



**РИСТОС РОДИВСЯ! CHRIST IS BORN!**

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## Supporters celebrate topping out of Ukrainian Museum's new building

by Marta Baczynsky

NEW YORK – “Beseeching God’s blessing, with thoughts about Ukraine and her children who settled here in America; with gratitude to this hospitable country; and with respect and sincere thanks to the Ukrainian community and to all people who contributed in some way to the building of The Ukrainian Museum.”

This message – as well as numerous signatures of members, friends and supporters of The Ukrainian Museum was lovingly imprinted on the painted white surface of a steel beam. This beam, slated to complete the infrastructure of the museum’s new building, was poised to be lifted by a large construction crane. A strong gust of wind unfurled the two flags – the Stars and Stripes and the blue and yellow – suspended on each end of the beam. Centrally positioned on the beam was a six-foot pine tree decorated with red bows, red and gold ribbons lorded in splendor.

This unusual configuration began its ascent toward the top, hoisted by a construction crane. Its upward journey was accompanied by the strains of the “God Bless America” followed by the hymn “Bozhe Velykyi,” sung by Anna Bachynska. The beam swayed, rising slowly, its path guided from the ground by handlers, manipulating thick ropes.

On its way up the beam passed a large blue sign with a white inscription that proclaimed: “The Future Home of The Ukrainian Museum.” As the beam found its permanent home on the highest point of the steel frame of the building, a resounding “Mnohaya Lita” was dedicated to all whose efforts on behalf of the museum distinguished them as “builders” of this institution.

On the cold and windy afternoon of

Sunday, December 8, a sizeable crowd assembled on East Sixth Street in New York City in front of the new museum construction site to witness and partake in a centuries-old ceremony called “topping out.” The placing of the final and highest beam, which links the infrastructure of a new building, is marked by crowning the structure with a tree, a branch or flowers – an act that represents the attainment of an important milestone in the building process.

Other singular rites and customs of the topping out ceremony were observed during the event. The superintendent on the construction site, Bob Mankowski from DiGiacomo & Son, was surprised to receive a Ukrainian embroidered handkerchief instead of the traditional silk one. The “palanytsia,” a flat bread, shared with the participants during this event, expressed a traditional Ukrainian “thank you” to all who helped in this endeavor.

In order to chase away any evil spirits that may inhabit the new structure, the museum placed an evergreen tree, imbued with spirits with kindly dispositions, on the steel beam. The tree is destined to remain on the beam atop the infrastructure until the roof caps the building.

The gathered members, friends and supporters of The Ukrainian Museum, past and present members of the board of trustees, and employees of the institution had waited a long time for this event. The museum’s building project had its start in 1986, with the purchase of the property on East Sixth Street, destined to be the site of a new and modern facility for the institution. Although fiscal considerations delayed the start of the project, fund-raising continued actively throughout the period.

The topping out ceremony began with

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## Opposition forces unite to resist majority’s parliamentary “coup”

by Conor Humphries

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – Leaders of the four main opposition parties on December 19 pledged to unite to resist what Communist Party leader Petro Symonenko described as a “coup d’état” in the Verkhovna Rada in which the pro-presidential majority formed its own parliamentary tabulating committee on December 17 before proceeding to pass resolutions by voting outside the Parliament chamber.

The leaders of the Communist and Socialist parties, Our Ukraine and Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc declared at a press conference on December 19 that they were ready to resort to street demonstrations and mass strikes in order to make the majority meet their conditions.

Their conditions – which will form the basis of a draft resolution they will submit to the majority – include the cancellation of the December 17 voting in which they allege parliamentary regulations were broken by passing resolutions in private which approved the redistribution of parliamentary committees, the replacement of National Bank of Ukraine (NBU)

Chairman Volodymyr Stelmakh with Serhii Tyhypko and the cancellation of the 2003 draft budget.

“We must return to the status quo of 10 a.m. on December 17 [before the voting took place],” said the leader of the Our Ukraine bloc, Viktor Yushchenko.

The dramatic events of Tuesday, December 17, began when opposition forces again surrounded the presidium and rostrum of the Verkhovna Rada after deputies voted to consider the appointment of Mr. Tyhypko as NBU chairman in a repeat of the previous week’s blocking of the parliamentary chamber on December 11. National Deputy Igor Sharov then announced on behalf of the majority that it had agreed among itself on the appointment of Mr. Tyhypko and that the majority had issued a resolution forming an alternative to the existing tabulating committee in order to hold voting. The committee, headed by National Deputy Volodymyr Zaitsev of the Social Democratic Party United then decided to hold voting by assigned ballot papers (each deputy received a ballot with his/her name printed on it), rather than via

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## Kyiv mayor opens multi-media exhibit focusing on capital city’s renaissance

by Andrew Nynka

NEW YORK – At the end of a two-day trip packed with meetings, speeches and ceremonies, the mayor of Kyiv, Oleksander Omelchenko, officially opened the Ukrainian Institute of America’s “Renaissance of Kyiv” multi-media exhibit here on December 10.

The exhibit, which is scheduled to run through the end of January 2003, is the first in a yearlong series of programs hosted by the UIA that, according to a UIA press release, are intended to “show the changes and beauty of the ‘new’ Kyiv.”

Included in the exhibit are over 70 images of present-day Kyiv, from photos showing newly constructed banks and apartment buildings to snapshots of a new train station and airport, as well as an underground mall at the city’s historic central plaza, Independence Square.

Mixed in with the photography and video presentations are large panels that contain information on the city’s history, as well as statistics on developments in education, commerce, infrastructure, housing, religion and advertising in the 1,500-year-old city.

In opening the exhibit, UIA President Walter Nazarewicz commended Mayor Omelchenko for making Kyiv an example for all of Ukraine to follow and said the

exhibit tells the story of a city progressing. Mr. Nazarewicz added that, while Kyiv is only beginning its transformation, teaching the world “about the wonderful changes already taking place there” is extremely important.

The exhibit also includes music videos by Ukrainian pop icons Okean Elzy and Ani Lorak, footage from Studio 1+1 TV, a video called “Kyiv, My Love,” and clips of Ukrainian game shows.

According to the chair of the exhibit committee, Ulana Baczynskyj, the exhibit tries to capture the changes taking place in Kyiv and “conveys it in the form of a multi-media experience and brings you momentary immersion into Kyiv city life.” According to Zwen Goy and Dr. Roman Goy, both members of the exhibit committee, additional programs, at approximately two-month intervals, are planned to focus on architecture, art, music and fashion designers of Kyiv.

Following the official opening of the exhibit, Mr. Omelchenko presented awards to Mr. Nazarewicz, as the president of the Ukrainian Institute of America, and Ms. Baczynskyj, for her work on the exhibit.

Mayor Omelchenko also presented awards to Tamara Gallo of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Prof.

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B. Yaremko

Signing the beam used to top out The Ukrainian Museum’s new building (from left) are: Wolodymyr Magun, Dr. Yar Mociuk, Stefania Kosovych and John Luchehko.

## ANALYSIS

## The Kolchuha report

by Roman Kupchinsky

*RFE/RL Crime and Corruption Watch*

A joint report by the American and British governments on whether Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine sold a set of four Kolchuha radar systems to Iraq was released on November 25. The report, presented to Ukrainian government officials earlier in November, emerged from the findings of a visit on October 13-20 by expert teams from the United States and the United Kingdom. It stressed that, despite assurances from officials in Kyiv ahead of the visit, Ukrainian authorities were less than forthcoming with information needed to draw conclusions on whether a Kolchuha was in fact sold to Baghdad.

The report came under strong criticism by President Kuchma and his advisers, who called the report unfair and erroneous. The findings of the report led U.S. and NATO officials to announce that Mr. Kuchma would not be welcome at NATO's Prague summit on November 21-22. Mr. Kuchma nonetheless came to Prague, where the overwhelming majority of heads of state assembled there gave him a chilly reception.

***"The main finding of this fact-finding mission is that the government of Ukraine (GOU) failed to provide the team with satisfactory evidence that the transfer of a Kolchuha to Iraq could not or did not take place. As a result, the issue of the transfer must remain open."***

— U.S. and U.K. Experts Team

The Kolchuha affair began early this year after Maj. Mykola Melnychenko, a former member of President Kuchma's security detail, produced a recording he claimed to have made in the president's office on July 10, 2000. On that tape, the president and Valeriy Malev, the head of Ukrainian state arms seller UkrSpetsEkспорт, appear to discuss the possibility of covertly selling the passive radar system — reportedly capable of detecting "stealth" aircraft — to Iraq.

During the conversation, Mr. Malev tells President Kuchma: "There is a need for a special operation. We were approached by Iraq through our Jordanian intermediary. They want to buy four Kolchuha stations and offer \$100 million right away." Mr. Malev then adds that Leonid Derkach, head of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), will conduct the special operation. Mr. Kuchma replies: "Just watch that the Jordanian keeps his mouth shut. They can detect the shipment." Mr. Kuchma then states: "OK. Go ahead."

In the fall of this year, the U.S. State Department obtained from Mr. Melnychenko the original recording device that he used in the president's office and the original recording of this conversation. The items were given to the FBI and other government agencies for authentication. The results were that the recorded conversations were not edited in any way and were accurate. The recording had previously been authenticated by the Bek Tek company of Virginia, which reached the same conclusion.

Despite these two independent findings,

*Roman Kupchinsky is the editor of RFE/RL Crime and Corruption Watch.*

President Kuchma denied having approved the sale and claimed the recording was doctored, although he said he indeed met with Mr. Malev on that date.

President Kuchma was initially informed of the existence of the recorded conversation on March 3 by a parliamentary commission. On March 6, Mr. Malev was killed in a car crash. The circumstances of the accident remain unclear despite attempts by members of Parliament to ensure a full investigation by the police.

The report of the U.S. and U.K. Experts Team makes the following points: "The main finding of this fact-finding mission is that the government of Ukraine (GOU) failed to provide the team with satisfactory evidence that the transfer of a Kolchuha to Iraq could not or did not take place. As a result, the issue of the transfer must remain open.

"Frequently Ukrainian officials refused point blank to answer specific questions central to the team's work, especially when questions touched on the role of senior Ukrainian figures. The team also encountered evasive responses by Ukrainian government officials to straightforward questions on the possible transfer of Kolchuhas to or through

third parties.

"Many documents requested were made available to the inspection team, though with varying degrees of reluctance. Following specific requests from the team leader, the presidential administration approved access to additional documents, but some of the most crucial documents were still withheld. For example, Ukrainian officials were unwilling to provide requested documentation on the sale of four Kolchuha stations to the People's Republic of China (PRC).

"The team was told that pending documents would be declassified and provided in the coming days. The team is still awaiting those documents.

"There has been no satisfactory in-depth investigation carried out by the Ukrainians. The procurator general, the SBU and the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) each asserted to the team that they carried out investigations and produced reports, but the team was allowed to see only edited and reduced versions of selected reports. Explanation of the degree to which information sources were checked or verified was lacking in the materials provided to the team. As a result, there remain serious concerns about the credibility and completeness of these GOU investigations."

The team concluded that in order to make a final judgment on whether the Kolchuha had in fact been transferred to Iraq, the government of Ukraine would need to:

- "Make available missing documentation for Kolchuha sales to foreign countries,

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Rada majority replaces NBU chief

KYIV — The pro-presidential majority in the Verkhovna Rada resorted to an unusual voting procedure on December 17 to replace National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Volodymyr Stelmakh with Labor Ukraine-Party of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs parliamentary caucus leader Serhii Tyhypko, the UNIAN news service reported. Claiming that the opposition wanted to obstruct the vote, the majority created an ad hoc commission for tabulating the vote comprising its own lawmakers. It then ordered a roll-call vote that took place not in the session hall but in the office of Oleksander Zadorozhnyi, the permanent presidential representative in Parliament. According to that ad hoc commission, 232 deputies supported the replacement of the NBU chief. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### ...and leadership of Rada committees

KYIV — In a similar voting procedure, 229 majority deputies reportedly voted in favor of replacing the leadership of parliamentary committees headed by opposition lawmakers, UNIAN reported. Two hundred twenty-seven deputies supported a motion to reverse the approval of a 2003 budget bill on its second reading, which took place in November. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Opposition cries coup d'état

KYIV — The opposition parliamentary caucuses — Our Ukraine, the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc — said in a joint statement on December 17 that all three votes in the Verkhovna Rada that day were illegal and falsified, UNIAN reported. "[The votes] ... are actual steps toward a coup d'état through the usurpation of power [and] by way of illegal appointment to the posts envisaged by the Constitution [as well as] an attempt to finally destroy parliamentary government," the statement read. The opposition is planning to contest the December 17 votes in court. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Yushchenko stands behind Stelmakh

KYIV — Our Ukraine head Viktor Yushchenko said on December 14 that the opposition would do everything possible to prevent the dismissal of National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) Chairman Volodymyr Stelmakh, UNIAN reported. "[Stelmakh] is our last bastion, and we will not move away," Mr. Yushchenko said. Following two abortive attempts in the Verkhovna Rada to vote Mr. Stelmakh out of his post, President

Leonid Kuchma filed a third motion to the Parliament to replace Mr. Stelmakh with Serhii Tyhypko. Meanwhile, Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the eponymous opposition bloc, has announced that the parliamentary opposition is ready to make "compromises" with the pro-government majority on some unspecified legislative issues if Mr. Stelmakh retains his post. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Only 8.6 percent trust president

KYIV — In a poll conducted between November 27 and December 5, among 1,200 people, some 8.6 percent of respondents said they fully trust President Leonid Kuchma, the UNIAN news service reported on December 16. Another 54.7 percent said they distrust him, according to the results of the Democratic Initiatives Fund and Taylor Nelson Sofres Ukraine group survey. According to the poll, presidential administration chief Viktor Medvedchuk is trusted by 5.4 percent of Ukrainians and distrusted by 42.1 percent; 5.4 percent trust Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and 24.7 percent distrust him; and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn is trusted by 4.8 percent and distrusted by 32.9 percent. Among opposition politicians, the best "balance of trust" is enjoyed by Our Ukraine leader Viktor Yushchenko (25.2 percent trust and 33.8 percent distrust), followed by Communist Party head Petro Symonenko (14.8 percent and 46.6 percent). (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Leaders seek united opposition front

KYIV — Opposition leaders Viktor Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko on December 14 called on Ukraine's opposition forces to unite, UNIAN reported. "On behalf of the 10 political forces constituting the Our Ukraine bloc, we are conducting negotiations with opposition forces regarding [their] consolidation and agreement," Mr. Yushchenko said at a congress of the Sobor Party in Kyiv. Ms. Tymoshenko stressed at the same congress that the consolidation of opposition forces is necessary to challenge authorities efficiently in the next presidential election. "Today, power [in Ukraine] is exercised by cynical and pragmatic people who control enormous material and informational resources. Therefore, we should prevent the opposition from dissipating in the presidential election, as happened during the [March] parliamentary elections," Ms. Tymoshenko said. (RFE/RL Newsline)

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## Kyiv mayor...

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Walter Zaryckyj of New York University, Basil Danchyk of the Ukrainian Institute of America, Orest Fedash, executive general manager of the Ramada hotel in East Hanover, N.J., and Marta Kokolska, a community activist from New Jersey for their support of Ukraine and their work in the Ukrainian American diaspora.

In the morning of December 10 the mayor traveled to Ground Zero, the site of the collapsed World Trade Center, in order to lay a wreath in commemoration of the terror attacks of 9/11. The mayor's schedule also included a private interview with an editor from Business Week magazine, which he called very productive, and a tour of an unfinished 50-story skyscraper, which the mayor, who holds a degree in construction engineering, said he found very interesting.

Mr. Omelchenko, who traveled with Ukraine's first cosmonaut who is now a member of Parliament, Leonid Kadenyuk, visited St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church and School where he was warmly greeted by members of the Ukrainian American community. While many of the students and faculty who crowded the school auditorium were waiting to see world heavyweight boxing champions Vitalii and Volodymyr Klitschko, they nonetheless greeted the mayor and his large entourage with a warm, traditional Ukrainian welcome of bread and salt.

The mayor also spoke to a small gathering of students and faculty at Columbia University's Harriman Institute. Mr. Omelchenko said that, contrary to the instability of Ukraine's national government, which has changed leadership 10 times in 11 years, he has been the mayor of a politically stable Kyiv for the past seven years.

The mayor, who spoke without notes, spent nearly 40 minutes highlighting the city's accomplishments in education, com-

merce, tourism, welfare, international relations, investment, social policy, housing and economic progress. The mayor also outlined a Municipal General Plan for the year 2020 which would "emphasize quality housing and infrastructure development." He called the plan the key to ensuring harmonious and balanced future development. The plan includes construction of a new subway line on the Left Bank of the Dnipro river, two new bridges across the Dnipro, and a variety of construction aimed at improving the flow of traffic and air quality throughout the city, a press release stated.

Mr. Omelchenko said that by 2001 Kyiv led all Ukrainian cities in the category of economic indicators and the city currently has a rate of unemployment very near zero. "Today's Kyiv is a typical European capital," Mr. Omelchenko said, "the distinctive architecture, the geographical location, the historical monuments and the environment make Kyiv one of the most beautiful cities in Europe."

Mr. Omelchenko said that Kyiv's population of 2.7 million people has had a small impact on the city's 836,000 square kilometers of land – leaving some 56 percent of the city as park land or simply undeveloped. "This is why Kyiv is called a city of flowers and parks," the mayor said.

"I have spoken about Kyiv today at great length," mayor Omelchenko concluded. "My goal has been to interest you in coming to Kyiv, a great city, which we love, revere and protect – as we would our eyes. We sincerely hope that one day you will be our guests."

Following his speech, the mayor presented Dr. Mark Von Hagen, president of the International Association of Ukrainian Studies and professor of history at Columbia University, with several books as well as a historical representation of an ancient hryvnia, from the National Bank of Ukraine as well as a contemporary hryvnia – "so that you can compare the development of Ukraine from the ancient monetary system to today's," Mr. Omelchenko said.



Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko (left) presents a reproduction of a historic hryvnia to Dr. Mark Von Hagen at Columbia University.



The mayor of Kyiv officially opens the multi-media exhibit highlighting the "Renaissance of Kyiv" at the Ukrainian Institute of America.

## Ukrainian news service director threatened prior to his alleged suicide

by Conor Humphries

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

KYIV – Mykhailo Kolomiyets, director of the Ukrainski Novyny (Ukrainian News) agency received threats related to his work prior to his suicide, the journalist's widow disclosed on December 16 raising additional questions about the circumstances of his death.

Her comments have added weight to claims by co-workers and family members that Mr. Kolomiyets did not kill himself, although the comments did not specify whether the threats were related to the independent journalistic output of the news agency or his financial dealings as co-owner of the business. The role in the case of Ukraine's Minister of Economics Valerii Khoroshkovskiy – owner of the other 50 percent of the news agency's shares – also was highlighted by Liudmyla Kolomiyets' claim that her

husband had told her to speak to Mr. Khoroshkovskiy if anything happened.

In the interview with Ukrainian News, Ms. Kolomiyets claimed that in January – over eight months before his disappearance – her husband told her that he had been threatened in connection with his professional activities.

"He didn't say who they were. He only said that they were professionals because they had not beaten him, but had frightened him very much," said Ms. Kolomiyets, adding that these unspecified persons had warned her husband to watch his behavior.

"They said something to the effect of 'it's better to not put on airs,'" she added.

Without telling her how he was going to react to the threats, Ms. Kolomiyets said, her husband advised her to contact

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## Ukrainians attend White House briefing

by Eugene Iwanciw

WASHINGTON – The White House held a briefing on December 11 on the expansion of NATO and its changing role. Among the about 20 participants representing Central and East European ethnic communities were five Ukrainian Americans including: Stefan Kaczaraj and Eugene Iwanciw of the Ukrainian National Association, Michael Sawkiw of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Oksana Xenos of the Ukrainian National Women's League of North America and Ihor Kotlarchuk of The Washington Group.

National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice commenced the briefing with comments about the changing role of NATO in Europe. She noted that the traditional defensive role of NATO is now shifting to one that focuses on combating terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In response to a question about U.S.-Ukrainian relations, Dr. Rice stated that the United States considers Ukraine an

*Eugene Iwanciw is second vice-president of the Ukrainian National Association.*

important country geopolitically. She noted that, while she does not travel a great deal except with the President, she has visited Ukraine. The presidential advisor did point out that the Bush administration is concerned about the direction Ukraine is taking. "While economic reforms have been proceeding slowly, political reforms have been reversed," she stated. Dr. Rice concluded that the administration is also concerned that the problems in Ukraine could have a negative impact on Russia.

Ambassador Dan Fried of the National Security Council staff continued the briefing and fielded additional questions. In response to a question about the role of NATO, Mr. Fried stated that the new role of combating terrorism and proliferation would not undermine the traditional defensive obligation that NATO membership entails. Many of the questions focused on the process of integrating the newly invited members into NATO.

Following the briefing, the Ukrainian American delegation informally met to discuss the briefing. It was agreed that Ukraine is increasingly being isolated as well as held to a different standard than Russia.

## Rada passes anti-money-laundering law

WASHINGTON – The law "On Prevention and Counteraction of Legalization (Laundering) of Proceed from Crime" was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on November 28.

The Law is based upon the Strasburg Convention of 1990 on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime. The provisions of the bill reflect the requirements to internationally recognized 40 recommendations to counter money laundering and eight special recommendations on terrorist finance of the Financial Action Task

Force (FATF). Thus the bill brings Ukraine's money-laundering legislation in line with world standards.

The bill specifically provides for the establishment of a two-tier financial monitoring system over significant and suspicious transactions, including mandatory suspicious activity reporting (SAR), setting the criteria for financial transactions to be subject to financial monitoring, and determining the tasks, functions and power of the Financial Intelligence Unit of Ukraine. The bill also defines liability for non-compliance

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## Ukrainian Federation of America convenes, honors Rep. Schaffer

by Michael Komanowsky

PHILADELPHIA – The Ukrainian Federation of America (UFA) held its general membership meeting in the Alexander B. Chernyk gallery of the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center of the Philadelphia area on Saturday, November 23.

In his opening remarks, Bohdan Korzeniowski, the UFA president, summarized the recent accomplishments of UFA in many different humanitarian programs.

The UFA provided medical assistance and established a 48-hour disaster preparedness program that recently allowed it to send without delay a trauma specialist with immediately needed medical supplies to Lviv after the disastrous air show accident.

- promoted the use of the Ukrainian language in education by publishing 11 Ukrainian language textbooks on medicine and business;

- promoted small businesses development in Ukraine through financial loans, publication of business textbooks, business internship programs for Ukrainian students at U.S. institutions, and support for the Lviv Institute of Management master's degree program;

- advocated in support of Ukrainian American community concerns by meetings with elected officials to express need for different programs and financial assistance for Ukraine;

- supported and/or carried out many other humanitarian endeavors cooperatively with other Ukrainian and international organizations.

Mr. Korzeniowski pointed out that these manifold activities required a significant contribution of time and labor – and that these will be needed in the future, too. Therefore, another general membership meeting is being planned for the near future to hold new elections in order to restructure the federation's executive committee and the advisory board.

Former Rep. Charles Dougherty, senior advisor to the UFA, confined his remarks primarily to the effort and impact that UFA has had on Capitol Hill on behalf of the people of Ukraine. It was as a result of a close working relationship between Ukrainian election volunteers and Rep. Dougherty (R-Pa.) that the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Baltic States and Ukraine was established by Rep. Dougherty in the early 1980s. When Ukraine became independent, the UFA became very active in helping the

Embassy of Ukraine to develop effective channels of communication with lawmakers in Washington.

Later, the UFA together with the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, formed the Action Ukraine Coalition that persuaded Reps. Jon Fox (R-Pa.) and Bob Schaffer (R-Colo.) to revive the above committee under the name Congressional Ukrainian Caucus. Its primary purpose is to organize and inform members of Congress who share a common concern for stronger bilateral relations between Ukraine and the U.S. At present this caucus is co-chaired by Reps. Schaffer, Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), Curt Weldon (R-Pa.), Sander Levin (D-Mich.), Steve Horn (R-Calif.) and Louis Slaughter (D-N.Y.).

Rep. Dougherty repeatedly extolled the networking abilities of the leadership of UFA. He expressed his opinion that the government of Ukraine too often assigns new ambassadors to the U.S. which does not allow them enough time to establish optimal relationships with decision-makers in Congress.

Recognizing this reality, UFA representatives continue meeting with political leaders on Capitol Hill, providing information about Ukraine such as: its long history and substantial capital resources; as well as its significance, as it is geographically close to the energy rich small countries in the Caspian Sea area and has considerable economic and political ties with them, and the resulting role it has in ensuring political stability in that region and affect terrorist activity and flow of energy from it.

From a geopolitical perspective, he said, a free and democratic Ukraine is strategically important to the stability and security of the U.S., Western Europe and the world. Furthermore, Rep. Dougherty said, the people of Ukraine need, desire and deserve help in their struggle against their corrupt government controlled by former Communist converts that continues to resist introduction of democracy, the rule of law and free market economy. A solid U.S.-Ukraine partnership serves the political, cultural, and economic well-being of the people of both nations, he stated.

As the world's champion of democracy, the U.S. has an obligation and duty to ensure that Ukraine is treated on the same basis as all the other countries of the former Soviet Union and of the Warsaw Pact, Rep. Dougherty continued. It is in this

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Rep. Bob Schaffer is flanked by Bohdan Korzeniowski, president of the Ukrainian Federation of America (left) and former Rep. Charles F. Dougherty.

## OBITUARIES

### Ivan Kandyba, national rights activist, former Soviet political prisoner, 72

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – Ivan Kandyba, lawyer, civic and political activist, a dissident active in the national and human rights movements in Ukraine, and founding member of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, died on November 8 in Lviv. He was 72.

Mr. Kandyba was born July 7, 1930, in Stoino, now in Poland. A graduate of Lviv's Ivan Franko State University, Mr. Kandyba practiced law until his arrest in 1961. He was accused of "treason" and "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" for the attempt to organize, along with like-minded colleagues, Lev Lukianenko and Josyf Borovnytsky, and a nucleus of four other young men, the Ukrainian Workers' and Peasants' Union. The activists drafted a program of principles that included the

democratization of life in Ukraine, and the guarantee of basic civil and human rights, and raised the issue of Ukraine's right to secede from the USSR.

Mr. Kandyba served 15 years in strict-regime labor camps in Mordovia and Perm. His account of his trial and similar political trials in the 1950s, titled "Za Pravdu i Spravedlyvist" (For Truth and Justice), was smuggled out of prison and published in the West. After being released in 1976, Mr. Kandyba made every effort to emigrate.

In 1976 he became a founding member of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group. This led to his arrest in 1977 and to the maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and five years of exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda."

### Dr. Wasyl Lencyk, 90, scholar noted for service to Ukrainian Catholic Church

STAMFORD, Conn. – Dr. Wasyl Lencyk, scholar and educator, whose life was marked by singular service to the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States, died on November 10 at the age of 90.

Born November 27, 1912, in Mazurivka, Zhydachiv raion, he studied at the Teachers' College and the Theological Academy in Lviv, earning a licentiate in sacred theology in 1939. Majoring in East European history, he earned doctorates at the Ukrainian Free University in Munich (1947) and at Fordham University (1961).

Before emigrating to the United States, Dr. Lencyk was vice-principal and lecturer at Kholm Technical School, and a lecturer at the Theological Academy and at the Ukrainian Free University.

In the United States he was professor of history at St. Basil College (1954-2000) and at Seton Hall University (1963-1972). In 1963 he was appointed a professor of Church and world history at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome.

A lecturer and prolific author, his most recent work, "Notable Personages of the Ukrainian Church: Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky and Patriarch Josyf Slipyj," was published this year.

Dr. Lencyk served as secretary of the Ukrainian Red Cross in Germany, and worked with the U.S. Refugee Program (1954-1958) and the Ukrainian Catholic Committee for Refugees (1959-1962). Since 1964, he was curator of the Ukrainian Museum and Library in Stamford.

He was a member of many scholarly societies, most notably the Shevchenko Scientific Society, where he was on the board of directors and, since 1978, secretary general of its supreme council. He

also belonged to Delta Tau Kappa, the International Social Science Honor Society.

Dr. Lencyk was awarded the papal medal Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice in 1991 for his service to the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Dr. Lencyk was buried from the chapel of St. Basil College. The Very Rev. Ihor Midzak, vicar general, was the principal celebrant, representing Bishop Basil H. Losten. Co-celebrants at the funeral liturgy were colleagues and former students Msgr. Peter Skrincoosky,

(Continued on page 18)

### Lencyk led "a life of singular service"

The following tribute to Dr. Lencyk was delivered by Msgr. Leon Mosko at the funeral liturgy in the chapel of St. Basil College Seminary, and is reprinted here with the permission of *The Sower*, where it appeared on December 15.

The recent death of my good friend, Dr. Wasyl Lencyk, emeritus professor of history at St. Basil College, brought to a sad close a life of singular service to the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the United States, and to the larger work of scholarship – his legacy, one that benefited the understanding of the Ukrainian Church that he so loved to the world at large.

Dr. Lencyk was, above all else, a scholar – a respected and acclaimed historian with a worldwide reputation,

(Continued on page 14)

### George Yurkiw, UNA activist from Astoria, 73

PARSIPPANY, N.J. – George Yurkiw, a longtime secretary of Ukrainian National Association Branch 130, died on Wednesday, December 18, after a long struggle with cancer. He was 73.

The panakhyda (memorial service) was scheduled for Friday, December 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Quinn Funeral Home, 35-20 Broadway in Astoria, N.Y.

The funeral services were to be held Saturday, December 21, at 10 a.m. from Holy Cross Ukrainian Catholic Church in Astoria, with burial at Holy Sprit Ukrainian Catholic Cemetery in Hamptonburgh, N.Y.

Mr. Yurkiw is survived by his wife, Anna, and children, Mark and Renée, with their families.

## Redress settlement proposal tabled with minister of Canadian heritage

TORONTO – For over a decade the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) has sought recognition and restitution for the wrongs done to Canadians of Ukrainian and other European origins during Canada's first national internment operations of 1914-1920. Thousands of men, and some women and children, were labeled "enemy aliens," herded into Canadian concentration camps, forced to do heavy labor, had assets confiscated, were disenfranchised and subjected to various other state sanctioned censures.

Working with the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the UCCLA recently crafted terms for a proposed settlement with the Government of Canada, involving recognition of the injustices done coupled with educational and commemorative projects collectively aimed at initiating a timely and honorable reconciliation.

In Hamilton on December 2, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, UCCLA's director of research, Andriy Hladyshevsky, president of the Shevchenko Foundation, and Pavlo Grod of the UCC, accompanied by Irene Sushko, president of the UCC's Ontario Provincial Council, tabled the resulting proposal with Sheila Copps, minister of Canadian heritage. A copy of that document will soon become available on the UCCLA website ([www.uccla.ca](http://www.uccla.ca)).

Among other items, it calls for the development of a permanent museum about the internment operations in Banff National Park, six commemorative stamps, historical markers at all internment camp sites and the development of educational and other commemorative materials for Canadian schools

and universities, including four permanently endowed scholarships for those intending post-graduate studies in the social sciences and humanities, law, education and the arts having to do with the Ukrainian Canadian experience.

The total amount that will be committed to the proposed Ukrainian Canadian Reconciliation Fund, to be administered by the Shevchenko Foundation, will be determined after negotiations with the federal government have arrived at an agreed contemporary value of the internee's forced labor and of that portion of their confiscated wealth that was never returned.

Speaking after the meeting, Dr. Luciuk remarked:

"The minister was very sympathetic to the proposal we tendered, which represents the united position of our community on this matter. She has promised to work with us to action some of our requests in the near future, and to follow up with other government ministries to ensure that all relevant departments within the government are engaged in helping us right this historical injustice.

"We are now scheduled to meet with the Minister, as well as the Secretary of State for Multiculturalism Jean Augustine, and other senior government officials, in Ottawa next Wednesday, December 11, there to continue our dialogue and work toward a good settlement. This is most encouraging news, a noteworthy measure of the minister's own commitment to human rights and civil liberties and, I must say, a great gift of hope, a Christmas gift if you will, for the entire Ukrainian Canadian community."

## Kobzar Society's Pittsburgh Chapter collects hundreds of used computers bound for Ukraine

LEHIGHTON, Pa. – The Pittsburgh Chapter of the Kobzar Society, LTD., has collected hundreds of recent model used computers from universities, hospitals, and businesses throughout Western Pennsylvania for the "Computers for Ukraine" program and is preparing them for shipment to schools, libraries, museums and other educational institutions throughout Ukraine.

The chapter, which was founded by Karl J. Skutski, owner of Skutski & Oltmanns, a Pittsburgh-based public relations firm, is working in partnership with its parent, the Kobzar Society, Ltd., of Lehigh, Pa., a tax-exempt 501 (c) 3 corporation. The mission of the corporation is to help improve the access of Ukrainian children to computer technology and to the Internet.

During the past year, through the untiring and competent efforts of Mr. Skutski, the Pittsburgh chapter has evolved from going house-to-house picking up computers in an SUV to a large-scale operation with warehousing and technical facilities, volunteer truck drivers, fork-lift operators, volunteer technical staff and an inventory of 1,000 pieces of equipment.

With tremendous cooperation from the Pittsburgh community, student volunteers from the Pittsburgh Technical Institute and especially support from the Pittsburgh-based Brother's Brothers Foundation; a leading humanitarian relief organization, which provides the warehousing and good advice, the Kobzar Society's Pittsburgh Chapter grew from an idea to an operational humanitarian aid group.

The chapter has formed a partnership with the Western Pennsylvania Slovak

Cultural Association, which started a similar program of sending used computers to Slovak schools. The two groups are jointly soliciting organizations for computers and are sharing warehouse space, trucks, volunteers and, on occasion, financial resources.

"Our goal is to ship many computers to needy children in Ukraine," noted Mr. Skutski. "To date, Kobzar has shipped 150 recent-model computers throughout Ukraine and is currently readying 70 more for shipment. A thousand requests, however, cannot be filled due to lack of sponsorships. A computer or two would make a great Christmas gift and a year-end tax deduction."

In Eau Claire, Wisc., Dr. Yuriy Ripeckyj, a young radiologist at the Luther Hospital, Mayo Health System, discovered that the hospital was replacing its computers with new ones. He informed the hospital management about Kobzar Society's humanitarian program "Computers for Ukraine Program," and the hospital agreed to donate the "old" computers, all recent models, to the program.

Dr. Ripeckyj shepherded the project in the hospital and, when 150 computers were collected, he organized their transport to Kobzar Technical Center at Microapex Computer Systems in Allentown, Pa.

A portion of these Pentium II computers have been upgraded, converted to the Ukrainian electrical system, tested and packed for the next shipment to 19 schools in nine oblasts in Ukraine.

Dr. Ripeckyj's good deed for the Ukrainian children was described in an article in the Sunday, October 27, edition of the

(Continued on page 15)



The management and staff of the Ukrainian National Association, Svoboda, The Ukrainian Weekly and Soyuzivka thank all of our members and friends for their continued patronage and wish all of you a

**Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year!**

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Season of giving

Are you done with your Christmas shopping? Have you taken care of everyone on your list? Your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, teachers, the mailman...?

Now what have you forgotten? Perhaps giving a gift to someone less fortunate in His name.

Christmas, after all, is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. And in celebrating His birth, it is most appropriate to give unto others. Who are these others? Well, besides those closest to us, they include our community, our nation and those in need on the other side of the globe. It is in our power to make a difference, to help these others.

Let us tell you about some of them.

Here in our community, these "others" could include your local Ukrainian school, or one across the country for that matter. According to the most recent issue of *The Way*, the newspaper of the Philadelphia Archeparchy of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, its seven elementary schools all are in need of funds to help support their very important work with our children – this community's future. (The very existence of some of them is threatened, as they are experiencing great financial difficulty.) Just over a year ago the archeparchy established the Metropolitan Sheptytsky Education Fund to assist these schools. A donation to the fund, or directly to a school in your area, can provide tangible help to this essential but struggling facet of our community.

"Others" can also include the elderly in Ukraine, who struggle to survive on meager pensions. One of our community organizations, the respected United Ukrainian American Relief Committee – which has a track record of nearly six decades – has established an Adopt-A-Grandparent Program through which benefactors can sponsor a senior with a sum as small as \$15 per month. Think of it, a mere \$15 can mean so much!

The Ukrainian National Women's League of America, too, is helping "others" around the world by providing scholarships to needy and deserving Ukrainian students in such far-flung places as Ukraine, Brazil, Poland and Romania, as well as teachers of the Ukrainian language in former Soviet republics such as Kazakstan. The UNWLA Scholarship Program, whose mission is to "enhance and create opportunities through education and preserve Ukrainian cultural heritage," this year marked its 35th anniversary. Helping the UNWLA invest in our students is an investment in the future of the Ukrainian people.

Your donations can help these organizations – and countless others that support worthy causes and endeavors – to continue and expand their educational and charitable activity. Your generous gift can make a huge difference. And what better time to give than Christmas?

**Christ is born! Let us praise Him! – Христос родився! Славім Його!**

Dec.  
25  
1994

### Turning the pages back...

Eight years ago, in the Christmas issue for 1994, *The Ukrainian Weekly* reported that Prime Minister Jean Chrétien had broken his promise and that the Ukrainian Canadian community's 10-year-old redress claim over World War I internment operations now appeared to be dead. In 1914-1920 more than 5,000 Ukrainian Canadians were interned; another 80,000 Ukrainian Canadians were branded "enemy aliens," forced to carry identification cards and stripped of their rights to vote.

Canada's Secretary of State Sheila Finestone announced on December 14, 1994, that the federal Liberal government could not compensate more than \$400 million in redress requests for historic wrongs against six ethnic communities in Canada. *The Weekly's* Ottawa correspondent Chris Guly wrote: "That contradicted an assurance made in a June 8 letter from then-Opposition Leader Chrétien to Ihor Bardyn, chairperson of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) redress committee, that his government would 'continue to monitor the situation closely and seek to ensure that the government honors its promise.'"

Beyond the proposals submitted by the UCC and the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association (UCCLA) other groups seeking restitution included: the Canadian Jewish Congress, for the turning away of a World War II steamship, the *St. Louis*, that carried 900 Jewish refugees seeking refuge from Nazi Germany; the Chinese Canadian National Council and the National Congress of Chinese Canadians, for the shameful treatment of Chinese immigrants to Canada, who faced a controversial head tax and were denied permission to bring their families to Canada; the German Canadian Congress and the National Congress of Italian Canadians, over internment during World War II; and the National Association of Canadians of Origins in India, for the turning away of the *Komagata Maru* carrying refugees from the civil war that led to India's 1949 partition.

The rejection of the restitution requests came three years after a motion by Liberal member of Parliament Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands), calling for Ukrainian Canadian redress, was unanimously approved by the House of Commons.

In a letter to the organizations representing the six groups, Ms. Finestone apologized for previous Canadian government actions "that were at odds with our shared commitment to human justice." She added that the "only choice lies in using limited government resources to create a more equitable society now and a better future for generations to come."

The Liberal government's decision wasn't unexpected, considering former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's intransigence over compensating Japanese Canadians over World War II internment, noted Mr. Guly. Mr. Trudeau had argued that a Canadian government should be responsible only for justice in its time. Yet, in 1988, Mr. Mulroney's government paid out \$360 million in compensation to the families of Japanese Canadians.

However, when it came to dealing with the other six ethnic groups in Canada over their redress claims, the Mulroney government offered an "omnibus apology" and planned to build a "Nation Builders Hall of Record" in Ottawa. It also committed itself to placing commemorative plaques at the 26 sites of internment camps and to building an interpretive center at the Castle Mountain site in Banff National Park. As of the end of 1994, however, only one

(Continued on page 15)

## CHRISTMAS PASTORAL LETTERS

### May the Christmas story become alive

My Brother Bishops, Reverend Clergy and Reverend Sisters, Seminarians, and Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Christ Is Born!

The Christmas story is very familiar to all of us, yet so welcome in our hearts and minds. Christmas reminds us of the birth of the infant Jesus in a humble stable, surrounded by his mother, Mary, and Joseph, greeted by the poor shepherds, as well as three kings bearing riches for the child. The angels announced the birth of God's only-begotten Son, Jesus, to the shepherds and to the kings. God is among us! Jesus Christ is among us!

You and I will share in announcing this familiar story to the world around us when we participate in the beautiful and rich tradition of caroling. Ukrainians in the United States, in Canada, in Ukraine and throughout the world will joyfully sing our traditional carols and proclaim God's presence among us in Jesus to all, young and old. You and I share in this mission to announce Jesus to the world around us through our words and actions.

Our personal lives, our homes and our parishes should actively present that "God is With Us." Resolve to share the Christmas story with your family members, neighbors and friends, and particularly with the young children. The world

around us hungers to know of the presence of God. You and I have the privilege of sharing the Good News, and to be holy messengers of God's presence in the world. Be confident that those hearing the message will receive it as openly as did the shepherds and the kings who greeted the infant Jesus.

My prayer and my hope is that you will be joyful messengers of Jesus Christ's presence among us! Share God's love amidst you. Live His peace with your loved ones and with strangers. Celebrate God's forgiveness with all. Reveal God's generosity and His compassion through you. Fully celebrate your faith with your parish family. In these ways, the Christmas story will become alive to you and to all who surround you in your daily life.

I pray that God's presence may especially be felt among you and your loved ones this Christmas and in the coming year. May you be blessed with His joy and peace, and with prosperity in your life. Know of our love for you and of our prayers offered for you.

A most blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

God is among us! Christ is born!

**The Most Rev. Stefan Soroka  
Metropolitan-Archbishop**

### Let us serve the Lord as missionaries

To: The Reverend Clergy, Venerable Monastics and God-Loving Faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

Christ Is Born!

"As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord."

[Joshua 24:15]

The days of the Feast of the Nativity approach, which are dear and beloved in the hearts of all. The eternal Divine scene of the greatest of mysteries – the birth of the Son of God for the sake of our salvation – is revealed before our spiritual eyes. How great and wondrous is this feast that fills our hearts with such joy! The newly born Son of God, who lies in a simple Bethlehem manger, unites heaven and earth! Majestically, the Holy Orthodox Church sings of this divine union:

"Heaven and earth are now united for Christ is born. Today God is come down to Earth and man has arisen to Heaven." [Sticheron of the Nativity of Christ]

"The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we saw His glory, the glory as of the only Begotten of the Father) full of Grace and Truth!" [John 1:14]

Let us serve our Lord with our generosity, which He puts as accord to our salvation. Let us follow the example set by the Magi – let us be generous in sup-

port of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada Foundation.

Let us serve the Lord as missionaries. Mission is one of the most important tasks of the Church – to seek, to find, to aid and to save. Therefore, let us search for those who are lost, fatefully deprived, the sick and the deserted, let us find them in the name of the Newborn.

With these thoughts, we greet joyfully our beloved flock and all our Ukrainian brothers and sisters with the Nativity feast of Christ, wishing God's utmost grace and His blessings. Let our thoughts, warmed by brotherly love, go out to our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

Greeting you, beloved fathers, brothers and sisters with the new 2003rd year, we pray to our Lord God to give you robust health, success in life and faith in our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, blessing you with His great and generous grace and mercy.

United by love in Christ, let us celebrate magnificently and joyfully. On the occasion of Christ's Nativity, may a strong desire to serve our Lord be born in us. On the day of the nativity, let us all come to His holy temple together with our children and pledge to the Newborn to serve Him with our whole household!

† **Wasyly, Metropolitan**  
† **John, Archbishop**  
† **Yurij, Archbishop**



Detail of a painting by Bohdan Borzemyk that appears on a Christmas card published by Plast.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Awards dinner did more harm than good

Dear Editor:

When I learned that the Ukrainian Institute of America planned to honor Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko for his achievements at an event staged in New York City to advance the visibility and stature of Ukraine as a nation, I wanted very much to support it with enthusiasm. That is why my Kyiv law office participated as a corporate sponsor of this event, and why I made a special effort to attend this event, flying in from Kyiv.

To say that I now greatly regret having done so is an extreme understatement. Although the banquet at the Plaza Hotel on Monday evening, December 9, was as elegant and nicely prepared and presented as Plaza banquets always are, the rest of that gala affair is now memorable for the wrong reasons. Instead of honoring Mayor Omelchenko in a dignified and respectful presentation of the Ukrainian Institute of America's "Man of the Year" award and rather than advancing the stature of Ukraine as a nation, the event of December 9 accomplished just the opposite.

What happened at the Plaza that night – a disorganized circus of fumbling and self-serving speeches by the organizer, inept translating, procedural chaos, and a noisy, drunken, boorish and rude audience – should be of concern to those members of the Ukrainian American diaspora who want so badly to become relevant to Ukraine's recovery and rebirth because the night of December 9 did more harm than good.

As a Ukrainian American professional who has attended hundreds of such banquets and formal occasions like it during my 25-year career as an international corporate attorney, I have never witnessed an event that was so incompetently organized, so incompetently led and with an inattentive audience so out of control. In fact, I've never seen a spectacle so bizarre and thoughtlessly staged in Kyiv or other Ukrainian cities, where I have attended several dozen such affairs during the past 12 years.

This is not the first time in my hyphenated life when I was personally embarrassed by the behavior of some well-intentioned immigrant brothers and sisters, but it is the first time I was professionally humiliated in the presence of representatives of Western companies whose foreign investment in Ukraine is so badly needed.

Few persons know as well as I know how difficult it has been to interest Western firms in Ukraine, and some of the companies that were persuaded to bring their business to Ukraine in recent years were present the night of December 9 in New York, having made a special effort to attend. For non-Ukrainian guests at that event, the damage done was considerable.

In short, the disrespectful conduct at the Plaza Hotel on that night is unbecoming for a group that so badly wants the larger world to take it more seriously. There is an ironic similarity between the character of those Ukrainian Institute of America proceedings on December 9 and one of the stereotyped reputational raps against Ukraine – disordered without leadership – that it seeks to eliminate.

**Jaroslaw Zelinsky Johnson**  
Chicago

*The letter writer is managing partner of Altheimer & Gray, Kyiv.*

### Noble objectives were compromised

Dear Editor:

The decision to recognize Kyiv Mayor Oleksander Omelchenko for his accomplishments was a commendable idea, and the Ukrainian Institute of America deserves our appreciation for its initiative. Their "Man of the Year" banquet at the Plaza Hotel in New York was certainly an opportunity to celebrate some of Ukraine's positive achievements accomplished in a brief decade of independence under numerous handicaps inherited from the Soviet system.

Unfortunately, the institute's noble objectives were compromised on the night of December 9. A series of glitches in ceremonial protocol transformed the occasion into something resembling a local bazaar. Most notably, no representatives of city, state or federal government attended the Plaza event, nor did any non-Ukrainian media, which, as it turned out, was just as well. Other departures from the usual procedure governing such events included the failure to properly introduce the honoree and the absence of a presentation of an official gift. In fact, the entire evening's proceedings were disorderly and not coordinated. More disturbing, however, was the inattentive and disrespectful behavior of the large audience of more than 500 persons, which by now has been widely discussed.

All in all, that special evening, intended to enhance Ukraine's image in the world, was a disheartening reminder of how much work remains to be done in enhancing the image of the Ukrainian diaspora as well. The repeated improprieties of that evening offended and alienated many Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian guests from the professional and business communities who were in attendance and, regrettably, amused members of the Kyiv delegation (who later diplomatically characterized the evening as "very enthusiastic").

I can only hope the Ukrainian community's "Man of the Year" celebration on December 9 at least demonstrated that Ukraine's "image problem" extends to these shores as well and that its enhancement will require serious introspection here in the diaspora. I suggest that for the Ukrainian American community to become an effective lobby or cultural ambassador for its beloved homeland, it will have to develop the self-respect and respect for others that is required for meaningful participation in the real world.

**Marta Farion**  
Chicago

### Thanks for humor on Thanksgiving

Dear Editor:

Thank you so much for bringing humor to the Thanksgiving holiday. In his column, Dr. Myron Kuropas spoke of how thankful he is that George W. is leading our country. That comment alone would make many people chuckle. When he suggested, however, that the president "intellectually overwhelmed his opposition," it literally brought tears of laughter to my face. The thought of George W. Bush "intellectually overwhelming" anyone is comic and surreal! Thank you again, Dr. Kuropas, for bringing laughter and joy to Thanksgiving.

**Ray Wihak**  
Syracuse, N.Y.

## PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



### The Peace Prize for Ukraine?

A few years ago, my son and I were watching TV when a segment came on that featured a bunch of nuclear explosions. Some were in the grainy black and white footage of the 1950s: a round puff on the horizon that flattened out in a brilliant flash, then rose almost instantly on top of a long white column that expanded into an angry mushroom cloud. Some were in color – similar explosion, only all the shades of hell.

"Whoa!" my son Michael gasped in awe, and in horror. He had never seen this before, so it gave us an opportunity to talk. He was in the third or fourth grade then and already knew a lot. He'd heard of Albert Einstein and knew the formula where you take a small amount of matter and convert it into a huge amount of energy:  $E=mc^2$ . What he didn't know was what I had half forgotten, how when I was in elementary school like him, kids would duck under desks whenever we heard the air raid sirens outside. Never mind that the notion of hiding under your desk to escape a nuclear bomb made him laugh.

This was during the Cold War, I explained, and the Soviet Union was dropping 50-megaton "devices" above the Arctic Ocean. (A megaton is the equivalent of a million tons of TNT.) "We will bury you!" Nikita Khrushchev growled while Soviet tanks rolled into Budapest.

World War II had ended just 10 years before in 1945. Japan was fighting to the bitter end in that war, until the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima and three days later another one on Nagasaki: two bombs, 200,000 casualties; nearly half the population of both cities. The Japanese promptly surrendered.

Who would want such terrible weapons, my son wondered? Sadly, a lot of people do, I told him, but actually that's not true. People generally don't want weapons like that, but their leaders do. The United States was the first to develop atomic weapons, largely for fear Nazi Germany would get them. A few years later, Soviet spies stole the secret of nuclear technology and Joseph Stalin got the bomb. To keep up with the great powers, France and Great Britain developed their own nuclear weapons. Next, China had to go nuclear because she, too, wanted to be a great power and, besides its enemy to the north, the Soviet Union, had the bomb. Israel, embattled on any number of fronts, is said to have at least a hundred nuclear warheads. The most recent member of the nuclear club is Pakistan, which developed its bomb to counter India's. India, of course, needed nuclear weapons because China, her neighbor to the east, has them. Now it appears that North Korea has a nuclear program and the United States is about to start a war with Iraq to keep that country from having one.

Watching the ancient footage of nuclear blasts, I explained to my son that the world was crazy back then. There were two camps that conducted what we called "the arms race," building more nukes every year with ever more sophisticated delivery systems. One such bomb could destroy the entire city of Cleveland – eventually, there were tens of thousands of them. There still are, and things are still crazy.

That was one sobering conversation for a dad and his 9-year-old son.

Now for the good news! On November 12, Ukraine destroyed the last strategic bomber in its nuclear arsenal, the TU-160. An UNIAN news service photo shows a sleek, needle-nosed airplane with slender wings and a faded red star on its tail, standing crippled on the tarmac at a military airport near Poltava, neatly cut in two. That plane will never drop bombs on anyone. With that, a chapter closed for Ukraine and the world.

To refresh your memory, in 1991 Ukraine became the third largest nuclear power. Its arsenal included 1,300 SS-19 and SS-24 intercontinental ballistic missiles and more than 600 air-launched cruise missiles, along with 176 missile silos and about 40 nuclear-capable bombers. Only the United States and Russia had more.

During the Cold War a priest-like caste of nuclear strategists actively and very publicly plotted a man-made apocalypse, using arcane terms like "throw weights," "megatonnage," "ICBM's," "MIRVs" and best of all "MAD."

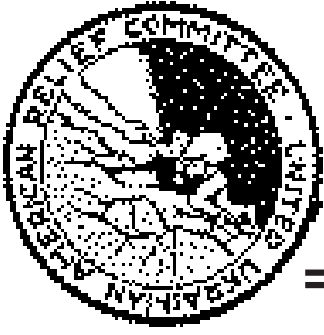
That was shorthand for saying "If you strike us, we will deliver tens of thousands of nuclear warheads and destroy human life as completely as we can." They called it "Mutually Assured Destruction" – MAD. Get it?

During that era, thousands upon thousands of soldiers practiced how to wage nuclear war, while millions of children in their classrooms practiced how to survive one. When the Soviet Union collapsed, Ukraine suddenly joined the nuclear lunatic asylum. Over the past decade the country has been working its way toward sanity. In February 1999, Ukraine destroyed the last of its SS-19 missiles. A year ago in October, schoolchildren from the Mykolaiv Region turned the keys on explosives and blew up the last missile silo in Ukraine. With the destruction of its last strategic bomber on November 12, the country and its people walked away from the nuclear club for good.

The whole process began in 1994 when President Leonid Kravchuk committed his country to become nuclear-free. And now it is.

As the Nobel Peace Prize Committee begins considering candidates for the 2004 award, I would like to suggest President Leonid Kravchuk. Not only did Mr. Kravchuk play a central role in the demise of the boundlessly evil Soviet empire, he also put his country on a course where today the rights of all Ukrainians are respected, regardless of their national origin. Just compare how he dealt with the Russian minority in Crimea with the way Russia has been handling Chechnya. Look at President Kravchuk's leadership in honoring Holocaust victims at Babyn Yar in Kyiv. And finally, look at his leadership in eliminating nuclear weapons from Ukraine's soil.

There are those who say that President Kravchuk's decision to put Ukraine on a nuclear-free course was a mistake. That's the perversity of the nuclear temptation – you can argue it either way. As far as I'm concerned, though, President Kravchuk made some unprecedented and very courageous decisions, including the one to do away with nuclear weapons on the territory of Ukraine. He deserves global recognition for that. The mistake now would be to deny him the Nobel Peace Prize he so richly deserves.



# UUARC Newsletter

United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Inc.  
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UUARC Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 2  
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## Adopt-a-Grandparent program aids elderly

The UUARC's Adopt-a-Grandparent Program is a successful program and an extremely gratifying one due to the actual one-on-one feedback that sponsors receive from their adopted "grandparents."

Tearful letters of thanks often come to the UUARC office, but even more frequent are the letters of gratitude that sponsors receive directly from their beneficiaries.

Below are three extremely poor and needy seniors who need to be "adopted" by someone:

- Ivan Mychajliuk, from the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, was born in 1924, and imprisoned for many years in a far-northern gulag for "revolutionary" activities. He is now very ill and receives a tiny pension, which does not nearly cover his expenses.

- Maria Didukh, born in 1926 and politically active in her younger years, was sent to Siberia and terrorized as punishment for her nationalistic efforts. She returned, blind and alone, to her home in Donetsk and continues to suffer in poverty.

- Stepan Boznyj, born in 1922, lives in the Poltava Oblast and is very ill. He, too, was sent to Siberia and survived the tortures of the Soviet gulag. He lives in poverty and hopes that someone will help him.

We appeal to readers to open their hearts as the holidays draw near and cold weather approaches. Please sponsor one of our former activists so they may live out their lives in some comfort in a free Ukraine. To them, your \$15 per month will make it possible to have medicine or a warm meal once a day.

What a wonderful way to make such a difference in someone's life!

## Our generous friend

Bohdan Kurylko, our generous friend who for years has worked with the Lviv Office of the UUARC, this year has funded five scholarships for students, signed a contract for 200 pairs of shoes for orphans, and has provided funding for 75 food baskets for shut-ins and needy senior citizens in Lviv.

Mr. Kurylko has also provided financial assistance to several needy families in the Lviv area.

## Board approves donation to Ukrainians in Romania

Ethnic Ukrainians can be found throughout the world – in countries where the economy is thriving, as well as in countries where the economic level is very low and where the populace, especially with foreign roots, lives in terrible circumstances.

This fall, as in the past, we received a letter from the Ukrainian Association of Romania asking for help for the Ukrainian poor and orphaned children of Romania, who cannot attend school for lack of

shoes and clothing. These children are found throughout Romania – 987 in Maramorshchyna, 512 in Bukovyna, 330 in the Satu Mo region, 542 in Arada county, 216 in Tymish, 356 in Karash-Severin and 421 in Dobrudzhu, at the source of the Danube.

The Ukrainian Association of Romania writes that the UUARC is the only Ukrainian organization that helps these children, and that UUARC's generosity and kindness is blessed in the hearts of

Lesya Spirnyak met with Serhij Senyk of Ternopil. He could not forgive himself for bringing his wife, Natalie, and his son Jaroslaw to see this air show. At the moment of the crash he was getting ice cream for his family.

Alexandra and Victor Vyshnevsky allowed their daughters Malvina, 9, and Solomiya, 5, to attend the air show with friends. Unfortunately both girls perished. Three weeks after the accident, when the UUARC representatives went to their home to visit the parents and offer them survivor benefits, the Vyshnevskys were not home. Neighbors explained that the parents go to the cemetery early every morning, and the neighbors have to forcibly bring them

home for the night.

Bohdan Onyshchak lost both of his sons, a daughter-in-law and a granddaughter. This was all the family he and his wife had.

The situation was very difficult also for the injured survivors. Immediately after the accident, 162 people were treated at local hospitals, but more people were treated for shock in the next two days. According to official information, 298 persons required medical attention. Children who witnessed the accident experienced severe psychological stress, the impact of which cannot yet be determined.

Hospitals were adequately supplied with medications and bandages thanks to immediate responses from local pharmaceutical companies and the International Red Cross, as well as shipments from Romania, Poland, Spain, Hungary and Germany.

The outpouring of grief for the many victims of the Lviv air disaster from America was accompanied, once again, by generous donations from the community, totaling \$59,000. The UUARC's Lviv Office representatives have made personal visits to families of the deceased and injured. The guideline used for initial distribution was \$200 per victim.

## UUARC helps families of miners killed in Zasiadko shaft

In the summer of 2002 there were three more serious accidents in coal mines in eastern Ukraine. The Ukraina mine incident took 35 lives, the one in the Zasiadko shaft killed 20 miners, and the one at Bulavinskoho killed one.

Thanks to the generosity of the Ukrainian American community, we collected over \$23,000, which went to the

families of the miners who lost their lives, as well as to those who were injured.

While there is talk of improving mine shaft safety, the miners are in no position to wait for improvements as their families struggle. The jobs are greatly sought after and are the only means of support for these miners.

## Summer camps for needy children held in Ukraine

As in years past, the Kyiv Office of UUARC organized summer camps for orphans and needy children of Ukraine. This year the Executive Board of UUARC

designated \$8,000 for this project. The Lviv Office received \$6,000 for a similar program. With donations to SUM and Plast youth camps in Ukraine, the UUARC

spent a total of \$19,000 on youth camps in Ukraine.

Two 18-day camps were organized by the Kyiv Office: one in Tatarbuniar in the Odesa Oblast, and another in Ochakiv on the Black Sea in the Mykolaiv Oblast. Ninety orphans and needy children, age 9-15, from the Luhansk region were invited to these camps. Some of these children had horrendous backgrounds – there were stories of children being found abandoned and living in dog houses before being adopted by families in the Luhansk region. Others had compromised immune systems and pneumonia. The curative effects of the sea air should help them to stay healthy throughout the year.

The camps not only provided the children with rest and relaxation, which included swimming and other sports, but the counselors conducted Shevchenko poetry recitation contests and Ukrainian history competitions. The children and their counselors have sent heartfelt thank-you letters to the UUARC for the wonderful experience. This, as all of our programs, can only be offered to these children thanks to the generosity of the Ukrainian American community's contributions to the UUARC General Fund.



Children from the Luhansk Oblast enjoy summer camp.

## Vehicle donations accepted

The UUARC is now able to accept donated vehicles as contributions. They will be auctioned off and proceeds will benefit all of the great UUARC programs about which you have read. A donated car, truck, van or motorcycle does not have to be in good condition nor does it have to run – we will arrange for someone to pick up the vehicle, and we will give you a receipt for fair market value.

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## Supporters celebrate...

(Continued from page 1)

blessings rendered by the Rev. Philip Sandryk, pastor of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church, and the Rev. Ivan Leshyk, pastor of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Olha Hnateyko, president of The Ukrainian Museum's board of trustees, flanked by members of the board, past and present, as well as the museum staff, greeted the numerous enthusiastic participants of this momentous occasion. She said that the topping out ceremony at the site of the new museum building was the result of the cumulative efforts, dedication and generosity of many people in the greater Ukrainian community.

With much emotion she paid tribute to the founding organization of the museum, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) and its members throughout the United States for their unflinching and sustained support. Mrs. Hnateyko thanked museum members and donors, individuals who subscribed to funding opportunities in the new building, Ukrainian financial institutions and the Ukrainian press for genuine, positive and kind-hearted support of the museum through the years.

She especially highlighted the unusually generous donation from Self Reliance (New York) Federal Credit Union (\$500,000) and the princely gift (\$2.5 million, plus a \$1 million Challenge Grant) from entrepreneur Eugene Shklar and his wife, Daymel.

Regretting that they were unable to attend the topping out event, Mr. and Mrs. Shklar sent a greeting, congratulating "everyone who has worked so smart and so hard over the years to have made this possible."

Nicolas Andreadis, chair of the museum's Building Committee, praised the hard work and cooperative efforts of all involved with the building project. He said that, having overcome "challenging site conditions ..., the team of general contractor S. DiGiacomo & Son and all contractors, architect SawickiTarella Architecture+Design and The Ukrainian Museum Building Committee members have this project on schedule." He stated that construction of the 25,000-square-foot, three-story facility is slated to be completed by summer 2003.

Architect George Sawicki praised the Ukrainian community for providing strong support for this significant endeavor up to now and that such support will also be needed in the future. He also expressed his great satisfaction that the building project has reached this important milestone.

Amid the overwhelming focus on the

future, the topping out event also provided reflections on the historical past of The Ukrainian Museum. Toward that end, Iryna Kurowyckyj, president of the UNWLA, was the first person invited to sign the steel beam. She signed in the name of the members of UNWLA who founded the museum in 1976 as well as for its current membership.

The museum honored its first president (1977-1978), Alexandra Riznyk, whose name was signed on the beam by her son Myro Riznyk. Signing for the legendary and long-time president (1978-1990) of the Museum, Dr. Bohdan Cymbalista, was his grandson, Jurij Kuzmycz. Among the signatories was former board President John Luchechko; former Presidents Osyp Danko and Titus Hewryk were not able to attend.

As members and donors, old and new friends, and supporters of the institution came up to place their signatures on the white steel beam, there was no doubt that the Museum's anticipated achievements in the years ahead would be realized. The signing ceremony concluded with the "hosts" of the event signing the beam, namely, museum Director Maria Shust, members of the administration, members of the board of trustees and, last board President Hnateyko.

The Ukrainian Museum has been a viable member of New York City's cultural community for 26 years. Its work on behalf of the cultural legacy of the Ukrainian immigration in the United States has earned the institution popularity with the public, respect among its peers and endorsement and commitment of cooperation from the government of Ukraine.

The new building project has been a huge undertaking not only on the part of the museum's leadership but on the part of the community as well. To date the funds for the construction of the building are in place. However, money is needed to equip and furnish the new building, organize and mount representative inaugural exhibitions, and develop and sustain enriched programs.

Following the topping out event at the construction site, all were invited to a celebration party organized by the Special Events Committee, at the Museum's current location at 203 Second Ave. Food and wine warmed the body, while reflections on this special occasion invigorated the spirit. During the afternoon more than \$35,000 was donated and pledged to the Building Fund.

Donations to the building project may be sent to: The Ukrainian Museum, 203 Second Ave., New York, NY 10003. For information call (212) 228-0110; e-mail info@ukrainianmuseum.org or log on to ukrainianmuseum.org.



Yulia Tymoshenko responds to the media's questions during a news conference with (from left) Petro Symonenko, Viktor Yushchenko and Oleksander Moroz.

## Opposition forces...

(Continued from page 1)

the computerized voting in the session hall that opposition forces were successfully blocking for the second time.

Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn then called a recess to hold a vote on the draft resolutions prepared by the majority on the budget, National Bank and redistribution of Rada committees. Ballots were given out by the tabulating committee to leaders of the Rada's factions and, amid much confusion voting took place in the office of Oleksander Zadorozhnyi. The tabulating committee then announced that the majority had succeeded in passing all of the measures.

Later that day at a press conference, opposition leaders declared that they would seek to have the results invalidated in court, noting that even the regulations of the majority's commission had been violated as 30 ballots were submitted late. Ms. Tymoshenko said that a claim would be submitted bearing signatures of approximately 200 deputies.

"A coup d'état has been carried out in Parliament," said Mr. Symonenko, addressing the Rada the following day and calling on the chairman of the Verkhovna Rada to invalidate Tuesday's vote.

In addition to canceling the votes, the opposition insisted at the press conference two days later that pressure on opposition deputies to join the majority must come to an end, that a moratorium must be declared on deputies moving from faction to faction, and that deputies elected from a party list should be dismissed when they leave their faction. All of the opposition parties have seen a steady flow

of deputies from their faction to the parliamentary majority, with Our Ukraine losing five on one day last week. Opposition leaders have repeatedly blamed this on pressure from the authorities.

They suggested that, if the majority meets these conditions the opposition would allow the appointment of Mr. Tyhypko as chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine exchange.

"If these conditions are met, we are ready to return to normal legislative activities," said Socialist Party leader Oleksander Moroz.

At their press conference the opposition leaders said that they had agreed to unite in their struggle with the authorities, citing the events of December 17 as the cause of their union. Reading from a joint statement titled "Are you for or against Ukraine?" Mr. Moroz declared the union: "We the leaders of democratic opposition forces are announcing the joining of our efforts on the basis of the factions of Our Ukraine, the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, and the Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc."

The opposition leaders said they were combining their efforts in order to prevent Ukraine from falling further into political chaos – a situation that could lead to economic catastrophe. They also commented that the current authorities are implementing a policy that could result in the loss of Ukraine's independence.

"The authorities crossed the final line of legality, morality and honor," Mr. Moroz read from the joint statement. "The current authorities are capable of stepping over the law, over the Parliament, over democracy, and, finally, over Ukraine itself," he added.

## Rada passes...

(Continued from page 3)

with its provisions, and requires that relevant legislation be amended.

The adoption of the bill and its implementation are yet another step by Ukraine in international efforts to fight money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The bill was drafted in close cooperation with experts of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund as well as the U.S. departments of Justice and the Treasury.

With money laundering and other criminal activities rapidly taking on staggering international dimensions, cooperation between Ukrainian and U.S. law enforcement agencies is of tremendous importance. Upon taking effect, the bill will be a substantial means in addition to

such bilateral instruments as the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty of 1998 and the Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime of 1990, to track down criminals, bring them to justice and restore violated rights.

The law enforcement agencies of the two countries are heavily involved in investigating a series of money-laundering activities committed on the territory of both Ukraine and the United States. The result of such cooperation was already displayed in 2000, when the government of Ukraine received \$1 million in compensation for damages inflicted by a U.S.-based company.

The bill expands the possibilities of the law enforcement agencies of Ukraine in their international efforts to fight money laundering, and prevent legalization of proceeds from crime.



The steel beam rises to the top of the infrastructure of the museum's future home.

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(Continued on page 11)

# "Team Ostroh" visits with Ukrainian Americans in Minnesota

by Dr. Myron B. Kuropas

MINNEAPOLIS – "Team Ostroh" consists of two very dynamic people from the National University of Ostroh Academy: Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk, rector, and Natalia Lominska, vice-rector.

They are a "team" because they complement each other in their presentations about the university. Dr. Pasichnyk, a psychologist-mathematician during Soviet times, represents the evolving present, that historical personal segment of Ukraine that has successfully removed its Soviet crust and is moving towards the cultural West, away from Moscow.

Eight years ago, Dr. Pasichnyk was offered a decrepit series of buildings in Ostroh as the future location of a reborn Ostroh Academy. Today that site is the home of a thriving liberal arts university that is fast becoming a beacon of higher education. Many believe Ostroh will soon set the pace for a future educational renaissance in Ukraine.

Natalia Lominska, a 34-year-old educator who completed her master's degree in America, represents the future – that segment of Ukrainian higher education that is still on the horizon. Familiar with Western ideas, Ms. Lominska articulates the hopes and dreams of the Ostroh experience while participating in its resurrection. Given the Soviet mind-set of President Leonid Kuchma's bloated Ministry of Education, this is no easy task.

Unlike other recent visitors from Ukraine who visit New York and Washington exclusively and believe they have "seen America," Team Ostroh has traveled to America's heartland, where diverse Ukrainian communities have thrived since the early 1900s.

Last year they visited Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, New York City and Newark, N.J.

This year they completed a monthlong tour of Ukrainian communities that began in Minneapolis, and took them to Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Washington, Milwaukee (where they visited with Maria Pyskir, who authored a book on her experiences with UPA), Boston (where they visited with members of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, as well as members of Harvard University administration) and Kerhonkson, N.Y., (where they attended the 50th anniversary celebrations of Soyuzivka).

"We are not here just to raise money for Ostroh, but to get to know the Ukrainian diaspora," explained Dr. Pasichnyk during his visit to Minneapolis. "There is so much about Ukrainians in the United States that we in Ukraine know little about."

"We're also happy to bring some good news from Ukraine," concluded the rector. "Not all that is happening in Ukraine is bad."



During a visit by Ostroh Academy officials to Minnesota (from left) are: the Very Rev. Peter Siwko, Lesia and Myron Kuropas, Dr. Ihor Pasichnyk, Halyna Myroniuk, Natalia Lominska and Maya (Maria) Gregoret.

The Minneapolis visit began with a tour of the Ukrainian cultural museum at St. Constantine Ukrainian Catholic Church on Sunday, October 27. The brainchild of its late pastor, the esteemed Msgr. Stephen Knapp, the museum contains photos of many Ukrainian Catholic churches around the world (some of which were destroyed by the Soviets), as well as various cultural artifacts including Easter eggs, embroidery and wood-carving.

A bronze plaque hangs in the foyer of the church, listing all of the benefactors.

Amazingly, the "pyrohy ladies," lead the list with a donation of \$100,000.

Following the liturgy, a reception organized by local luminaries Walter Anatas and Dr. Michael Kozak was held in the church hall, where Team Ostroh spoke.

Next on the itinerary was St. Katherine Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Arden Hills, Minn., where another reception, organized by the Minnesota UCCA chairman, Mykola Maigets, a member of Ukraine's fourth wave immigration to America, was held. The Rev. Petro

Siwko, was especially gracious in welcoming the guests from Ostroh and urging parishioners to donate whatever they could to the Ostroh building program. Also a relatively recent arrival in the United States, the Rev. Siwko projected genuine warmth and caring both in his remarks and welcoming demeanor.

Completed in 1995, literally in the heart of the North Woods, the Byzantine-domed St. Katherine Church is home to one of the few parishes in the

(Continued on page 23)



Roman Deshitsa, a recent immigrant from Ukraine, with the Ostroh vice-rector at St. Katherine Church Hall.



Rector Ihor Pasichnyk presents the Ostroh Encyclopedia to Dr. Michael Kozak (center) as Vice-Rector Natalia Lominska looks on.

## A SPECIAL REPORT...

(Continued from page 10)

<p>Lesia Bekersay Whitesboro, N.Y.                  Daria Bekesewycz Newark, N.J.                  Bohdanna Bihun Novato, Calif.                  Alexander Bilan London, Ontario                  Walter Bilyk Jersey City, N.J.                  Chryzanna                  Huhlewych-Woroch New York, N.Y.                  Myroslava Cybriwsky Chicago, Ill.                  Svetlana Dubinin Haskell, N.J.                  Maria Dychdala Norristown, Pa.                  Amalia Flohs Boynton Beach, Fla.                  Anne Fritz Spring Hill, Fla.                  Areta Halibey Westchester, Ill.                  R.M. Wawriw-Labinskyj Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico                  Leon Jaworsky Pitt Meadows, British Columbia                  Christine Kaczmar Media, Pa.                  George Kaniwec Southington, Conn.                  Irene Kobziar Pelham Manor, N.Y.</p>	<p>Eleanor Kogut Woonsocket, R.I.                  Maria Korolyshyn North Port, Fla.                  Jurij Kostiw New York, N.Y.                  Harry Kowalcheck West Newton, Pa.                  Helen Kugler Arlington Heights, Ill.                  Halyna Kuzma Tannersville, N.Y.                  Mark Levytsky Huntingdon Valley, Pa.                  Natalie Lysyj Austin, Tex.                  Mary Majnich North Port, Fla.                  Roman Melnyk Toronto, Ontario                  T. Moroz Lachine, Quebec                  Yuriy Oliynyk Carmichael, Calif.                  Katherine Panchesine Woodbine, N.J.                  Jaroslav Panchuk Chicago, Ill.                  Omelan Pleshkewych Park Ridge, Ill.                  Jennifer Rohrer Menomonee Falls, Wis.                  Peter Romanyshyn Denver, Colo.                  Steve Rubec Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec                  Peter Rudy Toms River, N.J.                  Michael Scyocurka Laguna Woods, Calif.                  Nazar Shcheglov Jackson Heights, N.Y.                  Dmytro Sich Alfred Station, N.Y.                  Wolodymyr Slyz Woodside, N.Y.</p>	<p>Jaroslav Stanecky Elmira, N.Y.                  Hryhorij Swiatkiwsky Sloan, N.Y.                  Alex Szendiuch Rocky Hill, Conn.                  Michael Tereck Troy, Mich.                  Michaylo Trotch Parma, Ohio                  Sydir Tymiak Pittsburgh, Pa.                  Gregory Welych Syracuse, N.Y.                  Bohdan Wynar Littleton, Colo.                  Sophia Zaczko North Haven, Conn.</p>
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**Total: \$7,397.00**

**... AND A SPECIAL THANK-YOU**

These donations to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund were received during the month of October along with payments for "Ukraine Lives!" (The list does not include other donations to The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund received separately.)

A huge thank-you to our many contributors for this wonderful response to our book!

Please note: The Ukrainian Weekly Press Fund is the sole fund dedicated exclusively to supporting the work of this publication.

## DATELINE NEW YORK: Ukrainian youngster stars in Christmas classic

by Helen Smindak

Volodia Efremov Kendall at 12, appears to be on the way to a great career in show business or opera. It's not yet certain which medium he'll choose, but he can sing, dance and act, so there are several directions he can follow.

Young Volodia revealed his fine singing and acting talents when he performed the title role in Gian Carlo Menotti's Christmas classic, "Amahl and the Night Visitors," at the Church of the Transfiguration ("The Little Church Around the Corner") earlier this month. Claudia Dumschat, organist and choirmaster at the church, conducted the production; Richard Olson directed.

As Amahl in the fully staged, costumed, professional production with chamber orchestra, Volodia played a crippled youngster who lives with his mother (mezzo-soprano Anna Hurwitz) in a small hut. One night three strangers come to their door, seeking refuge for the night, and are welcomed by the boy and his mother, even though they have little food and space to share. When the strangers – the three Kings Melchior, Kaspar and Balthazar – depart the next morning to continue their journey to Jerusalem, the boy discovers that his leg has been miraculously healed and he no longer needs to use a crutch. The joy of Amahl and his mother is overwhelming.

In his debut as Amahl, Volodia was in turn fittingly sad and ecstatically happy, his clear soprano ringing through the church past stained glass windows, bronze tablets and 18th century Italian paintings. Now in the seventh grade at Our Lady of Pompeii school in Manhattan, he studies voice with Beverly Meyers. A dance student of Roma Pryma Bohachevsky since age 5, he has appeared as the Boy Dancer in three past productions of "Amahl" at the church, where he also sings with the Choir of Men and Boys.

The youngster is the son of Dr. Mary Efremov, an internist with a practice in Manhattan's East Village, and Dr. Leon Kendall of Brooklyn.

The Boys Choir at Transfiguration offers youngsters the chance to develop a love and enjoyment of music, and grow in poise and self-discipline, while joining with others in performing inspirational choral works. Reflecting that poise as he answered questions during a post-concert reception, Volodia told "Dateline" he rehearsed with the Amahl cast for three months before the presentation.

In a confident, outgoing manner, the rosy-cheeked singer offered the information that "people call me Vo" and that he has two brothers – one named Nick, for Nicholas, who's attending SUNY at Albany, and the other Slav, for Sviatoslav, now completing high school. He attends Ukrainian school on Saturdays at St. George's Academy.

He said he was looking forward to singing with the Choir of Men and Boys and the Episcopal Actors' Guild during a December 15 service of lessons and carols at Transfiguration Church and at a carol sing at the Di Capo Opera on December 18.

Dr. Efremov, sporting an exquisitely embroidered Bukovinian blouse she wears on many such occasions, volunteered the information that the Boys Choir has five other members of Ukrainian ancestry: Artem Derkatch, Markian Onufrin, Steven Radchenko, Aleksey Semenest and Vitaliy Simonian.

Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors," the first opera commissioned especially for television, premiered on the NBC Opera Theater in New York on Christmas Eve 1951. It is now performed more than any other opera in the world.

The Church of the Transfiguration, a national landmark located on East 29th Street near Fifth Avenue, came to be known as "The Little Church Around the Corner" when New York actors who found themselves to be social outcasts in the late 1800s began to frequent the church, referring to it as "the little church around the corner."

### Ukrainian carols à la Russe

Does a Russian chorus merit attention in a column devoted to Ukrainian arts and entertainment? It does if it includes Ukrainian carols in its repertoire, sung by an eclectic group of performers that includes Ukrainian singers, among them a basso from Ukraine with the deepest and fullest bass I've ever heard.

Appearing at New York University's acoustically perfect Catholic Center on Washington Square South, the Russian Chamber Chorus of New York (RCCNY), directed by Nicholas Kachanov, gave an inspiring concert of traditional Christmas liturgical music by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Kastalsky and Chesnokov, as well as Russian and Ukrainian Yuletide carols. The concert was repeated the following weekend at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and the Church of the Good Shepherd in Manhattan.

In the first part of the program, the chorus focused its attention on selections from Rachmaninoff's Vespers, Op. 37 and Tchaikovsky's Vespers, Op. 52; Chesnokov's "Cherubic Hymn" and Alexander Kastalsky's "Four Christmas Hymns." The last-named work included "znamenyi" chant (a genre of Eastern Orthodox church music) titled "God is With Us," where the booming bass of Ukraine-born soloist Anatoly Panchosny struck awe in listeners.

For the concert's second half, Mr. Kachanov and the chorus turned to Ukrainian and Russian carols, leading me to expect thrilling performances of beloved Ukrainian carols. Instead, there



Stefan Szkafarowsky and Stefania Dovhan after a performance at the Ukrainian Institute of America.

were four beautifully sung works that were not recognizable as Ukrainian carols, although I thought I detected strains from "Nova Radist Stala" and "Boh Predvichnyi" in the last two. Three Russian carols, wonderfully executed, preceded Leontovych's arrangement of the Ukrainian New Year carol "Schedryk."

"Schedryk," known to the world as "Carol of the Bells" and named in the program as "O, Goodly Spirit," was given a delicate and stunning rendition that sent the audience out into the crisp night singing and humming this popular Ukrainian carol.

Mr. Kachanov told "Dateline" after the concert that the Ukrainian carols I did not recognize were "very old carols – forgotten folk carols which I found here in America. The Ukrainian (in them) is a mixture, very close to what is heard in the western part of Ukraine." This definition jibes with the description given by the ensemble's publicist, Daniel Bavalack, a New Yorker of Lemko heritage, who remembers his aunts and mother singing these carols when he was growing up in Shamokin, Pa., within the community supported by the Ruthenian/Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

Mr. Kachanov, born in Siberia, admitted to having some Ukrainian blood, and pointed out chorus members of Ukrainian birth or heritage such as his wife, Tamara Kachanov, bass Ed Baran and Mr. Panchosny, born in the Mariupol region of eastern Ukraine like his father and grandfather before him. The ensemble's tenor section is almost entirely Irish; other chorus members are of Jewish stock, black and other ethnic backgrounds.

The program was titled "A Russian Christmas," which gives one pause. A concert of Russian and Ukrainian music with the title "A Russian Christmas" seems to bear up the long-held (mistaken) belief

that Ukrainians and Russians are one and the same. Did anyone at RCCNY consider this?

### Christmas goodies

During the Christmas season, the rhapsodic chimes of "Carol of the Bells" are heard everywhere around town – in department stores, street corners, on TV and radio, and in concerts. Here's something to add to your "Bells" lore. The New York Times music critic James R. Oestreich, in the December 15 feature "In Love With Christmas Music (and Proud of It)," admits to a passion for "The Carol of the Bells." He says that he has a craving for bells, and "the rare fine performance of 'The Carol of the Bells' still gives me chills."

Christmas cards with illustrations by Ukrainian artists were published this year, as usual, by The Ukrainian Museum and the Ukrainian National Association. And though this reminder is rather late, there's still time to avail yourself of distinctive greeting cards for the Julian Christmas. The museum's cards include a reproduction of a woodcut by Zenowij Onyshkevych, a color reproduction of an icon by Halyna Mazepa, and a color reproduction of a stained glass panel by Yaroslava Surmach Mills. Ms. Mills' glass panel, showing an angel playing a surma (a Ukrainian horn), is one of 14 stained glass panels of angels playing Ukrainian historical instruments, which the artist designed for St. Demetrius Ukrainian Catholic Church in Toronto. The cards are available in the museum gift shop at 203 Second Ave., via the website [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org), and via e-mail at [info@ukrainianmuseum.org](mailto:info@ukrainianmuseum.org).

The UNA's set of 14 cards (seven art works times two) by artists in the U.S. and

(Continued on page 15)



Volodia Efremov Kendall (center) with fellow cast members from a production of "Amahl and the Night Visitors."

## A Christmas Encounter

by Ivan Harvas

In January 1945 the Hlukhyi Company, numbering 124 riflemen, approached Lviv and bivouacked in the nearby forest. At that time, the Bolsheviks were cutting down our forests and bringing the logs to central meeting points. The older Red Army soldiers guarded the lumber. Very often they were sympathetic to our battle for freedom. They informed us of upcoming attacks, misinformed the NKVD of our numbers and movements, and collected food and passed it on to us in the woods.

On Sviat Vechir (Christmas Eve) our company

*Ivan Harvas (pseudonyms: Soia, Dub), born in 1909 in the village of Rokytno, Lviv region, served in the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA) from 1943 to 1947. He passed away in 1999 in Chicago, bequeathing his estate to his family, to veterans of UPA and their families in his and neighboring villages in Ukraine, and a large amount for the publication of Volume 31 of Litopys UPA. He did not live to see his memoirs in print.*

*The article above was translated by Orysia Paszczak Tracz with permission from "The UPA in Lviv and Yaroslav Regions: Memoirs and Documents of UPA Soldiers in Tactical Sector 'Roztochchia' 1943-1947." Toronto-Lviv: Litopys UPA, 2001. (Litopys UPA, Vol. 31)*

went to the neighboring village of Rokytno. The squads settled into the various homes for the night. Commander Hlukhyi and I stayed at the local cantor's house. After our prayer together, we all sat down for the Holy Supper. After extending Christmas greetings, the hospodar (master of the house) also wished us endurance in our continuing battles to our final victory.

Our commander thanked the hosts for their wishes and greeted them with the feast of the birth of Christ. After supper, according to our Ukrainian custom, we sang koliady (carols). The riflemen were happy and felt as if they were among their own family, celebrating Christmas.

At that time, five NKVD officers arrived at the local priest's home. [Not aware of this] our commander suggested that we go to the priest to carol for him. Ten soldiers were picked, among them Bohun, who was the fiddler, and Malynovyi, who played on the mandolin. As we stood at the window of the pastor's home we asked for permission to carol. The priest invited us inside. Commander Hlukhyi entered first, and immediately shouted, "Hands up!" He commanded the NKVD men not to touch their nearby weapons.

"Do you know who we are?" asked Hlukhyi.  
"Yes, we know. You are Ukrainian partisans,"

was the reply.

"May we carol for you?"

"Pozhalosta [please, in Russian], do so," they replied.

We caroled "Nova Radist Stala." Afterwards, I recited the Christmas vinshuvannia (ritual greeting) to all. The Moskali (Muscovites, i.e., Russians) took out money to pay us for the koliada.

"We don't need your money. We are praising with joy the Newborn Jesus. And do you know what we are fighting for?" asked the commander.

"Yes, for your national independence."

After this, our commander inspected their identification documents and said, "You are all members of the [Communist] Party, and your activities deserve severe punishment. But today, on the day of Christ's Birth, we grant you leave."

The NKVD officers were ordered not to bother the priest, because he had not informed us about their presence [in his home]. Finally, our commander gave them our leaflets "What UPA is Fighting For" and asked them to distribute them along the road to Lviv.

Parting with the enemy, we caroled at the windows for all the villagers and, towards morning, continued along our UPA paths.

## Silent Night, Holy Night

by Edward Andrusko

During the early part of World War II on Guadalcanal Island in the South Pacific, we battle-weary survivors, Marines and sailors of the 1st Marine Division were being rotated off the island and out of combat one regiment at a time. It had been a long costly battle; a bitter contest of naval, air and ground forces between the United States and Japan. This small tropical island situated near the equator was a steamy green inferno, the home of many tropical diseases and a tenacious enemy. This crucial conflict had continued for over six bloody months. Our seventh regiment would be one of the last to evacuate to safety as the end of the conflict neared and victory was in sight.

On December 24, 1942, a U.S. Army regiment of soldiers relieved us from the front lines, where we had served for 96 consecutive days. We wished the soldiers well and left the jungles for the beach.

It was Christmas Eve, we walked toward the relatively safe beach area to board our evacuation ship, but the ships had not arrive. What a huge disappointment!

As the last of our bedraggled, demoralized file of troops staggered toward our new staging area, a speeding jeep approached our column and came to a grinding halt.

A tall, impressive Navy Chaplain stood up in his vehicle and announced loudly. "There will be an inter-denominational church service tonight, a Christmas midnight mass. It will be held in a coconut grove near the airport. Everyone is invited. Please come; it is Christmas Eve!" The jeep and its occupants sped off.

We pitched camp in a large area under palm trees near the shore. In his rear encampment we cleaned ourselves, our equipment and our raggedy, filthy clothing as best we could.

*Free-lance writer Edward Andrusko was born in Perth Amboy, N.J., and has lived in Boulder, Colo., since 1958. His art and historical compositions have been published in many magazines and newspapers. This is his seventh Christmas story published in The Ukrainian Weekly.*

Although we were in a relatively safe zone, enemy artillery shells harassed us periodically and kept some of us in foxholes or trenches throughout the day. Hopefully and anxiously, we continued to look out to sea for our promised ships and safety.

That afternoon we visited the battle cemetery which was nearby and said our last prayers and good-byes to our fallen friends and comrades whom we would have to leave behind ... they would remain forever young and battle no more. God Bless their souls.

Later that evening, we who were off duty headed for the church service which was near the notorious battle-scarred Henderson Field airport and evacuation hospital. The church was in a coconut grove. A modest tent covered a makeshift altar, the clearing was filled with coconut tree logs for pews, and bomb shelters were nearby. Shelling and bombing were commonplace at this airport, for both sides had fought over it for the last five months.

This night, hundreds of off-duty service personnel from all branches of the military congregated at the small church for the religious service. It was a beautiful service with candles, caroling, prayer for peace on Earth, and memorials to our dead and wounded.

But then ... an interruption of loud, warning sirens howled warnings of approaching enemy planes. It was a condition red alert of an enemy air raid. The officiating Navy chaplain, a Catholic priest, a battle-seasoned veteran, calmly warned us of the incoming enemy and pointed to the nearby bomb shelters and trenches. The priest said he would stay and continue the Christmas Eve service regardless of the air raid, for whatever happened was "God's will!" The father recommended we put out our lighted candles and leave for the shelters if we wished. Some of the troops hastily disappeared into the underground bomb shelters. Many returned quickly, saying the conditions in the shelters were deplorable - hot and wet with muddy floors, full of mosquitoes and overcrowded ... And some returned to defy the approaching

adversary.

Most of the men from our company were concerned but stayed in the dark outdoor church, where one single candle lit the altar while the priest and the Marines serving as his altar boys continued the service. I'm sure many of us deliberated as we prayed in the dark, why would God want to harm us in His Church in this rear area, after surviving 96 days in battle at the front lines? Maybe we were stubborn in our devotion for staying in the church, but we did! The priest prayed on ...

Soon we heard the drone of enemy planes and the whistling of their falling bombs and explosions approaching closer and closer.

Instantly the dark night was brightly illuminated by our large searchlights from the airport, sweeping the black sky for the enemy bombers. A triangle of brilliant beams focused and caught one of the enemy planes in their combined spotlights. Soon, nearby batteries of our anti-aircraft cannons blasted away at the plane. The guns fired loudly and rapidly, and their high overhead explosion bursts would light up the sky near the bomber. Our bright red tracer shells added to the awesome fireworks display. More bombs fell, but soon passed us by. We waited for the enemy plane to drop its eerie green parachuted flare which would descend slowly and brightly in the night. This signaled to the enemy warships offshore to commence a naval bombardment of our area as they had done many times before. But it didn't happen!

It was a paradox on this Holy Night, as we sang "Silent Night, Holy Night. All is calm. All is bright," as the enemy planes passed slowly overhead. After a while their bombs fell further and further away from us. Our prayers and carol singing must have been heard through the din of battle, and answered, for soon the all clear was sounded. No one was hurt at our church service. That was our first and last Christmas Eve midnight mass on Guadalcanal Island.

Several days later our evacuation ships

(Continued on page 17)

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## Lencyk led...

(Continued from page 4)

whose tenacity of purpose seemed to suit him perfectly for his work as a single-minded, dedicated author and lecturer – one whose many works were marked by clarity, anecdotal insights and salient observations.

He was gifted with a prodigious memory and a mental acuity that were belied by his modest and unassuming demeanor. To his distinguished scholarship he brought an sirenic temper and a determination to see all sides of a question which, combined with a solid foundation on unpublished source material, give his works their definitive character.

He is the sort of perfectly balanced author who can always be quoted as an abiding authority. And, as an authority, he was nonpareil when it came to his lifelong study of the life and thought of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky.

One characteristic that prevailed throughout his lifetime was the excitement, passion and enthusiasm he brought to his scholarship. I know that I am not the only one who was always amazed at the fervor with which he pursued his goals. And, his goals were many: it seemed that he was constantly being called upon to contribute to this or that journal or encyclopedia, or to lecture or speak at this or that function or academic convocation.

In retrospect, I wonder if he was not tortured by an awareness of all that still awaited him as was Keats who wrote, "I have fears that I may cease to be before my pen has gleaned my teeming brain."

He was, too, a dedicated teacher, one who expected the highest achievement from his students, giving them persistent encouragement, however unattainable his goal. He never really retired from that role, for every encounter with him proved to be a learning experience. And, in this regard, his influence was immense and far-reaching, having educated two generations of priests now serving in this province.

He was a man of considerable theological learning and deep and unobtrusive piety. I believe the underlying assumption of all his endeavors was the conviction that without a substructure of prayer his many achievements would be empty and ineffectual. Collateral to this was the unique and intimate relationship he enjoyed with the bishops of Stamford. Perhaps closest to Bishop [Ambrose] Senyshyn, he continued as a confidant to Bishop [Joseph] Schmondiuk and Bishop [Basil] Losten: a sounding board and an astute and disinterested advisor on the Byzantine nature of Ukrainian politics, both secular and ecclesiastical.

I knew Dr. Lencyk for almost half-a-century, and was flattered when he referred to me as his colleague – an appellation he did not bestow lightly. I recall vividly one rainy fall day. We were both in the Faculty Room – down the hallway from the chapel in which we are now gathered for our final farewell – philosophizing as teachers are wont to do, and bemoaning what we perceived – most saucily I might add – some shortcoming of our Church now long forgotten, when he said to me: Remember, Father Leo, Lot's wife. He did not need to amplify or explicate that pithy remark, for we both understood that it is the future that we can change: not the past. In his 90 years, Dr. Lencyk never looked back; and for that, he was always young.

He was, in the old idiom, a lovely man steeped in the graces, qualities, ideals and values of the Old World which flowered forth in the New. His like will not grace these halls of academe again, but who, I would like to think even now, may be at a paper-strewn desk in heaven pen in hand gleaning his teeming brain.

God grant him eternal rest and may we keep his memory ever green.

## Dateline...

(Continued from page 12)

Ukraine takes in tempera, reverse painting on glass, batik and icons, with proceeds assigned to the Soyuzivka resort. Among these cards is "Christmas Carolers" (2002), a reverse painting on glass by Andrij Khomyk of Stamford, Conn. Mr. Khomyk stresses the warm, hospitable folk ways and dress of an earlier time through simple silhouettes and fine details. Other artists whose admirable work is encompassed in the set are Ivan Skolozdra, Natalia Kovalenko and Jaroslav Adamovych of Ukraine, and Maria Harasowska Daczyszyn and Christina Nykorak in the United States. "Virgin the Affectionate" from Vyshhorod, an icon by Myroslava Stojko of New Jersey from the collection of Askold and Roksolana Lozynskyj, is also included. To order, call Oksana Trytjak 1-800-253-9862, ext. 3071. Both sets of cards carry greetings in Ukrainian and English.

### A notable performance

A distinguished bass and a soprano who is just launching her professional career gave impressive performances at the Ukrainian Institute's Music at the Institute (MATI) evening in November. Stefan Szkafarowsky, whose silver hair belies his youthful years, and Stefania Dovhan, a 23-year-old dark-eyed beauty from Kyiv, were the guest artists.

Mr. Szkafarowsky, now at the peak of his career, opened the recital with a group of Ukrainian works that included Ihor Sonevsky's Psalm XII and Lysenko's "Oy, Dnipro" (Oh, Dnipro River), both set to words of Taras Shevchenko, and excerpts from the operas "Taras Bulba" and "Yaroslav Mudryi." With the humorous Ukrainian folk song "Pro Divchynonku" (About a Girl), he showed a sense of drama with flirtatious dance movements and hand motions.

In the second half of the concert, Mr. Szkafarowsky's familiarity with Mozart, Verdi and Rossini operas gave him a decided edge with operatic arias by these composers; he displayed a great sense of drama as he moved about the stage, earn-

ing bravos from the audience. His strong, virile voice also showed to excellent effect in Jerome Kern's "Ol' Man River" and Richard Rodgers' "Some Enchanted Evening," and his encore "Without a Song," from the Broadway musical "A Great Day."

For her first appearance, Ms. Dovhan, who earned a Bachelor of Music degree this year from University of Maryland College Park School of Music, chose Ukrainian folk songs arranged by Vladyslav Zarembo and two Barvinsky pieces.

Revealing a clear, bright voice and a poised stage presence throughout, she also premiered Vitaliy Kyreyko's "Yak Pochuyesh v Nochi" (When You Hear at Night), set to the words of Ivan Franko. In her second appearance, she expressed pensiveness, grief, and a lyrical voice in arias from the operas "Dido and Aeneas," "La Bohème," "Manon" and "Semiramide."

The artists offered a delightful duet to conclude the program – the aria "La ci Darem la Mano" from Mozart's "Don Giovanni." Called back for an encore, they sang Lysenko's poignant "Koly Rozluchayutsia Dvoye" (When Two Lovers Part). The accomplished accompanist was Viacheslav Bakis, a faculty member at the Lucy Moses Music School in New York and a recitalist and chamber musician, who was awarded the title of Distinguished Artist of Ukraine in 1993.

During the 2001-2001 season, Mr. Szkafarowsky, who has appeared with prestigious ensembles in the United States, Canada and South America, made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Balaga in the new production of "War and Peace," and opened the seasons of the Montreal Opera and the Minnesota Opera.

Ms. Dovhan, winner of various awards and scholarships, has earned critics' praises for her "exquisitely tempered voice that fuses with a sensibility of soul." The soprano has just returned to Kyiv, where future engagements include major operatic roles at the National Opera of Ukraine and solo recitals at the National Philharmonic Hall and other venues.

Helen Smindak's e-mail address is [HaliaSmindak@aol.com](mailto:HaliaSmindak@aol.com).

## Turning the pages back...

(Continued from page 6)

plaque, erected by the UCCLA at Fort Henry, near Kingston, Ontario, was in place.

As things stood in 1994, the UCC request from the Canadian government, based on a 1992 Price Waterhouse report, called for up to \$50 million in compensation for economic losses suffered by Ukrainian Canadians interned during World War I. The UCCLA, meanwhile, was not seeking money, but a formal acknowledgment of the Canadian government's involvement in internment operations, an amendment to the 1988 Emergency Act, and a follow-up to the promised construction of monuments, markers and an information center to educate future generations of Canadians about the six-year Ukrainian Canadian internment operation.

Source: "Canada denies redress requests of Ukrainians, other communities," by Christopher Guly, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, December 25, 1994, Vol. LXII, No. 52.

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## Kobzar Society's

(Continued from page 5)

Eau Claire newspaper, the Leader-Telegram. Jennifer Schmidt, the author of the article noted: "Ukraine is a country with highly educated residents, but low financial resources."

Each computer sent to Ukraine can make a big difference in the life of the community. One of the computers, sent to a Ukrainian Greek-Catholic school in Lviv was used in preparations for the pope's visit, another computer, delivered to a physician in Uzhhorod gave him and other physicians access to medical research information via the Internet, a handful of computers delivered to a national library in Kyiv upgraded its operations to the 21st century level; a computer sent to the Lesia Ukrainka Museum in Yalta serves its Saturday school of Ukrainian studies (Shkola Ukrainoznavstva), a computer at the Prosvita educational association serves the community in Artemovsk, Donetsk Oblast. Several dozen computers donated by the Kobzar Society to the Solidarnist Humanitarian Foundation of Ivano-Frankivsk served as the basis for establishing a Computer Learning Center for children of alcoholics and drug addicts.

No such "miracle" has happened for the Learning and Rehabilitation Center for Crippled Children in Boryslav, noted Orest J. Hanas, president of the Kobzar Society. Even though these children have debilitat-

ing infirmities, their wills are strong and their intellects are healthy. A computer learning center located on the premises would provide these children easy and constant access to mastering computer technology and usage. It would grant them hope for a rewarding and productive life.

The Kobzar Society has been granted by the government of Ukraine the privilege of duty-free and tax-free importation of computers destined for schools and educational institutions.

In the United States, Kobzar has the cooperation and support of many individual volunteers and groups like the Rotary clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania District 7410. In Ukraine it has forged cooperation with the Rotary clubs in each oblast, the Humanitarian Initiatives Charity Foundation in Lviv, the Regional Ecological Children's Center in Lviv and the Solidarnist Humanitarian Foundation of Ivano-Frankivsk.

Individuals or groups wishing to become sponsors (at \$200 per computer) can designate any educational institution anywhere in Ukraine to which the computers are to be delivered. The Kobzar Society honors the sponsors with certificates of appreciation, which are placed in the classrooms along with the donated computers.

For additional information readers may contact Mr. Hanas at Kobzar Society, Ltd., P.O. Box 37, Lehighton, PA 18235; telephone/fax, (610) 377-3383; e-mail; [ojhanas@ptd.net](mailto:ojhanas@ptd.net). The society's website is located at [www.kobzarsociety.org](http://www.kobzarsociety.org).

On November 25, 2002, at Calderdale Royal Hospital  
passed away



## Tekla Luniw,

beloved wife of the late Wasyl Luniw, a dearly loved mother of Paul, Pauline, Maria, Elaine and Bohdan. Parastas was celebrated on Thursday evening November 28, 2002 at Holy Protection Ukrainian Catholic Church, Halifax, England. Requiem Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Friday the 29th of November, 2002, by Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Apostolic Exarch of Ukrainians in Great Britain and priests from the Ukrainian and Roman Catholic Churches.

We would like to thank Bishop Paul Chomnycky for officiating at the funeral, and all priests who concelebrated the Divine Liturgy. We thank Bishop Basil Losten and the Stamford diocese for their prayers and kind expressions of sympathy. We would also like to thank all family and friends in England, all friends and parishioners here in the U.S. for their Divine Liturgy offerings, expressions of sympathy and floral tributes received during this sad bereavement.

Fr. Paul Luniw (son), Pauline (daughter), Maria (daughter) Elaine and Bohdan Karmasyn (daughter and son-in law)

### DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

to be published in *The Ukrainian Weekly* – in the Ukrainian or English language – are accepted by mail, courier, fax, phone or e-mail.

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Please include the daytime phone number of a contact person.

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

### Lawmakers trade accusations

KYIV – A group of opposition lawmakers has appealed to Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn in a letter demanding that he ban deputy Hryhorii Surkis from participating in parliamentary sessions for a week, UNIAN reported on December 12. The letter claims that, during a wild fracas that erupted in the Verkhovna Rada on December 12, Mr. Surkis struck opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko. Meanwhile, Mr. Surkis told journalists that it was Ms. Tymoshenko who “intended to beat him.” Mr. Surkis, widely believed to be Ukraine’s wealthiest oligarch, added that Ms. Tymoshenko kicked him in the leg, trying “to damage his only new shoes.” The December 12 brawl in the Verkhovna Rada was sparked by a sec-

ond attempt on the part of the pro-government majority to dismiss National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Volodymyr Stelmakh and install Serhii Tyhytko in the post. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Pascual warns Kyiv of isolation

KYIV – Speaking to students and lecturers of Ukrainian private universities in Kyiv on December 12, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Carlos Pascual said President George W. Bush and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma are “unlikely to meet in the near future,” the UNIAN news agency reported. Ambassador Pascual said Ukraine is threatened with finding itself in “isolation” now, as practically every European country is either a member of NATO or the European Union, or has been invited to join one of those two organizations. He stressed that demonstrating adherence to the Euro-Atlantic choice would

be the only right decision for Ukraine. The ambassador also said Ukraine’s Ministry of Economy has so far failed to permit the registration of two U.S. institutions – the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute – in Ukraine despite a year of talks on the issue. “The U.S. Congress considers [this failure] a sign that Ukraine fears transparency,” UNIAN quoted the U.S. envoy as saying. (RFE/RL Newline)

### Lithuanian leader focuses on Ukraine

VILNIUS – President Valdas Adamkus on December 12 said Lithuania will use its emerging place in Europe to help stabilize nearby Ukraine and enhance ties with Russia, Reuters reported. His remarks came on the eve of the Copenhagen summit on expansion of the European Union, at which Lithuania and nine other countries were to conclude

talks on joining the bloc. “Our vision of Europe is incomplete without Ukraine,” President Adamkus said, urging the West to avoid isolating that country despite reservations about President Leonid Kuchma. “Today the most important thing is that countries like Ukraine have not reversed their policies and continue to struggle for an open and democratic society and free market.” He declined to comment on neighboring Belarus, Reuters reported, where strongman President Alyaksandr Lukashenka is increasingly isolated by the international community. Mr. Adamkus also said Lithuania’s long-standing ties to Ukraine can help the EU engage its neighbor, Russia, adding that he is pleased with the gradual shift away from the threatening tone that dominated bilateral relations between Vilnius and Moscow after Lithuania regained its independence in

(Continued on page 17)

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 16)

1991. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Kyiv restricts Russian auto imports

KYIV – The Ukrainian government has introduced a four-year limit on the import of Russian cars, the ITAR-TASS news service reported on December 12. An inter-departmental commission for foreign trade said Ukrainian car dealers may not import more than 15,777 Russian cars a year with engine volumes up to 1,500 cubic centimeters. Earlier this year the commission organized an inquiry into the import of new Russian cars and introduced a special import duty of 31.7 percent on them. According to Ukraine's Ministry of the Economy, Ukraine imported some 25,000 Russian cars in 2001. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Police break up trafficking rings

KYIV – Police in the Ukrainian capital over the past months have broken up five criminal groups they believe were sending women abroad for the sex trade, Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry reported on November 19, according to the Associated Press. The groups attracted women by placing advertisements in newspapers that offered jobs as babysitters, housemaids and waitresses in foreign countries. Women who responded were then taken to Spain, Italy, Germany or Turkey, where they were forced into prostitution, the Internal Affairs Ministry said. The statement did not provide any details, not even revealing how many suspects were arrested. Tens of thousands of women and children have been illegally trafficked from Ukraine, many of them subsequently coerced into the sex trade or compulsory labor since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Ukrainian police have opened more than 100 cases against suspects in 14 human-trafficking crimes this year. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Ukraine, Russia agree on gas transit

MOSCOW – In Moscow on December 10, Ukraine's Naftohaz Ukrainy and Russia's Gazprom signed a package of agreements on mutual cooperation and Russian gas transit through Ukraine, the Interfax and ITAR-TASS news services reported. The accords stipulate that Russia pump 110 billion cubic meters of gas via Ukraine's gas-pipeline system in 2003. Gazprom reportedly is

to provide 26 billion cubic meters of gas to Ukraine as a fee for the use of transit pipelines, while the rest of the fees will be paid in cash. Both companies also agreed that Gazprom will replace Itera next year as the operator of Turkmen gas exports to Ukraine. According to the agreement, Ukrainian expenditures on the transit of Turkmen gas in 2003 will fall to 38 percent of the cost of the gas, compared to 41 percent in 2002. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Lazarenko's U.S. trial date is set

SAN FRANCISCO – The trial of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko is set to begin on March 24, 2003, in San Francisco. Mr. Lazarenko, presently in custody at a federal detention facility in the Bay Area, is charged with money laundering and mail fraud in the United States. He was also recently charged in Ukraine with having ordered the contract killing of Yevhen Scherban, a member of the Ukrainian Parliament, in 1997. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Rada wants embezzlement probe

KYIV – The Verkhovna Rada on December 10 endorsed a motion by National Deputy Hryhorii Omelchuk to request that Procurator General Sviatoslav Piskun launch an investigation into the alleged embezzlement of \$42 million by state officials in 2000, UNIAN reported. According to Mr. Omelchuk, the sum was stolen by managers of Naftohaz Ukrainy (headed at the time by current lawmaker Ihor Bakai) and Ukrhazbank (headed in 2000 by current lawmaker Vasyl Horbal) during payment transactions for gas supplies between Naftohaz Ukrainy and Itera International Energy. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Estonia backs Ukraine's membership

TALLINN – Foreign Minister Kristiina Ojuland told visiting Ukrainian Parliament Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn in Tallinn on December 5 that Estonia backs Ukraine's efforts to join NATO and the European Union and is willing to share experience gained during accession talks, the BNS news agency reported. She also pledged support for Ukraine's membership in the World Trade Organization, asserting, "It is in our common interest for the continuation of day-to-day, close trade." Mr. Lytvyn arrived in Tallinn the previous day at the head of a delegation from the Verkhovna Rada and, in talks

with his Estonian counterpart, Toomas Savi, called for closer cooperation between the two legislatures. He also met with Prime Minister Siim Kallas, who noted that Ukraine's progress in economic and government reforms is in Estonia's interest. (RFE/RL Newsline)

### Balts bill Russia for Soviet repression

TALLINN – A special committee is being created within the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to accept applications for compensation from Estonian citizens repressed by the Soviet regime. The total sum of compensation will be made public after the committee has completed its work, which is expected to be some months after all the applications have been received. According to a Rosbalt correspondent, this was announced at a meeting of the Estonian Parliament on December 4 by Foreign Minister Kristiina Ojuland. Lithuania has already spoken of its intentions to present Russia with a bill for repression during

the Soviet occupation, mentioning a sum of over \$20 million (U.S.). Foreign Ministry representatives in both Baltic countries believe that there are currently no obstacles to making such high demands. (pravda.ru)

### Opposition to press for Kuchma's ouster

KYIV – Three opposition leaders – Yulia Tymoshenko, Petro Symonenko and Oleksander Moroz – pledged on December 4 to continue the "Arise, Ukraine" protest campaign to force President Leonid Kuchma to resign, UNIAN reported. The upcoming stage of the campaign will be called "Releasing Ukraine from Kuchma." The three leaders told journalists they will soon begin touring Ukrainian regions to persuade citizens that it is necessary to continue fighting "the criminal regime headed by Leonid Kuchma." The opposition also intends to stage a nationwide strike on March 9, 2003. (RFE/RL Newsline)

## Silent Night...

(Continued from page 13)

arrived, and on the afternoon of January 6, 1943, we weary but happy Marines and sailors boarded our awesome troop transport and we sailed away.

That evening aboard ship, we heard a Navy chaplain, a Greek Orthodox priest announce on the ship's public address system that all passengers and crew of Eastern Europe background wishing to celebrate the Orthodox Christmas Eve and Christmas should report to the enlisted men's mess hall.

Out of the thousand men on the ship, a hundred or so of us Ukrainian, Russian or Greek lineage entered the dining area. It was decorated with a small Christmas tree and a long buffet

table of ethnic dishes or as close to it as possible. Both our ship's cook and our battalion cook were of Ukrainian-Polish ancestry. The rest of the mess hall attendants were typical Americans, of mixed backgrounds.

The priest led us in prayer, and we sang ethnic and English Christmas carols. It was unbelievable, we celebrated a wonderful blessed Orthodox Christmas Eve and merry Christmas morning aboard ship in a combat area and a long way from home.

When the feast and services were over, we all headed topside to the darkened ship's main deck. Our convoy of ships was now headed due south, and high above us in the celestial night were bright twinkling stars of the Southern Cross, guiding us to Australia and safety.

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## Ukrainian Federation...

(Continued from page 4)

spirit that the UFA develops and maintains support in the Congress for those programs that benefit Ukraine, such as acceptance of Ukraine into the World Trade Organization or repeal of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment that would end trade restrictions not just on Russia but also on Ukraine. It is totally unfair to punish Ukraine alone for transgressions committed by the Soviet Union during times when Communist China enjoys the most favored-nation trade status.

The UFA has recently prepared a new proposal which has been already presented to Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.). It is titled "A Partnership for Democracy with the People of Ukraine" and includes funding for an exchange program between the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the U.S. Congress, a technology network program, and a leadership development program.

The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of an "Award of Appreciation" to Rep. Schaffer "for his leadership, commitment and support of Ukrainian causes and for promoting friendly relations between the peoples of the United States and Ukraine."

The charismatic, young congressman endeared himself to the audience with his humor, his expressions of deep belief in the principles that govern this country and his convincing explanation of why he became interested in becoming the leading co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus.

He revealed that he prudently considered his Ukrainian grandmother as being representative of the general population of Ukraine and, by comparing her character to what he saw in Ukrainian oligarchs and some of the representatives of the Ukrainian administration that he met in Ukraine, he was quickly able to recognize the cause of the problems vexing that country and the solutions needed to resolve them. Rep. Schaffer recently expressed his opinions in his congressional publication "U.S. Ukraine Agenda for Freedom, Principles for Rada-Congress Cooperation."

The Ukrainian Federation of America is a humanitarian organization that is recognized as a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation by the United States government. The UFA invites all those who share its aims to join the organization by contacting the Ukrainian Federation of America, 930 Henrietta Ave., Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006; telephone, (215) 663-9191.

## Dr. Wasyl Lencyk...

(Continued from page 4)

Msgr. Leon Mosko, Msgr. John Terlecky, the Very Rev. Ivan Kaszczak, the Very Rev. Philip Weiner, Archpriest Roman Mirchuk, the Rev. Marian Struc and the Rev. Mark Hirniak.

The Rev. Kaszczak delivered the homily and the Rev. Mosko paid tribute to Dr.

Lencyk who had dedicated his life to the Ukrainian Church and the education of seminarians.

Dr. Lencyk is survived by his wife, Lydia nee Szuchewycz, and children Alexandra, George and Andrew of Stamford, and Ann Pawliczko of Monroe, N.Y.

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



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## Ukrainian pro hockey update

by Ihor Stelmach

### Federko inducted into Hall of Fame

The Hockey Hall of Fame wants it to be made crystal clear it is not softening its standards for entry into the sacred shrine.

"Absolutely not," said selection committee chairman Jim Gregory. "We've been making it tougher for 15 years."

The announcement last June 19 that former Hall of Fame rejects Bernie Federko and Clark Gillies had joined Rod Langway as this year's inductees in the players category raised a few eyebrows.

Gillies, 48, retired from a stellar 14-year NHL career in 1988. He was hall eligible for the first time in 1991, the same year Denis Potvin and Ukrainian Mike Bossy were inducted. The perfect storyline script was there to be gobbled up that year: three Islanders in one year. The committee said no, Gillies wasn't quite Hall of Fame material, yet.

The story was much the same for Federko, who retired in 1990 and was eligible for the first time in 1993. The committee rebuffed Federko three times – in 1993, 1995 and 1997 (when Mario Lemieux and Bryan Trottier got inducted).

At the time, the hall had a by-law stating once a candidate has been turned down three times, he must wait at least five years to be reconsidered. This bylaw has since been scrapped.

So how is it Gillies and Federko got in now in the midst of the hall's mandate to make it tougher to qualify?

"It might be a combination of things," Gregory said. "The selection committee is constantly changing and some (new) members may have different perspectives."

The 18-member selection committee has a maximum turnover of three members per year. For a player to gain Hall of Fame acceptance, he needs at least 75 percent approval (14 of 18 votes). The results aren't made public, nor since 1999 are the names of the players turned down.

So that explains how Gillies and Federko got approved. New committee members liked them better than panelists in the 1990s. Fair enough. Gillies and Federko were very solid players – no major awards, but both were darned good.

Hopefully, the committee didn't induct Federko strictly because of statistics – although, at 1,130 points, he was the highest scoring NHL'er among those eligible not yet in the hall.

### Bio: Bernie Federko

Born: May 12, 1956, Foam Lake, Saskatchewan

Position: Center; Height: 6-0; Weight: 178 lbs.

Major junior achievements: Led Western Hockey League with 115 assists and 187 points with Saskatoon in 1975-76. Had 344 points in three WHL seasons.

NHL: Drafted seventh overall by St. Louis in 1976. Thirteen seasons with St. Louis, one with Detroit.

Highlights: Ranks 41st all-time in points. Led St. Louis in scoring nine times.

How he played: Had the ability to slow the game down and control the attack with his slick, playmaking skills.

Hall Credentials: Had 369 goals (88th all-time) and 1,130 points in 1,000 NHL games. Had four 100-point seasons in NHL. First player in NHL history to get at least 50 assists in 10 straight seasons. Led NHL playoff scorers with 21 points in 19 games in 1985-1986.

Currently TV color analyst for the St. Louis Blues.

### Playmaker made it look easy

While faces in the St. Louis dressing room and executive suite came and went like the autumn breeze, Bernie Federko was bedrock. He could always be counted on, his production a solid given.

"I'm just most proud I was able to be consistent through all the turmoil we had, changing ownership, changing players, just the revolving door," says Federko, a Blue from 1976-1977 until 1988-1989. "We didn't spend a lot of money, we didn't have a lot, but we were always competitive."

Without Federko's scoring, they wouldn't have been. He led the Blues in scoring nine times during his 13 seasons wearing the Bluenote – eight of them consecutively. A left-handed play-making center, Federko showed a creative genius that at times approached Gretzky-like levels.

It was actually Federko, not Gretzky, who first made a name for himself in junior hockey by camping out behind the net, and setting up his teammates for scoring chances.

True to his humble nature, Federko, 46, never resented the relative lack of attention he received. "Wayne was the best at everything," he says of Gretzky's behind-the-net orchestrations, "and he had a lot of guys that could get open."

Playoff success was the only thing that eluded Federko. The closest he and the Blues came to the Stanley Cup was a Game 7 semifinal showdown with Calgary in 1986, won by the Flames 2-1.

Federko stays involved with hockey these days as a television color commentator for the Blues. As a kid, a teenager and a pro, the game was his life. Much of what he has he owes to the sport.

"It still is my life," says Federko, who retired in 1990, "and I'm really happy it still is."

### NHL transactions/injuries

ANAHEIM – Vitaly Vishnevski, D, signed one-year contract; Oleg Tverdovsky, D, traded to New Jersey in multi-player deal.

BOSTON – Brendan Yarema, RW, released.

BUFFALO – Peter Ratchuk, D, signed contract; Ratchuk assigned to Rochester (AHL).

CALGARY – Rick Mrozik, D, Ryan Shmyr, LW, assigned to Saint John (AHL).

CAROLINA – Steve Halko, D, signed one-year contract; Randy Petruk, GT, signed two-year contract; Ryan Bayda, LW, Halko and Petruk assigned to Lowell (AHL).

CHICAGO – Vladislav Tretiak, goaltending consultant, retained; Anton Babchuk, D, signed contract; Dmitry Tolkunov, D, assigned to Norfolk (AHL); Scott Balan, D, assigned to Norfolk.

COLUMBUS – Shane Benders, GT, assigned to Syracuse (AHL).

DALLAS – Brad Lukowich, D, traded to Tampa Bay for second-round draft pick in 2002.

DETROIT – Joey Kocur, video technician, named assistant coach.

FLORIDA – Joey Tetarenko, RW, signed one-year contract; Ivan Novoseltsev, RW, signed one-year contract; Clint Malarchuk named goaltending instructor; Tetarenko assigned to San Antonio (AHL).

MINNESOTA – Dieter Kochan, GT, signed contract; Kochan assigned to

(Continued on page 23)



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# Ukrainian news...

(Continued from page 3)

his partner and co-owner of the company, Mr. Khoroshkovskiy if anything happened. She had kept silent up to now, she noted, fearing the information was not complete and could be distorted.

The role of Mr. Khoroshkovskiy, who was deputy chief of the presidential administration at the time, was raised in early December when Ms. Kolomyiets' mother, Olha, told Radio Liberty of comments made to her by Ms. Khoroshkovskiy. She claimed he had told her that Mr. Kolomyiets had run up huge debts and left without paying them. He later retracted the comments, insisting that the agency was in good financial shape.

"He said exactly this to me," Mr. Kolomyiets' mother told Radio Liberty. "Kolomyiets accrued debts of one and a half million, leaving two months' wages to be paid, and when they needed to be paid he disappeared." She said that Mr. Khoroshkovskiy had not specified the currency of the debts. When she asked him if there was anything to be left to her, Mr. Khoroshkovskiy reportedly replied: "What? Half of his debts? You ask me strange questions."

Publicly, Mr. Khoroshkovskiy has denied that the agency had debts, insisting that the dead journalist's mother had misunderstood his comments. Following the interview he issued a statement saying that the agency was in good financial shape and that the company found itself in a critical financial situation only after Mr. Kolomyiets' disappearance, when the company found access to its accounts blocked.

His colleagues vehemently deny that Mr. Kolomyiets would be capable of the theft of wages. Similar doubts have been

expressed by family and co-workers regarding claims that Mr. Kolomyiets would have committed suicide.

"He was very calm. He had his business, which he loved. He wouldn't be able to commit suicide," Olha Kolomyiets told the Mass Media Institute in mid-November.

Mr. Kolomyiets' colleagues noticed his disappearance when he stopped coming to work on Monday, October 21. He then left by train for Belarus on October 22, according to a police investigation, where a conductor who noticed nothing unusual in his behavior saw him. He continued to phone an acquaintance, Liubov Ruban, until October 28, when he reportedly told her he had left the country to commit suicide.

His body was found on October 30 hanging from a tree in the woods near the town of Molodechno, 60 miles northwest of the Belarusian capital, Minsk. Despite the fact that Interpol had been informed of his disappearance, Belarusian authorities buried the body as unknown on November 11. The body was exhumed on November 20 and brought to Kyiv. The Procurator General's Office then opened a criminal case and initiated an autopsy under the supervision of French pathologist Jean Rivolier, who was hired by the organization Reporters Without Borders. The results of the autopsy are expected next week. Mr. Kolomyiets was buried in Kyiv on December 14.

Last week the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe expressed concern about the circumstances surrounding the journalist's death. Meanwhile, the fate of Ukrainski Novyny, Ukraine's third largest wire service is unclear, as its accounts remain frozen pending resolution of legal problems and a replacement director has yet to be appointed.

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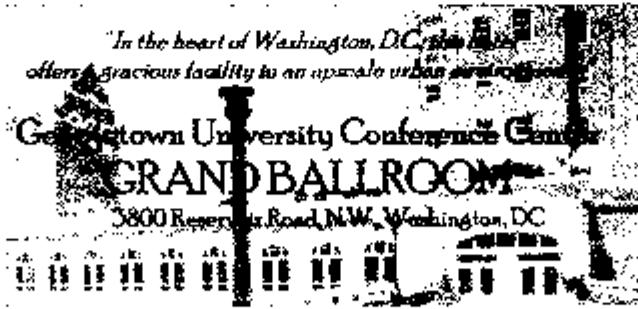
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**"Team Ostroh"...**

(Continued from page 11)

United States that publishes a bimonthly, bilingual bulletin. Edited by Maya Gregoret, the September-October issue contained 32 pages of liturgic information, photos of local parish activities, news from Ukraine and interesting reporting on issues of significance to Orthodox believers. Of particular interest were articles about a former pastor, the Very Rev. Stefan Zencuch, returning to Arden Hills for a visit, and the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus performing at the Calvary Baptist Church in St. Paul last September. Both the orchestra and the chorus were founded by Dr. Roger G. McMurrin, an American, who moved to Kyiv along with his family in 1993.

No visit to Minneapolis would be complete without a trip to Mall of America, the largest mall in the United States, and the second largest in the world.

The final stop on the daylong itinerary was at St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, where Dr. Pasichnyk and Ms. Lominska were greeted by the pastor, Father Evhen Kumko, and

Michael Karkoc, long-time UNA activist. A "Volyniak" (someone who hails from the Volyn region of Ukraine) by birth, Mr. Karkoc visited Ostroh last summer and praised the institution as one that is in the forefront of Ukraine's renaissance.

Before leaving for Chicago the following morning, the team paid a visit to the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota (see The Weekly, November 17) where they announced the establishment of a Ukrainian Immigration Research Center at Ostroh.

A total of \$5,120 was collected for Ostroh by parishioners from the three parishes, many of whom were pleased to greet visitors from Ukraine.

"Minneapolis is so far off the beaten track that few people make it up this far," one participant told me. "Even Ukrainian American leaders tend to avoid us."

Team Ostroh, on the other hand, was delighted with the opportunity to meet and greet still another Ukrainian community.

To make a tax-deductible donation to the hard-working people at Ostroh, checks should be made out to: Ukrainian National Foundation/Ostroh Fund, and mailed to Dr. Myron B. Kuropas, 107 Hehamwood Drive, Dekalb, IL 60115.

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**Ukrainian pro hockey...**

(Continued from page 19)

Houston (AHL).

NASHVILLE - Darren Haydar, C, signed contract.

NEW JERSEY - Igor Pohanka, RW, traded to Anaheim.

PHILADELPHIA - Ruslan Fedotenko, LW, traded to Tampa Bay for first-round draft pick in 2002; Jeff Woywitka, D, signed multi-year contract; Todd Fedoruk, LW, signed two-year contract; Woywitka returned to Red Deer (WHL).

PHOENIX - Darcy Hordichuk, LW, assigned to Springfield (AHL); Drake Berehowsky, D, torn right knee ligaments, early February; Hordichuk recalled from Springfield.

PITTSBURGH - Zenon Konopka, C, assigned to Wilkes-Barre (AHL); Ross Lupaschuk, D, assigned to Wilkes-Barre.

SAN JOSE - Gregg Naumenko, GT, assigned to Cleveland (AHL); Seamus Kotyk, GT, assigned to Cleveland.

ST. LOUIS - Keith Tkachuk, LW, signed one-year contract; Tkachuk signed five-year contract extension; Daniel Tkaczuk, C, Cody Rudkowsky, GT, signed contracts; Sergei Varlamov, LW, assigned to Worcester (AHL); Rudkowsky assigned to Worcester.

TAMPA BAY - Dave Andreychuk, LW, signed contract; Ruslan Fedotenko signed contract; Nikita Alexeev, RW, assigned to Springfield (AHL).

TORONTO - Wade Belak, D, signed one-year contract; Dmitri Yakushev, D, assigned to St. John's (AHL); Alexei Ponikarovsky, RW, assigned to St. John's.

VANCOUVER - Zenith Komarniski, D, signed contract; Rene Vydareny, D, Denis Martynyuk, LW, and Komarniski assigned to Manitoba (AHL).

WASHINGTON - Glen Metropolit, C, signed one-year contract.

UKRAINIAN UTTERINGS: Last spring left-winger Steve Konowalchuk was named captain of the U.S. team in the World Championships in Sweden ... Defenseman Jeff Woywitka, Philadelphia's No. 1 draft choice in 2001, was returned to Red Deer of the Western juniors, but not before really impressing the coaching staff with his play ... Defenseman Peter Ratchak, a Buffalo native, signed a one-year deal with the Buffalo Sabres, but is destined to play the bulk of the season with Rochester in the American League ...

Defenseman Drake Berehowsky suffered torn ligaments in his right knee during his first shift of the Coyotes' first pre-season game and is expected to be sidelined for up to five months ... Captain II - Steve Konowalchuk was named the 10th Capitals captain in franchise history ... Atlanta exercised its option on center Tony Hrkac, who scored a career-high 18 goals last season. GM Don Waddell said he would also like to add an option for the 2003-2004 season onto Hrkac's deal...

(Thanks to Mark Brender and Brian Costello of The Hockey News for Bernie Federko quotes.)

**The Kolchuha report...**

(Continued from page 2)

especially regarding the sale of four Kolchuha stations to the PRC.

\*Provide information on the location of the Kolchuha stations and Ukrainian technicians in the PRC.

\*Allow U.S. and U.K. experts to interview individuals that were not available during the visit to Ukraine, especially Leonid Derkach, former head of the SBU, and Yuri Orsbansky, former Honorary Consul to Iraq.





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The next issue of The Ukrainian Weekly's



## Wedding Announcements

will appear on January 20, 2003.

**For a wedding announcement to be included in that issue, all information must be received in our offices by January 10, 2003.**

Along with wedding announcements, we will include greetings from friends, family members, bridesmaids and ushers – from all those who wish to share in the excitement of a new marriage.

Also welcome are anniversary and engagement announcements and greetings

### Rates for announcements and greetings:

One-column wedding announcement: \$100

Two-column wedding announcement: \$200

Wedding greeting: \$75

For further information or to request a brochure, please call (973) 292-9800, ext. 3040 (Maria).

Visit [www.ukrweekly.com](http://www.ukrweekly.com) to view a wedding announcement sample page.

The Town Hall presents



## SYZOKRYLI UKRAINIAN DANCE ENSEMBLE

Under the artistic direction of Renia Pryma-Bohachevsky, Syzokryli will mesmerize you with its vibrant exciting style of dance. From acrobatic dances such as *Hopak* – to lyrical balletic interpretations – Syzokryli is guaranteed to engage you, enthrall you and bring you to your feet demanding more. With a special guest appearance by

### CHERES UKRAINIAN FOLK ENSEMBLE

Andriy Malavsky, music director

Fri, Jan 31 at 8 PM

Tkts: \$35 & \$30

TicketMaster 212/307-4100 Town Hall Box Office 212/840-2824  
The Town Hall, 123 W. 43rd St. NYC 10036

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Visit our archive on the Internet at: <http://www.ukrweekly.com/>

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Saturday, January 11, 2003

**BOSTON:** "Malanka 2003" with music by Zolota Bulava, is being hosted by the Boston Ukrainian community (Plast, Ukrainian American Heritage Foundation and Ukrainian American Veterans). Advance purchase tickets (before January 6, 2003): adults, \$30; youths, \$20; tickets at the door: adults, \$40; youths, \$25. (Buffet included in ticket price). The Malanka will be held at Cedars of Lebanon, 61 Rockwood St., Jamaica Plain, Mass., starting at 7:30 p.m. For tickets or information call Ihor Mykyta (508) 359-8058.

Saturday, January 18, 2003

**DALLAS:** Y'all strap on your dancing boots and come to Texas for the holidays! The Ukrainian American Society of Texas invites you to join them for their annual Malanka celebration in beautiful uptown Dallas at the banquet facilities of 4200 Cityplace. Dinner, with cash bar, opens at 7 p.m. The Zorya Ukrainian Dance ensemble will perform at 8:30 p.m., followed by contemporary live dance music until 1 a.m. Tickets: UAST members, \$45; non-members, \$55. For more information contact Cathy, (817) 267-0391, or visit the website: [www.uast.org](http://www.uast.org).

### PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of Ukrainian community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community.

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

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

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у Червоної Калини  
з презентацією  
бюджетних  
сречетом

1 Березня, 2003

Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel  
East Rutherford, NJ

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