage Foundation, thanks to Eugene Woloshyn, and UNA Branch 20 in Michigan, thanks to Roman Kuropas. Attorney Bohdanna Pochoday donated \$5,000 toward the educational work of The Ukrainian Weekly through the Ukrainian National Foundation.

In Kyiv, in an effort to decrease expenses and increase income, bureau chief Roman Woronowycz found good officemates in the Associated Press. Thus, AP Photo now shares the apartment in the city center that serves as The Weekly's office. Thankfully, for several years now, we've had a very good relationship with AP, most notably photographer Efrem Lukatsky, whose exceptional photos often appear on the pages of our newspaper (many, in fact, appear in this issue). The Kyiv Press Bureau survived the budget ax in December when UNA General Assembly members voted overwhelmingly, not once, but twice to save it.

Back in Parsippany, Irene Jarosewich was busy on covering Church issues, the world of academia and just about everything – except sports.

On a personal note, we are privileged to forward to our readers a wedding announcement: Editor Irene Jarosewich's special day was on November 27. And, though she is now married to Alexander Burakovsky, do NOT call her Mrs. Burakovsky. She insists she has not changed identities ... The wedding was a Weekly reunion of sorts as our staffers – current and former (Khristina Lew and Chrystyna Lapychak were both present) – attended the beautiful wedding in Washington with a reception on the shore of the Potomac River.

Our de facto arts editor, Ika Koznarska Casanova, was busier than ever, it seemed, as developments on the art scene multiplied (check out the survey on the arts, and you'll see what we mean). She wrote, she edited, she rewrote, she translated, she "organized" articles and reviews ... and then she proofread.

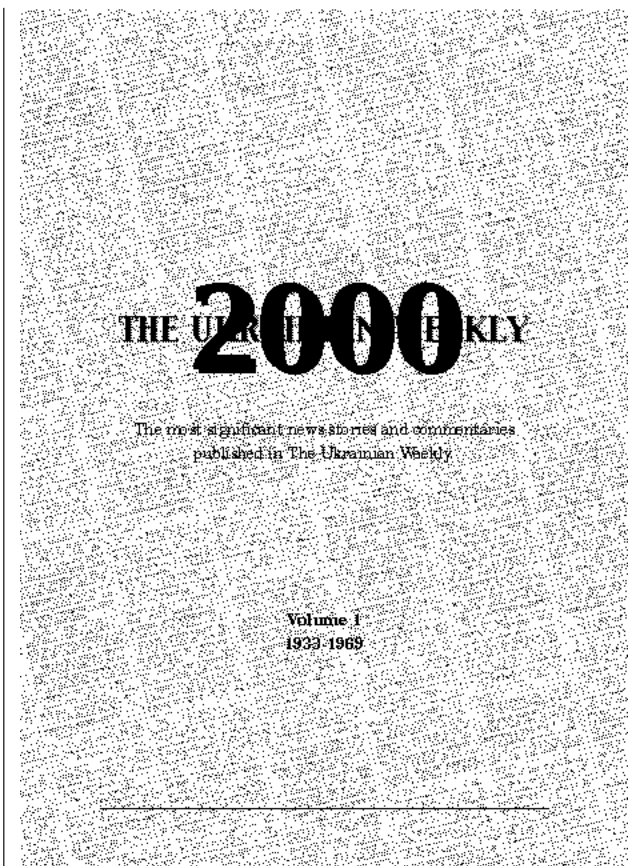
Our production staff – consisting of our "typesetting department," managed by Awilda Rolon (a Weekly veteran who has been with us since 1980), and our "layout department," managed by Serge (Sid) Polishchuk, who is also our webmaster (he's been with us since 1992) – have always been and continue to be outstanding. Boy are we lucky!

The Weekly's editor-in-chief went on the road, so to speak, addressing audiences in Chicago, New York and San Francisco. On March 21 she spoke in English on "The Ukrainian American Press: Do we Need it?" at an event organized by the Chicago District Committee of the Ukrainian National Association; she spoke on the same topic, but in Ukrainian, in New York on May 23, at the invitation of the New York District Committee.

Then, on October 9, she was one of the featured speakers at "Ukraine and the West in the New Millennium," the conference organized in San Francisco by the Ukrainian Professional and Business Group of North California and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America. Her topic was the status and future of the Ukrainian diaspora in the United States. Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Anton Buteiko, who was the keynote speaker at that conference, presented Certificates of Honor "for personal contributions to strengthening ties between Ukraine and the U.S." to The Weekly's editor-in-chief and Dr. Roman Goy, chief organizer and coordinator of the Joint Conferences of Ukrainian American Organizations.

We were gratified when Dr. Goy, who was a special guest speaker at the San Francisco conference, noted in his remarks that "Our own Ukrainian American press is the lifeblood of our community. It binds us and promotes our common Ukrainian identity. We need to appreciate how important our press is to our survival as a community – before we lose it."

A word is in order here about our loyal regular correspondents: Yaro Bihun in Washington, Chris Guly in Ottawa, our columnists – Myron Kuropas, Andrew Fedynsky, Mr. Kuzych, Orysia Paszczak Tracz, Helen Smindak, Ihor Stelmach – and commentators, numerous



Cover of The Ukrainian Weekly's forthcoming compilation of top stories and commentaries.

free-lancers and community activists who have a special connection to this newspaper. We and our readers greatly appreciate their fruitful efforts.

Thanks are due also to other contributors: Bohdanna Wolanska, Oles Kuzyszyn, Halyna Holubec, Rostyk Chomiak, Maria Lewytzkyj, David Marples, Frank Sysyn, Marta Kolomayets, Areta Trytjak, Camilla Huk, Yuriy Diakunchak and Handzia Sawyckyj, as well as Stefan Korshak and Pavel Polityuk in Kyiv. And there are many, many others who have contributed to The Weekly during 1999.

This yearender would not be complete without a mention of our various helpers. During the summer we were lucky to have two sisters alternating and sometimes working together: Taisa and Olenka Welhasch. One fine result of their collaboration was their "Vox Populi" feature on Ukrainian American youths' feelings about Ukraine's independence, published in our issue dedicated to Ukrainian Independence Day.

In the fall we found another intern: Myroslaw Bytz, who helped us tremendously with proofreading duties and other editorial tasks. Somewhere in between there was also Tania Koziupa, who filled in when our other helpers were not available. Thanks to them all.

As the year drew to a close, we were busy working on our two-volume book, "The Ukrainian Weekly 2000," which will encompass the major events covered by The Weekly during its 66-plus years of existence. Volume 1, to be released early next year, will cover events between 1933, when The Weekly was founded, through the 1960s. Volume 2, to be released later in the year 2000, will cover the 1970s through the 1990s, thus bringing that century to a close. But, more on that in the new year.

As December came, it was time to focus on this "1999 Year in Review" issue. But, now we are done with the last issue of 1999, the century and the millennium. Whew!

In closing, Dear Readers, we wish each and every one of you a joyous Christmas season and hope that Y2K brings you good luck, good health and good news!

PS: A special thank-you to our UKELODEON readers who sent us their decorated ornaments. They're so original and beautiful!

Who the...

... heck wrote all this?

The materials in this special end-of-the-year section of The Ukrainian Weekly were prepared by our editorial staff at our home office in Parsippany, N.J., Editor-in-Chief Roma Hadzewycz, and Editors Irene Jarosewich and Ika Koznarska Casanova; Editor Roman Woronowycz of our Kyiv Press Bureau; Andrij Kudla Wynnyckyj of Toronto; our Washington correspondent, Yaro Bihun; and our Ottawa correspondent, Christopher Guly.

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New program provides life-saving heart surgery

GLEN ROCK, N.J. – Through Ukrainian Gift of Life's newest program, Operation Child Cardio-Care, Marian, Volodymyr and Marta will soon have long-awaited life-saving heart surgery.

The lack of technology in Ukraine requires some children with major heart defects to have operations outside the country. Children with certain heart defects, however, can undergo surgery in Ukraine once the financing of costs for surgical equipment and supplies is made available to the medical team. The parish of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Bayonne, N.J., the parish of the Holy Cross in Astoria, N.Y. and an "in lieu of birthday gifts" donation provided funds sufficient to pay for each child's specific surgical needs.

The Ukrainian Gift of Life Inc. (UGOL) was organized in 1996 to help the children in Ukraine obtain required heart surgeries that were not feasible because of financial or technological factors. Since June 1997, the UGOL has arranged surgeries in the United States for 39 children from Ukraine.

The organization's commitment to save these children also includes enhancing the medical effort within Ukraine. To this end, UGOL has funded the publication of the translation of a leading diagnostic textbook distributed to all the clinics in Ukraine. Operation Child Cardio-Care further enhances this mission.

UGOL cooperates with Kardio, a unique organization in Ukraine, that was founded in conjunction with the Red Cross of Ukraine in June 1995. It is based at the Lviv Cardio-Vascular Surgery Center and is funded by private donations.

Although doctors are willing to donate their services, the number of operations that can be performed at this center and throughout Ukraine is limited by the lack of financial resources, limited governmental medical support and minimal non governmental contribution. Patients must provide their own surgical supplies and medications, which can cost up to \$1,000 for heart surgery. When a monthly salary in Ukraine averages \$70, raising this sum of money for surgery is a tremendous hardship.

Churches, schools, organizations or individuals in the United States can help cover costs of surgery for a specific child in Ukraine through Operation Child Cardio-Care. UGOL provides the sponsoring group with information about a child from among cases reviewed by medical professionals. Members of an advisory board review surgery cost and authorize payment of expenses paid through a trust fund established for these specific contributions.

Pastor Marian Struch of the parish in Bayonne has given his wholehearted support to the campaign to raise \$1,000 for 10-year old Marian Zahorujko's surgery. Elizabeth Siryj, president of the Rosary Society, and Justyna Petrynyk accepted the challenge and achieved their goal.

The pastor of Holy Cross, the Rev. Philip Sandrick OSBM, also is launching a parish-wide project. Parishioners have received materials from UGOL and anxiously await more letters and pictures from the young patient Volodymyr Plish.

UGOL Trustee Stefania Bryant had a surprise birthday celebration. Birthday donations, in lieu of personal gifts, totaled \$1,000, giving a third child, 16-year-old Marta Lytvyn, an opportunity for surgery. "What better way to celebrate my birthday than to give a child the gift of hope for a full and productive life?" she said as she announced her decision.

For information, call (201) 652-5505; tax-deductible contributions may be sent to: Ukrainian Gift of Life Inc., 233 Rock Road, Suite 333, Glen Rock, NJ 07451.

MUSIC REVIEW: SUM's Prolisok choir releases debut recording

by Bohdanna Wolanska

NEW YORK – After a period of treading water culturally, the Ukrainian community in America is witnessing a burst of musical activity, as evidenced by a veritable plethora of new CD and tape releases by various artists, both from Ukraine and the local diaspora. There are recordings for every taste: folk, pop, and classical music, vocal, choral and instrumental albums, pieces performed in traditional style, and some in a synthesis of traditional, “Americanized” and original styles.

A recent entry in the latter category comes from Prolisok, the girls' choir of the New York branch of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) conducted by Andrij Stasiw.

The cover of Prolisok's debut album indicates the synthesis of approaches: a delicate blue flower exuberantly opening its petals to show its radiant golden center. Slowly it dawns on one that the cover is blue and yellow – traditional Ukrainian patriotic values cleverly presented with grace and originality, without the militant severity characteristic of much of the immigrant generation.

And so it is with the program. It starts with a pious “Molytva” (Prayer) and ends with the SUM anthem, “Vhoru Prapory” (Raise the Flags). In between, the indomitable anthem, “Oy u Luzi Chervona Kalyna” (The Guelder Rose in the Meadow) and a bombastic military march, “Svityt Misiatsi” (The Moons are Shining) mix comfortably with dreamy contemporary Ukrainian pop ballad “Chaika Stepova” (Seagull of the Steppes), a spirited rock-'n'-roll version of the folksong “Oy na Hori Dosch Ide” (Rain Falling on the Mountain), the moving contemporary anthem “Ukraino,” the elemental, heart-tugging folksong “Zydy, ta Zydy” (Rise Bright Moon) in eastern Ukrainian dialect, an intriguing, harmonically restless jazz version of the otherwise hackneyed “Choven Khytayetsia” (The Boat is Greatly Rocking), a rhythmically infectious Spanish song “O Senore” and six more.

This eclectic mix of selections is cheerfully rendered by 23 charming young ladies age 10 to 13. What a

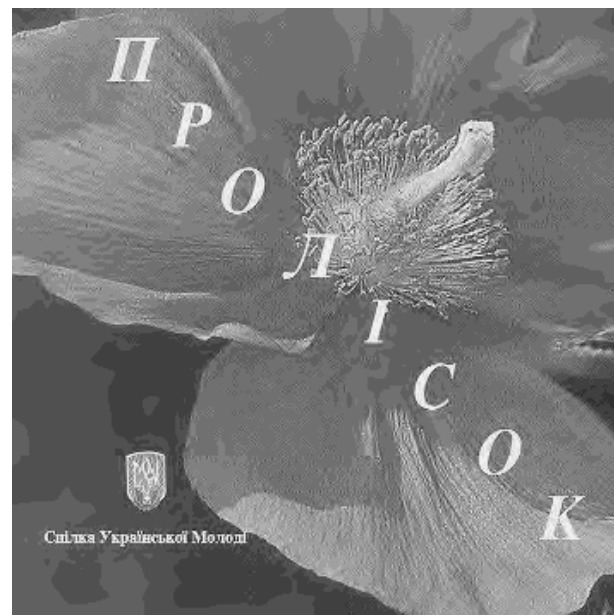
delight to see those children many of whom were scurrying about underfoot in the SUM building 10 years ago, become full-fledged members of their community as teens! Mostly third-generation Ukrainians, very much at home in an American environment, they are still conscious of their musical-cultural heritage and obviously proud of it.

From its first uncertain, amateurish steps five years ago, Prolisok has matured into a self-assured, energetic, and musically more secure ensemble under the leadership of a young, but far from inexperienced conductor, Mr. Stasiw. His deceptively boyish (impish, even) appearance belies his many years of music-making at the keyboard (jazz and improvisation), at the podium (church choir), and at the microphone (recording artist on various pop albums, including those of Olya Chodoba-Fryz, the duo of Darka and Slavko). He has obviously struck a chord with his young charges, and the performances exude high levels of energy and commitment. Intonation is amazingly accurate for a non-professional choir, even in recreating the quixotically refreshing harmonic meanderings of “Choven Khytayetsia”. Enunciation is admirable, even though some American accents do occasionally introduce.

Wisely, the choir did not attempt to bite off more than it could chew. Most of the arrangements are straightforward with basic chord progressions and simple two-part harmonies. Interpretation is rudimentary, but the music is rendered with an innocent joy, confidence and natural enthusiasm that provides infectious (reminds me of another group that started one generation ago, a personal Promin favorite of mine).

Mr. Stasiw shows off some of his casually cool piano technique, but without overbearing the vocals. Two soloists, Natalka Rojowsky and Michelle Soroka, sing sweetly and clearly with unpainted sopranos. BeSharp Studio's Slavko Halatyn provides his usual high caliber engineering.

Regrettably, the album lists no author credits. I take the clever “Choven Khytayetsia” to be an original Stasiw arrangement. Others are authored compositions as well.



True, some of the songs are in the public domain, but with such a varied group of selections, some information would be welcome. One can sense the involvement of this youngest generation of musicians in the musical milieu that gave them rise. Perhaps they can express their gratitude in their musical roots by giving a symbolic copy of their new album to the uncredited composer of “Zirvalasia Khurtovyna” (The Storm Arose), the venerable musicologist and composer Vasyl Vytvytsky, who today lies gravely ill and could use a little cheering up.

If you could use a little cheering up yourself or want to buy some gifts to cheer up friends or family for Christmas, you can order this album. You won't be sorry. Send \$15 per CD or \$10 per audiocassette plus \$2 shipping (\$5 if you want it sooner) to: Ivanka Zajac, UAYA New York Branch, 136 Second Ave., Second Floor, New York, NY 10003. Make checks payable to Prolisok Girls' Choir.

St. Andrew's Society to publish encyclopedia of Church history

RUTHERFORD, N.J. – St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Society has announced that several institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NANU) have agreed to work jointly on the publication of an Encyclopedia of the History of the Ukrainian Church.

The project resulted from a conference, attended by more than 650 scholars, that was held in February 1998 in Kyiv on the topic of the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Christ. After the conference, a working group of scholars was formed to develop the encyclopedia project.

Dr. A.V. Denysenko, editor of the journal Pamiat Stolit (The Memory of Centuries), has been chosen to be the encyclopedia's editor-in-chief. Among the Church scholars asked to work on the project are the Rev. Dr. Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and director of the Institute of the Ukrainian Church History at the Lviv Theological Academy, and Archimandrite Dr. Andriy Partykevich, who has already begun work on a history of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.

The editorial board includes Academician I. F. Kuras, vice-president of the NANU; Prof. P. C. Sokhan, chairman, Institute of Ukrainian Archeology of the NANU; Prof. V.S. Chesko, chairman, Institute of Biographical Research of the NANU;

Prof. A.M. Kolodny, vice-chairman, Institute of Philosophy and director of the Department of Religion of the NANU; Dr. Y.P. Dashkevych, president, Nestor the Chronicler Historical Society; and Dr. V.P. Lahotsky, chairman, State Research Institute of Archives and Documents.

The editorial board estimates that the encyclopedia will be approximately 1,000 pages long, published in a large format with numerous illustrations as well as color and black-and-white plates.

St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Society has agreed to assist in the fund-raising for this project. For example, for a donation of \$250 to the encyclopedia, the contributor's name and that of the family will be included in the first edition of the encyclopedia. Furthermore, copies may be ordered for \$50. If a copy is purchased for a library, educational institution or friends and family in Ukraine, the contributor's name will be inscribed on the overleaf page of the encyclopedia. Copies purchased for shipment outside Ukraine cost \$75.

All contributions are tax-deductible. To make a donation or to purchase a copy of the encyclopedia, please send checks or money orders, made payable to St. Andrew's Society-Encyclopedia, to: Vitali Vizir, Treasurer, St. Andrew's Society, 1023 Yorkshire Drive, Los Altos, CA 94024.

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Former students from Berchtesgaden hold reunion at Soyuzivka

by Ihor and Natalia Lysyj

AUSTIN, Tex. – November – “Lystopad” – the month of the falling leaves. A scent of crispness in the air forecasting the onset of cold weather, and the autumn sun guided travelers to Soyuzivka for a reunion of the graduates and former students of the Ukrainian “Gymnasium” (high school) in the Displaced Persons Camp Orlyk in Berchtesgaden, Germany. The event was to commemorate and to honor the 50th anniversary of the last graduating class of the camp in 1949.

Nearly 70 participants arrived from as far as California, Texas, Florida, Maryland, Michigan and Canada, as well as from surrounding states, during the weekend of November 5-7. Participants arriving on Friday afternoon greeted new arrivals, reminisced and socialized from dinner time into late evening hours at Veselka, where a video of the reunion held two years ago was played.

After registration on Saturday morning, the participants viewed exhibits of the gymnasia and DP camp life memorabilia, which included books authored by a former professor, photo albums and diaries documenting events at the gymnasium from 1947 through 1949. Among some unusual items on display was a hand-crafted suitcase, fashioned out of cardboard, covered on the outside with white sacking materials, and lined inside with Christmas wrapping paper depicting red candles on a golden background. In this small suitcase Olha Hladyshovska-Sawchuk carried her belongings in transit to the United States. Surrounded by colorful photos of Berchtesgaden vistas, a poster of the 1949 “matura” candidates was displayed, as well as paintings and books authored by the graduates during their professional careers.

On Saturday afternoon Wolodymyr Sharko, organizer of the event and a member of the class of 1949, opened the formal session of the reunion at the Veselka auditorium by reading a letter of congratulations and greetings to the assembly from Wolodymyr Dmytrijuk, also a member of the graduating class who could not attend. A letter from Nadia Naorlevych-Zinkewycz, who now lives in Kyiv, represented those who chose to participate actively in the rebirth of the nation and become full-time residents of Ukraine. Her letter was read by Inha Ivashchenko-Schmorhun. Mrs. Naorlevych-Zinkewycz invited everyone to visit Ukraine as often as possible and to stay there as long as feasible to help rebuild a civil society in a devastated land.

Dr. Lubomyr Wynar, professor of history, addressed the assembly on the behalf of the graduating class of 1949. He emphasized the fact that both the faculty and student body of the gymnasium represented all major regions of Ukraine, creating a best test sample of the idea of “sobornist,” an elusive concept of national unity and solidarity; an idea in contrast to provincialism. In his opinion, this representative sample had passed the historical test.

Ms. Hladyshovska-Sawchuk, the in-place representa-



Participants of the reunion of former students of the “gymnasium” in Berchtesgaden.

tive of the gymnasia in the area and organizer of numerous previous reunions, spoke on behalf of the eighth class, emphasizing the friendship and camaraderie that has bound the group for half a century.

Ihor Lysyj spoke for the seventh class. Drawing an analogy to life and accomplishments of the great explorer Roald Amundsen, he stated that in a way the graduates were all explorers, and like Mr. Amundsen have traversed the land, the seas, and the glaciers of unknown. Many have reached personal “South Poles” and like Mr. Amundsen are standing today under the banners of their own accomplishments.

Oleksij Shevchenko represented the graduating class of 1949. His message emphasized the intricacies of the faculty-student relationships, and the prevailing camaraderie of the student body.

Speakers on behalf of the former students of fifth, fourth, third and second classes were Nadia Hladyshovska-Shmigel, Lydia Makarushka-Jarosewich, and Oksana Logush-Fedorowycz. They emphasized the life-long friendships, that brought the participants to Soyuzivka. Miroslav Labunka spoke for the friends of the gymnasia.

Roman Sawycky, representing the first class, remembered the strict discipline prevailing in the life of the

younger students. Strong disciplinary tongue lashings made a lasting impression on the young lad when he learned that it was better to have been called affectionately a “mushka” (little fly) than a “vosh” (louse) for transgressions. Larissa Zubal-Bilaniuk, representing the kindergarten in Berchtesgaden, promised to organize a reunion in 2010.

The next reunion is planned for late April or early May of 2000 with a visit to Berchtesgaden. The trip will begin in Lviv, continue on to Krakow, Vienna, Berchtesgaden, Oberammergau and Mittenwald, and end in Munich.

After a photo session of the graduates and former students, the celebrants turned to some light-hearted socializing prior to the evening program.

Bohdan Markiv officiated as the master of ceremonies during the formal program which began with a piano performance by Yuriy Olijnyk. Ola Herasymenko, Merited Artist of Ukraine, enchanted the listeners with the mastery and virtuosity of the bandura. Recently Ms. Herasymenko participated in the Festival of Ukrainian Arts from the Ethnographic Lands and the Diaspora and has been awarded a presidential citation and a medal by Leonid Kuchma. The Ukrainian government also awarded her husband Yuriy Olijnyk a certificate of merit and a

(Continued on page 48)

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Newsbriefs

(Continued from page 2)

also nothing to halt" for the state. Mr. Kinakh was to visit Moscow this week to discuss the restructuring of Ukraine's gas debt. (RFE/RL Newsline)

... denies stealing Russian gas

KYIV - An unidentified Ukrainian government official has "resolutely denied" allegations that Ukraine has stolen Russian gas, Eastern Economist reported on December 13. Those allegations were also rejected by Naftohaz Ukrainy board member Bohdan Krupskyi, who said on December 10 that his company signed an agreement with Gazprom allowing Ukraine larger supplies of Russian gas in 1999 than had been agreed to earlier. (RFE/RL Newsline)

EU adopts strategy for Ukraine

HELSINKI - The European Union's Helsinki summit on December 11 adopted a strategy for developing relations with Ukraine over the next four years, but made no mention of offering EU membership to that country, Reuters reported. The document merely acknowledged Ukraine's European aspirations, welcomed its "pro-European choice," and outlined the basis for cooperation between Kyiv and the EU. "This is a step forward in our relations," Finnish Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen commented. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Foreigners must register with the police

KYIV - The National Bank of Ukraine sent a letter to commercial banks, containing the Internal Affairs Ministry's regulations regarding the status of private individuals in Ukraine, whereby foreigners can prove their identity by passports which have been registered by the police upon their arrival in Ukraine. In line with Internal Affairs Ministry procedures, foreigners without diplomatic status must register their passports with the police within three days of their arrival and for the term of validity of their visas. Foreigners studying in Ukraine must register their passports for the term of their studies, regardless of the terms of their visas. Foreigners arriving in Ukraine to work or to conduct business must have their passports registered for the term of their work permits or permits to conduct business, or for any other terms specified in the applications by Ukrainian resident private individuals and legal entities. Foreigners residing permanently in Ukraine can prove their identity by their national passports and residence cards issued by the police. (Eastern Economist)

International support for reform program

KYIV - Ukrainian presidential spokesman Oleksander Martynenko said President Leonid Kuchma's reform program received support from world political and financial leaders during his recent visits to Moscow, Brussels, Paris and Washington, Interfax reported on December 9. Mr. Martynenko added that "it is possible today to speak about the reality of Ukraine's integration into the European community and about the fact that Russia and the U.S. are strategic partners of our country." According to the presidential spokesman, Ukraine may expect a \$370 million loan from the World Bank in 2000. The loan was agreed to at a meeting between President Kuchma and World Bank President James Wolfenson in Washington. (RFE/RL Newsline)

NBU refuses to prevent fall of hryvnia

KYIV - Traders at the interbank exchange were selling the hryvnia at 5.28-5.55 to \$1 (U.S.) on December 9, while street traders offered an exchange rate of 5.75 hrv to \$1, the Associated Press reported. The National Bank said it does not plan

to intervene, however, and expects the hryvnia to strengthen soon. A bank official quoted by the agency said the factors forcing the currency's decline are concerns over the Parliament's possible failure to adopt a budget and over Ukraine's debts. (RFE/RL Newsline)

Hryvnia not likely to return to corridor

KYIV - The hryvnia exchange rate on December 1 stabilized at 4.95-4.97 to \$1 (U.S.) at the interbank currency exchange, Interfax reported. According to currency market dealers interviewed by the agency, the hryvnia is not likely to return to the exchange corridor of 3.4-4.6 hrv/\$1 set by the government in February. According to one dealer, there is no sense in setting a new exchange corridor. "Earlier the corridors were declared only for foreign investors. But now there are virtually no foreign investors on the market. As for domestic dealers, they have long ceased to believe in any corridor," he commented. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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. 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 U.S.). The state has retained a controlling interest in 20 of Ukraine's 27 regional energy suppliers. (RFE/RL Newsline)

A decade...

(Continued from page 2)

oppressed did not end just because the Berlin Wall fell and those who had called themselves Communists now call themselves something else.

Largely because neither the international community nor the people in many post-Communist countries were prepared to acknowledge the impact of communism on the minds and behavior of people living under it, there has been no genuine de-communication either of personnel or of ideas in the governing stratum.

In many post-Communist countries, especially those in which communism was viewed as something indigenous rather than imposed, the same people are in office today as under communism. They now style themselves as "democrats," but in many cases they behave in ways little or no different from the days when they called themselves something else.

And, equally important, the people living under their rule continue to suffer from many of the things they suffered from in the past, even if those responsible now use different words. In some countries, like Uzbekistan, a new gulag is being constructed; in others, the continuities with the past are less striking but equally significant.

As a result, those concerned about human freedom are increasingly being forced to recognize that the defeat of communism did not mark the final victory in that struggle.

Not surprisingly, some of them have grown discouraged and even opted out. But a growing number of people now understand that they must continue the fight, lest the victory of a decade ago be undermined by their own inaction or the actions of others.

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Detroit branch of Plast celebrates its 50th anniversary

by Maria Lisowsky

DETROIT – The local branch of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization celebrated its 50th anniversary on Saturday and Sunday, October 16-17.

It was 1949 and the post-World War II immigrants in Detroit were the first in the United States to establish a center for Plast activities and headquarters to continue the work of Dr. Oleksander Tysovsky, who founded Plast in 1911 in Ukraine.

Anniversary events began at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church in Warren, Mich., on Saturday, October 16, with a 2 p.m. divine liturgy, followed by a "panakhyda" (memorial service) for deceased members, celebrated by "Hetmanskyi Skob" the Rev. Taras Roman Lonchyna, who grew up in Detroit.

On Sunday activities continued with a banquet at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren, with over 500 people present. Jubilee Committee Chair Stefa Korol opened the festivities and introduced Wsewolod Hnatzuk as master of ceremonies. Flag-bearers of various youth divisions brought in their standards and placed them in stands on the stage; the Plast hymn followed. The large symbolic campfire, built by Andrij Perekhlyta, was lit by the branch's founding members Ivanna Kuczer, Mychajlo Wytiahlofsky, Vasyl Kolodchin and Atanas Slusarczuk.

In his introductory remarks, the head of the branch, George Figacz, thanked all parents for their moral and financial support in the continuous effort to educate Ukrainian youth in the ideals set forth by Dr. Tysovsky: to be faithful to God and Ukraine, to follow Christian morals and principles, as well as to foster the Ukrainian language and traditions. Mr. Hnatzuk and Bohdan Korduba read greetings from various organizations. The keynote speaker was Chief Plast Scout (Nachalnyi Plastun) Lubomyr Romankiw.

For a group of boys and girls, the next ceremony was of great privilege and importance in their young lives. Having previously passed rigorous first phase testing, they were sworn in as full-fledged members of Plast. They recited the oath, holding their flags, promising to be faithful to God and Ukraine and to uphold the ideals and principles of Plast, to work for a better future and to strive for perfection. They were: Lesia Baranyk, Maksym Boyko, Marta Hnatiuk, Dmytriy Hryciw, Marta Kunynskij, Roman Lawrin, Katia Prybula, Nina Prybula, Oles Skalchuk, Nykola Stewart and George Woloszczuk.

Having successfully passed testing of the third phase, Vera Slywynska was named "plastunka virlytsia" (equivalent to Eagle Scout).



Newly sworn-in Plast youths during the Detroit branch's 50th anniversary banquet.

The final speech before the banquet was given by Orest Hawryluk, the president of the Supreme Plast Command?

The prayer before the banquet was invoked by the Rev. Vasyl Salkovski OSBM, dean and pastor of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, followed by all singing the Plast version of "Our Father."

Iryna Shamraj was instrumental in organizing a group of young members of Plast who are piano students to provide dinner music: Alexandra Bezwerchij, Andriyko Bezwerchij, Mariyka Holian, Victoria Krajnc, Motria Leheta, Mykola Murskyj, Adrian Skalchuk and Oles Skalchuk.

Following dinner, more greetings from organizations were acknowledged. A list of Plast members who received certificates of recognition was read by Mr. Figacz, while Mrs. Korol read the list of Plast friends who received certificates of gratitude for their support. It was thanks to the generous support of the Ukrainian community, that in 1951 within a short time of the branch's founding, the branch was able to purchase a building for Plast activities.

In 1959 the Ukrainian community purchased a recreational estate 40 miles from Detroit and donated a large parcel to Plast for its camps and activities. In 1972 a new center was purchased in the suburb of Warren, the new hub of the Ukrainian community.

Olena Hryciw, Petro Lisowsky and Andrea Wroblewski prepared the

youngest group of children in a medley of songs. Mrs. Slywynsky and Mr. Lisowsky wrote and performed a humorous retrospective of Plast's 50 years in the United States. In the last performance of the evening the Plast chorus sang three songs under the direction of Christina Romana Lypeckyj. Accompanying them at the piano was Maria Lisowsky.

Mr. Figacz expressed his gratitude to those who had worked so hard to make this celebration a success, as well as to all who attended. The evening ended with the singing of the Plast songs that traditionally conclude campfires, "Sirily u Sumerku" and "Nich Vzhe Ide."

Marta Tatarsky and Tamara Slywynsky

prepared an extensive exhibit of pictures, memorabilia, scrapbooks, etc., tracing the history of Plast in Detroit. The main stage decoration was the work of Mr. Korduba. He and Roma Figacz were responsible for putting together the anniversary banquet program. Table decorations and hostesses were Marta Korol-Skalchuk and Daria Kryva-Hreha.

On the occasion of the jubilee, a 345-page anniversary book was published to depict the history of Plast in the Detroit area. The editorial committee was headed by Lubomyr Hewko. The publication may be purchased for \$30 from Sophie Koshiw, 3270 Westchester Drive, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304.

UCC planning session focuses on new vision for 21st century

WINNIPEG – A new vision for the 21st century was the focal point of a planning session of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) as the executive and committee chairpersons of the UCC met in Winnipeg on December 4 at the UCC's annual planning session.

The planning process included an analysis of a survey, a review of achievements of the past year, for setting of goals and objectives, and the development of an action plan for the year 2000-2001.

The plan envisions strengthening communications with UCC member-organizations, provincial councils, branches and the community in general. The UCC also focused on developing strategies in

dealing with the government of Canada on the following issues: denaturalization and deportation; the internment of Ukrainians during World War I; the establishment of a Canadian Museum of Genocide; and multiculturalism.

The UCC has determined that it is vital to engage the community in a dialogue to create a new vision for the 21st century. To accomplish this task the UCC invites the community to bring forward creative ideas for change and renewal.

For further information, please contact UCC Executive Director Lydia Shawarsky at: telephone, (204) 924-4627; fax, (204) 947-3882; or e-mail ucchq@istar.ca.

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UNWLA Branch 58 assists Warren center for the elderly



Members of UNWLA Branch 58 of Metropolitan Detroit.

WARREN, Mich. – Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Branch 58, named in honor of Olena Teliha, hosted a mini-Thanksgiving party for the residents of the Abbey Living Center in Warren, Mich., on November 10. They were joined by the Zoloti Dzvony choral ensemble under the direction of Olga Dubriwny Solovey, a member of the UNWLA.

The Olena Teliha branch members spearheaded a project three years ago to begin searching for a location in the Ukrainian community area for Ukrainian ill and elderly to be admitted to assisted living and long-term nursing care. A seven-year moratorium on the building of such facilities in the state of Michigan prevented community drive to develop and build a facility.

After a lengthy search of facilities within the "Ukrainian Mile," the UNWLA was fortunate to be invited to develop a project with the Sisters of Mercy Medical Corporation. This alliance made it possible for the branch to develop its Veselka project.

A corridor of 13 beds in the Abbey Living Center in Warren was allocated to the Ukrainian community, with the privilege of decorating the area in an identifiable Ukrainian manner. As beds become available, Ukrainian residents are being admitted to the Veselka corridor.

The Veselka project has been warmly received by the entire community. Branch 58 has been joined by the Ukrainian Nurses Association of Michigan, physicians, attorneys, public officials, clergy and leaders in the community, with an eye on the future of developing and building such a facility. Several Ukrainian physicians have applied for, and have been granted, staff privileges at the Abbey Center.

With the absorption, throughout the nation, of so many smaller medical institutions into huge major medical conglomerates, the UNWLA feels extremely fortunate to have been asked to join the nationwide organization of the Sisters of Mercy. Actually, the Veselka project is a pilot program in developing ethnic involvement in medical facilities.

The Thanksgiving party was the second one to be hosted by Branch 58 for the Abbey Living Center residents. Another party is planned for the Christmas season. Gifts of icons, wheat/floral wreaths, lap blankets, sweater vests and other personal items, as well as Ukrainian food and pastries are ready to present to the Ukrainian residents. The Abbey Center has asked the UNWLA to prepare some of Ukrainian

foods as a treat for the entire resident population.

The Abbey Center has offered to have Ukrainian liturgies celebrated in the facility and have icons permanently displayed in the altar area. The center has also developed a plan to give credits to Ukrainian American high school students for community service when they come in to do volunteer services.

To date, without formal solicitations, a handsome sum of funds has been donated to the project and, as the Veselka project proceeds, several major fund-raising programs will be planned. A day-care service is currently being investigated to further help those elderly in the Ukrainian community who require assistance while family members are at work.

The Olena Teliha branch members have dedicated their efforts to charitable works and causes for more than 50 years. They have disbursed well over \$1 million to support orphanages, schools, churches, senior residences and numerous other prominent causes in the United States, Ukraine, Brazil, Siberia and other locations.

Former students...

(Continued from page 45)

medal for his contribution to the popularization of Ukrainian music in diaspora. Oksana Fedorovych sang two Ukrainian songs. Pianist Viktor Markiv represented the younger generation, which is carrying on the creative flame and talents of its parents.

After a festive dinner the celebrants danced to the music of Vidlunnia and socialized late into the night.

In addition to the social aspects, the reunion also provided a forum for a profound exchange of ideas and search for solutions to problems of social, religious, and political life in the diaspora and in Ukraine.

After the Sunday church service, a panakhyda was held for the gymnasiia's beloved Director Radzykevych, professors and students. As participants began to leave for home, parting comments were overheard: "It was an intimately gratifying reunion, a toast to our diamond anniversary!"

As the autumn wind rustled over the tops of the trees, scattering the fallen leaves of November and forecasting the change of seasons, the gathering dispersed with an anticipation of another reunion in the new millennium in Berchtesgaden.

University of Michigan club hosts third annual Ukrainian Student Weekend

by Petro Lisowsky
and Vera Slywinsky

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – The University of Michigan Ukrainian Club sponsored its third annual Ukrainian Student Weekend at the University of Michigan campus here on November 20-21. The purpose of this event is to encourage prospective Ukrainian high school students interested in attending the University of Michigan.

The first event, a lecture on the life, death and musical works of the composer Volodymyr Ivasiuk (1949-1979), attracted not only interested students, but the Ukrainian community at large. The main lecture was presented by Iryna Shamraj of the Ukrainian Music Institute, Detroit branch.

The presentation included slides featuring Ivasiuk's family life and funeral; music videos of Sophia Rotaru – one of the most widely versed singers and proponents of his works; audio tapes of his songs, including one on which Ivasiuk sang "Ya Pidu v Daleki Hory" (I will go into the distant mountains); and dramatic interpretations of poems written by his poet-father Mykhailo Ivasiuk by Ukrainian Club students with piano accompaniment by Ms. Shamraj. The evening concluded with the distribution and lighting of white candles and the singing of Ivasiuk's most beloved and famous song – "Chervona Ruta." The lecture proved to be a success for the Ukrainian Club with over 45 people attending.

After the lecture, the high school students and club members went to a local pizzeria in downtown Ann Arbor where the club moderated a stimulating conversation analyzing the contents of the lecture. The overall reaction to the evening was positive, educational and meaningful to these Ukrainian diaspora students. After the din-



Mark Slywinsky

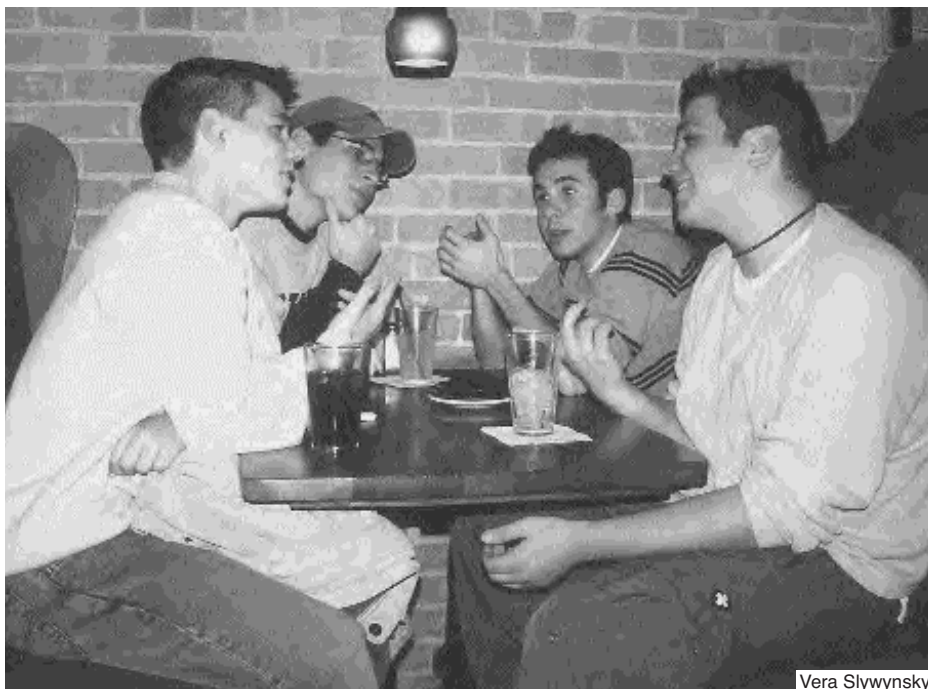
The University of Michigan Ukrainian Club with advisor Prof. Roman D. Hryciw and student guests.

ner, students experienced university student night life.

On Sunday morning students met with club mentor and faculty advisor Prof. Roman D. Hryciw (civil engineering) at Bruegger's Bagels to discuss their prospects, perspectives and opportunities at the University of Michigan as incoming freshmen.

After this informal meeting, the Ukrainian Club members took these students on a comprehensive tour of the campus. The tour concluded with a surprise

(Continued on page 52)



Vera Slywinsky

In conversation: Mark Tarnavsky, Michael Koniuch, Marko Melymuka and Mykola Koshiw.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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AN EXPRESSION OF THANKS

Our family was deeply touched by the overwhelming support we received from our good friends on the occasion of our husbands/father's (Dr. Micheal Huk's) passing. We are overwhelmed by the over 400 personal messages and are very grateful for the kindness extended to us during this difficult time. Dad was a person who loved life, people, and nature. He would have been very happy to know that so many friends remembered him so well. We thank you all very, very much.

Lalya, Camilla, Motria and Andrij Huk and family

While we appreciate every message of condolence, we would like to especially thank the Bedell Family of Short Hills for their generosity and kindness in preparing the funeral repast and to acknowledge the following contributions:

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Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

Captain Coyote all Gung-Ho

Keith Tkachuk may one day become the No. 1 goal-scoring American-born player of all-time. That would be just great. But at the start of training camp 1999, the only record the Phoenix captain was focusing on was a birth certificate.

Tkachuk and his wife, Chantal, were expecting the arrival of their second child in mid-September. At the time they had no idea whether their son Matthew, then 20 months old, would have a baby brother or sister, which was just the way they liked it.

Tkachuk's philosophy on goal-scoring coincides with the decision not to know the gender of the unborn child. Good things happen to those who wait.

"The puck's going to get to the net eventually," Tkachuk said. "So why not go to the net and wait for it?"

This theory has helped Tkachuk score the majority of his 272 career goals in the NHL and gives him a legitimate chance to surpass U.S.-born Joe Mullen's mark of 502.

Tkachuk is sixth among active players behind teammate Jeremy Roenick (344 goals heading into the 1999-2000 season), Ed Olczyk (340), Kevin Stevens (315), Mike Modano (311) and Phil Housley (302). But, at age 27, Tkachuk is still in his goal-scoring prime and figures to surpass those ahead of him in the current and coming seasons. Also in the mix are 30-year-old John LeClair (269) and 29-year-old Tony Amonte (248).

Of the eight players mentioned, Tkachuk has played the fewest games (526), is the only one to average more than 30 goals per season (34) and is the only one, at each player's current pace, who will score 502 goals in less than the 1,062 games it took Mullen. Tkachuk is on pace to score 502 goals in 970 games, which leaves him about five healthy seasons away.

Brett Hull, who skates for the U.S. in international competition, is not on the list because he was born in Canada (Belleville, Ontario). Hull had 586 career goals prior to the current campaign.

"I never thought I'd get one goal, let alone 100 or 272," Tkachuk said. "It's just hard work that's got me this far. Going to the net, sacrificing, getting the garbage goals."

This current season marked the first in the past three that Tkachuk was in Phoenix and attended the start of training camp. He was so gung-ho he showed up at 6:30 a.m. on a Monday morning for an informal workout, a full week before camp even began.

In each of the past two seasons, Tkachuk was a camp no-show because of contract holdouts. In 1998-1999 he refused to report until his deal was rene-

gotiated; a new contract was finally signed a week before the season started.

Originally scheduled to earn \$3 million in 1999-2000, he will now make \$4.3 million this season and \$8.3 million next year.

"The money hasn't changed my outlook," Tkachuk said. "But it may change the way that some people see me. The more you get paid, the more pressure that's put on you."

And not being in camp until the final stages did hurt Tkachuk. His goal totals the past two seasons (40 and 36) followed back-to-back 50-goal campaigns. True, injuries limited him to 68 and 69 games in 1997-1998 and 1998-1999, respectively, but his goals-per-game average declined as well.

"It feels weird, I'm lost right now," joked the left-winger about being in training camp so early. "But it feels good because I'm in camp and there's no worries in my mind. It's nice to relax and concentrate on just playing hockey. Coming in a week before the season starts is tough."

Being in Phoenix for the start of training camp and focusing on the current season allowed Tkachuk to put the nightmarish end to last season behind him. The Coyotes blew a three-games-to-one lead over the St. Louis Blues in the first round of the playoffs. Tkachuk was held to one goal and four points in the series as the franchise bowed out in the first round for the fourth straight year.

"It was difficult to swallow," he said. "We became a better hockey team last year, but we let it slip in the playoffs."

A native of Melrose, Mass., Tkachuk says passing Mullen would be a rewarding milestone, but it's not foremost in his mind.

"It's definitely an honor," he said. "But if I don't get 500 goals, it's not going to break my career. My goal has always been to win the Stanley Cup."

With the uniquely positive beginning to this latest hockey season, could this finally be Keith Tkachuk's year? And, more importantly, could it be the year of the Coyote?

(Quotations in Tkachuk article courtesy of Mr. Mike Gibb, beat writer for The Hockey News covering the Coyotes.)

Ukrainian Transactions:

(player movement from off-season through November)

ANAHEIM – Oleg Tverdovsky, D, acquired from Phoenix in trade; Vitali Vishnevsky, D, signed three-year contract and assigned to Cincinnati (AHL); Tverdovsky signed one-year contract;

(Continued on page 51)

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Pro hockey...

(Continued from page 50)

Gregg Naumenko, GT, assigned to Cincinnati (AHL).

ATLANTA – David Kaczowka, LW, returned to Seattle (WHL); Mike Muzechka, D, assigned to Orlando (IHL).

BOSTON – Dave Andreychuk, LW, signed one-year contract as free agent; Seamus Kotyk, GT, returned to Ottawa (OHL).

BUFFALO – Dieter Kochan, GT, returned to Binghamton (UHL).

CALGARY – Daniel Tkaczuk, C, signed three-year contract and assigned to St. John (AHL); Lee Sorochan, D, assigned to St. John (AHL).

CAROLINA – Randy Petruk, GT, assigned to Cincinnati (AHL).

CHICAGO – Ed Olczyk, C, signed one-year contract.

COLORADO – Jordan Krestanovich, LW, returned to Calgary (WHL).

DALLAS – Brad Lukowich, D, signed one-year contract; Evgeny Tsybuk, D, assigned to Michigan (IHL); Richard Matvichuk, D, signed four-year contract.

FLORIDA – Joey Tetarenko, D, and Peter Ratchuk, D, assigned to Louisville (AHL); Denis Shvidki, RW, returned to Barrie (OHL).

MONTREAL – Steve Cheredaryk, D, released.

NASHVILLE – Jayme Filipowicz, D, signed contract.

NEW JERSEY – Mike Buzak, GT, and Stanislav Gron, C, assigned to Albany (AHL).

N.Y. ISLES – Tony Hrkac, C, signed two-year contract as free agent; Hrkac traded to Anaheim.

OTTAWA – Chris Szysky, RW, signed multi-year contract; Petr Schastlivy, LW, assigned to Grand Rapids (IHL); Szysky assigned to Grand Rapids (IHL).

PHILADELPHIA – Mike Maneluk, LW, signed one-year contract; Todd Fedoruk, LW, assigned to Philadelphia (AHL); Maneluk assigned to Philadelphia (AHL).

PHOENIX – Alexander Andreyev, D, signed multi-year contract and assigned to Springfield (AHL); Radislav Suchy, D, recalled from Springfield (AHL).

PITTSBURGH – Gary Shuchuk, RW, released; Boris Protsenko, RW, assigned to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL).

ST. LOUIS – Jaroslav Obsut, D, assigned to Worcester (AHL); Cory Rudkowsky, GT, and Trevor Wasyluk, LW, assigned to Worcester (AHL).

TAMPA BAY – Steve Ludzik named head coach.

TORONTO – Greg Andrusak, D, signed one-year contract as free agent; Andrusak assigned to St. John's (AHL) and reassigned to Chicago (IHL); Andrusak recalled from Chicago and returned; David Nemirovsky, LW, signed contract and assigned to St. John's (AHL); Dmitri Khristich, LW, acquired from Boston for second round pick in 2000 and signed to four-year contract.

VANCOUVER – Yevgeny Namestnikov, D, claimed in waiver draft from N.Y. Rangers; Namestnikov placed on waivers and claimed by N.Y. Rangers; Zenith Komarniski, D, assigned to Syracuse (AHL) and later recalled.

WASHINGTON – Glen Metropolit, RW, signed contract; Jason Shmyr, RW, assigned to Portland (AHL); Ross Lupaschuk, D, returned to Prince Albert (WHL); Metropolit assigned to Portland (AHL) and later recalled.

SUM resort in Ellenville hosts first invitational golf tournament



Participants of the SUM invitational golf tourney in upstate New York.

ELLENVILLE, N.Y. – Spectacular fall foliage created the backdrop for nearly 40 golfers from the tri-state area who took advantage of the mild weather to participate in the first SUM "Oselia" Invitational Golf Tournament on October 16-17.

Sponsored by the resort of the Ukrainian American Youth Association (SUM) the tournament was composed of two rounds. On Saturday, October 16, under cool and cloudy skies, the New Jersey team under the leadership of its captain, Nestor Paslawsky of Ramsey, N.J., took on the defending champions, the New York team led by co-captains John Bilanycz and Tony Evans of Yonkers, N.Y., at the Concord Hotel golf course. Both teams found the "Concord Monster," as the golf course is known, to be a formidable challenge as they played with determination down to the wire (the last two-some), with the New York team able to fend off the challengers and hold on to the title by one point under the Ryder Cup format tournament.

There was a dinner reception for all participants at the SUM resort, where

awards were presented to the winning team, as well as to the individual contest winners – Mr. Bilanycz, Paul Hunczak, Boris Bereza, Mr. Evans and others – under such categories as "closest to the pin" and "longest drive." The festivities went late into the evening – but not too late – as the participants were mindful of an early morning tee off for the second round.

On Sunday morning play resumed at the nearby Nevele Grand Hotel golf course in magnificent fall weather, where a "Scramble" format tournament resulted in a two-team tie at 9 under par. The winning teams were the team of Peter Bilanycz, John Bilanycz, Blai Maikovski and Roman Kozicky, and the team of Mr. Evans, Darek Dwonczyk, Richard Salmon and Walter Wynarczyk.

Afterwards, there was a luncheon reception at SUM resort, where awards were again presented and everyone had an opportunity to talk about that "one great shot." All interested in the next fall tournament should contact Mr. Kozicky at (914) 969-4548, or Mr. Evans at (860) 350-9844.

Ukrainian Scoring Leaders:

(through games of November 29)

Player	Team	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
K. Tkachuk	Phoenix	25	11	11	22	39
D. Andreychuk	Boston	25	15	4	19	8
P. Bondra	Washington	23	13	3	16	12
O. Tverdovsky	Anaheim	24	4	11	15	10
S. Konowalchuk	Washington	23	5	9	14	14
D. Khristich	Toronto	17	6	5	11	4
D. Berehowsky	Nashville	22	3	5	8	21
A. Nikolishin	Washington	23	2	6	8	4
G. Metropolit	Washington	14	3	4	7	2
A. Zhitnik	Buffalo	23	1	4	5	24
R. Matvichuk	Dallas	17	1	2	3	6
L. Suchy	Phoenix	16	0	3	3	4
T. Hrkac	N.Y. Isles – Anaheim	19	1	2	3	2
B. Lukowich	Dallas	23	1	1	2	26
Z. Komarniski	Vancouver	5	0	1	1	4
S. Halko	Carolina	6	0	1	1	11
G. Andrusak	Toronto	1	0	1	1	0
K. Daneyko	New Jersey Devils	20	0	1	1	17
C. Leschyshyn	Carolina	25	0	1	1	6
E. Olczyk	Chicago	5	0	0	0	2
W. Belak	Calgary	16	0	0	0	66

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Millennium...

(Continued from page 8)

fire with a single word: "Ruin."

In 1687, Hetman Ivan Mazepa reached a comfortable accommodation with Tsar Peter I of Russia and began cleaning up after this disaster. Many of the buildings we admire in Kyiv today were built under his leadership. Like a lot of Ukrainian leaders, Mazepa ran a strictly pro-Russian policy, integrating his people into the growing Empire and deferring on all major decisions to Moscow's will.

Then in 1709, at 65, when most men think of retirement, Mazepa joined Sweden's warrior king, Charles XII, in a war against Muscovy. The fateful battle of Poltava relegated Sweden to the second rank of European nations and set the course for Russia to become a world power.

As for Ukraine, a new word was coined: "Mazepite," an advocate for Ukraine's separation from Russia. The word was synonymous with traitor. Anyone who even hinted at "Mazepa-ism" was shut off from a career in the empire and risked imprisonment. In 1920, the word evolved into "Petliurite" and in 1941 it became "Banderite," but it's always meant the same thing. Now that Ukraine is independ-

ent and has successfully conducted five national elections, I think the word can be retired. It served the cause well.

Mazepa's defeat put the very existence of Ukraine in serious doubt. The Kozak stronghold on the Dnipro River was leveled; a separate Ukrainian administration was abolished. Even the word "Ukraine" was discontinued in favor of "Little Russia." There was one more peasant revolt, by Ivan Gonta in 1734. Like the others, it failed. As a cautionary lesson, Gonta was skinned alive before a crowd of his supporters who were forced to watch. To enhance his agony, authorities poured salt on his throbbing wounds.

The young serf Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861) grew up hearing wandering minstrels sing about the Kozaks and the peasant revolts. As a young man, he miraculously gained his freedom and as a budding painter won entrée into the comfortable Russian gentry. Instead of enjoying the good life, he invited imprisonment and exile, choosing instead to write magnificent verse about the injustices of serfdom and the past glories of his people. Addressing his countrymen - "The Dead, the Living and the Not Yet Born, Ukrainians in Ukraine and outside Ukraine" - he outlined a blueprint for independence. "Rise up and break your

chains," he said. "Sprinkle freedom with the evil tyrants' blood."

And that's what eventually happened, although an awful lot of the blood shed was Ukrainian. The century following Shevchenko's death in 1861 was uncommonly violent. Both world wars were fought on Ukrainian soil. Millions of soldiers and even more civilians were killed. World War I moved seamlessly into a declaration of Ukrainian independence in 1918, followed by an appalling civil war that ended with the catastrophe of Bolshevik rule. They presided over three massive famines: in 1921, 1932-1933 and 1946. The one in 1932 was deliberately engineered. Imagine: 1,000 years after Volodymyr the Great abandoned human sacrifice, Stalin laid 7 million corpses on the altar of communism. To add salt to the collective wounds, he ordered the destruction of churches that had survived the Mongols in 1240.

From 1941 to 1944 Ukrainians endured another devastating world war fought on their soil. People were forced to choose between Stalin and Hitler - between Satan and Beelzebub. Many chose neither and went to the forests to fight yet another civil war, this one lasting until 1950. Only in 1991 were the people of Ukraine able to declare independence and officially certify that the god (communism) is dead. The mummy of the prophet, Lenin, still lies in state at the Kremlin. Disposing of the corpse, though, is Russia's problem, not Ukraine's, which has plenty of problems of its own.

The newly re-elected president, Leonid Kuchma, will be the last Ukrainian leader of this millennium and the first one of the 21st century. At his inauguration last month, he waved a hetman's bulava (mace) and took his oath on a 700-year-old Ukrainian Bible. President Kuchma seems to have a healthy sense of history and an understanding of the country's problems.

He's also aware, I'm sure, that Ukraine isn't only for Ukrainians. Volodymyr himself - whose trident identifies the uniforms of Ukraine's army - traced his ancestry to Norsemen. Today, the country has many nationalities - Russians, Jews, Armenians, Poles, Greeks, Tatars - 25 percent of the population is non-Ukrainian. It's interesting, therefore, that 90 percent of Ukraine's voters in 1991 supported independence. Their confidence has been justified: the country gets high marks for its tolerance and respect for ethnic differences. That bodes well for the future.

And so Ukrainians have survived for 40 generations - through famines, massacres, invasions, abject slavery and mass immigration. Throughout the decades and centuries, through some of the most difficult conditions imaginable, the rituals, customs, practices and habits - everything we summarize in the single word "tradition" - have been passed down in an unbroken chain from mother to daughter, from father to son, from generation to generation, for 1,000 years. If you listen carefully you can

hear echoes and if you look in the right places, you'll see reflections from 10 centuries in the life patterns that Ukrainians instinctively adopt, whether they're in Ukraine or the five continents of the diaspora. I've seen the designs; I've heard the melodies.

I've witnessed girls weaving wreaths on St. John's Eve in July, following a custom that goes back to when people worshipped lightning and the sun, and the forests were full of wood nymphs and goblins. I was once among the young men leaping and squatting at a wedding to the rhythmic clapping of giddy guests, unconsciously retracing the macho steps of Kozaks long ago, who danced amidst their horses, burning off energy and gearing up for battle. Listening to the Ukrainian Bandura Chorus, I hear the distant laments of slaves at the market in Kaffa, filtered through 20th century audio speakers. I've walked in the 1,000-year-old shadows of buildings in Kyiv - the ones that survived the fury of the Mongols and the malevolence of Joseph Stalin.

President Kuchma presides over a bloody land with cemeteries everywhere, many of them haunted by hidden, half-remembered and still unspeakable crimes. He has an unenviable task. He is asked to heal the nation and set it on a course of prosperity. Through an accident of the calendar, history will inevitably compare him to Volodymyr the Great, who presided over Ukraine exactly 1,000 years ago.

May God bless President Kuchma and grant him the wisdom, the strength and good fortune in the new millennium to set an example that those who follow will find hard to exceed.

Happy New Year everyone!

University of Michigan...

(Continued from page 49)

ending: the students were included in an independent film being shot on State Street in downtown Ann Arbor by university film students.

The high school students who attended the Ukrainian Student Weekend were Adriana Karanec, Anya Koniuch, Anya Maziak, Natalia Tobianski, Michael Koniuch, Mykola Koshiw, Marko Melymuka, and Mark Tarnavsky. The Ukrainian Club also welcomed three university student guests: Adriana Kuropas (University of Michigan, Dearborn), Roman Czubytyj (Wayne State University), and Tania Prystash (Benedictine University).

As the Ukrainian Club and students came to understand the deep impact Ivasiuk left on the Ukrainian soul, they realized that like a solid university educational experience, the Ukrainian song such as the ones written by Ivasiuk will remain with them forever.

To contact the University of Michigan Ukrainian Club about current and future events, send e-mail to: um.ukes@umich.edu

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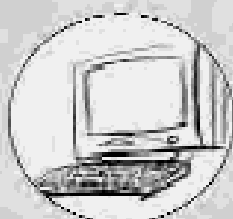
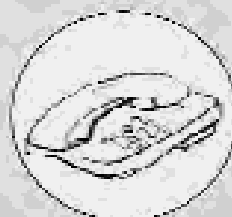
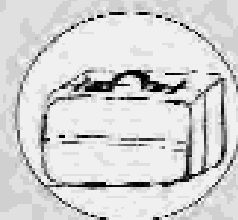
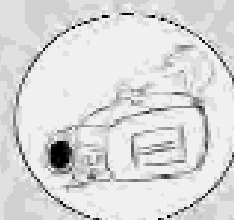
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PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, January 8, 2000

NEW YORK: The New York City Branch of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization invites all children to come join us for some "kutia" and Christmas caroling at the annual "Svichechka" at 10:30 a.m. in the Plast building, 144 Second Ave. (corner of Ninth Street). Plast members should attend in full uniform.

Friday, January 14, 2000

TORONTO: St. Vladimir Institute will host its traditional Ukrainian New Year's "Malanka" at the institute, 620 Spadina Ave. Come and join "Millie Malanka" to herald the Ukrainian New Year. Delight in the performances of the Arkan Dance Company, which lead you into a magical and enchanting evening of Ukrainian folklore as they throw out the old year (Malanka) and welcome the new! Dine with Peter Ochitwa of Mad Apples; dance to the music of Solovey. The all-inclusive

price of admission is \$100 per person; \$65 for students. Cocktails are at 7 p.m., followed by dinner at 8 p.m. Reserve tables and tickets early by calling (416) 923-3318.

Saturday, January 22, 2000

DENVER: "Mellenium Melanka!" Come join Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 38 for the Malanka celebration in beautiful Denver. Bring in the new century with dinner and dancing to the music of Ostap Stahiv and singers of Cleveland and lots of other fun. Advance purchase tickets: \$35 for dinner and dance; \$15 for dance only; \$10 for students. Tickets at the door: \$20, adults; \$15, students. The Malanka will be held at the Sheraton West Hotel, Sixth Avenue and Union Street, in Lakewood, Colo. For tickets or information call Marta Arnold, (303) 734-0360, Inya Saldyt, (303) 433-4039, or Anna Taylor, (303) 432-8045.

REMINDER REGARDING NEW REQUIREMENTS:

Effective September 1, there is a **\$10 charge per submission** for listings in Preview of Events. The listing plus payment must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. There is also the option of prepayment for a series of listings.

Listings of **no more than 100 words** (written in Preview format) plus payment should be sent to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. Information sent by fax should include a copy of a check, in the amount of \$10 per listing, made out to The Ukrainian Weekly. The Weekly's fax number is (973) 644-9510.

Verkhovna Rada...

(Continued from page 1)

lenders stopped advancing credit in mid-1998. "We should admit that for a very long time this state has lived beyond its financial capabilities," Mr. Yushchenko said in his acceptance speech. "We have no choice but to put our financial house in order."

Mr. Yushchenko outlined a three-month plan of action that would, among other things, use techniques the former NBU Chairman honed during years of defending the hryvnia, and its predecessor, the karbovanets. Key features of the plan, called "100 Days" include tight reins over the money supply and passage of a balanced national budget, he said.

Mr. Yushchenko suggested that the following months would be critical for Ukraine. "We have so little time for decisive action – literally a few months" Mr. Yushchenko said. "I don't want to overdramatize the situation, but these months may turn out to be Ukraine's last chance."

By no coincidence, those are two of the key criteria of economic reform the International Monetary Fund has linked to further critically needed loans to Ukraine, also by no coincidence to be taken up by the IMF's governing board almost exactly 100 days in the future, in February. "Until we stabilize the financial side," Mr. Yushchenko said. "We can do nothing else."

He made no specific comment about rescheduling part or all of Ukraine's foreign debt, already seen as a done deal by financial analysts here. "Yushchenko's election means that Ukraine is going to play ball with its Western creditors, and do what it takes to keep from defaulting on its debt," said Ivan Kompan, director of Wood & Company Kyiv, a financial consulting company. "In return, creditors will almost certainly agree to reschedule."

Mr. Yushchenko spoke in more general terms about the second phase of plans for further economic reform, of which he is one of Ukraine's best-spoken advocates.

During his remarks he described an ambitious, second, "1,000-day" phase, which if pushed to fruition would make real virtually every delayed Ukrainian economic reform: increased privatization of state-owned companies, better management of those that are not privatized, reduction of tax burdens, land reform, support of small business, and more transparency in Ukraine's often corrupt government agencies.

Mr. Yushchenko's boss, President Kuchma, has already begun to deliver, or at least make the attempt, on some of those goals. Early this month he signed a land reform decree, which like many decrees remains on the books but is as yet not enforced. Last week Mr. Kuchma ordered a rough halving of Ukraine's teeming bureaucracy; to date no large groups of government workers have been actually thrown out on the street.

In his concluding remarks Mr. Yushchenko appeared to understand well that for Ukraine to actually embark on 1,000 days of economic reform, the near miracle of a president and a solid parliamentary majority in agreement must become a common Ukrainian political event.

"The new Cabinet must become a political leader of political reforms," Mr. Yushchenko said. "And unless it works together with the Verkhovna Rada successfully [in the future], this can never happen."

"There must be a working parliamentary majority in agreement with the Cabinet, at least on tactical terms, for a short period of time – up to two years," he said. "I believe that, despite different orientations, a parliamentary majority can be created still."

As The Ukrainian Weekly went to press, the Verkhovna Rada had taken up the budget 2000 bill, which contains a reform-friendly minimal or non-deficit national budget, but politically unpopular social benefits cuts.

A Verkhovna Rada vote on the bill, favored by Mr. Yushchenko but not all parliamentary deputies, could come as early as next week.

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